

Applying Post-Colonial Theory “Inferiority Complex” Concept on Film Production in Short Film “Luckiest Man on Earth” as a Social Phenomenon

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Abstract. The film is a medium that can be used to convey a message or story in audio and visual form. The film, which also functions as an art medium, can be used to communicate about a social phenomenon that occurs in society. This paper aims to examine social phenomena that occur in society and reflect on these things through the film “Luckiest Man on Earth” and how the inferiority complex affects the stories contained in this film. The fictional film “Luckiest Man on Earth” tells the story of a young man who works as an ojek at a tourism location in Indonesia and meets a woman of French descent. With Google Translate, they can communicate with one another, but this is used by the motorcycle taxi driver as material to show off to friends and relatives that he has a girlfriend of French descent. This film is produced based on the concept of an inferiority complex that is deeply embedded in Indonesian society.

Keywords. Inferiority Complex, Phenomenon, Fiction film

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country that has been independent for 75 years, but this independence was not obtained easily, but many things were fought for and dark events occurred until Indonesia could proclaim its independence. Independence has had a positive impact on Indonesian society, but there is still one thing that remains in the mentality of the Indonesian people, namely the feeling of the Inferiority Complex. According to Alfred Adler, an inferiority complex is a feeling in which a person feels that he is inferior or not comparable to other people. According to the American Psychological Association, an inferiority complex is a psychological condition in which a person feels physically, psychologically, and imagined not good enough. The inferiority complex harms the Indonesian nation where according to Hendrastomo, Chair of the Yogyakarta State University Psychology Department, the feeling of being inferior to the Indonesian nation compared to foreigners has had an impact that Indonesians consider being like the West an achievement. The author here agrees with the opinion of experts regarding the impact of postcolonialism in the form of an inferiority complex where Indonesians see “foreigners” as having a higher position, thus making Indonesians feel inferior. This can also have an impact not on oneself, but on the progress of the Indonesian state which will be hampered if feelings of inferiority persist and become a hereditary legacy. Based on this, the writer is interested in implementing the

inferiority complex issue in the fictional film Luckiest Man on Earth.

2. Method

The research that the author conducted used library research methods with qualitative descriptive analysis techniques as a research procedure that resulted in descriptive data in the form of writing and words of the observed behavior and people. According to David William (1995), qualitative research is an attempt by researchers to collect data based on a natural setting with accountable results. By the theory of Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman translated by Tjejep Rehendi (from a book entitled *Qualitative Data Analysis*), the author applies qualitative research steps through the construction of a conceptual framework that is about the inferiority complex, then formulates the research problem, namely how the writer can convey the inferiority complex visualization by using a dialogue that is subtext but can be understood by the audience. Followed by sample selection and research restrictions, namely the film Luckiest Man on Earth is limited to the relationship between local people and “foreigners” through the perspective of a motorcycle taxi driver at a tourist spot. After these steps have been fulfilled, then proceed with instrumentation, data collection, data analysis, and conclusion testing.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Postcolonial Hegemony in Modern Era

The advancement of the times and technology has an impact on various aspects including social media. Everything from personal life to business can enter social media. This has a positive impact where things become easier due to technological developments, but this can also lead to consumerism, materialism, and hedonism. However, there is something even worse, namely that there is a postcolonial application in the use of social media. The postcolonial impact that can be seen in the use of the media is the inferiority complex in it. According to the opinion of Kasiyan, S.Pd., M.Hum., A lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts Education, Yogyakarta State University, an example that can show the inferiority complex resulting from postcolonialism is the obsession with illustration using Western models as images of product advertisements on social media. People are competing to have the image of a white body skin, which is the typical skin color of Western Caucasoid descent. Without realizing it, the admiration for “being Western” persists to this day was in the form of the desire to have a white partner. Many Indonesian men or women have a desire to “be Western” by partnering with white people. This phenomenon has the term “foreign hunter” where Indonesians aggressively pursue foreigners to build relationships.

Seeing the above phenomenon, the writer and colleagues in the making of the film Luckiest Man on Earth want to make Indonesians aware of the existence of an inferiority complex that is still inherent today, where the Indonesian nation should be proud of its own identity. Indonesia in the eyes of the world is a country that is extraordinarily beautiful because it has various types of plants, animals, a wealth of spices, and natural beauty to be proud of.

3.2 Luckiest Man on Earth Film Synopsis

Muhammad Sutrisno Dwicahyo (figure 1) is 24 years old who works as an ojek at a tourist spot in Java with a middle to lower social class background (figure 2). Living with his mother and father and their younger siblings who are still in high school. Sutrisno has a quite religious family even though Sutrisno is not very religious. From childhood, Sutrisno liked western things that he got from watching western films. At first, Sutrisno’s introduction to western culture was limited to watching films. Sutrisno had never met “foreigners” at all during his life because the area was still not a tourist spot. However, since the development carried out by the Regional government, Sutrisno’s place has finally become a new tourist destination. Internet access and smartphones that have entered his area help him to achieve the goals he wants. With the App, Sutrisno managed to meet a woman named Marianne Renoir whom he

had known for 2 weeks. Feeling close to Marrine Sutrisno finally tried to propose to Marrine by first introducing her to her father and mother.



Figure 1. Character Shown as Sutrisno.

3.3 Aplikasi dari sikap inferiority complex dalam film fiksi Luckiest Man on Earth

An inferiority Complex is a feeling where a person feels inferior to others. This happens because of the cause and effect of an event that occurs continuously so that you experience feelings of less than other people. In Indonesia, the inferiority complex is also supported by the existence of colonial mentality, namely the mentality of representing non-white people who adjust to white social settings because of their insecurity between their identity and ethnic or cultural history (shown in figure 3). Indonesia's colonial background offered colonized people the view that their native nation was historically inferior to Western cultures who were able to colonize victoriously. In the making of the film *Luckiest Man on Earth*, the writer and co-author applied a classic story structure, namely a 3-act structure or a dramatic story structure (Field, 1948) where the three-act structure has a prefix or the first act in the form of character recognition of the whole story, namely the one driver (person local) and tourists (white people) and their life background with a percentage of 10% of the total film. The second half is the character's way of solving the problem, namely how local people admire the stranger and try to make the stranger become his lover and can show it off to his relatives. This second half has a percentage of 75% of the total film, and the third or last act is the solution to the problem with a percentage of 15% of the total story. The author and colleagues adopted a three-act structure because this structure is an adaptation of real-life where there is always a beginning, middle, and end. This will make it easier to convey the inferiority complex to the audience.



Figure 2. Lower social class background at tourist spot in Java



Figure 3. Cultural shock that represents inferiority complex in Indonesian society.

The writer and the team chose the fictional film genre because fiction films can give filmmakers the freedom to seek inspiration from a real phenomenon, namely the inferiority complex of the Indonesian nation. The writer and team also chose the comedy genre because according to the Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) Survey presented in the film discussion of the Indonesian Film Companies Association (APFI), the percentage of young people who watched national films was 67% higher than those who watched foreign films and the most genres. National films favored by young Indonesians are comedies, namely 70.6%. With the high enthusiasm of young Indonesians watching national films that have comedy elements, the opportunity for writers and colleagues to convey the inferiority complex message through the film *Luckiest Man on Earth* is quite high. The comedy applied in the film *Luckiest Man on Earth* is a Deadpan Comedy that aims to maintain the seriousness of the

problem topic in the film.

Another thing that shows the inferiority complex in the film *Luckiest Man on Earth* is supported by elements in each scene such as gestures, performers, costumers, make-up, props, room interiors, settings, and lighting techniques. In the film *Luckiest Man on Earth*, the gesture of a local person when he sees a stranger is nervous and tries to follow the foreigner’s language style (figure 4), the local tries to use Google Translate so that the foreigner can understand what he is saying, while the foreigner does not. on the contrary to the local people. The player who plays the film *Luckiest Man on Earth* is a native Indonesian who is the main character, and the “foreigner” is Russian. The choice of Russians is because they strongly describe the character of “foreigners” who are considered superior to Indonesians, namely having blue eyes, white skin, and blonde hair. Meanwhile, the main character, Sutrisno, is very representative of the Indonesian people who have the characteristics of black hair, brown skin, not tall, and black eyes.



Figure 4. Sutrisno trying to learn the foreigner’s language to represent their inferiority against western culture (Russia)

Regarding the property, the interior and the film set show the atmosphere of Indonesian people who live in rural areas and have a livelihood on the coast to survive. When viewed in terms of creative strategies, what is going to be conveyed in the short film *Luckiest Man on Earth* is a phenomenon in which the Indonesian people are very impressed and worship Western culture. With the construction of the tourist attractions in the film, it seems that local culture has been sidelined. This can be seen when “foreigners” wear bikinis on the beach while dressing openly in that area is considered impolite. However, local people do not care about it because of their admiration for foreigners.

4. Conclusions

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that the effect of colonialism on the Indonesian nation has made the Indonesian nation mentally feel inferior to the Western nation, and this is still ongoing because the post-colonial inferiority complex has been a hereditary legacy. It is still closely attached to the daily life of the Indonesian people, whether consciously or not. Therefore, as a form of young people’s aspirations to make the Indonesian nation aware of the existence of an inferiority complex, the film *Luckiest Man on Earth* was made which tells about the admiration of a local man for foreigners

and wants to propose to the foreigner. The short fiction film with the deadpan comedy genre is a form of representation of the situation that is being experienced by the Indonesian people, which is wrapped in the comedy genre but does not eliminate the seriousness of the core problem in it.

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