

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. They are background of the study, research questions, research objectives, scope and limitation of the study and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, postmodernism becomes one of the trending phenomena in society. Many people especially authors try to write or create the literary works which represents postmodernism aspects. Then, parody and irony are parts of them which are used to criticize and illustrate the real condition of social life. For instance, the parody is used in *The Daily Show* program for giving recent news stories humorously. Meanwhile, the irony is used in real life as like in *Ironic Times* newspaper. The two aspects of postmodernism are also used by authors in their literary works. For example, David Foster Wallace uses irony in his novels as the tool to against hypocrisy (Winokur, 2007. p.33). Then, according to Hutcheon (in *The Claim of Postmodern Parody* by Valeria Brissolaro Salomon's article, 2006) William Gaddis uses parody in his work entitled *A Frolic of His Own*.

Further, many people use parody for making critique, mockery and humour. It also refers to a new creative work which imitate the original work. Parody uses for commenting the social phenomenon and problem by using a work. Then, the

new comment as the result of parody itself (www.copyright.user.com). Meanwhile, irony refers to the moment which is not in accordance with the expectation (Winokur, 2007. p.33). Then, some authors declare the phenomenon give illustration to reader about those condition inside the novel.

In *Harbor Me* novel, there are some issues such as family, racism and friendship. This novel is chosen because it won National Association for The Advancement of Colored People Image Award. Then, Jacqueline Woodson writes the novel when she was traveling around the country especially in Brooklyn (www.jacquelinewoodson.com). In this study, the writer tries to analyze the parody and irony through the all characters and author's narration in this novel.

Further, the writer chooses the postmodernism theory by Jean Francois Lyotard. He stated that the central features which associated with postmodernism are irony, parody, pastiche and playfulness (Sarup, 1993. p.132). Meanwhile, this novel consists of postmodernism aspects such as irony and parody. In addition, there are also the characteristics of postmodernism which are very opposite in modernism like the importance of language in human life and encourage the rise of oppressed class.

In addition, literature itself is a part of human life. Then, it is also a kind of work that include author's imagination and real life. It can be seen while the authors of literary works always include real events. Therefore, the authors also use their imaginative efforts for making the literary works interesting.

It is found that no studies which used *Harbor Me* novel by Jacqueline Woodson as the source of data. Therefore, the writer takes some studies which use

postmodernism theory to analyze other literary works. It is used for finding the gap between this study and other studies. The first study was written by Elaine B. Safer's article in Oxford Journal Vol. 21, No.4 in 2015 entitled *The Double, Comic Irony, and Postmodernism in Philip Roth's Operation Shylock*. The second study was written by Merve Bekiryazici in The Pesa International Journal of Social Studies e-ISSN 2149-8385 in 2017 entitled *The Eyre Affair as a Postmodern Parody of Jane Eyre*. The third study was written by Ramen Sharma and Dr. Preety Chaudhary in International Journal of Educational Planning and Administration ISSN 2249-3093 in 2011 entitled *Common Themes and Techniques of Postmodern Literature of Shakespeare*. The fourth study was done by Elif Onal from Middle East Technical University in 2007. His study entitled *Analysis of The Use Of Parody In Jeanette Winterson's Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit and Boating For Beginners*. The fifth study was written by Lisa Colletta in The Journal of Popular Culture in 2009 entitled *Political Satire and Postmodern Irony in The Age of Colbert and John Stewart*.

This recent study will observe what has not observed by the previous researchers, especially from two studies. First, Onal's study entitled *Analysis of The Use Of Parody In Jeanette Winterson's Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit and Boating For Beginners*. It is because he uses parody to re-interpret and re-contextualize the biblical material through the literary works. Second, Safer's article entitled *The Double, Comic Irony, and Postmodernism in Philip Roth's Operation Shylock*. She defines the use of comic as the irony for mocking the contemporary problems. Therefore, the writer tries to analyze other

postmodernism features such as parody and irony. Although there are some differences in the previous studies, but the writer finds the similarity. The similarity is the application of qualitative method, because the data are in form of words and utterances.

1.2 Research Questions

The focus of this study is on the irony and parody as translated into the following questions:

- 1) How are irony and parody reflected in *Harbor Me* novel?
- 2) Why do irony and parody demonstrate the influence of postmodernism theme in *Harbor Me* novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, this study will try to disclose:

- 1) How irony and parody are reflected in *Harbor Me* novel.
- 2) Why irony and parody demonstrate the influence of postmodernism theme in *Harbor Me* novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is Postmodernism theory by Jean Francois Lyotard which focus on irony and parody as the aspect of postmodernism. The theory is very appropriate with the research questions. Meanwhile, this study limits the

analysis on irony and parody in the novel through the characters' utterances and the author's narration.

1.5 Significance of the Study

In this subchapter, there are two kinds of significances of study. First is theoretical contribution which related to the connection between the existing theory and findings of the analysis. Second is practical function which related to the benefits and advantages of the analysis findings for the readers.

Theoretically, this study will give contribution to the development of existing theory. The existing theory is used in this study is Postmodernism theory by Jean Francois Lyotard. In addition, this study is expected in giving better understanding related to the postmodernism characteristics such as parody and irony in the novel. Then, it also gives awareness of importance of language in human life and encourage the oppressed class to struggle the racial profiling in the form of irony and parody that still exist in this globalization era.

Practically, it can give a lot of knowledge and inspiration to the readers as the references especially for the students who take the major English Study Program in University of Trunojoyo Madura. Further, this study can be used as the additional information to students who want to analyze the postmodernism aspects in the literary works. In addition, the writer hopes that this study can give many benefits and also help the readers or students who will analyze the literary works as like novel by using Postmodernism theory by Jean Francois Lyotard. Therefore, the readers will understand about it. Moreover, they will have

additional knowledge about the parody and irony as the part of postmodernism which can be found in this study.

In conclusion, this study will disclose irony and parody through the characters in Jacqueline Woodson's *Harbor Me* by using postmodernism theory. In addition, this study is far from perfection. It is because of the postmodernism aspects which have been found are irony and parody. So, the writer hopes that the other people or students will analyze the others postmodernism aspects such as camp, paradox, pastiche and so on in Jacqueline Woodson's *Harbor Me*.