

P-ISSN 2621-3575

E-ISSN 2723-2921

Volume 8, Nomor 1, Juni 2025



TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa



Fakultas Sastra Universitas Al-Ghifari

Jln. Cisaranten Kulon No.140 Bandung

Telp. 022.7835813

Email: unfarisastra@gmail.com

Website: www.unfari.ac.id

P-ISSN 2621-3575
E-ISSN 2723-2921

Volume 8, Nomor 1, Juni 2025

TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa

TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa

Jurnal The Gist adalah jurnal yang memuat karya ilmiah berupa artikel di bidang Ilmu sastra dan Bahasa. Jurnal The Gist diterbitkan 2 kali dalam setahun oleh Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari sebagai media untuk menampung karya ilmiah sivitas akademika di lingkungan Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari. Jurnal ini juga membuka peluang bagi penulis dari luar lembaga untuk berkontribusi dalam penulisan karya ilmiah selama masih memiliki bidang ilmu yang sama.

Dewan Redaksi

Pembina

Rektor Universitas Al-Ghifari
Prof. Dr. H. Didin Muhafidin, S.IP., M.Si.

Penanggung Jawab

R. Yeni Dewi Cahyani, S.S., M.Pd.

Pemimpin Redaksi

Arry Purnama, Ph.D.

Mitra Bestari

1. Dr. Dedi Sulaeman, M.Hum. (UIN Bandung)
2. Dr. Dana Waskita M.AppLing. (ITB)
3. Arry Purnama, Ph.D. (Universitas Al Ghifari)
4. Parawati Sondari, Ph.D (STKIP Pasundan)
5. Evi Azizah Vebriyanti, M.Hum. (ITB)
6. Euis Reliyanti Arum, S.S., M.Hum. (Politeknik Al Islam Bandung)
7. Dien Novita, M.Hum (Politeknik LP3I)
8. Anggi Rizky Firdhani, S. Hum., M. Hum. (Politeknik Negeri Bandung)
9. Fera Pena Millah, S.Pd., M.Hum. (UIN Bandung)

Jurnal Manager

Syifa Wasilatul Fauziyah, M.Hum

Ketua Editor

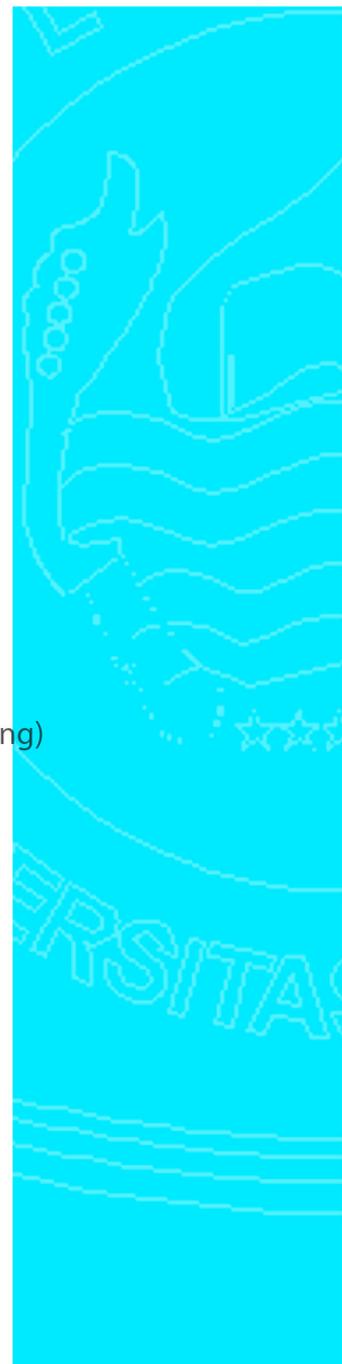
Arief Luqman

Penyunting Pelaksana

Hartono, S.S., M.Hum
Myrna Nursakinah, M.Hum
Adam Darmawan, M.Hum
Octavia Chandra, S.S., M.Hum

Penerbit LPPM Universitas Al-Ghifari

Jln. Cisaranten Kulon No.140 Bandung
Telp. 022.7835813 email: unfarisastra@gmail.com website: www.unfari.ac.id



DAFTAR ISI

PENGANTAR REDAKSI	i
DAFTAR ISI	ii
Phonological Adaptation Patterns in Naturalized Borrowing in The Subtitles of ‘Onward’ (2020) Muhamad Ikram Pratama, Adam Darmawan.....	1
An Analysis of Code-Mixing in Merry Riana and Maudy Ayunda’s Conversations on Youtube Podcast Elisa Soleha, Adam Darmawan	9
An Analysis of Derivational Affixes and its Meaning in Katy Perry’s Teenage Dream Album Irma Rochmatul Laila Insani, Hartono	24
Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected Songs from The Frozen Movie Soundtracks Muzaina Nur Ariiqa, R.Yeni Dewi Cahyani, Octavia Chandra Dewi	39
Analyzing Social Class in The Film The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks: Marxist Criticism Trilani Rizkiyanti, Sulistina Sasa Saidah Kosnur, Hartono	56

ANALYZING SOCIAL CLASS IN THE FILM THE NOTEBOOK BY NICHOLAS SPARKS: MARXIST CRITICISM

Trilani Rizkiyanti¹, Sulistina Sasa Saidah Kosnur², Hartono³

^{1,2,3} English Department, Faculty of Literature, Al-Ghifari University,
Jl. Cisaranten Kulon - Arcamanik No.140, Bandung 40293, Indonesia

trilanirzkynt2644@gmail.com

Abstract: Social class greatly influences daily life, through social class we can see a person's character. In the film *The Notebook*, social class can hinder the journey between two people who are falling in love. Social class is divided into two parts, the first is the bourgeoisie and the second is the proletariat. The bourgeoisie is a group of people who have a lot of wealth, higher education, a luxurious life, while the proletariat is a group of people who live without power and always do manual labor. The manual labor referred to by the proletariat includes people who work as laborers, construction workers, factory workers, and many more. The film *The Notebook* depicts the gap between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. This analysis also answers the questions of why social class can influence Allie and Noah's love? And why do families who have bourgeoisie characteristics always disapprove if their children are in a relationship with the proletariat? In this analysis, the author uses a qualitative method because the researcher will look for phenomena that occur in the film. In essence, this film not only shows a romance story but also represents the social class that exists in society. The story of this film ends with the story of Noah and Allie who are united due to their deaths, thus being independent of the social class system.

Key terms: *Social class, film, bourgeoisie, proletariat*

Abstrak: *Kelas sosial sangat mempengaruhi kehidupan sehari-hari, melalui kelas sosial kita bisa melihat bagaimana watak seseorang. Dalam film The Notebook kelas sosial bisa menghalangi perjalanan antara dua insan yang sedang jatuh cinta. Kelas sosial dibagi menjadi dua bagian, yang pertama bourgeoisie dan yang kedua proletariat. Bourgeoisie merupakan sekelompok orang yang memiliki banyak kekayaan, pendidikan tinggi, kehidupan mewah, sedangkan proletariat merupakan sekelompok orang yang hidup tidak memiliki kekuasaan dan selalu melakukan pekerjaan kasar. Pekerjaan kasar dalam yang dimaksud pada kaum proletariat yaitu orang-orang yang bekerja sebagai buruh, tukang bangunan, pegawai pabrik, dan masih banyak lagi. Dalam film The Notebook juga terdapat ciri-ciri kaum bourgeoisie dan kaum proletariat. Analisis ini juga menjawab pertanyaan tentang kenapa kelas sosial bisa mempengaruhi cinta Allie dan Noah? Dan kenapa keluarga yang memiliki ciri-ciri bourgeoisie selalu tidak menyetujui jika anaknya berhubungan dengan kaum proletariat?. Dalam analisis ini, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif karena peneliti akan mencari fenomena yang terjadi pada film tersebut. Pada intinya film ini tidak hanya memperlihatkan sebuah kisah romansa tetapi juga merepresentasikan kelas sosial yang ada di masyarakat. Cerita dari film ini berujung dengan kisah Noah dan Allie yang bersatu karena kematian mereka, sehingga terlepas dari sistem kelas sosial.*

Kata Kunci: *Kelas sosial, film, borjuis, proletariat*

INTRODUCTION

Marxist Criticism is one of the theories that has been created and owned by Karl Marx. How our view of the world

can be helped by Marxist theory itself. Marxist Criticism says that ideology is a belief system. Economics is one of the major influences on the formation of

society, culture, and also human life experiences. Marxist Criticism is a theory that focuses on the relationship between social class, ideology and power. The social class in Marxist theory is divided into two parts, namely the bourgeoisie (who have power) and the proletariat (people with substandard conditions and who always do manual labor), but they have used new terms that we can see the difference in socio-economic lifestyles, including the Lower Class, Lower Class, Middle Class, Upper Class, Aristocracy. According to Eagleton (2006), Marxist criticism is an approach that connects literature and society. Marxists have the aim of fighting for social classes and resistance structures, as well as fighting for the elimination of social class injustice (Irzum Farihah 2014:443).

The notebook is one of the films that contains the characteristics of Marxist Criticism, especially in social class relations. *The notebook* is a film that was released in 2004. This film is a story taken from a novel with the same name, and written by Nicholas Sparks. This film stars Ryan Gosling as Noah and Rachel McAdams as Allie. This film tells the story of a teenager who falls in love with each other, but their love is hindered by the blessing of Allie's parents, because Noah comes from a well-off family while Allie comes from a wealthy family. Allie's parents separate their relationship by moving house to the city area. Allie's parents separate Noah and Allie because they

want Allie to marry a rich man, not the son of a carpenter. This film has won several awards, one of which is the 2005 MTM Movie Awards and won the Best Kiss category during the rain scene on the lake which is a symbol of true love in this film, and many other awards.

In this analysis, the author uses the Marxist Criticism theory and aims to analyze social class in the film *The Notebook*, and answer several questions such as why is social class very influential in their love journey? Why do rich people always want to match their children with rich people again?

RESEARCH METHOD

In this analysis, the researcher used a qualitative approach with a textual analysis method. The researcher aimed to understand and reveal the social class depicted in the 2004 film "The Notebook" and to examine ideology using Marxist criticism theory. Textual analysis is a method that involves collecting and interpreting data descriptively, thematically, and narratively (Creswell and Poth 2016). Textual analysis is a method that examines how meaning is shaped by the content and form of a text (Barker 2008). Textual analysis is the process of analyzing and interpreting written, spoken, and visual data, aimed at understanding how meaning is created, conveyed, and interpreted (Lisa M. Given, 2008). Textual analysis is a method of collecting data in the form of written text. Textual analysis aims to

examine worldviews through written, spoken, and visual sources.

According to Karl Marx, the founder of Marxist theory, Marxist criticism is a theory that explains how a person is viewed from a social and economic perspective. According to Eagleton (2006), Marxist criticism is an approach that connects literature and society. According to Karl Marx, Marxist criticism is a theory that criticizes class conflict between the capitalist class and the working class (proletariat). Literary works are considered works that reflect ideology and economic conditions in society.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Marxist theory has an idea based on class-based struggles and conflicts or social status founded by Karl Marx. In Marxist criticism we can reveal which party is in power and which is oppressed only through social status. In the film *The Notebook* which reflects social and economic structures using Marxist criticism focuses on the ideology used in the film, and the conflict between social classes.

The film entitled "*The Notebook*" was released in 2004, adapted from a novel by Nicholas Sparks. The main male character named Noah has a family background as a worker and is in contrast to the main female character named Allie as a rich kid. The two fall in love but are hindered by the blessing of Allie's parents. In short, Allie's parents do not approve of their relationship because Noah is only a worker who is

considered unworthy of Allie who is of course a conglomerate child.

In the film *The Notebook*, Allie's family can be called Upper class, because several scenes in the film show that Allie's family lives a luxurious life, an elite social environment, a higher education owned by Allie herself, her father is a successful businessman. Meanwhile, Noah is depicted as lower class because he comes from a humble family. Noah's father works as a carpenter, and Noah also works as a laborer. Noah doesn't have a large house and has little education, which are characteristics of the lower class.

Representing the differences between classes



Picture 1. [26:50] Image of the Bourgeois class

There are bourgeois characteristics in the image above in the film at minute 26:50, where Allie's family holds a luncheon at their residence with rich or upper class people and invites Noah to be introduced to his family. In that scene, there is also a dialogue between Noah and Allie's family when Noah is asked about his job.

Allie's Family: "So, what do you do, Noah?"

Noah: "I work at the lumber yard with Fin. Mainly milling and receiving logs and stripping the bark."

Allie's Family: "If you don't mind my asking... how much do you make at your job?"

Noah: "Uh, how much money do I make? About 40 cents an hour. Yeah, it's not much, but I don't need a lot. And I save most of it."

This conversation shows a difference in social class. Noah's income also becomes a measure of his value, because the ideology of the bourgeois class views individuals through their earnings and status.

Bourgeoisie Values

The social class differences that arise between two young men who fall in love are Noah Calboun, the son of a carpenter, and Allie Hamilton, who comes from a wealthy family. Their love is hindered by the bourgeoisie values held by Allie's family. Allie's family, especially her mother, strongly disapproves of Noah, who is seen as unequal, and Allie's mother wants Allie to be with a wealthy man who is equal to her family.

Allie's mother tries to distance Noah from her daughter by moving house and hiding Noah's letters for 365 days. This can be considered an ideological power struggle due to Allie's parents' selfishness and manipulation of their own child.

Allie and Lon Hammond are engaged, and their relationship is fully approved by Allie's

parents consider Lon Hammond the right man for Allie. Lon is a man from a prominent and educated family, considered equal to Allie and her family. Allie and Lon's engagement is not forced by her family, but rather voluntarily.

Life as Proletariat



Picture 2. [46:14] Image of the Proletariat

Meanwhile, the image above at 46:14 shows Noah's work as a carpenter, depicting him as an ordinary or lower-class worker. From their daily lives, we can see the contrast with Allie, who has everything.

Proletariat Values

Noah comes from a poor family, and his father is a carpenter. Noah works hard as a day laborer.

Noah lives in a rural area and lives in a small house.

Noah is not highly educated and does not have a reputation in any field.

To win Allie's love, Noah works hard to build his dream house with Allie while they are still together.

Superstructural as an ideological tool



Picture 3. [48:56] Image of Allie's education as a superstructural

In the Marxist superstructural approach, family, culture, education, and others are seen as tools that can be used to maintain the ideology of the dominant class that is of course in power. In the film *The Notebook*, it is very clearly explained that Allie's family uses upper-class ideology in a capitalist society that aims to maintain their status quo in order to separate love based on social class. Allie chooses Noah rather than accepting a bourgeois arranged marriage. Therefore, this action is considered resistance to class hegemony. A relationship that does not consider wealth or class envelopes the two main characters, Noah and Allie. Both agree to maintain a sincere relationship regardless of social strata.

The conflict between class love



Picture 4. [22:00] Image of dinner with Noah's father

It all started from a fairly serious personal relationship between Allie and Noah. They were happily married

and received full support from Noah's father. His support can be seen in figure 4. The existence of capitalist principles in Allie's family became an obstacle for Allie and Noah's relationship. Allie's family was very against relationships between social classes, because after knowing Noah's job while eating with Allie's family, her mother was furious and openly told Allie to leave Noah who was considered inappropriate to be with her beloved daughter. This made Noah withdraw from being with Allie, but Allie pursued Noah and convinced him to be able to fight together and the full support of Noah's own father strengthened Noah's determination to continue fighting to pursue his true love regardless of social class.

Allie and Lon's matchmaking



Picture 5. [52:25] Image of the proposal for Allie by Lon

At 52:25, the clip above shows Allie being proposed to by Lon, a wealthy man with a high education, reputation, and social power. Allie and Lon's relationship has been approved by Allie's parents because it does not challenge the ideology of social class in marriage.

Lon: "You know, I'm wealthy, I'm from the south, I got a decent job. You know, I'm an incredible dancer, I'm really smart guy. You look great. I like to think..."

Lon: "If you marry me, then you will have lost a life long battle of defiance against them."

Lon: "See Allie, I think... damn it, I think you have to marry me. I think you need to marry me. Because if you do, your parents will always know the unhappiness that you feel for not being able to disappoint them. I think you may have overlooked one minor detail."

Lon: "One more thing. I love you. Will you marry me, honey? I know, I kid around a lot, but I'm crazy about you. Marry me? Make me the happiest man in the world"

Noah's determination to keep his promise to Allie



Picture 6. [57:16] Image of the resistance of love between different classes

Noah is almost desperate to fight for his love for Allie because he hasn't received a reply to her letters for a whole year. But he still keeps his promise to buy and renovate a luxury house to make his dream of being with Allie come true.

Narrator: "After seeing Allie that day, something inside Noah snapped. He got the notion into his head that if he restored the old house where they had come that night, Allie would find a way to come back to him. Some called it a labour of love. Others called it something else. But in fact, Noah had gone a little mad."

With his father's support, Noah returned to pursuing his love. Despite their different social classes, Noah's father didn't mind. This can be seen in the following conversation:

Noah's Father: I'm selling this house.

Noah: Are you selling this house?

Noah's Father: Yes. I have to leave at the end of this month. Now, with the money, you can buy your GI Bill.

Noah: Buy what?

Noah's Father: Your dream house. Windsor Estates.

Noah: Yes...

Noah's Father: Don't say 'yes'. I don't want to hear it.

Bourgeois Ideology



Picture 7. [1:34:18] Image of Mother Allie's symbol approving her daughter's relationship

In the scene above at 1:34:18, Allie's mother finally allows Allie to be with Noah, because Noah already has a

luxurious house that Allie deserves to live in. The scene also shows that Allie's mother's approval is based on Noah's new economic status, not because of love, this reflects the bourgeois ideology that sees someone from property or assets.

Allie's Mother: "I hope you make the right choice."

Bourgeois class privileges



Picture 8. [1:52:51] Image of hospital as a superstructural

The image above shows Allie and Noah being treated at a nursing home, owned by Allie's family. Allie lives in the nursing home with exclusive facilities and care, while Noah lives in a separate building and sneaks out to meet Allie, because Allie's facilities are premium and Allie's family is paying for everything.

Allie and Noah's return



Picture 9. [1:46:01] Image of a symbol of true love between Noah and Allie

In this clip, Allie returns to Noah after convincing him to leave Lon, who proposed to her first. Allie also values Noah based on true love, not wealth, position, or social class. With Noah, Allie experiences a freedom in life compared to being confined to the bourgeoisie.

Ending of the story



Picture 10. [1:57:40] Image of symbol of true love

The film concludes with a scene that demonstrates Noah's continued support for Allie, no matter what. Noah truly proves this, even when death takes them both, he stands with Allie, holding her hand. It's as if the universe fully supports their relationship, leading them to freedom and eternal peace.

The Influence of Social Class



Picture 11. [40:05-42:50] The influence of social class systems on the relationship between Noah and Allie.

In this scene, Allie and Noah argue about the continuation of their lives for a relationship that can continue or not. This happened after Allie had an argument with her parents who did not approve of a love relationship between classes. Allie's parents were very insistent on equal relationships, as it was to maintain their social status for generations. Here is the Allie and Noah's conversation:

Allie: Noah? Noah? Hey, hey. You leaving? I'm so sorry. I don't even know what to say. I'm humiliated.

Noah: It's alright.

Allie: No, it's not.

Noah: Yeah.

Allie: No, it's not.

Noah: I'm gonna go.

Allie: I don't want you to go.

Noah: I gotta think about some stuff.

Allie: What do you gotta think about it, huh? Come here, talk to me. Talk to me.

Noah: about what? You want, You're going away. You're leaving. And i'm staying here. And i'm so happy that you're doing that. But you're gonna do have a million things to do.

CONCLUSION

Through a Marxist critical approach, the analysis of the film "The Notebook" demonstrates that it reflects not only a

romantic story but also the reality of deep conflict within capitalist society. The conflict between Noah and Allie's love story is hindered by the blessing of Allie's parents, which is based on capitalist principles. This principle symbolizes the struggle between the working class and the bourgeoisie. This is considered an effective ideological means for the dominant class to maintain social status and maintain social balance.

The reason why social class is so influential in Noah and Allie's love relationship is because social class controls the economy, education, and also social relationships. Love relationships in everyday life will never be free from the influence of social class. Marriage as a tool of capitalism to maintain social status is strongly held by Allie's family as an upper class. In the film's story, Allie and Noah represent a sincere love that can overcome the ideology of social strata. At the end of the scene, it is shown that both actors can experience a calm and free life when death comes. This certainly symbolizes the structural tragedy that love between classes can never be avoided during life and can be avoided when we are no longer bound by social systems or death.

REFERENCES

- Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2016). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. Sage Publications.
- Eagleton, T. (2006). *Criticism and ideology: A study in Marxist literary theory*. Verso.
- Eagleton, Terry. (2002). *Marxism and literary criticism*. Routledge.

- Farihah, I. (2015). Filsafat Materialisme Karl Marx. *Fikrah: Jurnal Ilmu Aqidah Dan Studi Keilmuan*, 3(2).
- Given, L. M. (Ed.). (2008). *The Sage encyclopedia of qualitative research methods*. Sage Publications.
- Marx, Karl, & Engels, Friedrich. (2002). *The Communist Manifesto* (S. Moore, Trans.). Penguin Classics.
- Tyson, Lois. (2015). *Critical theory today: A user-friendly guide* (3rd ed.). Routledge.