

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five subchapters. Those are background of the study, statement of research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is one of creations of human that has aesthetic and artistic side. Aesthetic refers to beauty or appreciation of beauty, while artistic means shows skill and imaginations. Many people in this world are interested in reading literature. The development of literary works which are created by the authors during the time is followed enthusiastically by most of people. Reading literary works are pleasant activity. Welleck and Warren (1948: 89) stated “in the world of letter, literature, “imitates” “life”; and “life” is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary “imitations”. It means that it is a mimesis phenomenon of human life or social reality.

Moreover, Robert (1969: 1) argued “literature refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situation, express emotion, can analyze and advocate ideas. It means that literature is an art and power of writing where it is full of the author’s creative whose creativity plays with their intellectuality, ideas, imaginations and also emotions. So, the readers are brought into the various

feelings when read it such as happy, angry, worry, gloomy, disappointed or scared. Therefore, the reflection of human conditions and problems are often encountered in the literary works. Moreover, many literary works is adapted based on the author's experience.

One of the literary works is novel. X-J Kennedy (2009: 226) stated "novel is a picture of real life and manners and of the time in which it was written. He also explained that the meaning of novel is book-length story in prose whose author tries to create sense that while we read, we experience actual life". It means that we can see the world in the print-text book.

Many stories in novels deal with phenomena that can cause a conflict in the novel itself. The phenomena and the problems usually have relation with human's life or society because literature or novel itself is a mirror of life. Moreover, Elizabeth (2017: 2) emphasized "writing is a very important creative activity which reflects the current thoughts and beliefs of a society as it encapsulates contemporary experiences and immortalizes them for the future". It means that novel reflects and comments on aspects of things that people encounter in their daily lives.

The phenomena in society are from all aspects of life including social, economics, politics, culture, religion and sex or gender. Related to social, social attitudes and intergroup relation will be discussed in this study. A number of classical and contemporary theories of social attitude and intergroup relations have given us some important insights into the nature and dynamics of intergroup

conflict, stereotyping, and group oppressions. According to Sidanius and Pratto (1999: 31) “all human societies tend to be structured as system of group-based social hierarchies. At the very minimum, this hierarchical social structure consists of one or a small number of dominant and hegemonic groups at the top and one or a number of subordinate groups at the bottom”. It means that the societies are always formed by hierarchical structure or social level in their belief system, so that it can make a contrast condition among one group with other groups.

In fact, novel is interesting literary work to get reader's critics and attention. One of them is novel entitled *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley which is published by Harlequin TEEN United States of America in 2014. This novel tells about the oppression of maintenance and stability of group-social hierarchies. Sarah Dunbar and her friends as black-skin students are freshmen and freshwomen who get or accept disproportionately allocation and feel oppressed because of social domination from white-skin students in Jefferson High School, where black-skin students is subordinated, so it is easy for white-skin students to dominating them.

The writer chooses *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley as the source of data in this study because it was interesting to be discussed, moreover this novel was best seller novel. Sarah Dunbar who is the main character and her friends as black-skin students or as the subordinate group in this novel get some discrimination or disproportionately allocation from white-skin students or as the dominant. Therefore, the writer was interested to analyze about intergroup conflict in this novel which still exists in society.

There are related studies that have been conducted by students of English Study Program of Trunojoyo Madura University. One of them is study conducted by Muslimin (2016). His study analyzed about the ways of Capitol's president dominates people in district and make people in the district under his control. The other is study which is conducted by Anita Rahmah (2014). Her study analyzed about Hegemony concept which is depicted in a play entitled Dr. Jonathan. Dr. Jonathan and Asher Pindar dominated other characters through his intellectuality.

Furthermore, in supporting the analysis of this study, related theory such as social dominance is applied in this study. Theory of social dominance that was coined by Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto is exactly correct theory that can be applied in this study. Sidanius and Pratto (1999: 37) emphasized "all human societies tend to be structured as system of group-based social hierarchies. At the very minimum, this hierarchical social structure consists of one or a small number of dominant and hegemonic groups at the top and one or a number of subordinate groups at the bottom". Sarah Dunbar and her friends who are a freshman and they were black-skin students and considered as the individual/subordinate group get some oppressions and disproportionately allocation from the white-skin students who become dominant group and tend to be dominated and excellent.

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

Through this research, the writer finds the following questions:

1. How do the white-skin students dominate over the black-skin ones in *Lies We Tell Ourselves* novel?

2. How are the systematic terrors which are experienced by the black-skin students in *Lies We Tell Ourselves* novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

After formulating the statements of research problems, this study aims to identify:

1. How the white-skin students dominate over the black-skin ones in *Lies We Tell Ourselves* novel.
2. How the systematic terrors which are experienced by the black-skin students in *Lies We Tell Ourselves* novel.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give the benefits in two aspects, theoretical and practical:

Theoretically, this study will enlarge our knowledge about Marxist Criticism, especially Social Dominance theory. This study also can help the next researcher who want to analyze another literary work uses Social Dominance theory especially for students of University of Trunojoyo Madura. Practically, this study helps the writer and readers to understand what are the cause and effects of intergroup conflicts caused by the hierarchical structure which is still exist in society.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Based on theory which is applied in analyzing the novel as the source of data, the scope of this study was Marxist Criticism which deals with Social Dominance coined by Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto (1999). The limitation of this study is words, utterances of characters and author narrations in Robin Talley's *Lies We Tell Ourselves* which relate to the focus of this study.