

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents several forms of the introduction, these are the background of the study, the research question, the objective of the study, the scope and limitations, and the significances of the study. The background of the study explains the rationale of the topic. The research question consists of the issue in this study and its objectives. The scope and limitations explain the limitations and deficiencies of this study. The significance includes the benefits of this study.

1.1 Background of the study

Colonialism had been happening for a long time. For example, Japan colonized the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945. The existence of colonialism always brought about changes for the colonized or colonizers. The changes significantly affect society, such as the economy, culture, etc. The colonizer country must have had reason to colonize another country, some of the reasons such as wanting to control another country under their environment or can be considered expanding their territory. The colonizer gain and maintain their colonization through military power and indoctrination of their colonial ideologies (Kalampung, 2021, p. 208). In addition, there could be something special from another country that does not exist in the colonizer's country. They see it as an economic field that could upgrade the finance's colonizer.

Korea, as a developed country nowadays, also experienced colonialism. Korea was not divided into two parts then, nor was the Korean Peninsula. Japan had expanded them for 35 years. Japan succeeded in expanding the Korean peninsula entirely in 1910 and changed its name to Chensō. During the Japanese colonialism towards Korea from 1910-1945, they implemented some practices that significantly impacted the Korean peninsula, such as the establishment of a government in Korea with a governor-general ship filled by generals; Japan also enforced military rule in Korea and tried to erase its national identity. Koreans were forced to learn Japanese history instead of Korean history and were made to change their names to the Japanese style and worship Japanese gods and emperors at Shinto shrines (Hurh,

1998, p. 6). Japanese colonialists ended their rule towards the Korean Peninsula in August 1945, when Japan surrendered at the end of World War II (Park, 2022, p. 250).

During Japan's colonialism, the Korean Peninsula society dreamt about freedom and all the good things that they could not get in their origin. Unlike ethnic Japan's Meiji Constitutions (1890-1947), ethnic Koreans lacked freedom of speech, assembly, the press, or association (Park, 2022, p. 243). Some of them tried to immigrate to another country for the freedom that they were taught. Besides the freedom, they were also looking for a better economy in another country. This migration is also known as diaspora. Diaspora is the movement or migration of a people from one country to another for specific reasons and over a long period (Sheffer, 2003, p. 10). This massive migration brings them to unfamiliar places and helps them survive and adapt to the new environment (Kartikasari, 2016, p. 3).

The diasporic people tried specific ways to adapt to the new environment in the new place. One was combining their older culture and the newest one they found in a new environment to create a new culture. This merger is called hybridity. Hybridity can be seen in the adaption of cultural forms, such as names, education, language, lifestyle, and attitude.

“Hybridity as the revaluation of the assumption of colonial identity through the repetition of discriminatory identity effects. It displays the necessary deformation and displacement of all sites of discrimination and domination.”

(Bhabha, 1994, p. 159)

Hybridity is the effort and struggle of the minorities to find alternatives to be equal with the dominant (Bhabha, 1994, p. 331). The minorities try to create a third space of culture equal to the dominant culture. Hybridity is a concept that refers to cultural mixing that occurs when local cultures come into contact with foreign cultural influences (Viviani & Satria, 2021, p. 85). Hybridity is not only a mixing of culture but also language, attitudes, and identities. This phenomenon is

often portrayed in some literary works, for example, *Pachinko*. Some of the authors wrote some literary work about it. Literary work or literature can be defined as a written form that can be a place for humans to pour their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Literature is a kind of art, usually written, with unique characteristics such as originality, artistry, beautiful content, and expression (Wellek & Warren, 1949, p. 22). Through literary work, we also can learn some historical stories that happened in the past. A novel is one of a kind of literary work that has several complex problems. This study will use *Pachinko*, written by Min Jin Lee, as the object that contains a historical story in the past.

Min Jin Lee is a Korean-American author and journalist born on November 11, 1968, in Seoul, South Korea. Her family migrated to the United States in 1976. According to the author's original blog, she has several achievements, such as being the recipient of the 2022 Manhae Grand Prize for literature from South Korea, the 2022 Bucheon Diaspora Literary Award, and the 2022 Samsung Happiness for Tomorrow Award for Creativity and fellowships in Fiction from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. As the object of this study, the novel *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee was nominated as the finalist for the National Book Award and runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Pachinko is an English-language historical novel that follows the Korean-Japanese colonization and post-colonization period from 1910-1989. A quarter of the novel is set in Korea, and the rest of the novel is in Japan. Sunja, as the main character, only sees Korea because she grew up in that environment and does not know how other countries, especially Japan. She can only imagine the outside world from what she hears. At that time, Sunja followed her husband, Baek Isak, who got an offer as a priest at the Osaka church. It was their first time living abroad, and they felt curious and nervous about the new culture and challenges.

Not only Sunja and Isak migrated to Japan but also Yoseb and Kyunghee, Sunja's brother-in-law who migrated earlier, as well as many Korean immigrants. Sunja and Isak, as the first generation in the novel, had to experience adapting to a new environment and a new Japanese culture. Sunja and Isak have children named

Noa and Mozasu, who were born and grew up in Japan. Some of their parents' culture is still passed down to them, and they also adopt some Japanese culture to cover up their Korean identity due to discrimination from their environment. In the third generation, Solomon, who is the son of Mozasu and grandson of Sunja, began to combine Japanese and Western culture because at that time, western culture began to enter the environment he grew up in. In this third generation, Korean culture began to fade for example, Solomon was not very fluent in Korean even though he was actually Korean.

The author's statement about the meaning of *Pachinko*, which is the title of this novel, refers to a popular Japanese game that involves dropping metal balls into a machine with pins and holes. The game is a metaphor for the fate of the characters, who face many challenges and uncertainties in their lives. It reflects Koreans' life in Japan, often marked by hardship, prejudice, and resilience.

There are several previous studies which use *Pachinko* as the source of data in their studies. The first previous study is a journal entitled *A Portrait of Traditional Gender Roles in Min Jin Lee's Pachinko* by Ade Sandra R., published in 2022. This study focused on traditional gender roles portrayed by the main character in the novel. The second previous study is a bachelor's degree thesis entitled *Immigrants' Sense of Dislocation and Identity Crisis in Min Jin Lee's Pachinko* by Dev Singh M., published in 2019. This study focused on the identity crisis experienced by the characters in this novel. The third previous study is a dissertation entitled *Fact and Fiction in the Contemporary American Historical Novel: The Case of Min Jin Lee's Pachinko* by Ghanemi Maroua, published in 2023. This study focused on the setting of the novel.

There are also several previous studies that apply the Postcolonial theory by Homi K. Bhabha to analyze the hybridity, mimicry, and ambivalence in literary works. The first previous study, entitled *The Unstable Nature of Dominants-Subordinate Relation: Postcolonial Study Towards Thomas King's The Colour of Walls* by Alireza Sardari, was published in 2021. This study focused on the dominant and the subordinate in the novel *The Colour of Walls*. The second is a study entitled *Hybridity Portrayed by Major Characters in the Novel Crazy Rich*

Asian by Kevin Kwan by Viviani and Robby S., published in 2021. This study focused on the kind of hybridity that was experienced by the major character in that novel. The following study, entitled *Unhomeliness and Hybridity in Jung Shine: Postcolonial Study* by Putri Wahyuni, Pramudana Ihsan, and Sri Lestari, was published in 2022. This study focused on the identity issue faced by the main character in that novel. The next is a journal article entitled *The Impact of Hybridity and Mimicry on The Indian Immigrants' Identity: A Postcolonial Analysis in Jhumpa Lahiri's The Lowland* by Yeni Istari, published in 2018. This study focused on the hybridity and mimicry of Indian immigrant characters. The last previous study is a research article entitled *Mimicry, Ambivalence, and Hybridity of Lazlo Strange Character in Laini Taylor's Strange the Dreamer* Pramudya Lazuardi and Arido Laksono, published in 2021. This study focused on mimicry, ambivalence, and hybridity aspects experienced by a character in the novel *Strange the Dreamer*.

This study focuses on the hybridity faced by the characters in Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*. The theory used in this study is hybridity by Homi K. Bhabha in his book *The Location of Culture* (1994). Besides that, the hybridity that existed in the novel had never been analyzed before. Diaspora is an exciting topic nowadays, and that word is frequently used in social media. So, the topic of this study is interesting to discuss because of how cultures constantly evolve as diasporic people try to adapt to the new environment and cultures in another country.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the research question is:

1. What are the aspects of the hybridity of characters found in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To answer the research question, the objective of this study is:

1. To discover the aspects of hybridity that the characters experience as part of diaspora society to adapt to the new environment.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to preserve the existence of hybridity in the novel using Homi K. Bhabha's theory about hybridity. Korean Peninsula which was colonized by Japan at that time, made some of the residents move to another

country. They tried to merge two or more cultures to adapt to the new environment until a new one emerged.

Practically, this study is also expected to advance the students of the University of Trunojoyo Madura in the English Department who are interested in postcolonial reading, especially hybridity reading, and apply the same theory to their research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Scope and limitation are needed to analyze literary work to focus and more detailed. The scope of this study is Homi K. Bhabha's theory about hybridity in a literary work written by Min Jin Lee and published in 2017, entitled *Pachinko*, is the source of data in this study. This study aims to show the aspects of hybridity that the diaspora society does to adapt to the new environment.

The limitation of this analysis is the characters' utterances and the author's narration, which shows the aspects of hybridity in the novel. The reason for choosing the characters is not may specifically because of the cultural hybridity shown through the main character but also through minor characters. Therefore, they show the hybridity as the effects of diaspora society to adapt to the new environment. Homi K. Bhabha's theory about hybridity is used as the basic theory of this study.