



การวิเคราะห์สภาวะความแปลกแยกในวรรณกรรมชุด แฮรี่ พอตเตอร์ ของ เจเค โรลิ่ง จากมุมมอง
มาร์คซิสต์

*A MARXIST ANALYSIS OF ALIENATION IN J.K. ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER
BOOK SERIES*

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Nowadays, people live in a state of differences in the aspects of races, religions, classes, genders, and ideas which lead to discrimination and oppression. This situation causes discriminated people to become marginalized and unequally treated by the privileged leading them into the sense of alienation a number of ways.

This research aimed to study the concept of alienation in the *Harry Potter* book series and to explore the factors which lead the characters to develop senses of alienation. This paper draws upon a Marxist theory of alienation to analyze the books by focusing on four main types of alienation including alienation from fellow humans, alienation from products, alienation from human nature, and alienation from false consciousness. Ultimately, this research asserts that alienation as portrayed in *Harry Potter* may originate from a foundation that typifies class struggle.

The Harry Potter series of book contain depictions of alienation in different forms caused by discrimination, prejudice, and conflicts created by of racial identities. The characters in the series are separated into small groups determined by their races, classes, working conditions and economic situation, for example, pure-blood, half-blood, mud-blood, and non-wizard creatures such as house-elves. Therefore, some are dehumanized and this leads them to feel alienated. Hence, alienation can be defined as a state which separates human identity from human nature. In addition, capitalism itself is a considerable cause of alienation as the economic system plays an important part in creating social inequality. As a result, such the inequity leads to the estrangement among the laborers' society.

Therefore, the researcher hopefully believes that this research will give the readers the benefits to create non-oppression and non-inequality society and to live in the communities with freedom and respect.

Keyword : Marxist analysis, Alienation, Harry Potter

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Chapter1

Introduction

In a cosmopolitan world we are living in, there are differences in the aspects of races, religions, classes, genders, and ideas. These differences have obviously led to discrimination and oppression, causing discriminated people to become marginalized and unequally treated by the privileged leading them to a sense of alienation in many ways.

Alienation can be defined as a state which separates human identity from human nature (Mengstie, 2011b). Capitalist economic value is one important source of alienation in society as well as in the wider world. Alienation can be conditioned by and can be a consequence of radically unequal economic status, dehumanization, poor working conditions, diverse social classes, and violations of human rights. Rahel Jaeggi (2004) stated that, alienation is the inability to establish a relation to other human beings, to social institutions, to things, and by means of (Jaeggi, 2014). Sociologists including Erich Fromm (1900) defined alienation as the separation of “the individual from some aspects of society”(as cited in Allen, 1971, P.154). In Fromm’s view, social alienation implied man becomes alienated from himself. This process includes the phenomena of “powerlessness” and “meaninglessness”. The term ‘alienation’ was also used by Karl Marx to explore the relation of individuals(Neuhouser, 2014).

In regards to cultural productions, the concept of alienation can be expressed through media, such as advertisement, drama, soap opera and especially literatures.

Andree Michel (1986) stated that children learn about the concept mostly from literature. To Michel, children can grasp the underlying ideas of what they are reading including controversial issues such as racism, classism and sexism. “If they receive enough idea, the children will view this problem as ‘normal stereotype’ of the society”(Michel, 1986, P. 16-17). Therefore, we cannot deny that, through literature, people absorb the idea of discrimination and prejudice which can lead to alienation.

The researcher has chosen J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter Book Series* for the study of alienation because the series portray characters with differences of races, classes and genders. John Houghton (2001) explained that people who read Harry Potter Series tend to receive the ideas of moralities because “these series hide the moral thought, social law and goodness as Rowling hides social problems and bias between characters, solving them in the right way(Houghton, 2001, P.3)”. Though subtly illustrated by the author in her fictions, gaps among the characters in the stories can be detected. In other words, Harry Potter’s world is the world of differences.

In *Harry Potter*, the different social classes play a great influence on values in the world of wizardry. Rowling (2001) revealed in an interview that her concept of ‘bloods’ was inspired by a World War II Holocaust exhibition (Sexton, 2001). In *Harry Potter*, blood types which are categorized into three groups, pure blood, half blood, and mud blood, possibly lead to racial and class discrimination and also a sense of alienation. Such discrimination can be seen in the story, for example, Drago Malfoy, a pure-blood character, looks down and calls Hermionie, one of the main character who is a muggle-born, “filthy moodblood”. In the same view as Nazi Army, the lineage of primal wizards’ family is considered as pure-blooded wizard. They believe that only their heirs are worthy of inheriting witchcraft and magic and other

blood classes should be eradicated from the wizardry world. Although Hermionie has spectacular skills in spells and charms even before she is admitted to Hogwarts, she is still discriminated and faces disdain from the pure-blood classmates.

Not only class, but gender is also another mark of discrimination. Most women do not get their strength from magical power but from their attitude and personal character. The characters, like Hermione, Luna or Ginny, are presented as brave women among the androcentric society. Still they must fight against patriarchal values of wizardry world. According to Donna Dickenson(2001), male stereotype has been defined as “the competitive person” which means “If women steps forward men, it might be some kind of weird”(Dickenson, 2001, P. 213). In the world of wizard, half blood and mud blood wizards are categorized as the inferior. Hermione and Luna need to fight against the social value to show that female are equal to male.

In summary, *Harry Potter* contains diverse types of alienation caused by factors such as class struggle and racial discrimination. Some characters alienate themselves from others while some others alienate themselves from their duty or feel estranged from places, work, even from human nature. As a result, this research aims to analyze alienation in *Harry Potter* based on Marxist concepts to identify factors which lead the characters to a sense of estrangement and to explore the potential impacts of such alienation on characters in the series.

Chapter2

Literatures Review

Alienation: Definitions and Concepts

According to Oxford Dictionary, alienation is defined as “the state or experience of being isolated from a group or an activity to which one should belong or in which one should be involved.”(“Oxford Dictionary," 2017). The word ‘alienate’ comes from Latin ‘alienatio’ which means ‘unlike’. In addition, alienation is ‘state of being alienation or estranged from something or somebody.’(Allen, 1971, P. 1).

Alienation has been found throughout the course of history in different forms. Hegel Grotius suggested that alienation is an explanation of bias and prejudice of all cultures. Grotius not only used the word “alienation” as a term of separation, but also a kind of surrender and sacrifice(Allen, 1971, P. 54). Mengstie (2011) states that alienation relates to ‘otherness’ which means a quality of being unlike the others in terms of differences of sex, physical ability, race, and class. In addition, alienation is assumed as the concept which separates the abnormal from the normal by using the perspective of stereotype ‘Us and them’ ”(Mengstie, 2011a, P. 7).

From a postcolonial perspective, alienation is closely related to the concept of otherness which involves doubleness and identity differences. “The other” is the dualistic opposite of “self”. The Eurocentric colonizers value worldviews based on their own culture. Therefore, “colonizers will not accept colonized people’s different cultures due to barbaric feeling, uncivilization, and etc.”(Mitchell, 1997, P. 533).

Marxist perspectives on Alienation

Marxism focuses on economy and class struggle, the site of inequality and exploitation between two classes- capitalists and laborers. Capital is normally inherited from one generation of the elite and capitalist class to another, and it never belongs to the laboring class(Harman, 2008). Karl Marx posited that “class struggles, human distinction, and self-consciousness between capitalists and laborers can cause alienation” (Allen, 1971, P. XXXIII). Alienation has a strong impact on laborers and expands to a gap between the two classes because “the worker becomes poorer the more wealth he produces” (Marx, 1932, P. 137). Marx (1932) also explained in his work that “the realization of labor is its objectification. In the sphere of political economy, this realization of labor appears as a loss of reality for the worker, objectification as loss of and bondage to the object, and appropriation as estrangement, as alienation”(Marx, 1932, P. 39). The capitalists, who do not appear on the line of production, possess products while they give some fewer rewards and wages to their labors causing them to become remote and estranged from the products.

In ‘Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts (1844)’, Marx explained that the term ‘alienation’ is used to criticize society and characteristics of labors. Marx criticized Hegel’s idea as being too abstract and “this idea cannot express the real history of mankind”.(Marx, 1932, P. 6). Marx used the idea of alienation through class struggle. His key concept of the alienation was that the workers became powerless slave and were controlled by their works or their employers. Marx further stated that “The realization of labor is its objectification. In the sphere of political

economy, this realization of labor appears as a loss of reality for the worker, objectification as loss of and bondage to the object, and appropriation as estrangement, as alienation”(Marx, 1932, P. 39). From this quotation, Marx proposed that if the laborers lost their own goals and let the work control them, they would be objectified and alienated from the products and other people. Marx suggested that laborers should fulfill themselves and developed their work with their will. This refers to Marx’s view that labors are objectified. Marx’s economic alienation theory has four main aspects as follow.

I. Alienation from fellow men

Marx (1932) stated that laborers were classified into various groups based on their race, such as white laborers, black laborers and Asian laborers(Marx, 1932). Here, alienation would occur not only through the class division of the laborers from the rest of the society, and from each other by their strict racial categorizations. Marx used this term of alienation to reveal an inequality among laborers’ class. The laborers who thought that “they differed from others would alienate themselves from the community and worked by themselves without the contact with others”(Marx, 1932, P. 41).

II. Alienation from products

According to this concept, the laborers did not experience any sense of ownership of the products that they made because the profits were transferred to their employers. Therefore, the laborers produced goods which would never offer them a

sense of personal ownership, nor any opportunity to acquire the products which they created. According to Cox, “The workers produce cash crops for the market when they are malnourished, build houses in which they will never live, make cars they can never buy, produce shoes they cannot afford to wear, and so on”(Cox, 1998, P. 5). Under the capitalism, the workers are alienated from their goods because the workers cannot afford things they produce, and all the products belong to another’s property. In capitalism, products and labors was separated from one another which lead to social inequality. The products which the laborers creates were owned by other employers, including customers, and product owners. The labors feel uncomfortable toward activities they do and are isolated from the goods they produce. This types of alienation creates class hierarchy between classes.

III. Alienation from human nature

Marx saw human as species which had the abilities to create things around them as he wrote in his research, *The German Ideology*, that “the division of labor offers us the first example of how, as long as man remains in natural society, that is, as long as a cleavage exists between the particular and the common interest, as long, therefore, as activity is not voluntarily, but naturally, divided, man’s own deed becomes an alien power opposed to him, which enslaves him instead of being controlled by him”(Marx, 2016a, P. 12). Therefore, laborers were just only the machine working for their master to create the merchandises. From Marx’s perspective, under capitalism, laborers were forced to work without any sense of their own interests or profits. Although the laborers’ duties increased or the laborers

produced more products, they are denied personal benefits by employers who keep the benefits themselves.

IV Alienation from production process

Marx identified alienation as a lack of control over the process of production. The laborers who work under the control of capitalists represent repetitive machines which conduct the same activities over times. As a result, laborers feel themselves in the animal function- eating, drinking, and awakening to work for their career. Furthermore, they work as robotic machines because they conduct activities without their own interest or their own will. This state leads the laborers to alienation by feeling estranged from production activities. This situation deteriorates to workers' physical and mental health. As an activity turns against laborers' lives, their independence no longer exists. They are depended on their employers. Here, the laborers adopt self-estrangement and let capitalists command the process of production and control them to work harder, longer, and faster to produce the product which the laborers do not own.

V False consciousness and alienation

In some aspects, Larsson indicated in his work, *False Consciousness Revisited. On Rousseau, Marx and the Positive Side of Negative Education*, that Marx's false consciousness is defined as the pitiful state of affair when the laborers happen to "be mistaken regarding the truth of his own motives, ideas, and

actions”(Larsson, 2011, P. 131). Therefore, the unfortunate laborers slips into the illusion which hides the capitalists’ real purposes behind their actions.

The false consciousness might be explained as the thought of people who think that the other different classes are superior to their own class. Lacking honesty among classes, this idea can destroy class ideology; thus, revolution cannot be avoided. Antonio Gramsci (2009) stated in his work that people who encounter against false consciousness “do not immediately broach the problem of hegemony. However, they assemble all the necessary elements for its emergence into a controlling position in his discourse.” (Thomas, 2009, P. 8). In other word, the capitalists and the government share the benefits in business causing the inferiority among laborers both consciously and unconsciously. This situation opens the path for capitalists to dominate laborers and activate the process of production which causes alienation.

The laborers do not immediately seem to realize the problem from domination; however, they participate in all essential process of production elements in controlled position. At the same time, they are not treated as equal as the privileged whom they work for leading to alienation.

According to Marxism, we may infer that the theory focuses on class structure such as “the rich and the poor”, “Powerful people and weak people” or “Business owners and workers”. The idea shows inequality between two classes which causes conflicts and fight to both social classes to change power balance(Cleaver, 1982, P. 4). Raymond Williams states that these concepts are divided into two main contents.

First is social class and product. This concept emphasizes the object ownership and the products. It classifies parts people in two different groups (upper class and lower class). The inequality between both social classes is the origin of the distribution by social equality.

Second is social class and authority. This concept focuses on the social relationship of unequal power which can control other people's behavior. This concept divides people into two subgroups which are 'governor and subordinate', 'authorized people and powerless people'. Subordinate class wants to empower their rights as equal as the governor, and vice versa the governors try to hold their authority or seek more power(Raymond, 1977, P. 13).

In summary, Marxist perspective on alienation focuses on class struggle. The lower class does not have the opportunity to upgrade themselves like the higher class. Therefore, they were persecuted by the authorized people. Then, they might feel estranged and cannot take part in the community due to many factors such as, economy and class. Moreover, they are also dehumanized by the higher class people as the outcast in the society. Thus, they sometimes alienate themselves from the elites.

Harry Potter Book Series

Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle presents the life of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The main story are concerns Harry's fight against Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard who intends to become immortal, overthrow the wizard governing body

known as the Ministry of Magic and subjugate all wizards and Muggles (non-magical people). J.K. Rowling separates these series into seven books. Each of the seven books is set over the course of one school year. Harry struggles with the problems that he encounters.

First book is named *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Harry Potter, who lives with his uncle family because he lost his parents as an infant, finds out that he is a wizard and attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There, he makes many friends including, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. However, a teacher at the school possessed by Lord Voldemort who accidentally loses a part of his life when he failed to kill infant Harry. He tries to steal a magical stone which can give the immortality to who possesses. Finally, Harry and his friends success to stop him.

Second book is named *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Ron's sister, Ginny, receives an old diary which contains a part of Voldemort's soul. She does not realize that she is getting possessed. He uses Ginny to open Chamber of Secrets which houses a monstrous snake, Basilisk, while drains Ginny's life to reanimate himself. Harry and Ron are bound to solve the issues and save everyone including Ginny and Hermione who is petrified by Basilisk.

Third book is called *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. A prisoner named Sirius Black (Harry's Godfather) escapes from Azkaban (the prison of the magical world). Harry believes that Sirius was the reason of his parents' death. Therefore, Harry tries to kill him when Sirius tries to arrest the person who actually was the cause of Harry's parents' death. He is Pettigrew who is Ron's rat in disguise. Harry realizes that Sirius is innocent and tries to save him from Dementors who suck the soul out of people.

Forth book is *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Hogwarts organizes the Tri-Wizard Tournament with two Wizing School. However, someone nominates Harry's name though he is under-age and he is chastised by people because they think he did it himself for fame. He beats the rivals and reaches the trophy with Cedric (his rival). They touch it at the same time and are transported to Voldemort's father's graveyard. Cedric is killed while Voldemort takes Harry's blood to create resurrection ceremony. Voldemort resurrects successfully and fight against Harry. Finally, Harry escapes with Cedric's dead body.

Fifth book is named *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Very few people believe that Dark Lord is back including the Ministry of Magic. They slander Harry and Dumbledore (Hogwarts's Headmaster) as liars. Now, Hogwarts is under control by Dolores Umbridge who entitles herself as a new headmistress. She changes Hogwarts's curriculum because of fear, for example, students cannot use wands during Defense Against the Dark Arts class. Therefore, Harry and his friends form a group of students and name it Dumbledore's Army and train them to face Voldemort someday. Finally they set off the prophecy regarding Harry and Voldemort, and end up being attacked by Dark Lord.

Sixth book is called *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Harry gets to know about hocruces Voldemort makes. (A Horcrux is an object in which a Dark wizard or witch has hidden a fragment of his or her soul. The owners will be immortal because the souls are not destroyed). Dumbledore is killed by Drago Malfoy while he discovers that one of the hocruces, Locket of Salazar Slytherin, is a fake. Dumbledore tells him about other hocruces to Harry before he dies. Harry and his friends decide to leave school in order to find and destroy other hocruces.

The Deathly Hallows is the last book where Harry needs to find the hocruxes to beat Voldemort and finds that he is the last hocrux. To defeat Voldemort, he has to die to destroy Voldemort's soul inside his body. This brings to the battle of Hogwarts's fight against Death Eaters. Harry fights and kills Voldemort.

Related Studies on *Harry Potter*

Nova Dahlén (2009) indicates that *Harry Potter* Series contain the perspective of discrimination and this concept involved the causes of alienation, in race, economy, gender, and in-betweenness. Dahlén (2009) analyses a character like Severus Snape in her research. Dahlén compares Snape to three other characters: Voldemort, Dumbledore, and Harry. Her research aims to examine as an outsider, and also analyze the effect on the novel. Although the main characters, for example Harry, Voldemort, and Dumbledore, are classified as the outsiders in the story, they differ from Snape because "allegiances are clear: they are either on the good or the evil side."(Dahlén, 2009, P. 1). Dahlén argues that the Snape's perspective as an outsider can help distinguish between aspect of good and evil in the novel. She discusses that Snape is a cruel and violent character who expresses his hatred through his behavior similarly to Voldemort. Therefore, Snape is one of the most evident outsider characters in these series. Furthermore, Dahlén indicates that Snape chooses to be 'the other' of the society himself because he must keep the secret to overthrow Voldemort. Dahlén also describes Snape as a child conceived outside of love(Dahlén, 2009, P. 3). In the story, Snape appears as a sad and solitary character compared to others in the story. Snape's ambiguity causes Harry and the readers to be oblivious about his real intention until the last book in which the readers discover the

truth.(Dahlén, 2009, P. 5). However, Even though Harry feels sorry for him, Snape is still the Death Eater in his mind. Therefore, Dahlén concludes that Snape's distance justify himself as an outcast in the story.

Dahlén concludes her research that the outsider is a main theme in *Harry Potter* book series. Those characters, such as Harry, Dumbledore, Snape, and Voldemort are portrayed as odd or lonely characters. However, Snape's unidentified characteristic helps him to spy on Dark Lord's side while he always presents his care to Harry's mother, Lilly. This is the reason why he chooses to leave the evil side and becomes the outsider as his identity cannot identify.

In the same view, Cecilia Friis (2013) indicates that the theme of abandon children can also lead the characters to be the other of the society before they become heroes or heroines. The objective of her work, "*Abandoned Children in Literature: The Orphans in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*", aims to examine how orphans and abandoned children develop themselves from the outcasts of the society to heroes or villains. Friis discusses in her research that some characters including Voldemort, Harry and Neville become 'the other' because they are orphans.

Friis indicates that orphans are the outsiders of the society whom no one wishes to concentrate at first, but then these characters usually achieve the mission at the end as she points out, "the oppressed children take control over their own lives and become the conquering heroes"(Friis, 2013, P. 4). She elaborates more about this point in her work, "*Abandoned Children in Literature: The Orphans in JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*", that " it is possible to see how Voldemort's malignity stems from jealousy towards people who have experienced the

feeling of love that he never experienced”(Friis, 2013, P. 10). The quotation shows that when someone does not receive good treat, they might see themselves as an outcast of the society. Friis sees Harry as an outcast of the society because he feels alienated from their home; however, he amplifies his courage during his stay at school. She concludes her research that the feeling of abandonment represents people’s feeling at some point of their life. Those who are abandoned usually escape into the world which they feel like the comfort zone to create hope.(Friis, 2013, P. 17)

She sums up that Rowling uses orphan’s characteristic, which are isolation and alienation, to develop their self-conscious and their self-actualization. They are mistreated and neglected from their family in the early part of their childhood which results in being the outcasts without love and affection. She also implicates that the abandonment is the feeling which leads people live in isolation. And then, the isolated might create the hope to escape from being the others of the society.

Evidently, it has been acknowledged that *Harry Potter* Series contain the concept of otherness. However, there is still limited research on the concept of alienation in *Harry Potter* Series. Therefore, the researcher hopes that this study will give the readers benefit in further study.

Chapter 3

Marxist Alienation in *Harry Potter Book Series*

Harry Potter, Marxism, and Estrangement

In the *Harry Potter* series, the world of wizardry is divided into many different class hierarchies making some characters, such as the Weasleys and the house-elves, encounter alienation from class struggles. Likewise, some creatures, such as the house-elves, experience exploitation by the upper classes because they serve wizards without wages. This situation represents alienation from human nature because wizards treat house-elves as slaves, objects or animals. This dehumanization brings a sense of rootlessness and leads them to a sense of alienation from human nature.

Marx (1932) stated that “The human commodity, man in the form of a commodity; it also produces him as a mentally and physically dehumanized”(Marx, 1932, P. 48). Therefore, the sources of alienation originate from dehumanization leading the laborers to feel alienated. Lack of human reciprocity causes the laborers to become objects themselves. Marx also added that “Man appropriates his integral essence in an integral way, as a total man. All his human relations to the world -- seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling, thinking, contemplating, sensing, wanting, acting, loving”(Marx, 1932, P. 58). Marx’s explanation presents that the lack of these relations transforms human to inhuman.

In *Harry Potter*, house-elves are not wizards, but they are regarded as ‘non-wizard part-human’. This represents house-elves as inferior creatures, so their identity is unspecified. They are categorized as inhuman, and disdained by their owners (Riss, 2006). As semi-animal wizards, the house-elves are oppressed by most wizards. As Dobby the house elf puts it, “Dobby has never been asked to sit down by a wizard — like an equal” (Rowling, 1999, P. 13). This hybridity presents bias towards racial identity as slavery oppression, which relates to alienation from human nature, because the capitalists treat laborers as the inferior. Considering from how he becomes nervous, Dobby feels delighted when Harry shows his sympathy since Dobby is always treated as a beast by being blocked his rightful rights by his master. According to Marx, he said “Nature as it comes into being in human history -- in the act of creation of human society -- is the true nature of man; hence nature as it comes into being through industry” (Marx, 1932, P. 61). Hence, every human owns their creative abilities and rights. Conversely, house-elves cannot free themselves. Consequently, Dobby feels alienated by enslavement by his master. Lack of independence is the result of his masters’ disdain of him as inhuman, causing alienation.

Dobby is controlled by his masters which result in alienation of human nature, and he is also forced to wear old filthy clothes which also leads to alienation. Clothes represent as an object of freedom in *Harry Potter*. Like Ron, Dobby is objectified by other wizards because of his dirty clothes which represent a symbol of enslavement. “Dobby, plucking at the pillowcase “Tis a mark of the house-elf’s enslavement, sir. Dobby can only be freed if his masters present him with clothes, sir. The family is careful not to pass Dobby even a sock, sir, for then he would be free to leave their house forever.” (Rowling, 1999, P. 177). This quotation presents Dobby’s

bad feeling when he talks about freedom through his clothes. In other words, the enslavement represents a factor of alienation from human nature. This is the reason why he loses himself by being blocked from his thought.

Marx also indicated that a laborer becomes alienated because “he does not confirm himself in his work, but denies himself, feels miserable and unhappy, does not develop free mental and physical energy, but mortifies his flesh and ruins his mind.”(Marx, 1932, P. 139). Without any motivating inspiration, most house-elves in the story are normally forced to work. When they break the rules, they will punish themselves for flouting their master’s orders. For example, Dobby commits self-punishment because he almost discloses the facts about the return of Voldemort(Rowling, 1999). This self-punishment represents dehumanization when the laborers break their master’s command. Schacht (1971) explained that alienation from human nature refers to a person’s separation from his human consciousness and then they will lose their humanity(Schacht, 1971).

For this reason, Dobby tends to be alienated from human nature since he dehumanizes himself using self-punishment. As one of the effects of alienation, self-punishment leads people to lose their sense of self. And then, this situation allows them to be more easily controlled by their master; for example, Dobby who is controlled by the Malfoys. Dobby does not only lose the ability of thinking, but he also ruins his self-actualization by committing the self-torment. Hence, this self-dehumanization results in alienation from human nature by being blocked from expressing the opinion.

Similar to Dobby, Kreacher also feels alienated from human nature. Because of prejudice toward blood lineage, Kreacher unwillingly presents his sense of

thralldom to Harry. From this reason, Kreacher encounters alienation from human nature due to his involuntary service. He becomes alienated because of his dissatisfaction towards his new master; however, treated as an object and a property, he is unable to refuse his involuntary enslavement. However, his intention to diverse his loyalty from “The Order of Phoenix” to “Death Eater” demonstrates his resistance toward his job.

In conclusion, alienation from human nature results in conditions of surrender, objectification and dehumanization. People encountering this kind of alienation will suffer from their work as their rights are limited, and they cannot present their creativity to their masters. This reason causes them dissatisfaction and lack of freedom.

Harry Potter and Capitalist Exploitation

Like humans in the muggle world, the privileged in the wizardry world are able to possess better quality of things, such as, magical tools such as wands and brooms. Magic becomes commodity. To afford the better belongings, good career becomes the important factor to possess essential things. However, the lower class wizards, such as Mr. Weasley who works in the Ministry of Magic, still suffers from financial problems. The Ministry of Magic is divided into different departments which are responsible for different purposes, and each of them takes the responsibility for only their own work. As the lower workers operating in the Department of Misuse of Muggle Artifacts office, Mr. Weasley works separately from other people because most wizards in other departments (especially Cornelius Fudge) do not want to interact with muggle belongings or with muggles(Rowling, 1999).

Therefore, The Department of Misuse of Muggle Artifacts becomes the office that nobody will voluntarily work in, and people who work in this department will turn into the middle rank officers of the Ministry. They cannot voice their opinion and have to encounter scorn from other wizards in the same Ministry. Moreover, they are also banished to work in an uncomfortable and badly equipped office and required to do hard work. Mr. Weasley says, “We haven’t got a window, we’ve asked, but they don’t seem to think we need one.”(Rowling, 2003, P. 132). Even though he asks for the window, his request is denied. This discrimination affects Mr. Weasley’s work directly, and the sense of surrendering disturbs him. Finally, Mr. Weasley is alienated from his fellow men and ignored by his employer, Cornelius Fudge, who thinks that Weasley belong to a lower class. Mr. Weasley is also alienated from his co-workers in the Ministry. Due to associating with muggles, Mr. Weasley is disdained by other wizards. Besides, Fudge has built excellent friendships with wealthy wizard families, such as the Malfoys. Even though Mr. Weasley is a pure-blooded wizard, Mr. Malfoy always treats him as a betrayer of pure blood dignity by looking down on him as if he were a ‘muggle-lover’, so he will not be promoted to a higher position because he lacks ambition. Marx stated in his work that “the hatred of laborers is presented inside their mind as the interpersonal emotion which sees the owner or the people they work for or with as an enemy”(Marx, 1932, P. 22). The working styles and profits empower selfishness between Mr. Weasley and Mr. Malfoy because Mr. Malfoy always vies for Fudge’s attention while Mr. Weasley fails to attract Fudge’s attention due to his muggle-related duty.

Furthermore, Marx also added in his work that “to hire out one's labour is to begin one's enslavement. To hire out the materials of labour is to establish one's

freedom.... Labour is man; the materials, on the other hand, contain nothing human.”(Marx, 1932, P. 121). Therefore, the competition between workers creates conflict between both groups, especially when the competition relates to money. They are obligated to compete against each other to attract their employers. However, Mr. Malfoy’s appealing achievement results in Mr. Weasley’s failure which leads him to be alienated from his leader.

Characters such as Ron Weasley also feels alienated because of his family’s financial status. The class conflict does not only impact Mr. Weasley, but it also affects his children. Due to their poverty, The Weasleys are unable to afford some objects due to their parsimonious mother, so they received their belonging from their elder siblings. This is why some of their children, such as Ron and Ginny face alienation from fellow men, for example with Mr. Malfoy. Therefore, it is probably hard for Ron to receive some luxury things, such as a broom, "A Nimbus Two Thousand!" Ron moaned enviously. "I've never even touched one."(Rowling, 1997, P. 130). Ron feels alienated from Malfoy since Ron cannot afford the valuable things; hence, he is scorned by Malfoy from his powerlessness which is the source of self-alienation(Jaeggi, 2014, P. XXII). Not only Ron encounters against scorn, but Ginny also faces this trouble as Voldemort says “Little Ginny’s been writing in it for months and months, telling me all her pitiful worries and woes — how her brothers tease her, how she had to come to school with secondhand robes and books, how”(Rowling, 1999, P. 309). Hence, Ginny becomes alienated from other people who disdain her as lower class because of class struggle and economy finance.

Not only Mr. Weasley encounters the alienation from fellow men, even some wizardry teachers also face similar problems. Marx explained in his work that

“Similarly, senses and enjoyment of other men have become my own appropriation. Apart from these direct organs, social organs are therefore created in the form of society”(Marx, 1932, P. 59). Due to the lack of interest and under control, people who face this situation might be unsatisfied resulting in developing to the alienation. To relieve The Order of Phoenix, a new Hogwarts headmistress, Dolores Umbridge, decides to change Hogwarts regulation to discriminate and suppress instructors who have different opinions. She also tries to dismiss other teachers who defy her authority. This is a reason why some professors feel a sense of alienation caused by their unwillingness to conform and perform their job.

The conflict between the capitalist, exemplified by Umbridge, and other workers causing the workers to feel estranged and show a sign of Marxist alienation, is evident when Hagrid is assigned to teach Magical Creatures Class. Because of his love of nature and creature, Hagrid desires to show that some creatures, such as Hippogriffs and Thestrals, have kindness hidden in their behavior; however, Umbridge opposes to the idea and tries to adjust his attitude while also discriminating him. Hagrid thus feels alienated from human nature because he is forced to work unwillingly. His attitude toward magical creatures is contrast to Umbridge’s criteria and her authority forces him to surrender causing him to feel displeased toward her and unhappy with his job.

Unlike Dobby, Kreacher, an old Black family house-elf, also encounters against alienation from fellow men. This alienation illustrates relationship between laborers and capitalists. Marx stated “the working day has been increased, as a result of the employers' greed”(Marx, 1932, P. 39). The more the workers exert themselves in his work, the more they become alienated object, especially with their employers.

The business owners only think that the laborers are machines working for the owner's products. The business owners transform to enemy toward labors. Not only the capitalists alienate labors, but working with other different class colleagues in bad environment is also included as another factor causing alienation from fellow men.

Similar to Dobby and Kreacher, Umbridge's discrimination causes Hagrid to become rootless and alienated from his own works. Arun Joshi(2015) stated in his work that a person who becomes alienated is influenced by "suffering from a deep sense of powerlessness and meaninglessness. These psychological problems come in the form of alienation, loneliness, and rootlessness."(Joshi, 2015, P. 83). Therefore, Hagrid loses his root by being commanded by Umbridge resulting him to lose his power of being a teacher and have to be submissive to Umbridge's order. Umbridge creates another class hierarchy which raises power over other lower class wizards. She uses the result of teaching evaluation to force Hagrid and illustrates other people to judge him as a stupid troll to show her power over Hogwarts teachers. The subject, like Umbridge, oppress other people to be fearful of their power, so they would do all possible methods to devalue others as inferior people. Then those who were oppressed will become alienated from fellow men.

In conclusion, the causes of alienation between people arise from class exploitation. Because of benefits, people in the superior class try in find better ways to gain their profit. This situation affects the laborers or the inferior to feel estranged and separate themselves to work in isolation.

Harry Potter and Invisible Production

In capitalism, products and laborers are separated from one another resulting in social inequality. The laborers are unable to use or possess the products which they create because the products belong to other people, such as factory owners and customers. While laborers produce goods, they suffer from the process of production. Marx stated that, “the object that labor produces, its product, stands opposed to it as something alien, as a power independent of the producer.”(Marx, 1932, P. 39). The laborers feel alienated because they exist merely as objects. The values of their labors as well as their personal significance are greatly reduced. This kind of alienation creates the wide gaps between laborers themselves and products. In short, alienation from product comprises three main factors: the owners get the products to sell; the laborers who create the products do not own them; the profits belongs to the owners.

In *Harry Potter*, the laborers face alienation from production of abstract goods called ‘immaterial product’. Marx (2016) analyzed the idea of product into two different types. The first is product in the form of material products, for example books, pictures, bags etc. The other is presented in the form of immaterial products which include service. The labor behind this idea is service-giving work, including such things as doctors, priests, actors, servants etc.(Marx, 2016b).

Dobby faces alienation from immaterial products. House-elves besides Dobby are represented as slaves who work without payment. Similar to other characters who are alienated from their product, the source of alienation is their work, which in the house-elves’ case also includes services. Dobby notices this problem when he is the servant of the Malfoys. After gaining his freedom through Harry, Dobby seeks a job as a servant at Hogwarts. Although he gains independence, the

nature of work he must choose is impossible: he will be a servant once again. His quality of life is still unstable because he has to find more work to do as he says it is very difficult for a house-elf who has been dismissed to get a new position, “Sir, very difficult indeed — Dobby has traveled the country for two whole years, sir, trying to find work!”(Rowling, 2000, P. 378). Suffering before he starts working at Hogwarts, Dobby’s service is valueless and no one needs his service because they must pay salary to him. Furthermore, when he encourages other house-elves to find some work and gain a better life, he is disdained by them, which also leads Dobby to be alienated.

Argus Filch also encounters alienation from product (his work) in different ways. Filch is one of the most pitiful characters which we lose in translation since he presents himself as a villain in many readers’ point of views. Moreover, his work brings some challenges to achieve. Even though he knows Hogwarts perfectly compared to many students or some teachers at Hogwarts, he still feels alienated from his works as a caretaker who gives services to other people. Because Filch always keeps an eye on students, this is the reason why the students fear him and judge him by their bias; however, he is one of good caretakers at Hogwarts. Filch is a person who always sanitizes, repairs or prevents the school from damages, even the students never notice. This state leads him to be alienated from fellow men and also alienated from product at the same time.

Born as a squib or wizard born without magic, Filch is classified in the lowest class of the wizardry world, by no means that he is bullied from work and status. Therefore, as lower class population in wizardry society, he works in isolation among the magical citizens, so all of his works are managed manually. Receiving student’s hatred results him to be rootless and worthless. Although he repairs many damaged

objects in the school, the students do not know what he does; as well as the objects which he repairs will be broken again because some students try to annoy him to do more work. Being ignored causes Filch to be alienated from fellow men and also from product.

In conclusion, class struggle influences Marxist alienation. The capitalists block workers by declining and objectifying them from human nature, product and society. Lacking profit need, the owners force the laborers to work without giving appropriate wages or basic needs. Likewise, the world of *Harry Potter* is affected by class struggle, economy, discrimination, and racial prejudices which cause some characters unable to receive the profit from their capitalists and to become unhappiness or dissatisfied toward their masters. On the other hand, some characters, such as house-elves, retain false consciousness which causes them to be devalued from human nature. The characters evade and suffer from work and environment while the capitalists are merely satisfied in profit. Finally, it converts to Marxist alienation.

***Harry Potter* and class estrangement from false consciousness**

Some characters in this series encounter struggle in their living. The situation obligate those characters to find the exits from suffering. Finding out a better position is one of the best ways to free themselves from the inferior class even they have to encounter against false consciousness from the superior or face unfair treat. False consciousness affects characters and causes them to ignore their most authentic selves. False consciousness is defined as the processes which hide the true relationship of purpose between classes and conceal the exploitation suffered by the

proletariat(Meszaros, 2016). Marx defines this phenomenon as “the pitiful state of affairs when a man happens to be mistaken regarding of his own motives.”(Larsson, 2011, P. 131). This false consciousness drags the unlucky citizens into an illusion of hidden purposes and the house-elves demonstrate this, Dobby being a prime example. Therefore, the house-elves’ duty is never equal to the wizards’.

Unlike Dobby, Kreacher, another house elf, refuses to be freed because of his false consciousness which can be defined as the processes which hide the true relationship of purpose between classes and conceal the exploitation suffered by the proletariat working-class people(Meszaros, 2016, P. 1). Blinded from the reality of exploitation, labors under false consciousness might not realize that they are controlled by the employers. Kreacher lackeys pure-blooded family like The Blacks; therefore, he does not desire to serve any other blood types. Moreover, this sense of false consciousness leads him to suffer when his last master, Sirius Black, passes away and he becomes part of Black’s property to be inherited to Harry unconditionally.

Voldemort never feels that he belongs to the orphan house. As the inferior class in the muggle world, Voldemort lives in isolation among other people and feels lonely because he thinks that he differs from the others. This is the reason why he gains the feeling of alienation from human nature. Because of being ignored from other people, Voldemort is familiar to do everything alone as he says that “I don’t need you,” said Riddle. “I’m used to doing things for myself, I go round London on my own all the time.”(Rowling, 2005, P. 274). This isolation mimics him as superior people in the society. He needs to gain power to erase the weakness in his life, half-blood as he says that

“You think I was going to use my filthy Muggle father’s name forever? I, in whose veins runs the blood of Salazar Slytherin himself, through my mother’s side? I, keep the name of a foul, common Muggle, who abandoned me even before I was born, just because he found out his wife was a witch?”

(Rowling, 1999, 314)

When he gains the power as Dark Lord successfully, he does not hesitate to hallucinate other people by using propaganda and accepts them as the minions while they do not realize that Voldemort instills false consciousness into their mind. Most of them are treated as the animals, are used for scarifying, or face the violence before the superior (Rowling, 2013). The motivation of promoting to higher position affects them to afford Voldemort’s will.

Mr. Malfoy always thinks that he is always the right hand of Dark Lord until he fails the mission continuously. This mistake results in Voldemort’s negligence so Mr. Malfoy is treated differently because the sight of Dark Lord turns to Snape instead. This is the reason why he tries to redeem his reputation of his family by capturing Harry as he says “I shall summon him, Bella, Potter has been brought to my house, and it is therefore upon my authority —”(Rowling, 2013, P. 450). Even though he does not do it. Mr. Malfoy tries to redeem himself to previous position with panic and gains the sense of rootlessness. Larsson cited Egel’s idea that “He works with mere thought material, which he accepts without examination as the product of thought, and does not investigate further for a more remote source independent of thought.”(Larsson, 2011, P. 132). This distribution concentrates on money and power. Mr. Malfoy will do all methods to accomplish the redemption. Finally, he fails this

mission once again so his redemption is not accepted which leads him to feel alienated.

Like Mr. Malfoy, Bellatrix Lestrange also receives the sense of alienation because of false consciousness. As the left hand of Voldemort, Bellatrix desires to be in the nearest position of Dark Lord. She also wants to be the insider who Voldemort can trust. Bellatrix has enough hatred on Snape to accuse him as a two-faced person. She also feels uneasy toward Snape as she accuses herself that

“He’d have me!” said Bellatrix passionately. “I, who spent many years in Azkaban for him!”

“Yes, indeed, most admirable,” said Snape in a bored voice. “Of course, you weren’t a lot of use to him in prison, but the gesture was undoubtedly fine —”

“Gesture!” she shrieked; in her fury she looked slightly mad. “While I endured the dementors, you remained at Hogwarts, comfortably playing Dumbledore’s pet!”

(Rowling, 2005, P. 39)

This situation illustrates her discontentment toward Snape and leads to alienation. The ambition influences her to gain attraction from Voldemort by voluntarily offering him a help to kill Harry; however, he does not want her to kill him. So far, Bellatrix has never been chosen by Voldemort and this position brings her deep into alienation.

One of the Blacks family, Regulus Arcturus Black also affects false consciousness even though he realizes this problem at last. False consciousness does not affect him directly but it reminds him of oppression. Regulus admires Voldemort and desires to become a Death Eaters. It is hard for Death Eaters to receive the honor

from their master, so he does not hesitate to give his house-elf to Voldemort. However, he considers abandoning Voldemort because his master mistreated and intended to kill the Black family's loyal house-elf Kreacher as the security experiment for one of his Horcruxes. Regulus breaks the chains which tie him from false consciousness and betrays his master. This self-actualization reminds him of violence and releases him from alienation from false consciousness. After abandoning his master, he travels alone to destroy Horcruxes, deserts his Death Eater friends, and becomes isolated. His decision opposes against his master benefit of his master bringing to the sense of alienation.

Other house-elves' strong false consciousness leads them to think that they are satisfied with their work, because the employers have dominated them by using the hidden power(Pines, 1997),(Rosen, 2016). House-elves at Hogwarts ponder that they are happy to work, even though they do so without money and must work without appearing to anyone's sight. Nobody knows that there are house-elves at Hogwarts until Nearly Headless Nick tells Hermione. Nick says that good house-elves will not present themselves in public as "They come out at night to do a bit of cleaning . . . see to the fires and so on. . . . I mean, you're not supposed to see them, are you? That's the mark of a good house-elf, isn't it, that you don't know it's there?"(Rowling, 2000, P. 182). House-elves do not seem to notice their alienation from their 'product' because they are dominated by false consciousness.

In conclusion, false consciousness is one of the causes of alienation which convey the idea of class mistakes to people in society. Some characters will not know that the capitalists oppress them and transfer the benefits to them. However, the

inferior in the society accept the condition because they think they will gain benefits from other class.



Chapter 4

Conclusion and Discussion

In this analysis, researcher has shown that J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* book series contain various forms of alienation, in a Marxist view, laborers are objectified and the oppression stems from discrimination, prejudice, class tensions and imposed racial identity. Therefore, Marxist alienation presents important problems and obstacles to peaceful and happy living. Moreover, some characters in *Harry Potter* are separated entirely from human nature. This is the reason those characters encounter considerable dimensions of alienation. Therefore, the researcher concludes the factors of alienation into 4 main types.

The first main factor of alienation in this series is presented in the terms of estrangement. To be a real human, the characters need to own their senses of thinking, loving, eating, and acting. Lacking these senses will lead the characters, such as Dobby and Mr. Weasley, to become rootless and feel estranged from their society. Even though house-elves are regarded as non-wizard part human, they are oppressed by some wizards by dehumanizing them to feel worthless. This unidentified characteristic causes house-elves to encounter the scorn from their owners. Besides the factor of being treated as an animal, self-punishment is considered another important factor. This self-losing situation represents the enslavement in our real world which blocks the slaves from violating their masters' commands. This oppression separates humans from their human rights leading to alienation from human nature because the victims lose the senses of self. And then, their masters can

enforce their rights more easily. Moreover, forcing to work is also considered as a main factor of this situation because the characters are not willing to do their work from the depth of their consciousness causing alienation from human nature.

The second factor which leads some characters to alienation is class exploitation which brings about alienation from fellow men. Mr. Weasley who works in different department becomes alienated because he cannot communicate with other departments. Moreover, working in an inferior department of the Ministry of Magic, Mr. Weasley is looked down on from his co-workers and perceives the sense of isolation toward his employers. Moreover, working in the Department of Misuse of Muggle Artifacts office causes Mr. Weasley to be ignored from Cornelius Fudge and then becomes alienated from fellow men. This exploitation consequently affects Mr. Weasley to be the marginalized of his bureau. Furthermore, alienation from co-workers prevents him from receiving a better chance or better opportunity because his employers consider him as a worthless person. This situation does not only impact him to lose better opportunity to afford better thing, but it also affects his children to be scorned by the privileged class at school. Finally, all these situations result in discontentment among laborers. This can be seen when Umbridge assigns Hagrid to be responsible for his work. There are conflicts between Umbridge and Hagrid causing the senses of alienation from other colleagues who judge him as the savage uneducated person. Due to the profits, the superior class can find the better ways to maintain and get more money. However, they ignore to offer the benefits to the inferior.

The production process is regarded as the third factor of alienation. Working are separated from the production and the laborers never own the experience of

possession from the products that they create. This situation includes the immaterial production, such as service. The characters, like Dobby and other house-elves, encounter this factor because they serve the privileged without payment which is represented through their unwilling service. Dobby notices this problem so he feels discontent toward his service to the Malfoys leading him to commit self-punishment. Moreover, after gaining the freedom from Harry, Dobby still encounters alienation from the product. As losing their own benefits, his employers do not desire to pay him any wage because house-elves always seek their masters to give service as slaves.

False consciousness is the last factors of Marxist alienation. Some characters in this series face alienation from false consciousness, such as the Malfoys and Bellatrix Lestrange. The victims of this kinds of alienation probably think that they are not happy in class. On the other hand, they prefer to mimic themselves as the superior class. Voldemort is one of the victims who is dominated by false consciousness. As an orphan, he tries to redeem himself in the superior class. He does not need any companies if they are not able to return him any advantages. This is the reason why he hardly finds any friends while the minions who stay along his side fear his power. Mr. Malfoy also encounters alienation from false consciousness. To redeem himself from committing mistakes, he needs to capture Harry leading him to a sense of rootlessness. He does not belong to himself as his false consciousness dominates him to ignore his class; however, he becomes alienated because Voldemort does not accept him. And then, he receives the sense of alienation.

People use their authority, power, and money to protect themselves. Using power to obstruct human nature or to oppress people can cause conflicts, violence and cleavage as Voldemort has done in the story. Searching for power, like Voldemort,

leads us to plunge into power without realization and desire other people's possession which we are undeserved to receive. Therefore, if we try to reach too much power, we are oppressing the inferior to gain misused profits. Umbridge is a good example when she takes Defend Against the Dark Art class and teaches students without active learning. In contrast, she commands the students to learn spells and charms by reading book before Hermione raises her hand to ask the question. Hermione's reaction represents the counter attack against dictatorship which cannot drag her into the circle of alienation once again.

The researcher hopefully that this research will give the readers to understand and accept the differences of identities. In the real world, many people treat others in the same way as Voldemort and Umbridge do. They are ready to oppress other people if they have chances. To live in the modern society, people have to present the respect to each other without bias. Therefore, *Harry Potter* book series possibly portray about the good and evil. To be honest, the researcher felt satisfied when the protagonists were going to beat the evil and ended up with the protagonists' victory. Finally, the researcher wished that the rest of the story would finalize with happiness.

However, if we look deeply inside the story, we will notice the boundaries between good and evil and this the sources of oppression and exploitation, then leading to alienation. Harry and Voldemort are the prime examples which present the in-betweenness of good and evil. While Harry is alienated at Dursley's house, he always calls humans 'muggle' or disdains them as the inferior. This situation represents the discrimination among the people from class hierarchy. Sirius Black says that "The world isn't split into good people and Death Eaters."(Rowling, 2003, P.

373). This lesson explains that people do not always act like heroes, but they still commit the good things as many as bad things.

Even Hagrid, who are open-minded and generous person, still creates the boundaries of identities, for example, he does not hesitate to mock the muggles with trio. Hagrid ignores the gray space and admires the same racial people which leads to oppression and alienation.

On the other hand, Rowling proves that the villains do not always oppress the inferior, for example Regulus Arcturus Black. Although Regulus lives in the dark arts path, he is still the only Black family who does not discriminate or oppress Kreacher like the other Blacks who treat Kreacher as vermin. His most important thing is not Voldemort's trust, power, or pure blood dignity, but it is equality and sympathy. Even though he commits the unacceptable condition (for example, joining the Death Eater), Regulus shows us about his concern for other people, not the evil which lures him. This is the reason why he attempts to escape from Voldemort.

These book series lead the readers to look into the characters' perspectives and assume the war between heroes and villains. However, the true lesson which these series convey is the fight between our minds. Nevertheless, it is easier to accept that there are the spaces separating only into 'black and white', 'laborers and business owners', or 'good and evil', and forget the space in-between. Some people get stuck in those binaries and the benefits which they gain. Then, they oppress the inferior and promote the same class hierarchy leading the inferior to face the scorn and become rootless resulting in alienation.

Legilimens is a spell which lets casters see into someone's mind. What we have learnt from this novels is that "Everyone is imperfect" and everyone owns their

mistakes and spots. Humans need friend or kindness to support our live. The end of these series becomes noble because Rowling tells us to fight against the oppression and inequality by showing and giving respect ad sympathy to other people. Then, the oppression and alienation is going to be disappeared.



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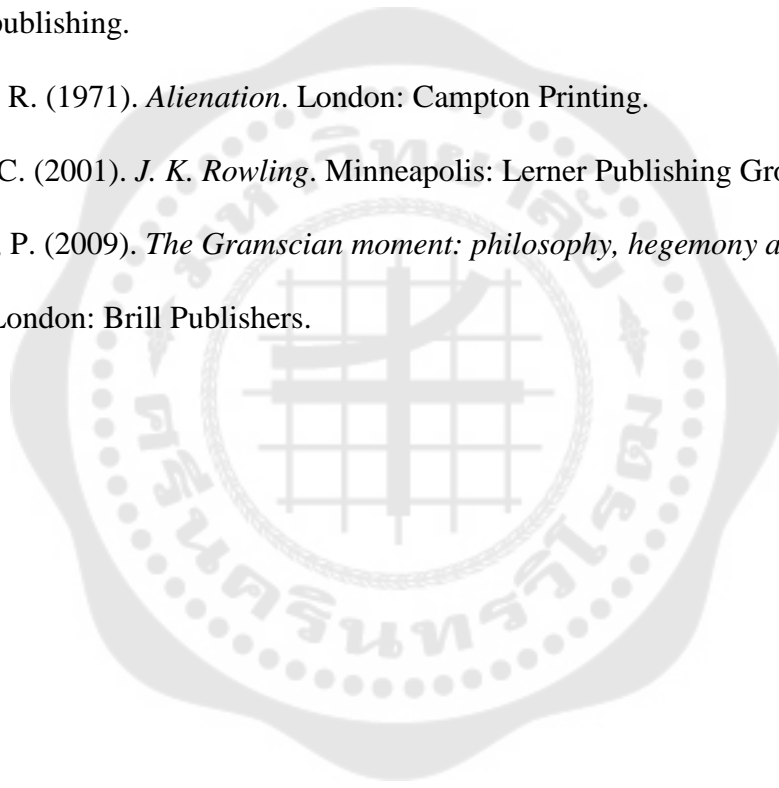
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