

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents sub chapters, namely background of the study, statements of the problem, objective of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work cannot be separated from literary theory. Literary works will be useless if there is no response from the readers. As has been stated by Roland Barthes that in literature the author has already died, literary theory will result in different assumptions from each reader. "Like literature, literary theory is always the product or effect of historical conditions." (Castle, 2007:10). That's what makes literature very interesting, it will give a right and freedom for those who want to interpret literature, but still in the role of each theory they are going to apply.

Literary work is not limited only by a story about love or experience. Largely, there are several currents of any thought that influenced the author to write a story. It cannot be denied that a novel, short story, poem and drama develop as well as the era in the certain time. Story about social oppression, women, true love, class struggle, even history is easy to be found in any kind of literary work. Both of women and men authors from each period increase their quality of writing rapidly. The process of writing a story experienced by an author cannot be separated from the social condition or thought of the author. While there are many themes that can be taken in literary works, a story inspired from a history is also being common. There are many stories in relation to history such as about kingdom and war in past time.

World War is the example of real occasion taken by authors to be the theme of their literary works. One of the latest novel talks about world war is *The Nightingale*, a novel written by American Author named Kristin Hannah in 2015. According to a website author organization (2016) by the title *Kristin Hannah*, She is an award-winning and bestselling author of more than 20 novels. Her awards include the Golden Heart, the Maggie, and the 1996 National Reader's Choice award. She has been a writer since July 1991 by her first novel under the title *A Handful of Heaven*(1991). Her other attractive novels are *Firefly Lane* (2008), *True Colors* (2009), *Winter Garden* (2010) , *Night Road* (March 2011), *Home Front* (2012), *Fly Away* (2013), and *The Nightingale*(2015). Her novel *Home Front* has been adapted into a film and got an Oscar-nominated *The Help*.

The Nightingale is her newest novel that belongs to the New York Time Bestselling. This novel gives much information regarding to World War II in French and also the brutal of Nazi. The war that has close relation to explain the Nazi who causes great genocide makes reader feel as being the character who suffers in the story. The conflicts of family, story about true love, even the condition of French in that era are described attractively. Even though this novel was not being written in the era of World War II and the author is not French, but the story is well-arranged and amazing as if the author is the witness of that occasion. Because of the reason above, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel more.

The Nightingale is one of Hannah's novels which consists of the story about the suffering of people in World War II specifically in France. A little description about how the people survive in such a difficult condition of big war results big sympathy. The novel tends to talk about two inspiring women characters such as Isabelle and Vianne who have been the main characters of this novel. Isabelle, one of the characters is a woman rescuer during world war that

saves airmen that falls from their jet. Additionally, the story is told almost in detail including the execution of Jews, Communist, Freemason, and Homosexual in the entire France. The background that is France during World War II is described as the real condition as if the readers watch a movie. Hence, *The Nightingale* should be chosen by the writer to be the primary source of data.

The appropriate theory that should be applied is a theory that will not omit the aspect of history in the novel. For that reason, the most effective theory to be used in analyzing *The Nightingale* is New Historicism. As the author, Kristin Hannah states that she was inspired from a woman hero character who has been a nurse in World War I. The character is almost the same with the character of Isabelle, but there must have some differentiations. Then, knowing that the text is not only a text itself is also important. “For New Historicism, the literary text and the historical situation from which it emerged are equally important” (Tyson, 2006, 291).

It is clear that knowing the reason of the author to write a story is needed to be known. Furthermore, a literary work inspired from a history should be analyzed vividly about the relationship in between. Furthermore, the ideology existed in the novel is also important to be interpreted. If Old Historicist argues that history is objective, dissimilar to New Historicist that history is subjective. It depends on who make the history. The opinion of history among people who lived in a same era and same conflict will strongly different.

This novel emerged in 2015, while World War II happened in 1939-1945. It must be a big question about the reason of the author to write that kind of story. While there are many inspiration to write story in this modern of globalization era, but Kristin Hannah chose to write about World War II. She must be a writer who has poured her ideology to this novel.

Since New Historicism is an attractive theory to analyze literary work about history, there are three previous studies use New Historicism. The first is a student from Airlangga University whose name OckyAnggaraFirmansyah, he has a thesis entitled *The Analysis of Social Political Condition in United States of America during Vietnam War in MihaelShaara's The Killer Angels: A New Historicism Study*. Next is a student from NevÇehir University. He is Ercan KAÇMAZ whose analysis has a title *A New Historicist Approach to Harold Pinter's One for the Road*. The last is a thesis by the title *New Historical Analysis of the Great Gatsby*. It is a good thesis of classic novel by ZhongYongFang from Shandong University. In addition, the differentiation between this study with the previous study will be explain in the next chapter.

In short, *The Nightingale* is one of New York Times Bestselling novel that published in 2015. This famous novel is very appropriate to be analyzed by using New Historicism. Additionally, this novel has not been analyzed yet for research like thesis and journal.

1.2 Research questions

The novel consists of questions relate to the condition of history depicted in the novel. Hence, the question is formulated as the following:

1. How is the author's ideology about Nazi implied in the novel?
2. How is the social-political condition of World War II represented in the novel?
3. How is the ideology of Nazi interpreted in the novel creating a new discourse?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the previous statement of research questions, the objective of the study aims to:

1. Find out the author's ideology about Nazithat is implied in the novel
2. Describe the social-political condition of World War II represented in the novel
3. Find out the ideology of Nazi interpreted in the novel creating a new discourse

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be able to provide the theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, it is expected that the result will contribute to the development of new historicism theory especially how to make a line between discourse and power exist in a text. Meanwhile practically, the result of the study hopefully will make the society more understand about the concept of subjectivity in history, in this case, specifically to not judge easily about Nazi soldiers and German.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the borderline of new historicism theory about the social-political condition represented in the novel. It aims to find out the dominant discourse that is created by the author through her story. The story is taken from a bestseller novel *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah through the theory of New Historicism. The limitation of this study analyzes the main

character of *The Nightingale* through narrator's explanation and characters' utterances which answer the research questions.