

CHAPTER IV

THE REFLECTION OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *ANIMAL FARM*

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the parallel events and characteristics between Russia revolution in 1917 and novel *Animal Farm*. The study of the reflection in *Animal Farm* is analyzed through Sociology of literature and New Historicism aspects. Like the writer mention in the second chapter, in the sociology of literature's perspective, literary work is considered as the representation of reality that happens in society (Wiyatmi 10). The sociology of literature approach is uses to investigate about the connection between the novel and the society where the event happens. And New Historicism is uses to learn a history of an era through literary text.

In the following explanations, the writer will try to find the answer of the statement of problem that mentioned in the first chapter and provide the reflection of the Russian revolution in the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

1.1. *Animal Farm* Before Revolution

The first parallel between the Russian revolutions in 1917 and the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is available in the condition before the revolution happens. In the novel *Animal Farm*, Orwell describes the condition of Russia before revolution as a poor lead farm that own by human, Mr. Jones. The name of the farm was Manor Farm before the revolution. For Russia, Sheila Fitzpatrick explains about the condition in Russia before the revolution in her book *The*

and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know when that Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see this straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done. Fix your eyes on that, comrades, throughout the short remainder of your lives! And above all, pass on this message of mine to those who come after you, so that future generations shall carry on the struggle until it is victorious (3).

Old Major's makes the other animals realize and think about how miserable the animals' life is. Besides that, the animals think that human is useless creation which only takes advantages from them without produce anything. Even though they are does not produce anything, but they still have the highest position in the farm.

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilises it, and yet there is not one of us that owns more than his bare skin” (2).

The Old Major speeches have burning the animals' fighting spirit. They want to revenge on human. The next three months after the Old Major's death, they often held secret meeting. This meeting lead by the pigs, which were generally recognize as the cleverest animal, or the intelligent in the farm. Just In every meeting, they always end it with singing their union song, “*Beast of England*” that taught by Old Major (6). The lyrics of the song are:

*Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,
Beasts of every land and clime,
Hearken to my joyful tidings
Of the golden future time.*

getting his own way (Orwell 6). Napoleon is the characterization of Joseph Stalin in *Animal Farm*.

Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* based on the betrayal that Stalin done. The events and characters in *Animal Farm* are all carefully drawn to represent the history of the Russia. Orwell makes this explicit in the case of Napoleon, whom he directly connects to Stalin in a letter of 17 March 1945 to the publisher.

“When the windmill is blown up, I wrote 'all the animals including Napoleon flung themselves on their faces.' I would like to alter it to 'all the animals except Napoleon.' If that has been printed it's not worth bothering about, but I just thought the alteration would be fair to JS (Joseph Stalin), as he did stay in Moscow during the German advance (www.netcharles.com).

Professor Michael Shelden explains too in his book that Orwell joked about Stalin's leadership in the last months of the war. He said that the Soviet leader had become “a Christian gent whom it is not done to criticise” (Shelden 54).

Orwell's statement above explains why Napoleon and Joseph Stalin share some common things. Napoleon himself becomes the centre of the story in novel *Animal Farm* because of the tyrant leadership that he done. Both of Stalin and Napoleon is a revolutionary at first, but in the end they did a betrayal. They change the government into tyrant.

The writer already explains in the previous point above that both of Napoleon and Stalin's dictatorship begin after they execute their own comrade. Napoleon executes Snowball that he considers as a rival to gain more powers from the farm, and Stalin executes Leon Trotsky which chosen as the Party General Secretary by Lenin. After the execution, then Napoleon in *Animal Farm*

As the human beings approached the farm buildings, Snowball launched his first attack. All the pigeons, to the number of thirty-five, flew to and fro over the men's heads and alighted upon them from mid-air; and while the men were dealing with this, the geese, who had been hiding behind the hedge, rushed out and pecked viciously at the calves of their legs. However, this was only a light skirmishing manoeuvre, intended to create a little disorder, and the men easily drove the geese off with their sticks. Snowball now launched his second line of attack. Muriel, Benjamin, and all the sheep, with Snowball at the head of them, rushed forward and prodded and butted the men from every side, while Benjamin turned around and lashed at them with his small hoofs. But once again the men, with their sticks and their hobnailed boots, were too strong for them; and suddenly, at a squeal from Snowball, which was the signal for retreat, all the animals turned and fled through the gateway into the yard (Orwell 16).

In *Animal Farm*, all of hard work which done by Snowball make the animals trust him and look at him as the new potential leader. But, then Napoleon rise and betray Snowball. It is happen to Trotsky too. As Stalin rose to power, Trotsky became one of Stalin's biggest enemies, because he is the chosen Party General Secretary by Lenin. He was eventually expelled from the Politburo in 1925; one year after Stalin took control of the nation. In the novel, Snowball was exiled from the farm just as Trotsky had been.

Trotsky was not only exiled in body, he was also exiled from the minds of the Russian people. His historical role was altered, his face cut out of group photographs of the leaders of the revolution. In Russia he was denounced as a traitor and conspirator and in 1940 a Stalinist agent assassinated him in Mexico City. This is the same with the things that Napoleon had done to make the animals in the farm forget about Snowball. Napoleon even accuses all bad things that happen in the farm to Snowball, by the speeches that delivered by Squealer to the animals.

‘Comrades,’ he said quietly, ‘do you know who is responsible for this? Do you know the enemy who has come in the night and overthrown our windmill? SNOWBALL!’ he suddenly roared in a voice of thunder. ‘Snowball has done this thing! In sheer malignity, thinking to set back our plans and avenge himself for his ignominious expulsion, this traitor has crept here under cover of night and destroyed our work of nearly a year. Comrades, here and now I pronounce the death sentence upon Snowball. ‘Animal Hero, Second Class,’ and half a bushel of apples to any animal who brings him to justice. A full bushel to anyone who captures him alive!’ (Orwell 28).

Snowball is the scapegoat for all of the chaos which actually cause by Napoleon himself. He is the victim of Napoleon’s paranoia, which occurred to Trotsky at that time also. At the end, the capable leader is gone, and changed by the tyrant leader which runs their power with terror.

