

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains five subchapters which are important to be informed in this research; namely background of the study, statements of research question, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the last is about the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a reflection of real life. The author in writing a literary work always involving about their experiences, thoughts, societies, and also history when they produce a literary work. Since the authors belongs to member of society, it is accepted that a literary work that they produce is affected by society, and social condition of the authors themselves because the authors get ideas, inspirations based on the social situation around them.

Literature is a social institution, using language as its medium, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature “imitates” “life” is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary “imitation.” (Wellek and Warren, 1956 : 89). That is why literary work can be considered as the reflection of real life. Literary work portrayed many kinds of phenomenon which exist in our real life either nature phenomena or social phenomena.

Immigration is a big social phenomena in this world that make a complex interaction among people in society all over the world. Immigration is primarily

driven by people making rational decisions to migrate due to poor conditions at their own home (poverty, repression, violence) and the promise of better life elsewhere (wealth, freedom, peace.) (Burgett and Hendler,2007:128). From the statement it can be known that immigration happens because many immigrants wants to get or seek better life, advanced social life, freedom from their own country. For instance, a Chinese move to America due to he or she did not get better payment in his or her field work in their own country, it is become a reason why people migrate to other countries.

Immigration itself has both of positive and negative impact. In terms of positive, migration can improve economical side of a country, improving foreign investment which can help the development of a country, introduce a new culture to the new comers. Yet, in negative side, migration also can cause the increasing of population in a country. It will give a jobless impact for immigrants because the increasing of population is rapidly rather than the development of field work.

America is a big country with many immigrants from many different countries and cultures. As Ethne Luibheid in Burgett and Hendler (2007:127) characterize that the United States as a “nation of immigrants,” a “melting pot,” or a “multicultural mosaic.” One of the immigrant is China because they think that in China they cannot live with difficult situation with lower wages during they working in China, then they move to another country such as the United States in order to get better life. Kitano (1985:224) states that Chinese people who live in America usually live with bicultural identity following both Chinese culture and American culture.

Biculture is people who live in two cultures following both of their origin culture and the majority of their culture. According to Tharsni Kankesan in her thesis of Philosophy Doctor (2010:7) define bicultural identity is the result of four acculturatives style such as assimilation, seperation, marginalization, and integration or bicultural. She states that integration or biculturalism occurs when one is a member of both the majority and ancestral culture.

Kobena Mercer in Kathryn Woodward (1997 : 15) states that an identity is constructed through culture, both symbolic and social, which creates the possibilities of *what we are* and *what we can become*. In situation when someone construct their identity is intended to make his or her position or existence to be different with others. It is intentionally to make people know about our identity. An identity become a conflict within social, political, and economic changes to which they contribute and it appears through some aspects such as nationality, ethnicity, sexuality and communnity.

Mercer in Woodward (1997:15) argues that identity only becomes an issue when it is in crisis, when something assumed to be fixed, coherent and stable is displaced by the experience of doubt or uncertainty. From the statement, it can be concluded that the identity is a tool which is owned by every people to position themselves in society. However, in the other side an identity can be a conflict when it experiences a crisis.

In this study, the writer is interested to analyze a short story from Diana Chang entitled *Falling Free* (1985). The short story *Falling Free* taken from a book *Asian American Literature : A Brief Introduction and Anthology* by Shawn Wong which published 1996 by Addison-Wesley Educational Publisher Inc.

Diana Chang was Chinese-American writer who was born from mix-blood both Eurasian mother and a Chinese father. She is also as the first American-born Chinese America to publish a novel. The work written by Diana Chang such as *The Frontiers of Love* (first printed in 1956 and reissued by the University of Washington Press in 1994). Diana Chang is also the author of five novels such as *A Woman of Thirty* (1959), *A Passion for Life* (1961), *The Only Game in Town* (1963), *Eye to Eye* (1974), *A Perfect Love* (1978), and three volumes of poetry : *The Horizon Is Definitely Speaking* (1982), *What Matisse Is After* (1984), and *Earh Water Light* (1991). Diana Chang is a recipient of several awards including a Fullbright fellowship and John Hay Whitney Fellowship.

In this study, the writer was analyzed about bicultural identity and crisis identity. In cultural identity there is an issue which become important to be discussed that is about bicultural identity and crisis of identity which become the focus of this study.

The short story tells about bicultural family and crisis of identity as seen in Ms.Kuo's family as native Chinese who live in America who hold about their own culture as Chinese people and also accepting American culture. However, in the other side there is a character named Mrs.Kuo that feel confused about her own identity. The main character is Ms. Kuo and also as the narrator in the short story who portray about love, bicultural and about cultural identity which describe about crisis of identity of the character. In this study, based on the explanation presented above the writer was applied the theory of identity proposed by Stuart Hall which concern on cultural identity. This theory will be applied in order to analyze the depiction of bicultural identity portrayed by characters and crisis of

identity portrayed by Mrs.Kuo as Chinese who live in America portrayed in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free*.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

Based on the background of the study presented above, this study is going to analyze about bicultural family and crisis of cultural identity of Chinese people who live in America which found in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free*

The focus is translated into two research questions as follows :

1. How is bicultural identity portrayed in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free* ?
2. How is crisis identity portrayed by Mrs.Kuo in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free* ?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the research are formulated as follows :

1. To describe about bicultural identity portrayed in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free*.
2. To depict the crisis of cultural identity portrayed by Mrs.Kuo in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free*.

1.4 The Significances of Study

This study is expected to be able to provide the theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the results of the study can strengthen and enrich the theory of cultural identity that is analyzing about cultural identity in literary studies, the result of this study hopefully can inspire the further researchers to

write or to research about cultural identity in other literary works. This study also aimed to give the contribution for students' knowledge or understanding in literary critic about cultural studies in literary studies especially focus on cultural identity by using other form of source of data. It also can be used reference to the further writers especially to the literature students of English Department in University of Trunojoyo Madura. Meanwhile for practically benefit, especially for people who have same experience with the problems such as bicultural identity and crisis identity that experienced by the characters in this study to prepare themselves in facing the same problem.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid broad discussion, in this study, the writer put scope and limitation to make it clearer and more focus on the issues. This study is focused on bicultural family portrayed by characters and crisis identity portrayed by Mrs.Kuo in Diana Chang's short story *Falling Free* through the theory of cultural identity proposed by Stuart Hall. In this study the main data taken from characters' utterances and also supported by narrator's explanations. The discussion is focused on the depiction of bicultural identity portrayed by characters and about crisis of cultural identity experienced by Mrs.Kuo in the short story and entitled *Falling Free* (1985) written by Diana Chang through cultural identity theory proposed by Stuart Hall which become the scope of this study.