

Moral Decadence as the Effect of Capitalism in H. G. Wells' the Time Machine

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Abstract: This research discusses moral decadence in the novella *The Time Machine* written by H.G Well. Focusing on the problem of moral decadence as the effect of capitalism, this study uses Genetic Structuralism theory by Lucien Goldman as a tool of analysis. Goldman's theory paves the way to find out the structure of the text as well as the context, both of which are dialectical in figuring out the worldview. By applying Goldman's theory, it is found out that Elloi, the character representing upper class in the novella *The Time Machine* is described as a creature living an idle life and rules the working class, and they morally downgrades into a weak creature, unable to defend themselves against stronger workers named Morlock. In the meantime, the working class is forced to toil in industrial premises for most of their lives. It happened continuously until they get used to the situation and turn into Morlock, evolving into powerful underground creatures. Morlock lost their humanity due to a long process of exploitation and persecution. It shows how the Capitalist system destroys all human relations.

Key words: Genetic structuralism, moral decadence, capitalism, class.

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I. Introduction

Decadence is a state of decline or deterioration of something. Decadence is defined as behavior that shows a love of self-indulgence, pleasure and money, or the process of decline or decay in society's ethical and moral conditions (Chilima, 2019: 2). Meanwhile, moral decadence is a phenomenon of deterioration of a person's character or group of people. In the Victorian era, capitalism divided society into three different classes: upper class, middle class, and working class. Capitalism causes social disparities between communities and can cause decadence in a group or social class. Capitalism is an economic system whose goal is to make a profit. Capitalism is always giving freedom, and all things related to it are only aimed at their welfare. The division of the class into upper and working class is represented by the two main characters in *The Time Machine's* novella.

The Time Machine is a novella written by H.G. Wells. This novella was published in 1895 and included in the science fiction genre book. This novella was written in the 19th century, precisely in the Victorian era. *The Time Machine*, written by Wells, focuses on concerns or problems in the 19th century. The time setting of this novella is the 19th century which then slides in 802.701 in England. The life experienced by British society in 802.701 is not prosperous even though innovations regarding technology are significantly advanced and developed. *The Time Machine* depicts pessimism about the future of humanity. It is a reflection or an illustration of the decadence that British society feared and worried about in the 19th century happened. In the novella, H.G. Wells explores one of the characters portrayed as very easy to get wealth and comfort, but they are weak and helpless creatures. Then another character can survive even though their life is quite difficult, and that makes them smart, strong, and tough creatures. The condition of society in the future is unusual. As the author, H.G. Wells criticized the life of society in the 19th century mainly because of the capitalism that was evident in that era.

This research is important because it explores the content or meaning of the novella *The Time Machine*. The novella not only tells about a person's speculative view of knowledge and technology that is relevant to the life of a society or individual at a time but also there is a social critique that is included in this work to awaken

British society at that time because of the injustice experienced by the working class. This research contributes to the reader's insight into how society was in the 19th century in England and the effects of Capitalism that can cause decadence. Readers of the novella will also know the intent and purpose of H.G. Wells wrote this novella, the meaning of the author's describing the figure of Eloi and Morlock, and the author's worldview.

This research aims to understand and inform the reader about the significant structure that shows binary oppositions in the novella, to understand and educate the reader about social structures in England as the historical background of the novella, and to understand H.G. Wells' world view toward Capitalism which causes moral decadence in humankind.

Previous research has a function to contribute by supporting some information related to this research. Previous research also compares and finds areas that previous researchers have not researched. There are three previous researches in this research. The first previous research is a thesis written by Muthmainnah (2015), which discussed Utilitarianism in Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*. She used the theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldman as a basic theory in her research. She finds that *Hard Times* has a structure describing the utilitarian ideology that influenced society and the economic system in the 18th century in British. Adherents of this ideology wanted to get more material. This ideology also affects the education system, making some children have a worse future (Muthmainnah, 2015: 17). People who are influenced and follow the ideology of Utilitarianism have an unhappy life. Even one of their children becomes a thief to fulfill his wishes. In the end, he dies in the hospital regretfully for what he has done with his life. Meanwhile, non-utilitarian people live their lives happily.

The second previous research is a thesis written by Raharjo (2005), which discussed the social condition of Britain during the Industrial Revolution, and its Significances toward the main characters in H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. The result is that the industrial revolution impacted the social life of British society. One of the effects is that there is a division of social class. The social class is divided into the upper class and lower class. Upper-class life was filled with prosperity and wealth. On the other hand, the lower class lived a life of deprivation and worked as poor laborers during that period (Raharjo, 2005: 25). This social life is represented in *The Time Machine* through Eloi, represented as an upper class, and Morlock represented as a lower class. He also finds that the social conditions in Britain at that time had an important role in influencing the lives of the main characters in *The Time Machine*.

The third previous research is a journal written by Spyros Sakellaropoulos(2006), which discussed the definition of class and why the working class, although numerically the largest social class has not succeeded in gaining political power. The basic principles of class domination, will be derived from the interaction of three elements: control over the production process (economic element), the structural capitalist character of the state (political element), and thus the capitalist character of the dominant ideology (ideological element)(Sakellaropoulos, 2006: 125). The existence of this structure is conducive to the ability of the bourgeoisie to govern although, as far as the population is concerned, they are a minority. Through its ownership and control over the means of production and the production process, the bourgeoisie is able to pay the working class less than the wages it pays and the value of its working time to the working class. Thus, the latter is that they exploit the working class. Another factor is political inequality based on the fact that the capitalist state is the result of class struggle in social formations in which the capitalist mode of production dominates. This guarantees the long-term interests of the bourgeoisie. The mechanisms that are implemented are the means of political domination used by the upper class against its power in the dominated classes.

The previous researches and my research are different. The first previous research uses the theory of Genetic Structuralism to analyze the structure of the *Hard Times* novel, which shows the binary opposition between several characters with utilitarian ideology and other characters who do not have a utilitarian ideology and the author's worldview. Even though the previous research used the same theory that I used in this research, the material discussed is different. I used the Genetic Structuralism theory to analyze moral decadence caused by Capitalism in the novella *The Time Machine*, written by H.G. Wells, who also shows the binary position between the upper and working-class and H.G. Wells as the author who tends to criticize Capitalism and the social conditions of the society around him when the novella is written. Muthmainnah's research contributes to this research because she uses the same theory (Genetic Structuralism). It helps me to analyze H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. The second previous research explores social conditions in Britain during the industrial revolution that occurred in Britain in the late 1700s and early 1800s, represented in the novella *The Time Machine* written by Herbert George Wells, and how social conditions affect the main characters in *The Time Machine*. Although the previous research also analyzes the novella *The Time Machine*, this research discusses the social conditions during the industrial revolution in Britain and how this affects the main characters in the novella. In my research, I analyze the moral decadence caused by Capitalism in *The Time Machine* novella. The theory used in previous research is also different from the theory I used in my research. His research contributes to this research related to the topic such as the social condition of Britain during the industrial revolution and its impact on society. The third previous deals with the problem of the definition of class and why the working

class, although numerically the largest social class has not succeeded in gaining political power. My research and the journal both discuss about class, but my research also discusses the impact that can occur as a result of social class division, and it is concluded that capitalism has several impacts on humankind, one of which is moral decadence. The journal provides a deeper understanding of the definition of social class, how strong the influence of the upper class is, and why the working class which is numerically the largest social class has no power and remains a class that is exploited by the capitalists.

II. The Theory of Genetic Structuralism

Genetic Structuralism was discovered by Lucien Goldmann, a Romanian-French philosopher and sociologist. Genetic Structuralism assumes that literary texts can be analyzed from internal structures and external structures such as the social, economic, and political environment that have produced them. In essence, literary works are always related to society and history, which helps condition the creation of literary works, although not completely influenced by these external factors. For Goldmann, a structure must be perfected to have meaning, where every symptom has meaning when associated with a broader structure, and so on until each element supports its totality. To produce a totality, Goldmann offers a dialectical method. The basic concept of Genetic Structuralism is divided into four. Those are human facts, collective subject, significant structure, and world view.

Human Facts

The first basic principle of Genetic Structuralism is the human fact. Goldmann (1980: 40) explains that human facts must be related to the subject's behavior to be understood. Human fact is not something that has just emerged but the result of human activity as a subject. Individuals gather to form a group of society. All character activities in literary works, when discovering individual activity, must be drawn to the social scale, and this means the individual is part of a social group. Human fact is a result of the adjusting process, how humans adapt to their environment. Goldmann (1980: 48) distinguishes human behavior or meaningful human facts into two, libidinal behavior and collective behavior. Libidinal behavior is concerned with individual subjects. Meanwhile, collective behavior is related to transindividual subjects. The transindividual subject is a subject that transcends or represents the individual, in which the individual is only a part of it.

Collective Subject

Collective subjects are social or historical facts, which are part of the human fact subject, other than individual or libidinal subjects. All the author's ideas can be said to represent social groups. A collective subject is a collection of individuals who form a unity and its activities. However, the collective subject is not as broad as a society. According to Goldmann (1980: 41), at certain times, innumerable groups are formed, and each group must produce an action or behavior that is different. However, some groups have an important role because their actions and behaviors tend to shape society as a whole. Marx calls this special group a social class.

Significant Structure

According to Goldmann, work is an important structure. Goldman made significant structures as the primary tool in conducting research to understand human facts. Goldman characterized the outcome of human facts and transindividual subjects as significant structures. To find a coherence or relationship between human facts and transindividual subjects that produce significant structures, it is necessary to analyze them with the dialectical method. The principle of the dialectical method is to link and analyze literary works between historical and sociological. Goldmann emphasizes that the concept of significant structure is the main instrument in researching and understanding most of the facts in the past and the present. The structure is born from individual behavior. Individuals form the collective subject and create thinking structures or patterns. A work has a historical background. To find concrete significant structures in work, it is necessary to find and relate structures in text and structures in social reality. In Genetic Structuralism, when studying a work, one must find a binary opposition because it is hereditary or inspired by Structuralism. Binary opposition is two opposing but mutually defining elements.

World View

The world view triggers the subject to compose, and it is considered one of the characteristics of the success of a work. Within the framework of Genetic Structuralism, the world view shows certain collectivist tendencies. Goldman (1980: 60) says that world views cannot just be individual facts. That means that the world view is a collection of ideas, thoughts, or feelings from a group collectively put together. According to Goldman, literary works as meaningful structures represent the author's worldview, not as an individual but as representatives of their society groups. The theory of Genetic Structuralism emphasizes that there is a relationship between literary structure and the structure of society through the world view or ideology expressed

by the author through their work. Authors as transindividual subjects play a role in bringing aspirations, ideas, or feelings that represent their social class through a work. World view does not have to be an ideology, but it can also be how someone views things differently.

There are three stages in conducting literary research using Genetic Structuralism theory. The first is to find the intrinsic elements and structures in work as data in the form of information needed. Second, analyze the author's historical background which influences them in writing their work. Third, analyze and relate it to socio-culture. The elements in a literary work are related to socio-culture and history when the work is created.

III. Moral Decadence Caused by Capitalism in H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*

Moral decadence caused by Capitalism is seen in the text structure, which can be seen from the description in the novella through the characters and the setting of the place. Moral decadence and Capitalism are the structures of literary work in *The Time Machine*, representing the social structure that occurred in the Victorian era, precisely during the Industrial Revolution. There are two settings of place in the novella *The Time Machine*, in London and in the time and place where most of the story takes place, namely England in the future, precisely in the year 802,701. The significant structure of the story has homology with the place where H. G. Wells lives, namely in London, England. This similarity is caused by the writer being inspired by the social circumstances around him. Homology has implications for the structure of literary works and social structures.

But, it was slow work, and the little people soon tired and wanted to get away from my interrogations, so I determined, rather of necessity, to let them give their lessons in little doses I found they were before long, for I never met people more indolent or more easily fatigued (Wells, 1895: 20).

In the novella *The Time Machine*, it can be seen that the upper class who live in good conditions have moral decadence into weak and stupid creatures. The quotation above shows how weak the Eloi race is. Eloi is also an unproductive creature. They don't do any work, and their lives are prosperous so they relax and have fun. The upper class that ruled society had turned into the weak and lazy Eloi due to their habit of often relaxing and having fun. It includes moral decadence because in the 19th century, people who worked hard were considered to have high morality. Hard work was a moral good in itself; if wealth followed, it was a fitting recognition of the man's virtue (Mitchell, 2009: 280). They were comfortable by feeling that steady hard work was morally excellent (Mitchell, 2009: 280).

They spent all their time playing gently, in bathing in the river, in making love in a half-playful fashion, in eating fruit and sleeping. I could not see how things were kept going (Wells, 1895:30).

Discipline and adherence to the prevailing moral values are what make many people think that British society in Victorian times did not like sex. However, this does not match what Wells points out in *The Time Machine*. Eloi is an upper class society, in fact, their daily activities are flirting and making love. Foucault says that, far from being silenced, sex was spoken everywhere in the 19th century in various contexts, including the law, medicine, religion, and education (Siuli, 2015: 509). The novella also states that Eloi's daily activities are relaxing, playing, dancing, and making love. Eloi's behaviour is something that is not respected by society in the Victorian era. Respectable has no absolute definition. For some Nonconformists, dancing, playing cards, and going to the theatre were not respectable (Mitchell, 2009: 281). It shows the moral of the upper class decadence in the future.

..After all, they were less human and more remote than our cannibal ancestors of three or four thousand years ago. And the intelligence that would have made this state of things a torment had gone. Why should I trouble myself? These Eloi were mere fatted cattle, which the ant-like Morlock preserved and preyed upon—probably saw to the breeding of. And there was Weena dancing at my side (Wells, 1895: 45).

From the quotations above, moral decadence is not only shown by the upper class, but also by the working class which is represented through Morlock. It shows how the Capitalist system destroys all human relations. The working class has lived underground for so long that it has evolved into a distinct species. The Morlock run out of food and are forced to hunt down Eloi, whom they now breed like cattle. Morlock lost their humanity due to a long process of exploitation and persecution. They lost their humanity and turned into beasts. They terrorized and took revenge on Eloi. As a result, violence breeds violence.

Despite the many worldly advances that have occurred since the Victorian era, the world is far from perfect. The Time Traveler is shocked when he discovers that, instead of evolving, the creatures of the future have decadence. Wells assumes that the way of life of man's victory over nature does not lead to perfection but leads to the decadence or deterioration of human physical and mental abilities as seen in Eloi and Morlock. In the future society discovered by the Time Traveler, human feelings such as sympathy and true love have disappeared. Wells tries to show how far human evolution will go if Capitalism continues unhampered. Humankind will split into two distinct species, the Eloi (the upper class) and the Morlock (the working class). Furthermore, the advancements of civilization will not necessarily advance the species, quite the opposite, in fact. Their luxurious, carefree civilization has made the beautiful Eloi the weak, lazy, and stupid targets of the

Morlock, without an urgent need to survive, the Eloi have not needed to become more "fit," but have instead regressed (Sharif and Saeed, 2011: 447)

This explanation shows how H.G. Wells describes people from the upper class and working class who are morally decadent. H. G. Wells created a fictional character to describe their situation in the actual England conditions and how the impact of Capitalism. The illustration of the character cannot be separated from Wells' position as a working class society who suffered when he was very young. The illustrations that I found show Wells' views and opinions about the upper and working class society in England at that time and his critique of the upper class. To know and understand the author's worldview, finding the binary opposition from one character to another is important.

The Binary Opposition between Eloi and Morlock

H. G. Wells in the novella *The Time Machine* shows that on the one hand, the upper class is doomed to mental and physical weakness because they never have to struggle to survive. On the other hand, workers are alienated from their work as Marx said, made even more stunted, immoral, and angry by the harsh conditions of their work and living. By understanding the plot and theories made by Time Traveler in the story, it can be concluded that the good social conditions of the upper class have caused them to be lazy to expend efforts to achieve goals in their daily lives. No wonder why Eloi in the futuristic era has minimal intelligence. Eloi not only become weak and fragile creatures, but they also develop into unintelligent beings. The upper class who has a habit of relaxing and morally decadence becomes the stupid Eloi of the future. They cannot make wise decisions for themselves. They have lost the ability to self-regulate.

The question had come into my mind abruptly: were these creatures fools? You may hardly understand how it took me. You see, I had always anticipated that the people of the year Eight Hundred and Two Thousand odd would be incredibly in front of us in knowledge, art, everything. Then one of them suddenly asked me a question that showed him to be on the intellectual level of one of our five-year-old children—asked me, in fact, if I had come from the sun in a thunderstorm! It let loose the judgment I had suspended upon their clothes, their frail light limbs, and fragile features (Wells, 1895: 18)

Based on the quotation above, Time Traveler assumes that the futuristic era Eloi has the same level of intelligence as ordinary five-year-olds in 19th century England. It is an illustration that shows how low Eloi's level of intelligence is.

Eloi who represents the upper class in the novella *The Time Machine* is described as a creature who relaxes every day and rules the working class, and they morally decadence into a weak creature, unable to defend themselves against stronger workers, namely Morlock. Without a shield during the day, the Eloi must gather and sleep together, vying to protect themselves from Morlock's attacks. The working class is forced to toil in industrial premises for most of their lives. They must be able to adapt to a harsh and horrific lifestyle in order to survive. It happened continuously until they got used to the situation and after a long time they turned into Morlock. Capitalism seems fair enough to Morlock. Because they are always forced by conditions to adapt to harsh living conditions, and they evolved into powerful underground creatures. The Morlock, like their proletariat ancestors, toil to create the products necessary for the comfort of the daylight race (Vugrincic, 2014: 46).

From the binary opposition described above, it can be seen that H. G. Wells criticized the existence of Capitalism in his time. Through a binary opposition between Eloi and Morlock, Wells assumed that advances in science made life easier for humans, so that they lost their advantage, became stupid, and lazy. The Eloi had turned into weak creatures because their lives were too easy, while the Morlock evolved into manual labourers. It is Capitalism's division of labour that goes to the extreme. As Marx and Engels wrote in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, the first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of the ruling class to win the battle of democracy (Marx and Engels, 1848: 26). It seems to represent Wells' own anxiety. The point that can be drawn from the binary opposition between Eloi and Morlock is that humanity must choose to resolve the problem of class conflict. Eloi and Morlock whose moral decadence is a picture of industrial society. It is a warning about the huge gap between the upper and working classes.

The Social Structure of England in the 19th Century as the Historical Background England in the Nineteenth Century

Under Victoria, Britain transformed by the Industrial Revolution became the world's leading imperial power and its most interesting country (Alexander, 2000: 165). Due to the increasing flow of urbanization to industrial cities, many workers are increasingly abundant. Meanwhile, many factories use engine power. Thus, the wages of labour become cheap. The workers who with the business people mistreated began to move to form a force to improve their fate. They then created an organization called the socialist movement.

By the early nineteenth century, it was in full swing of its first phase, creating the Victorians' new "class" society (Brown: 2004: 71). In industrialization activities, it is known that there are groups of workers

(labour) and groups of entrepreneurs (employers) who own industries or factories. Thus, a new group arises in a society, namely the businessmen (Capitalists) who live in luxury and the workers who live in poverty. The Victorian era was marked by the strengthening of the position of the middle class which led to the dominance of its basic values in society. Calmness, punctuality, diligence, economy, and thrift are respected. This quality soon became the norm, as its usefulness in the new industrial world was beyond doubt. However, the word "Victoria" is still a synonym for the concept of "hypocrite". Victorian society concealed and subdued their natural intentions and tendencies. Society at that time said and did things considered 'right'. They pretend to be better than their natural character and behave very morally. However, in reality they did things that are very different from their appearance on the outside.

Despite England's significant progress during this period, the Victorian era was also a period of doubt and disappointment. It is because scientific progress undermines faith and causes the moral decadence of humankind. Decadence became one of the most incendiary terms in the Victorian era. During this era, decadence seemed to be an increasingly real and disturbing possibility, which caught the attention of many Victorian writers. This moral decadence is reflected in the forms of provocative social freedoms such as threats to women's purity. During the Victorian Age, prostitution was a devastating and the biggest problem in London (Siuli, 2015: 509).

Apart from the state's efforts to streamline economic life, industrialization also brings negative consequences. Poverty remains a real problem for society when masses of poor people migrate to urban slum areas. The uncertainty of society in the future is even greater, because in the conditions of the new economic system, ups and downs come and go, which results in workers losing their jobs and replenishing the ranks of the poor. Defenders of the system argue that nothing can be done about it. But such views have been challenged by socialist thinkers such as Robert Owen and Karl Marx. The Victorian era saw the birth and growth of the labour movement, from self-help and self-education programs (cooperatives, mechanical schools) to mass demonstrations such as the Chartist struggles of the 1830s and 1840s to expand political rights. The trade unions, which existed outside the law until 1820, gained real strength with the growth of socialist sentiment.

Although the Victorians failed to tackle the problem of poverty, the social and economic gains of the time were significant. Mass production led to the emergence of new types of products, and the standard of living gradually increased. The development of manufacturing opened up new professional opportunities, for example the increasing demand for typists allowed large numbers of literate women to find jobs for the first time in their lives. A new form of transport such as the train that can transport employees from the townhouse to the suburbs every day has finally become an invariable attribute of the British way of life. Despite the extraordinary changes, the Victorian era did not shake the confidence and optimism of the nation. The British believed that they could and should maintain their status as a leading world power.

The Worldview in *The Time Machine*

Wells describes the upper class as having a developed civilization filled with facilities. However, these social conditions have turned them into morally decadent creatures, weak, lazy, and dependent. At the same time, the working class is described as losing their humanity due to a long process of exploitation and persecution. They lost their humanity and turned into beasts. Physically they became stronger and started attacking the weaker upper classes. With the example of Eloi and Morlock, Wells warns of Capitalism and its consequences for humankind.

The vision presented in *The Time Machine* shows or instead predicts the outcome of social divisions between the rich and working class, especially in Victorian England. The novelists of the early twentieth century, such as Wells and Galsworthy, who enlarged their focus to include the study of social groups and movements, were just as fully committed to scientific principles (Stevenson, 2004: 50).

"It seemed to me that I had happened upon humanity upon the wane. The ruddy sunset set me thinking of the sunset of mankind" (Wells, 1895: 23)

The Time Machine, written in England in 1895, is the product of an era of great anxiety about social class and economic inequality. Class distinction brings about all types of evil to society and leads to brutality (Sharif and Saeed, 2011: 453). The structure of *The Time Machine* describes the world view of Socialism. Socialism was born as a critique of Capitalism that developed in Europe. This Socialism highly upholds the distribution of prosperity and the elimination of poverty. Therefore, Socialism opposes the existence of social inequality. This ideology is related to human nature, which is not just to get freedom, but we as humans have an obligation to help each other. There are no rich and poor classes or employers and workers because all are the same.

The idea can be examined from what the characters have because Wells incorporates his ideas through narrative illustrations about what the characters say, do, and think. This short novel can be considered a work of social criticism as Socialist Wells' warning to what could happen in the future if society does not embrace

equality and humanity and if Capitalism does not stop exploiting workers for the benefit of the rich. *The Time Machine* is a social critique of Victorian England projected into the distant future.

I understood now what all the beauty of the Overworld people covered. Very pleasant was their day, as pleasant as the day of the cattle in the field. Like the cattle, they knew of no enemies and provided against no needs. And their end was the same. The rich had been assured of his wealth and comfort, the toiler assured of his life and work. No doubt in that perfect world (Wells, 1895: 55).

From the quotation above, Wells shows how the conditions of a Capitalist society are. The poor are getting poorer, and the rich are getting richer. To convey his message about how humans will be separated by social class, Wells uses technology and the relationship between the two subspecies of humanity. *The Time Machine*, while primarily set hundreds of thousands of years in the future, is truly a cautionary tale about the social conditions of Victorian England. It is most clearly seen in the contrast between Eloi and Morlock, two species whose morals decadence in 802,701. Eloi are descendants of the British elite, who have created living conditions so easy and beautiful through the exploitation of the poor that the species has wholly regressed, losing the intelligence and strength that characterizes today's humans. Meanwhile, the Morlock, descendants of the working class England, have been toiling underground for so long that they have lost their ability to see in daylight and resort to cannibalism. Wells uses the distinction between these two species to argue that the divisions between social classes in Victorian England were so conspicuous and dangerous that they could cause the human species to split into two distinct species, each embodying some of the worst characteristics of humans. The fear and violence that characterized the relationship between Eloi and Morlock are also meant to echo the tensions between workers and elites in Victorian England. Wells asks readers to consider that this relationship, if not reconciled, could develop into something much worse.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Time Machine's significant structure has similarities to the social conditions in which the author lived. In other words, the novella's significant structure has homology with the England structure when the story was written. The creation of *The Time Machine* was one result of Wells desire to change the social conditions of England in that era. The economic system of Capitalism results in the emergence of a class of entrepreneurs who live in luxury on the one hand, while on the other hand there is a class of workers who live in misery, so this creates a gap between entrepreneurs and workers. Poverty remained a real problem for 19th century England society. *The Time Machine* became a social critique of British society in the 19th century. *The Time Machine* is a form of Wells' way of urging the public and informing them of the impact and disapproval of Capitalism and his desire for a better England.

The Time Machine is a novella where the ideological discourse of Socialism is found. Socialism in the novella is the worldview of H. G. Wells. This worldview is the result of his life experiences and the problems that occur around him. Wells warns of Capitalism and its consequences for humanity with the example of the moral decadence of Eloi and Morlock. It's an idea that Wells thinks can be used as a tool to give society a view that there are no rich and poor classes, or employers and workers, because all are equal. Aspires to a society in which we can work together and in solidarity with the same rights. The idea is shown by the main character as upper class and working class people whose moral decadence due to the impact of Capitalism and social inequality in society at that time.

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