

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The chapter show on many discussions. There are, Background of the study, Statement of research problems, Objectives of the study, Significance of the Study and Scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Since the eighteenth century, and especially since the Victorian period, the novel replacing poetry and drama, has become the most popular form of literature perhaps, it because most closely represents people's lives. The novel became increasingly popular as its social scope expanded to include characters and stories of the middle and working classes. Due to its readers, which included a large percentage of women and servants, the novel became the most discussed forms of domestic and social problems of these groups. (Alexander, 2000: 2) Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981:46) explains that a novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to show and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct. It means that novel contains of many sentences and words, also novel is the way of person to show something which related to the universe, its include people with all their personality, power, and their identities. Even we can see a full life only by read a novel. Because most writers, wrote a novel based on the real life, either personal or

environment around. As one of the Igbo writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel entitled *Americanah* absolutely portrait the social concern.

Americanah is telling about woman immigrant from Nigeria in America. Ifemelu, Nigerian girl got a scholarship in America. Ifemelu had to struggle with the identity of African Americans. She started living in the United States by change the American accent and straighten her hair that look has a new identity as an American. In fact, she had a new identity for the job and Ifemelu more confident and shy with her identity as Nigeria. She adapts more easily to American culture and achieves success there. The blends of two cultures look natural to Ifemelu. She stayed in two different places where she can fully become an American citizen, and when she returned to Nigeria She was fully into the Nigeria. The character of Ifemelu was drawn about the writer of this novel because this novel is created based on the true experience of herself as Nigerian student who got scholarship to Drexel University in Philadelphia when she was 19 years old. In this novel she draws how immigrant of Nigerian middle class struggle to live in both worlds simultaneously. Although she was ever tried to change her identities to found a place as immigrant but finally she decided to back home and back to become fully Nigerian. Besides, this novel drawn many life of Nigerian immigrant in both USA and UK, they should struggle with their identity in facing their life. It must be difficult because they are not including in part of them. (Adichie, 2013)

Americanah was written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, She was born September 15, 1977 in Enugu, Nigeria. She was growing in Nsukka near the University of Nigeria. She is the fifth child of six children of James Nwoye Adichie, who a professor of statistics and became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University. Then her mother, Ifeoma Adichie, became the first female register at the University. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is known as woman writer of postcolonial works. She is an Igbo writer who wrote many works and have many awards. *Americanah* is one of her famous works which was published on 2013 and this novel is appropriate to become source of data of this research because it got Winner of the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, one of the New York Times's Ten Best Books of the Year, Winner of the Chicago Tribune 2013 Heartland Prize for Fiction, an NPR "Great Reads" Book a Washington Post Notable Book, a Seattle Times Best Book, an Entertainment Weekly Top Fiction Book, a Newsday Top 10 Book, and a Good reads Best of the Year Pick. (Chimamanda.Com. n.d., para. 2)

Then, the other of her famous works are *The thing around your neck*, *Half of a yellow sun*, *Purple hibiscus*. Besides the literary works Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is known as an Essay writer such as *We should all be feminists*. Which talk about the definition of feminism for twenty first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness.

Beside the achievements, the other interesting thing of this novel is it creates based on the true experience of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as Nigerian student who

got scholarship to Drexel University in Philadelphia when she was 19 years old. The second, In this novel she draws how immigrant of Nigerian middle class struggle to live in both countries simultaneously. The third the writer is well-known in writing of postcolonial literature it is because her hometown is the one of victims of colonial. Through this novel Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie critiques about racism and many crucial problems that happen around her, either in America or Nigeria. As Yohanes states that:

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's books, as some of the most recent literary productions on the continent, should be looked at from Postcolonial theory point of view. [.....]Her works share many characteristics of the modern African novel such as the editorial intrusion of native language and thematic engagement with Africa's social wrongs.

(Linda, 2012: 16)

In addition, *Americanah* is analyzed by using concepts tribalism and four kinds of it. The term ethnicity (tribe) was first used by Victorian scholars in an effort society "primitive". The term tribe (ethnicity, sometimes called clans) used in big social groups, but it was later discovered their diversity and or a large difference. Some effort is devoted to decide which groups should be called as a tribe and what are the characteristics that make it up. This term became daily words that survive in anthropology for about a decade (between 1960 and 1970). (Berghe. 1987: 22). Tribalism implies the possession of a strong cultural or ethnic identity that separates one member of a group from the members of another group. It is a precondition for members of tribe to have a strong feeling of identity for a true tribal society to form.

1.2 Statements of the research problem

Based on the background of study which had explained above, there are two questions for the statements of research problems.

1. How are the tribalisms portrayed in Adichie's *Americanah*?
2. What are the effects of tribalism that appear in Adichie's *Americanah*?

1.3 Objectives of the study

Based on the statements of research problem above, the objectives study are:

1. To elaborate the tribalism portrayed in Adichie's *Americanah*
2. To elaborate the effects of tribalism that appear in Adichie's *Americanah*

1.4 Significances of the study

Hopefully this study gives some significant contribution either theoretical or practical significances.

For the first significance, theoretically this study gives a deep understanding of the concept of tribalism and the four kinds of it. They are class, ideology, region, and race. Then, the reader interested to read African literary works, especially of the one of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's works it is *Americanah*. Besides that hopefully this study will be useful for the reader to take similar work to become source of data. Practically, the researcher hopes after reading this study both writer and reader can respect each other meanwhile many differences in this world. Such as: Ethnic, race, etc.

1.5 Scope limitation

This study discusses about the tribalism and the four kinds of it in *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. As the scope of the study, this study uses the concept of tribalism according to Pierre L. Van den Berghe. The limitation of the study are the data, and the data is taken from dialogues/utterances and the narrator's explanations which exist in the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.