

جامعة تكريت

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية



المرحلة الثالثة

Subject Name: Novel

Lecture: Hardtimes

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Class Struggle

The working class becomes dependent on the only thing they can offer, which is their labour, making them work themselves to the ground in an attempt to reach that false hope. The workers will benefit the rich making them even richer and more powerful, all while exhausting their efforts to the attain unrealistic goals that the owners predetermined for them, and getting further from realising their reality, recognize the abuse of power or even developing a sense of solidarity with the other individuals of their social standing because they are too occupied by working harder than each other in order to satisfy the great standards that have been predetermined for them,

so rather than feeling that they are on the same side of the struggle, they consider themselves competitors who are struggling against each other in order to reach said standards. Gramsci gave this Marxist ideology a more active role in politics as he argued that the proletariat has the ability to influence the terms of its consciousness, so there is an extended struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat over the terms of the representation of the existing social reality. (Gramsci: 1971)

The bourgeoisie exercises its dominance over the proletariat through its control of the instruments of consciousness; but the proletariat can exert influence through its own cultural institutions; therefore, it denies that the proletariat is a passive side of this class dynamic. class consciousness incorporates having a common knowledge of the class's struggles, a strong feeling of solidarity as well as having a desire to change said reality by planning to take over the means of

production and overthrowing the bourgeoisie class for the sake of equality of wealth and a fight against the oppression that is imposed on the proletariat, who possess nothing but their labour, by the owners.

Class Struggle or Class Conflict is the course of action taken in response to the oppression that the working class has been through after reaching their class consciousness. Obtaining that consciousness means that the working class has realized that its members are being exploited in favour of the bourgeoisie class and their comfort while being paid less than necessary for a living all while being put under the harshest working conditions.

This is a dependence dynamic where the owners depend on the labourers for the production and the workers depend on the owners for the production means. The force transforming latent class membership into a struggle of classes is class interest. Out of similar class situations, individuals come to act similarly. They develop a mutual dependence, a community, a shared interest interrelated with a common income of profit or of wages. From this common interest classes are formed, and for Marx, individuals form classes to the extent that their interests engage them in a struggle with the opposite class.

18 Marx believed that this inequality would fuel a change in this capitalist society because a society that lives with such inequality may pose complications that will lead to its own destruction. The ownership of the means of production such as factories and lands belonged to the bourgeoisie class which limited the proletariat's chances of production, so their mission now is to take over the means of production and redistribute the wealth in order to create a wellbalanced society. The existence of a thesis enables the existence of an anti-thesis, and in this case, the bourgeoisie being the owners and the biggest profiter

whereas the proletariat are the labourers who work harder and profit much less is the thesis.

The anti-thesis is the desire of the working class for change and inequality. The division between classes will widen and the condition of the exploited worker will deteriorate so badly that social structure collapses: the class struggle is transformed into a proletarian revolution. The workers' triumph will eliminate the basis of class division in property through public ownership of the means of production. With the basis of classes thus wiped away, a classless society will ensue (by definition), and since political power to protect the bourgeoisie against the workers is unnecessary, political authority and the state will wither away.

As Marx saw the development of class conflict, the struggle between classes was initially confined to individual factories. Eventually, given the maturing of capitalism, the growing disparity between life conditions of bourgeoisie and proletariat, and the increasing homogenization within each class, individual struggles become generalized to coalitions across factories. Increasingly class conflict is manifested at the societal level. Class consciousness is increased, common interests and policies are organized, and the use of and struggle for political power occurs. Classes become political forces.

19 The struggle between the two classes and said conflict will lead to a compromise where members of the working class are promoted to higher ranks in order to create a common standing for both classes, and from here comes the middle class. The middle class could possibly become more powerful; posing a threat to the bourgeoisie because of the support and trust of the working class. The latter might also envy their former class members which will be a reason for unrest. An anti-thesis could rise from either side of the society which results in

class conflicts and equal rights demands to arise once again for an endless circle. Conclusion This chapter embodies descriptions of the Victorian literature and its depiction of the social realities where the society was divided into different social classes as the industrial revolution developed.

As we progress through the chapter, the reader is introduced to the main elements that will be used to dissect the novel, thus class consciousness is introduced as an ideological stage where the working class realizes that it is being oppressed and the whole cluster is politically aware, whereas, false consciousness is the absence of consciousness and an illusion that prevents the workers from any way of revolting against the owners. Class Struggle is introduced as the second element of the selected class conflict theory which is the part where the proletariat has gained its class consciousness and is gearing for its.