**THE INFLUENCE OF CLASS STRUGGLE TOWARDS ERAGON’S FAMILY IN ERAGON NOVEL BY CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI**

Submitted to fulfill research proposal

Willy Aji

63706897



English Department

Faculty of Letters

Indonesia University of Computer

2012

**1. Background**

Poverty is something that always happened in the lower class because someone who really need about material possessions or money. Because of that, so many people in this world not having a job and living with poverty. Poverty also makes so many people don’t want to have a job or even so hard to find any job because education or probably do not have any land to make a job. Because of poverty, someone usually do not trying to be better or to get better. This is different with Eragon and his family in the novel *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini. They are always trying to get something useful, even they are live with poverty. And they are always trying to get better although they are really hard to get some money. Because this is what Eragon and family did are to survive.

F.D Maurice says:

*“The poor people have to devote all their attention in order to survive”*

That quotation above explains that even live with poverty, the poor people have to keep struggle although that will be really hard. But this is what the poor people should done in order to stay alive or to survive.

Eragon is a fiction novel that written by Christopher Paolini. Eragon novel itself has four series; Eragon, Eldest, Brisngr, and the last one are Inheritance. The fourth novel itself has continuous story from the first to the last series. Eragon tells the story of the boy who was 15 years old named Eragon. In this novel, Eragon found a beautiful blue stone in the forest when he was hunting in order to get a piece of meat for the winter. But in fact, that blue stone is a dragon egg. The differences about class social, low economy status and status social are contained in this novel. Even this is fiction novel, but it contained something about how the poor people always keep struggle to survive.

**2. Research Question**

1. How does Eragon and family can survive in Carvahall village with their poverty?

2. How the influences of class struggle that Eragon and family acquired?

3. How does class struggle can be forms and what changes if there is a class struggle within a person?

**3. Study Objectives**

1. Describing about the struggle of Eragon and family.

2. Describing the influences of class struggle in Eragon family.

3. Describing and identifying the class struggle forms.

**4. Significance to knowledge**

The benefits from this research is the writer is really wanted that it can be a lesson for all students in Indonesian Computer of University, and also all the people around the world about existence of life and low economic status for survive and it’s all about Marxism. So, this research will discuss about class struggle in Eragon and family. The writer also wanted that this research can give us more knowledge about class struggle in the Eragon novel that someday will gives the benefits in the literature as well as in interacting with the public.

**5. The Framework of the Theory**

Class struggle is clash or conflict between two classes or it can be say conflict between social or economic classes (especially between the capitalist and proletariat classes). This is usually appears when person or someone have a desires between people in different class. The forms of class struggle are many varied.

They range from hidden manipulation to overt conflict; from direct confrontation between the two classes involved in a relation of exploitation or domination to complex alliance formation involving three or more classes. The interests of the parties may be implacably opposed or in concord in certain respects. The arena of class struggle can be enterprise, a branch of economy, or the political system; the stakes can range from wage increases to the creation of wholly new set of relations of production. What makes a conflict into a class struggle is, first, that the parties involved are classes and, second, that the struggle are interests they have as classes, not as, say citizens or ethnic groups.

And this theory taken from the book *The Communist Manifesto* and it was written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

*“Class structures and changes in those structures are key to understanding capitalism and the other social systems or modes of production”.*

According Karl Marx quotes from above it can be concluded that the key to understanding capitalism and social systems are class structures and changes in the structures itself. In capitalism there are six social differences: Bourgeoisie, Proletariat, Landlords, Petty Bourgeoisie, Lumpenproletariat, Peasantry and Farmers.

Here below is the way of the theory will works and will be applying with the source data using theory Marxism from *The communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels;

(MARXISM) Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels

Economy

Social Class

Capital

Labor

Class Struggle

Human

Capitalist

**6. Research Method**

To describe all the data, this research method in this analysis is using descriptive method to explain the purpose of the study. The writer collects data from the novel which is included class struggle. And then the data applied with the theory of Marxism in order to become an analysis. The sources data that was taken in this study is using the source data from the novel of Eragon.

**7. Analysis**

Eragon is fiction novel. As well as other novels fiction such as; Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and World of Warcraft. And in this novel, there are some characters; Garrow as Eragon’s uncle, Roran as Eragon’s cousin, and Eragon. They are lives in the small village and it’s called Carvahall. That village is so far from the city and Eragon’s family is really poor. Until in the end of this study there will be some analysis about class struggle in Eragon’s Family and that keep they are still live even live in poverty.

Here below is the data that shows Roran want to change his life because Roran have a purpose to be achieved in his life

*“Dempton needs the sockets for his mill. He’s expanding it and offered me a job. If I accept, I’ll live with him when he picks up the sockets.”*(Paolini, 2002: 82)

 In fact, Roran is a poor farm boy same as Eragon. In the matter of fact, there is a job in the city that can increase his income if Roran going to accept that job. In other words, if he accepts the job he will live with the owner of the mill for a while. Because the city so far from the village of Carvahall. Indirectly in this case, Dempton as the owner of the mill exploited Roran to take the job. But Roran as the object wasn’t aware of it. And indirectly it can say there are capitalism between Dempton as the Bourgeoisie and Roran as the Farmer. If he takes the job, the social status of Roran can increase into Proletariat. Because Karl Marx expected that, this class (Peasants and Farmers) would tend to disappear, with most becoming displaced from the land and joining the proletariat. The more successful might become landowners or capitalist farmers.

 *“I know money is hard to come by, but we always manage to survive. You don’t have to leave.” But the money is for myself.” Roran tried to resume walking. “What do you need it for?” Roran’s shoulders straightened slightly. “I want to marry”* (Paolini, 2002: 83)

The data above shows that Roran really want to have a better life than he become a Peasantry or Farmer. Because he have a goal to get married with someone he loved and trying to save the money for his wedding. This data also can be another source data that Eragon really struggle. It shows when Eragon said; “*I know money is hard to come by, but we always manage to survive*“ he knows that live in the small village and just have a farm fields to earn money is really hard. But he always trying to survives until Roran want to move into city. How Eragon still survive till that time? Eragon is a poor farm boy, but when he’s not working on the fields or the harvest time has not come yet, he went hunting to the forest to get some food. Not only one or three days he went to hunting, but he always managed that time until a week. Here below is the data that Eragon is in hunting and found the blue stone. But in the last of the data you can see that Eragon is going to barter that stone to a food because he didn’t get any food in that time.

*“But what should I do with the stone? It would be tiresome to carry, and there was a chance it was dangerous. It might be better to leave it behind. A flicker of indecision ran through him, and he almost dropped it, but something stayed his hand. At very least, it might pay for some food, he decided with a shrug, tucking the stone into his pack”.* (Paolini, 2004: 11)

Even in the next conversation he says;

*“Katrina?” he asked weakly, just to confirm. Roran nodded. Have you asked her?” “Not yet, but come spring, when I can raise a house, I will.”*(Paolini, 2002: 83)

Although Roran is working in Dempton’s mill, but he’s already have a planning to his future. Raise a house if he have a more money, and get married with Katrina. This is what we can called class struggle that Peasantry or Farmers want to have a better life than before with the way take the job in the city to get more income. Status Roran itself will change into Proletariat from Farmer. This is capitalism process between Farmer and Bourgeois. Also, it can say that the changing social status from Farmer into Proletariat is because Roran as Farmer joining the Proletariat directly.

And here below another sources data that shows Garrow struggle with his class ;

*“What’s this? Did you buy meat? Where did you get the money?”asked his uncle harshly as he saw the wrapped packages. Eragon took a breath before answering. “No, Horst bought it for us.”*

*“You let him pay for it? I told you before, I won’t beg for our food. If we can’t feed ourselves, we might as well move into town”.* (Paolini, 2002:24)

Garrow as a Farmer won’t accept so easily about what Eragon did. Even Eragon brought some meats to him for his winter, but he didn’t accept that. It shows that Garrow struggle even he got no money and got some meats with free from Eragon. Garrow also thinks that move into town is better choice than he beg for the meat that Eragon got.

*“The poor people have to devote all his attention in order to survive or stay alive”* (Maurice, 2010:15)

This statement not much different from what Garrow did to Eragon, he will survive his life even Garrow really poor. Not with beg some food to another people, but move into the city to get a better life.

**REFERENCES**

Paolini, Christopher. 2002. Eragon.

Barry, Peter. 2010. Beginning Theory : Pengantar Komprehensif Teori sastra dan budaya.

Engels, Frederick. On Marx’s Capital

Elster, Jon. 1986. An introduction to Karl Marx

Electronic reference

http://www.marxists.org/subject/economy/authors/veblen/soc-econ.htm Accessed on 7 October 2011.