

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

A novel has many kinds of values that people can learn. These values can be described in the story. Some of the authors try to bring up the racism issue based on the fact that there is still discrimination about skin color happened in society. Some of the authors try to express a religion issue in his or her story. The authors not only bring racism issue, but also a religion issue, the economic crisis, a political background, a history nuance and even a cultural value. The authors narrate these issues implicitly in the novel to tell the reader about the whole story.

One of the values is cultural value. Culture is a whole system of ideas, actions, and the work of human beings in order to become a society that human beings belong to learn (Koentjaraningrat, 2000, p. 181). The culture today is far away different from the past time. People live in a modern day and this day cannot be compared with the past decades while everything has to be done manually. The cultural value constitutes cultural identity. Cultural identity is an identity of individual, community, or society for living their real life. Not only in reality but also in literary work, cultural identity happens (Hall, 1990, p. 713). Cultural identity can be narrated by the author in novels. Sometimes the author does not that he or she tells the cultural identity. In certain, every decade has its own identity in culture in a specific year. This phenomenon can cause a change that can be described in a story in the novel.

In the novel, there is also an interaction within the characters. The reader can tell the mannerism of characters because of their interaction with other character. According to Brown (as cited in Astuti, 2011, p. 12), interaction is the exchange of thoughts, feelings, or ideas collaborated between two or more people that has a reciprocal effect on each other as a result. People interact with other people as a matter of socialization. A character interacts with another character to create a storyline. They talk, do some stuff, and help each other. In the novel, there must be interaction of all the characters. As a simple example, when someone finds a wallet on the street, he or she might ask someone around about the wallet's own.

Automatically, they do the interaction. The ‘thing’ that forces someone to interact can be called as a symbol. And a symbol in character’s interaction brings the story that illustrates the cultural identity at the same time.

A novel called “Recipe for a Perfect Wife” is a literary work of the author, Karma Brown. This novel tells about Alice Hale and Nellie Murdoch that are a housewife from two different eras. Brown brings the life of a housewife in 1950s and 2018. Alice lives in the modern lifestyle and decides to become a housewife while Nellie is a housewife herself like a woman used to be in the past decades. What interesting here is a housewife representation in two different generations. The housewife has so many different perceptions in society. The good and the bad side are released with society’s reactions. According to Lexico Online Dictionary powered by Oxford University Press states;

“Housewife is a woman, whose main occupation is caring for her family, managing household affairs, and doing housework, while her husband or partner goes out to work.”

A housewife is the one who does the household as her duty in the past time. The housewife does not work and must treat her husband well. Nowadays, some people agree that a wife should be a fully housewife. Even though time has changed, a wife has duty to make sure that her husband is in a good condition. The wife should treat her husband genuinely at home welcoming him in a warm hug like the old times. It does not matter what time it is because a wife has a responsibility to take care of her husband. Indeed, there are a plenty of perspectives about a housewife. Some people say that a woman cannot just sit in the house doing all the housework waiting her husband to go home when clearly the time has changed. Some of them try to state that women are equal with men in this modern era. The wife works in a paid-job like the husband to support the family financial and there is oppression from their own husband. A modern housewife says that doing the housework is the responsible of both of husband and wife. A marriage is a team-work between husband and wife. When they decide to be in a marriage life, they commit to help each other. This human behavior is reflected in literature’s view.

Literature and culture can be combined in a study. This kind of study can be named as anthropology of literature. This study requires literature-based with its instrument, namely anthropology. Nyoman Kutha Ratna (2011), in her book

entitled “*Antropologi Sastra: Peranan Unsur-unsur Kebudayaan dalam Proses Kreatif*”, states that anthropology of literature study is a study that combines sociology of literature and psychology of literature. Sociology of literature requires a relationship with society while psychology of literature is a relationship within self. The anthropology of literature requires a figure of person in society and deal with self that shows the cultural values.

Based on the description above, I am interested in analyzing the cultural identity that exists in 2018 and 1950s and symbolic interactionism that is reflected in the novel. Different periodical of time is illustrated in Karma Brown’s novel revealing the cultural identity within a time. Karma Brown shows a novel that represents the housewife from different era describing the culture that has lived there. When describing the cultural identity in implicit way, the author illustrates the interaction within all the characters. Based on the background of the study, I do a research with a title “Cultural Identity and Symbolic Interactionism in Karma Brown’s Novel “Recipe for a Perfect Wife”: Anthropology of Literature Study”.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

To identify the existing problems, I read the novel entitled “Recipe for a Perfect Wife” by Karma Brown. After doing the reading section, I observed about two female characters in the novel that have their own point of view. The figures of Alice and Nellie are also needed to be observed. Based on the background of the study above, the source of the problem found in the characters of two females in the novel tells about issue in generation, cultural identity, and interaction.

Different generation is the first factor in contributing the two females’ figure. The setting of the novel is in 2018 and 1950s. Both Alice and Nellie represent their lifestyle in their own era. Two female characters in the novel are the housewives themselves. However, they do the cleaning, gardening, and cooking in a different style. The second factor contributes cultural identity that exists in 2018 and 1950s. This phenomenon includes the fashion style, the style for living, the environment, and so on. There are some cultural identities that exist in Alice’s story point of view that is related with modern era. In another side, Nellie acts how she lives in the 1950s. Nellie’s life shows the cultural value that is different from Alice’s

perspective. The last is related with interaction. Two female characters in Karma Brown's novel have their own point of view. Both of them interact with different people based on the fact that they live in different era. In addition, a symbol gives reflection that Alice and Nellie interact each and with other characters in their era.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

The novel entitled "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" is a popular novel that not only relates to cultural value but this novel also presents social issue, psychological background, historical drama genre, and story that ends in tragedy. Based on the identification of the problem above, I am going to focus on as follows:

1. The representation of a housewife in the portrait of two female characters from different generation in the novel "Recipe for a Perfect Wife".
2. The cultural identity in 2018 and 1950s reflected by two female characters as the housewife in the novel entitled "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" by Karma Brown.
3. The symbolic interactionism illustrated in Alice and Nellie's point of view.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problems above, the research is intended to answer the questions as follows:

1. What kind of a housewife representation in the portrait of two female characters from different generation is?
2. What are the cultural identities in 2018 and 1950s reflected by two female characters?
3. What is the symbolic interactionism illustrated in Alice and Nellie's point of view?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problems above, the objectives in this research as follows:

1. To identify the kind of a housewife representation in the portrait of two female characters from different generation.

2. To reveal the cultural identities in 2018 and 1950s reflected by two female characters.
3. To analyze the symbolic interactionism illustrated in Alice and Nellie's point of view.

1.6. Method of the Research

Research approach is a perspective that is used by the researchers to do their research. There are three research approaches, namely (a) qualitative, (b) quantitative, (c) mixed-methods research (John W. Creswell, 2014, p. 3). I use a qualitative method to conduct this research. On the procedures in analyzing the data, the usage of qualitative design is based on the data. Specifically, based on the problems that are analyzed, this research uses the descriptive qualitative method. Endraswara says this method is described by words or figures if necessary, and it does not describe the numerical analysis (Endraswara, 2004, p. 16).

The data source in this research is classified into two types of data; the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data that I use in this research are facts and information related to cultural identity and symbolic interactionism taken from the novel entitled "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" by Karma Brown. Meanwhile, the secondary data of this research as the supporting data are facts and information that are relevant with cultural identity and symbolic interactionism gathered from related books, thesis, journals, and articles in the internet.

In analyzing the object of the research, a novel entitled "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" by Karma Brown, the method of content analysis is used in this research. According to Hseih and Shannon, content analysis can be defined as a flexible research method for analyzing texts and describing and interpreting the written artifacts of a society (Hseih and Shannon in R. Beach et al., 2009, p. 129). This method requires the researchers' interpretation on the whole content in the novel. This research also uses documentation-based, so that the data are taken by using library research technique. I also add intrinsic elements consisting of character and characterization, plot, and setting as an approach in analyzing the data.

By using this content analysis method, I understand the meaning of the story based on the novel in my interpretation. I describe the two female characters in the

novel in detail as a portrait of housewife. In doing this research, I read the novel several times, after that I take some important points for this research. Next, I analyze the novel considering the important points. The last, I relate them to the concept of intrinsic elements, cultural identity and symbolic interactionism. From doing the steps above, I am be able to uncover the kind of a housewife representation and reveal the cultural identity based on Stuart Hall's theory. I can also reveal symbolic interactionism theory based on George Herbert Mead in the novel entitled "Recipe for a Perfect Wife".

1.7. Benefit of the Research

I really hope that this research on cultural identity and symbolic interactionism in the novel has some benefits. The benefit of this study is distinguished into two benefits:

1. Academic Benefit
 - a. This research can be used as an academic research by other research to conduct further research dealing with cultural identity and symbolic interactionism.
 - b. This research can prove the existing theory in order to obtain a result that enhances and strengthens the knowledge or theory used.
 - c. This research can acquire a new knowledge about anthropology of literature and develop the existing research.
2. Practical Benefit
 - a. The university is able to apply the result of this research on anthropology of literature by providing several references in analyzing the cultural identity and symbolic interactionism contained in the novel.
 - b. The other researchers are able to research the cultural identity and symbolic interactionism in novel or in different data.
 - c. The readers and audiences are able to recognize that literary work can describe the cultural identity and symbolic interactionism in the novel.
 - d. This study will provide a solution in anthropology of literature study particularly on cultural identity theory and symbolic interactionism that are used in a novel.

1.8. Systematic Organization of the Research

The research is organized as follows:

1. CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the problem, method of the research, benefit of the research and systematic organization of the research.

2. CHAPTER II: FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES

This chapter deals with the bases of theories used in the research, describing the result of the earlier studies.

3. CHAPTER III: KARMA BROWN'S NOVEL "RECIPE FOR A PERFECT WIFE" THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH

This chapter reveals the intrinsic elements of the novel and consists of character and characterization, plot, and setting.

4. CHAPTER IV: CULTURAL IDENTITY AND SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM IN KARMA BROWN'S NOVEL "RECIPE FOR A PERFECT WIFE": ANTHROPOLOGY OF LITERATURE STUDY

This chapter delivers the data analysis and discussion of research finding. The analysis of the problem is served in four sub-chapters: firstly, it talks about the representation of housewife in the portrait of Alice and Nellie, secondly it serves the cultural identity reflected by Alice and Nellie as the housewife, and the last sub-chapter describes the symbolic interactionism.

5. CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

In this chapter, it serves the outline of the analysis result in the previous chapter.