

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this introduction, there are five sub chapters which are going to be discussed. They are background of the study, statement of the research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters need to be explained because it is very important to know the general point of view of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

India is identified as the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism. Hinduism is the largest religion in India which influences the cultures, customs and traditions. Caste is one of the Hinduism roles. It is the human level in which Hinduism divides its society into four castes, namely, *Brahman*, *Kshatriya*, *Vaishya*, and *Shudra*. *Brahman* is the highest level of the human that commonly identified with those fulfilling the callings of priest and spiritual perception. *Kshatriya* usually associated with rulers and warriors. *Vaishya* is often identified with commercial livelihoods, though associated with other producers and wealth-creators, whereas *shudra* are the artisans and agriculturalists (Sadhaguru, 2013: 1-2). According to Sadhaguru, it is states that Hinduism and caste have a great influence to Indian tradition and custom because both of them have been strongly used for many years until today which can be seen in Aravind Adiga's novel *The White Tiger*.

The White Tiger is Adiga's first novel which makes him becomes the winner of The Man Booker prize in 2008. Besides, Adiga is the first novelist who

“has taken an exhilarating ride through the darkest alleys of modern India” (Suneetha, 2012:164). In this novel, Adiga tries to depict castes, cultures, and customs as the real social life in India. He explains clearly about the lower castes life that always gets oppressing and suffering. Whereas, the upper castes who live in luxury with good facilities. According the explanation above, it can be concluded that *The White Tiger* is an interesting novel in depicting Indian social life and condition. So that, it becomes the main reason of the writer in choosing this source of data, because analyzing about figurative language and social condition in *The White Tiger* will give many knowledge about Indian culture.

In *The White Tiger*, Adiga portrays Balram Halwaii as the main character of *The White Tiger* who writes a series of letters written in seven nights to the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabo. Balram persuades Wen Jiabao to visit India in order to know how Jiabao can win the power and influence of people in modern India. Balram is a young man who has been rising up from the darkness, Laxmangarh. He wants to change his life from a poor man to be a great man by killing his master, because he wants to change his life condition that always gets indignity as the lower class. Those are done by Balram to finds a way out of the darkness that no one can solve the low class discrimination, in which told as a part of Indian political culture.

Adiga portrays clearly the real condition of India, by describing how the caste differs one another through social gap. Besides, Adiga uses some kind of figurative languages like metaphor and irony to differ among the lower and upper caste. For example, Adiga used *country mouse* to describe Laxmangarh as

Balram's place, which is aimed to depict the social condition. Because of that, the novel is interesting to be read. Therefore, it is determined to use New Criticism approach in analyzing this great novel entitled *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, because the figurative languages give many information about Indian social condition.

According to the explanation above, this study is going to be analyzed by using new criticism approach. Briefly, new criticism is a theory that explained about the text, and only the text, in order to analyze it and get the true meaning of it. New criticism was well connected with the term "close reading", which was a careful analysis of the text, such as figurative language (Tyson, 2006:135-136). The figurative language in *The White Tiger*, is very important to be analyzed, in order to know the meaning which can be more than one. Besides, that figurative language makes literary works to be a beautiful and gives many advantages, such as information, moral teaching, social value, and accompany of loneliness as entertainment. Therefore, it is going to be focused on analyzing *The White Tiger* only in the term of figurative language.

In relation to the source of this study, there have been a number of valuable studies on *The White Tiger*. They are Kasbekar (2011), Poonkodi (2009), and Amanda Pavita (2014). They present the analysis on the major character, social condition, and the caste system in India by using theory of Metaphor, Imagery, and Individualism. However, this study is focused only on irony and metaphor because those terms give more information about social condition in this study. Actually, Kasbekar also analyzed about metaphor, but it has a different

notion with this present study, because he analyzed the servitude of the poor and the arrogant opulence of the rich using metaphor and imagery. On the other hands, this present study analyzes the kinds of irony and metaphor which reflect the social condition in India.

1.2. Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study discusses the figurative language that focuses on the kind of irony and metaphor in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. Therefore, there are two statements of research problem that can be formulated as below:

1. What kind of irony found in *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga that reflects Indian social condition?
2. What metaphor found in *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga that reflects Indian social condition.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In line with the background of the study and the research questions in the previous sub chapter, the objective of this study are :

1. The kind irony which are found in *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga that reflect Indian social condition.
2. Metaphors which are found in *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga That reflect Indian social condition.

1.4. Significances of the Study

Dealing with the previous discussion, this study has some benefits and gives some significances as follow:

Theoretically, it gives a better understanding about figurative language, particularly in the term of metaphor and irony to the readers. Besides, it gives information and becomes references for students or lecturer about figurative language or figure of speech in a literary works. Practically, it gives information for the society to find out the meaning and the purpose of people's word. Besides, the people should be able to interpret other people's word deeply and widely to know the meaning of what the people said.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is New Criticism which is focused on figurative language, especially irony and metaphor. In addition, the writer limits the data on the author narrations and characters utterances related to kinds of irony and metaphor that reflect to the Indian social condition.