

MARXIST PERSPECTIVE OF CLASS CONFLICT IN MOHSIN HAMID'S MOTH SMOKE & HOW TO GET FILTHY RICH IN RISING ASIA

Afshan Saleem

Assistant Professor, Bahria University Karachi.

Email: afshansaleem.bukc@bahria.edu.pk

Ali Raza Chhahgri Baloch

Lecturer, Bahria University Karachi.

Email: ali.raza.bukc@bahria.edu.pk

Irfan Ali Abro

Lecturer, Bahria University Karachi.

Email: anglicanirfan1234@gmail.com

Abstract

Marxism is one of the most important literary theories that studies the social historic factors in a literary work. It is very vast theory with many dimensions to cover. The current study is based on novels analyzed through textual evidence. The aim of study is to reveal the socioeconomic issues of time in which both novels, *Moth Smoke* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, were set under Marxist perspective of Class conflict. The analysis is done by applying the two methods of Peter Barry Model (1995) in the texts of the both selected novels, firstly, deals with overt and covert themes of novels and secondly, to know the nature of literary genre in term of its social time period, in order to find out various class issues which include the supremacy of elite class over the people of lower class, and unequal opportunities of job for the people of lower class, moreover, to answer the question of other social issues of Pakistan in the shape of corruption, unemployment, poverty, drugs usages, lack of quality education etc. Marxist criticism explores the writer's consciousness about the social-historic facts and appreciates how writers make these factors the part of literature. There are many overt incidents in the novels that relate to covert situations. Marxist critics dig out these overt situations and then connect them with covert happenings of the time. For example, the economic suffering of the characters of the novels was connected with the economic downfall of Pakistan such as in the case of *Moth Smoke's* Protagonist Daru and unnamed boy who struggles to be wealthy person of society in *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*.

Barry (1995) suggests this method of study for Marxist analysis and same is applied in this study.

Keywords. Marxism, Class Conflict, Literary Genre, Marxist Criticism, Unequal Opportunities.

INTRODUCTION

Society consists of different people with different thoughts, cultures, religions, traditions and customs. These people are further divided into two categories in society i.e., lower class and upper class, they are basically separated on the basis of their economic status. People of lower class earn their wages with lots of diligence which is even not enough for one time meal as a result, beset with plenty of miseries in their lives due to lack of wealth while the people of upper class enjoy luxurious and splendid life with all the privileges of happy life and also try to suppress the people of lower class as a result it creates conflict between two classes known as class conflict, which is also the main focus of this study. Class struggle guides particularly to the dictatorship of labor class and this dictatorship by itself is the only medium leading to ruin of classes and to classless society. Karl Marx calls classes and class battle as a recorded cycle that occurred at a given phase of chronicled improvement via conveying the battle on until it brings about a socialist upset and the autocracy of the working class. Classes are a vast group of people different from each other on the basis of the relevant historical system and its relation to the ways of production.

This study uses Marxist Perspective of Class Conflict to analyze Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke* (2000) and *How to Get Filthy in Rising Asia* (2013). Both novels were published in 2000 and 2013 respectively. The novels describe the true picture of condition of Pakistan and moreover discuss the social and class issues of state. This study is done in order to find out the causes of class conflict, and to study how the class conflict begets other social issues which are also present in Pakistan. Researcher chooses the Peter Barry Model (1995) as the theoretical framework for this study and applies two methods of this model. The current study is qualitative by nature and is done through the textual analysis of novels.

The power structure in the novels is critiqued from a classically Marxist perspective, based on class theory. Both novels address socioeconomic issues and struggle on part of indigenous people dwelling in a society to achieve their rights along with its effect on society. Class conflict is condemned by Karl Marx and considered as the negative force which creates the un harmony and inequality among people on the basis of property and wealth and this gap produces the difference of classes in the form of proletariat and Bourgeoisie and this social variation and social division is because of Struggle between classes in the society. Mohsin Hamid portrays the corruption, poverty, and class conflict in his above stated novels as overshadowing and dominant socio-economic and political themes or issues.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the social issues and their causes in the novels, and determine the concept of base and superstructure of Marxism in novels and how base and Superstructure is expressed in novels.

2. To analyze the causes of class conflict according to Marxist study in the novels and to find out how class conflict affects our society and reveal the socioeconomic conditions of the time in which the novels are set.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What kind of class issues are depicted in selected novels?

2. How do the novels reflect the socioeconomic conditions of the time in which these were written and the time in which they are set?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Marxist analysis is done by many writers and scholars on the particular work that they selected. Marxist analysis deals with the socioeconomic division of classes which people perceive as the plausible division even more important than the division of people on the basis of common interests. As per Tyson (2006) from the Marxist point of view the individuals are separated into social and economic classes and these classes are of significant even than the divisions regarding religion, race, and nationality or sex. It proposes that essentially the distinctions among individuals are generally class based which is the aftereffect of economic differences or financial conditions.

Marxism has been broadly used in the study of literary piece of works as it is a concept with huge area and scope and by one way or another it mirrors society. Consistently around the globe, several researchers study literary writings in Marxist viewpoint. No doubt, literary analysis of twentieth century is vigorously impacted by Marxist philosophies (Malik and Batra, 2014). Following are a couple of brief instances of Marxist study of abstract works in fresh years.

One of the most significant works of ongoing years was finished by Lashari (2008) who did his study on Shaikh Ayaz's verse in Marxist methodology and presumed that insubordinate characters in verse of Shaikh Ayaz depend on Marxist philosophy. Much research has additionally been done on the components of Marxism and class contrasts also made sense of the elements liable for the class contrasts in the public arena, for example, Berchoua (2014) follows out the elements of class contrasts in Charles Dickens novel *Hard Times*.

Animal Farm (1945) is a remarkable literary piece of work penned by George Orwell. The novel talks about the story related to Russian Revolution of communism and its later rule by Joseph Stalin. This literary genre, novel is analyzed in various views of Marxism and one of them is done by Smith (2014).

Many other Pakistani scholars have made their contribution in the Marxist

analysis of literary works as Mashori and Zaib (2015) looked into the effect of class struggle and human imbalance in Pakistani English short story Zamindar's wife. Both reasoned that how amazing landowners destroy money by seize the property of powerless, enslaved and substandard subalterns. In a similar story the wife of Zamindar follows up on praxis and causes feeble subalterns to rebel against strong landlords.

Moth Smoke (2000) is one of the debut novels of Mohsin Hamid that highlights the various elements of class conflict, dominates the entire novel as Malik (2017) argued that Mohsin Hamid's first novel depicts the dejection and outrage of bit blessed among nation where the ruling people totally degenerates and where the economic bay is tremendous to such an extent that the well-off protect themselves from the standards that is fixed with the remainder of society. The current will investigate the exhibition of natural clash between Air conditioned and non-air-conditioned division of Pakistan during nuclear strain among India and Pakistan.

This examination is likewise an undertaking to analyze how elites of Pakistan appreciates all benefits and couldn't care a lot for the laws of nation as law is a sort of hardware for them to mistreat down trampled. The rich make and appreciates the sovereign invulnerability from the standard, while as poor must observe a similar principle and are frequently considered as substitute, who don't force powerful associations, and are proceeding and enduring the worst part of innate financial clash. The most theoretical reliance of the examination will be on the social clash concept which depends on the essential center thought of division of society into ruling and subject class were administering class consistently misuses and abuses subject class.

Mohsin Hamid's novels, *Moth Smoke* (2000) and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013) are critiques of capitalism and the present study proposes to examine the impact of various destructive ideologies on people's lives as well as social issues such as class conflict, rugged individualism and consumerism in Pakistani society through a close analysis of Hamid's novels. Ghaffar (2016) argued that Marxist critics analyze the ways in which the socio-political and socio-economic issues of the societies are portrayed in literature. They investigate how different ideologies of Marxism work in a society. Pakistan is a capitalist society, Mohsin Hamid, in his novels points out the damaging effects of capitalism on Pakistani society.

Din (2017) contended that Class is the gathering of individuals at similar socio-economic levels. Class struggle is the disagreement of these gatherings in the general public into various classifications based on cast, statement of faith, pay, riches, and property, political and societal position. The fundamental driver of the class struggle is the inconsistent appropriation of salary and riches among various classes in the general public. Because of class struggle people of the general public have

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irregularity and inconsistent abundance to the distinctive social chances and compensations in the general public. It is inevitable reality and difficult issues that in the advanced world and present-day time a person in the general public can't ready to live past these standards and state of the general public. They are as yet carrying on with their carries on with under the distinctive status and position which appointed to them as indicated by their status and position by the general public. In various social orders a man has distinctive situation as indicated by their cast, bequest and socials esteems. Worth makes a person boastful.

Din (2017). Hamid in his third novel discussions about the battling of lower-class individual to be the fruitful finance manager in his life promotion examines the issues and obstructions that he ran over during his battle to be rich. Awan1, Yousaf (2017) explained that the author centers around the social issues of the subcontinent when all is said in done and Pakistan specifically. The epic "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia" (2013) is a portrayal of an inherent helpless kid who endeavors to get rich and needs to change his discouraged helpless condition into upbeat and prosperous rich man in the fantasies of the times of his youth when Pakistan appeared. It is a tale about an individual who is attempting to get into business and attempting to change destiny of destitution-stricken family. The tale portrays the social issues, for example, joblessness, psychological warfare, security chances, debasement, destitution, class contrast, administration, illicit drug use, swelling, nepotism, and pay off. The individual battles to change the condition yet fizzled toward the end.

The characters of the novel, How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia (2013), are definitely not named as the primary hero is tended to as "you" and his sweetheart as "pretty young lady". Both you and beautiful young lady have the solid sentiment of adoration and "you" doesn't have any desire to occupy his brain of turning out to be finance manager and magnate. In addition, his affection for lovely young lady turns into a motivation for his prosperity. Akbar (2013) said that the pretty young lady and her sweetheart can't meet and the wish to get her darling is somewhat what animates his objective to progress. He was having an exceptional inclination for riches and status is caught energetically for her.

Novel, How to Get Filthy Rich In Rising Asia (2013) declares has two essential anecdotes about sentiment of solid love and aspiration to get rich as Kakutani (2013) said that this novel describes about a seeing story that chips away at two surfaces-for this situation as seriously contacting and exceptionally unique story of adoration and powerful urge to make progress, and as a more prominent, figurative glance at the amazing and great social and business unrests broadening or performing "Rising Asia." Set in an anonymous nation that have a comparative appearance

Pakistan the novel is a progression of records and put down account of over seventy years of age long existence of a saint who goes from a helpless field to the muddled development metropolitan territory and who makes and breaks the destiny and chance in the filtered water business.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on qualitative research. Flick (2009) proposes that qualitative examination utilizes the strategy of content investigation that is the utilization of text to investigate social reality and the other way around. In this sort of exploration, explanation of the content prompts more current layers of social real factors. The domain of sociology is rich in depending on writings to investigate new finding, more up to date implications and better understandings.

In this study, descriptive analysis technique has been utilized. Here, the proposed study explores situation of the economic and the social issues of protagonists' surroundings. By close reading, the researcher finds the hint to recognize classes and features of those classes. Then, when data is done, the researcher tries to manage whole, finds the connection, and collect scourge of information about the will of characters, ambiguous according to Peter Barry Model (1995) for Marxist study.

Researcher took the data from *Moth Smoke* (2000) that contains 14 chapters along with 288 pages and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013) that covers 12 chapters along with 240 pages.

The scholar initially read the books cautiously and comprehended the books profoundly.

The scholar distinguished social condition in capitalist society and class battle against entrepreneur's persecution in the novels.

The scholars penned the information from books to bits of colored papers.

The scholar categorized social condition in capitalist society and class battle against capitalists' mistreatment dependent on the theory.

This research is qualitative in nature. This research includes the examination of unique writings of the novel through Marxist study. Relatively this research is dependent on detailed portrayal of impacts and results of characters' conduct. The point of qualitative research is to encourage the more profound comprehension of the exploration. Researcher has chosen two Pakistani books, "*Moth Smoke*" (2000) and *How to get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013) by Mohsin Hamid as model of study. This research is bounded to characters' conduct under the Marxist study of Peter Barry Model (1995) for the Pakistani novels which genuinely speak to conventional society. Researcher similarly talks about each character of the novels under specific laws of nature. This research features the social issues like debasement, illegal substitution, control, decay, defect and attempt to support every one of the issues, and

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relatively the novel has same circumstance.

Qualitative study is done by applying different techniques yet the present study depends on interpretive strategy for investigation. The present study is displayed on Barry's (1995) model for Marxist study. Barry (1995) proposes five strategies for Marxist investigation of literary book.

1. Marxist analysts do a partition between the overt and the covert contents of the literary work and then connect covert content to the basic Marxist subject matter such as class struggle are the development of the society through different historical steps.

2. Secondly, technique that Marxist critics use is to connect the context of the literary piece of work to the social status of the writer.

3. Thirdly, Marxist analysts also apply the technique of explicating the nature of whole literary works regarding a social period which generated that.

4. Fourthly, Marxist method of analysis is to associate the works to the social feature of the time in which it is utilized and method used in cultural materialism.

5. Fifthly, a Marxist technique of analysis is to relate the literary work with politics of time and determined by political situation.

Out of these five techniques, the scholar has used two techniques I-e strategy one and technique three to decipher and break down the content of these novels in detail. Consequently, toward the end, the scholar prevailed to discover the purposes behind injustice and the loss of innocence in the underlying foundations of racism and class definition.

PETER BERRY MODEL UNDER MARXIST STUDY FINDINGS

Finding- 1

The study of novels revealed the class issues of society under Marxist analysis and discovered the class issues like unequal opportunities for job in almost every department, this issue can be analyzed when Daru was fired from the job, he was unable to find the other job for him. And lack of quality education for people of lower class as they cannot afford the expensive private schools, colleges and universities as a result they are deprived of standard education and this issue can be observed in the *Moth Smoke* (2000) when Ozi returned, after acquiring higher education from the United States of America and Daru gets education from local university. Same issues can also be seen in *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013), when unknown person, who belongs to rural area and lower class, comes to hunt for job in urban area with his goal of becoming wealthy in his mind, he struggled a lot in his life. Further, study also affirmed that these class issues compel the people of lower class to commit crimes and be the part of social menaces as in the case of Daru;

he became drug supplier and drug addicted due to ambition of earning more money. In nutshell, study claimed that the poverty, shortage of unequal opportunities for employment, lack of proper quality education and supremacy of elite class over laborers are the class issues of novels. This is evidenced by the following dialogues of novels:

"We have a bigger number of individuals than we need at the present time. Furthermore, the young men we're recruiting have associations worth more than their pay rates. We're simply giving them there spectability of a vocation here in return for their families' business," (Hamid, 2000)

"The death of the main character's mother from cancer - protracted because treatment is unaffordable - is quietly devastating". (Hamid 2013).

Finding-2

This study also exposed the attitude of people of upper class towards the people of lower class is also noteworthy in novels especially the attitude of Ozi towards the Daru, He paid no heed to Daru when he suffered from the economic crisis. The aggressive attitude is evidenced by the following lines:

"You need a generator...how can you survive without one? Daru's reaction is, 'Ah! Ozi you just can't resist; can you? You know I can't afford a generator.'" (Hamid, 2000)

Finding-3

The selected novels also highlighted the socioeconomic condition of time when the both novels were set. Socioeconomically, Pakistan was under the vibes of plenty of issues such as joblessness, corruption, Inflation, poverty, class conflict and the list goes on. Overtly, the cause of Daru's miserable condition was his economic status which can be related to covertly theme of unequal job opportunities and economic instability of Pakistan that directly affected the people of lower class in that time. In addition, Socio-political and financial conditions, as depicted in the books, overturn the lives of certain characters topsy turvy influencing them horrifyingly. Daru's loss of monetary balance brings about his social minimization. He is rejected from the bourgeoisie focus of which he is exceptionally wild to turn into a section. He feels the stings of embarrassment and affront in the comments of his first-class hover at the parties. Political conditions work as help for certain characters such as Khurram does the best out of them by obtaining a rich number of financial gains after 1971 war, as a government employee; while some loses their lives such as Daru's dad in a same battle, fueling to the hardships of their families in a framework which stoops down and achieves the closures of the incredible Center, just dismissing the fringe totally. Scientist has discovered that practically every hero of the books is confronted with scourge of financial issues. Daru in *Moth Smoke* (2000) appears to battle to get by in class-based society when he was terminated from his activity and was constrained to

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starve and to be destitute henceforth so as to pick up riches and economic wellbeing, he begins perpetrating violations which drove him in chasm of haziness. In the second selected novel, however the hero is anonymous yet had a place with country region of Pakistan where he doesn't have offices and was hand to mouth. He moved towards the city with the goal that he can satisfy his fantasies about being big shot however while seeking after the riches and economic wellbeing he onsets a lot of situations and troubles, this is the thing that our general public is. Mohsin Hamid has caught the agonies and sufferings that lower class individuals face in our general public.

"Your sister is died of dengue, her high fever yielding, and quickly offering bogus expectation, before inner draining starves her organs and makes them fall flat" (Hamid,2013).

Finding -4

Further, this study also dealt with the other social issues of society in novels such as rampant corruption, unemployment, drugs smuggling, lack of proper health system, deficiency of standard or quality education, energy crises, cultural crises and crises of identity etc. These are the issues which were also analyzed in the both novels as in the case of rampant corruption in the Ozi's father when Daru pointed out that ozi father achieved the high status and became wealthy by doing corruption hence Daru considered his father among the corrupt officers. Unemployment is another social issue of society when even Murad Badhshah after completing MA English was unable to find the job and was compelled to ride Rakshaw. Lack of proper health system was found when, in How to Get Filthy Rich In Rising Asia, unnamed boy's mother was suffering from cancer there were no government hospital for her treatment.

"Ozi's father, the much of the time examined yet up 'til now un detained Federal secretary (resigned) Khuram Shah." (Hamid,2000).

Finding -5

Study also explored that both novels contain certain characters which can be summed up as the particular class representative, such as Ozi in Moth Smoke is considered as the representation of upper class and Daru as lower class and in the other selected, unnamed main protagonist is seen as the representation of lower class who spends the miserable life while in pursue of being wealthy man.

"I'm wealthy, well connected, and successful. My father's an important person. In all likelihood, I'll be an important person. Lahore is a tough place if you are not important person." (Hamid, 2000)

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

These novels explore all the constituents of Marxist analysis. Barry (1995) proposes that Marxist analyst explored the overt and covert material of the novels and

connect them to fundamental subject matter of Marxism i.e., class distinction, exploitation and miserable economic condition etc. By this study, the researcher has sought that the novels present the many instances of class conflict, the ultimate exploitation of the suppressed people results in poverty and injustice. Hence, the novels are clearly fixed in the framework of Marxist criticism proposed by Peter Barry (1995). Scholar has found the answers of the research questions by following the Peter Barry Model with the help of textual analysis of two selected novels and concluded with idea that almost all the characters of the novels and content of the novels contain the certain themes of Marxist theory of class conflict. Moreover, in the end researcher also added the recommendations for other researchers to do the research and textual analysis of these novels and further explore the idea of Marxism through novels so that others could take benefit from the research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Researcher encourages other scholars to work on Marxist theory of class conflict by doing textual analysis of other literary works.
2. Researcher also invites other scholars to use his work as source of reference in their works in order to explore theory more.
3. For further research, the researcher suggests that scholar should learn more about class struggle in capitalist society in literary work.
4. In analyzing sociology, do not study the social aspect of character in literary works,

but also consider the sociological aspect of the author or the reader.



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