

THE BINARY OPPOSITION ANALYSIS OF THE RICH AND POOR CHARACTERS IN THE KOREAN MOVIE 'PARASITE'

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ABSTRACT

Nowdays, the world of cinema is more varied. Several types of films have been adapted from literary works. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze a movie as representative of a new way to enjoy literature. Then in this case, the writer takes Korean movie 'Parasite' as object of analysis. There are several purposes of the study based on research problem, such as to know the theme, plot, setting, characters and characteristics, binary opposition from those characters, and the sociology effect especially social behavior from those characters. This study used a qualitative descriptive research method using the sociology of literature approach in binary opposition. The collection technique is carried out through the stages of watching and understanding the film as a whole. Then, the writers carried out the analysis, recording, and grouping the analysis by category. In this study, there are found three pairs binary opposition, such as:

1. Rich (Cunning) vs. Poor (Naive)
2. Rich (Unopportunistic) vs. Poor (Opportunistic)
3. Rich (Sensitive) vs. Poor (Ignorant)

The rich people are usually described as superior, whereas poor people are usually described as inferior. However, in this film, there is an overturning of facts. There is a surprising fact in this film that poor characters are more powerful than rich characters. In the film, all members of the Kim's family can control the Park's family. Therefore, there is a new fact in the film that poor characters are superior to rich characters.

Keywords: *sociology of literature, binary opposition, korean movie, parasite*

INTRODUCTION

Nowdays, the world of cinema is more varied. Pratista (2008) said that there are two elements in a film that must be fulfilled, such as the cinematic element and the narrative element. The narrative element is very important because it relates to the theme and story of the film which will be closely related to conflicts, problems, time, location, characters and so on that will be shown in the film. Several types of films have been adapted from literary works. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze a movie as representative of a new way to enjoy literature. One of the movies is a film that is still hotly discussed, the Oscar-winning 2020 film, 'Parasite'. 'Parasite' tells about the social inequality that exists in South Korea which is packaged in an epic in the form of a film. This film received many awards both from within the country and abroad. 'Parasite' won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2019. 'Parasite' also won the best foreign language film category at the 77th Golden Globe Awards. This win was the first Korean film to win a major Hollywood award. Then recently, at the 2020 Oscar, Parasite won 4 trophies at once, such as for the category Best Picture, International Feature Film, Best Original Script, and Best Director.

Apart from winning many awards, Parasite also carries an extraordinary and very interesting theme to be the object of research. Parasite tells about the social inequality that exists in South Korea which is packaged in a dark comedy film. The scenes in this film are also very interesting and not easy to predict. At the beginning, the scene made the audience laugh because of the subtle insinuations between the poor and the rich. But at the climax of the film, the audience is very tense and it is impossible to laugh because of the sudden murder scenes. These things make the writer want to make Parasite a research object. Therefore, there are several purposes of the study based on research problem, such as to know the theme, plot, setting, characters and characteristics, binary opposition from those characters, and the sociology effect especially social behavior from those characters.

Based on several previous studies, many other researchers analyze the social criticism but here the writer is interested in analyzing the 'Parasite' film directed by Bong Joon-ho with a different approach, namely the sociology of literature approach which is famous for its use as an eye that can see things that relates with social condition in binary opposition. Soemanto (1993) states that the concept of sociology of literature is actually based on the argument that literary works are written by an author, while authors are creatures who experience sensations in social life.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive research method using the sociology of literature approach in binary opposition. The collection technique is carried out through the stages of watching and understanding the film as a whole. Then, the writer carried out the analysis, recording, and grouping the analysis by category.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this study, there found several result, such as:

Table 1. Result of the Study

No.		Result
1.	Theme	The theme of 'Parasite' korean movie was "social gap". The most obvious evidence about social gap in this film could be seen from financial condition from both of families.
2.	Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction Introduction about Kim's family who had four members such as, Kim Ki-taek (Song Kang-ho) as the father, his wife Park Chung- suk (Jang Hye-jin), his son Kim Ki-woo (Choi Woo-shik), and her daughter Kim Ki- jeong (Park So-dam). They lived in an apartment below the ground are small, cramped, and shabby. They did not have permanent jobs. In daily life, their work was folded box pizza, with earnings which was very small and not sufficient to fill their necessary.<li>• Rising Action Rising action in this film was when Ki-woo accepted Min-hyuk's offer to replace him as the Park family's private tutor. Then one by one the Kim family entered the Park family by recommending each other.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax When the fraud committed by the Kim family was discovered by Mun-gwang and Geun-se, it led to the accidental killing of Mun-gwang by Chung-suk. Therefore, Geun-se massacred the Kim's family during Da-song's birthday celebrations because of revenge for the death of Mun-gwang, who Geun-se's wife. • Falling Action The death of each member of the Kim's family, namely Kim-jeong who was killed by Geun-se and the Park's family was Dong-ik who was killed by Ki-taek, who eventually fled in the bunker. • Resolution When Ki-woo managed to find a letter in the form of a morse sign from his father trapped in the bunker, Ki-woo planned to continue his life by working, having lots of money, getting married, and buying the former Park family house, so his father did not have to hide in the bunker anymore. However, in reality Ki-woo and his mother still lived in their old house.
3.	Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of place <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kim's family house 2. Park's family house 3. In front of minimarket 4. Internet Station 5. Canteen 6. Mr. Park's office 7. Sport hall 8. Market 9. Hospital

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Mall 11. Court 12. Burial 13. Hill • Setting of time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the morning 2. In the afternoon 3. In the evening • Setting of admosphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Happy 2. Sad 3. Angry 4. Annoyed 5. Tense 6. Dibble 7. Frightening 8. Shock 9. Tragic 10. Worry 	
4.	Characters and Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters and characteristics the rich characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Park Dong-ik: Naive and Arrogant 2. Choi Yeon-gyo: Naive and Gullible 3. Park Da-hye: Unopportunistic 4. Park Da-song: Sensitive • Characters and characteristics the poor characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kim Ki-taek: Cunning and Vengeful 2. Park Chung-suk: Cunning and Realistic 3. Kim Ki-woo: Intelligent, Ambitious, and Opportunistic 4. Kim Ki-jeong: Ignorant 	
5.	Binary Opposition	The rich characters	The poor characters

	<p>The Rich and Poor Characters</p>	<p>1. Naive (Park Dong-ik dan Choi Yeon-gyo) 2. Unopportunistic (Park Da-hye) 3. Sensitive (Park Da-song)</p>	<p>1. Cunning (Kim Ki-taek dan Park Chung-suk) 2. Opportunistic (Kim Ki-woo) 3. Ignorant (Kim Ki-jeong)</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>The Sociological Effect Such As Social Behavior of Individuals with Individuals with Groups and Groups with Groups Appear in The Story of The Rich and Poor</p>	<p>First, there are the binary opposition of the two married couples in the film, the character of a poor man in which Kim Ki-taek and his wife Park Chung-suk are a driver and a helper in the Park's family. Meanwhile, Park Dong-ik and his wife Choi Yeon-gyo are employers. In general, the employer is more powerful than employee, but in this film, the driver and assistant are more powerful. Mr. Kim and Mrs. Kim can rule the Park's family. They are more cunning while Mr. Park and Mrs. Park are described as very naive. As a rich and highly educated person, Mr. Park and Mrs. Park should be not easily cheated, but on the contrary, in this film they are easily fooled by the Kim partner. Therefore, the Kim partner became more superior to the Park partner.</p> <p>Second, there is binary opposition from English tutors and tutors namely Kim Ki-woo and Park Da-hye. They have interdependent characteristics. In this film, Ki-woo is depicted as an opportunist, while Da-hye is depicted as an unopportunist. Ki-woo represents a poor character in this film, but he is portrayed as a smart, ambitious, and opportunistic person. He only finished high school, but he was able to show his capabilities as an English tutor, then he could even take many other opportunities from the Park's family while Da-hye represents the Park family, she is an unopportunist. She is not good at taking chances, even though he was born from a rich family that should be superior. Da-hye should be able to</p>	

		<p>choose a more professional teacher who has more abilities, but Da-hye is also fooled by Ki-woo who is just an ordinary high school graduate. Therefore, in this case, the poor character represented by Ki-woo is superior to the rich family represented by Da-hye.</p> <p>Finally, there is the binary opposition of art tutors and their tutors, Kim Ki-jeong and Park Da-song. In the film, Ki-jeong represents a poor character while Da-song represents a rich character. Ki-jeong has a strong character, which is cool and firm, while Da-song has a weaker character, which is sensitive. So that in the film Ki-jeong mastered Da-song more, it can be proven that when Ki-jeong ordered Da-song, Da-song would immediately obey, while based on previous experience, Da-song was very difficult to control. This shows that Ki-jeong can master Da-song. Therefore, in this case, the poor character represented by Ki-jeong is superior to the rich family represented by Da-song.</p>
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Discussion

According Ungkang (2013), structuralism states that language is actually a structure independent of autonomous humans who can stand alone through the rules of difference. This difference can be seen in relations and opposition. Thus, the relationship and opposition become a form of structure in the system. This shows that there are those who are used as the source and center so that they are said to have a special superior position meanwhile, those that are not used as derivatives that only fill the periphery spaces, on the central edge. Something that is defined is characterized as superior, while what defines it is called inferior. Therefore, in the structure there is a comparison of two things, which ends up separating those that are contradicting because of such a division. This contradiction is included in the opposition, namely the binary opposition.

The concept of binary opposition which means "in every center, there exists its opponent" is reflected in Parasite. Here, reflection of the binary opposition concept becomes clearer when the discussion is concerned on the way director manufactured this film. This film is really unique because the director creates the poor characters as the center, plot of the film cannot guess, in which it takes viewers' interest. The presence of poor characters in this film has certain meaning since the poor characters are significant because they are the root of all the actions and the events that happened in this film.

However, in the binary opposition concept, it is said that the establishing of one center means that there is another which is automatically decenter. Based on that concept, it is concluded there exist the opposite center in this film. In this film, the rich characters are in order to complete the binary that needs a pair of opposite things. In this case, a pair of opposite things is needed because the binary opposition concepts will not operate if there is only one element. Therefore, in this film the rich and poor characters complement each other to create a binary opposition.

According to Jalaluddin (2005) behaviorism is the result of learning all human behavior except instinct. Learning is a change in the behavior of an organism as an environmental influence. Behaviorism aims to determine how behavior is controlled by environmental factors. Meanwhile, according to Sumanto (2014) behaviorism learning theory is related to behavior change as a result of experience. The learning process is a process of changing behavior as reinforcement and punishment which becomes a stimulus to stimulate humans who learn to behave. Therefore, behaviorism is the result of learning and experiences all human behavior.

In previous subchapter, the characteristics both rich and poor characters are already analyzed. Based on that analysis, there are some characteristics of rich and poor characters which are opposed one to each other as a binary opposition. Those characteristics are listed and compared, so the binary opposition on the characteristics of these two characters becomes clearly accessible and can be analyzed.

No.	The Poor Characters	The Rich Characters
1.	Cunning (Kim Ki-taek dan Park Chung-suk)	Naive (Park Dong-ik dan Choi Yeon-gyo)
2.	Opprtunistic (Kim Ki-woo)	Unopportunistc (Park Da-hye)

3.	Ignorant (Kim Ki-jeong)	Sensitive (Park Da-song)
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Table 2. Binary opposition between the rich and poor characteristics

1. Cunning (Kim Ki-taek and Park Chung-suk) vs Naive (Park Dong-ik and Choi Yeon-gyo)

Bong Joon-ho, as a director characterized the poor characters in this film as cunning persons. This characteristic is represented by Kim Ki-taek. He does anything to get what he wants in his life although that is not in a good way, such as deceived and others. Otherwise, the rich characters have the opposite characteristics, which is naive. This characteristic is represented by Park Dong-ik. He is depicted as very innocent, innocent, stupid and gullible in this film. As the part of elements in binary opposition, Kim Ki-taek's characteristic as cunning person and Park Dong-ik's characteristic as naive person depend on one another.

The evidence that Kim Ki-taek and Park Chung-suk were cunning:

The evidence that Kim Ki-taek was cunning person:

Mr. Kim: *"Do you know the woman behind this?"*

Mrs. Park: *"Our family helper"*

Mr. Kim: *"It is true. How to explain ... I wasn't sure. I've seen it 1-2 times in the living room."*

Mrs. Park: *"This is the photo at the hospital?"*

Mr. Kim: *"Two days ago when I went to the hospital for a check-up, I took a selfie to send to my wife. Unexpectedly she was behind me."*

Mrs. Park: *"Is she on the phone?"*

Mr. Kim: *"I didn't mean to overhear the conversation."*

Mrs. Park: *"Aaa .. don't go on!"*

The evidence that Park Chung-suk was cunning person:

Mrs. Park: *"Da-song .."*

Mun-gwang: *"Madam ..."* (Chung-suk kicks Mun-gwang)

The evidence that Park Dong-ik and Choi Yeon-gyo were naïve:

The evidence that Park Dong-ik was naïve person:

Mrs. Park: *"You're home. Have you eat some food? There is something happens?"*

Mr. Park: *"Mun-gwang doesn't in home, right?"*

Mrs. Park: *"Yes, she was walking around with the dog."*

Mr. Park: *"Honey, I found this under the car seat."*

Mrs. Park: *"OMG.. Driver Yoon is crazy. What is this? I'm sorry honey,.. I didn't know Yoon was that kind of person. "*

The evidence that Choi Yeon-gyo was naïve person:

Mrs. Park: *"Your CV is very good. Min Hyuk recommended it anyway. You must know. Min-hyuk is perfect teacher. I'm very satisfied with him. It has nothing to do with Da-hye's grades. Do you understand?"*

Ki-woo: *"Yes mam"*

Mrs. Park: *"He is great. ... Is it okay with you? "*

2. Opportunistic (Kim Ki-woo) vs Unopportunistic (Park Da-hye)

The poor characters in this film are also characterized as opportunistic persons. This character is represented by Kim Ki-woo. He always takes many opportunities in his life. As discussed in the previous subchapter, Ki-woo took the opportunity to deceive the Kim family many times. Otherwise, the rich characters have opposite characteristics, which is unopportunistic. This character is represented by Park Da-hye. She does not take opportunities in her life, like she does not take opportunity to finish her exercise earlier. As the part of elements in binary opposition, Kim Ki-woo's characteristic as opportunistic person and Park Da-hye's characteristic as unopportunistic person depend on one another.

The evidence that Kim Ki-woo was opportunistic person:

Mrs. Park: *"Maybe because we often changed art teachers, none of them lasted a month. Da-song is a little hard to control."*

Ki-woo: *"Mrs. Park..."*

Mrs. Park: *"Yes..."*

Ki-woo: *"I remembered one good candidate. Her name is... Jessica... yes Jessica. She's a friend of my cousin who's majoring in art. Umb... What's her Korean name ... Anyway, he went to the University of Illinois majoring in applied arts. Just came back to Korea."*

Mrs. Park: *"Illinois? Then?"*

Ki-woo: *“Her class is very unique. She is able to understand the child's condition. That's rare in art. Not only she can make unique class, but also she can help children enter art majors.”*

Mrs. Park: *“I wonder what kind of person it is.”*

Ki-woo: *“You want to meet him? But I heard he's very expensive.”*

The evidence that Park Da-hye was unopportunistic person:

Ki-woo: *“Did you change the answer for question number 24? Da-hye, you did all the problems but you came back to question number 24. Is that right?”*

Da-hye: *“Yes”*

Ki-woo: *“If this is a real test and this is the first question, then you are a mess from the start. Look at this! Your heartbeat is messy too. Heartbeat won't lie, exam too. If the rhythm is messy then it's over. I don't care what the correct answer for number 24 is. What matters is how you master the rhythm of the whole exam. That's what I noticed. Focus! Keep up the momentum! Momentum! Understand?”*

3. Ignorant (Kim Ki-jeong) vs Sensitive (Park Da-song)

Bong Joon-ho, as a director characterized the poor characters in this film as ignorant persons. This characteristic is represented by Kim Ki-jeong. She does not care about many things in her life, such as her appearance, environment, and others. Otherwise, the rich characters have the opposite characteristics, which is sensitive. This characteristic is represented by Park Da-song. He is very sensitive about many things in his life, such as smell, sign, and others. As the part of elements in binary opposition, Kim Ki-jeong's characteristic as ignorant person and Park Da-song's characteristic as sensitive person depend on one another.

The evidence that Kim Ki-jeong was ignorant person:

(Ki-jeong closes the closet where the water is overflowing)

(Ki-jeong takes a cigarette, then smokes in the closet)

The evidence that Park Da-song was sensitive person:

Da-song: *“Oh ..”*

Mrs. Park: *“What's wrong?”*

Mr. Park: *“What's he doing?”*

Mrs. Park: *“That's enough Da-song.”*

Da-song: *“Ha .. They have the same smell.”*

Mrs. Park: *“What are you saying? Come back! Mrs. Jessica is waiting for you.”*

Da-song: *“Mrs. Jessica's smell is also similar.”*

Based on that comparison, it is clear that Bong Joon-ho puts the rich and poor characters in opposite side. Moreover, he characterizes the rich and poor characters as a pairs of opposite things. In analysis above, it is found that most of rich characteristics are opposite of poor's characteristics, and also vice versa.

Behind a film does not only present a fictional story, but there are other stories or other worries. Saptanto and Dewi (2020) said the process of creating a work is always motivated by social criticism about social issues that were happening at the time the work was made. The film, directed by Bong Joon-ho, entitled ‘Parasite’, certainly also has something else behind the film's story because a work is inseparable from the knowledge and experience of the writer himself. Bong Joon-ho has a sociology background at a well-known university in South Korea, namely Yonsei University. Of course, this is the background of many of Bong Joon-ho's works which reveal social facts in everyday life. ‘Parasite’ is one of Bong Joon-ho's worries regarding the social disparities that exist in Korea. The film ‘Parasite’ is a representation of the social inequality that exists in South Korea. In order for the film to be more real and interesting, Bong Joon-ho added a terrible impression at the end of the film as a spice to make the film more interesting, but besides that there must be a meaning. The meaning is for the audience to be aware of how terrible the social disparities that exist in South Korea.

As previously discussed in binary opposition, the two characters show interdependence. Related to the theory of sociology of literature this film is one of films that describes about social condition in South Korea. When viewed from the facts of the story, both character and character facts as well as problems and events, it will arrive at a statement about a chaotic world. Bong Joon-ho presents a film with a variety of awkwardness, madness, and things that can be categorized as something extraordinary and unpredictable. Various story scenes present a binary opposition, especially in the characteristics of each character.

In the society, the rich people are usually described as superior or powerful, whereas poor people are usually described as inferior or weaker and do not have any power. However,

in this film, there is an overturning of facts. The rich people who should be superior are actually inferior to poor people who should be inferior. In this film, the poor become superior while the rich become inferior. This can be seen from the binary opposition of the two characteristics of both rich and poor characters.

First, there are the binary opposition of the two married couples in the film, the character of a poor man in which Kim Ki-taek and his wife Park Chung-suk are a driver and a helper in the Park's family. Meanwhile, Park Dong-ik and his wife Choi Yeon-gyo are employers. In general, the employer is more powerful than employee, but in this film, the driver and assistant are more powerful. Mr. Kim and Mrs. Kim can rule the Park's family. They are more cunning while Mr. Park and Mrs. Park are described as very naive. As a rich and highly educated person, Mr. Park and Mrs. Park should be not easily cheated, but on the contrary, in this film they are easily fooled by the Kim partner. Therefore, the Kim partner became more superior to the Park partner.

Second, there is binary opposition from English tutors and tutors namely Kim Ki-woo and Park Da-hye. They have interdependent characteristics. In this film, Ki-woo is depicted as an opportunist, while Da-hye is depicted as an unopportunist. Ki-woo represents a poor character in this film, but he is portrayed as a smart, ambitious, and opportunistic person. He only finished high school, but he was able to show his capabilities as an English tutor, then he could even take many other opportunities from the Park's family while Da-hye represents the Park family, she is an unopportunist. She is not good at taking chances, even though he was born from a rich family that should be superior. Da-hye should be able to choose a more professional teacher who has more abilities, but Da-hye is also fooled by Ki-woo who is just an ordinary high school graduate. Therefore, in this case, the poor character represented by Ki-woo is superior to the rich family represented by Da-hye.

Finally, there is the binary opposition of art tutors and their tutors, Kim Ki-jeong and Park Da-song. In the film, Ki-jeong represents a poor character while Da-song represents a rich character. Ki-jeong has a strong character, which is cool and firm, while Da-song has a weaker character, which is sensitive. So that in the film Ki-jeong mastered Da-song more, it can be proven that when Ki-jeong ordered Da-song, Da-song would immediately obey, while based on previous experience, Da-song was very difficult to control. This shows that Ki-jeong can master Da-song. Therefore, in this case, the poor character represented by Ki-jeong is superior to the rich family represented by Da-song.

From some of these binary oppositions, it can be concluded that there is a surprising fact in this film that poor characters are more powerful than rich characters. In the film, all

members of the Kim's family can control the Park's family. Therefore, there is a new fact in the film that poor characters are superior to rich characters.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis that has been carried out on the 'Parasite' film directed by Bong Joon-ho, the author can conclude that this film carries the theme of social inequality. What comes and appears from the film do not only present a fictional story, but there are other stories or other worries. The film, directed by Bong Joon-ho, entitled 'Parasite', certainly also has something else behind the film's story because a work is inseparable from the knowledge and experience of the author himself. Bong Joon-ho has a sociology background at a well-known university in South Korea, namely Yonsei University. This is the background of many of Bong Joon-ho's works which reveal social facts in everyday life. 'Parasite' is one of Bong Joon-ho's worries regarding the social disparities that exist in Korea. 'Parasite' is a representation of the social inequality that exists in South Korea. In order for the film to be more real and interesting, Bong Joon-ho added a terrible impression at the end of the film as a spice to make the film more interesting, but besides that there must be a meaning. The meaning is for the audience to be aware of how terrible the social disparities that exist in South Korea.

As previously discussed in binary opposition, the two characters show interdependence. Related to the sociology of literature, this film is one of films that discuss about social condition such as social behaviour. When viewed from the facts of the story, both characters facts as well as problems and events, it will arrive at a statement about a chaotic world. Bong Joon-ho presents a film with a variety of awkwardness, madness, and things that can be categorized as something extraordinary and unpredictable. Various story scenes present a binary opposition, especially in the characteristics of each character.

In 'Parasite', it is clear that Bong Joon-ho presents the rich and poor characters as a pair of binary opposition. In the characteristics of rich and poor characters that are analyzed in this study, there are found three binary pairs like these following:

1. Rich (Cunning) vs. Poor (Naive)
2. Rich (Unopportunistic) vs. Poor (Opportunistic)

3. Rich (Sensitive) vs. Poor (Ignorant)

The rich people are usually described as superior or powerful, whereas poor people are usually described as inferior or weaker and do not have any power. However, in this film, there is an overturning of facts. The rich people who should be superior are actually inferior to poor people who should be inferior. In this film, the poor become superior while the rich become inferior. This can be seen from the binary opposition of the two characteristics of both rich and poor characters.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a surprising fact in this film that poor characters are more powerful than rich characters. Based on the story from the film, all members of the Kim's family can control the Park's family. Therefore, there is a new fact in the film that poor characters are superior to rich characters.

THANK-YOU NOTE

On this occasion the writer would like to express his sincere gratitude and appreciation for his assistance, direction, information and guidance to:

1. Budiati, S.Pd., M.Pd. as The Dean of the Faculty of Economic, Law and Humanities, Ngudi Waluyo University.
2. Endang Susilowati.S.S., M.Hum as the head of English Literature study program, Ngudi Waluyo University.
3. Deswanditto Dwi Saptanto, S.S., M.Hum. as advisor who has been willing to guide and direct until the writer can complete the final project.
4. All lectures of English Literature Department who has been willing to support until the writer can complete the final project.
5. My parents who have been willing to support until the writer can complete the final project.
6. All of my friends who have been willing to support and accompany until the writer can complete the final project.
7. All parties who have been willing to provide direction, support and information, so this final project can be completed.

Finally, the writer hopes this final project can provide benefits. Thank you.

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