

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five important subchapters, namely Background of The Study, Statement of Research Questions, Objectives of The Study, Significance of The Study, and Scope and Limitation.

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature reveals many things about life that cannot be separated from experiences, observations, and lessons in the real world. They are manifested by writers in the world of fiction. Literature is a mirror of human life, because it describes various cultures, norms, activities, incidents, or even conflicts faced by humans. As Albrecht said that Literature is interpreted as reflecting norms and values in particular place, as revealing the ethos of culture of some people in place, the process of class struggle in the place in particular era and certain types of social and facts in a place that time.” (Albrecht, 1954: 05).

Therefore, literature has become very developed. This is triggered by the essence of literature itself which makes the reader interested in deepening it. Thus, literature is a writing that is in great demand by various groups, ranging from children, adolescents, to parents. Many of them use literature as a medium and material to educate people's lives. In addition, literature becomes an aesthetic work with various forms; like poetry, drama, short stories, or even novels.

The novel is the most popular literary works in a number of large communities and literary groups. While the novel is a literary work in the form of

long prose, which reveals the behavior and nature of each actor, and also displays conflicts and problems that usually written on daily language to make the readers understand the plot easily. As Watt said that Novel is written in prose which uses the everyday language to give the Authenticate for its characters, locations, events, and narrative arise from multiple and varying viewpoints which allowed for both psychological closeness to characters and detached, evaluating meaning on the part of author (Watt, 2000).

Topics in the novel are usually not separated from the issues of social, culture, economic, education, war or even more complex such as post-colonial phenomena that cover all social and cultural aspects during the colonial until the post-colonial period. The Post-colonial topic becomes very complete because it covers various issues of human life that occurred during or after the colonization era. It is more than just a period even refers to the Issue of ideology and various cultural symptoms.

The issues of post-colonialism become very interesting after the Second World War ended. It was due to the presence of new writers from the colonized (easterners) who wanted to reveal the bitter incidents they had experienced during the colonial period, such as Chinua Achebe, known as the Father of African Literature, with his novels *'Things Fall Apart'* (1950) which triggered the anti-colonial movement, or *'No Longer at Ease'* (1960) and *'Arrow of God'* (1964). Those are some of the literary works of Achebe as one of the writers from the colonists who will never be separated from the factors of social, cultural, and even political conditions that he experienced during colonialism in Africa.

Post-colonial includes history or the period of colonialism. In this period, the world was divided into two; become invaders (west) or colonized (east). As Ashcroft et al, (2000: 32) said that Colonialism could only exist at all by postulating that there existed a binary opposition into which the world was divided. The gradual establishment of an empire depended upon a stable hierarchical relationship in which the colonized existed as the other of the colonizing culture.

Postcolonial expresses the consequences caused by the influence of colonialism after or during colonialism, such as the emergence of hybridity and loss of cultural identity due to the arrival of invaders (west). Hybridity is a meeting or mixing of two cultures, namely western culture with eastern culture. Cultural identity becomes unstable caused due to hybridity. Thus the identity of the colonized (self-identity or even social identity) will not be different from the identity of the invaders.

Identity is the focal point in this study. Identity is the essence that can be categorized by characteristics of taste, trust, attitude, and lifestyle. Meanwhile, self-identity is a conception we hold about ourselves and our emotional identification with those self-descriptions, while social identity is the view of others towards someone. This is in line with Barker's explanation that the discussion of identity is asking: how do we see ourselves and how do others see us? (Barker, 2000: 165). The point is that one identity includes self-views of oneself and how others perceive themselves, both personal and social.

The writer is interested to analyze a novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (a writer born in Enugu, Nigeria, 15 September 1977) entitle *Half of a Yellow Sun*. This novel is one proof of Nigerian post-colonial Movement that started after the Second World War. Many countries were under colonization such as India, Caribbean, South Africa, and Nigeria got independence. It causes the writers from these areas emerged. The novel of Adichie is about the history of Biafra state that only lasted 3 years (30 May 1967 - 15 January 1970). The existence of Biafra was caused by the intervention of British which classified Nigeria into several parts. Now, Biafra returns to its original history, namely being part of the Republic of Nigeria.

This novel tells about the deterioration of the Nigerian state after being colonized by the British. Along with the departure of the British in 1960, Nigeria experienced ethnic disunity, especially among the 3 main groups; namely Igbo in the east, Hausa / Fulani in the north and Yoruba in the west. Almost every day there are conflicts not only between ethnicities but also between religions. The climax was in the mid-60s when finally civil war broke out as a result of the statement of the establishment of the Republic of Biafra under the leader of Colonel Ojukwu.

After British colonization, the Nigerian State was in a period of starting to build the country back to its original identity based on hundreds of different ethnicities, customs, traditions, cultures and languages that had to form a unitary state of Nigeria. Nevertheless the colonization has not yet ended, because of the neo-colonialism (quasi-colonial) after colonization. Loomba (2015: 25) said that

neo-colonialism is formal colonization gave way to more indirect control, largely through economic intervention. The British still has many roles by neo-colonialism in various social contexts and ideologies of society. So that, by means of resistance and rebellion, the identity can emerge and develop again. It is the same with what was delivered by Ania Loomba;

"What is needed by colonial subjects to move from alienation to rebellion, from the awareness of injustice to resistance?" So the anti-colonial struggles must create strong new identities for colonized peoples, and oppose colonialism not only at the political or intellectual level, but also at the emotional level. In various contexts, the idea of a nation is a powerful vehicle for uniting anti-colonial energies at all levels."

Ania Loomba (2015: 183)

The resistance and rebellion, as stated by Ania Loomba above, is related to the historical roots of a national identity. The main requirement to build a new identity is to grow national energy as portrayed by Nigerian novelist, Adichie in *Half of a Yellow Sun* which is about the condition of identity and culture in Nigeria State after British colonialism. Therefore, the study of identity and culture with a post-colonial theory is the main focus in this study.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

Based on the background of the study, related to the novel *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, there are three statement problems:

1. How are the Identity and culture of Nigerian portrayed in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*?
2. How are the forms of hybridity found in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research question, the objective of this study is to answer the two questions:

1. To explain the Identity and culture of Nigerian portrayed in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*.
2. To describe the forms of hybridity found in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*.

1.4 Significance of The Study

This research is expected to be able to provide theoretical and practical benefits.

- a. Theoretical benefits. This research is expected to contribute to literary criticism, especially the study of post-colonial literature which is focus on identity and culture. In addition, this research is also expected to be able to

contribute to literary history, which reveals traces of the history of colonialism contained in literature.

- b. Practical benefits. The results of this study are expected to be useful for the reader in analysis *Half of a Yellow Sun* novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, particularly how to understand the effects of post-colonialism on cultural identity as portrayed by writers in literary works and Give a new knowledge to other literary student, especially the students of English Study Program of Trunojoyo Madura University.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid an extensive discussion in this study, the writer puts scope and limitation to make it clearer, understandable and focused on the issue that exists in the source of data. The scope of this research is the concept of culture and identity by Chris Barker to analyze Nigerian State identity in the novel, both indigenous identity and even the colonial state. In addition, this study also limits dialogue, utterance of character and narration.