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WOMEN EXPLOITATION EXPOSED THROUGH THE LAST NIGHT IN SOHO MOVIE

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Abstract

This research discusses a movie directed by Edgar Wright 2021 entitled Last Night In Soho. This movie tells a story about Ellie who dreams of a woman named Sandie who lives in the 60s era and she experienced exploitation by her manager. This research aims to describe the women exploitation that happened in the movie. In this study, the writer uses descriptive qualitative methods to analyze the content and describes the data analysis in the form of text. The primary data source is Last Night In Soho movie. This research used sociological approach and used theory representation by Hall, and women's exploitation theory to find out what are the forms of exploitation that happened in the movie. The result of this research show that there are four types of women exploitation in the movie, namely sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, and violence. This exploitation experienced impact on the social life of the characters and it also harms them both physically and mentally.

Keywords: Edgar Wright, exploitation, Last Night in Soho, movie, women

INTRODUCTION

Exploitation is a kind of activity to take advantage of something excessively and arbitrarily without any responsibility. According to Suharto (2005), exploitation is a discriminatory attitude or treatment carried out arbitrarily. Examples of exploitation are exploitation of child, exploitation of nature, exploitation of animal, exploitation of women, and so on. Wicaksono (2012) said that exploitation of women means the use of all things attached to women, both images and signs attached to them. Women are often seen as a second class citizen which make women vulnerable to exploitation.

Analyzing women exploitation through a movie requires detail attention both sociological and cinematically. In this study, the writer analyzed the depiction of women exploitation in the movie entitled Last Night In Soho by Edgar Wright 2021. This movie is about a teenage girl namely Eloise Turner or called as Ellie who dreamed about Sandie. Sandie is a beautiful and a talented girl from 60s era and she want to be a famous singer, so that after she meet with Jack who later will be her manager, she feels like all of her dreams will be come true. Ellie soon adapted Sandie as her models, but then Ellie realizes that Sandie life is not as glamour as it seems, all of Sandie dreams turned into a nightmare because of her manager, Jack, is exploit her and forced her to do prostitution and do some violence against her. As depicted in Last Night In Soho movie, the women exploitation happened under male control and is experienced by several female characters in this movie. This study aims to describe the women exploitation that happened in Last Night In Soho movie by Edgar Wright 2021. This study used library research with descriptive qualitative method. This study used sociological approach and used theory representation by Hall, also used women exploitation theory. By those cases why this research is important to be analyzed to know how is the depiction of women exploitation in Last Night In Soho movie. The writer also hopes that this research can be useful for readers and society, to increase public awareness about the danger of women exploitation. From the definition of exploitation and the description of the Last Night In Soho movie, women exploitation can occur because of deception or coercion by someone to women, the person who does this can also be someone close to us. With the lure that they will give us a good job or can help to achieve the dreams we want, it turns out to be exploiting or even forcing us to undergo prostitution and even resort to violence.

Sociological Approach

Sociological approach can help the researcher to understand a content of a literary work based on the socio-cultural context who gave birth to literature. On the sociology of literature approach, there are three approach that is generally done, there are sociology of authors, sociology of literary works, and sociology of readers that was proposed by Wellek and Werren in their book Theory of Literature (1994, pp.109-133). The things that become the main studies in the sociological approach of literary works include:

- 1. The content of literary works, objectives, and other matters implied in literary works related to social problems.
- 2. Examine literature as a reflection of society or bias reality from reality.
- 3. Examines literature as a socio-cultural document that records the socio-cultural reality of a society at a certain time (Junus, 1986).

Theory Representation by Hall

Representation relates to the concept of people mind by using language that allows to interpret real object, event, people, and imaginary world of object, and fiction (Hall, 1997). According to Kuswoyo and Siregar (2019), as stated by Hall, representation is a concept to retelling or represent and described the meaning of something. The things that can be represent are image picture, ausio, sentence, and sign. Hall's limits about language sound, word, things, visual imagination, or object that has function as a sign and arranged with the other sign to create meaning and also used 5W+1H concept there are what, who, when, where, why, and how. According to Stuart Hall, there are three approaches to representation:

1. Reflective Approach

This approach is how a language or symbols reflected the meaning that contain in a symbol. Meaning contained in the object and not separated from reality.

2. Intentional Approach

Intentional approach show meaning as a part of the researcher/author. Language is a medium that used by the speaker on communication the meaning in every things that applies specifically called unique. Therefore the words are meaningful according to the will of the researcher.

3. Constructionist Approach

The last approach is that meaning is constructed on language and through language. Meaning is not only getting from the author, but also through the representation system.

Women Exploitation

In order to get an improving analysis, the writer use the women exploitation by Sagala et al (2007) and Fakih (1999). There are four types of exploitation of woman that can be uses by the researcher to analyze the women exploitation in Last Night In Soho, there are:

- a. Sexual Exploitation: Is a place where they are involved in prostitution activities, sex services/work, or become objects of pornographic activities because of threats, coercion, kidnapping, abuse, being sold people (debt traps), or because they are victims of fraud.
- b. Forced Labour: Any forms of work or services obtained by the perpetrator by using the power of a person who is threatened with punishment and that person work without their own will.
- c. Slavery: Status or conditions of someone against whom ownership rights (from the others) apply to her.
- d. Violence: Violence against a person's physical or psychological integrity, namely violence against fellow human beings which basically comes from various sources, the forms of violence committed include beatings, sexual harassment, holding organs without willingness, degrading words and so on.

METHOD

Method is very necessary to assist the author in collecting data and the information needed of the research. As the research methodology, the writer uses descriptive qualitative study. Descriptive qualitative is a method that the writers give each elucidation, fact, and survey to analyze the problem considered using data in the form of words (Farras & Nurmaily, 2020). The purpose of descriptive qualitative research method is to analyze the content that clearly describes a message or moral value of a text (Mahendra & Ameliaa, 2020). According to Adelina and Suprayogi (2020), qualitative research methods produce research data that is described and then the data is analyzed and interpreted. Language is using as communication process of descriptive qualitative method (Dharlie & Samanik, 2021). The results of qualitative research are a series of words either written or spoken, and not in the form of numbers (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019). The researcher uses the method to collect important data from

many sources. According to Kardiansyah (2016), the qualitative method is taken data both from dialogue and narration. In this research, the dialogue and narration are collected through movie script.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part will discuss the women exploitation that happened in the Last Night In Soho movie. Based on the theory of women exploitation, as stated by the Law Number 21 of 2007, exploitation is the acts that are approved or disapproved by the victim including prostitution, forced labour or services, oppression, use of physical, sexual, reproductive organs, or exploiting one's ability by another party to obtain maerial or immaterial benefits. In this movie, the women exploitation is pictured through several female characters. Some of them are because were tricked and forced by their manager or boss. Sandie who is one of the main female character in this movie experienced exploitation because she was tricked by Jack. The writer uses the theory representation by Hall to explain the portrayal of women exploitation in Last Night In Soho movie, according to Ramadhani and Setiawan (2021) theory representation by Hall is to share a meaning of something through language and the concept of this theory is pictured the moment that catch by our senses. The writer also using the theory of women's exploitation by Valentina and Rozana (2007), and Fakih (1999) as the tool for analyzing the depiction of the exploitation of women in this movie.

The Depiction of Women Exploitation

Based on the theory of women exploitation, women exploitation are putting women as subordinates. Women are not only used by their images and signs as an attraction, but also commoditized and placed as objects to satisfy men's sexual needs for profit (Prasetyo et al, 2021). From this movie the director give the portrayal of women exploitation that happen to the female characters of this movie, especially Sandie who is one of the main female character. How is the experience of the female characters who experience exploitation. The director of this film describes the case of exploitation of women that occurred in the entertainment world in the 60s era, women were exploited and forced to undergo prostitution. There are several potrayal of women's exploitation as seen in the Last Night In Soho movie caused by deception and coercion by men who claim to be their managers:

Sexual Exploitation



Last Night In Soho Movie 2021 by Edgar Wright

Some women characters in this movie experiences sexual exploitation by becomes a dancer in the pub because they have been deceived by people who claims to be able to help them achieve their dreams. Based on the theory applied by Valentina and Rozana (20017), someone who become the object of pornography activities because of threats, coercion, or because they are victims of fraud is part of the problems of women exploitation. In the scenes 00:46:45, the writer see that Sandie's face during dance performance is never smile, Sandie doesn't smile at all unlike other dancers or like the dancer in front of Sandie who always smiled throughout the show. Sandie does the dance performance because she was tricked by Jack, Jack promises Sandie that he will make Sandie a famous singer, but it turns out that Sandie was even told to do a dance performance by wearing sexy clothes and doing erotic movements.

In another scene after the dance performance, a woman who appeared with Sandie while dancing in the previous scene was calling someone and she said that "No, it's not what I thought" (00:49:49 Last Night In Soho) with a confused face. This woman felt that she had been tricked because the work that she got is not the same as she imagined (Valentina and Rozana, 2007). She didn't know that she would be used as a background dancer who wore sext clothes and doing a sensual movement while dancing on purposed to attract the sexual desire of the

customers.

Forced Labour

In 00:47:56 scene, after the dancing performance in the previous stage, Sandie who was in her room was disappointed and sad because Jack had tricked on her (Sagala et al, 2007). Jack comes over to Sandie to pick her up and introduces Sandie to a rich and famous guy, with a tired and sad face Sandie answered Jack by saying "What do you want?" she answered Jack unwillingly because she felt that she had been tricked by Jack. Jack answered by saying "Don't talk daft. You know" which is that the purpose of Jack calling Sandie was already known by Sandie, Jack intended to sell Sandie and force Sandie to commit prostitution.



Last Night In Soho Movie 2021 by Edgar Wright

From the scenes in 00:48:52 duration shows Sandie's conversation with her manager, Jack, and this is included in the forced labour category. This is included in the category of forced labour because Jack is forcing her to do the prostitution with a famous and rich man, but because Sandie doesn't want to do that, so Sandie run away from Jack, and Jack called Sandie and ask her to go back to the chair, but then Sandie reject Jack by saying "Jack. I don't want to do this". Jack used the reason that if Sandie really want to be a famous singer so that Sandie need to perform herself in front of that kind of man and satisfy their lust as seen on the sentence "Then these are the kind of man that you need to be happy. The men you really need to perform for", Sandie reject Jack by saying "No, Jack", and then she trying to escape from that pub.

In another scene there is also coercion to do work as a prostitute by Jack against Sandie. Jack suddenly came into Sandie's room and grabbed Sandie's arm so she could get out of the room. Sandie refuses Jack's invitation by saying "Don't touch me!" (00:58:28 Last Night In Soho), but Jack still insists on Sandie, even he tells Sandie to be quiet. Then, while screaming Sandie said "Leave me alone".

In the duration 00:58:58, Jack forces Sandie to dance and show herself to the men in the pub. The **sentence "You know why you're here"** means that the purpose why Sandie is in the pub is because to do dance and make a deals with the men in that pub with the aim of prostitution. This thing has been arranged by Jack as the manager or her pimps. Jack's face when says "Get on with it" looks very full of pressure and affirmation in order for Sandie to immediately comply. Sandie will be dancing until she finds a man who wants to rent her and she did it over and over again, so it's a pattern or a way for her to get her tenants.

Slavery

Jack considers Sandie as his own and Sandie is his (Valentina and Rozana, 2007) because Jack has given the job to Sandie even though it was not based on Sandie's own will and also it was a coercion done by Jack. Sandie is forced to work and serve several men by Jack who is her pimp, and if Sandie doesn't want she will be abused by Jack. Jack also threatens Sandie by saying that she has nowhere to go and no one wants her while pointing a knife at Sandie.

From the scene 01:11:06 shows that Jack claims Sandie that she is his own. The sentence "You belong to me. I own you!" is a sentence that Jack said to Sandie emphasizing that Sandie was Jack's, according to Valentina and Rozana (2007), slavery is a status or conditions of a person who has ownership rights, in here it can be seen that

Jack stated Sandie is his and Sandie is not allowed to disobey him that approved in the sentence "Don't you ever disobey me" because Jack feels that he is the one who pay Sandie, as on the sentence "I'm the one who'll pay, not you.", so Jack feels that Sandie is he subordinate or his paid worker so Sandie shouldn't be against him at all. Whereas from the beginning Sandie worked with Jack is not because she volunteered herself, but Sandie was forced to work with him because she was framed.

Violence

From the scenes in 00:08:32 duration show Ellie's conversation with a taxi driver and this can be considered as verbal sexual violence category because the taxi driver started saying obscene things like "You got the legs for it." even though Ellie was wearing a long skirt with a slight slit and wearing black stockings that covered her legs. Ellie immediately covered her legs with the existing clothes, this was considered sexual harassment (Fakih, 1999) because the taxi driver had been watching Ellie's legs all the time. It was an uncomfortable act especially for a young woman. Then the taxi driver asked where Ellie was going, and when he found out that it was a student dormitory he immediately said that he would be there often. "You might found your first stalker" of course, the sentence from the taxi driver immediately made Ellie startled and became afraid, Ellie immediately asked to be dropped off on the side of the road.

On the scenes 00:30:52 shows a man who suddenly approached Sandie and invite Sandie to dance with him by saying "Do I get dance now?" Sandie was refused that man by saying "Afraid not" while looking away from the man which means that she can't and don't want to dancing with him, but that man keep forcing Sandie to dance with him, and Sandie keep refusing her and says that she was waiting her friends, Jack, to get her drink.. However, that man still forcing Sandie and says "Well, I'm sure Jack won't mind" and turned Sandie to face him. While with a shocked face because the man touched her and turned her body, she immediately said "I mind", because she objected to dancing with the man. However, the man still coerced Sandie by saying that Sandie likes attention.

In other scene, from the 00:30:56 duration, there is a random man who insult Sandie by saying she is a whore "You can keep your little whore" (00:30:53 Last Night In Soho) which this is a an insulting sentence (Fakih 1999) hurled by a random man to Sandie who was walking with Jack to stay away from the man. In this scene, Jack is still being nice to Sandie. Jack who was annoyed that Sandie was called like that, then walked up to the man again while asking "What did you call the lady?" however, that guy still insults Sandie by saying "She's a slut" where this sentence is a kind of harsh sentence, he insulting Sandie by calling her a whore just because he was upset that Sandie refused to dance with him and still chose to go with Jack, and of course this insulting sentence will hurt women's feelings



Last Night In Soho Movie 2021 by Edgar Wright

Physical violence experienced by Sandie in the scenes 01:11:06. Sandie was strangled in the neck tightly so it makes her difficult to breath and speak, and even Jack pointed a knife to Sandie neck. Jack hurt Sandie physically because he was mad at Sandie, is because Sandie disobeyed him and was trying to run away from him. Sandie experienced this violence because she was trying to get away and run away from Jack. She couldn't stand on Jack's treatment of her anymore, especially because she was tricked and she was made as a sex worker and run a prostitution business by Jack.

In the other scene, from the 01:26:56 duration, is the time when Sandie try to escape and run away from Jack. Jack continues to follow Sandie who is trying to run away from him while insulting Sandie by saying "Hey, come back here, you slut! Get back here, whore" he addressed Sandie with harsh words (Fakih 199), that calling her as slut

or whore which this can hurt Sandie mentally. The sentence "Leave me alone" that was uttered by Sandie to Jack was a rejection sentence from Sandie because he kept being chased and followed by Jack.

In the scenes 01:01:20, it can be seen that Sandie's mentally has been hurt because Jack treated her very badly, Jack had tricked her and also sold her into prostitution. Sandie became insecure about herself, "I don't think I am" is the sentence that pictured Sandie's condition where she feel that she was not worthy for the good things, this sentence she said when a copper advised her to get out of this life immediately. The copper also said that "You're better than this" Sandie is more good than this, but again Sandie feels that she is not that good, because Sandie"s mentally already disturbed. The sentece "Just look in the mirror" was meant by a copper so that Sandie could see herself and reflect that she was more valuable than she imagined, but because Sandie already felt she was worthless, she didn't want to either, and she also becomes difficult to interact socially because she feels she doesn't deserve it.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion of how is the depiction of women exploitation in Last Night In Soho movie. The writer concludes there are thirteen scenes and four types of women exploitation, the first is sexual exploitation, in here the several women in this movie becomes the object of pornography in the basis of coercion and being deceived by a male, women are treated as a things or objects of entertainment for men by demanding them to wear skimpy and sexy clothes, and also women are asked to perform a dance with erotic movements that showed their curves on purpose to getting more attention and increase public and audience attention. The second is forced labour, Sandie is forced to work as a sex worker and commits prostitution by Jack. Shortly after her performances, Sandie is invited by Jack to meet a man who is interested in prostitution with her. Sandie runs away from Jack when she is forced into prostitution, but Jack still manages to catch Sandie and also manages to sell Sandie to a man. The third is slavery, Jack considers Sandie as his own and Sandie is his (Valentina and Rozana, 2007) because Jack has given the job to Sandie. Sandie is even required to always obey Jack and must not fight. Sandie did it all of course because of coercion by Jack and also the threats and violence that Jack made to Sandie. The last is violence, the violence experienced by women in this movie is in the form of physical, mental, and insults or insults thrown at them. Sandie first experienced humiliation by a man who forced her to dance with him and called her a slut, but at that time she was still defended by Jack. The most emotionally effect Sandie is the form of insults that Jack threw at Sandie, and also as a result of Sandie's drastic life change, where she used to be a cheerful person with high ambitions became lost and she became insecure. Physically, Sandie was strangled very strongly by Jack, and even Sandie was also pointed a knife at her neck, this happened when Sandie did not obey Jack's orders. The effect of the women exploitation that can be seen through Sandie's character is that she becomes insecure, and feeling helpless. The problems of women exploitation is a problem that we often encounter among the surrounding community. As a society we need to be aware and open our eyes about the social problems that happened in our society

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