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Critique of Capitalist Ideology in *Howards End*

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By

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Critique of Capitalist Ideology in *Howards End*

Abstract

This research work tries to explore an English novel entitled "Critique of Capitalist Ideology in Howard's End" authored by prominent English novelist, E.M. Forster. It argues that Poor people form relationship with upper class people in search of comfort and material quest. As a result, they make economic relationship with upper class. If there is a diverse distribution of matter, there will always be class conflict. The researcher will analyze the novel from Marxist perspective in order to demonstrate such economic relationship. According to Marxism, class conflict has shaped human civilization throughout its existence. The novel is set in 20th-century Britain. Female protagonist, Margaret gets married with a wealthy husband because she seeks material security. A poor man, Bast makes an affair with upper class girl, Helen and later makes her pregnant thinking that he will outdo his poor condition. To investigate the economic relationship among characters, the researcher has applied ideas associated with the theory of the Marxism. By applying theory of Marxism in the novel, the research concludes with the findings that poor people come closer to upper-class for the sake of wealth.

Keywords: Class conflict, family breakdown, separation, upper-class, the haves, the haves not.

The researcher intends to explore how and why the class conflict appears in *Howard's End* by E. M. Forster. To show such aspects, the reasearcher has used marxism as a methodology. Being a Marxist writer, in this novel, he shows family disintegration due to poor material condition that ultimalty leads class struggle between upper and low class. In his time, matter has become powerful tools to unite

the family members. To show such aspects, the researcher has a Marxist perspective.

Marxism believes in the struggle between haves and have nots. The novel is set in 20th-century Britain. At the time, there was a massive ditch in terms of social class. In this regard, it has become the sweet terms for a communist who sees it as pure material theory of communism. Marxism is a term used in political theory which refers to the beliefs that a person holds regarding their social class or economic rank in society, the structure of their class, and their class interests. Marxism believes in the struggle between haves and have nots.

As a Marxist writer, Forster shows his character's quest for material comfort. While seeking comfort, poor people make relationships with upper class people. As a result, they get separation, family disintegration and violence. Class struggle always happens if there is a different distribution of matter. To show such collision, the researcher will study the novel through a Marxist perspective. Marxism advocates that the history of human civilization is the history of class struggle. There is always a class struggle between haves and have nots.

Like other Marxist writers, Forster also shows in the novel that materialism is the significance positioned on material possessions. Someone with a high level of materialism, described as materialistic, considers material possessions to be central to their life and their identity, and focuses a good deal of their energy on acquiring possessions. Someone with a low level of materialism, described as non-materialistic, or not money-oriented, does not consider acquiring possessions to be particularly important, although they vary in the extent to which they acquire material possessions.

in order to meet other objectives, such as social acceptance. It is the material quest that changes society from historical time. In this regard, Allen W. Wood writes:

Materialisms locate historical change in the rise of class societies and the way humans labour together to make their livelihoods. For Marx and Engels the ultimate cause and moving power of historical events are to be found in the economic development of society and the social and political upheavals wrought by changes to the mode of production. Historical materialism provides a profound challenge to the view that the historical process has come to a close and that capitalism is the end of history. Since Marx's time, the theory has been modified and expanded. It now has many Marxist and non-Marxist variants. (44)

Wood may want to say that materialistic quest has begun from ancient time. Too much being materialistic affinites are not good that later on leads to the creation of the world of difference in the way people treat other human beings. The materialistic people hardly indulge others as their equals and often go extra mile to show off their wealth. They hardly care about anyone but themselves and frequently tend to exploit and trample people through the process of a dog eat dog world. It is, therefore, important for people to follow the teachings of the Bible and become moral. The little things we possess; we need to share with the poor as this will ensure equality in the society.

Since *Howards End* by E.M Forster has never been examined from a Marxist stand point but this thesis analysis examines the novel from that perspective. The study makes an effort to pinpoint the class conflicts that occur both inside and between the various social strata of *Howards End*. Therefore, in this study, Marxist theory is applied to interpret the novel through Karl Marx's eyes and determine the

main zones of conflict. In actuality, the novel is created to underline Karl Marx's idea that conflict between social groups forges new relationships. Because of their disparate ideologies, viewpoints, and hobbies, the three struggling families are brought together in Howards End.

Marxism advocates that history of human civilization is the history of class struggle. There is always happens class struggle between haves and have not. As a Marxist writer, he shows that materialism nurtures corruption and causes the society to be disadvantaged. The modern world is full of people who possess money-oriented attribute. More often the goal of gaining material prosperity is regarded as vacant and in result it prevents a person from being involved in a normal life. The consequences of pursuing materialistic life style are the helplessness to reach the state of happiness in one's life. The materialistic individuals hardly treat others as their equals and often go extra distance to show off their wealth.

Keeping the faith on the Marxism, Forster exposes the family disintegration is caused by poor material condition that causes the breakup of social relationship between the family member which affects the child values and standards. Like other Marxist writers, Forster also vents out the disintegration of the family that has always headed the turn down of a culture. In the history, there has not been a single generation raised with the societal conditions that we have. Each day we are confronted by reports of violence, teen suicides, drug abuse, spousal abuse, and child abuse. Family life is breaking down if they are economically poor. With a clear link established between the disintegration of the family and the major harms plaguing our society, the ramifications for society with a continuing failure of the family are considerable. Common practices such as out of wedlock births, abortion, and divorce

are weakening the family and therefore, the community and the nation.

Being a Marxist writer, Forster also judges successes by the things individual possesses. Philosophers and theologians have been complaining for long that materialism is contrary to moral life. More often the goal of gaining material wealth is regarded as empty that prevents a person from being involved in a normal life. The consequences of pursuing materialistic lifestyle are the inability to reach the state of happiness in one's life. The empirical studies, carried out to find the correlation between happiness and materialism, have confirmed negative correlation between the two. Randall Stevenson ideas also say that he is a Marxist's writer because he explores the typical ethos of class differences in the novel. Stevenson writes:

Forster's two best-known works, *A Passage to India* and *Howards End*, explore the ethos of class differences. *A Room with a View* also shows how questions of propriety and class can make human connection difficult. The novel is his most widely read and accessible work, remaining popular long after its original publication. His posthumous novel explores the possibility of class reconciliation as one facet of a homosexual relationship. (123)

Stevenson believes that Forster novel shows quest of materialism and shows ethos and pathos of class differences. Those people who quests for money, their minds are always counts the money and they ever lean toward to possess more wealth. They want to grab wealth in real life. So such people are against idealism. The word materialism has been used in modern times to denote to a family of philosophic concepts that can best be cleared by saying that a theory tends to be called materialist if it is felt adequately to resemble a typical theory that will here be called materialism.

As Marxist's novel, Forster's novel mainly deals with the question of happening in a growing relationship between people who occupy different values, perspectives, and attitudes towards life. The protagonists Margaret, Ruth, and Henry had to face hurdles of life in critical situations through various ups and downs towards the end of the novel. However, the question of priority regarding love and money became evergreen evident throughout the entire novel.

In the novel, Forster shows his Marxist's perspective. For example, due to material condition factor, they have ruined their own family. There has happened family disintegration. Margaret Schlegel reads a series of letters to her sister Helen, who is visiting the Wilcox family home, an old farmhouse called Howard End. Helen, she writes, fell in love with Paul Wilcox despite the big differences between her families. When Margaret's aunt, Julie Mundt, hears of Helen's affection for her to her Paul, she decides to go to her Wilcox home to see her. After she leaves, Margaret receives a telegram from Helen indicating that her frenzy is over.

The Schlegel family participates in the symphony with Julie and her cousin Frida Mosebach. Helen leaves early, accidentally taking an umbrella belonging to Leonard Bust, a poor man who could not afford to replace it. Margaret invites Leonard to bring an umbrella from her house after her symphony, and he escorts her home. He envies her excellent understanding of art and culture, which he studies in his limited free time. Margaret and Helen feel sorry for his plight. Leonard refuses tea with Schlegel and returns to his cramped basement apartment, where he lives with Jackie, the fallen woman.

Helen plans to return to Germany and raise her baby there. She spent her last night with Margaret at Howard send, much to her Henry's discontent. Wilcox is furious about her out-of-wedlock pregnancy with Helen, and Henry refuses to

acknowledge the double standards she uses to justify her own affair and blames her for Helen. Charles shows up in *Howards End* the next morning and confronts Helen. Leonard also shows up to apologize to Charles soon attacks Leonard to avenge the family scandal, causing Leonard to go into fatal cardiac arrest. Charles is then found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison. Henry is devastated by the fall of his son and Margaret steps in to rebuild the family. Henry, Margaret, Helen and their baby move to Howards End. Henry eventually gave Margaret ownership of Howard End, as Ruth had always wanted, and Margaret plans to leave her house to her nephew when she dies.

Forster's novel, *Howards End* have drawn different attention and thought to those critics who read the novel with keen observation and deep study. Forster's novel, *Howards End* have drawn different attention and thought to those critics who read the novel with keen observation and deep study. Many critics have tried to find out different possibilities of interpretation of the novel. While analyzing the novel, David Monroe finds: "*Howards End* encompasses the voice of poverty, articulated and enacted desires create the illusion of an interior and organizing gender core, an illusion discursively maintained for the purpose of regulation of sexuality within the obligatory frame of reproductive heterosexuality" (301). He means that the novel represents the voice of lower class who is massively dominated by upper class.

As Arnold Kettle finds in his own analysis of their correspondence and says "Forster's novel vent out the losses far better and more wisely than they had dealt with their early success; that they did so makes them not only tragic, but heroic" (101). Fen Carter takes Forster novels in different ways. According to Carter, "the novel, *Howards End*, Forster is not able to create unflawed protagonists of aspects" (117). As we go through his novel s, the characters are parts in two sides of struggle to be

rich and to dominate the low, poor characters.

Forster's issues are certainly not the accidental and specific. In fact, his dramatic techniques are at times submerged with excessive use of part wise text in which the surface of the dialogue seems innocuous and meandering. Knowing this, Forster is honest enough to prefer a downright defeat to any high-faluting messages. Ronald Hinge in this regard, argues that: "Forster's novel, *Howards End* wavers between his idealistic nature and his skepticism constants strangely with the ruthless negation of reality" (19). He means that Forster makes flotation between upper and lower class reality in his novels.

Jeffery Kafka finds that Forster is very successful writer in terms of lyrical novel. So he remarks: "His mastery articulation lies beneath event of poverty which akin to poverty song" (39). What Kafka is trying to say that Forster is very champion to show the pathetic condition faced by lower class while living along with upper class people.

In the Marxist class model, whether in its theoretically dichotomous form or its analytically multi-class form, class position is chiefly determined by relationship to the means of production. This is the essence of a class-in-itself. Social class itself is a matter of degree, and is partially determined by the degree of class consciousness. Marx in *The Marx-Engels Reader* states, "It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness" (4). From this idea, Marx proposes to understand the alienated state of man through an understanding of what he terms historical materialism.

By understanding the material conditions of man through history, Marx argues, man can come to understand his social and political conditions. As a man understands his social class, he makes struggle with upper class. Upper class people

to maintain their superiority, they love stay very far from the upper class people. Then maintaining social disintegration with lower class, they think that they are superior. They even do not allow their kids to play poor kids. They think that if their kids play with poor kids, they will filth and ruin the status.

In the novel, to make Forster a Marxist writer, his all characters make economic relationship pursuing material quest. Margaret Shclegel represents idealistic class while Henry Wilcox belongs to materialist. Margaret wants to maintain her higher class by marrying with Henry but Henry gets marries with her for the sake of her wealth. She is the heir of Howards End. Poor people often see the dream to be rich. They always quest for materialist comfort. For example, in the novel, poor Leonard Bast sleeps upper class girl, Helen and makes her pregnant. By sleeping with her, he dreams to be rich. Similarly, a poor girl, Jacky Bast sleeping with aristocrat, Henry thinks to build up her future. So, she is also matter seeker to build up her future.

After analyzing all the ups and downs in the lives of the characters in the novel "*Howards End*", the primary problem of the research can be identified. Why does Margaret marry to Henry Wilcox? Why does poor people like Leonard Bast love to sleep with upper class girls like Helen? Why does poor girl, Jacky Bast make illegal affair with Helen?

With a focus on two forms of capitalism private ownership and capital accumulation through Marxist perspectives, this study aims to reveal the identities of people who are caught up making economic relationship. Forster depicts the effects of capitalism on the identities of the characters from a wide range of perspectives by contrasting the characters from three different classes in the society, namely the capitalist upper middle class, the intellectual upper middle class, and the working

class. The three families featured in *Howards End* are such as the wealthy capitalist Wilcoxes, the half-German intellectual Schlegels, and the poor couples from the Bast lower class—are set in Edwardian society in England at the dawn of the 20th century.

Marxism is a term used in political theory which refers to the beliefs that a person holds regarding their social class or economic rank in society, the structure of their class, and their social class or economic rank in society, the structure of their class, and their class interests. Karl Marx writes "History of human civilization is history of class struggle (15)". He makes the distinction between class in itself, which is the category of people having a common relation to the means of production, and a class for itself, which is the stratum organized in active pursuit of its own interests.

Marx recognizes the importance of working class struggles and conflict in the development of class consciousness. The Marxist concept of class is deeply connected to the social relations of capitalism, the relations of exploitation between labor and capital that constitute the production practices of capitalism, and they are connected to them through the concept of property. Marx in *The Communist Manifesto* states, "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. The modern bourgeois society has grown from the ruins of feudal society. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other - Bourgeoisie and Proletariat"(21). Marx sees the bourgeoisie has historically played the most revolutionary part, he thinks that he bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society.

The novel is often regarded as Forster's masterpiece, certainly illustrates the inevitable repercussions of capitalism on the identities of characters. When the

Schlegel sisters encounter the affluence of the Wilcoxes in the novel, their views and responses are astonishing. Helen, in contrast to Margaret, expresses no enthusiasm about the worth of the Wilcoxes' product. Helen undervalues the importance of trade and financial interchange since she represents the upper middle class and intellectuals. She values humanism significantly more than materialism. Helen is unaffected by the Wilcoxes' wealth, however Margaret is heavily influenced by their brand of capitalism. Helen, in other words, does not sympathize with the Wilcoxes' private ownership. She has also always been aware of Mr. Wilcox's inordinate desire for financial gain. Additionally, she explains to her cousin how the Wilcoxes are ardent about developing their income-generating assets by making the following statements:

Wilcoxes collect houses They have, one, Ducie street; two, Howards End, where my great rumpus was; three, a country seat in Shropshire; four, Charles has a house in Hilton; and five, another near Epsom; and six, Evie will have a house when she marries, and probably a pied-a-terre in the country which makes seven. Oh yes, and Paul a hut in Africa makes eight (121).

According to the quotation above, Forster intentionally uses allusions to capitalism to bring up the topic of private property in his novel. By doing so, he illustrates the upper-middle class' ideas around estate property, as well as their required interactions with one another regarding property ownership. For instance, the Schlegel sisters, who are significantly impacted by the extensive and pervasive changes in society, first experience the effects of capitalism when they are forced to leave their homes at Wickham Place. They appear to have struggled with a number of real estate-related issues, including the Wickham Place's lease expiration, the inability to renew the lease, the owner's decision to abolish the Wickham Place, and Mr. Wilcox's intention

to build contemporary apartments, which are mushrooming throughout London. The conversation between Margaret and Mrs. Ruth Wilcox each give a personal assessment of the real estate property. The extract that follows demonstrates how significantly Mrs. Wilcox has been impacted by the young ladies' impending departure from their homes due to the unavoidable consequences of capitalism:

[Mrs. Wilcox] "But couldn't you get it renewed?" "I beg your pardon?" asked Margaret. "The lease, I mean." "Oh, the lease! Have you been thinking of that all the time? How very kind of you!" "Surely something could be done." "No; values have risen too enormously. They mean to pull down Wickham Place, and build flats like yours." "But how horrible!" "Landlords are horrible."

Then she said vehemently: "It is monstrous, Miss Schlegel; it isn't right. I had no idea that this was hanging over you. (58- 59).

According to the remark above, demolishing the homes and constructing new apartments generates greater financial gain for the property owners. Since they frequently invest their money in private property, including buying and selling assets, the Wilcoxes in this circumstance reap the most rewards from their investments. The poor Mrs. Wilcox, a model of a typical Victorian housewife, appears to have disregarded her husband's pragmatic and materialistic thoughts on the construction of new buildings and the demolition of the old ones in London, while Mr. Wilcox grows ravenous for the benefits of capitalism. She feels bad for Helen Schlegels and Margaret Schlegels.

The novel's interpretations of Howards End's capital value as an estate suggest that it has a high value amid the Wilcoxes' numerous other assets. The next passage reveals how Mr. Wilcox and Margaret handle Mr. Wilcox's bequest in a distinctive

way by indicating whether Charles, Mr. Wilcox's son, will inherit *Howards End* as a property or not:

“Yes. Money, since you put it so frankly. I am determined to be just to all - just to you, just to them. I am determined that my children shall have me.”

“Be generous to them,” she [Margaret] said sharply. “Bother justice!” “I am determined - and have already written to Charles to that effect -” [Margaret]

“But how much have you got?” “What?” [Margaret] “How much have you a year? I’ve six hundred.” “My income?” [Margaret] “Yes. We must begin with how much you have, before we can settle how much you can give Charles.

Justice, and even generosity, depend on that (128)

The aforementioned quotation demonstrates the obvious difference between men and women, especially when it comes to being honest while discussing money-related topics. While Mr. Wilcox makes an effort to keep his true intentions regarding the distribution of money to his heirs from his new wife, Margaret voluntarily chooses to communicate with her husband.

When she challenges his fairness, generosity, wealth, and other qualities, he responds coldly. Mr. Wilcox, a cultural heir of Edwardian culture, thinks it ludicrous for a woman to be a plain speaker like her and quite unbelievable for a woman to question a man's money. Forster gives Margaret a certain set of traits on purpose to familiarize the audience with contemporary qualities of women as well. In her capacity as an intellectual, Margaret feels free to raise a variety of issues that, on the surface, are related to capitalism, but in their deeper context, these issues also reveal Margaret's views on the struggle to achieve equality with a man. In the novel, the quotation below straightforwardly shows how the individuals are over-exposed to the harmful effects of dust due to the consequences of industrialism:

The cloud of dust that they [motor cars] had raised in their passage through the village. It was settling again, but not all into the road from which he had taken it. Some of it had percolated through the open windows, some had whitened the roses and gooseberries of the wayside gardens, while a certain proportion had entered the lungs of the villagers (.12).

As noted, Forster uses the idea of capital accumulation as a second form of capitalism in his novel in addition to "private ownership." By challenging the characters' financial motives, he merely wants to demonstrate how greediness grows over time as a result of the characters' pursuit of modernity. As the story makes clear, almost every character is motivated by financial gain in a capitalist society. Because the people's way of life has been significantly impacted by the new economic system

Upper class people for their benefit think to poor people family disintegration. As they cannot pay debt, they snatch everything of the poor people. If they do not allow them to hand their property, they even try to make them straight by taking the help of law. In this time, there are three types of class-system: working class, middle class and upper class. Bourgeoisie are something like the upper-middle class who possess a certain degree of wealth and power. The proletariat, are those who are not wealthy but they are wage-earners who often work in factories or manual labor. Unlike the bourgeoisie, whose power is related to their ability to buy things like land or property, the proletariats only power is derived from their ability to work.

Forster discusses wealth in light of its inescapable connection to "money." At the very beginning of the novel, Margaret's conversation with her aunt obviously reveals the importance of money in a capitalist system with a focus on the poor:

Money pads the edges of things,' said Miss Schlegel. 'God help those who have none.' 'But this is something quite new!' said Mrs. Munt, 'New for me;

sensible people have acknowledged it for years. You and I and the Wilcoxes stand upon money as upon islands. It is so firm beneath our feet that we forget its very existence. It's only when we see someone near us tottering that we realize all that an independent income means. (43)

The quotation makes reference to the disparity in incomes between the rich and the poor. The Schlegels are upper-middle class individuals who aren't even conscious of the presence of their own money because it is so readily available to them. With the money they have, they can also fulfill their own goals. It's interesting to note that none of the Schlegels family members are employed. Instead, they invest through the stock market.

It is clear from the novel that the two families have different opinions about demolishing outdated structures and turning them into more valuable and useful new apartments. The Wilcoxes, for instance, are heavily invested in the estate business. Because in their eyes, homes are merely commodities to be bought and sold in exchange for their physical assets. The Schlegels, on the other hand, saw the homes as much more than just a commodity. Margaret worries that "We are reverting to the civilisation of luggage, and historians of the future will note how the middle classes accreted possessions without taking root in the earth, and may find in this the secret of their imaginative poverty" (107). When the two families are compared, it is apparent that the Wilcoxes are ostensibly much more materialistic than the Schlegels.

Henry and Margaret's conversation concerning the Ducie Street residences, which would shortly be demolished, overtly shows their own opinions. Nonetheless, Margaret says that "How sad! It's only a few years since they built those pretty houses", but in return, Henry responds, "Shows things are moving. Good for trade" (130). As stated, the perspectives of males and females are completely different from one to

another. While Henry is deeply worried with the profitability of these homes as commodities, Margaret expresses her discomfort with the sights and sounds of the freshly created appearance of the street. Henry, in particular, just considers profit and loss. Margaret's remark to Henry, "I despise this continuous flux of London," further demonstrates the demise of the contemporary man in a modern civilization. On the issue of capitalism, the Schlegels' views are epitomized by the conversation between Margaret's German nephew and his uncle:

Do you imply that we Germans are stupid, Uncle Ernst?" exclaimed a haughty and magnificent nephew. Uncle Ernst replied, "To my mind. You use the intellect, but you no longer care about it. That I call stupidity." As the haughty nephew did not follow, he continued, "You only care about the things that you can use, and therefore arrange them in the following order: Money, supremely useful; intellect, rather useful; imagination, of no use at all (19).

The quotation obviously implies that, despite the Schlegels' pretense to be modern intellectuals, they are nevertheless money minded about organizing things in accordance with their usage order. Money holds the highest status for them, just like it did for the Wilcoxes. In other words, the Schlegels seem to think that imagination is completely meaningless and that money, intelligence, and wisdom come in first, second, and last, respectively. Because capitalism has a major influence on the Schlegels as well. Even though the characters have academic backgrounds passed down from their ancestors, their views on capitalism are gradually shifting as a result of their increasing thirst for accumulating more money.

The Bastis are poor so they make sound relationship with wealthy people. Mrs. Bast comes close to Helen seeking her wealth. He stands in for the working class with their degraded cultural heritage, have always been heavily influenced by

capitalism, in addition to the Wilcoxes and Schlegels. Also, they have had to deal with the negative consequences of capitalism. Due to the fact that the Basts family, specifically Leonard and Jacky, rarely provide their most fundamental needs, such as eating. For instance, Leonard typically eats his dinner while he usually says “manage to convince his stomach that it was having a nourishing meal” (38). Upper class people are so hypocrite. They are spiritually corrupted but as a matter of showing, they keep bible and seem reading but they do not know to please god, they should care for poor, needy and handicapped people. In the novel too, Mr. Wilcox who exploits her worker and snatch other son and keep as if it is her own real son. Forster portrays the migration of rural residents with agricultural links to metropolitan areas through the Basts in the novel.

The individuals who are compelled to move from rural to urban areas in England at that time are put under increased strain as a result of the new economic structure, as is well documented. One of them is the Bast family. In the former social order, Leonard Bast's grandfather farmed for a living as men of agriculture, but he now suffers as a result of industrialization and the new economic order. Unlike his grandparents, Leonard has had to rely on sources other than land cultivation, production, and consumption to get by in life, like interpersonal relationships. It is, however, no longer feasible because he was sacked. According to the Schlegel sisters, Leonard's condition can be improved, as shown in the passage below:

Something must be done for “Mr. Bast”; his conditions must be improved without impairing his independence; he must have a free library, or free tennis-courts; his rent must be paid in such a way that he did not know it was being paid; it must be made worth his while to join the Territorials; he must be forcibly parted from his uninspiring wife, the money going to her as

compensation; he must be assigned a Twin Star, some member of the leisured classes who would watch over him ceaselessly (groans from Helen); he must be given food but no clothes, clothes but no food, a third-return ticket to Venice, without either food or clothes when he arrived there. (90).

The Schlegels' best intentions for Leonard do not, however, stop Leonard from passing out. Given that Leonard is unable to adapt to either the new working conditions or modernity, it is quite obvious that he would lose his job sooner or later. Leonard's exclusion from his inherited identity is a result of his loss of status in the new economic system.

While the Basts are strongly impacted by the new economic system in the novel, the Wilcoxes also feel its effects, albeit to a lesser extent. In particular, capitalism forces Mr. Wilcox to rent his properties rather than live there. The Wilcox family, in general, is affected by the systemic changes in the economy. For instance, Mr. Wilcox lowers Margaret's inheritance to avoid the negative impacts of the economy. In order to increase their profits and to fulfill their imperial ambitions, the Wilcoxes also relocate their son Paul thousands of miles from his home country and force him to live in Nigeria. Nonetheless, the suffering the Wilcox family endures cannot be compared to that of the Bast family.

In the novel, the study of class consciousness is all inclusive, all incorporating and a wide range study of people from all walks of life. It attempts to explore the class mobility within the class hierarchies and disruption of social classes. It incorporates to explore the social exploitation, domination and discrimination existing in the society and establishes the awareness of the working class and the lower class people regarding their class interests and real life situation. The class conflict, class struggle and class mobility is the driving force of the play which is the result of class

consciousness. In this regard, M.A.R Habib writes, "Marx's thought can be approached in terms of philosophical, economic and political strata. As a philosopher, Marx's development has its roots in his early. Born into Jewish family where his father had imbibed enlightenment rationalist principle" (527). Lines clearly hint that Marxism philosophy covers general intellectual fields. It is not one but mixture of economy, political and philosophical thought. As a son of rationalist, he always believes in logic and reason. The proletariat class is the class of the all workers who work as wage labors such as doctors, engineers, professors, lawyers etc. They are not given true value of the work and bourgeois exploit most part of their earning.

The bourgeois does not work at all but it becomes the owner of large private property, while the proletariat works day and night but does not get any property at all. It is because of the exploitation. Marx used his theory of class consciousness to separate the economic class an income-based category in capitalist societies from the awareness of the privilege and power that people with position afforded people.

According to Marx:

Workers first become conscious of sharing common grievances against capitalists and eventually develop an awareness of themselves as forming a social class opposed to the bourgeoisie the proletariat. Class struggle is a historical phenomenon, born out of collective struggle that lead the life of poor people in the sand of thread and create horrific situation in the future.

(39)

He means that class struggle is not new but it is historical phenomenon. It is just little modified in the present time. The Capitalist are the property owners who owned a lot of land property and they kept so many workers, whatever is gained, the workers did not get it but they owned everything, it was the exploitation of the workers by the

feudal, so that they had class struggle.

Rich people to make inferior to the poor people takes the help of threatening and scolding. They think that their social status is to make afraid and ashamed to the poor people. They even take the help of lies and pretention to hide the truth.

Marx even describes about the rapidly developing modern material world of the bourgeois. The bourgeois is the modern capitalist class, which is the most progressive class because it has made a strong progress in the material world. It has developed different means of property such as transportation, communication, science and technology. But, bourgeois society has also its weakness because in the name of material progress it begins exploitation. Upper class people are liar and cheater to the lower class.

In modern world, people are selfish and self-centered. They count only for money and wealth. They come close easily with rich people. Everything is evaluated in the relationship of money in bourgeois society and it gives birth to the exploited class of the worker called proletarians. The proletariat class is the class of the all workers who work as wage labors such as doctors, engineers, professors, lawyers etc. They are not given true value of the work and bourgeois exploit most part of their earning. The bourgeois does not work at all but it becomes the owner of large private property, while the proletariat works day and night but does not get any property at all. It is because of the exploitation.

When bourgeois society is too much developed, it established again as multinational companies everywhere in the world and in the progress of business and trade, the bourgeois moves everywhere in the world. The proletarians and the bourgeois also take part in class struggle but in the beginning the proletariat losses because it is not united at first. When the proletariat is united and when a small part of

bourgeois come to be united with proletariat it become successful over the bourgeois. Finally, proletariat comes to get power. Marx in *The Communist Manifesto* states, the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other - Bourgeoisie and Proletariat" (21). It tells that Marx sees the bourgeoisie has historically played the most revolutionary part.

The weapons with which the bourgeoisie felled feudalism to the ground are now turned against the bourgeoisie itself. In Marxism the division of society into classes is determined by position within the process of production. The question at once branches out into a series of closely interrelated problems. For Lukacs,

Nothing happens without a conscious purpose or an intended aim, to understand history it is necessary to go further than this realization that the real. The essence of scientific Marxism consists, then, in the realization that the real motor forces of history are independent of man's (psychological) consciousness of them. (46)

He believes that the class has quite a different relation to history in pre-capitalist and capitalist period. Clash of classes always repeats till there is the existence human beings.

Marxist always believes that lower class people often feel domination from upper class, in this regard Lukas writes:

The proletariat was the first class in history that may achieve true class consciousness, because of its specific position highlighted in the Communist Manifesto as the living negation 'of capitalism. All others classes, including the bourgeoisie, are limited to a false consciousness which impedes them from

understanding the totality of history: instead of understanding each specific moment as a portion of a supposedly deterministic historical process, they universalize it and believe it is an everlasting. (99)

He means that due to class consciousness, have not feel dominated from upper class and with their feeling; such class of clash make them to revolt against upper-class.

Middle class always wants to rule on lower class taking the help upper class. For this, they become so polite and make flattery of capitalist. The bourgeois loses his individual point of view in an attempt to grasp the reality of the totality of society and of the historical process and he is condemned to a form of false consciousness. Marx writes:

for each new class which puts itself in the place of one ruling before it, is compelled, merely in order to achieve its aims, to represent its interest as the common interest of all members of society, i.e. employing an ideal formula, to give its ideas the form of universality and to represent them as the only rational and universally valid ones. (77)

The lines tell that Middle class people dream of ideal life and uses ideal formula to be rich. Here new class means middle class who has knowledge to run factory and industry. By using their knowledge, they go on uplifting their condition. Upper class people hypnotize poor people and even become successful to commodity poor people. In the novel, Leonardo as he ruins from his real estate property, he gets eagerness to sleep with Helen and later he also makes her pregnant. Helen remarks:

I am going to have a child in June, and in the first place conversations, discussions, excitement, are not good for me. I will go through them if necessary, but only then. In the second place I have no right to trouble people. I cannot fit in with England as I know it. I have done something that the

English never pardon. It would not be right for them to pardon it. So I must live where I am not known.” “But why didn’t you tell me, dearest?” (99)

The lines are trying to say that Leonardo makes friendship with Helen as he knows that she belongs to intellectual wealthy family. He just thinks for her money and makes her pregnant. His relationship with her is just for her wealth.

The possibility of class consciousness is given by the objective process of history, which transforms the proletariat into a commodity. Economical relationship always happens in the stage of class struggle is not a simple phenomenon but it always makes people to be money minded. George Lukas writes:

The struggle for this society, in which the dictatorship of the proletariat is merely a phase, is not just a battle waged against an external enemy, the bourgeoisie. It is equally the struggle of the proletariat against itself; against the devastating and degrading effects of the capitalist system upon its class consciousness. The proletariat will only have won the real victory when it has overcome these effects within itself. (80)

Lukas thinks that the proletarian are the real heroes so that they will get victory to overcome upper-class exploitation. Upper class hypocrisy and ill treatment will be put an end in the future. Today their struggle is with middle class not with upper class. For the first time Marx and Engels extended the class as historical driving forces in the Communist Manifesto:

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time indeed, either in a revolutionary re-constitution of society at

large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. (108-09)

According to this truth of class struggle and continual growth of class awareness on this basis, people cannot separate literature from these realities. Such separation is impossible because of the historical mode of writer and artist, realization, although some do it so as to take refuge under diversion and innocently help the ruling class.

In brief, the Marxist studies deals with the class struggle and class conflict of the people and of the societies. Marxism attempts to explore the class mobility within the class hierarchies and disruption of social classes. It incorporates to explore the social exploitation, domination and discrimination existing in the society and establishes the awareness of the working class and the lower class people regarding their class interests and real life situation.

Social Interaction among Economic Classes in Howard's End

The social connection between economic classes that existed in nineteenth-century England is demonstrated in Howard's End by E.M. Forester. The upper middle class, who is further divided into two factions, those of new money and those of old money, as well as the lower middle class are the main subjects of Forester's story. A member of one of the novel's three primary families—the Schlegels, Wilcoxes, or Basts—embodies each of these social groups. Forester demonstrates throughout the novel that every family, regardless of occupation or wealth, deserves to have a say in the destiny of England, which is symbolically symbolized by the Wilcox family's rural estate, Howards End. Through character development, relationships, and social connections, Forester conveys his own opinions about the course that nineteenth-century English society should take in order to achieve prosperity on all fronts and which social class will ultimately inherit England through his use of these three families.

Forester also included Leonard Bast and his lover, Jacky, to represent the lowest rung of England's middle class in an effort to establish a more realistic social circle. The Basts do not enjoy the same financial advantages of a capitalist England that the Wilcoxes do. Despite his efforts, Leonard is stuck in a low-paying position that leads nowhere, a far cry from the Wilcoxes' colonial victories. Instead of living the rich lives of either the Schlegels or the Wilcoxes, he and his lover make due with a pretty modest existence.

The Basts' inclusion by Forester is significant for a number of reasons. Secondly, despite his efforts to better himself, Leonard lacks the resources necessary to advance in society. Forester exposes and critiques the rigidity of the British social structure through Bast. By virtue of his friendship with Helen Schlegel, Leonard is able to blend into the upper class at the novel's conclusion. Helen gives the Basts and the rest of the lower class a shot at social advancement by donating a part of her to Leonard through their relationship, but Leonard's purposeful attempts to gain social ground are ineffective. When Forester imagines a future in which Helen and Leonard's unborn child can potentially benefit, he helps the lower classes by opening doors of opportunity.

While on tour in Germany, The Wilcoxes and Schegel get to know one another for the first time. The Wilcox farm house known as Howard's place finally invites Margaret Schegel and her sister Hellen to come see it. Only Hellen is able to visit the property, and in her letters to Margaret, who is staying at home to look after their younger brother Tibby, who has hay sickness, she eloquently depicts this lovely house. Hellen divulges information about her relationship with Paul, the youngest son of the Wilcox family, in such a letter. She says, "Paul and I are in love-The younger son who came here Wednesday." (1, 7). We learn about "Howards End's"

metaphorical luxury through Helen's letters as well. Her account of the home can be contrasted with the Schegels' flat and, further, with Bast's apartment in the basement house.

The novel's Mr. Wilcox and Margaret relationship is another crucial one that is sparked by Mrs. Wilcox's passing. This connection is significant because it marks Forester's first steps in fusing the intellectual and materialistic worlds. "A younger woman might have resented his masterly ways, but Margaret had too firmly a grip on life to make a fuss. She was, in her own way, as masterly. If he was a fortress, she was a mountain peak" (Forester 156). Margaret retains her belief in her equality despite Mr. Wilcox's perception of it as superior, despite what she makes him think. Despite her confidence, Margaret is aware that Mr. Wilcox and the business class are crucial to her financial future. When Margaret receives *Howards End* as her inheritance, Forester expands on this notion. This trip back to the past is brief, though. *Howards End* will pass to Helen and Leonard's kid upon Margaret's passing. The youngster serves as a symbol for all social strata in England, so Forester is conveying a message to the reader. When Helen, Margaret, Mr. Wilcox, and the infant are present, *Howards End* is active and operating. When all of England's social classes can cooperate, the country will prosper.

The thesis focuses upon the critical study of the marxist's ideology that highlights classless society. Ruth Wilcox and Margaret Schlegel have one of *Howards End*'s most significant connections. The foundation of the entire novel is laid by this economic friendship. Mrs. Wilcox represents the ideals of Old English aristocracy, in contrast to her family. She places more emphasis in family and home customs than in commerce or enterprise. Mrs. Wilcox expresses her intention to retain England (*Howards End*) steeped in Old England and its customs, keeping with the symbolism

of the novel. The existence of contradiction within this potential bequest, however, demonstrates Forester's doubt that old England can triumph upon deeper reflection.

Howards End is set in England where three families; the wealthy Wilcoxes with an imperialist attitude; the literary creative, artistic and cultural Schlegel; and the lower middle class Bast. The Schlegel represents the artistic quality of upper class idealism and their intellectual element, the Wilcoxes the traditional 'England' social morality and work ethics, and Bast the economically precarious lower middle class and the struggle they face in society. Although certain members of these three groups clash occasionally, their lives are intertwined and they must find a way to get along with one another. These three families each symbolize different facets of British society. Forester unifies these extensive social classes through his novel and starts to dismantle the caste system in England. Each family and its members come together through a variety of ties and relationships to form a less rigid social system that promotes greater mobility. No social group should rule over another in Forester's proposed society; rather, each sector should grow interdependent on the others. Forester anticipates that this integration will lead to a more prosperous and productive England.

In the novel, The Basts, are powerless to endure in the capitalist system. They don't consider amassing wealth or owning property. After Leonard lost his job, their efforts to combat the negative side effects of capitalism have been in futile. Instead of making investments, their focus is merely on surviving.

Today, humanity is dominated by materialism. Poor people always feel inferior in the hand of materialistic society. To get name and fame, economic growth plays a vital role. People only count for money which lacks humanity. So, materialism becomes an obstacle which makes a distraction in class harmony. Those

who are economically strong dominate and suppress to the poor people. This control of rich over the poor creates class struggle. When one finds oneself superior to others in terms of economy then a kind of feeling of hatred and refusal towards the poor may ascend in him or her. This also could gradually lead to class struggle. However, they engage in liberal work for satisfactions that are wholly above monetary compensation.

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