

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There five sub chapters to discuss in this chapter. Those are background of the study, statements of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and the last one is scope and limitation of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

A novel, as a genre of a literary work, can be taken as an example to show the relation between society and literary work. Thus, a novel usually told about human life in interacting with the environment and each other. It means that, a novel can be reflection or representation of human life. Many novels discuss about a social life, social status, and social phenomenon or problem with human's life. The problem may be of economy, politic, culture, education, and all aspect of life.

The *Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown is a novel that shows the relation between society and literary work. The story is United States is considered as the most powerful country in the world. The capital of United States is Washington D.C. (Smith, 1607, 13). The portrait condition of Washington D.C. as the capital city is also represented in some literary works, one of them is in Dan Brown's novel entitled *The Lost Symbol*. In this novel, it is told that Washington D.C. is not only known as the central government of United States, but also is used as the headquarters of Freemasonry organization (*The Lost Symbol*, 2009).

In Dan Brown *The Lost Symbol*, it is told about Freemasonry is an organization that priority rationality and secularism (Wells, 1940). Freemasonry organization also has a lot of members and centered in Washington D.C. Washington D.C. has a function as the central government and almost all of important buildings placed in there. A lot of important figures are working in Washington D.C. since a hundred year ago. Those member of Freemasonry come from high social class, and absolutely straighten a significant role to organize the government system. Freemasonry organization has characteristic, namely, Freemasonry has some symbols they often put the symbols in the place power. The kinds of symbol Freemasonry between: ankh, pentagram, masonic eye (horus), phoenix, hexagram, unicorn horn, scarab (scarabaeus sacer), obelisk, crown, star, sun, lantern, and key (*The Lost Symbol*, 2009).

The Lost Symbol (2009) written by Dan Brown is chosen as the source of data because this novel tells about influences issues possessed by one particular organization that dominates the others. In this case, the organization which have influences to rule the others is Freemasonry. In American history literature, Dan Brown is a famous author and the author of *The Davinncy Code*, one of the most widely read novels of all time, as well as the international bestsellers *Angel and Demons*, *Deception Point*, and *Digital Fortress*. He lives in New England with his wife (*The Lost Symbol*, 2009).

The explanation above, analyzing the influences Freemasonry organization which are portrayed in the novel. Hegemony is the appropriate theory that will be used to analyze the novel since it portrays one particular organization that

dominates the others. By applying hegemony in this study, it can be identified how the author tells about the influences of Freemasonry in American's social life.

There have been some studies which analyze either the same theory or source of data. (Yokhebed, 2008; Dyah, 2012; Dwi, 2011). The study by Yokhebed Santoso entitled *A Study of the Dominant's Ideology and its Hegemony over the Marginal in Joanne Kathleen Rowling's Harry Potter Series*. Meanwhile, the study of Dyah Meita Nugraheni (2012) focuses on analyzing the structuralism in Dan Brown's novel entitled *Analysis On The Role Of The Main Characters In Determining The Flow Of Story In Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol Novel Using Roland Barthes' Codes Of Structuralism Theory*. The last, the study by Dwi Ari Ristianto entitled *The Power of Intellectuality and Oppression in George Orwell's Animal Farm*. Thus, it can be known that there is no study which analyze the influences of Freemasonry organization in American social life in Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* using the theory of hegemony. This is the first study analyzing the influences of Freemasonry organization in American social life.

1.2. Statements of The Research Problem

Based on the previous elaboration, here the problem which is formulated as the following questions:

How are the novel describe the influences of Freemasonry organization in American social life?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

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

To elaborate the influences of Freemasonry organization in American social life.

1.4. Significances of the study

This study has expected to give contributions and significances as follows. Theoretically, the result of the study expected to give some contribution to the study about theory of hegemony especially influences from Freemasonry organization in United States. On the other hand, it also as consideration and give some references for the students who take English Study Program as their major University of Trunojoyo Madura.

In relation to the statements above, practically it is supposed to invite the people in order not to be imbued with the hegemony. In another side, it is supposed to give some knowledge about the impact of hegemony if it occurs in our daily life.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the theory and the data which is applied to analyzed the drama, the scope of this study is hegemony theory. The study are limited on the character's utterances and the narrator's narrations which are portraying the influences of Freemasonry organization that are potrayed in the novel entitled *The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown.