

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is an imaginative work that depicts human life in society and can be appreciated, understood and used by society as well. The writer will write the result of this image in the form of literary works, such as drama, poem, short story, and novel.

People who work in literature generally represent their work in the kind of literary work. Like the term literature itself, where literature is a term used to describe written or spoken text. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from imaginative writing to more academic or science work, although the term is more widely used to refer to works of literary creativity, including poetry, drama, prose, and non-fiction. Literature is a language or people: history and tradition. Yet literature is more relevant than a purely historical or cultural symbol.

Literature leads us to new worlds of experience, which means that literary work is an immediate aspect of the literary environment, an aggregation of all the socially engaged literary works of a given age and a social community. The relations between literary work and social life, such as the author's use of the social background in their literary work, like a novel, often say of the phenomena surrounding them. Many researchers assume that literature is related to social life; that literature is influenced by social facts. Therefore, literature is considered to be a representation of life, which is then compiled into words or phrases. Sometimes literature refers to social experiences and social realities. The sociology of literature emphasizes the dimension and the relationship between literature and society. This is because, without the influences of social consciousness and culture, literature does not exist. Marx also says that to analyze literary work, we must not only acknowledge the terms of author psychology but

also the varied perceptions of the social world. Acknowledging the literature requires understanding the general social process that is part of it (Eagleton, 2006: 22). Literature can be a representation of social life, such as social structure, social relations, class struggle, and other social movements. The literature will not arise from the inanity of culture and society (Teeuw, 1988: 11).

The phenomenon may be a social problem linked to political problems, cultural issues, violations, etc. The work of fiction imitates an environment that precedes the text, and critics will recapture the universe mainly by a systematic study of the text, while awareness of the historical context and the author are also relevant.

On the basis of the above-mentioned description of the relationship between literary work and social life, people will critique anything in a literary work. Individuals may condemn the use of certain methods in the field of research analysis, such as sociological analysis and psychological analysis.

Literary works consist of several types, such as poem, novel, drama, song, etc. In this study, the writer intends to focus on sociology analysis to analyze one of the literary works that are novel. The writer uses socio-analytic analysis to analyze Joanne Ramos's novel *The Farm*. The novel tells us about Jane, an immigrant from the Philippines and a struggling single mother is thrilled to make it through the highly competitive Host selection process at the farm. But now pregnant, fragile, consumed with worry for her own young daughter's well-being, Jane grows desperate to reconnect with her life outside. Yet she cannot leave the farm or she will lose the life-changing fee she'll receive on delivery—or worse.

Perhaps this novel is reputed as a reflection of immigrant's life conditions in America at that time at a glance. The setting takes in America. In addition, the novel shows the readers about the culture, race, and economy. The novel depicts the condition of society which has a contradiction from other groups. The phenomenon can be seen by the diversity of social status and race in America. However, the characters of

Jane, Ate, Reagan, and Mae implicitly show how that anyone who works hard in America, she will be successful. But before that happened, there are many conflicts. The conflict happens because Filipino immigrants are employed as surrogate mothers. They must obey the rules at Golden Oaks. They promises that they would get a lot of bonuses if they could work loyal to their clients. Jane, a mother who had to leave her daughter, Amalia, raised by Ate, struggles to become a surrogate mother. She does this to get a lot of money and be able to buy a house in America. Unlike the rich people there, they pay whatever they want to care for their children. Besides, race distinguishes the working class at Golden Oaks. A woman who is highly educated, white, and beautiful is a Premium Host. In contrast to a woman who has no higher education and has colored skin. She is only referred to as Host, not treated specifically.

Generally, the conflict portrayed by Jane, Ate, Reagan, and Mae can be identified by their social identity and social status. Jane and Reagan have their own reason why they want to be surrogacy in Golden Oaks. They are very far compared to Mae, the owner of Golden Oaks. She is very rich because of her efforts so far in developing the company. Ate said to Jane, if she works hard and can fulfil what her clients ordered, she will get a lot of money from them. Ate also motivates Jane to be diligent and obeys all the rules in Golden Oaks. This is also mentioned by Mae. But, fact Mae lies to them that they can earn a lot of money from that place, but it is only the bonus if they can finish their works. This problem becomes a consideration to the writer to find out how American Dream concept can be a conflict phenomenon as reflected by the characters of Jane, Ate, Reagan, and Mae viewed from the perspective of sociology.

The American Dream is an idea originating from American history, but it is not a formal dogmatic concept. The definition of the American dream as an interpretative-individual, so that the meaning can differ from individual to individual. In The American Dream, everyone can dream of success that is different but bound by the same ideas in building that dream,

namely opportunity for everyone, equality, competition for achievement, and most importantly, the idea of success (Commager, 1971: 211).

Also, this novel illustrates various conflicts caused by racial and ethnic differences among the people. Jane, a Filipino immigrant is represented as a descendant of a lower social group, who works with Mae, the owner of Golden Oaks. Mae was born as a high social group in America. This makes someone who is in a low social group try to change her destiny.

Based on the background above, it is interesting for me to look deeper into how the characters in the novel to achieve their American Dream. The writer is interested in analyzing the conflict by following American Dream Concept.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, the writer identifies the problem: there are social differences between Filipino immigrants and Native American society. Ate, a Filipino immigrant who has worked so long in America can meet all her needs. In addition, she can buy a lot of property for the hard work she has done. So it is with Mae, she lives glamorous, full of luxury. She is founded Golden Oaks and makes herself even richer. This makes Jane also wants to be like them. Jane does this to support her daughter's life, Amalia. She wants to have a house in America. In contrast to Reagan, apparently, she works at Golden Oaks so that she does not depend on his father's property. She wants to show her father that she can succeed.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the writer limits the research problem to the study of sociology, a struggle to be successful in America.

Theories and concepts used are as follows:

1. Through a literary approach:
Characterization method, plot, setting, and theme
2. Through sociological approach:
American Dream Concept

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the assumption, the research problem is formulated in the form of research questions as follows:

1. How do Jane, Ate, Mae, and Reagan try to achieve their *American dream*?
2. Are the characters ultimately able to realize Their *American dream*?
3. How to explain the Concept of *American Dream* through the characters in the novel?

1.5 The Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To explain the ways in which Jane, Ate, Mae, and Reagan achieve their American dreams.
2. To explain the achievements of the American dream by the characters.
3. To explain the concept of the American dream adopted by the characters.

1.6 Methods of the Research

The writer will use the qualitative approach. The qualitative approach seeks to tell a story on specific group's experiences in their own words and is focused on narrative. The writer will use the descriptive method as the method to conduct this research with the *The Farm* novel as the data source and using references from data that have already existed via books and journals to help analyze the character. To analyze the data, the first thing the writer does is reading the novel. After that, the writer will search the dialogue between the characters, the events, and the conflict. And then the writer will determine the theory that will be used to analyze through extrinsic approach. After the writer analyzes the novel using intrinsic and the extrinsic approaches, the writer will conclude the result of the research.

1.7 Benefit of the Research

Based on the methods of the research above, this study is expected to be beneficial for those who are interested in getting a deeper knowledge of *The Farm* and the Marxist theory. Besides that, the writer hopes that this research will be useful for the next researcher who will conduct and apply future research.

1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

In accordance to the title of the research above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

It consists of: background of the problems, identification of the problems, limitation of the problems, formulation of the problems, objectives of the research, framework of the theories, methods of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2: FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES

It consists of: The explanation of the concepts and theories. It includes intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approaches are characterization – showing and telling methods, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approach, the applied extrinsic approach is sociological approach, American Dream Concept.

CHAPTER 3: THE NOVEL *THE FARM* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH

It consists of: characterization of the characters, plot, and settings of the novel. The concepts above must appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 4: THE PURSUIT OF AMERICAN DREAM THAT LED TO CONFLICT IN JOANNE RAMOS'S NOVEL *THE FARM*

It consists of: a brief explanation of this chapter's content, analysis of the struggle for the characters to achieve their American Dream that appear in the novel and the relation with the characterization, setting, and plot. The concepts above must appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

It consists of: an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result. The chapters above are followed by references, scheme of the research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachments.

