

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, statement of research questions, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope, and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In the postmodern era, pluralism and uncertainty can occurs in postmodern society, for example, there is a warlord who fights against other countries for his country, then he will be considered a hero meaning a good person who is fully responsible for his country. However, in a country where this hero has been assaulted, he may be viewed as a horrible person because he has attacked their country. It shows a uncertainty with a result, that postmodernism is defined as a theory that has pluralism and uncertainty characteristics.

However, Postmodernism is also defined as a set of theories that question the features of modernism. Because modernism is regarded as a theory with an undisputed reality, with its grand narrative and is also considered a theory with absolute science. However, the grand narrative function is considered to have lost its functors, such as its great hero, great dangers, great voyages, and great goal. Consequently, postmodernism was born with the new goal of correcting modernism by offering a new way of thinking about and solving scientific problems (Lyotard, 1993, p. xxiv). In regard to postmodernism, there are several aspects of postmodernism; two of them are parody and irony which are utilized to criticize and characterize the real state of social life.

First, Parody would be defined as "a sort of repetition" (Hutcheon, 2000, p. ii). It means that a parody imitates someone by expressing feelings of satisfaction, displeasure, or discomfort that describe criticism or satire, and sometimes it can create humorous situations. For example, in the cafe, there was an Asian woman and a British man. Initially, an Asian woman spoke in English with her distinct

accent, which was overheard and mocked by a British man. He attempted to emulate her in order to show satire and to demonstrate how weird that woman's accent is. Then, people in the room begin to giggle as they hear the man's utterances, resulting in humorous situations.

Second, “Irony is a state of affairs that is the reverse of what was to be expected” (Winokur, 2007, p. 01). It means that an irony is an event or condition that occurs in the opposite direction of what is expected. For example, there is a child who always helps his mother. Then, there is his expectation that if he helps his mother, she will reward him with money. Instead of receiving money, she only gives him a piece of cake to eat. As result, irony can be utilized in the opposite direction of what is expected, demonstrating that reality differs from his assumptions.

However, Postmodernism also penetrated the world of literature because it illustrates social life. Parody and irony also as aspects of postmodernism that have contributed to the problems of postmodern society's life. For example, drama as literary work that contains a lot of aspects of parody and irony that have the functions as one important role in illustrating the problem in the storyline. However, drama develops, always exists, and becomes a literary work that has the function of entertaining the audience, conveying moral messages, and criticizing life until now. Besides that, there are many writers who use postmodernism as a guide for writing great works, one of which is George Bernard Shaw, a famous writer with some famous plays, for examples, *Pygmalion* and *Too True To Be Good*.

Pygmalion is play by George Bernard Shaw (1912) from England. This play was chosen because the story is easy to understand and the transcript text is easy to find. However, *Pygmalion* is also Shaw's comedic masterpiece and most popular play. The Nobel Prize is awarded to *Pygmalion* in 1925. Shaw claims that it was a didactic drama about phonetics, and the play's antihero, Henry Higgins, is a phonetician, but the play is a humane comedy about love and the English class system.

Furthermore, this play tells about a professor named Henry Higgins one day meeting Eliza Doolittle who works as a flower seller on the streets. Higgins is

interested by Eliza, because Eliza is not good at pronouncing words when speaking. Furthermore, Higgins is a professor specializing in phonetics; therefore, he feels challenged to make Eliza a better person by teaching her how to speak properly and correctly. Higgins told his friend Colonel Pickering that he could teach Eliza to speak the standard English of upper-class English society and he could also position Eliza as a member of the duchess. This play was chosen because it uses parody and irony as roles to show the characters' satire, humor, and displeasure.

Aside from *Pygmalion*, there are a number of other well-known from Indonesian dramas. According to Peacock (1968), one of them is Ludruk from Javanese, who claims that the term Ludruk may have derived from the Javanese word "*Nggedruk*," which means to stomp one's foot on the ground during a dance (p. 34). Subsequently, Ludruk became popular as a drama that has a unique stage with dance performances, songs, and jokes, with predictable storylines. There is one of famous Ludruk from Javanese namely *Kuntet Edan*.

Kuntet Edan is a Ludruk by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya, which is the founder of an Indonesian fine arts group in Jombang Regency, East Java and they have contributed to preserving the art of ludruk. This play tells about the Taji family being in trouble, because the son-in-law in the family named Kuntet disappeared. Then, his daughter named Marni, or Kuntet's wife became blind, because she cried all day due to her husband not coming home. Furthermore, this play contains aspects of parody and irony with the concepts of humor, satire, and displeasure. Therefore, this play was chosen as the data source for this study because its concept is the same as the focus of this study.

Furthermore, because the focus of this study is a comparative study of literature, this study employs a comparative study of literature by comparing two literary works. As a result, this paper tends to contrast *Kuntet Edan* and *Pygmalion*. Subsequently, this study chooses these plays because not only it is interested in comparing two comedies from different countries, but also the two comedies differ in the time period, location, social life, and cultural context; giving something new to analyze. The fact that these two literary works, *Kuntet Edan* and *Pygmalion*, have problems that are relevant to the topic of this study. It is demonstrated with their

stories contain elements of humor and satire, allowing them to be classified into two categories: parody and irony. Moreover, it was found that there were no studies that used the two plays as data sources as in this study.

In addition, this study uses a postmodernism theory by Jean Francois Lyotard. Lyotard (1984) argues that the working speculation is that the status of understanding is altered as societies input what's known as the postindustrial age and cultures input what is known as the postmodern age (p. 03). It means that postmodernism appears when people recognize the post-industrial and cultural era where people's mindsets change. According to Sarup (1993) states that Lyotard's book entitled *The Postmodernism Condition: A Report Knowledge*, that postmodernism in literature has several aspects, namely eclecticism, parody, irony, pastiche, and playfulness (p. 132). In accordance with the focus of this study, which is to analyze parody and irony through all of the characters in the two works.

Furthermore, there are several previous studies use the same theory and data sources. First, Winda Aulina (2020) entitled *Irony and Parody In Jacqueline Woodson's Harbor Me: A Postmodernism Study*. Second, Muhammad Maftukhan (2018) *Paranoia and Ambiguity In Before I Fall By Lauren Oliver: Postmodernism Study*. Third, Luluk Ernawati and Siti Hanifa (2022) entitled *Identifying Characters of Javanese Comedy Kuntet Edan by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya*. Fourth, P. Neethi Mohan and S. P. Suresh Kumar entitled *The Image of Super Woman: A Portrayal of Woman in Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion and The Millionairess*. Fifth, Notash and Bordbari entitled *Irony and Black Humor in Bukowski's Hollywood and Pulp: A Study of Linda Hutcheon's Two Postmodern Concepts*. Sixth, Qasem Hassen Sabeeh entitled *Post-Modern Parody in John Fowles' The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

In this study, the writer highlights a comparative study of all the characters of *Kuntet Edan* and *Pygmalion*, using parody and irony as tools of comparative literature. In regard, parody and irony are considered aspects of postmodernism that can be an important role in displaying satire, humor, and displeasure in each of the characters from the two works. For this reason, the comparison between *Kuntet*

Edan and *Pygmalion* is conducted in this study in terms of parody, irony, and the functions.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, there are several research questions will discuss. the research questions which can be formulated are:

1. How are parody and irony presented in *Kuntet Edan* by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya?
2. How are parody and irony presented in *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw?
3. What are the functions of parody and irony in *Kuntet Edan* by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya and *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study are to find out:

1. How *Kuntet Edan* by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya presents parody and irony.
2. How *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw presents parody and irony.
3. The functions of parody and irony in *Kuntet Edan* by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya and *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw.

1.4 Significances of the Study

In this subchapter, there are two kinds of significance of the study, namely theoretical contribution and practical contribution.

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to provide several benefits. First, this study is to support and strengthen the proven use of the concept of Postmodernism theory. Second, it provides a more in-depth analysis, especially the parody and irony in the Javanese and English comedy *Kuntet Edan* and *Pygmalion*.
2. Practically, this study is expected to be a useful reference for other researchers who plan to research the same topic or use the same theory. And then, it also expected to be useful for readers, students enrolled in the

major English Study Program at the University of Trunojoyo Madura, and other researchers. The writer has the hope of assisting future writers in gaining knowledge of postmodernism theory and assisting other writers in further developing the same topic or theory. Therefore, they would comprehend the social conditions depicted in various literary works, particularly plays.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is the theory of Postmodernism by Jean Francois Lyotard which focuses on two aspects of postmodernism that are irony and parody to analyze the two plays entitled *Pygmalion* and *Kuntet Edan*. The theory is supportive in this study because it focuses on irony and parody. Meanwhile, this study limits the analysis of irony and parody in drama through the characters' utterances and the actions of the characters in the two plays. It is also an analysis through the secondary texts or stage directions of *Pygmalion*.