

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is composed of five sub-chapters. It covers various aspects such as the background of the study, the research problem statement, the study objectives, the study's significance, as well as its scope and limitations..

1.1 Background of The Study

As social beings, humans have always had a tendency to live and collaborate in groups, which have grown in size and complexity over the course of evolution. Starting from early times of hunting and gathering, our social groups have evolved from small family units to clans, tribes, villages, towns, and eventually cities and nation-states. This innate inclination to cooperate and live together has resulted in the development of civil societies, which have been shaped by our expanding knowledge and advancing technology. Consequently, the type of society we inhabit has a profound influence on our social behavior, impacting every aspect of our lives (Kindersley, 2015:12). The individual is not inherently born as a member of society. Instead, they possess an inherent inclination towards social interaction and later become a part of society. Throughout an individual's life, there is a chronological progression in which they are initiated into participating in the ongoing social dynamics of their society (Berger, 1967,149). The human organism continues to biologically develop while simultaneously establishing a connection with its surrounding environment. In other words, the process of becoming human occurs within an interdependent relationship with the natural and human environment. This statement becomes significant when considering the fact that this environment encompasses both the natural world and the social world created by humans (Berger, 1966,66). During the process of primary socialization, the initial framework of an individual's world is formed. The enduring nature of this framework can be attributed, at least partially, to the inescapable bond between the individual and their earliest significant individuals (Berger, 1967,155). According to J.P. Gillin said that society is a group. The greatest human being who has habits, traditions, attitudes, and feelings. Every

community in an area has its perspective on what is good and bad for itself and its environment. The good or bad of something is judged by society based on its classification like education, social status (position, wealth, religion), and its role in society. Society plays a role as a complement to our lives as social beings and a barrier in one's activities if according to the community it deviates from the norms and customs they hold. According to Parsons, individual and group actions are influenced by three systems, namely the social system, the cultural system, and the personality system of each individual (Parson,1951:XV). In the social system, each individual gets status and role according to the rules that exist in a social system. Social system not only have a positive but also a negative impact on the person. It depends on the position and perspective of society towards a person. Society will see someone else based on his behaviour, attitude and many social aspects that are being standard in society value. If someone good in those points, it means she will have good position because he is seen from good perspective. It automatically makes him more respected in his daily society life. However, if someone is valued bad, he will be disrespected from society.

This social relationship is widely used in literary work. In the writing (short stories, novels, poetry) and the performance as well as in the form of instructions (drama and musical poetry) Francine Rivers implied in one of her works entitled *Redeeming Love*. a novel that has won an award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. And it is categorized as one of the best-selling novels and has been translated into several other languages. The story is set in the 1850s Gold rush in California. This story is inspired by the book of Hosea from the Bible with the theme of redeeming love for sinners. The most recognizable thing in this novel is the love story. The love between Sarah or commonly known as Angel and Michael Hosea where their backgrounds are completely different. But there is something more interesting in this novel that needs to be studied more deeply, it is the social construction and social institutions in society that influences how they are formed.

Michael Hosea is a farmer as well as a plantation owner who was obedient to God and his social order is much higher than Angel. Where s he was seen only as lowly as satisfying the desires of men who are thirsty for lust. Their

backgrounds were very different but Micheal Hosea's interest in Angel makes him enter Angel's world by becoming Angel's customer. Without she has to serve him like other men whose main was purpose to enjoy every inch of her body. he only asked Angel to accompany him to get to know each other. It doesn't matter how sincere Michael tried to convince Angel that he loves her. She still think that Michael was just making fun of her. Because as far as life goes, someone like Michael couldn't exist. Michael relentlessly continued to visit Angel at his embroidery house, Pair a Dice. One day right when Michael visited Angel, there was a problem between Angel and Miss's bodyguard which caused Angel to be injured. So Michael was angry and took Angel out of the pair-a –dice with his money . Between conscious or not Angel agreed to marry him. But, when she recovered it turned out. that she did not trust Michael completely. she tried repeatedly to escape and is saved again by Michael Hosea. It was then that he realized that Michael loved her. She felt accepted by Michael's environment. Being treated well by people and changing society around Angel changes her perspective and attitude towards life and the world.

In the fragment of the story that has been told, of course, the reader focuses on their love story. The pure love story of Michael Hosea and also the lack of Angel who found the figure of Michael Hosea, a person who is sincere and pure and full of love comes to her, who no longer even considers herself worthy. The main female character in the story is very interesting to discuss. The tragic and cruel story of her life in the story because influence Sarah thoughts about herself and the world. And form thoughts in such a way the world to her.

In a literary work, readers often focus more on the issue of the romance of the main character but forget about another issue . One of them is when the society make their own perspective about main female character's life in real life. This is called social construction, a contemporary sociological theory based on the sociology of knowledge. Berger and Luckmann introduced and developed the concept of social construction in 1966. Social constructionism can be considered a theoretical perspective that forms the foundation, to varying degrees, for these emerging approaches that present innovative and critical alternatives in psychology, as well as other fields within the social sciences and humanities

(Burr, 2006,1). As an approach in the social sciences, social constructionism draws inspiration from various disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, and linguistics, making it a multidisciplinary framework (Burr, 2006,1). According to Vivien Burr there are several definitions of social construction. First is a critical stance towards taken-for-granted knowledge; social construction teaches us not to take for granted what we accept. being more critical is what is needed. Social constructionism encourages us to seriously question whether the category of gender is merely a reflection of naturally existing distinct types of human beings. Although the idea may initially appear strange, it is worth considering that differences in reproductive organs are found in many species. Therefore, we should inquire why this particular distinction has been given such significant importance by humans, to the extent that entire categories of personhood, such as man and woman, have been constructed based on it. Social constructionism suggests that we could have just as arbitrarily divided people based on other characteristics, such as height or the presence of ear lobes (Burr, 2006,2).

Second, The perspective of social structuring emphasizes the historical and cultural specificity of how we perceive the world. The categories and concepts we use to make sense of our surroundings are shaped by specific historical and cultural contexts. For instance, the understanding of childhood has undergone significant transformations throughout centuries. What was considered "natural" for children and the expectations placed on parents have changed over time (e.g., Aries, 1962). It is only in relatively recent history that children have been recognized as distinct from adults, with different needs and rights. The notion of children as innocent individuals requiring adult protection is a relatively new concept, as highlighted in works like those of Dickens. Even within the past fifty years, we can observe changes with profound implications for parental guidance in child-rearing. Consequently, all ways of understanding the world are culturally and historically relative. They are specific to particular cultures and time periods, perceived as products of their respective culture and history, and influenced by the social and economic structures prevalent during that era. The knowledge systems prevalent in any given culture are therefore products of that culture, and we

should not assume that our own ways of understanding are inherently superior in terms of being closer to the truth compared to other perspectives (Burr, 2006, 3).

Third, Knowledge is upheld and maintained through social processes. The interactions and activities that take place among individuals in their daily lives are viewed as the practices through which our collective understanding of knowledge is formed. Hence, what we consider as "truth" (which naturally differs across different historical periods and cultures) — our presently accepted ways of comprehending the world — is not a result of objectively observing the world, but rather emerges from the ongoing social processes and interactions in which people continually engage with one another (Burr, 2006, 3).

Fourth, Knowledge and social action are interconnected. The understandings we collectively negotiate can manifest in various forms, resulting in multiple potential "social constructions" of the world. Each distinct construction also entails or encourages a different type of action from individuals. For instance, prior to the Temperance movement, individuals with alcohol addiction were deemed entirely accountable for their actions, thus deserving blame. Consequently, a common response was to imprison them. However, there has been a shift in perspective, moving away from perceiving drunkenness as a criminal act and toward viewing it as a form of illness or addiction. "Alcoholics" are no longer seen as fully responsible for their behavior, as they are considered victims of drug addiction. The appropriate social action aligned with this understanding involves providing medical and psychological treatment rather than resorting to imprisonment (Burr, 2006, 3).

The writer is interested in analyzing the novel *Redeeming love*, Francine Rivers shows many problems in the main female character because of her social life. This is very useful to understand and explain the influence and role of the surrounding community on the main female character in the novel. This is called social construction, a contemporary sociological theory based on the sociology of knowledge. Social construction was initiated and developed by Berger and Lukman. According to Berger, social construction is an understanding that reality

is socially constructed. And also the key to understanding it requires reality and knowledge.

In other words, social construction is a statement or belief in which the content of awareness and how to relate to other people is taught by personal, culture and society. An easy example can be taken from the main female character. How she communicated and thought that is affected by people surround angel's in that time. The previous studies that have similarities with this study as follow;. First is from Jessica Lyn Galipeau from The State University of New Jersey (2014), she analyzes the social construction of women in the conflict of life and society. Second previous studies is Kenneth J Gergen (2001). The title is "Social Construction In Context". Third previous studies is from Anna Peterson, the title is Environmental Ethics and the Social Construction of Nature (1999). Third previous studies is from Anna Peterson, the title is Environmental Ethics and the Social Construction of Nature (1999). Francine Rivers shows many social problems in the main female character because of her social life. This is very useful to understand and explain the influence and role of the surrounding community on the main female character in the novel.

1.2. Statement of Research Question

Based on the background above, the following are some research questions:

1. Who influence the main female character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers in passing through her life?
2. How each character affects the main female character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers ?

1.3. Objectives of the study

The Objectives of the studies are as follows:

1. Find influential figures in the life of main female character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers.

2. Find the influence of the act or speech of each character that affect the main female character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers.

1.4 The significance of the study

The significance of the study will be deferentially into two significance;

a. Theoretically

This study is expected to provide various benefits in the development of science, especially in the field of literary research, can support the existence of social awareness about the impact of social, psychological, and also self-defense. This study provides a better understanding of the social structure of the main character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers.

b. Practically

This study is expected to make a little contribution to literary research as well as to become a reference for readers who need or want to take up research with the same theory and novel as this study. The results of this study are expected to be able to contribute to everyone, especially students majoring in literature or related majors. It is expected to create a public understanding of personal and the impact of society on other communities or individuals. Because as social beings, we should be able to treat others the way we want others to do to us. This study will help people to be able to understand each other.

1.5 Scope and limitations of the Study

The scope of this study is the use of sosiological literature by Diana Laurensen and Alan Swingewood (1972) to analyze the social construction of the female main character in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers which shows their disappointment, fear, and distrust of Sarah in society. The Writer focuses on the causes of Sarah's helplessness and distrust of society and the views and impacts of society's views on Sarah. And also how Sarah makes peace with herself and gets out of the situation. Social construction theory can help one's understanding of others to respond to one another's situations.

In the study, the limitations of research do not deviate from the topic and focus on what is being discussed. The limitation of this research focuses on the

main female character who experiences a change in the social structure which is interesting to study further.