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Nomor : 2600/ F.03.08/ 2022

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- Nama : **Ayu Putri Seruni, M.Pd.**
- Tugas : Penelitian dengan Judul "Social Reflection in Novel Tenki no Ko by Makoto Shinkai: The study of Marxisy Literary Sociology"
- Waktu : Desember
- Tempat : Jakarta
- Lain-lain : Setelah melaksanakan tugas agar membuat laporan tertulis kepada Pimpinan FKIP UHAMKA

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Jakarta, 8 Desember 2022

Dekan,



**Dr. Desvian Bandarsyah, M.Pd.**

# Social Reflection in Novel Tenki No Ko by Makoto Shinkai: The Study of Marxisy Literary Sociology

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research is to find out the social reflection in the world-famous novel, Tenki no Ko by Makoto Shinkai. This novel has a good message in its presentation and in the research it discusses in terms of social reflection on the situation of Japanese society in Tokyo. Characters developed from the lower society who try to resolve conflicts in real life with a touch of fantasy series. The presentation that is packaged is very interesting, attracting readers from this novel. Therefore, the discussion in this study regarding social reflection in the novel Tenki no Ko by Makoto Shinkai shows social reality, the suffering of the lower class, class and society, has siding with the lower society, propaganda against the rulers. The social reflection in this novel can reflect the lives of young people running away from home struggling with the rigors of life in the capital city with various social problems.

**Keywords:** *social reflection, tenki no ko, sociology of Marxist*

## Ethical Lingua

Vol. 9, No. 2, 2022

ISSN 2355-3448 (Print)

ISSN 2540-9190 (Online)

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## Article's History

Submitted 21 December 2022

Revised 31 December 2022

Accepted 31 December 2022

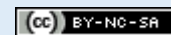
## DOI

10.30605/25409190.503

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# Social Reflection in Novel *Tenki no Ko* by Makoto Shinkai: The Study of Marxist Literary Sociology

## Introduction

Social reflection, realism, novels, sociology of Marxist literature At this time, Marxism influences various fields, including literary works into Marxist literature. This can be expressed based on the author's ideology and the ideology that develops in the society that lives. A novel not only reflects reality, but provides a larger and more dynamic reflection of reality that goes beyond common understanding. Lukacs says A truly realistic work provides a sense of the 'artistic necessity' of the scenes and details presented. (Carter, 2006). The author reflects on the structure of society and is developed based on its dialectical development.

Social reflection research in the novel *Tenki no Ko* by Makoto Shinkai is different from other studies. Ideology and the American Marxist Novel by Siyaswati which looks at the extent of Marxist criticism operating in her works or Martin Anderson Nexo's Novel "Pelle" the Conquaror" a Marxist Perspective by Akhter, analyzes the textual basis on the hermeneutic basis of Marxist literature in an innovative and new way. In the research of social reflection, *Tenki no Ko* emphasizes more on social reflection that occurs in the center of Japan.

Makoto Shinkai is a Japanese writer, animator, film maker and manga artist whose works are eagerly awaited by all Japanese anime fans in the world. His film, *Your Name*, was the third highest-selling film. After gaining success, Makoto Shinkai wrote a novel and made a film entitled *Tenki no Ko* or *Weathering with You*. *Tenki no Ko* is a fantasy genre. This novel is able to reflect the social reality of capital life that is taken by young people. The struggle of a high school student named Hodaka to go to Tokyo to get a job, but encounters many problems that occur in the capital. The combination with the fantasy of weather-making by Hina's character also completes the complexity of the problems in this novel. These two characters are against the social reality that is reflected in this novel.

「風俗店のボーイ身分証不要ですよ」という情報を見つけ、必死の思いで検索していくつの風俗店に面接予約を入れた。

"Men for nightclubs don't need ID," after receiving this information, I desperately searched for some of those nightclubs and made reservations for an interview.(p.25)

The quote shows a social reflection on social reality which includes three aspects. The totality aspect where a high school student wants to get a job, but does not have complete personal information that makes it impossible to get additional work, but according to the reality that Tokyo's current state in the nightclub sector does not require identification and can employ minors, artistic reflection includes the peculiarities of . This novel deserves to be studied to find out social reflection so that it can be a lesson for Japanese literature learners.

Novel emerged as the most important form of prose fiction in the eighteenth century. (Klarel, 2004) To this day, the novel still maintains its leading position as the genre that produces the most literary innovations. Novel is a literary work that is fiction. (Nurgiyantoro, 2005, p.9) A description of the reality of human life in accordance with the development of the times. (Wellek & Warren, 2016, p.282) literary works originating from social situations are told in detail and have a complicated plot. (Stanton, 2015, p.90) A fictional story that has a complicated plot that discusses human life. (Tarigan, 2015, p.167) Novels are literary works that are examined from the aspect of text, author, reader, context and literary criticism. Literature that functions as entertainment is also used as a discussion medium for learning to find values that are expressed as right and wrong (Emzir, 2015). Literature presents a life that mostly consists of social reality from human subjective.

Reflectionist theory has provided the ideas created in the concept of social realism. Socialist Realism is the term usually applied to the statesanctioned theory of art favored predominantly. (Carter, 2006) Lukacs' consistent idea about the author reflects the facts of reality in his work. Literary problems are more than mere reflections of

reality. Reflectionist theory is distinguished from mimesis, Lukacs said art departs from dialectics (Emzir, 2015). The author reflects on the meaning of an objective reality, not just imitating, but capturing the truth of the phenomena he describes.

Lukacs' main concept is Totality. Distinctiveness and historical world, (Emzir, 2015). The author is dialectically able to reunite the fragmentation in a complex totality of society itself. In this creation, there is resistance in capitalist society to form a perfect human image. Literary works that present artistic reflection include individual characteristics and general characteristics of social reality. The author provides a description of the world from the typical actions of individuals towards their social environment. The historical world which is the unity of the past, present and future, there is a reciprocal relationship of what is done and what is obtained. Social care becomes the standard measure of beauty and the only measure of truth.

Based on that, literary works intersect with the dynamics of society which contains certain ideologies. Ideology describes the social conditions of society as a propaganda medium to fight for ideas or ideas. This raises 1) social reality, 2) the suffering of the lower class, 3) class and community conflicts, 4) taking sides with the lower class, 5) propaganda against the rulers (Emzir, 2015). Social reflection based on literary realism in literary works explains the movement of the author in understanding reality as a form of resistance to oppression. True Realism did not just depict the appearance of the social world but provided 'a truer, more complete, more vivid and more dynamic reflection of reality' (Carter, 2006).

Marxism, which was introduced by Karl Marx, understands social class and social conflict as well as a dialectical perspective to see social transformation. Marxism was developed and influenced various fields, one of which was literature. Literature is ideological in nature and is a product of social and economic existence. Social beings determine their consciousness and the interests of social class so that social class determines their existence. Therefore, culture does not exist in an ideal form, but cannot be separated from history determining social conditions, as the basic economic superstructure of the structure of society. Political analyzes such as Marxist readings, however, considered all artistic products to be part of an "ideological superstructure" which merely reflects the economic or social conditions of the society in which they were produced; hence, they see art as being completely determined 162 (Thomas, 2007). Each epoch is characterized and structured by the types of production and the thoughts associated with it. Lukacs is a Marxist, literary works have elements and tendencies in reality that are constantly changing, according to certain laws and always returning. To analyze Marxist ideology along these lines (subject: man; object: classless society; sender: history; receiver: mankind; opponent: bourgeois class; helper: working class), or the investment of capitalists. (Thomas, 2007).

## Method

This research method uses content analysis method. Content analysis is a method used to understand the social reflection of literary works. The approach used in this research is an interdisciplinary qualitative approach to literature, namely the sociology of Marxist literature which refers to how to understand literature by looking at literary content related to social reflection according to social realism developed by Lukacs. This approach only looks at three aspects; totality, uniqueness and historical world, without considering the structure of the work.

Sources of data in the form of primary data and secondary data. The primary data of this research is social reflection in the form of words, phrases, sentences, actions and discourses contained in the novel *Tenki no Ko* by Makoto Shinkai. The secondary data used is library data in the form of books, articles, some research results related to the problems that become the object of research as the basic theory for analyzing. The steps taken in the data collection process, among others: (a) library data collection, (b) intensive and repeated reading of the novel to be studied, (c) making notes in the form of abstractions or descriptions of each event which is a elements of the story in the novel, (d) identify the aspects listed in the research objectives, (e) perform data analysis of data interpretation. The research instrument is the researcher. In order to collect research data systematically, a research instrument is needed that is used as a tool through an analysis table. The instrument consists of a set of written instructions regarding the variables that must be processed.

The analysis is carried out in a qualitative description, the steps are as follows:

1. The analysis begins with the assumption that research always begins with questions related to the symptoms that arise as a result of the relationship between literary works and their social environment.

2. Researchers utilize the concept of understanding literary works in depth by revealing and describing social phenomena.
3. The analyzed data can come from various matters concerning the relationship between literary works and social reflection.
4. Sociology of Marxism literature

## Results

Social Reflection in the novel *Tenki no Ko* by Makoto Shinkai, relates to life in Tokyo which is the center of development of the Japanese state. Makoto Shinkai as a well-known author provides a touch of social reflection of the situation of Tokyo for students who run away from home with the addition of fantasy stories. Hodaka as the main character is described as a high school boy who runs away from home and tries to find a job in Tokyo, but has many obstacles and is chased by the police. Hodaka tries to fight back against the harshness of life in Tokyo. Social reflection based on literary realism in literary works explains the movement of the author in understanding reality as a form of resistance to oppression. The division of social reflection is divided into 5 parts; 1) social reality, 2) the suffering of the lower class, 3) class and community conflict, 4) have a siding with the community below, 5) propaganda against the rulers.

### 1) social reality

それからの数日間で、僕は何度「東京って怖い」と呟いたのだろうか。

A few days after that incident, how many times have I muttered "Tokyo is scary" (p. 25)

Hodaka thought when he came to Tokyo, Tokyo was scary because it was a big city, he often got lost on the train and took the wrong direction, when he walked he bumped into people, when he asked for directions no one would answer. He wanted to cry because of the harsh conditions in Tokyo. This illustrates the social reflection in the social reality that Tokyo as the capital of Japan is a big city and is more individualistic.

小学生にしてたぶん複数のガールフレンドがいて、しかも女子自ら食ベログカフェ予約。持ってるやつは最初から持っている、これが文化資本ってやつなのか。

As an elementary school student, probably have many girlfriends, plus the girls themselves order a table cafe. a person owns what he has from the start, is this what constitutes cultural capital? (p.38)

Hodaka thought that his younger sister Hina, who was still in elementary school, could be popular and her female friends invited her to a cafe and ordered it through a table. It's a wonderful culture in Tokyo that elementary school kids are familiar with cafes and technological developments.

The social reality that is reflected in Makoto Shinkai's novel raises the life of Tokyo as the great capital of Japan in advancing technology and modernizing social life. Students think that it is easy to get a job in the capital, as a place of industrial development, but it is not as easy as imagined.

### 2) the suffering of the people below

大人ってこういう時に適切に遠慮ものじゃないのか。こっちは食費は一日マックス五百円までと決めてるのに初日から大赤字なんですけどそれは。

Shouldn't adults at a time like this be shy? even though my food allowance has been determined to be a maximum of 500 yen, but still on the first day there is still a large deficit. (p. 21)

Hodaka was eating on the ship to Tokyo, with Suga who saved Hodaka from the storm on the ship, Suga asked for a favor to pay for his meal, but Hodaka had no money. Hodaka shows the suffering of the underprivileged people who have no money.

それでもまずはその漫画喫茶を拠点に生活することにし、何やら据えた臭いのする個室のPCでバイト検索を試みたけれど、「身分証不要」の条件での求人はゼロだった。

Even so, at first I chose to live in a manga cafe as a place to live, and looked for a part-time job with a PC in a stinking room, but the search for people with the condition "no ID needed" turned out to be nothing. (p. 25)

He wants to save money so he stays in a manga cafe until he finds a job, but finds the place unfit for living. Suffering for people who have no money and no part-time jobs that can be obtained without an identity card.

Hodaka's suffering is reflected by Hodaka as a student who has no money and tries to find a job, he considers 50,000 yen to be enough for a start-up capital to find a job, but the cost of living in Tokyo is expensive,



he has to be willing to live in an inadequate place and even sleep in an open park because have no money, even get an inappropriate salary and get fired for getting social problems.

### 3) class and society conflict

学校一年生男子です。東京都内で、割のいいバイトを探しています。学生証がなくても雇ってくれるようなところがありますか？

うーん、これでいいのかな。殺伐としたネット空間では総叩きに遭いそうな気がする

I am a first year school boy. I am looking for a good job within Tokyo city. Is there a place where you can work without a diploma?

mmm... just like this is it okay? I was like being hit in a very deadly internet room. (p. 16)

Hodaka is looking for a job in Tokyo without a diploma, he needs a job because he ran away from home and is still a student. The rules in Tokyo, people can't get a job if they don't have ID cards and diplomas.

しかしどのホテルで尋ねも、部屋はなかった。本当どこ満室満室なのか、それ小学生連れ子ども子ども三という姿怪しまれているのは宿泊宿泊を?」と疑われ、「通報するのも面倒なんで、出てってくれ?」と追い返された。

But ask in any hotel, there are no rooms. Is anywhere really full? Or suspect the three of us who brought elementary school children? We keep getting rejected. We ended up going to a suspicious rental place in the basement of a multi-rental building.

"You didn't run away from home, did you?"

"Troublesome if I report, can you come out?"

We were also rejected again (p.182)

Those who are still children are looking for lodging, but when they come to various inns they are rejected because they are minors and run away from home, so it will be troublesome for those who have lodging if the police come to check.

Class and community conflicts are reflected in minors, who do not have a diploma or identity card, cannot work part time, cannot live together without a guardian or child protection agency, people do not want to have problems with people who have legal problems and are aware that if they have legal problems it is not will annoy other people.

### 4) Have siding with the lower community

目の前に、ビッグマックの箱が置かれていた。僕は驚いて振り返った。少女が立っていた。マクドナルドの制服姿だ。濃いブルーのシャツに黒いエプロン、お下げの小さな頭にグレイのキャスケット帽。同い年くらいだろうか—黒目がちの大きな瞳が、なんだか怒ったように僕を見下ろしている。

「あの、これ.....」頼んでませんけど、という意味で、僕は言う。  
[あげる、内緒ね] 小さな花の香りみたいにかすかな声で、そう言った。

「え?でもなんで.....」

「君、三日連続でそれが夕食じゃん」

少女は僕のポタージュを見てから責めるようにそう言って、小走りで去って行く

There's a big mac box on my desk. I was shocked and looked back.

A girl stands. In a McDonald's uniform. Dark blue shirt covered with black epron. Braided hair, with a gray hat. Do you think he is the same age as me? Those black and round eyes, looked at me as if they were angry.

"nnn, this" I said with a sense, I didn't order it.

"from me, a secret huh" in a voice faint like the scent of a small flower, she said it

"But why?"

"you have had the same dinner 3 days in a row"

After seeing my soup, the girl said it like pitying me, then with a little run away. (p.34-35)

Hina gives a big mac burger box to Hodaka because it's a pity to see he always eats with soup every time he comes to the restaurant. Hina has a feeling of partiality to the people below.

「あいつ最近、仕事サボり気味だよな」

「別にいいんじゃない? 弊社最近ヒマだし」

ハンドルを握った夏美がさらりと傷つくことを言う。

"That person lately, I feel like skipping work, right?"

"It is okay, right? Our company has also been out of business lately."

Natsumi who was holding the steering wheel said it casually. (p.132)

Natsumi is Hodaka's boss at Hodaka's place of work, at that time Hodaka was often absent because he had a part-time job related to weather control with Hina. Natsumi knows this and gives Hodaka a slack of work. Natsumi knows that Hodaka needs money by working elsewhere, so he feels sorry for Hodaka, a feeling of partiality to the people below.

Having a siding with the lower class is reflected in Hina's treatment of Hodaka who gave him good food because he knew he had no money, Hodaka helped a girl who was about to be kidnapped by a man and Natsumi as a boss who gave slack working hours so that Hodaka could work elsewhere.

### 5) propaganda against the rulers

「君、ちょっといい?」

突然に肩を叩かれ、振り返ると警官が立っていた。

「さっきもこの辺歩いてたよね」

「え...」

「こんな時間にどうしたの?高校生?」

僕は青ざめる。

「ちょっと、待ちなさい!」

"You, may I disturb you for a moment?"

Suddenly I was tapped on the shoulder, when I looked behind the police were already standing

"You were walking around here too, weren't you?"

"mmm..."

"What's wrong at this hour? Are you a high school student?"

My face is pale

"Hey, wait a minute!" (p.27)

While sleeping outside, Hodaka was reprimanded by the police in Tokyo for why high school kids slept outside and wandered around here, when he was about to be taken to the police station, Hodaka fought back by running away from the police.

須賀さんが声を震わせながらそう言い、周囲の刑事たちに向かって声を荒らげる。

「だいたいさあ、あんたらだって酷えだろ!?! 大の大人がよってたかって子ども一人に銃を向けて、こいつはまだ十六だぜ、こんなこと許されるのかよ!こいつは犯罪者でもなんでもない、ただの家出少年なんだよ!」

Mr. Suga said in a trembling voice. And shouted at detectives around. "After all, aren't you guys cruel too!! Adults point guns at little kids, this kid is still 16 years old! You think this can be forgiven?! This kid isn't a criminal or anything, just a kid who ran away from home!" (p.255)

Suga defended Hodaka who was surrounded by the police, he was not a criminal, just a child who ran away from home. Resistance to the authorities because they saw the injustice of a teenager who ran away from home but was treated like a criminal.

Propaganda of resistance to the authorities was reflected against the police when they wanted to be caught sleeping in the park and arrested by the police by surrounding them, pointing guns at high school students who ran away from home.

## Discussion

Social Reflection in Makoto Shinkai's *Tenki no Ko* novel is divided into 1) social reality, 2) the suffering of the lower class, 3) class and social conflicts, 4) have a siding with the community below, 5) propaganda against the rulers.

1. Social reality  
The social reality featured in the novel describes Tokyo as the capital of Japan is great in technological advancement and modernization of social life. Tokyo is an area that the Japanese are in great demand to change their destiny for the better.
2. The suffering of the lower class  
The suffering of the lower class describes Life in Tokyo as expensive to pay for housing and food, finding work is also difficult especially for students who do not have a diploma, the salary obtained is also below average if you do not have a diploma. The lower class people who have no ability can hardly survive in a big city and are increasingly excluded.
3. Class and social conflicts  
The class and social conflicts depicted in this novel are Minors who do not have a diploma or identity card cannot work part time, cannot live together without a guardian or child protection agency, people do not want to have problems with people who have legal problems and realize that if they have legal problems they will not bother other people. Dealing with people who have legal problems will be detrimental so that people who have legal problems are difficult Back in society, become conflicts in society, they have to rise up in problems but are not supported by circumstances.
4. Community below  
The community below in this novel is Help others who look weak or need some help. The lower class people help their fellow lower class people, they give something according to their situation even though they still lack a lot. In addition, there are also upper class people who help the lower class people.
5. Propaganda against the rulers.  
Propaganda against the rules in the novel is Resistance against the police when they see injustice or for breaking the rules. The police conducted in accordance with the regulations, but there was a partiality towards the lower class people

## Conclusion

Social reflection reflected in the novel *Tenki No Ko* by Makoto Shinkai about 1) social reality, Tokyo as the capital of Japan which is great in technological advancement and modernization of social life. 2) the suffering of the lower class, life in Tokyo is expensive to pay for housing and food, finding work is also difficult especially for students who do not have a diploma. 3) class and community conflicts, minors, do not have a diploma or identity card cannot work part time, cannot live together without a guardian or child protection agency, the community does not want to have problems with people who have legal problems. 4) have siding with the lower community, help others who look weak or need some help, 5) propaganda against the authorities, resistance against the police when they see injustice or for violating the rules. The social reflection shown from the struggle of students begins to see the good side of Tokyo as an industrial city, but to live in Tokyo is not as easy as imagined, from the high cost of living, the difficulty of getting a job, to dealing with legal regulations.

## Acknowledgment

The research is funded by institute of Reseach and Development, Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof DR Hamka under research grant 2022

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