

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some elements to support the study. Those are background of the study, statement of research problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works are written works of literature which express the ideas and tell various stories. However, these ideas and stories can be applied as media to criticize the culture, economics, social, politics and other aspects. Tyson states that literary work is used to illustrate the indefinite, plural conflicting possible meanings that constitute all texts, literary, otherwise, because all texts are made of language (Tyson, 2015:245). It can be inferred that literary works will reflect different views and opinions through the lens of authors. Novel is a kind of literary works which is included different issues and the knowledge of human experiences.

Literary works are intended to reveal the historical event because the creativity of author in defining an interesting theme. The historical event is related to the history which has been experienced by the society itself. The holocaust is one of the most interesting historical events to be discussed. It was represented the most

horrific times and the sufferings of the people who became the victims of the Holocaust tragedy so that a lot of people had been killed. The Holocaust revealed so much violence and hatred in the Holocaust tragedy which caused the people were discriminated and destructed. The persecutors targeted the Jews because they have different race and religion. There is no humanity, consequently, a lot of people lost their family members because of some reasons, like being killed by the guns or the gas chambers.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) defines the Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted other groups because of their perceived 'racial inferiority': Roma (Gypsies), the disabled, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and others). Other groups were persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, among them Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's witnesses, and homosexuals (Magilow and Silverman, 2015:4).

Nazi soldiers or The SS had the power over others. They showed their power and worked for the leader named Adolf Hitler to promote extreme German nationalism and anti-Semitism. That same winter, the first "trials" of Zyklon B were carried out on 600 Soviet prisoners of war and 300 Jews at Auschwitz. The "success" of this operation was applauded by Hitler's inner circle. It heralded the implementation of one of the most heinous collective actions in human history, the so-called "final solution." Although mass murders had been committed earlier, and

tens of thousands of Jews and Gypsies had been gassed at Chelmno in 1941, the cold terror formalized under the supervision of Reinhard Heydrich at the Wannsee Conference in January 1942 set into motion a machinery of killing that had never before been seen upon the earth (Gilbert, 1989:2).

Heather Morris wrote a novel entitled *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. The story itself took place in Auschwitz on 1943, and the novel was published on 2017. Morris was born in Te Awamutu, New Zealand, and moved to Melbourne, Australia. She got inspired from the *Diary of a Young Girl* Novel by Anna Frank to know about real people and experience based on the fact. Morris became part of the member in The Professional Scriptwriting Course through the Australian College of Journalism to improve her writing skill. In 2003, Morris met Lale to share about Lale's story as the holocaust survivor and did an interview with Lale. In addition, Morris provided some interesting photos, maps, and documents which were included on this novel as the author's observations. In 2018, Morris visited to Auschwitz and Lale's hometown, Krompachy.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz gets the nomination as Goodreads Choice Award for the Best Historical Fiction and Goodreads Choice Award for the Best Debut Goodreads Author. It is best known as for its achievement such as Audie Award for Fiction **The #1 International Bestseller & New York Times Bestseller** and winning the International Independent Film Awards competition in 2016. Morris chose Lale's story because it has a unique lesson in humanity. It tells memory and history through the Holocaust tragedy when there is no freedom, dignity, and also identities.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz is a novel which tells about love story between Lale and Gita and how they survive to live in a Nazi concentration camp. In 1942, Lale Sokolov arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival-scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust. Waiting in line to be tattooed, terrified and shaking, was a young girl. For Lale, it was love at first sight. And he was determined not only to survive himself, but to ensure this woman, Gita, did too (Morris, 2018). In addition, this novel reflects Lale's struggle to survive in the terrifying time and place as the Holocaust victim and also to protect the woman whom he loves, Gita, no matter what the conditions.

There are so many studies which analyze the Holocaust because it is considered to observe and understand the functions in learning the history. The history is one of the important elements to be observed because the history is able to give impacts of the future life for the society itself. Morris, as the author, is intended to explain the lessons through the history in writing *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. She considers that the Holocaust survivor is attractive to be described in order to enrich knowledge about the Holocaust tragedy and to create new perspectives for the readers. The Holocaust survivor is represented by Lale as the main character in the novel. Morris is intended to portray Lale's life story when he is deported in the concentration camp in Auschwitz. The history is presented through Lale's struggle in confronting the Holocaust which has destroyed his life.

Using new historicism theory becomes the challenge to analysis the literary works. It can be inferred that new historicism theory is suitable for analyzing the issue and related to the history. The novel consists of the ideology about the Holocaust, thus the ideology can support some important elements to be analyzed related to the history itself. *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* novel creates a new discourse through the plot and utterances. In other words, this novel does not only describe the difficult life to live in the concentration camp. As the author, Morris is intended to portray Auschwitz as the symbol of the Holocaust related to the history because one of the concentration camps was built in Auschwitz. Based on the novel, Auschwitz is determined as the main place where it represents the sufferings of the Holocaust victims and destruction of the Jews.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, a problem statement is proposed:

1. How is the social-political condition of Poland represented to the novel?
2. How is the notion of Auschwitz interpreted in the novel creating a new discourse?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, the objective of the study is:

1. Describe the social-political condition of Poland represented to the novel.

2. To find out the notion of Auschwitz interpreted in the novel creating a new discourse.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be a contribution to literary work in English study program, faculty of social and cultural sciences, University of Trunojoyo Madura. It is expected that the results of the study can enrich knowledge of researcher, audience, and society about the issue of the Holocaust. This study will also contribute to the research using new historicism theory and emphasizes the critical thinking in analyzing the literary works. This study also contribute to give a different perspective in understanding the meaning of the Holocaust related to the history, and can be a reference for other researchers who are interested in using this theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study uses the novel of Heather Morris, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* as the main object of the analysis. This study will reveal the analysis related to the Holocaust and its history which can be analyzed from the dialogue and the narrative voice of the author by using new historicism. Nonetheless, other formal element on the novel, such as plot and characters are analyzed. However, this study deals with the author's life, especially when the author Heather Morris, did an interview with the

informant as the main character surrounding the novel when it was written or published.