

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of study, statement of research problem, objective of study, significance of study, and scope and limitation of study.

1.1 Background of Study

There has been an argument on what so called identity. Stuart hall (2017:1) argues that identity is not as transparent or unproblematic as we think. Perhaps, instead of thinking of identity as an already accomplished historical fact, which the new cinematic discourses then represent, we should think, instead, of identity as a ‘production’, which is never complete, always in process, and always constituted within, not outside, representation a set of social element which accumulated as permanent image of certain community. It can be inferred that identity can be described as something fluid rather than solid. Identity is changing overtime and can never achieve a final form. Yet, the production of identity produces an image that describes someone or a group although in a particular period of time. The image could be taken from various kind of social element such as language, culture or life style. Those element are becomes distinguishing factor in which identity represented. Take the language identity in conservative society for instance; people within this condition such as Madurese people are morally very fragile and vulnerable to the effects of globalization especially the youth.

Morally and socially, this generation is not strong enough to survive within the wave of globalization. Young generation could easily abandon their traditional language and gradually move to official one because of strong globalization effect. This phenomenon could be the extinction start for their traditional language. Further, young people in Madura Island have lost their identity as the part of Madurese tribes by decreasing the use of Madurese language. Eventually, their traditional language holds an important role to shape their identity as Madurese people. As stated by Buckingham (2008: 1) Identity is an ambiguous and slippery term. It has been used and perhaps overused in many different contexts and for many different purposes, particularly in recent years.

Culture appear as the basic form of identity in conservative era and it is stand as something which is very crucial in represents certain image of community or society. The values and the norm within a culture has widely influence people to give a mark for people who live by upholding those things, According to Halls (1990: 223) The first position defines 'cultural identity' in terms of one, shared culture, a sort of collective 'one true self', hiding inside the many other, more superficial or artificially imposed 'selves', which people with a shared history and ancestry hold in common.

As stated above, culture has transform into inseparable part of identity. Moreover, the term culture identity has widely used to represent the life of Diasporas

community across the world. Diaspora has strongly upheld their culture values in order to headlining their identity as a part of certain culture.

Furthermore, Hall widely translates culture identity as something which cannot be separated from the life of Diaspora and their ancestor. By the time culture identity has influence a lot toward the life sustainability of Diaspora.

“Our cultural identities reflect the common historical experiences and shared cultural codes which provide us, as 'one people', with stable, unchanging and continuous frames of reference and meaning, beneath the shifting divisions and vicissitudes of our actual history”

(Hall, 1990, p. 224)

As what Hall has been stated, cultural identity has a long history. It cannot be changed and should be maintained due to some globalization effect. Young generation stand as the agent to maintained the homeland culture and keep the sustainability.

In this novel it is very clear in illustrating how identity is inherent in the life of the main character. The story is about Changez a Pakistan graduated from Princeton University at the age of 18 years. He lives in America to pursue his dream. Before the graduation he accepts to work in Underwood Samson And Company, with a salary over eighty thousands of dollars each year. But his entire dream is lost when he comes back with different style and prefer to maintain and apply Pakistan culture that inversely proportional in America. There is a contradiction between the culture applied with the surrounding environment. In the end, he not only loses his job, but also he has to split up with people that he loves. And ultimately he feels lost the directions because the Pakistan culture that he applies.

Identity is also a part of postmodernism. The development of Postmodernism has involved various points of view through the time. Scholars articulate postmodernism as the part of new idea of modern theory, but in fact postmodernism is the form of critics toward the failure of modern era. Postmodernism is reflected in many aspects of life, like postmodern art, postmodern literature, postmodern film, postmodern architecture, postmodern ideology, postmodern culture, and postmodern theology. Here are some examples which appear in postmodern life. Principle of postmodern is uniting between high culture and low culture. Hence, postmodern as in common is a different process that emerges from another field.

Frederic Jameson (1991:55) argues that postmodernism is not criticizing only on particular field, but also in any field that classified into culture. The pattern of thought in postmodern era is plurality and respect of another notion, every person has a right to freedom of speech based on their presumption. Postmodern refuses every arrogance sense of each theory, because every theory poses a different thought.

One of the major branched from postmodernism movement is the existence of cultural crisis identity. Cultural crisis identity appears as the effect of the individual who can't sustain their native culture. Moreover, most of cultural crisis identity happens among Diaspora community. Butler (2001) argued that Diaspora is defined, at its simplest, as the dispersal of a people from its original homeland. Until relatively recently the term was most closely associated with the dispersion of the Jewish people, although there are also extensive historiographies of the Armenian, Greek, and African Diaspora (p.189). Diaspora emerges as new form of community which

exists in certain country. Diaspora has been seen as new form of social globalization, where small group of people from different cultural background live in foreign country as legal immigrant. Most of Diaspora strongly upholds their homeland culture as their mutual traits. Through various time, this phenomenon establishes new social environment.

Through the lens of postmodern theory, the novel will be studied critically. The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid will be the primary artifact of analysis.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background study above here are the following statements of the questions.

1. How is Pakistani Diaspora portrayed in this novel?
2. What are the steps of cultural identity crisis of the main character?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

1. To describe the portrait of Pakistani related to Diaspora in different country.
2. To find out the steps of event which cause cultural identity crisis of the main character.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This research is fully headlining the issues of cultural crisis identity which happen toward the main character. The culture crisis identity seems involved other

phenomena to appear. Further, analyzing through each factor which triggers the appearance of culture crisis identity centered as the goals of the research.

The limitation of the research is concern on the utterances of the character and the author narration which correlated with the factor that caused culture crisis identity of the main character. Moreover, the limitation held in order to set a better focus within the research and to sharpen the results of the research.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The significance of this thesis is divided into two significances. The first is theoretical significance, and the second is practical significance. The theoretical significance of this study is the writer hopes that this thesis helps the readers to understand about the application of Postmodernism especially about culture crisis identity in some literary work.

The practical significance of this study, the writer hope that this research give reflection to the reader that this culture and identity appear when there is transition between culture and identity which generate culture shock to pop up. Moreover, for the following researcher who wants to apply the same theory and approach toward the novel should first understand about the postmodernism and the core idea of culture crisis identity notions.