

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this research, there are five subchapters in introduction. Those are containing of background of study, statement of research problem, objective of study, significance of study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

Communism is an ideology and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and a profit based economy with public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production for example; mines, mills, factories and the natural resources of society. On the other hand, the aim of communism is oppose racism especially in Jim Crow era (Jim Crow Era were state and local laws that enforced racial segregation in the Southern United States), and fight for minority rights, then incessant to fight all racist ideologies, and all white supremacy (Fremon, 2000: 3). Communism against also the discrimination toward women, homophobia, gay, lesbian, include against the capitalism. Because discrimination and racism are definitely parts of American history. Those have lasted for centuries and help creating an unbalanced society. Especially, American Black people are considered as the most suffered group due to their long history and always get a mistreatment from white people.

This condition has finally placed the Black people as the most oppressed class among their minorities. Black people desperately fight against that in equality. There are both physical and moral actions that are run by the blacks at gaining the

equal opportunity, which is said as the fundamental value of all American life. While some illiterate blacks give a direct physical response to protest, those who are literate often use their skill in writing include Richard Wright as the author of “*Black Boy*”. Literature is writing which expresses writer’s thought, feelings, and attitudes toward life, and literature should be criticism of life” (Rees, 1973:2).

United States is one of the powerful countries, United States control a dominant role in determining decision of world policy and often becomes the center for international politic. It has a great ability in both influence and accelerate international happenings, including spreading of an ideology. Therefore, no wonder it becomes as the main target Communist agitation throughout the globe (Ebon, 1981: 275). In discussing the Communist activities in USA or any other countries, the role of Communist Party cannot be neglected since the party has become the center of all communist activities to spread out the ideological concept to undertaking revolutionary movements.

This study chooses Richard Wright’s “*Black Boy*” as the source of data. Richard Wright is the one of popular black writer in America who makes literature as a weapon to protest about anything happen in social life. This research uses theory of Marxist by Karl Heinrich Marx, because this theory concerns differences in socioeconomic class divide people in ways that are much more significant than differences in religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

For Marxism, an ideology is a belief system, and all belief system are products of cultural conditioning. For example, communism, capitalism, Marxism, patriotism, religion, ethical system, humanism, environmentalism, astrology, etc

(Tyson, 2006: 56). Definitely, this theory has a correlation with the issue, the issue is about Communism, and how the Communist influence American Black Society to be a Communist. This issue is an interesting topic to be discussed.

Firstly, it's dealing with communism, an ideology with many countries have phobia including in America where liberalism and capitalism have taken control above all aspect on it. Through this novel, Richard Wright assumed that communism was the most powerful rival of those since it had many of racial and revolutionary ideas that wanted to put this world into classless society. The second reason, the writer tried to break down that prejudice towards communist by putting forward the parallelism between the idea of black race struggle and communism against white race mistreatments and their capitalist system. Third, the novel is considered as communist propaganda toward minorities particularly black race. At last, it gives us better information about the life of black society that still becomes the inferior victim of white race mistreatments in America.

This novel absolutely depicts the pictures of Black people life and their struggle against white's mistreatments. It tells about the life of a young man named Richard who was born from a black race that was getting a racial mistreatment from a white race. Richard received such treatment not only did he come from a black race, but he was a young man who known as a communist who joined in the communist party in the USA. Through adapting communism in his novel, Richard Wright not only portrayed his protest but also try to conduct his propaganda to spread out this idea, particularly for American black people.

Gart S. Jowett & Victoria O'Donnell (2005:1) "Propaganda is a form of communication that attempts to achieve a response that furthers the desired intent of the propagandist. A model of propaganda depicts how elements of informative and persuasive communication may be incorporated into

propagandistic communication, thus distinguishing propaganda as a specific class of communication.

In 1930's, Richard was join as a member of Communist Party of USA. He had an obligation to spread out his communistic in order to increase people's sympathy to join in Communist Party of USA. He used his writing skill as a secret weapon as a Communist Propaganda through "*Black Boy*". Besides, he tried to show Communism as the best way out avoiding many racial issues between the Black and the White race that mostly implemented in his novel. Using racial tension in his novel entitled "*Black Boy*", Communist could be assumed as the best way in having people's sympathy especially the Black race. Pipe (2002:142) said, "Communists could improvement their participants by running certain policy or agenda that much concern with proletarian issues such as the equality for Blacks".

Through propounding into the consciousness of the Black races that for centuries have been oppressed by the white race. It could be used as the program of the Communist party in USA. Having those aspects, Black Boy then regarded as an effort in delivering communism among Black race. They become the main target in delivering communism since they are assumed as the oppressed class suffering from the white race mistreatments that have lasted for centuries.

Nevertheless, as a matter of fact, it is not quite easy to increase the membership of Communism party in the USA among them. They frequently convince themselves that being "Red" it means that creating new problems from social prejudice to government prosecution. Their darkness has already invites troubles and they don't want to invite anymore.

There have been some studies, which analyze either the same theory or source of data. The first analysis is from Ruly Kartika, from Alauddin State Islamic University entitled *Study of Propaganda in Literature as Revealed in Malala's Novel* (2014). And then the Thesis by Ilham Hidayatullah from University of Trunojoyo Madura entitled *The Propaganda in Terrorism Incident Represented in "The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale" By Joseph Conrad* (2016). The last is the analysis by Nenin Astiti Ayunda from University of Semarang entitled *The Capitalist Dominance Found in Shirley Jackson's The Lottery* (2006).

1.2 Research Question

The research questions are formulated as below:

1. How are the Communistic Ideas portrayed in the novel?
2. How does the Communist affect American Black Society to be a Communist found in the novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study has been conducted on these following objectives:

1. To discover the Communistic Ideas portrayed in the novel
2. To find out how the Communist affect American Black Society to be a Communist that found in the novel

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is projected to give contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give more understanding to the readers about

Marxism, which is proposed by Karl Heinrich Marx as reference for the next studies or researches.

While in practically, this study would be able to give more information about how Richard proposes his Communistic ideas and makes them relevant to the Black struggle againsts their oppression the White's mistreatments through "*Black Boy*".

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is theory of Marxism, which is proposed by Karl Heinrich Marx. Here, communism is explained as the social phenomena of Marxism. On the other hand, this study is limited by focusing on the character's utterances and author's narration in "*Black Boy*" by Richard Wright, which can answer the research question above.