

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN WEIS TIMELENDERS COMPANY AND SOCIETY IN ANDREW NICCOL'S *IN TIME*

HERWIN HALASAN SIMANGUNSONG

1. Background of Study

In Time is a film that is starred by Justin Timberlake. Justin is pursuing his solo career in the film. This film is directed by Andrew Niccol. The film's theme is competition, struggle, and freedom. In the film, Charles Darwin's evolution theory on competition is dominant. Darwin says that in competitions there are two circumstances: first, the strong creature can survive; second, the weak creature is eliminated from its surroundings.

The writer intends to discuss the conflict in the film. The conflict in the film is so interesting because the film shows social inequality where rich people are dominant over poor people and the domination causes the poor people suffer. The poor people live miserably; meanwhile, the rich people live extravagantly.

The review of this film is discussed under Marxist theory of capitalism. The principle of Marxist capitalism states that capitalism is an oppression and an exploitation of the working classes; it can reduce all human relationships (Habib, 2005:527).

This discussion is carried out through film-text interpretation. The writer's interest point in this film-text is the conflict between the Weis Timelenders Company and Society in Andrew Niccol's *In Time*.

In discussing the conflict, the writer adopts the Marxist theory to analyze the struggle of the lower class in the film. Moreover, the writer shares his idea on how capitalism works by cinematic example on political values and political actions to protect society from the conflict of capital.

2. **Theoretical Framework**

Karl Marx's idea on capitalism is divided into two, namely bourgeois and proletariat. Bourgeois is the owner of production activities; it has power to control and manage the production. Proletariat is the worker or wage-earning class and makes profit to the owner. The division is stated by Marx and Engels:

Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into great classes directly facing each other – Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. (1848:15)

According to Habib (2005:528), Marx's objection to capitalism is that because the bourgeois controls and manages the economic production and concentrates the property in a few hands. The proletariat is exploited to work in the factory under capitalism. Based on the conflict between the bourgeois and proletariat, Marx and Engels state revolution by proletariat is a class struggle:

The history of all hitherto society is history of class struggle. Freeman and slave, lord and serf, guild-master, and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. (1848:14)

Marx wants a revolution for the labor class who has suffered from exploitation by the bourgeois. The labor class, then, becomes a new proletariat or modern worker.

As the bourgeois develops, there develops in its bosom a new proletariat, a modern proletariat; there develops a struggle between proletariat class and bourgeois class, a struggle which, before being felt, perceived, appreciated, understood, avowed and proclaimed aloud by both side, expresses itself, to start with, merely in partial and momentary conflict, in subversive acts. (1847:137)

3. Research Method

In writing this final project, the writer uses two research methods as following: library research and sociological approach. The library research is used by the writer to get data and some notes that are related to the topic. Sociological approach is used by the writer to study the object of research. The writer uses Marxist theory on literature to analyzethe conflicts in his research.

4. The Conflict Between WeizTimelenders Company and Society in Andrew Niccol's *In Time*

The conflict between WeizTimelendersCompany and Society is about social inequality between the two zones as following; Greenwich Zone and Dayton Zone. The ownership of time is the indicator of prosperity. It is that because time replaces money as a currency and is accumulated into people life and the time system becomes a symbol of power which is used in their daily life. The ownership of time creates social inequality between the richer and the poorer depend on their time. The richer can live forever, whereas the poor live day to day.

Greenwich Zone is the metropolis city where the rich people live extravagantly. The people have lots of time that is accumulated into their living, so they have a long life or become immortal. Many of them spend or waste time in the night having party and gambling or playing casino. Philippe Weis is one of them. He is the boss of Weis Timelenders who has many of Timelenders banks at Dayton Zone, and he has a million of times in his bank account and as a king of financial in Greenwich Zone.

Dayton Zone is the place where the lower class lives. Most of the people work in factories. The workers earn their living day and do not have much time in their life. They have to live under fear of death and they may die anytime or anywhere shortly. Meanwhile, many of them have bills to pay in a day and take a loan in Weis

Timelenders that has thirty percent loan interests per day to keep saving their lives. Daytoneses cannot live in Greenwich Zone because they need over one year to get there. It is not logic for Daytoneses who live day to day; meanwhile, they have to be ready that the taxes and prices go up unwittingly.

In the social inequality, Greenwicheseshave better status than daytoneses. It brings the bad impact to Daytoneses. It is that because time inequality that they have and make them to be suffer. In their daily routine, the Daytonesesdo their activities with hurried because they do not want to waste their time even a second. Not only every second of time is very important into their life but also it is the way how Daytonese trying to survive every single dayor even they can kill one another to save their self.

TheDaytoneses felt misery that has born a resistance to break the time system. The resistance came from Will. It was that his objection to the effect of time system. Will has a big plan to steal time in Greanwich zone when he got a chance and after lost his mom.

Will comes from the ghetto, Dayton Zone; his mom (Rachel) and Will are both the factory workers. One day, Will went to celebrate his mom`s birthday after work. However, her mother dies in the way back home because her time goes away. Meanwhile, Will gets a century of time from Henry Hamilton whom he saved from the Gang of Minutemen. Not only Will`s mom dies, but Henry also dies too after losing only few minute himself and giving his all time to Will.

After the bad day, Will moves to Greenwich Zone because he thinks that he cannot save with a century of time living in Dayton Zone. Meanwhile, the Timekeepers investigate the case of Henry`s death.

Will Salas
I'm going to take them for everything they've got.
I'm going to make them pay.
(*In Time*, 00:25:15,313 - 00:25:24,162)

Will has a great mission in Greenwich Zone. He wants to steal the people in Greenwich Zone who have already stolen time from Daytoneses.

Sylvia Weis is the daughter of Philippe Weis, the owner of Timelenders bank. Sylvia was born as a rich girl; but, Will was not. At that party, Will and Sylvia keep communicating personally and sharing about their objection to the time clocks. They think that time clock is not good for anyone anymore. Sylvia agrees Will`s idea to change the time authority system that the rich is over the poor and it keeps the poor dying, so the rich can live forever. Will and Sylvia become a partner to steal the time bank and save the Daytoneses live. After stealing the time, they need more time to save all Daytoneses. They need more time over one million time.

Dialogue between Will and Sylvia after stealing the bank (see picture 5)
Will Salas (Justin Timberlake)
We can't win. We can't hurt them. The time we're taking makes no damn difference! What would? What would hurt them?
A million years. You got a million years on you?
(*In Ttime*, 01:28:54,411 - 01:29:05,526)

Sylvia Weis (Amanda Seyfried)
I guess it really would take a million years. Let's give up.
(*In Time*, 01:29:09,693 - 01:29:17,540)

The timekeepers are the police who are responsibility over the time. Meanwhile, they investigate Henry`s death, they believe that the killer is Will Salas. Will is the fugitives of the Timekeeper. Also, Will becomes fugitives because stealing the Sylvia`s father Timelenders.

In the meantime, the Gang of Minuteman wants a ten years reward by finding and catching Will and Sylvia who stole the Timelenders earlier. The reward is given by Sylvia`s father, Philippe Weis. Yet, it is not easy to find and catch them. Will and Sylvia can still escape from the Minuteman`s gangs by killing them one by one.

After stealing a thousand years at Dayton Zone, Will and Sylvia go to Greenwich Zone and steal a million years of Philippe Weis in his office. It means that they need more time to save all Daytoneses.

Philippe Weis becomes bankrupt; his company collapses as well. He cannot handle that situation. However, the authorities claim that the situation is under control. Meanwhile, the others fear about the system will be headed for collapse. All of Daytoneneses fell happy because they get more time to live and be not worry anymore. Since that day, they have a great chance to live in the great New Greenwich.

Will and Sylvia are successful in saving Daytoneses lives by stealing a million of time which of Timelenders possesses and spreading the time to all Daytoneses. Daytoneses move to Greenwich Zone gradually to find a new life and hope. Soon afterward, there is no way to separate Greenwich Zone from Dayton Zone.

5. Conclusion

In Time tells how capitalism controls and manages the mode of production by controlling the price and exploiting the workers to make the products and profit to the bourgeois. Meanwhile, the workers are exploited by the bourgeois and are separated from other workers and the products. This exploitation creates resistance among the labor workers as the proletariat.

The resistance is reflected through Will Salas as a labor worker who wants freedom and saves Daytonese lives. He does not want to see anyone die before his time, and he does not want misery anymore. Then, Sylvia Weis comes to help him to save Daytonese` s lives and change the time authority system. It is not easy for Will and Sylvia; they have to fight and struggle to escape from the Timekeepers and the Minuteman gangs.

InTime is as the capitalist mediatoris not oppressive and it does not exploit people anymore. They can have their life freely and actualize their self without any intervention from anywhere. Will and Sylvia are successful to save Daytonese` s lives by stealing one million years of Weis Timelenders bank. Finally, Daytoneses move to Greenwich Zone and they find a new life and hope.

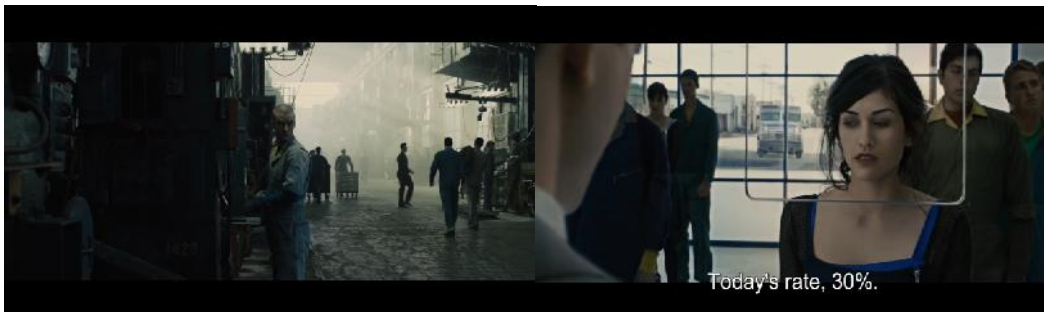
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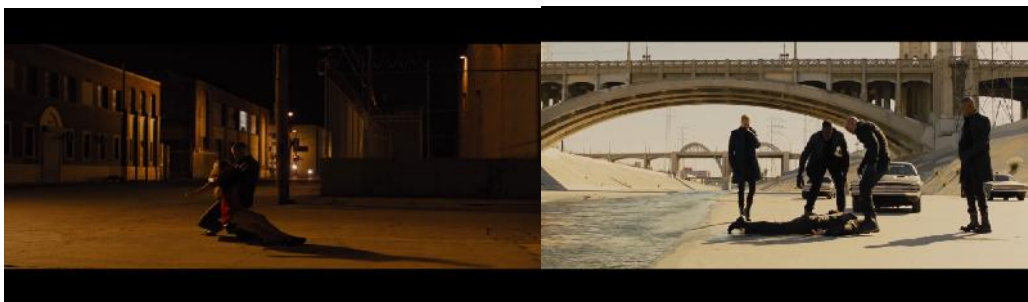
APPENDIX



Picture 1: Philippe Weis makes a cell phone call and shows his power of business.



Picture 2: factory workers (Will) and the workers take thirty percent loan interest in the Weis Timelenders bank.



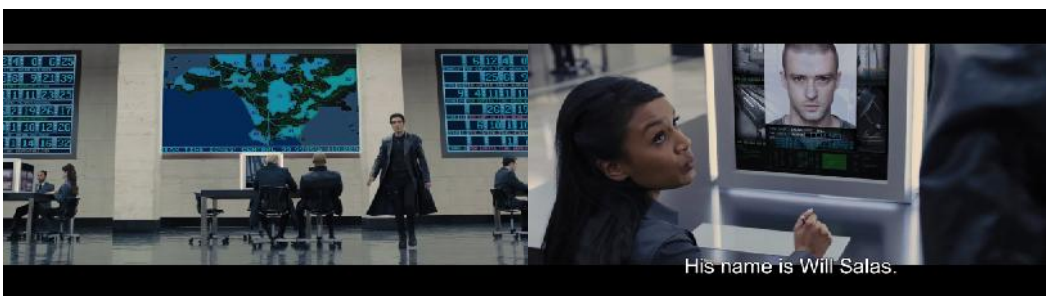
Picture 3: Will tries to catch her mom before dies and The Timekeepers finds Henry`s body at the river.



Picture 4: For the first time, Will meets Philippe Weis and Sylvia Weis in playing casino. And then, Sylvia invites Will to come to her home party. Will meets to Weis`s family.



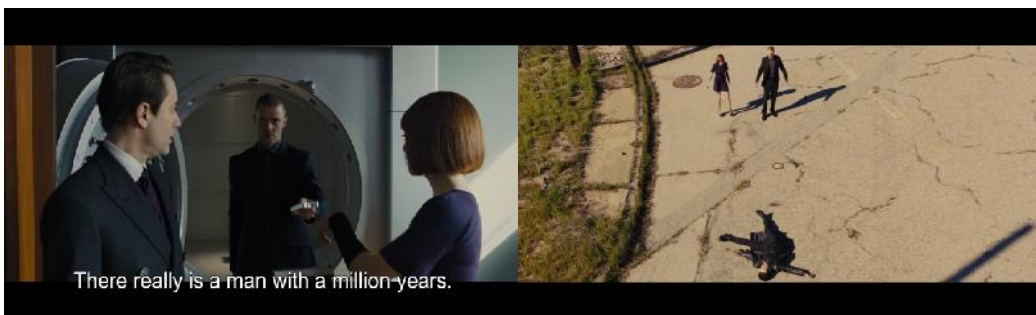
Picture 5: Will and Sylvia are stealing Sylvia father`s Timelender and they ask people to steal too



Picture 6: The control office center of Timekeeper and the team of timekeepers investigate and find the killer of Henry.



Picture 7: The Minuteman's gang finds Will and Sylvia for the reward 10 years. However, Will shoots and kills the Minutemen's gang one by one.



Picture 8: Weis Timelenders is collapsing after one million of Philippe Weis stolen by Will and Sylvia. Meanwhile, the Timekeeper tries to catch them. Unfortunately, Will and Sylvia saves from the Timekeeper. It causes the time of Timekeeper goes away. Then, the Timekeeper dies like the Minuteman gang.



Picture 9: Daytoneses are crossing Zones and entering New Greenwich Zone.

