



The representation of classism in *Joker* (2019)

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to understand the impact of classism on society. This research analyzes the people of Gotham and does not focus solely on the main character. Employing Marxist classism theory as the framework of the analysis and using Bordwell and Thompson's (2008) formal system analysis to examine the narrative structure and film style, it revealed three findings. The first is that classism benefits the higher social class and neglects the lower social class. The second is that classism also creates a negative sentiment toward the lower social class and pictures the higher social class as good people. The third is that classism creates social discrimination and it creates Joker as a symbol of rebellion that creates chaos in Gotham City.

Keywords: classism; Joker; marxist; social class

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INTRODUCTION

In the current film industry, the film has changed from a work of art that focuses on aesthetics into a medium for raising an idea or an issue through representation in the film. Representation is always a part of a good film, no matter what it depicts, and it cannot be diminished from what it represents in other ways (Hopkins, 2008, p. 147). One of the good films that represents an issue is *Joker* (2019) by Todd Phillips, the film explores themes of mental illness, societal inequality, and the consequences of neglecting those in need. Other than mental issues, the film also has a subtle issue that drove the main character into madness, which is classism

There are several theories that correspond with classism, one of them is social class theory. According to Karl Marx's social class theory, "social classes formed within a particular mode of production that tend to establish a particular form of state, animate political conflicts, and bring about major changes in the structure of society." (Robinson, 2023) Tyson said, "Classism is an ideology that equates one's value to what social class one belongs to: the higher one's social class is assumed to be better" (Tyson, 2006, p. 59). There are also so many studies

about Marxist classism. One of them is Sari and Gempita (2020), who analyze the classism in the *Astro Boy* film and they found that Metro City is a flawed utopia as the city created a gap between The Surface and Metro City and they also found that the robots on the film are seen as a human slave as they work and do what the human told them to do. Different from Sari and Gempita, Akandi and Mila (2019) analyze Marxism in *Jack the Giant Slayer* film, and they found that the people from the higher class are more dominant and mostly believed that they were more respected, and they had the power to control the lower class. Other than those two, Sihombing and Sinaga (2021) analyze social class in *Parasite* film, and they found that two different families from different social classes can trigger a class conflict, as one of them lives in luxurious life and the other one lives in poor life. From the article above, the themes of classism and social class have been represented in several films and *Joker* is also one of them.

Since the release of the film, *Joker* has been the object of literary research. Permatasari (2020) focuses on the psychological aspect of the main character. In her analysis of the film, she found that Arthur has an altruistic side in solidarity and sincerity

to his friend who cares about him, also Arthur's personality changes because of a series of unpleasant experiences that make him disappointed. Similar to Permatasari, Pratiwi, and Koiri (2022) focuses on the psychology of the main character, they found that Arthur suffers from schizophrenia as he feels that he spent his time with a woman he likes and he suffers from pseudobulbar affect as in he cannot control his laughter, and because of that he receives a bad response from people around him that made him suffer both physically and mentally. In a different article by Baharuddin and Gosal (2021), they analyze how society communicated and discriminated against the main character, they found that because of the exploitation and discrimination towards the non-elite class Arthur's mental become worse. Marsena & Angjaya (2022) focus on social inequality toward a mentally ill person such as Arthur and from the analysis, they found that social inequality was caused by systemic discrimination such as from the policies and laws created by the government.

From the articles above, most of them focus on the main character as the subject of their research, while this research will focus on the people of Gotham City in the Joker film. The article from Marsena & Angjaya (2022) also focuses on the people of Gotham City but they use Link structural discrimination theory as the basis of their study, while this research will use Marxist classism theory as the basis of this study to analyze how the people of Gotham City in the Joker film are being treated by the higher class of society. To investigate the narrative and cinematic aspects of the film, this research will use Bordwell and Thompson's (2008) formal system analysis. By conducting this study, it is hoped that we can understand the impact of classism on society, it is either the high class or the low class of society. As the previous research mostly analyzes only the main character, it is hoped that this study will unveil the other things that have not been analyzed, such as the social condition in the Joker (2019) film.

METHOD

The research method that the writer used is Bordwell and Thompson's (2008) formal system analysis and the Marxist Classism theory to analyze the film. The formal system analysis focuses on the formal aspects of storytelling in film by analyzing the narrative

structure and film style (cinematography, sound, editing, and mise-en-scène). The Marxist Classism theory is used to reveal the social condition of Gotham City in the film. In general, classism is when a higher social class believes that they are better than the lower social class. The higher class thinks that they should hold the power as they think that they are more suitable than the lower class (Tyson, 2006, p. 59).

The data source was the film Joker (2019) by Todd Phillips. Joker is a story about Arthur Fleck, a clown with a mentally ill condition. The story was set during an economic crisis and a mayoral election in Gotham City. Earlier in the story Arthur often gets bullied by the people of Gotham due to his job and his mental condition, and a lot of misfortune befell Arthur because of his actions. After a series of misfortunes, Arthur finds love with Sophie, a woman he met in the elevator of his apartment. After several encounters with Sophie, Arthur starts dating Sophie, but it reveals it is just a hallucination of Arthur and actually, Arthur is creeping and stalking Sophie. The story continues with Arthur's mental condition becoming more and more unstable as he starts his killing spree by killing three young businessmen, his friend Randall, and his mother after he finds out that he was adopted and the lie that is being told by his mother that he is Bruce Wayne's son. The story peaks when Arthur reveals he is the killer of three young businessmen and kills Murray Franklin the presenter on a live television show. And because of that Arthur turns into Joker and becomes a symbol of rebellion for the society that turns Gotham City into chaos.

To do the research, the writer watched the film multiple times to identify the data that corresponded with Classism. Then, the writer collected the data through the formal aspects of the film. Then, the writer analyzed the data through the actions, settings, dialogues, and other formal aspects of the film. The data were snippets of dialogues and screenshots from the film, to show the narrative aspect, the cinematography aspect, and the mise-en-scène of the film. Last, the writer elaborated on the selected data with the Marxist Classism theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this research are divided into two parts. The first one is the impact of classism on the lower class. This part analyzes

how classism affects the life condition of people from the lower class and how it leads to social unrest. The second one is the impact of classism on the higher class. This part analyzes how classism affects the life condition of people from the higher class and how it benefits them.

The Impact of Classism on the Lower Class

In the film, the lower class is the one who does not have a stable income and lives their life depending on other people. Like Arthur who worked as a clown, Arthur's mom, Penny, depended on Arthur and the government's help. The first scene that shows the impact of classism on the lower class is when Arthur talks with his mother in the early part of the movie. After having a bad day, Arthur always takes care of his mother, he smiles at his sick mother, Penny, and watches the television together as their habit.

PENNY: ... He'll make a great mayor, everybody says so.

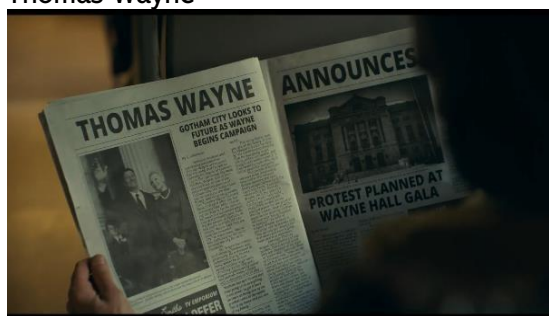
ARTHUR: Oh yeah? Everybody who? Who do you talk to?

PENNY: Well everybody on the news. He is the only one who can save the city. He owes it to us.

(Phillips, 2019, 00:11:32)

Figure 1

Arthur was reading a newspaper about Thomas Wayne



(Phillips, 2019, 00:50:38)

We can see that Thomas Wayne from the higher social class is seen as a good person by everybody, Penny who depends on her son to live thinks that Thomas Wayne the mayor candidate, is the one who can save the city. People believe that only people from the higher social class are suitable to hold the position of mayor in the city. People believe that the higher social class is more capable of doing a high-level job such as being a mayor, as we can see in the newspaper in Figure 1. People see Thomas Wayne as a hero who

built the city of Gotham as the newspaper said "Thomas Wayne has a history of showing kindness and generosity. He is involved in numerous charity foundations, where he almost always donates large sums of money". In Marxist thought, classism is an ideology that equates one social class to be better than another class; the higher social class is assumed to be better and the lower class is assumed to be worse (Tyson, 2006, p. 59).

Another impact of classism on the lower class occurs in the scenes where Arthur meets his social service workers again after his mental condition worsens. In the story, instead of getting his medication, his psychiatrist tells Arthur that she will not be working again as the government cuts the funding for social service workers.

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER: Arthur, I have some bad news for you.

ARTHUR: You don't listen, do you? I don't think you ever really hear me. You just ask me the same question every week. "How's your job? Are you having any negative thoughts?" All I have are negative thoughts, but you don't listen anyway. I said, for my whole life, I didn't know if I even really existed. But I do. And people are starting to notice.

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER: They've cut our funding. We're closing down our offices next week. The city has cut funding across the board. Social Service is part of that. This is the last time we'll be meeting.

ARTHUR: Okay.

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER: They don't give a shit about people like you Arthur, and they really don't give a shit about people like me either.

(Phillips, 2019, 00:40:38)

With the cut of social services funding, the lower social class cannot seek help from social services, and the lower social class has to work extra hard if they have an illness like Arthur and Penny. The social service worker also lost her job because of the new policy, she could not continue her job since the place she is working is closing. The government sacrificing the funding for the lower class is proof that classism happens in Gotham City and it favors the higher social class. It can be said that people from the lower social class have to depend on people from the higher social class as people from the higher class are the ones who hold the authority to

change something, and people from the lower social class cannot do anything without the help from people of the higher social class.

Classism also impacts low-wage workers such as garbage men. In the scenes when Arthur's boss, Hoyt tells Arthur that he is fired from his agency (figure 2), and the scene when Sophie is followed by Arthur when she goes to her workplace (Figure 3). We can see the drastic condition between the lower social class and the higher social class.

Figure 2

Arthur was called by Hoyt in a phone booth



(Phillips, 2019, 00:29:02)

Figure 3

Sophie walks toward her workplace



(Phillips, 2019, 00:24:23)

We can infer that the government prioritizes the higher social class area rather than the lower social class area. The people in the lower social class area are likely to get ill due to the trash, and they probably cannot afford medicine or hospital as the funding for social services is cut. In the lower social class area there is also a lot of vandalism on the wall of a building and on the phone booth and it can be inferred that the garbage man and cleaning workers rarely or have not done their job in the lower social class neighborhood in a long time (Figure 2). We also can see in the lower class area, they did not have enough light in their streets, as it can be inferred that the government is also reducing their electricity like their social

services funding. Meanwhile, the higher social class has a cleaner wall and a proper trash can which can be inferred as the garbage man and cleaning workers are still working in the higher social class area (Figure 3). Apart from the streets, when Arthur visits a mental hospital, the hospital is full of garbage and the wall has been vandalized (Figure 4 & Figure 5). It can be interpreted as the garbage men strike happening for a long time, and the government did not take any action regarding the trash and the vandalism around the city especially in the lower social class area.

Figure 4

Arthur visits Arkham State Hospital.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:09:53)

Figure 5

Arthur standing beside a tantrum patient in the elevator



(Phillips, 2019, 01:10:08)

Another impact of classism on the lower class can be seen in the way they dress. We can see people from these two different scenes represent classism in Joker. In Figure 2, we can see two women standing smoking at night and a man crossing the road. From the style of their clothes those women are probably homeless or low-wage workers as they only wear long-sleeved clothes, skirts, and boots and the man is only wearing a jacket and denim pants. Meanwhile, in Figure 4, the woman is wearing a dress and a coat and the man is wearing a suit. Both the man and the woman are bringing their bag and

suitcases, and from those kinds of styles, they are probably a high-wage worker such as a banker, businessman, or even a salesman.

Figure 6

Arthur meets Sophie in the elevator of their apartment



(Phillips, 2019, 00:50:38)

In Figure 3, we can see Sophie, Arthur's neighbor who becomes Arthur's love interest. She wears a blouse and her hair is tidied up as she works at a higher social class area, so that Sophie can be accepted in the area where she is working by wearing better clothes than the lower class like the two women in Figure 2. But, when she is in the lower social class area (Figure 6), Sophie can be seen wearing a wrinkled shirt and messy hair as she does not have to be seen as a person who is from a high social class. The director also uses two different color tones to tell which one is the higher social class and which one is the lower social class, for the lower social class the director uses darker and warmer temperature light (yellow, orange, and red), that has a representation of depression, grief, and insanity, as the lower social class has to live their life miserably. For the higher social class, the director uses brighter and colder temperature light, which is a representation of isolation, calm, and harmony, as the higher social class lives in calm and harmonic places by isolating themselves from the lower class.

Figure 7

Arthur walks in the middle of a protest



(Phillips, 2019, 01:02:32)

The rise of the anti-rich movement is also caused by classism, as the rich or the higher social class see the poor or the lower social class as bad people. The anti-rich movement arises because the one who killed the three young businessmen is described as a clown (Arthur), and a clown is a low-wage job and is always laughed at by others, the mask is used to represent the people from the lower social class. People from the lower social class see the clown (Arthur) as a symbol of rebellion against the class structure that controls Gotham City. In this scene (Figure 7) despite being full of people from the lower social class, the director uses a dark and cold temperature color. It can be represented as the people from the lower social class who have trespassed Wayne Hall, the place of the higher social class, where people from higher social class watch a film.

Classism in the lower class is not without contestation. Arthur criticized this in a TV live show called the Murray Franklin Live Show. In this show, Arthur has changed into his persona known as Joker and he confesses that he is the one who killed the three young businessmen. This makes the situation in Gotham more and more chaotic.

JOKER (ARTHUR): ... Why is everybody so upset about these guys? If it was me dying on the sidewalk, you'd walk right over me. I pass you every day and you don't notice me! But these guys? Is it because Thomas Wayne went and cried about them on TV?

MURRAY FRANKLIN: You have a problem with Thomas Wayne, too?

JOKER (ARTHUR): Yeah. I do. Have you seen what it's like out there, Murray? Do you ever actually leave this studio? Everybody just yells and screams at each other. Nobody's civil anymore. Nobody thinks what it's like to be the other guy. You think men like Thomas Wayne ever think what it's like to be someone like me? To be somebody but themselves. They don't. They think we'll all just sit there and take it like good little boys. That we won't go wild.

(Phillips, 2019, 01:43:16)

Figure 8

Arthur is invited to the Murray Franklin Live Show by the name of Joker.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:39:15)

Figure 9

A woman destroying a car and people raiding a building.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:47:15)

People from the lower class seem to have shared the same opinion as Joker, that people from the higher social classes only care about themselves. They would not get the same sympathy as the three young businessmen if the lower social class were the ones who got killed. They also think that people from the higher social class did not want to look “outside” like Murray Franklin and Thomas Wayne. People from the higher class think that people from the lower class should just obey what the people from the higher class tell them to do. The outfits in Figure 8 can be represented as where they came from. The three people in the show are wearing cold and plain color outfits, Murray wears a gray suit, Dr. Sally wears a faded brown suit, and the co-host wears a blue suit representing that they come from the same class which is the higher social class. Meanwhile, Joker wears a warm-colored outfit that is different from the other three, as he comes from the lower social class.

After that show, Gotham City started to collapse as people from the lower class started to get violent and Gotham City became more chaotic as people started to raid buildings and destroy cars in Gotham

(Figure 9). The violence was the impact of the ignorance of the people from the higher class, the people from the lower class feel that they are not being listened to by the people in the government, which is the higher class. When they are protesting, the people from the higher class do not care about them, instead, they are doing things that they like such as watching a film. Arthur becomes a symbol of resisting the system and the killing and the confession in the live show are just a spark for people from the lower class to rebel against the system.

The Impact of Classism on the Higher Class

Different from the impact on the lower class, classism's impact on the higher class appears in four scenes. The first one can be seen in the scene of the three young businessmen in a subway. Arthur was getting fired because he accidentally dropped a gun when he was performing in a kid's hospital. He is going back home, and he meets three drunk young businessmen and a young woman, and he sees the interaction of three drunk young businessmen and a young woman.

Figure 10

Arthur sees three young businessmen in a subway bothering a young woman.



(Phillips, 2019, 00:29:56)

YOUNG BUSINESSMEN: (to the young woman) Hey. You want some french fries? (He holds out his fast-food bag and shakes it to get her attention. The other two share a look. Arthur watches from his seat)

YOUNG BUSINESSMEN: Hello?
I'm talking to you. Hey?

YOUNG WOMAN: (She looks up and shakes her head, with a polite smile) No, thank you.

(The other two guys crack up at this apparent blow-off. The young businessman shakes his head, embarrassed, and starts softly flinging fries at the young woman)

YOUNG BUSINESSMEN: You sure? They're really good.

YOUNG BUSINESSMEN#2: Don't ignore him. He's being nice to you.

(The young woman looks up to Arthur asking for help, and then the young businessman throws the fries at her)
(Phillips, 2019, 00:30:01)

The three young businessmen think they are at a higher level of social class as they are working in a pretentious workplace which is Wayne Investment. They see a young woman sitting alone, and one of them tries to flirt with her, but the young woman tries to ignore him, but, instead of leaving the girl alone, he throws the fries at her. Instead of calming the situation, the second young businessman tells the young woman that his friend is just being nice, it can be interpreted as the second young businessman pressurize the young woman to accept and talk to his friend, showing that people who have a higher social class think that they can do whatever they want to the person with a lower social class as they think they are better than the lower class.

Another impact of classism on the higher class is the way the higher class assumes the lower class as anarchist. It is proven in the speech made by Thomas Wayne when asked about the death of three businessmen by a clown, who is actually Arthur.

THOMAS WAYNE (ON TV): ...three of them worked at Wayne Investments. Good, decent, educated. Although I didn't know any of them personally, like all Wayne employees, past and present, they're family.

PENNY: You hear that! I told you. We're family.

HOST (ON TV): There now seems to be a groundswell of anti-rich sentiment in the city. It's almost as if our less fortunate residents are taking the side of the killer.

THOMAS WAYNE (ON TV): Yes, and it's a shame. It's one of the reasons why I'm considering a run for mayor. Gotham has lost its way.

HOST (ON TV): What about the eyewitness report of the suspect being a man in a clown mask?

THOMAS WAYNE (ON TV): It makes total sense to me. What kind of coward would do something that cold-blooded? Someone who hides behind a mask. Someone who is envious of those more

fortunate than themselves, yet they're too scared to show their own face, and until those kinds of people change for the better, those of us who've made something of our lives, will always look at those who haven't as nothing but clowns.

(Phillips, 2019, 00:38:39)

What Thomas Wayne said about the three young businessmen gives a message that the three young businessmen cannot do bad things as he said that they are good, decent, and educated. He pictures them as a higher social class as they work at Wayne Investments and Thomas says that they are family, which can be interpreted as the three young businessmen having the same attitude and values as Thomas Wayne. Meanwhile, he pictures the lower social class as the one who is uneducated, lazy, and envious of the higher social class are nothing but a clown. He also sees the lower class as not having a good moral code, since anti-rich sentiment is rising in the lower social class, the higher social class is connected with the support of the killer.

The classism in Gotham City benefits the higher social class. Despite being a bully, the three young businessmen are seen as good people because they come from a higher social class than the clown. Meanwhile, the clown (Arthur) who comes from a lower social class is seen as a cold-blooded killer even though he is trying to defend himself from the bullying he receives from three young businessmen. Since the incident, the lower class has been perceived as worse by the middle and the higher class of Gotham City, as Thomas Wayne said it is a shame to have an anti-rich sentiment for the people of Gotham City.

Figure 11
People protest in front of Wayne Hall



(Phillips, 2019, 01:02:27)

Figure 12

People watch a film in a cinema.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:03:36)

The impact of the anti-rich movement in Gotham is not that significant for the higher social class, as we can see from the two scenes where people are protesting in front of Wayne Hall but the rich are watching a film in Wayne Hall. Even with the chaos that is happening in Gotham (Figure 11), the higher social class does not care and still has time to watch a film in a cinema. The higher class does not see the movement as a good movement because they think it is just anarchy by the lower class. But, the movement is actually to reform the system of Gotham that favors the rich or the higher class over the poor or the lower class, such as the cut of social service funding and the garbage strike, the movement was also caused by the ongoing injustice to the people of Gotham, especially for the lower social class.

Figures 11 and Figure 12 also have contradictory images that can be interpreted as the condition of society in Gotham, where when the lower class is struggling for their voice to be heard the higher class is laughing at the lower class as they see them like clowns.

Figure 13

A subtle line that divides the lower social class and the higher social class.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:02:49)

In Figure 13, we can see a subtle line that divides the lower social class from the higher social class, as the lower social class is wearing the clown mask standing on the left side of the frame and the higher social class is the one who gets protection from the police and does not appear in the frame. It can be represented that people from the lower class have to fight the system which is the government and the police to talk to the higher social class that is far from them as they do not appear in the frame.

Figure 14

The protester had an altercation with a police officer.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:02:49)

Figure 15

Detective Burke was beaten down by people from the anti-rich movement.



(Phillips, 2019, 01:34:13)

In Figure 14, we can see that the protesters start to get into an altercation with the police when they are protesting in front of Wayne Hall, where the high social class is watching a film. Later in the movie, the violence becomes more and more extreme (Figure 15) as they start to beat two police officers after the two police officers try to arrest Arthur in the subway. We can see that people who wore clown masks did not help the police as they joined in the anti-rich movement, they did not help the police because they saw them as an enemy who helped the higher social class and the system that restrains the lower social class.

The higher social class gets priority from the government as their area is not impacted by the garbage men strike. They also can do anything they want and are not affected by the social conditions even when there is a protest. On the other hand, the lower social class is ruled out by the government which means they are unable to have access to public services like social services, and they cannot have a stable job or big-income job. Arthur, who comes from the lower social class, cannot get his medication, then becomes more unstable and starts to kill the three young businessmen as they are bullying him and it becomes the spark of the anti-rich movement. Because of that, the lower social class has to face the sentiment from the higher social class that they are just savage anarchists and when Arthur criticizes the higher social class on the TV show and kills the TV show host, Murray Franklin, the lower class starts to rebel against the higher social class by destroying and robbing places around Gotham City and making the city more chaotic. The lower social class also makes Joker the symbol of resistance for the lower class against the system which is Classism.

Discussion

The higher social class gets priority from the government as their area is not impacted by the garbage men strike. They also can do anything they want and are not affected by the social conditions even when there is a protest. On the other hand, the lower social class is ruled out by the government which means they are unable to have access to public services like social services, and they cannot have a stable job or big-income job. Arthur, who comes from the lower social class, cannot get his medication, then becomes more unstable and starts to kill the three young businessmen as they are bullying him and it becomes the spark of the anti-rich movement. Because of that, the lower social class has to face the sentiment from the higher social class that they are just savage anarchists and when Arthur criticizes the higher social class on the TV show and kills the TV show host, Murray Franklin, the lower class starts to rebel against the higher social class by destroying and robbing places around Gotham City and making the city more chaotic. The lower social class also makes Joker the symbol of resistance for the lower class against the system which is Classism.

After the researcher found the result of the data analysis, the researcher compared

the result with the results of two previous research. This research has some similarities with other research about this film, in research by Marsena and Angjaya (2022), revealing that there is a social inequality caused by systemic discrimination towards mentally ill persons such as Arthur. The systemic discrimination in Marsena and Angjaya (2022) can be inferred as classism, a system that believes one class is better than the other class. While in other research by Bahrudin and Gosal (2021) reveals that there are three issues that cause social discrimination which are health, employment, and media news. Those three issues are the impact of classism. The government prioritizes people from the higher social class as they cut public services that many people from the lower social class depend on. The people from the higher class are making fun of Arthur because he is working as a clown and sees people who are protesting as nothing but a clowns. Media news helps the negative sentiment towards people from the lower class which makes the situation in Gotham worse. Because those two previous research only focus on the main character, they do not reveal other discrimination towards other characters. Such as the condition of people from the lower social class and the violence towards Detective Burke.

Joker (2019) has a different way of representing social issues through the film. The film represents classism indirectly through the narrative and cinematography aspect of the film. From the Narrative aspect, classism creates cause and effect towards the characters. From the cinematography aspect, classism is represented through the shots and mise-en-scène. The subtle message from the film creates a difference from other films that make the film stand out as an exceptional film.

CONCLUSION

This film shows us that classism exists in Gotham City and impacts the people. People from the higher social class believe that they are better than people from the lower social class as they think people from the lower social class are just lazy, envious, and ungrateful people who live in Gotham City. People from the higher social class are seen as good people and pictured as a hero, while people from the lower class are seen as bad people and an anarchist. People from the

higher social class also see themselves as a victim of the lower social class movement, and they prefer to blame people from the lower social class for the chaos of Gotham.

While people from the higher social class are benefited from classism, people from the lower social class are the ones who endure because of classism. People from the lower social class cannot receive their rights like people from the higher social class. They cannot go to public services and cannot get a stable or high-income job. People from the lower social class also have to live in discomfort as the government is prioritizing areas of people from the higher social class. Because of that people from the lower social class are rebelling and symbolizing Joker for their movement against classism. In the end, the existence of classism leads society to social discrimination for people from the lower social class and violence for people from the higher social class.

This research reveals the impact of classism on the lower social class and the higher social class and it is hoped that this research helps the study of Marxism in film studies. It has made use of not only the film's narrative aspect but also its cinematography aspect. Analyzing the cinematography aspect of the film reveals some meaning that does not appear in the narrative aspect of the film, and from the cinematography aspect, it reveals the director's message through representation or portrayal to the viewer. The researcher also suggests that other researchers use system formal analysis from Bordwell and Thompson (2008) for analyzing film and Marxist theory in other areas of research.

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