

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Robin Hood is known as a story that all people know in the history of fairy tale books. But, in the past, some historians said that no place in history, that he is a figure of myth made up by medieval balladeers stated on Cawthorne (2010, p. 9). However, the story of Robin Hood has become a legend, and most people know about the story. Cawthorne (2010) implied that

Robin Hood also has a history of his own. He appears to be merely a bandit in the earliest references, robbing travellers for his survival or, perhaps, to enrich himself. On the other hand, the balladeers are only interested in stealing those in authority, such as the sheriff or wealthy clerics. (Cawthorne, 2010, p. 9)

Robin Hood is famous as a bandit who stole goods from the rich, first for himself and the poor people. There were many books, film, drama, and TV series about the story of Robin Hood, in which the story never change which Robin is always accompanied by Little John and Friar Tuck (Rennison, 2012). Since the development of cinematography, Robin Hood adapted into several movies, and one of them is Robin Hood Movie by Summit Entertainment which was published in 2018.

Robin Hood is an American popular movie released on November 20th, 2018. This movie has got attention as one of the *Robin Hood* popular remake movies in American Hollywood Industries. Those previous remake movies are “*Robin Hood*

& Marian (1976) and *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (1991)”. Lionsgate Company has remade Robin Hood's story with different experiences. The *Robin Hood* (2018) movie producers are Jennifer Davisson and Leonardo DiCaprio, supported by Otto Bathurst's director. Taron Egerton cast the movie as Robin Hood, Jamie Foxx as John, Ben Mendelsohn as Sheriff of Nottingham, and Eve Hewson as Marian. The budget for making this film was 100 million dollars. These are the main characters inside the movie. Unfortunately, this movie was rated relatively low it was rated five from 10. Moreover, the worldwide income only 86 million dollars. Hadadi (2018), in his review on the storyline of *Robin Hood* (2018) movie, noted,

The latest live-action version of Robin Hood desperately wants viewers to believe this is something different from the story you know, but the movie protests more than it delivers. The film has modernized its costuming and production design to set itself apart, but for the most part, Robin Hood feels like a version of Batman with a bow and arrow instead of a utility belt.

The storyline in *Robin Hood* movie has always invited attention from viewers as it delineates the hero stories. Seitz (2018) noted that this “*Robin Hood [movie] is a malleable tale, but the core is always the same: a cocky underdog fights the power on behalf of mistreated citizens.*” *Robin Hood* (2018) again reveals the high ruler government's story that takes advantage of society for his benefit. This movie characterizes Lord Robin of Loxley, starred by Taron Egerton, who lives in the manor and has the social status as a lord, which means from high-class society. The sheriff of Nottingham sends him to war, takes all his properties, and fakes his death on the battlefield. When he returns to Nottingham, Robin witnesses the commoners

planning to rise against the government that oppresses and exploits them and learns that Marian is now involved with their aspiring leader, Will Tillman. Robin is prevented from making contact with her by the Arab whose son he tried to save. The man introduces himself as Yahya called as John. Robin and Yahya finally work to end the war by stealing the money taken from the people to fund the church's conflict. Marian seeks Robin upon learning that he is alive, but he chooses not to tell her of his plans for her own protection. This invites conflict between Robin Hood with his followers and the Sheriff of Nottingham with his soldiers. Robin finally claims revenge on the sheriff by killing and hanging him. Robin and John flee to reunite with Marian and the townspeople who assisted them.

The *Robin Hood* (2018) movie focuses on class presentation in Nottingham that is divided into three classes the lower class or the proletariat (people from the mines), middle class, and high class or the bourgeoisie (the lords and the Cardinal). The lower-class is obliged to pay tax for war, while the middle and the high-class society take advantage of it for gambling and stuff. As the representation from the bourgeoisie, the Sheriff of Nottingham tries to collect the people's funds for his benefit to gain. The issue of class conflict in this movie can then suggest movie studies.

Movie studies focus on movies reflecting daily life and imply meaning or something inserted (Patton, 2007). A movie as one of literary works sometimes represents identity caused by the colonized society (Mertania & Amelia, 2020) and

this movie represents different identities of people delineated from the characters in the film. The film producer tries to indicate the social problems in real life and pours their idea into the movie. On the other hand, movies must fulfil the film industry's new obsession with prejudice. Movies denote the cultural product in modern industry. Many moviemakers believe that film can be a platform for sharing thoughts and views with the media. The movie is considered a remarkable work of art. It has a powerful influence on its viewers because it combines art, technology, music, literature, and drama and is fascinating to watch (Boggs & Petrie, 2008). The movie, like poetry, deals with imagery and symbols. As drama and film have a conflict and a storyline with action and gesture, like novels and short stories. Therefore, the film shares many elements to short stories and novels. Character, viewpoint, conflict, plot, and setting are components that can be analyzed using literary theory (Bennett & Royle, 2005). Those movies' components can dissect the conflict between the bourgeoisie and proletariat in Robin Hood's movie.

The story about Robin Hood and the Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood* movie raises class conflict. The film director directed this movie into class conflict by using and adapting the movie's viewers right now. Movie directors present the class conflicts between the high-class or bourgeoisie and the low-class of the proletariat from movie settings and characterization. On the other hand, the movie seems forced to adapt to today's scenario for Hollywood industries as the most significant source of business in the movie industry. Hollywood often becomes the mean for

film artist and director in delineating conflict in minorities societies which are also portrayed in other American literary works (Aryangga & Nurmaily, 2017; Kasih, 2018). In the particular movie review, Ehrlich (2018) noted, “*Robin Hood is too messy to enjoy; there’s nothing wrong with a fiery horseback chase through a mine and along the parapets that run above it, but the sequence is halfway over by the time you can even tell it’s underway.*” That consideration invites some challenges for doing studies in this movie. As the movie adapts to today's viewers, some misconceptions lie behind the class system presented. This background motivates the study of this film entitled “*The Myth of Bourgeoisie and Proletariat in Robin Hood (2018) Movie*”.

1.2 Research Question

From the background having already explained, the problem could be derived:

How is the myth of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat seen in *Robin Hood* (2018) movie?

1.3 Research Objective

From the research question, this study aims to delineate the myth of bourgeoisie and proletariat in *Robin Hood* (2018) movie.

1.4 Use of the Study

1.4.1 Practical Use

The writer hopes that this study can help the readers confirm and solve the conflict that may happen among societies between the bourgeoisie and proletariat. The solution of class conflict may derive from the scene presented in *Robin Hood* (2018) movie. The writer hopes that the readers can find out the most effective ways for the problems faced.

1.4.2 Theoretical Use

The writer hopes that study may help the reader gain theoretical use of semiotic theories. The writer also hopes that the readers can get new knowledge of film studies by applying semiotics theories for the myth of bourgeoisie and proletariat. Finally, this thesis can contribute to movie studies and semiotics studies for the readers who analyze the movie using the same issue and approach.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To avoid broader discussion on the studies, the writer needs to limit the analysis. This study's focus is delineating the myth of bourgeoisie and proletariat in *Robin Hood* (2018) movie. To analyze the myth of the bourgeoisie and proletariat, the writer applies Marxist theories. The film studies using cinematography and Barthes's semiotic theory are also applied to find out the sign and symbol in the movie.