



**WINSTON'S ALIENATION AND CLASS STRUGGLE  
IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *1984***

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

For S-1 Degree in English Literature

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I states truthfully that this final project is compiled by me without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, I ascertain that I did not take the material from other publications or someone else work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Erzal Pratomo Kurnianto

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better.

(Samuel beckett)

Love yourself. It is important to stay positive because beauty comes from the inside out.

(Jenn Proske)

*This is for my beloved family.*

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ORWELL'S *1984*

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## ABSTRACT

Essay ini ditulis untuk menganalisis alienasi dan perjuangan kelas yang terjadi pada karakter utama dalam novel 1984 karya George Orwell. Tokoh utamanya adalah Winston. Ia mengalami alienasi dalam pemerintahan Big Brother yang biasa dikenal dengan pemerintahan yang totaliter. Analisis ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui alienasi apa yang terjadi pada Winston, untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan pemberontakan Winston melawan pemerintah, dan usaha Winston dalam pemberontakannya. Analisis ini menggunakan pendekatan kritik Marxis, teori alienasi dan perjuangan kelas Karl Marx. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Winston melakukan perjuangan kelas karena dia tidak menyukai pemerintahan totaliter dan peraturan partai Big Brother yang ketat. Dalam pemberontakannya, dia menulis buku harian, bergabung dengan organisasi Brotherhood dan mempelajari buku Goldstein yang diberikan oleh O'Brien. Hasil analisis tersebut juga menunjukkan bahwa Winston teralienasi dari rekan kerja dan karyanya.

Kata kunci: Alienasi, perjuangan kelas, kritik Marxis, Karl Marx

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

Nowadays, alienation happens in the world. Alienation is Marx's theory, the worker's alienation from their humanity occurs because the worker can only express labor through a private system of industrial production in which each worker is an instrument, a thing, and a person.

The case of alienation is also reflected in George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1984). This novel tells the story of Winston Smith who lives in the totalitarian era, in the modern era. Winston works as an editor in Ministry of Truth in the government. Winston does not like such a government because he thinks the government does not appreciate the history and make their civilians forget their history before totalitarian era. This novel was chosen to analysis because this novel contains alienation and class struggle which Winston does. In this novel, there are many alienations happening to people that live in that era, especially Winston. He works at the Ministry of Truth, which is the ministry in charge of propaganda and diversion of fact for the sake of the country. Winston think that pleasure in life is his work. This happens because he does not know any other kind of pleasure because it is prohibited by the state.

In *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, society is made up of three distinct social classes: the elite Inner Party, the industrious Outer Party, and vast numbers of uneducated proletarians. When Winston reads Goldstein's book, he learns that the history of humankind has been a cyclical struggle between competing social groups: the High, the Middle, and the Low. In this novel, Winston entertains the

hope that the proletariat will become conscious of their oppressed state and initiate a revolution. At other times, he despairs that since the proletariat cannot rebel until they are become conscious, and cannot become conscious until only after they have rebelled, such a development that extremely unlikely.

### **1.2 Research Problem**

1. What kind of alienation that happens to Winston in George Orwell's *1984*?
2. What are the factors causing Winston's class struggle in George Orwell's *1984*?
3. What are the efforts that Winston has made in his class struggle in George Orwell's *1984*?

### **1.3 Purpose of The Study**

1. To explain alienation that happens to Winston smith in the novel *1984*,
2. To determine the factors that lead to Winston rebellion in the novel *1984*,
3. To describe by Winston's efforts to rebel the government in the novel *1984*.

### **1.4 Scope of The Study**

This project focuses on analyzing the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984)* by using intrinsic elements such as character, setting, and conflict. Moreover, the extrinsic element uses Alienation and Class Struggle. Alienation theory provides an explanation how Winston gets alienated in his work place in government of

totalitarian era. Class Struggle provides an explanation what causes Winston to do a rebellion and what the efforts that Winston has made in his rebellion.

## **II. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 Intrinsic Aspect**

#### **2.1.1 Character**

A person portrayed in a novel, a drama, etc; a part played by an actor. (Trumble and Stevenson, 2003:381). Character is a person that acts in the literature. It can be divided into two types: major character and minor character. Major character is the character that has an important part in the story. Minor character is the character that completes the story.

#### **2.1.2 Setting**

Setting includes the historical moment and geographic location in which a story takes place, and helps initiate the main backdrop and mood for a story. (Truby, 2007:145). Setting has been referred to as a story world or *milieu* to include a context (especially society) beyond the immediate surroundings of the story. Elements of setting may include culture, historical period, geography, and hour. Along with the plot, character, theme, and style, setting is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction. (Lodge, 1992:58-60)

#### **2.1.3 Conflict**

Conflict is something dramatically spotlighted or two surviving forces, which both have the equal power of struggle and contextually dealt with action of either accepting or releasing. (Wellek and Warren 1989:285) Conflict creates tension and interest in a story by adding doubt as to the outcome. A narrative is

not limited to a single conflict. While conflicts may not always resolve in narrative, the resolution of a conflict creates closure, which may or may not occur at a story's end.

The basic types of conflict in fiction have been commonly codified as “man against man”, “man against nature”, “man against society”, and “man against self.” (Simpson, 2001:46) the writer would only like to discuss man against society conflict. Man against society conflict is where man stands against a man-made institution (such as slavery or bullying), "man against man" conflict may shade into "man against society". (Morel, 2009:99-101)

## **2.2 Extrinsic Aspect**

### **2.2.1 Alienation**

The concept of alienation was born from Karl Marx's thought is arose from capitalism that shook Europe after the industrial revolution. Marx's theory of alienation is based on the observation that in the emerging industrial production under capitalism, workers inevitably have loss of control over their lives, since they no longer have control over their work.

“Alienation is the condition when the workers have no control over their product of labour and on the labour itself which is their life activity and this becomes only a means to an end of the capitalist. So they got estranged from it and fall a prey to alienation. Due to these circumstances the workers became estranged from their own-self and their own-nature on the one hand and also alienated from other human beings as well as from their work” (Callinicos, 2004:70).

According to Wood that is quoted by Tong, alienation happens “if we either experience our lives as meaningless or ourselves as worthless, or else are

capable of sustaining a sense of meaning and self-worth only with the help of illusions about ourselves or our condition” (Tong, 2009:101).

In capitalist society, workers have no desire, capitalists sell their labor. It can be said that workers are alienated in four aspects. Four bases that are carried in this Marx’s alienation are alienation from their productive activities, alienation from the product, alienation from fellow workers, and alienation of potential humanitarian workers.

### **1. Alienation from the product**

Interests of capitalists are actually separated by their workers. If the worker is working on his master, they still have to pay for the products that they produce because the product is the property of the capitalists. Quoted from Sayers that alienated from the product is when “all labour operates by intentionally transforming matter in some way, as Marx maintains. Symbolic labour is no exception: it involves making marks on paper, making sounds, creating electronic impulses in a computer system, or whatever. Only in this way is such activity objectified and realized as labour. In this way, all labour is material” (Sayers, 2011:42).

### **2. Alienation from fellow workers**

Capitalism forbids the workers to cooperate with other workers, so that they do not even know each other in place side by side. Capitalist pitted workers to what extent they are able to produce. “This alienation is an instant and abrupt

effect of man's estrangement from his work or labour. It affects man's life and it's relating activities. Man feels alienation from his own species-being, relative and associates" (Sayers, 2011:114).

### **2.2.2 Class Struggle**

According to Marx, the classes are a set of social principle that lead to conflicts within society and gives the impression to change their economic substructures. One class is able to recognize its importance in society as a whole through the revolutions that have prevailed previously. According to Weber's thought, the class is a group of people who occupy the same position in the process of production, distribution or trade. Weber's thought complements Marx's thought that class is based solely on capital mastery, but also includes opportunities for profitability in commodity and labor markets. "Both state the class as one's position in the economic hierarchy. While the status by Weber more emphasis on lifestyle or consumption patterns. However, status is also influenced by many factors, such as race, age and religion" (Beteille, 1970).

Marx describes that the history of mankind is characterized by a struggle or a fight between human groups. Marx himself acknowledges the class struggle or revolution does not start as a class in society, but it serves as a representative to the community to put forward demands and benefits together for all experts in the community.

Class struggle happens when the rich business owners pay everyday workers to make things for them to sell. The proletariat has no say in their pay or what things they have made, since they cannot live without a job or money. Class



struggle also happens because there is class consciousness. Class consciousness means that the labors realize and aware of their exploitation. It is explained by Marx and quoted by Tong “Marx predicted that as worker become increasingly aware of their common exploitation and alienation, they will achieve class consciousness.” (Tong, 2009:103)

The cause of class struggle is the domination of certain social class. Scoot explains that the form of domination means to extract labor, goods, and service from a subject population (Scoot, 1990:21)

### **III. RESEARCH METHOD**

#### **3.1 Research Approach**

Based on the background of this research, the writer uses Marxist Literary Criticism Approach. The Marxist Criticism Approach is based on the theories of the philosopher Karl Marx. These theories were developed specifically to analyze how society functions where there is a constant change. (Guerin, 2005) Marxist Literary Criticism views literary works as reflections of the social institutions from which they originate. According to Marxists, even literature itself is a social institution and has a specific ideological function, based on the background and ideology of the author.

The English literary critic and cultural theorist, Eagleton, defines Marxist criticism this way:

Marxist criticism is not merely a 'sociology of literature', concerned with how novels get published and whether they mention the working class. Its aim is to explain the literary work more fully; and this means a sensitive attention to its forms, styles and, meanings. But it also means grasping those forms, styles and meanings as the product of a particular history. (Eagleton, 1976: 3)

#### **3.2 Method of Data Collection**

The method of data collection for this project is library research. George defines library research as “an investigation involving accepted facts, evaluation, repetition, and ultimately an interpretation of findings that extends understanding” (George, 2008: 22-23). The writer uses this method for collecting data, information, theories, and other references which are needed in completing this project.