

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, statement of research problems, objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Power is “a relation among people” (Dahl, 2017:203). It means that power that exist include different groups of people that one of them has a higher position and the other has lower position. Thus, they are related to each other and can create whether the beneficial or harmful relationship. Referring to Max Weber, Lukes states that power cannot be separated from the opposition of other (2005:26). The opposition exists because some people are not in line with the goals of individuals or groups of people who have power. Power often exercised by seizing what others or the lower group have, in other words, the dominant using coercion and violence (Fairclough, 1984:3). Power is a relation where between individual or groups of people fight over the dominant positions (Bourdieu, 1996:215). According to Foucault, Power is “everywhere; not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere” (Foucault, 1978). The existence of power can create inequality or unequal relations because there must be the one who dominating and the one who is dominated (Fairclough, 1984:34).

Hegemony is a theory stated by Antonio Gramsci, where one group is more powerful than another. Gramsci states that hegemony is spontaneous approval of society and the used of items in social life, such as values, aspirations, ideas, beliefs, viewpoints, knowledge claims, and many more which gives benefit to the dominant group (Gramsci, 1971:12). Hegemony is closely related to those who have the power to take control over others who are powerless. Thus,

hegemony can create an inequality of power between groups of people. Lenin, as quoted by Ives, states that hegemony occurs because the proletariat cooperates with the peasants to fight the czarist and the bourgeoisie (Ives, 2017: 64). Ives states that hegemony is the term used by the dominant group, working class, communist to gain power (2017: 68). The dominant group maintains its power and dominance by persuading subordinate groups using political and ideological power. That is, the dominant group combining the use of violence and persuasion to gain obedience and submission to the subordinate group (Simon, 2001: 24). Hegemony is actually a cultural process by which one class dominates the other. Thus the dominators keep on practicing power and the ruled obey them (Al-Amin & Masum Sikdar, 2016: 2).

To answer the research questions in this study, the writer used hegemony theory stated by Antonio Gramsci and Joseph Femia. Gramsci divides two types of the dominant group, namely political society and civil society (Gramsci, 1971:206). Gramsci stated that civil society is a group of people that is creating a private organisations to maintain their ideology using their power (Gramsci, 1971:12). Gramsci mentioned that political society is the dominant group which is work under the state and use the combination of ideological method and coercion to gain the obedience of the public (Gramsci, 1971:268). For the subordinate group, Gramsci defined that the dominant groups need the existence of subordinate groups to support their ideas and rules (Gramsci, 1971:181). Furthermore, Joseph Femia divides three levels of hegemony, namely total or integral hegemony, decadent hegemony, and minimum hegemony (Femia, 1981:46). The idea of power inequality inspires the author or novelist to express it in his literary works.

Literature is the expression of the society (Wellek & Warren, 1954:90). It means that literature can represent the life of the author in society. The reader might influenced by the work of the author, such as the way people act, speak, and dress after read author's work. In relation to that, Habiburrahman stated that "Literature can be viewed as a social phenomenon by displaying a picture of life

including human relationships” (2017: 36). Thus, the literary works created by authors can represent the conflict that happened in society such as gender inequality and power inequality. Oprescu stated that “literature in general and the novel in particular, as a type of the narrative representation of the world” (2018:14). It means that one of literary works is novel. In this study, the novel used is a fiction novel related to the power inequality of one group over another entitled *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.

Adam Silvera is an American author known for writing young adult fiction novels. He wrote novels such as *More Happy than Not* (2015), *History Is All You Left Me* (2017), *They Both Die at the End* (2017), and *What If It's Us* (2018) with Becky Arbeltalli. Most of his works are about young adult fiction—queer. The writer chose this novel because it got Abe Lincoln Book Award 2020. Furthermore, this novel is nominated for Young Adult (Speculative Fiction) in Cybils Awards 2017 and Young Adult Fiction in Goodreads Choice Award 2017. This novel tells the reader about issues such as the sexual identity of the character, life and death instinct, Mateo's insecurity, loneliness, and domination. However, this study only focuses on one issue, power inequality.

They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera tells about a company named Death-Cast that gives people warning or alerts about when they will die. The ringtone alert of Death-Cast, already known by all the people in the story, makes them terrified. Decker is the person who got called and alerted from Death-Cast's company. Herald is the person who works under Death-Cast's company as operator and Decker's advisor. In *They Both Die at the End*, The characters who got called by Death-Cast and turned into Decker are Mateo and Rufus. At the beginning of the novel, Mateo and Rufus don't know each other. Each of them has their own life. After using an application called *CountDowners*, they met and spent their last time together. Mateo and Rufus's struggle can be seen in the story when they both tried to enjoy and live their life happily before they died. Death-Cast is not a group of people who comes from a political society. It is a group that runs a system that gives them power and domination in society. The existence of

Death-Cast company and herald as their worker can create power inequality in the novel. Moreover, Death-Cast is maintaining its power and domination without using violation. They are a company that gives information about someone's death by phone call. Death-Cast maintained their ideology using the power they had as a company.

In our society, Death-Cast has similarities to God. The similarity is both Death-Cast and God knows the exact day of someone's death. The difference is that God didn't call people via telephone to tell them that they will die in twenty-four hours. Death-Cast, in contrast, the Herald of Death-Cast will call Decker via telephone and tell them they will die in twenty-four hours. Since hegemony mainly focuses on domination and power of a group of people, this article will mainly focus on Death-Cast, and Herald hegemony and its impact to Decker in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.

There is only one study concerning Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End*. Masitha analyzed identity formation stages stated by Vivianne Cass: identity confusion, identity comparison, identity tolerance, identity acceptance, identity pride, and identity synthesis (2020). The main focus of this study is Mateo's homosexual identity development as the main character in the novel (Masitha, 2020). This present study is different from the previous one. Although this study uses the same data source, the theory is different. No one has ever analyzed the issue of hegemony in the novel entitled *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera. This present study applies the hegemony theory stated by Antonio Gramsci. This study intends to discover: the division of the dominant and the subordinate group, the three levels of the hegemony theory and the impact of hegemony by Antonio Gramsci in Death-Cast and Herald domination in Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End*.

This study is inspired by a previous study done by Elmira Primananda (2015) entitled "Analyzing Hegemony: Faction System in Veronica Roth's *Divergent*". This study uses hegemony theory. This study analyzed the concept of

hegemony, the impact, and the formula of science fiction. In the concept of hegemony, the writer explained the dominant group, the subordinate group and the three levels of hegemony. Thus, the writer uses a similar topic, inequality of power, using hegemony theory stated by Antonio Gramsci. This study analyzed the dominant group and the subordinate group, the three-levels of hegemony and the impact of hegemony. However, what makes this study different from the previous study that this study focuses only on inequality of power using hegemony theory while the previous study also analyzes the formula of science fiction.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, his study will analyze two problems. The problems are:

1. What are dominant and subordinate groups in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera?
2. What are the three levels of hegemony applied in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera?
3. What are the impacts of the dominant group's hegemony in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to the research problem above, the purpose of this study is divided into three, those are:

1. To reveal dominant and subordinate groups in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.
2. To discover the three levels of hegemony applied in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.
3. To find the impacts of the dominant group's hegemony in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two functional considerations for conducting this study. This study is significant to conduct due to its theoretical and practical functions:

Theoretically, this study aims to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies, especially related to hegemony theory in the novel entitled *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera. Moreover, this study intended to focus on Death-Cast and Herald's hegemony toward Decker. This study also tries to implement one of the literary theories. It will explain how power and domination lead to the existence of hegemony in one society to achieve certain group purposes. This study can also give the readers knowledge about the division of social groups, the three levels of hegemony, and its impact on the novel entitled *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.

Practically, this study is supposed to be useful for other writers doing similar research. The result of this study is expected to be a reference for the writer in the future who has the same topic but different source of data or the same source of data but use different topic. In addition, it is expected that this study can be used as learning material for readers to know the power inequality issue, hegemony theory, three levels of hegemony and can also be used as a comparison with other research with the same topic.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the discussion of the hegemony theory, such as aspects that defined the dominant and subordinate group, the three-levels of hegemony—integral hegemony, decadent hegemony, minimum hegemony--and the impact of the dominant group's hegemony.

Furthermore, the limitation of this study is only limited to the character's utterances and the author's narrations which supported the topic of power inequality in *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.