

Social Stratification in *Cinderella* Movie (2015)

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ABSTRACT

This research has discussed social stratification in *Cinderella* (2015), a film from Walt Disney Studios. The researcher is interested in talking about all players in social class and the effects that are mirrored in the *Cinderella* movie. This movie doesn't only stick to the storyline of the fairy tale. Because of this, the author is interested in researching this film because ordinary people, when watching it, only focus on the love story. The aim of this research is to determine the social class and the effects that arise from that social class. To answer the problem formulation, the author uses the theory by Max Weber (2010) about social stratification. The researcher uses qualitative research and descriptive methods to achieve the research objectives. In collecting the data, the researcher has used documentation techniques. The findings of this research are: first, the researcher discovered several types of social classes, namely upper class, middle class, and lower class, and second, the effects that the author found, namely social relationships, employment, and crime.

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Introduction

The timeless tale of *Cinderella*, which has been retold countless times through various mediums, continues to captivate audiences across generations. Beyond its enchanting narrative of a rags-to-riches transformation, the story offers a compelling lens through which we can examine the underlying societal structures and power dynamics. This exploration delves into the 2015 film adaptation of "*Cinderella*," analyzing the representation of social classes, the critique of capitalism, and the film's portrayal of

gender roles. By examining these elements, we can gain valuable insights into the enduring themes of class inequality and social justice that resonate within this timeless story.

The film adaptation of "Cinderella" presents a nuanced portrayal of social stratification, highlighting the stark contrast between the privileged upper class and the marginalized lower class. Through its characters and plot, the film explores the power dynamics between these social groups, revealing the systemic inequalities that perpetuate the status quo. Additionally, the film offers a critique of capitalism, suggesting that the pursuit of wealth and power can often lead to exploitation and oppression. By examining these themes, we can gain a deeper understanding of the social and economic forces that shape our world today.

By examining the social classes depicted in the film and their effects on the characters, this analysis aims to shed light on the enduring themes of class inequality and social justice that resonate within this timeless story. This study seeks to understand how the film portrays social stratification and its consequences, providing valuable insights into the complex interplay between social class and individual experiences.

Each individual has certain social aspects that can be discussed through models of social understanding. Other sciences, such as sociology, history, anthropology, and the social sciences, are actually waiting for the results of analysis through a sociological approach that will be used to help understand gender, feminists, role status, social discourse, and so on. The sociological approach also has approach implications in the form of a fundamental understanding of human life in society. For this reason, this approach is favored by the Marxist tradition—the Lekra tradition in Indonesia. They believe that the aesthetic aspect of the work has great power in organizing the masses. (Ratna,2004).

In society, there exists a stratification of social layers, each with its own hierarchical position ranging from the bottom to the top. Pitirim A. Sorokin stated that the layer system is a constant and common feature in every society's life. Those in the upper social layers find it relatively easy to acquire power, wealth, knowledge, and possibly honor, while those in the lower layers tend to struggle to attain them. The sociological term for the system of social layers is known as social stratification, as explained by Sorokin (Soekanto & Sulistyowati, 2013).

Theoretically, all humans are considered equal. However, in the reality of social groups, this equality is not always evident. The differentiation among social layers is a common phenomenon and a part of the social system present in every society. The term frequently encountered in discussions of layer theory is "social class." Social class refers to individuals or families who are aware of their position in a social layer, and their status is recognized by society in general. Max Weber in Soekanto & Sulistyowati (2013) explained the existence of economic classes based on the ownership of land and property, as well as classes engaged in economic activities using their abilities. Additionally, there are groups that receive special honors from society, referred to as status (Soekanto & Sulistyowati, 2013).

Another understanding of social class involves the division of social groups within a visible society into the upper class (bourgeois) and the lower class (proletariat). The classification of these social class differences is based on economic activities such as occupation, social status, and positions held. Those referred to as the lower class are ordinary citizens without significant standing in that area, while the upper class consists of individuals with crucial positions and, naturally, distinct incomes (Ningsih, 2019).

According to Jakobsson and Fredrik Stiemsdedt (2018), the relationship between one class and another is often referred to as a two- class model, distinguishing between

workers (those who live off their labor) and capitalists (those who live off the labor of others). This model implies a relationship between the two classes because the interests of capitalists (owners) and workers (laborers) are in opposition. The power given by one class is always connected to the power of another, with the ruling class defined as those who have significant opportunities to influence their own living conditions and the conditions of others through their position in the working world (Jakobsson & Fredrik Stiernstedt, 2018). Marx believed that two factors influenced this relationship: economics and human consciousness in the form of knowledge, ideology, philosophy, and religion as the superstructure. Marx argued that the economic base determines the superstructure of society (Irzum, 2015).

Method

This research employed a qualitative research design to explore the portrayal of social class in the Cinderella movie. Qualitative research is an exploratory approach that seeks to understand the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. This methodology is particularly suitable for analyzing the complex and nuanced aspects of social class representation in a film.

Qualitative research involves emerging questions and procedures, data collection in the participant's setting, inductive data analysis, and researcher interpretation of the data. This approach focuses on examining the quality of relationships, activities, circumstances, or materials, rather than relying solely on numerical data.

A qualitative approach was chosen for this research because it is descriptive in nature, focusing on in-depth exploration and understanding. This approach allows for a

thorough examination of the film's portrayal of social class without relying on numerical data or statistical analysis.

The research's data comes from the 2015 film adaptation of the well-known fairy tale Cinderella. Directed by Kenneth Branagh in 2015, Cinderella is an American romantic fantasy film co-produced by Walt Disney Pictures and based on a screenplay by Chris Weitz. This film has a duration of 1 hour 45 minutes, the writer got this film from <https://www.hotstar.com/id>. The social stratification in the Cinderella film as a data source for this study, and the researcher's focus was on information pertaining to Max Weber's theory of social stratification.

Result and Discussion

Forms of Social Class

The upper class in modern societies is the social class composed of people who hold the highest social status, usually those are the wealthiest members of class society, and wield the greatest political power. Although upper class members may not have had as much actual money as merchants, Digby (1958) claims that historically, in some cultures, they frequently did not need to work for a living because they were supported by earned or inherited investments.

Upper class in this research is shown for the entire royal family, such as king, prince, and royal counselor. Therefore, it is evident that in this film, there are characters and scenes that show social stratification between the upper and lower classes. These people are the royal family, a family that is respected and feared throughout the country, where currently the royal family is the upper class, namely the prince who disguised himself as a commoner when he first met Cinderella in the forest, to maintain this disguise because the prince was starting to be impressed with Cinderella, when two distinct social classes

come together there must be adjustments so that one party can adapt to each other. This can be proven in the scenes and dialogue in scene of the prince disguises himself as a commoner.

From the conversation and pictures above can be analyzed as follows, Ella went horseback riding into the wilderness to vent her resentment at the way his stepfamily had treated her. Her look deer in the woodland that were being pursued by hunters. Ella called out to the deer to get out of his precarious situation right now. Ella also met a teenage hunter in the area who went by the rode a horse with several people. Ella vowed to stop Kit from going deer hunting even though she was unaware that kit was the crown prince. Eventually, kit, who didn't know Ella's name, told the group to get home, impressed by Ella's inquiry and attitude.

When two distinct social classes come together, there must be a period of adjustment during which time each side attempts to fit in, which the same as hiding one's true identity. An example of an adaptation stage individual status adjustment would be meeting Ella and Kit in the forest. As the crown prince, Kit tried to hide his identity from Ella by claiming that he was merely a student. In order to prevent his guards from approaching the spot where he and Ella first met, Kit also maintains his distance with his guards. Ella appears in the actual scenario by means of the clothes she often wears on a²⁶₂₇ daily basis which shows that Ella is not from the upper class. Second scene is when the king and prince came into the room, and asked the painter to paint it well; for the painting had to be sent all over the country for the the ball in the kingdom so that the prince could compete with the daughters of another kingdom equal to him. However, the crown prince never forgot ella's enigmatic, fearless, and compassionate presence in the kingdom. The king simultaneously hoped that his son would soon wed a noble daughter and become the king's queen. But the crown prince turned down the invitation to edit the noble princess

because of his attraction to Ella. Kit's resolve to reconnect with the enigmatic village woman he meets in the forest is growing stronger by the day.

From pictures 5.4 to 8.4, the upper class is clearly visible from here. When the prince held a ball at the palace, which looked luxurious at the time, the palace was so magnificent that it was transformed into so luxurious during the party that the king even invited all the princesses from all over the country, including ordinary people, for an invitation where they all competed to wear their best clothes. And lower-class people competed to wear their best clothes so they could be chosen as the prince's wife on the night of the party.

The middle class is aimed at Cinderella's old life, which was completely affluent. When her parents were still alive, she looked very happy because her family there was enough at that time. Cinderella's father was a trader who often traveled all over the country for months, and when her father came home, he always brought souvenirs that Cinderella wanted. Before her father went to trade, there was her mother, who was very kind and loved Cinderella, and all the servants in her house who were very kind to Ella. For this reason, Cinderella was initially included in the middle-class group.

From the brief dialog and picture about what can see that, Her home was spacious enough to accommodate her mother, father, and child as well as a few servants. She was born into a merchant family with all basic necessities provided. Ella's status can be considered stable under these circumstances; all she needs is for everything to proceed smoothly. But because of an incident, his father and mother died, Ella was under pressure from more progressive middle-class forces than her stepmother and step-sister, and as a result, her standing has shifted from middle class to lower class, Ella became a maid in her own house. Ella's life is filled with many unfavorable things that come before this catastrophe, but she is powerless to stop them.

According to Pattinasarany (2016) lower class According to the social hierarchy, this stratum of society is the lowest. It is usually quantitatively dominating in developing or underdeveloped nations. In contrast to developed nations, lower socioeconomic classes are typically homogeneous or have access to middle-class support. These were referred to as slaves in classical times a class of people that fall below the middle class and occupy the lowest social position due to factors such as low salaries, a lack of education or skills, and similarities with the working class.

A group of people who fall below the middle classes and have a lesser status or level of income due to factors like low skill or education, as well as other factors like working class status. The lower class in the United States refers to individuals who are at, or close to, the bottom edge of the socio-economic hierarchy. Generally speaking, low-level manual laborers, service providers, and jobless individuals are classified as lower classes. Poor workers are a term used frequently to describe those who have lower-class jobs.

Cinderella's life, which was originally affluent or could be called middle class, fell to the lower class because her mother died and her father remarried. Then she got a cruel stepmother and stepsisters, so from here, Cinderella's life went down to the lower class, seen in the image below.

Cinderella hugged her servant, who had worked for a long time, but the servant was dismissed by her stepmother because her family's economy was starting to decline due to Cinderella's father having died. Cinderella cried for her maid, who no longer worked in her house.

In the cinderella movie, beside the existence of social class that can distinguish the classification of each other, the writer also discusses about the effects of social class

differences. Social class can also encourage the effects of social class differences on the oppressed. These effects include , employment, crime, and social relationships as follows:

1. Employment

Since Cinderella's stepmother fired all the servants in her house, almost all the housework was done by Cinderella every day, starting with cooking food for them, washing clothes, and mopping the floor. Ella often even gave them leftover food. Ella is part of the working class that meets the needs of mom and two of her stepsister, who doesn't work. Ella is a symbolic transformation of the middle class to lower class because there is the pressure that forced him to run which reality is not his choice. Ella is a symbolic transformation of the middle class to lower class because there is the pressure that forced him to run which reality is not his choice. Ella not only left by both parents died but she also received bad treatment by his stepmother and stepsister.

2. Crime

Cinderella, of course, often suffers from crimes due to the treatment of her stepmother and stepsisters, starting with verbal crimes. They often mock Cinderella without thinking about her feelings. and Cinderella get toward physical crimes committed by her stepmother and stepsisters, namely, starting with Cinderella's clothes being torn when going to a the ball, even destroying Cinderella's personal belongings, namely her glass slipper, then locking Cinderella in the attic, and what most often happens is that Cinderella gets leftover food or isn't even given food at all by them.

3. Social Relationships

Social relationships are aimed at all social interactions that occur in the film. The effect of social relationships in the Cinderella film is the conflict between the royal

counselor and the prince, who is not allowed to marry a village girl. There is also a request from the king before he died where the king asked the prince to marry Princess Chellina.

But the prince succeeded in persuading the king, and he was allowed by his father to marry Cinderella. Finally, the process of finding the owner of the glass slipper was where the prince ordered all the guards in the kingdom to look for the woman who owned the glass slipper throughout the country without exception.

Conclusion

The researcher findings were in the form of three social classes, namely the upper class, middle class, and lower class. After watching the film, the researcher concluded the upper class are those from the royal family, which consists of kings, princes, and royal counselors. And in the middle class, in this study, the researcher explains Cinderella's old life when her biological parents were still alive, while in the lower class, the researcher explains the life of Cinderella, who was abandoned by her parents and was subjected to crimes by her stepmother, where Cinderella was made a maid in her own house.

Then the researcher also found three effects that arise due to social class that occur in the Cinderella film, including employment, crime, and social relationships. Then employment, where Cinderella's stepmother employs Cinderella to be a maid in her own house and Cinderella is forced to do all the housework, then crime occurs because of Cinderella's stepmother's cruel actions towards Cinderella, who treats her carelessly, then social relationships, namely social things that happen when the prince began to feel interested in Cinderella and the prince tried to find out who the owner of the glass slipper was, but the prince received a lot of resistance and obstacles from the family kingdom.

The research leads to the conclusion that numerous social classes have developed. namely the upper class, middle class, and the lower class can be seen with royal luxury

features as well as very luxurious decorations at dance parties. However, the movie Cinderella heavily alludes to class distinctions; the result of these distinctions is the opposition to the prince and Cinderella's relationship from a variety of sources, most notably the royal and Cinderella's jealous stepmother.

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