

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several sub chapter that become the basis to do the study, namely background of study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading literary work can be an entertainment for readers. It is because literary work can make the readers enjoyment when they read it. Enjoyment here means that when the readers read a literary work, they will feel something in their hearts; it may make them happy, sad, or another feeling. By reading literary work the readers can get knowledge about human life and also the social condition of society in certain places, because sometimes literary work written as reflection of the real social condition of society. In addition, the authors also write some messages in their literary work as means to make it useful to everyone who read it.

One of literary genre is novel. Novel is not real story; it is a fiction but sometimes novel is adapted from the real social condition as means to criticize the social condition in certain places, it may contain of conflict, and way of life. Catherine Belsey argues that the form of realist novel contains implicit validation of the existing social structure (Barry, 2010: 154). *The White Tiger* is one of many novels which tell much about conflicts between two different class and it can be called as the class conflict, this novel also tells about the condition that adapted

based on the real social condition in India. *The White Tiger* revolves around the conflict between social groups that contest for economic and political power in general and the social mobility within the extremes of poverty and wealth of the Indian society in particular (Lily, 2011: 71).

Aravind Adiga is an Indian writer and journalist; he has been written many works. His first novel is *The White Tiger* which won the booker prize in 2008. Besides, another works by Adiga are *Between the Assassination*, *Last Man in Tower*, *The Sultan's Battery*, *Smack*, *Last Christmas in Bandra*, and *The Elephant*. In his debut novel, Adiga tries to exposes the dark side in India and the class division. Adiga writes this novel based on the real social condition in India as means to criticize the social condition in India. In an interview he was asked what kind of research went into this novel and he replied:

The book is a novel: it's fiction. Nothing in its chapters actually happened and no one you meet here is real. But it's built on substratum of Indian reality. Here's one example: Balram's father, in the novel, dies of tuberculosis. Now, this is make - believe death of a make- believe figure, but underlying it is a piece of appalling reality. The fact that nearly a thousand Indians, most of them poor, die every day from tuberculosis. So if a character like Balram's father did exist, and if he did work as a rickshaw puller, the chances of his succumbing to tuberculosis would be pretty high. I've tried hard to make sure that anything in the novel has a correlation in Indian reality (Adiga, 2008: 285)

Related to the previous statement, everyone has a social class but they have different class. To analyze class it can be applying Marxism approach for example in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* which consist of two different class namely upper and lower class. Therefore, this theory is chosen to analyze the data because this theory helps the study in analyzing the gaps that occur in India also

the class conflict portrayed in *The White Tiger* novel. Upper class such as Pinky Madam, Ashok and his family are living in the luxurious place and elitist life while lower class life is miserable such as Balram and his family. From this condition, Balram Halwai as the poor man called this as the darkness and light for the rich.

In addition this theory is chosen because it is relevant with the title of this study *The Impact of the Gaps Between Upper Class and Lower Class in Aravind Adiga's The White Tiger*. In relation to the source of the study, it has been found that there are studies that have analyzed Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. They are Andhiny Rahayu Diparany (2008), Erika Citra Sari Hartanto (2009), Farooq Ahmad Shaikh (2009), Khrisna Singh (2009), M.Poonkodi (2009), Sara D. Schotland (2011), Lily Want (2011), P.Suneetha (2012), and Kathleen Walller (2012). The theory that used in those studies are Marxism, Cultural studies. Comparative studies, Reflection, Post-colonialism, and Individualism.

From those studies, it can be concluded that it is not the first time the white tiger is analyzed by using Marxism approach because there has been a previous study that analyzed *The White Tiger* using Marxism entitled Marxian and neo Marxian materialistic in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* by Farooq Ahmad Sheikh. Although the source of data and the theory is similar but the analysis is different because this study analysing Marxism outlook of Aravind Adiga as the author of the novel in analyzing the social reality in India that focus on the class conflict as the impact of the gaps that happens between upper class and lower

class, while the previous studies focus on Marxist outlook of Balram Halwai as the narrator in analyzing the social reality in India.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, to get the information presented in the novel, the questions of the study are formulated as follows:

1. How are the gaps between upper class and lower class in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*?
2. What is the impact of the gaps between upper and lower class?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the questions above, this study is intended:

1. To portray the gaps between two different classes.
2. To describe the impact of the gaps between two different classes.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is conducted to give theoretically and practically benefits. Theoretically, the study contributes to enrich the literary study that is the study of class conflict by using Marxism approach. Practically, this study is expected to give contribution for further study to analyze the literary work through Marxism point of view.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study analyzes a novel by Aravind Adiga *The White Tiger* by using Marxism approach. Since this study discusses the gaps between upper class and lower class in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*, this study focused on observing the class conflict as the impact of the gaps between upper class and lower class. In

addition, this study limits on the utterances of some characters and the narrator's narrations that are relevant with this study.