

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Human exploitation is an important issue for humans. It not only restricts the freedom of the victim but also torments them mentally and physically. There are many cases where workers are exploited by the company or their boss. Based on *Anti-Capitalism: a Marxist Introduction* (2002) by Alfredo Saad-Filho, Exploitation is forcing workers to work longer hours or increase the intensity of the work to increase profits and minimize expenses (37). It means the perpetrators exploit the victims by making them work long hours with heavy workloads for low wages, while; only the perpetrators get the profit. In short, exploitation only benefits one party, which is the perpetrator, and harms the victim. Only a few victims are aware that they have been exploited. To take from other and left them with only misery is evil and very detrimental. Exploitation usually leads to the anger of the victims and makes the victims take action against the perpetrators. To overcome this problem, a law was made to protect the rights of workers. However, nowadays, it is undeniable that many workers are still exploited in the workplace.

Human exploitation is a topic of discussion for everyone. Writers are no exception. The author uses their writings to protest against the oppression and

exploitation of the underprivileged by those in power. Also, to let readers know miserable lives happen to the oppressed. Literary works that raise the topic of human exploitation are a novel from America entitled *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and a Japanese novel entitled *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji.

The Jungle is a novel by Upton Sinclair, an American novelist and polemicist for socialism, health, temperance, free speech, and workers' rights. *The Jungle* is a description of the condition of workers who accept unfair labor practices and unhealthy environments in the meatpacking factories. It was inspired by a large strike in Packingtown, Chicago, where Sinclair observed for seven weeks among the workers to gain information (Shaduri 42). *The Jungle* was published serially in 1905 and as a single-volume book in 1906. *The Jungle* talks about the life of Jurgis and his family after moving to America for a better life. During his life in America, he experienced many misfortunes and exploitation in the workplace until he met a socialist political march that changed his life. The influence of *The Jungle* got the US to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906 (43). In addition, *The Jungle* is also listed as one of the most influential books and makes Upton Sinclair the most famous author.

The second novel is *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji. *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* was published in Japan under the name *Kani Kosen* and first published in Japan in 1929. In 2013, *Kani Kosen* was published in Indonesia under the name *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi*. *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* depicts the lives

and struggles of the workers on the Kani Kosen ship. The oppression they experienced caused them to unite and organize a workers' strike against the supervisor who abused them. *Kani Kosen* is the result of an investigation conducted by Kobayashi Takiji regarding a rebellion by the crew of a crab fishing ship that occurred around the Hakodate area. The appearance of *Kani Kosen* is considered a work that has exposed Japan's disgrace to the public by the Japanese government. *Kani Kosen* was banned by the Japanese government. Another reason for the prohibition of *Kani Kosen* is it can be propaganda and a driving force for people who feel oppressed to oppose the upper class which can lead to riots and anarchic demonstrations. *Kani Kosen* reappeared due to the economic crisis that hit Japan in 2008, causing *Kani Kosen* to sell well in the market (Andira 2-3).

Both *The Jungle* and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* have a lot in common. Both novels have a great influence, which can mobilize society. Both novels are also based on the rebellion of workers who received unfair treatment in their respective countries. Although they come from different countries, these novels both carry the issues of exploitation, oppressed workers, and resistance. Also, both are set in the era of industrialization.

Despite having different backgrounds, cultures, and nations, I believe that *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji aim to express the struggles and criticize the exploitation received by the workers. This shows differences in culture, language and nations do not prevent exploitation. By

using these novels with different languages, backgrounds, cultures, and nations, but have a lot in common about exploitation, the research will do a comparative analysis with the title “**Human Exploitation in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji: A Marxist Analysis**”.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

The Jungle and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* imply exploitation and unfair treatment received by the workers. Both describe how exploitation occurs to workers and adversely affects them. The resistance of the workers described in the novel is the impact of the exploitation.

I want to analyze how human exploitation is described in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji. This research focuses on identifying the exploitation that occurs to workers, as well as the social gap that occurs between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat which I suspect affects the development of exploitation. Then I will also compare the impact of exploitation. I would like to compare *The Jungle* and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* both have the same issue, human exploitation, even though they have different cultures, languages and nations.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

The Jungle and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* have their own influence due to the issues in the story. Therefore, these novels become object of research by various critics and literary scholars. In order to support this research, I have read some articles related with these novels. I also read articles that discuss about human exploitation issue and used Marxist theory. The purpose of reading these articles is to deeply understand about the novels, the issue and the theory, so the writer could explain the issue thoroughly.

The first journal article is related to *The Jungle*. The title is “A Postcolonial Reading of Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*” by Pouyan Rezapour, Dr. Alireza Anushiravani and Pouria Rezapour (2019). This article analyzes *The Jungle* from perspective of post colonialism. The aim of this article is to depict the lives of immigrants in an Imperialist Capitalist Society. The article explains that immigrants get foreign treatment. They are considered "the other", people or groups who are not included in positions of power and are considered different and inferior in society. As an immigrant, their lack of information and language limitations are their weaknesses. The concept of “the other” similar to oppression happened to the proletariat. The article mentions that Capitalism is a means of exploitation but not mention the perpetrator of the exploitation. The article also states that there is a clear misunderstanding between the immigrant and the American people due to language limitation. Yet, in my opinion, it is not the language but their social status that makes

the immigrant suffer and the superiority feeling of American people that think they are nobler than the immigrant.

Another article relevant with *The Jungle* and my topic is “Children in American Capitalist System: Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* (1904)” by Abdolhosein Joodaki and Hadis Ashrafi (2021). The aim of this article is to analyze the child labor and the reason behind the labor, also other slavery that happen during capitalism in the Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*. I find economic crisis is the cause behind child labor. It shows how the economy crisis forced the adult to make their children work to help family finances. Child labor also occurs due to parental intervention. Parents themselves make their children victims of child labor. Defines about the adult labor is not necessary for me. The authors also do not describe the children's feeling when they are forced to do labor. The conclusion also quite bizarre since it is not conclude about child exploitation but Sinclair role in American Literature, which for me, not relevant.

The other article about *The Jungle* titled “American Dream as an Ideology for American Immigrant Workers in Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*” by Irfan Roshadi (2012) also attracts my interest. Roshadi also use Marxist theory. The article shows the American Dream works and its importance for the American industry. It can be concluded that the American dream is an ideology used to persuade people to participate in the American industrial production process. After reading it, I came to the conclusion that the American dream is not only an ideology, but also a tool that

blinds immigrants. Immigrants become blind to the dangers of the world and are oblivious to the exploitation that is happening to them. However, in my opinion, the role of the bourgeoisie as the one who take advantage of the American dream and immigrant should be point out more since they are the perpetrator.

The next journal article is related to *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* titled “*Kanikosen* (Kobayashi Takiji) “*Bacaan Liar*” Tahun 1920-An Dalam Rentang Sejarah Jepang” by Muhammad Reza Rustam (2016). Rustam used Marxism theory in his article. The aim is to introduce the narrative of the Japanese proletarian literature to the reader and illustrates the development of Japanese proletarian literature. Rustam mentioned that he sees *Kanikosen* as one of the Japan "wild literatures" in the 1920s. "Wild Literatures" is a narrative that displays the discourse of interruption and resistance towards the upper class. The results of this article show that the conflict of social class in the *Kanikosen* story is a sign of "wildness" in *Kanikosen's* proletarian literary text. He discovers that being a laborer on the ship is a capitalist trap. In my opinion, this article should also explore more the relationship between upper class and proletariat class.

Thesis that is relevant to *Kani Kosen* is “Praktik Perbudakan Terselubung dalam Novel *Kani Kousen* Karya Kobayashi Takiji” (2017) by Tika Andira from Andalas University. Andira use Sociology Literature approach and Slavery Theory to explore disguised slavery practice in the novel and to reflect the reality of Japanese workers in 1920s. The result of the article shows that disguised slavery practice

happens to the workers is the reflection of the actual reality experienced by Japanese workers in the 1920s. Despite the detail of exploitation, in my opinion, the author should put workers' resistance which I think is important to discuss because it is one of the impacts of exploitation.

Another journal article that I found is relate to Marxist theory titled “Class Exploitation in Ron Rash’s *Serena* Novel: A Marxist Criticism” (2021) by Muniralizah Nurman, Singgih Daru Kuncara, and Fatimah Mujahir. The aimed of this article is to find out the portrayal of class distinction and labor exploitation in the novel. This article applied Marx’s Social Class and Exploitation theory, and International Labor Organization or ILO’s Indicators of Labor Exploitation. The result of this article is the discovery of two social classes described in the novel and four forms of labor exploitation. I agree with the statement which says that social class is indicated by a person's economy and power. Yet, there is no topic of resistance of the workers discusses and in my opinion, it should be including since the workers resistance is the impact of exploitation.

The article titled “Human Exploitation as Social Inequality Reflected in The Novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens” by Adisty Indah Prahastini, Siti Hafsa, and Sumardjo (2019) also helps on identifying class inequality and exploitation. The aim in this article is to explore the kinds of human exploitation and connection between social inequality and human exploitation in the novel *Oliver Twist*. The article use exploitation and social inequality based in Marxism theory by Karl Marx. The

founding of this article is there is human exploitation that occurs in the novel *Oliver Twist*. This article not only reveals exploitation of workers, but also the exploitation of children and women. They also found that class differences were a trigger for social inequality and exploitation. However, in my opinion, the author should put more analysis rather than put the long dialog and make clear explanation of the dialog.

The next article is “Walking Through *The Jungle*: Upton Sinclair against Capitalism” by George Shaduri (2012). The article analyzes the reasons for the failure of Sinclair’s expectations based on opinions of both American and non-American scholar’s views. the reason that Shaduri found was Ideological of socialism only shared by very limited number of Americans, Americans people, especially factories, participate in the exploitation, the people in industrial capitalist economy only want to consume as much as possible while giving as little as necessary, and the idea of accepting a completely new economic system was alien to American society. This article reveals that the change in society is not an easy task. The interesting thing about this article is what scholars think about *The Jungle* and the reality of American society. In my opinion, the weakness of this novel is it does not explain the methods and theories used and the conclusions of this research. Although the findings of this article are not very relevant, this article is useful in understanding more deeply about *The Jungle* and it influence, along with the views of scholars regarding *The Jungle*.

1.4 Research Questions

- a) How the relationship of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat as a trigger of human exploitation between in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and in *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji?
- b) How exploitation occurs between in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and in *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji?
- c) How the impact of human exploitation in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair compare to *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi* by Kobayashi Takiji?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the exploitation that occurs to workers. By analyzing these two novels, I explore things related to exploitation: the trigger, the indicators, and the impacts. The relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat also caught my attention in analyzing the exploitation in the novel because both parties are involved in exploitation. Also, I compare both novels to find pattern of exploitation, including similarities and differences.

1.6 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to examine human exploitation in *The Jungle* and *Kani Kosen Sebuah Revolusi*. There are three points to be revealed: How the

relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat trigger exploitation; How the exploitation occurred; and the impact of the exploitation. I want to show how exploitation can happen, how the bourgeoisie takes part in exploitation toward the proletariat and has such an impact that it causes changes in people and society, in different countries, languages and cultures. I also want to show the similarities and differences that the novels bring since both novels come from different backgrounds.

