

THE PORTRAYAL OF HEGEMONY AS SEEN IN *SNOWPIERCER*

¹Dewi Saklina Lasiana, ²Mamik Tri Wedawati

^{1,2} English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Surabaya
Jl. Raya Kampus Unesa, Surabaya, Jawa Timur

¹dewi.17020154081@mhs.unesa.ac.id; ²mamikwedawati@unesa.ac.id

Abstract

Snowpiercer is a sci-fi thriller movie directed by Bong Joon-ho. This movie presents the world's survivors that live in a train creating their own economy and class system. The depiction of the movie is how power and ruling position could be achieved by conducting a process of moral and intellectual leadership rather than exercising full coercion. In *Snowpiercer*, Wilford as the dominant class attempts to gain power and authority to control the society through ideological indoctrination by the apparatuses. The study employs a sociological approach to literature to reveal the operation of hegemony in *Snowpiercer*. This study uses Antonio Gramsci's concept of Hegemony as the main theory and Max Weber's theory about power as supporting theory. In analyzing the data, this study uses a narrative and non-narrative approach. This study aims to describe hegemony through five stages of hegemony operation in *Snowpiercer*. Secondly, revealing the impact of hegemony on the subaltern class in *Snowpiercer*. Moreover, as the result shows that In *Snowpiercer*, hegemony is a process of gaining power through Indoctrinating ideology in which the role of coercive elements is necessary to maintain the power and authority obtained by the dominant class when the hegemony has weakened. This explains how hegemony conducted by Wilford lasts long and strong as it affects particular main aspects such as economic, military, education, culture, etc. Moreover, The dominant class's hegemony arises an impact on the subaltern class in the tail section, many people in the tail section get isolated, oppressed, and exploited.

Keywords: Antonio Gramsci, hegemony, hegemony operation, *Snowpiercer*, subaltern class

INTRODUCTION

Hegemony is unavoidable in society, this occurs in economic, education, cultural and political. This phenomenon comes about naturally as the order of human life is always as leader and servant. Every human can exercise hegemony to achieve their desired goals. Moreover, Hegemony is a strategy to obtain power in which the dominant class always espouses ideologies that confirm their position to get the consent of the subordinate classes. Once the dominant group's beliefs are spread in both private and public aspects of society, they start to be seen as common sense. This process does not exist with

violence but through manipulation and strategy (Litowitz, 2000).

As portrayed in the film *Snowpiercer* (2013) directed by a Korean director, Bong Joon-ho, focusing on Hegemony. The film is adapted from a 1982 French graphic novel namely *Le Transperceneige*. The film tells about the ice age earth's survivors have lived in a train travels around the world for seventeen years creating their own economy and class system. The train has divided into 3 parts of the economy class system based on their ticket purchase. The first-class passengers live in the front wagon in luxury, the economy class passengers live in the

middle section and the free passengers live in the tail-end wagon with minimum facilities. The majority of the film shows Wilford's power is *the eternal order*. It is the order which classifies people's places in the train based on their social status. This ideology that every passenger in the train obeys 'the order' of being in their preordained position is originated from the government since denying 'the order' will destroy the ecosystem of human life, they will be dead outside freezing. In other words, The state in *Snowpiercer* relies upon a deeply rooted ruling ideology. In this case, Wilford conducts power, and ruling position to control the society through particular main spheres such as education, economic, social security, and through indoctrinating ideology by the state apparatuses. Wilford conducting a hegemony operation, he is the owner of the train which is accepted to become the leader of the train. Therefore, he has the authority and the power to control society. It can be understood that Wilford as the ruling class controls the means of production in order to commodify life and maintain order. However, oppression is done upon the subaltern class, and one of them is Curtis as the main character in the film and much of the oppression is masterminded by Wilford, the leader of the train. This has built upon the society in which inequality ruled. Gramsci's theory about hegemony is applied throughout the analysis of the film *Snowpiercer* and supported by other concept

as well to discuss two contexts, are the Hegemony operation conducted by Wilford and the impact of its hegemony toward the subaltern class.

None of any studies has applied Hegemony as a topic discussion to examine the film *Snowpiercer*. It is available in other literary studies of sociological or post-colonial approaches. The first study is written by Bangkit Sandy Pratama in his thesis entitled *The Operation Hegemony In a Dystopian Society In Lauren Oliver's Delirium* (2017), explores the stages of hegemony operation in a dystopian society and relates them to the real hegemony of the United States. This research applies hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci, ideology concept by Althusser, and coercive discipline concept by Michel Foucault. The result claims that this research elaborates that Hegemony is a process of attaining power and authority from a certain group in society through moral and intellectual leadership aided by domination at once. Secondly, Filyadi Gusti Zamzami in *The Influence of Hegemony Toward Animal's Life as Reflected In Animal Farm Novel by George Orwell* (2019) uses a Sociological approach to explore hegemony power exercises in the novel and the Negative Impacts of hegemony power on other animal's life in the novel. The study applies Hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci and power theory by Max Weber. The result claims that the study found the structure of hegemony power that

exercises constructing an integral state which means between civil society and the political society also, the study reveals the impact of the hegemony power on the novel: lack of freedom, exploitation, and eat fewer foods, slaughter partner animals. Lastly, Fred Lee & Steven Manicasteri's *Not All are Aboard: Decolonizing Exodus in Joon-ho Bong's Snowpiercer* (2018) uses the same object, *Snowpiercer* movie. This study uses theories of Autonomist Marxist and postcolonial accounts of social domination and transformation. The result claims that bong's decolonial exodus is the order for a real option to both the ideology that there is a lack of choice to the existing order and the pseudo-alternative of authoritarian populism.

Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony completes Marx's theory of class which has not manifested a proper political theory successfully. *The starting-point for Gramsci's concept of hegemony is that a class and its representatives exercise power over subordinate classes utilizing a combination of coercion and persuasion* (Simon, 2001). The way of persuasion carried out by the dominant class to control their power over subordinate classes through consent is what Gramsci called as hegemony while the way of coercion exercised by the dominant class towards the subaltern class is called as an act of domination. In discussing Hegemony, Gramsci provides three phases, such as Economics, Political society, and Civil society. Economic is a materialistic

territory, an economic moment which raises awareness of one class of political hegemony. political society is defined as a group of people who preserve its domination using their power in political aspects of domination in the government, which involve coercive relations realized in several institutions of governance includes police, armed forces, law courts, and prisons. Secondly, civil society is a group of people who preserve their domination using different aspects in which the beliefs and values are shaped. Civil Society consists of the 'so-called private' organizations such as the church, trade unions, the school, etc. The sphere in which a dominant social group organizes consent and hegemony (Simon, 2001). Based on Gramsci stated that Hegemony is a relation not of domination through force, but of consent through political and ideological leadership. It is the organization of consent (Simon, 2001). As Gramsci mentioned about consensus, There are several things that consensus occurs: 1) because of afraid of repercussions if they do not obey, 2) because they are intimate to subsequent goals in particular ways, and 3) because they are aware of or trust with particular aspects (Patria and Arief, 2015).

Hegemony is exercised by particular organizations or groups in power practices through strategies in maintaining power. For Max Weber, power is *the ability of an individual or group to achieve their own goals even against the resistance of others*. It

can be understood that power as a kind of ability to exercise one's will over others. However, power does not always run as expected, there will always be those who oppose or against it either actively or passively. As Gramsci stated that, "The apparatus of state coercive power which 'legally' enforces discipline on those groups who do not 'consent' either actively or passively. This apparatus is, however, constituted for the whole society in anticipation of moments of crisis of command and direction when spontaneous consent has weakened (Gramsci, 1971). It can be understood that the emergence of coercive power can only be triggered when the consent has weakened.

In analyzing the film, this study applies Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony as the grand theory to seize up hegemony stages that portrayed in the film and Max Weber's power theory as a supporting theory to answer the problem of this study also other supporting sources to analyze the problem in this study. Exercising power and authority leads this study of hegemony. With the research questions of 1) how hegemony operates in *Snowpiercer* ? and 2) What is the Impact of hegemony operation on the subaltern class in *Snowpiercer*?. This study aims to 1) to describe the five stages of hegemony operation in *Snowpiercer* and 2) to reveal the impacts of the hegemony operation on the subaltern class in the film.

METHODS

This study utilizes the theory of hegemony by Antonio Gramsci as the major theory and Max Weber's theory of power as supporting theory to support the analysis of the data in the film. The study employs a sociological approach to literature to reveal the five stages of the hegemony operation in the film. In this study, the primary data was taken from the film *Snowpiercer* itself. The length of the film is about 02:06:23, and this study only takes several scenes related to the issues. In analyzing the data, This study uses primary and secondary sources to support the analysis in order to resolve the issues. The primary sources are conducted through Antonio Gramsci's collections mainly from *Prison Notebook*, *Selections from Prison Notebook*, and *Selections from political writings*. Meanwhile, The secondary sources are collected from offline and online. All sources, including books, journals, and articles are collected to gain more pieces of information related to the concept of Hegemony to analyze the issue thoroughly in this study. In analyzing the data, this study describes data by using a narrative and non-narrative approach to deliver the meaning of each dialogue and each screenshot then relate it to the theories. Narrative refers to two important aspects of a film to be analyzed: story and plot (Ida, 2011). Meanwhile, The non-narrative includes the aspect of mise en scene and cinematography (Aumont, 1992). According to Ida, the non-narrative analysis

consists of technical aspects, including camera works and movement, costumes, setting, color composition, sounds, characters, and environment (Ida, 2011). The non-narrative analysis in this study uses aspects such as color composition, lighting, and camera movement. There are several steps to identify Hegemony in *Snowpiercer*. Firstly, As depicted in the film how Wilford as the dominant class conducts hegemony operation to maintain power and authority in the society. According to Gramsci, there are five stages of hegemony operation contain indoctrinating ideology, shaping the apparatuses, gaining the consensus, maintaining the power, and finally dealing with the crisis. Secondly, It can be revealed that hegemony operation gives a negative impact on the subaltern class in the film. Its negative impact includes isolation, oppression, and Exploitation. Lastly, the conclusion is provided by concluding the results of data based on data analysis and interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part discusses how hegemony operates which is conducted by Wilford through five stages of hegemony operation introduced by Antonio Gramsci in the film. Those five stages contain indoctrinating ideology, shaping apparatuses, gaining consensus, maintaining power, and lastly dealing with the crisis. Wilford who is shown as the leader and the owner of the train has the authority to control the society through

ideological indoctrination by the apparatuses. This Exercise of hegemony conducted by Wilford towards the subaltern class may result in isolation, oppression, and exploitation. Gramsci Interpretations in view of Hegemony as moral and Intellectual leadership without the practice of domination, and he also interprets hegemony as moral and domination at once (Patria and Arief, 2015). This study applies the use of hegemony as moral and intellectual leadership but also analyzes the facts of domination at once.

The Operations of Wilford's Hegemony

Hegemony is the dominance of one group over another without the threat of violence, So, the dominant group's beliefs are accepted as common sense. In other words, Hegemony is exercised by the ruling class through a set of negotiating values and beliefs to attain power and authority. Urbinati (1998) supports this idea by stating that, "Hegemony is not a fixed condition, but a *communicative process*, which must constantly update itself, reacting to ongoing events, if it is to remain uncoercive." (Whitworth, 2016).

Indoctrinating Ideology is the starting stage for the dominant class to operate their hegemony as it determines the next stages. In *Snowpiercer*, the society is made to believe that the only thing that could save them from the frozen world outside is the train, and 'the order' of being in their preordained position is the absolute truth that they should obey. This is the

beginning of the hegemony operation conducted by Wilford in order to maintain his authority and power. Moreover, the first

stage of operating hegemony can be seen in Mason's speech regarding 'the order' of being in their preordained position.

Mason: *'In this locomotive, we call home, there is one thing that between our warm hearts and the bitter cold. Clothing? Shields? No! Order! Order is the barrier that holds back the frozen death. Order. We—all of us Passengers on this Train of Life—remain in our allotted stations. We must each of us occupy our particular, preordained position!'* (17:15-17:40)

The quotation shows Mason's propaganda about obeying the order and being in their preordained position. As it is portrayed above, the indoctrinatory process carried out by Mason has successfully spread among all passengers on the train. The Ideology delivered by Mason as the minister who works under Wilford's authority about 'the order' which classifies people's places in the train based on their social status, as first-class passengers live in the front wagon in luxury, the economy class passengers live in the middle section and the free passengers live in the tail-end wagon with minimum facilities. This ideology which every passenger in the train obey 'the order' of being in their preordained position is originated from the government since denying 'the order' will destroy the ecosystem of human life. 'the order' is everything in the train which they cannot break and the passengers must stay in their preordained position that is determined in the beginning. The only thing that could make them survive is the train itself. Therefore, The passengers cannot break the preordained position or they will be dead outside freezing.

Moreover, The dominant class has indoctrinated its ideology to the subordinate classes without making them feel forced for believing and practicing it in which has portrayed the basics of hegemony operation, instead of full coercion.

From this case, All passengers obey 'the order' of being in their preordained position which it can be understood that the first stage of hegemony operates smoothly as the ideology Indoctrination has successfully rooted deeply in all free passengers' unconscious minds until it can driving them fear and madness. The starting hegemony operation has run smoothly as an ideology is successfully manipulated and unconsciously leads all passengers to full fill the dominant class interest for domination which a good start for operates the next stages of hegemony. The entire process of ideological indoctrination does not only serves as a final order from the elite class to the subaltern class or the subordinate ones, however it becomes such a long maintained value which is exercised and accepted by all individuals in the society (Pratama et al., 2017).

The next stage is *Shaping apparatuses* for Wilford to operate his hegemony to the children in the middle class. In *Snowpiercer*,

it is portrayed that Wilford uses the school as the apparatuses to control and shape children's mindset in the early years.



Figure 1. The school wagon placed in the middle section of the train where children are studying (01:07:28)

This scene represents soft lighting with a bright nuance in a colorful view that indicates cheerfulness, intellect, and brightness. In this scene, the film use track/dolly to show the audience the new environment in the film, the school is where children learn and study. The children taught about the dominant class' Ideology of "the order" is the absolute truth in the train, since they have been taught at a very young age. The school is placed in the middle section which means is where the middle-class lives, for Wilford the middle-class is the easiest target to be indoctrinated. They tend to be open in receiving influence. In this case, Wilford objects are kids coming from the middle class. Therefore, Wilford does this to extend and widen his region of domination "ideologically". This scene uses a wide shot and middle angle to obtain the whole view of the wagon. The children are able to look outside as it shows in the scene that there are windows which means the children can relate what really happens in the world outside the

train to make them feel safe, comfortable, and not being isolated. Meanwhile, Wilford successfully spread his ideology through a civil institution. So, Wilford shaping the apparatuses in order to maintain and gain his power towards the society in the train without make them felt like being forced.

The dominant class ideology exercises through the apparatuses in order to spread and established the ideology in a certain society. It is elaborated in Hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci that apparatuses have an important role in shaping and spreading ideology in a certain society. In *Snowpiercer*, the school, family, believed literature, and mass media are the major apparatuses to disseminate the government's ideology to the subordinate classes. This role exercised in civil society, as Gramsci stated in his letter of 7 September 1931, he refers to civil society as comprising 'the so-called private' organizations like church, trade unions, schools, etc., and adds 'it is precisely in civil society that intellectuals operate

especially ...' (Gramsci, 1971). This can be understood that School plays a great role to operate the dominant class hegemony in society. It is a good place for shaping and establishing children's mindsets and personalities at a very young age. Gramsci sees School as the major apparatuses in his concept of hegemony, particularly the teacher plays an important role in the school in order

to shape children's mindset through a process of indoctrinating ideology. This can be understood that children are the easiest target to be manipulated and commanded by the dominant class. Moreover, it is also depicted how the teacher shaped children's mindset through a song that they have learned at school about the ideology of the dominant class.

The teacher sings: "*What happens if the engine stops, we all freeze and die! But will it stop oh will it stop? No no! Can you tell us why? The engine is eternal yes. The engine is forever yes. Rumble rumble, rattle rattle. Can you tell us why? Wilford!*" (1:10:10)

From the quotation above, The children have been taught about the dominant class ideology that the only thing that could save them from the frozen world is the train under Wilford's authority and leadership. The teacher taught them through a song that shaping their mindset of worshiping Wilford and obey every rule inside the train in order to survive from the frozen death. Children are the easiest target to be controlled, especially in the early years. From the discussion above, the stage of indoctrinating ideology in order to gain consent to society is clearly portrayed in the film. There are several important aspects for the dominant class to gain consensus such as education, occupation, etc. As Gramsci stated that "they operate without sanctions or compulsory obligations but still exerts a collective pressure...and obtains objective results in the evolution of

customs, ways of thinking, morality, etc." (Gramsci, 1971). This has done by Wilford to enlarge his ideology and obeying the rule of being in their preordained position without felt like being forced.

In *Snowpiercer*, Wilford's power of domination grows stronger as it spread among the society and begins to branch its influence through education where the children are being taught about the ideology of the dominant class. In this stage, the government has become strong and extensive domination in which it can assume that the government is no longer stand as the dominant class but already as the ruling class. The next stage of hegemony operation is *Gaining consensus* conducted by Wilford through Mason's Speech to the subaltern class who lives in the back wagon.

Mason: *"In the beginning, the order was prescribed by your ticket. First-class, economy, you get my drift. Eternal order is prescribed by the Sacred Engine. All life flows from the Sacred Engine and all things in their place, all Passengers in their Section, all water flowing, all heat rising pays homage to the Sacred Engine in its own particular pre-ordained position. Yes? So it is."*

From the quotation above, Mason's statement shows that consent is gained in society. Mason reminds the subaltern class of their decision in the first place that every passenger placed depending upon their ticket purchase. Also, the train has protected them from the frozen world. Otherwise, they will be dead outside freezing. This has done by Mason who works under Wilford's authority in order to awaken the free passengers of their belonging in the train and prevent them from being rebel.

The subaltern class has a long time of believing that they belong in their place, their ticket has determined their place (tail-end section) which they have to accept the fact that they are free passengers who belong to the back wagon. This in order to maintain the people from breaking the rules and being a rebel. This has proved that Wilford has successfully made them believe for 17 years in the back wagon and obey the rules that everyone belongs in their preordained position. As Owen stated that Gramsci's hegemony concept, "exists as the result of a class struggle between the dominant and the 'subaltern' class in society, whereby the former win over the 'hearts and minds' of the latter through the pursuit of consent" (Worth,

2015). This means that the dominant class has won over the hearts and minds of the subaltern class in the back wagon.

Moreover, After gaining the dominant class power, it is expected for them to carry its domination into the next stage of maintaining their domination through the coercive apparatuses as when hegemony begins to weaken in a particular society. According to Gramsci, the crisis order anticipation is compulsory to be exercised to maintain the power and the ruling position in the society (Gramsci, 2000). The complicity of coercive elements occurs when the dominant class becomes the ruling one once they have obtained the belief and the connection from the submissive class. This is necessary as the ideology cannot be used to stop the insurgency.

In this part, the nuance of the room is dark with low-key lighting that shows dark tones, black, and shadow. The camera uses medium shots to shows the audience, the condition in the tail-end section while the army checking the population of the free passenger. In order to control the passengers in the train, Wilford creates the Army to directly disciplining them, especially the free passengers. The scene shows clearly how the

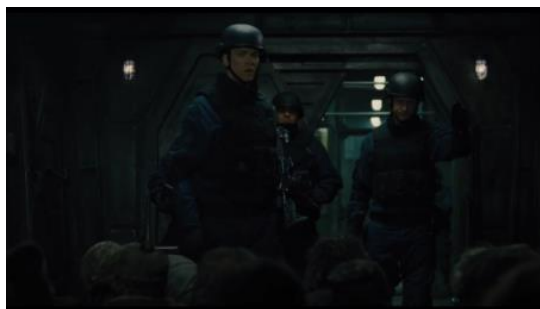


Figure 2. The gate soldiers checking the population of the subaltern class in the back wagon.
(04:05)

way the army lifted up the gun intentionally as a warning for the free passengers to not rebel and so they can feel intimidated. Armed soldiers guard the gates that separate the subaltern class people who live in the back wagon from the upper-class people who live in the middle and front wagon. In the scene where Curtis begins the revolution to break through the gates, he seizes the soldier's gun and finds out that it has no bullets. As it said by Curtis: *"They don't have any bullets."* (27.40). Moreover, these useless soldiers have still ruled partially by the ideology that everyone stays in their preordained position, also to make sure nobody from the back wagon passes through the gates. This can be understood that all this time Wilford has the army only to supervise the subaltern class to make sure they do not plan any rebellion. Their costume is all black, indicating darkness, death, and evil as stated by Foucault that the Army is a "power of death" (Foucault, 1980). This clearly represents the Army as the State apparatus to scare the free passengers. So, they obey the rules that Wilford made.

In this case, Wilford attempts various

ways to prevent the subaltern class to be rebels in the tail section, guarded the gate in the tail section by the force of army personnel, and counting the subaltern class population every day. Gramsci stated that the state is 'the whole complex of practical and theoretical activities of the ruling class not only maintains its dominance but also manages to win the consent of those over whom it rules' (Simon, 2001). It can be understood that the state is a political society plus civil society means that hegemony is exercised with the help of coercive elements when the hegemony begins to weaken. A study on dystopian society in delirium novel found that the role of coercive elements occurs when the dominant class becomes the ruling one once they achieve consent from the submissive class (Pratama et al., 2017).

This is necessary for removing the source of *crisis* in order to prevent the possibility of ruining the hegemony operation. Moreover, The occurrence of power in certain societies is always followed by a resisting movement. The conflict began on 26:34. As it shows in the scene below.



Figure 3. The Subaltern class protesting (26:44)

This scene is taken in a wide shot to show the audience about the whole condition in the tail-end section and the nuance of the room is dark with low-key lighting shows dark tones, black, and shadow. The subaltern class who lives in the tail-end section began to demonstrate the unequal treatment that they get for seventeen years which end up confronting against the Army. In this film, Curtis leads the rebellion act from the subaltern class to break through the gates to the front gates. This begins when Edgar, Curtis' partner, shouts 'I had enough of this protein block bullshit' (26:34), followed by Tanya's 'yea this is bullshit', and others. Moreover, The resisting movement keeps going to break through every gate until they've arrived in the Yekaterina tunnel where Wilford trying to get rid of the passengers who disagree with his goals using the power of domination in order to save the crisis of hegemony that trying to be ruined. Furthermore, As Gilliam said to Curtis "But, So many have been killed. We've lost so many and so have they" (01.00.22). As Gilliam trying to warn Curtis to stop the resisting movement as many have died during the battle. Curtis seems to realize that through

every fight that he started to lost his people and he begins to realize several parts of his potential related to the minister and Wilford, who only use their people's lives in trade for their welfare. As Max Weber stated that "power as being the ability of an individual or group to attain their own goals even against the resistance of others" (Lebow, 2017). When the means of intellectual and moral leadership cannot be used, Wilford uses domination as a tool of violence and threat. This is necessary to be done when the hegemony has been weakened thus no passengers would dare to break all the rules put in place to attain the intended aims. Wilford has created a coercive apparatus by conducting the army that has been indoctrinated to obey him. This is necessary to maintain the hegemony and the government's ruling position in Snowpiercer.

It becomes a known fact that whenever power is exercised in a society, there is always a counter-movement. Through the scene can be caught that the free passengers get their courage and start to voice their opinion. The courage of Curtis influenced other free passengers who would fight together against

Wilford's power. However, Power does not always work well, there will always be those who being rebel or oppose against the system either actively or passively (Crossman, 2018). In fact, Amitai Etzioni argues that power is the potential to influence individuals or a group in order to overcome any resistance movements (Wira, 2015). Moreover, this study revealed that the dominant class's hegemony operates conducted by Wilford has arisen an impact on the subaltern class in the tail section, many people in the tail section get isolated, oppressed, and exploited.

The Impact of Wilford Hegemony Towards the Subaltern Class in *Snowpiercer*

Hegemony is defined as political dominance over another through moral and intellectual leadership. In *Snowpiercer*, Wilford's hegemony operates has brought impacts on the subaltern class. Moreover, Impact can be defined as an influence of action on someone/something. The negative impact has arisen towards many people in the tail-end section get isolated, oppressed, and exploited.

Isolation

The subaltern class gets isolated as the result of Wilford's hegemony. isolation can also be defined as segregation means separation of the other lower-class over the dominant class (Faruk, 2010). In other words, The people in the society experiencing limited access to space and movement, whereas they could not have free activities. This is depicted in the film through the subaltern class who lives in the tail-end section.

From the picture, the color composition shows mostly dark colors indicates with black, dark grey, dark blue, and dark green. Those colors indicate misery and sorrow to represent the condition of the back wagon where the free passengers live. Moreover, The place gets limited access from the outside which can be shown in the picture there is no window and ventilation for them to look outside the train which means the free passengers are being isolated, and they get limited access to facilities.



Figure 4. The subaltern class being isolated in the back wagon. The soldier checking the population. (04.30)

The camera uses a wide shot and medium angle to obtain the whole view of the back wagon condition, clearly shows that the place is very narrow for a number of people in the place with a bad condition and dirty. This kind of place signifies the lower class indicates the lowest status in a society on the train. Moreover, The subaltern class gets isolated as the result of Wilford's Hegemony, they don't get access to get out from the tail section nor to see outside the train, with a bad condition and bad living also really limited access to facilities. Wilford also put soldiers to keep free passengers stay where they are. So, other than feeling isolated,

Edgar: *"Violinists? Fuck that. Bastards in the Front Section listening to string quartets, getting massages, eating fucking steaks... I want steaks."* (05:10)

From the quotation above, Oppression is done by Wilford towards the subaltern class who lives in the back wagon. It shows when the soldiers came to the tail section to find a violinist to work for the upper class in the front section, as Edgar mentioned about how the people in the front wagon live with good facilities such as listening to a song, eating good foods like steak, sushi, etc, called as the upper class. While the people in the tail-end section live their life in a bad condition with protein block to consume which made of cockroaches also get punished every time they attempt to break the rules and limited facilities, called as the subaltern class. Edgar is one of the subaltern class who lives in the tail section has experienced oppression where

Wilford has also made them feel intimidated by the soldiers in order to keep them stay in their place and prevent them from being rebels.

Oppression

Oppression occurs in the film as the impact of Wilford Hegemony towards the subaltern class in the tail-end section. Oppression is defined as a situation in which some social groups experience disadvantages and injustice (Northway, 1997). This shows an inequality among the society in Snowpiercer where the lower feel oppressed and treated differently from the others.

he feels unfair treatment. As he explained in the scene that he never taste steaks before and how does steak taste like, he has been living on the train since he was born. Edgar sees that there is inequality among the society between the front, middle, and tail-end sections in the train. The subaltern class people are struggle to achieve a basic human standard of living such as having good food and a place to live.

Exploitation

The last one is Exploitation as the impact of the dominant class hegemony towards the subaltern class in the tail-end section. Generally, Exploitation is defined as a group or individuals who take unfair advantage of other groups. It can be seen in

Snowpiercer, Wilford exploits the people who live in the tail-end section for their own

advantages and goods. As it is mentioned below :

Wilford: *“The engine lasts forever but not so all of its parts. Thank goodness the Tail Section has manufactured a steady supply of kids.” (01:51:10)*

In this scene, it is revealed that Wilford takes children from the tail-end section to the front wagon in order to work as a slave in the engine room. Wilford explains that for seventeen years in the train, several parts of the engine started to go extinct. Therefore, in order to keep the train going, the important parts of the engine that went extinct needed to be repaired and replaced. However, only small children fit into tight spaces where no adult cannot squeeze into. So, The children needed to crawl to the tight space in the engine in order to repair the engine constantly. Moreover, it can be understood that the dominant class taking advantage of the free passengers for his own people’s benefit (the upper class) in order to save the sacred engine and his people (the capitalist class) by forced the children to work as slaves in the sacred engine room. However, they still get treated unfairly and living in a bad condition. They are fed just enough to kept them alive. They needed to work forcibly, not by their willingness. Karl Marx defined exploitation as the workers are forced to sell their labor power to capitalists for less than the full value of the commodities they produce with their labor (Holmstrom, 2014). In other words, some social groups taking advantage of another group in order to

get more profit in which some people experienced injustice. Other than the dominant class taking advantage, the Workers are exploited because they earn less than do the capitalist.

In fact, In every phenomenon in society not only arise a negative impact but also arise positive impact. In *Snowpiercer*, The positive impact on the subaltern class that could be seen is unconsciously encouraging who are usually passive to be active to play a role in the society which mean encourage the free passengers to fight for their own rights and stand for what they deserve as every human have human rights. Besides, it can also bring up unity to one another which automatically creates a sense of solidarity among others in order to achieve the same goals. There is always a positive side to every negative situation.

CONCLUSION

Through the findings of the portrayal of Hegemony in *Snowpiercer*. This study could sum up that hegemony is a process of attaining power through an Indoctrinating ideology in which coercive components is necessary to maintain the power and authority obtained by the dominant class when the hegemony has weakened. It is

portrayed that ruling class hegemony towards subordinate classes through indoctrinating Ideology of being in their preordained position. Wilford as the ruling class attempting to gain consent from the society in the train that 'the order' is everything and the train is the only thing that could save them from the frozen death. In *Snowpiercer*, Hegemony conducted by Wilford through five stages proposed by Antonio Gramsci has effectively operated in the society. However, It is difficult and takes a lot of effort for the subaltern class to bring down the system that has been implanted in the society for seventeen years on the train.

Moreover, the hegemony operation conducted by Wilford in *Snowpiercer* has arisen negative impacts on the subaltern class who lives in the tail-end section, many people get isolated, oppressed, and exploited. It is portrayed that the ruling class treats each class differently as in the train has divided into 3 parts of economy classes system based on their ticket purchase, where the most visible impact is felt by the subaltern class who lives in the tail-end section includes Curtis and Gilliam, where there is no access to see outside the train, no windows, no ventilation and the gate guarded strictly with the soldiers. Other than that, the people especially, the children from the tail-end section forced to work as a slave in the front section. Moreover, they live in a bad condition with protein block to consume which is made of cockroaches also get punished every time they attempt to break the rules.

REFERENCES

- Aumont, J. (1992). *Aesthetics of film*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Crossman, A. (2018). *Power definitions and examples in Sociology*. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/power-p2-3026460>. Accessed on November 20, 2018.
- Faruk. (2010). *Pengantar sosiologi sastra: dari strukturalisme genetik sampai post-modernisme* (pp. 28-31). Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- Foucault, M. (1980). *Truth and power*. In *Power / Knowledge*, by Michel Foucault, 107-133. Brighton: Harvester.
- Gramsci, A. (1971). *Selections from the prison notebooks*. In Q. H. Smith & G. Nowell (Eds.). Lawrence & Wishart.
- Gramsci, A. (2000). *The gramsci reader: selected writings 1916-1935*. New York: New York University Press.
- Holmstrom, N. (2014). Exploitation. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 7(2), 353–369. <https://doi.org/www.jstor.org/stable/40230696>
- Ida, R. (2011). *Metode penelitian kajian budaya*. Surabaya: Airlangga University Press.
- J.F, Richard, D. (2005). *Gramsci is Dead Anarchist Currents in the Newest Social Movements*. London: Pluto Press.
- Lebow, R. N. (2017). Max Weber and international relations. *Max Weber*

- and International Relations*, 1–203.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108236461>
- Litowitz, D. (2000). *Gramsci, Hegemony, and the Law*. Brigham Young University Law Review, 515-551
- Lee, F., & Manicastro, S. (2018). Not all are aboard: decolonizing exodus in Joon-ho Bong's *Snowpiercer*. *New Political Science*, 40(2), 211–226.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07393148.2018.1449405>
- Patria, N and Arief A. (2015). *Antonio gamsci, negara dan hegemoni*, Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2015, p 123.
- Pratama, B. S., Setiawan, I., & Pujiati, H. (2017). *The operation of hegemony In a dystopian society In Lauren Oliver ' S Delirium*. 5(2), 53–62.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.19184/pb.v5i2.6152>
- Simon, R. (2001). *Gramsci 's Political thought: an introduction* (L. & W. 1991 (ed.)).
- Snowpiercer. (2013). Film. directed by bong joon-ho. Moho films and opus pictures,
- Whitworth, A. (2016). Radical information literacy. In *radical information literacy*.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1533/97811780634296.1.27>
- Worth, O. (2015). *Rethinking hegemony*. Red Globe Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1478929917710609>
- Wira, H. (2015). *Kekuasaan*. Retrieved from <http://hendrawiraa.blogspot.com/2015/10/kekuasaan.html>. Accessed on November 20, 2018.
- Zamzami, F. G. (2019). *The influence of hegemony toward animal's life as reflected in animal farm novel by george orwell*.
<http://repository.uinjambi.ac.id/id/eprint/2671>