Representation of Social Inequality in the Netflix Series Arcane (Semiotic Analysis of Roland Barthes Model)

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Abstract

Purpose: This research aims to identify how meaning is related to social inequality in the Netflix series *Arcane*.
Methodology: The method used in this research is qualitative content analysis using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory analysis. The sampling technique in this research used a purposive sampling technique. The data collection method in this research is documentation. The data validity technique used is the data triangulation technique.
Results: The research results show that there are two categories that appear in the Netflix series Arcane. First, the representation of social inequalities that emerge includes educational inequality, ethical inequality, housing inequality, and economic inequality. Second, marginalization as a form of symbolic violence. This research seeks to identify how meaning is related to social inequality in the Netflix series Arcane.
Applications/Originality/Value: The differences in this research include the research object, literature, and theory used, as well as research results.

Introduction Section

The Social inequality is a social reality that cannot be denied in society. Social inequality is a condition when individuals or groups do not have equal access to a position in society (Kerbo, 2012). This unequal access can give rise to irregularities in society so social inequality is a social problem that is comprehensive or global in nature. This social inequality is a problem faced and has caught the attention of many people in the world. Oman (in Syawie, 2011) believes that the problem of inequality is about justice, which is related to social problems. This justice is seen in how resources are distributed evenly. Apart from the distribution of resources, the rights of individuals or groups in society also need to be considered. Dissatisfaction with the fulfillment of individual or group rights in society will create social inequality. The existence of differences in power, privilege, and honor values in society can be a measure of assessing inequality (Berreman, 1981). Very high social inequality will create social problems such as high crime rates, poverty, and low quality of health (Kastori, 2022).

In today's modern society, social inequality is widely displayed in the mass media, whether in newspapers, television, or films. Something that carries information between the source (those who provide information) and those who receive information is called media (Sanjaya, 2012). Media is a type of mass communication that has many forms. According to DeFleur and Dennis (in Halik, 2013), the definition of mass communication is as a communication process where the media is used by the communicator to disseminate information widely. One of the mass media that can be accessed online is Netflix.

Netflix is a streaming platform whose main content is films and series. Netflix has an algorithm system where the system is positioned as a solution to the complex fragmentation of the media industry in the era of globalization. This algorithm is what differentiates conventional TV from Netflix (Burroughs, 2019). The characteristics of audiences who enjoy content on streaming platforms include being able to participate directly in searching for, selecting, and selecting shows to be consumed (Anshari, 2018). Mass communication media such as films have the function of conveying messages of information, education, and entertainment through stories and images presented to the audience. Mass communication media such as films have a different appeal, because films as mass media are not just entertainment, but films have the potential to influence audiences (Sobur, 2021). Apart from being able to influence audiences, films can

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also record the reality that exists in society which is then projected onto the screen (Irawanto, 2017)

When discussing social inequality, social capital can be one of the things considered in studying social inequality. Capital itself is often referred to as capital to obtain opportunities in life. Social capital is all potential resources that come from institutionalized social relationships or networks owned by an individual or group in society. These social relationships provide benefits in the form of access to information, social or financial support, and trust (Bourdieu, 1986). In the context of social inequality, social capital plays a role in various aspects that influence inequality. Inequalities that occur due to unequal access to or ownership of social capital can create conditions where individuals or groups who have lower social capital will be more vulnerable to symbolic violence. Symbolic violence can occur when the capacities and needs of individuals or groups cannot meet the demands and expectations in an arena (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992).

Based on these social problems, many films or series tell stories that touch on social inequality. Films that tell stories about social inequality are the film In Time which was screened in 2011, the film Parasite which was screened in 2019, the film The Silver Skates which was screened in 2020, and the Netflix series Arcane which was screened in 2021. The Netflix series "Arcane" is one of the Netflix series that depicts the problem of social inequality.

The Netflix series "Arcane" tells the story of characters named Vi and Powder (who will later change their name to Jinx) in facing their lives. They have to survive the harshness of life due to the social inequality that occurs in Piltover City and Zaun City. Arcane depicts how social inequality exists between Piltover City and Zaun City. The city of Piltover is visualized as a city that is clean, neat, and has buildings with futuristic architecture, while the city of Zaun is visualized as a city that is dirty, disorganized, and has buildings that are left behind and simpler. The social inequality represented in the Netflix series Arcane tends to show aspects that build inequality and this can be viewed from the concept of social capital. Social inequality can also be seen in the field of education where people from Piltover City have easier access to education while people from Zaun City have more difficulty accessing education. One of the scenes in the Netflix series Arcane also shows that there is symbolic violence, namely the domination and discrimination against the Zaun people carried out by the Piltover people.

The previous research used as a reference in this research is research with the title "Representasi Kesenjangan Sosial Dalam Film Parasite (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes)". This research tries to see and identify representations of social inequality in the film Parasite. Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis was used as a method in this research. Primary data is the film Parasite and supporting data is the literature study. The forms of inequality shown are gaps in education, housing, and opportunities. The research concluded that the capitalist economic system was the cause of the social inequality that occurred in the film. The presence of capitalism revived the South Korean economy but accompanied it by the lives of the lower class or poor who were hiding and created wider gaps (Patmawati et al., 2020).

Apart from that, there is research entitled "Representasi Kesenjangan Kelas Sosial Dalam Film Серебряные Коньки (Serebryanye Konki/Sepatu Luncur Perak)". This research tries to identify the representation of social class inequality that exist in the film The Silver Skates. The method used is a qualitative descriptive method. The analysis uses the concept of social stratification. The research concluded that there were six scenes that gave rise to indicators of prestige, power, and privilege. These indicators result in the emergence of differences in lifestyle, violence, and discrimination between the lower and upper classes of society. Different social aspects are clearly visible between the lower class and the upper class, resulting in the creation of a social gap in people's lives. Matvey represents the lower class and Alisa's family represents the upper class who receive many privileges because of their social position. The differences in the social aspects of the two figures can be seen in the environment, facilities, and education (Aulia & Aviandy, 2022).

The difference between this research and previous research is that many studies have raised the issue of representation of social inequality, but no one has raised the Netflix series Arcane as primary data. The issue raised in this research is social inequality which focuses on the social capital of individuals or groups in society in the Netflix series Arcane. Social capital is a factor in the social inequality that occurs, where capital should be something that can build character, credibility, and prestige in individuals or groups, but in the Netflix series "Arcane" not all individuals or groups have sufficient capital to meet the needs of the arena so they are vulnerable. experiencing symbolic violence. Social inequality was raised because it is still a problem that always occurs in people's lives to this day. Therefore, researchers chose the Netflix series Arcane as the object of this research.

This research aims to identify how meaning is related to social inequality in the Netflix series Arcane based on Roland Barthes' Semiotics. Research on the theme of social inequality has the benefit of adding to academic studies related to the form and meaning of social inequality. Based on the explanation of the background above, the problem formulation of this research is "How is social inequality represented in the Netflix series Arcane?"

Literature Review
Film as Mass Media

According to Himawan Pratista (in Alfatra et al., 2019) film is defined as audio-visual media that combines narrative and cinematic elements. The narrative element contains things related to the theme, while the cinematic element is the storyline. Films are part of mass communication, which is a system that is necessary for both individuals and groups to send and receive messages (Ibrahim, 2007).

One form of mass media that is popular throughout the world is film. Films have their appeal to audiences. As mass media, films can influence the attitudes and mindsets of viewers regarding various social, political, and cultural issues. Apart from that, films can present social reality in the form of certain symbols. The symbol has an implied meaning or significance. With this ability, films can create ideologies for their audiences. In this case, films function as a means of cultural and ideological education for society (Alfathoni & Manesah Dani, 2020) Films can also be an effective medium in conveying certain information and values to the public. However, in line with its strength, controversy can also be generated by films. Viewers are encouraged not only to watch the film as it is but also to read the symbols there and be able to interpret them (Sobur, 2021).

Roland Barthes' Semiotics

Semiotics is defined as the science of signs and sign processes, designation, indication, meaning, similarity, metaphor, analogy, symbolism, and communication. One of the famous figures in semiotics or the study of signs is Roland Barthes. The semiotic concept of Ferdinand de Saussure was developed by Roland Barthes. Saussure has the opinion that language is a sign system, where the sign is composed of two parts, the Signifier (signifier) and the Signified (signified). Signifiers are sounds that have meaning and signifiers are mental images, thoughts, or concepts. The signifier and the signified are an inseparable unity because the signifier without the signified does not mean anything and the signified is impossible to convey if there is no signifier (Sobur, 2021).

Denotation and connotation were introduced in Roland Barthes' semiotics. The first stage of the signification system is denotation, while the second stage is called connotation. Denotation is defined as the relationship between the signified (content) and the signifier (expression). Barthes interprets denotation as closure of meaning, which is different from the general understanding where denotation is understood as a literal meaning. Connotation is subjective and is described as an interaction that occurs when a sign meets the emotions of the audience. Barthes interprets connotation as an ideological operation or what he calls myth. Myth refers to connotative signs that are used to form perceptions about the world around us. In semiotics, there is an E-R-C relationship process that has an impact on the development of meaning. The emergence of denotative meaning and connotative meaning is due to the development of meaning (Barthes, 1964).

According to Barthes, representation is a process in which signs or symbols are used to describe or create a concept or idea that can be understood by individuals or society. Barthes sees representation as a social construction that influences the way we understand and interpret the world around us (Sobur, 2021). In the context of the film Arcane, Barthes' approach can be used to analyze how symbols and narratives in films create meaning, shape perceptions, and influence the way we understand and respond to the stories, characters, or themes presented in the film. Apart from that, the semiotics in the film Arcane are built on visual, audio, verbal, and narrative signs where these signs appear in the scenes shown in the film Arcane. Scenes such as interactions between characters, lifestyle, access to education, and economic resources can present social reality, namely social inequality.
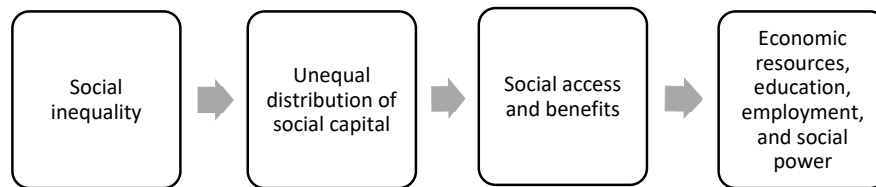
Social Inequality

Situations where inequality or inequality in access to resources occurs in a society can be called social inequality. Social inequality occurs because there is something unbalanced and there is a gap in society. This is due to differences in culture, social and economic status (Abel, 2008). There are two main indicators for measuring social inequality, namely the gap in conditions and the gap in opportunities. Inequality of conditions usually refers to the unequal distribution of wealth, income, and material goods. For example, houses, where there is inequality between homeless people or people who live in ordinary or even slum houses and those who live in luxury houses. Another example is in society as a whole, where some people have unstable lives, are poor, and are hit by violence. Meanwhile, others receive investment from the government or the business world so that they can have safe conditions and continue to develop. Opportunity inequalities can be based on widely different distributions of life chances between individuals. This can be seen in health status, education level, and treatment by the criminal justice system (Crossman, 2018). Piketty argues that social inequality occurs because of inequality in the distribution of wealth and income. The more wealth is concentrated in certain individuals or groups, the more difficult it is for other individuals or groups to gain wealth. Social inequality and inequality are interrelated and mutually exacerbate each other (Piketty, 2014).

According to Piketty, social inequality that often occur are due to socio-cultural and economic factors. Piketty explained that social and cultural factors play a role in forming social inequality. Factors such as social segregation,

educational gaps, and discrimination can widen social gaps between groups in society. Economic factors include how wealth in a group of society tends to be enjoyed by the upper group rather than the middle and lower groups. This condition causes social inequality to widen over time (Piketty, 2014).

In Bourdieu's view, social inequality occurs because of the unequal distribution of individual or group social capital in society. According to Bourdieu, social capital plays an important role in the formation of social structures and the distribution of power in society. This inequality in social capital influences how individuals or groups of people have social access or social benefits in society. Individuals or groups with greater social capital will tend to have greater social advantages, such as access to economic resources, education, employment, and social power. Meanwhile, individuals or groups with lower social capital experience limited access and social benefits (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992).

According to Bourdieu, social capital is all potential resources that come from institutionalized social relationships or networks owned by an individual or group in society. These social relationships provide benefits in the form of access to information, social or financial support, and trust (Bourdieu, 1986). According to Putman (in Suradi, 2006), social capital refers to parts of social organization such as norms, beliefs, and networks that can increase the efficiency of society with coordinated actions. Another opinion also states that social capital is defined as the entire social power of a community which is constructed by individuals or groups regarding social structures for individual or group goals effectively and efficiently with other forms of capital (Lawang, 2004). On the other hand, Turner (Dasgupta & Serageldin, 2000) states that social capital can be based on forces that increase the potential for economic development in society by creating and maintaining patterns of social organization and social relations.
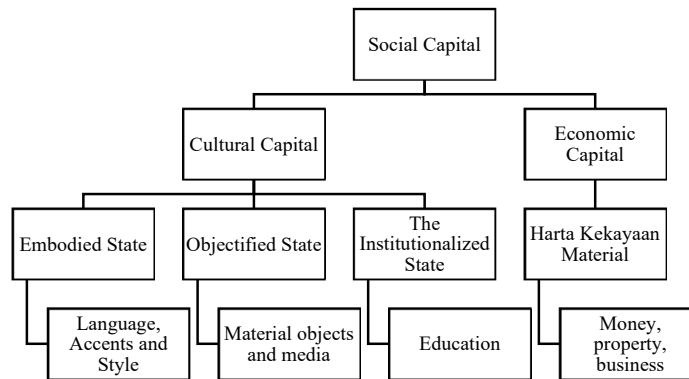

FIGURE SEQ Gambar * ARABIC 2. The relationship between social capital, cultural capital and economic capital

From the definition of social capital above, it can be seen that social capital is a relationship between individuals or groups and a social structure where there is a positive relationship for the individuals or groups involved in it. The size of a person's social capital depends on other types of capital, such as cultural capital and economic capital. Bourdieu (1986) explains that cultural capital is the possession of cultural competence or knowledge that is used by individuals and institutionalized in the form of educational qualifications. Cultural capital is classified into three forms, namely embodied state, in the form of personality that appears in language, accent, and style. Then the objectified state, in material objects and media. And finally, namely the institutionalized state, in the form of academic qualifications. This cultural capital covers various aspects of culture, such as education, art, literature, music, and lifestyle. Language, art, and good education in society give individuals an advantage in dealing with social situations and provide greater access to social opportunities, and give a person or group of people the opportunity to reduce their social gaps (Bourdieu, 1986).

When discussing social capital and cultural capital, they will always be linked to economic capital. Economic capital refers to material wealth. These material assets can be in the form of money, property, or business. This economic capital provides benefits to individuals or groups who have access to it. Capital to start a business, and access to networking and profitable job opportunities. Meanwhile, individuals or groups with limited economic capital will face difficulties in accessing the same resources and opportunities (Bourdieu, 1986). The higher the level of education and educational institutions that a person attends, the greater that person's cultural capital will be. Individuals or groups that have higher social capital will be more dominant in obtaining a certain social status in society (Anderson & Keltner, 2002).

Social inequality that occurs due to differences in social capital in society will give rise to symptoms of symbolic violence against individuals or other groups who have lower social capital. Symbolic violence can be explained as an experience that arises when individuals or groups are involved in social struggle, but their capacities and needs are not sufficient to meet the demands and expectations in an arena (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992). Fashri (2014) defines an arena as a space where there is a struggle to fight for access to resources (capital) and also to obtain certain accesses that are closely related to power. That way, each individual or group will be directed to design and use strategies to achieve the existing position. The arena in the context of the film "Arcane" is the setting where the story takes place, namely the cities

of Piltover and Zaun where individuals or groups in the film "Arcane" are involved in social interactions and compete with each other. In the arena, it is important to relate to the concept of habitus. Habitus literally means habit. Habitus is defined as social values that are ingrained for a long time and can persist in human thought patterns and self. Habitus can move, orient, and take action according to the position occupied by the individual or group in the arena (Martono, 2012). In the film Arcane, individuals or groups with higher social capital shape their habitus according to their wishes through various power mechanisms, one of which is through symbolic violence. Symbolic violence is manifested in the form of stigmatization or stereotypes, discrimination, domination, and identity or cultural conflicts.

Individuals or groups with high social capital will try to maintain this social status and maintain existing social inequality and control other individuals or groups who have lower social capital. With social capital concentrated in certain groups as holders of control, it will create a phenomenon called the status quo. The status quo itself is defined as a social and political situation that is well-established and stable. This situation is closely related to certain groups as holders of power over the political and economic system in society. Social groups that have high cultural, economic, and social capital will tend to strengthen and maintain social inequality. To maintain the status quo in a society that has social inequality, there are two processes used, namely cultural and social reproduction as well. Cultural reproduction makes an individual or group adapt themselves to existing values and norms. Social reproduction, trying to maintain existing social inequalities into the next generation. This can happen because it is preserved through education and social interaction in society (Bourdieu, 1986).

Methods

The method used in this research is qualitative content analysis using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory analysis. Content analysis is used to describe a text or message and describe the aspects and characteristics of a message. Content analysis is not used to test a hypothesis, therefore the events or facts presented are the result of media construction (Kriyantono, 2018). The object used in this research is the Netflix Arcane series with the population being all the scenes in the Netflix Arcane series. Meanwhile, the samples used are fragments of scenes in the Arcane series that represent social inequality. Purposive sampling was chosen as the sampling technique in this research. According to Sugiyono (2014), purposive sampling is defined as a technique for determining samples with certain considerations.

In this research, the primary data used is the Netflix series Arcane. Meanwhile, secondary data itself was obtained from various sources including journals, articles, and books. Documentation is used as a method for collecting research data. Louis Gottschalk (in Haryono, 2020) defines documentation as any process of proof that is based on any type of source, whether written, oral, or pictorial. The documentation method is carried out by screen-capturing scenes in the Netflix series Arcane which represent social inequality. Before carrying out data analysis, researchers watched the Arcane series in its entirety. The data that has been obtained is then analyzed using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory and the data is described to analyze the meaning of denotation, meaning of connotation, and myth to determine the elements of representation of social inequality.

The data validity test aims to show whether the measuring instrument that has been used is appropriate and appropriate. A high level of validity indicates that the measuring instrument used is appropriate and effective. Data triangulation is a technique for verifying the validity of the data in this research, such as looking for sources from previous research, articles, and journals that are relevant to this research.

Results

The meaning of denotation, connotation, and myth in the Netflix series Arcane is:

Data 001

Figure 1. Kiramman family room

Episode 2, 00: 12 : 03 – 00: 12 : 08

Table 1. Sign, signifier, signified of data 001

Sign	Signifier	Signified
3 people Family room Family photos and symbols Flower vase Chair and table Gold decoration	In this scene, there are three people interacting. The interaction took place in the family room. There are family photos and symbols. There is also a flower vase on the table. The walls and ornaments in the family room are covered in gold decoration.	In this scene, there are three people consisting of father, mother, and child. They interacted in the family room where the mother was dressing up and looking in the mirror. The father and son are sitting. There is a photo and family symbol "Kiramman" located in the middle of the family room wall.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was shot using the Long Shot technique. From the depiction above, it can be explained that three people are interacting. The interaction took place in the family room. There are family photos and symbols. There is also a flower vase on the table. The walls and ornaments in the family room are covered in gold decoration.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Long Shot, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken away to show an object or character in a larger context. Its function is to provide a broad view of the environment or location where the scene takes place (Heiderich, 2012)

Based on this scene, the connotation meaning is that the paintings and symbols emphasize status and prestige in society. The Kiramman Clan is an elite clan in Piltover society, where the head of the Kiramman Clan, Cassandra Kiramman, is a member of the council. The council has an important position as a leader and policy maker in Piltover. These paintings and symbols depict high social position, wealth, and power. Gold has a sense of wealth and luxury in Piltover society.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is that this myth creates a narrative about how noble and valuable the status of elite people like Cassandra Kiramman and the Kiramman Clan is. They are considered leaders who control society and have extraordinary wealth and power. Paintings and symbols depicting status and prestige can be implied symbols of success, so people may believe that wealth and success are signs of success and glory.

Data 002

Figure 2. View of zaun city

Episode 1, 00: 20 : 51 – 00: 20 : 56

Table 2. Sign, signifier, signified of data 002

Sign	Signifier	Signified
Crowd Outdoors Building that says "The Last Drop" Irregular pipes Zaun City	In this scene, there is a crowd of people outside the room. They were in front of a building that said "The Last Drop" and there were irregular pipes. They are in Zaun City.	In this scene there is a crowd of people outside, precisely in front of the building of a shop called "The Last Drop" and the pipes there are irregular. They are in Zaun City.

The scene was shot using the Long Shot technique. From the depiction above it can be explained that there is a crowd of people outside the room. They were in front of a building that said "The Last Drop" and there were irregular pipes.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Long Shot, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken away to show an object or character in a larger context. Its function is to provide a broad view of the environment or location where the scene takes place (Heiderich, 2012).

Based on this scene, the connotation meaning is that the nuances of the city of Zaun are visualized with dark colors. Dark colors can depict perceptions of danger and insecurity in the city. Poorly lit areas are often considered riskier, and this can create the myth of high crime rates. Apart from that, the "Last Drop" shop can also be associated with the concept of limitation or fall. This may reflect the difficult conditions or situation in Zaun and highlights that this was a place where people sought a final escape or solace.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is that this myth creates a narrative about a better quality of life. This includes the idea that living in an area with good sun exposure is better than living in a place with less sunlight. Where the city of Zaun does not have access to sunlight and it can be said that the city of Zaun does not have a good quality of life. In addition, the environment of Zaun city can be considered bad because it has poor sanitation.

Data 003

Figure 3. Crowds of people were attending the commemoration of progress day

Episode 4, 00: 04: 22 – 00: 04 : 27

Table 3. Sign, signifier, signified of data 003

Sign	Signifier	Signified
Crowd poster of a man's face Man of Progress writing Outdoors	In this scene, there is a crowd of people attending a commemoration event. There is a poster of the face of an adult man that says Man of Progress. Set outdoors.	In this scene, there is a crowd of people attending an event commemorating Progress Day. there is a poster of Jayce's face displayed in public and it says Man of Progress. Set in the city of Piltover.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was shot using the Long Shot technique. From the description above, it can be explained that there was a crowd of people attending the commemoration event. There is a poster of the face of an adult man that says Man of Progress. Set outdoors.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Long Shot, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken away to show an object or character in a larger context. Its function is to provide a broad view of the environment or location where the scene takes place (Heiderich, 2012).

Based on this scene, the connotation meaning is that the writing "Man of Progress" highlights Jayce's role as a figure who supports and represents technological and scientific progress. This poster of Jayce's face can reflect Jayce's dedication to research, discovery, and technological development that brings progress to Piltover.

Myth

The myth that emerges in this scene is that Jayce can be considered a technological hero or scientist who brings progress to his society. This idea created the myth of the hero who used intelligence and invention to overcome challenges and benefit many people.

Data 004

Figure 4. Singed gives shimmer to Viktor

Episode 7, 00: 05: 47 – 00: 05 : 50

Table 4. Sign, signifier, signified of data 004

Sign	Signifier	Signified
2 persons Indoor Purple Liquid	In this scene, there are two people interacting. One of the people was holding a purple liquid. Set indoors.	In this scene, Singed is giving a liquid called Shimmer to Viktor. It is set in Singed's private laboratory.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was taken using the Medium close-up technique. From the depiction above, it can be explained that two people are interacting. One of the people was holding a purple liquid. Set indoors.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Medium Close Up, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken from the head to the chest. Its function is to emphasize a person's profile so that the audience is clear (Riwu & Pujiati, 2018).

Based on this scene, the connotation means that Shimmer is a potion that has the effect of increasing physical strength and abilities, which can make the user stronger in battle or physical work. However, shimmer also has serious side effects, including addiction, uncontrollable physical changes, and negative impacts on mental health. Because Viktor was physically weak and disabled, Singed tried to give the potion he created for Viktor to use.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is a myth about the latent dangers of technological progress. Society does not see or does not consider the potential dangers associated with technological advances. Increases in knowledge and technology must be balanced with ethics and responsibility.
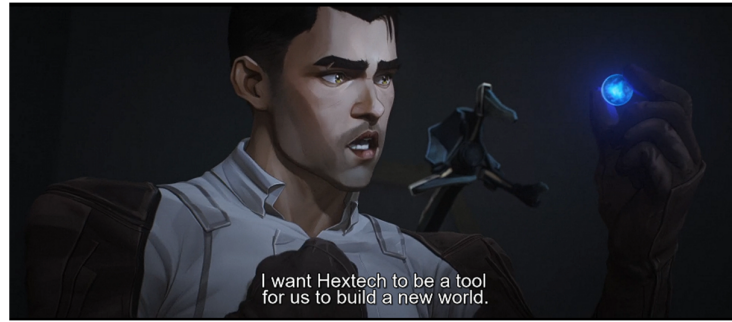
Data 005

Figure 5. Jayce holds the hextech gemstone

Episode 4, 00: 13: 34 – 00: 13 : 39
Table 5. Sign, signifier, signified of data 005

Sign	Signifier	Signified
1 person Indoor A ball of light	In this scene, there is a person holding a glowing ball. The scene is set indoors.	In this scene, one person is seen holding a glowing ball called Hextech Gemstone.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was taken using the close-up technique. From the depiction above, it can be explained that one person is holding a glowing ball. The scene is set indoors.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Close Up, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken from the shoulder to the top of the hair. Its function is to show the character's expressions and emotions in detail (Heiderich, 2012).

In this scene, there is a monologue spoken by Jayce.
Jayce: "I want Hextech to be a tool for us to build a new world"

Based on this dialogue, the connotation means that the sentences spoken by Jayce reflect Jayce's responsibilities as a scientist. He wants to ensure that the use of Hextech is not only for personal interests or certain groups but for the public interest and taking into account scientific ethics.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is that scientific ethics, or moral norms in scientific practice, must be a guide in the development and use of technology. Jayce may be trying to instill the belief that scientists have an ethical responsibility to ensure that the technology they develop does not cause harm or negative impacts.

Data 006

Figure 6. Tobias Kiramman (left), and Cassandra Kiramman (center) introducing Jayce Talis (right)

Table 6. Sign, signifier, signified of data 006

Sign	Signifier	Signified
3 people Crowd	There were three people at the front of the crowd.	There was one woman and two men standing in front of the people, where they introduced their student named Jayce Talis.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was taken using the Medium Close-Up technique. From the depiction above, it can be explained that there are three people in front of a crowd of people.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Medium Close Up, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken from the head to the chest. Its function is to emphasize a person's profile so that the audience is clear (Riwu & Pujiati, 2018).

In this scene, there is dialogue from Cassandra.
Cassandra: "Our most famous protege, Jayce Talis. The visionary behind the hexgate. A beacon of trade and prosperity for our great City of Progress"

Based on this dialogue, the connotation that emerges is that Jayce Talis is considered a person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the City of Piltover, this is thanks to the Hexgate technology he created. This technology can connect two cities that are very far away so that trade problems that often arise due to distance can be overcome. This dialogue also has a connotation meaning that the results of Jayce Talis' hard work are the result of support from the Kiramman family.

In this scene, the connotation means the introduction of Jayce as a student of the Kiramman family, which reflects the importance of education and opportunity in one's life. The Kiramman family who provided grants or scholarships can see that they helped open doors to education and possible success for Jayce. They may feel that without their financial assistance, Jayce's success would not be possible.

Myth

The myth that emerges in this scene is that connections with elite people will facilitate access to education. Elites are people who can exert influence through social networks, social capital, and strategic positions in the social structure (Nul Hakim, 2013). Jayce had access to an extraordinary education and was able to conduct research with unlimited resources because he was funded by the Kiramman family.

Data 007

Figure 7. Singed research room

Table 7. Sign, signifier, signified of data 007

Sign	Signifier	Signified
1 person In a cave 1 research animal research tools a mouse	In this scene, there is someone who is conducting research on an animal. Set in a cave. There are mouse walking around below.	There is an adult man who is conducting research on an animal resembling a giant reptile. Set in a cave containing research tools. There are mouse walking around below.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was shot using the Long Shot technique. From the description above, it can be explained that there is someone who is conducting research on an animal. It's set in a cave, and there are mouse walking underneath.

Connotation Meaning

The shooting technique used in this scene is Long Shot, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken away to show an object or character in a larger context. Its function is to provide a broad view of the environment or location where the scene takes place (Heiderich, 2012).

Based on this scene, the connotation means that Singed is a chemist who works underground in the lower city, Zaun. He set up a laboratory under a cave. The selected laboratory location has connotations of Singed's isolation from the upper class and Piltover society.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is that Singed is isolated from the upper class and Piltover society which can create a myth about the deep separation between the upper city and the lower city. This creates the assumption that the lower city is an isolated and marginalized place in the world of "Arcane," and people like Singed who live there must face difficult and isolated conditions. In addition, Singed's laboratory with limited equipment shows Singed as someone with limited access to financial resources.

Data 008

Figure 8. Viktor who is talking to Jayce

Table 8. Sign, signifier, signified of data 008

Sign	Signifier	Signified
2 persons Outdoor	In this scene, two people are interacting. They interact outdoors	In this scene, two people are interacting. One person interacts while sitting and another person interacts while standing.

Denotational Meaning

The scene was taken using the Medium Close-Up technique. From the depiction above, it can be explained that two people are interacting. They interact outdoors.

The shooting technique used in this scene is Medium Close Up, which is a type of shooting where the image is taken from the head to the chest. Its function is to emphasize a person's profile so that the audience is clear (Riwu & Pujiati, 2018).

In this scene, there is a conversation between Viktor and Jayce.
Jayce: "There are people down there, who seem hell-bent on destroying us. What were you doing?"
Viktor: "I was consulting a friend about our quandary. I told you, I knew someone."
Jayce: "Well, you didn't say they were from the undercity!"
Viktor: "What difference does that make?"
Jayce: "What diff… they're dangerous."
Viktor: "I'm from the undercity"

Based on this dialogue, the connotation means that there is a discriminatory attitude shown by Jayce towards the people of the lower city. Where the people of the lower city are considered dangerous people who will harm the people of the upper city. Viktor, who comes from the lower city, feels like he is being discriminated against even though he is Jayce's co-worker.

Based on this scene, the connotation means that there is a difference in social status between Jayce and Viktor. Their social status is emphasized by Viktor who is positioned sitting having a lower social status compared to Jayce who is positioned standing in this interaction.

Myth

The myth that appears in this scene is a generalization myth about poor people. Viktor is part of the lower city where stereotypes or prejudices that often arise in upper-class society towards poor people are the involvement of poor people in dangerous things and behavior that is detrimental to society. Then, this is reinforced by their low social status in society.

Discussions

Representation of Social Inequality in Piltover City and Zaun City

Social inequality is defined as a situation where there is inequality, disparity, or unequal access to utilize resources that occur in a society. In Bourdieu's view, social inequality occurs because of the unequal distribution of individual or group social capital in society. Social capital can be formed through good status that comes from the distribution of cultural capital and the resulting economic capital. In the Netflix series "Arcane" a scene is found that shows how Piltover City and Zaun City present social inequality.

Educational Inequality

Educational inequality can manifest in the form of institutionalized state cultural capital which is manifested in educational qualifications. The Netflix series "Arcane" is set in the fictional cities of Piltover City and Zaun. Piltover is known as a city that upholds education, so the Piltover arena will try to construct its society according to Piltover education. In contrast to Zaun City, this city is more focused as an industrial city and does not prioritize education it. Social capital can also be socially formed and guaranteed through the application of common names such as family names, classes, tribes, schools, and certain groups (Bourdieu, 1986).

Figure 3 shows that Jayce was a prominent inventor and scientist from Piltover who created Hexgate technology. This technology allows people or goods to move to very far places in a short time. Jayce, who received a quality formal education, was able to create this technology so that he was given the title "Man of Progress". Jayce's educational qualifications and degrees are considered a generally recognized certificate of cultural competency by the Piltover community. This placed him in an important position as a highly respected scientist. This is in line with what Bourdieu said that academic degrees and qualifications give a person cultural competence that is generally recognized and has legally guaranteed value in a cultural context (Bourdieu, 1986). Apart from that, Jayce, who has received formal education, will receive the distinction of alumni when he graduates. According to Suhaeni (2019) social capital can also be obtained from alumni social networks if someone takes formal education provided that someone can create a degree of trust between him and other alumni. As an alumnus of Piltover Academy, Jayce's social capital grew stronger along with his discoveries in the field of technology.

On the other hand, in Figure 4 Singed is also an inventor and a scientist from Zaun, but Singed did not receive formal education due to limited economic resources so he had to learn autodidactically by conducting his experiments. he created a potion called Shimmer. Shimmer is a potion that has the effect of increasing physical strength and abilities, which can make the user stronger in battle or physical work. Despite its discoveries, Singed does not have a great reputation for its discoveries, because its discoveries are not highly appreciated because they cause dangerous side effects. Apart from that,

Singed is a character who experiences a lack of capital, especially educational qualifications because he did not have a formal education like Jayce.

Ethical Inequality

Ethical Inequality can also manifest from another form of cultural capital, namely the embodied state, which is a personality that is integrated in a person's mind and body. This can take the form of internalizing scientific ethics. According to Bourdieu (1986), ethics or manners (attitude, pronunciation, etc.) can be included in social capital as long as, through the means of acquisition they demonstrate, these behaviors indicate initial membership of a more or less prestigious group. Bourdieu's statement means that someone with good ethics can influence someone to be accepted and recognized in a certain social group. In the "Arcane" series, Piltover City's habitus highly upholds scientific ethics. Violations of scientific ethics will lead to exile. This is different from the habitus of Zaun City, where there are no clear rules regarding scientific ethics, so scientists in Zaun City will be freer to experiment even though it tends to be controversial for Piltover people.

Figure 5 shows that Jayce is a scientist and inventor who focuses on technological development, including the use of Hextech. In Jayce's character, there is an internalization of scientific ethics through his openness to research, his desire to improve the conditions of the city, and his commitment to scientific integrity. Jayce's personality like this earned him support from the Piltover community so Jayce's social capital was formed in the community.

Figure 4 shows that Singed creates a dangerous concoction called Shimmer and often uses experimental methods that harm and torture the objects of his research. Singed ignores scientific ethics in favor of his extreme experiments. Singed's personality like this made Singed isolated from Piltover society and finally settled in Zaun City.

Housing Inequality

Housing Inequality can also be manifested from other forms of capital, namely Objectified State, which can take the form of cultural goods needed in an arena. Cultural capital can be realized as objectified resources, namely in the form of cultural goods such as pictures, books, dictionaries, instruments, machines, and others (Bourdieu, 1986). In the Netflix series Arcane, the people of Piltover and Zaun need items used in everyday life such as shelter. The residence in question is not just a physical structure but can also reflect the social position in society.

Figure 1 shows a luxurious residence or house marked by lots of gold decoration. This reflects how high their social status is in society. Apart from that, interiors such as paintings and symbols of the Kiramman family are also cultural items. This is because the Kiramman family's paintings and symbols reflect how the Kiramman family's position or social class is highly respected in Piltover society. Prasetya (Prasetya, 2022) also explains that a person's social class can be seen from the type and location of where they live.

This is different from Figure 2 which shows how residences in Zaun City have a simpler physical structure, less advanced technology, and a more slum environment. One of the criteria for a slum environment is characterized by poor sanitation (Shalekhah & Martadi, 2021). In the Zaun City environment, poor sanitation is characterized by irregular pipes. The physical environmental differences between Zaun City and Piltover City result in social separation between communities. This results in limitations for individuals or groups to interact with other individuals or groups who have access to certain resources, knowledge, or opportunities.

Dianiya (2020) explains that differences in social status can be seen from the differences in how people from the upper class and lower class enjoy life. Lower-class people are used to seeing slum views, while people are depicted as often enjoying luxury and beautiful views. This is evident from how social inequality is shown in the differences in residence and environment between Zaun City and Piltover City.

Economic Inequality

Economic Inequality can manifest in individual or group capabilities regarding financial resources. In the Netflix series "Arcane" access to financial resources plays an important role in the formation of a person's or group's social capital. In Figure 6, Jayce, who is part of the Piltover community, has connections to the elite community of the city of Piltover. Due to this connection, he was given a scholarship or full funding so that Jayce was able to have access to quality education and technological discoveries such as Hextech. Jayce is also a resident of Piltover City who lives very well off.

This is different from Figure 7, where Singed, who is part of the Zaun community, has limited financial resources. The impact of these limited financial resources is that Singed does not receive quality education. Apart from that, Singed's experiments did not produce optimal results, because the laboratory equipment was inadequate. This is in line with Bourdieu's view that economic capital provides benefits to individuals or groups who have access to it. Capital to start a business, and access to networking and profitable job opportunities. Meanwhile, individuals or groups with limited economic capital will face difficulties in accessing the same resources and opportunities (Bourdieu, 1986).

Symbolic violence can be explained as an experience that arises when individuals or groups are involved in social struggle, but their capacities and needs are not sufficient to meet the demands and expectations in an arena (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992). Symbolic violence is violence that is difficult to overcome and is usually manifested in the form of stigmatization or stereotypes, discrimination, domination, and identity or cultural conflicts. An arena is a space where there is a struggle to fight for access to resources (capital) and also to obtain certain accesses that are closely related to power (Fashri, 2014). The arenas in this series are the cities of Piltover and Zaun where individuals or groups in the Arcane films are involved in social interactions and compete with each other.

The Netflix series Arcane shows scenes of marginalization as a form of symbolic violence imposed on the people of Zaun City. Figure 8 shows the conversation that occurred between Jayce and Viktor. Jayce in this scene asks why Viktor went to Zaun City. Viktor answered that he met his friend who turned out to be a person from the Lower City, where the person Viktor came to turn out to be Singed. Then, Jayce responded to this in a high tone while saying that the people from Zaun City were dangerous. This scene contains elements of symbolic violence. Jayce displays a discriminatory attitude towards the people of the lower city, regarding them as dangerous people for no apparent reason. This creates negative stereotypes of disadvantaged groups in society and devalues them. In addition, the assumption is that poor people from the lower city are considered dangerous and detrimental to society. Jayce, in his dialogue, indirectly supports this stereotype, which reinforces the stigmatization of downtown folks.

Apart from facing negative stereotypes, Viktor also faces other forms of symbolic violence. Viktor has an idea about using technology to help marginalized communities like Zaun. However, ideas like this are considered by the Piltover elite as a form of threat because of their stereotype of the Zaun as a group of dangerous people. As a result of this, Viktor was isolated from the support of the Piltover community and elite and was considered marginal or outside the existing social norm.

Conclusion

The results found regarding the representation of social inequality in the Netflix series Arcane are divided into two categories. First, the representation of social inequality which include educational inequality, ethical inequality, housing inequality and economic inequality. Second, marginalization as a form of symbolic violence. The educational inequality is represented by Jayce who has a formal education while Singed has no formal education. The ethical inequality is represented by Jayce's desire to improve the conditions of the city, and his commitment to scientific integrity while Singed ignores scientific ethics for the sake of his extreme experiments. The housing inequality is represented by the luxurious residences or houses inhabited by the Kiramman family in Piltover City while people from Zaun City have to live in slums and poor sanitation. Economic inequality is represented by Jayce who has access to financial resources thanks to scholarship support, while Singed does not have sufficient financial resources which results in his discovery and education. Marginalization is represented by Jayce's attitude which tends to be discriminatory towards people from Zaun. In addition, marginalization occurs when individuals or groups experience a lack of capital in society. To expand research on the same topic, future researchers can use alternative critical theory to examine the social inequality present in the Netflix series, Arcane. This further research can explore all the characters or subjects featured in Arcane who are influenced or have an impact on social inequality based on the chosen theory.

Acknowledgment

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