

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five sub chapters to discuss in this chapter. Those are background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study. Those sub chapters are required to inform this scientific study.

1.1. Background of the Study

India is one of countries in the world that has many interesting features to be observed like its traditional culture that still exist today. Traditional culture in India is the most interesting sector to be discussed. Caste system is one of traditional culture of India which has been maintained now by its citizen. Caste used to be thought of as an ancient fact of Hindu life, but contemporary scholars have argued that the caste system was constructed by the British colonial regime. The British segregated Indians by caste, granting administrative jobs and senior appointments only to the upper castes (Zwart, 2000).

Many Indian authors take the issues of culture, social, politics, and identities become their major theme of their literary works. They take social issues to criticize the social and cultural order in their work. For example, Arundhati Roy writes the cultural and social order in society that consist about the woman and caste issues in his novel *The God of Small Things*, which won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997. Vikas Swarup, also depicts the social inequality

in Mumbai, India, in his novel too, entitled *Q&A*. This is his first novel that won Boeke Prize in South Africa in 2005. (Hartanto, 2011: 2). Then Aravind Adiga's *The White tiger*, also portrays the caste culture and its practice in Hindu society of India.

The novel entitled *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga depicts many aspect of life in India. It consists about the issue of culture, politics and also economic. This novel portrays the power of high class people or master in India, who dominates the lower class. They are the landowners or the masters who represent their dominance of their power to dominate their servants. The vast economic inequality between the poor or the lower class and the wealthy elite or the high class could emerge the power domination which is applied by the wealth toward the poor. This is the ideas and thoughts which are conveyed by Adiga about the condition surrounding him as the author of *The White Tiger*.

The White Tiger is included into the genre of *epistolary* novel. Samuel Richardson stated about the epistolary novel, is a genre that embodies its narrative in fictional letters (Keymer, 2012). An epistolary novel is also called a novel of letters, because the narration takes place in the form of letters. The novel consists of the story that the main character, Balram Halwai, who has written seven chapters of letter for the Chinese Prime-Minister, Mr. Jiabao who wants to visit India. Balram as the writer of the letter in this novel tells about the high class domination in any aspect.

Balram learn more about the real condition in India by eavesdropping his master Mr. Ashok's conversation with Thakur Ramdev, Mukesh Sir and also Pinky Madam. He knows everything about what the high class has done along he works as the chauffeur in Mr. Ashok's house. The high class' dominations are also experienced by Balram actually from his master's family. In other side, the lower classes in the village just like the chicken in the "Rooster Coop". All chickens are stuffed together tightly and looking for pure air to get the clean oxygen in breathing. They cannot do anything to speak out their opinion and argumentation. He knows all powerful domination of the higher class when he works in the Mr. Ashok's house, by eavesdropping he knows everything.

Aravind Adiga is one of Indian writers who concerns discussing the social phenomena in India. This novel becomes the source of data in this study because of several reasons. The first, according to the author himself, that Aravind Adiga is one of modern writers who won the 40th Man Booker Prize through his debut novel *The White Tiger* (Aravind Adiga Biography, 2013). The second reason, the readers of the novel get the knowledge about the social condition about the high class power domination toward the lower class of India in 21century.

Aravind Adiga was born in 1974 in Chennai or previously known as Madras. His family then moved across to South India in the Karnataka coastal town of Mangalore, where Adiga stayed until he was sixteen. His family then immigrated to Australia, and from there he studied at both Columbia University in New York and Magdalen College, Oxford. His articles have appeared in

publications such as the *New Yorker*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Times of India*. He worked as a journalist before beginning *White Tiger* in 2006, his first novel. *The White Tiger* published in 2008, won the Man Booker Prize for fiction in 2008, in which Aravind Adiga portrays Indian life. A second novel, *Last Man in Tower*, was published in 2011 (Aravind Adiga Biography, 2013).

Related to the source of data of this study, there have been a number of valuable studies on the novel *The White Tiger*. They are Hartanto, 2011; Hartanto, 2013; Singh, 2009; Schotland, 2011; Shaikh, 2012; Waller, 2012; Sebastian, 2009; Poonkodi, 2009; Yadav, 2011; Want, 2011; Wardhani, 2009; Asih, 2011; Diparany, 2010. Most of them are interested in analyzing on the main character's struggle, caste discrimination, social contradiction etc. Nevertheless none of them analyze the domination of the masters which is portrayed by Mr. Ashok family toward the servant, Balram Halwai. Furthermore, although this study analyzes through the representation of the main character too, but none of the studies which are mentioned above analyze the domination by using the theory Gramsci and Althusser hegemony.

This study uses hegemony theory that focuses on the masters' domination toward their servant. The word domination is the key of the Hegemony theory. Hegemony and domination is the circumstance which is connected each other, both of them explain about the control power. Hegemony theory generally has the meaning when socially powerful people use their influence to convince less powerful people to do what the powerful people's best interest.

Theory of hegemony is chosen to analyze the source of data in this study because this theory is suitable to be used in analyzing the novel. Since the novel *The White Tiger* present the character of masters who has the power to dominate the servant and the domination itself has the significant influence to the servant's life. The novel *The White Tiger* portrays some ways how the masters dominate the servant; they are cultural, intellectual, ideological and repressive or violence hegemony. Hence, this study uses Gramsci's theory hegemony to analyze cultural and intellectual hegemony cases which are portrayed in the novel. In other side, this study uses Althusser's hegemony theory to analyze ideological and repressive hegemony cases which are portrayed in the novel too.

This study focuses to investigate the domination that is applied by the masters toward the servant and the impacts of the masters' domination toward the servant. Therefore, *The Indian Masters' Domination toward The Servant in Aravind Adiga's The White Tiger* is chosen to be the title of this study.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problems

Based on the background of study, this study discusses the Indian master's oppression toward the servant in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. The study is formulated as the following questions:

1. How are the domination conducted by the masters toward the servant in the novel?
2. What are the impacts of masters' domination toward the servant?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study describes the answers of questions in the statement of the research problems. The objectives of the study are:

1. To elaborate the masters' domination toward the servant that applied in the novel.
2. To elaborate the impacts of the masters' domination toward the servant.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to give better understanding about hegemony theory that is reflected in the literary work. Then, this study is also expected to give more information and knowledge related to domination and hegemony especially Gramsci and Althusser's hegemony theory. Practically, this study is expected to give a contribution to the society. It is expected to give an inspiration how to build a good relation and communication among the people by eliminating violent manner, ridicule and humiliate each other. This study is also expected to give understanding and perspective for the reader about the relationship between the master and the servant in India.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the concept of hegemony theory. This study focuses on the social phenomena of the Indian masters' power domination toward the servant that is portrayed in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. In addition, this study is limited to analyze the domination that is experienced by Balram Halwai as the servant and the main character of the novel *The White Tiger*. Besides, the

limitation of this study is the description, the characters' dialogues and utterances and the author's narration that are relevant with this study.