

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes and explains the basic consideration of the research, problem of research, objective of research, scope and limitation of study, and significant of study.

Basic Consideration

Literature is a term that does not have a universally accepted definition, but which has variable included all written work; writing that possesses literary merit and language that foregrounds literariness, as opposed to ordinary language.

Etymologically the term derives from Latin *literatura/litteratura* "writing formed with letters", although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. Abrams said that literature is a mirror of a life society (Endraswara, 2008:89), it indicates that literary works closely related to people's lives.

Literature can be classified into fiction or non-fiction, and whether it is poetry, prose and drama it can be further distinguished according to major forms and works are often categorized according to historical periods, or according to their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre). According to Esten and Sukma, literature is a disclosure of the facts artistic and imaginative as manifestations of human life and society, through the language as a medium and has a positive effect on people's lives. Base on Damono in Ahira, literature is a social reality (Ahira,

2003:1). In this case, the events that occurred in the inner persons who is often the subject of literature is a reflection of human's relationship with others or with society and foster a certain social attitudes or even encourage certain social events. So literature is a form of representation of social reality that occurs in humans and society.

Literature is a reflection of society. Through literature, the author reveals the problems of life that the author himself participated in it. Literary works influenced by the society and at the same time able to make an impact on society. Often is the community will determine the value of literary works that live in an age, while the poet himself is a member of the public who tied a certain social status and cannot escape from the influence it receives from the environment at the same time raising shape Wellek and Warren (1956: 94). In line with the statement above, Damono revealed that the literature presents a picture of life, in life itself is a social reality.

12 years a slave is a biographical film drama that tells the history of 12 years of traveling to survive Solomon Northup, a free black man from New York who was kidnapped in Washington and in use as a forced laborer who worked in the fields of Louisiana area plantations by whites, in the end Solomon saved by the help of a white man. In this film seem a whites dominate and blacks seemed helpless. *12 years a slave* set in 1841, where during the mid-1800s was a time of upheaval and oppression of the white man to the Negroid race rampant in the United States. Slavery and racism in America at that time was the background of natural events experienced by

Solomon. Solomon obtain during the brutal torture of the foremen and his employers, both physically and psychologically.

12 years a slave was released for the first time on 8 November 2013 in the United States, this Movie is adapted from the work of Solomon Northup memoir in 1853, entitled *12 years a slave*, this movie is getting a lot of appreciation award in world cinema because it raised the issue of slavery and its inherent racism that occurred in the mid-1800s that the dark days of the black community in the United States. In the film shown slavery issue of the background for the racist is happening in America with categorized them into three, namely the racist, anti-racist and neutral. In addition, the film is trying to show that the conditions of life in America today is not much different from the conditions of the mid-1800s.

12 years a slave tells the story of Solomon experience in selling to several employers who have a different character in the treatment of slaves. Before the sale Solomon was forced to change his name to be Platt. This name that use when his becomes a slave. Mr. Ford was the first to bought Solomon although not commit torture directly, but the head of worker-owned Mr. Ford often do harassment and violence on a group of black slaves who worked on Mr. Ford. The next Mr. Epps is the owner of Solomon after Mr. Ford to sell him as a debt to Mr. Epps. Solomon trip since worked to Mr. Epps greatly changed drastically, this is seen racism shown Mr. Epps is clearly visible to the slave, violence and discrimination is not something which violates humanitarian ethics at that time. After working for several years

Solomon met with Mr. Bass, he was a white man who worked as a carpenter, but Mr. Bass are strongly opposed to a system of slavery, discrimination and racism are growing in America at that time.

Three white characters into the spotlight in the face of rampant racial issues in America at that time, they also have different ways to deal with situations when faced with the Negroid race is a minority as well as the inferior at that time. Mr. Ford with good character in treating slaves, but on the other hand he sells Solomon because of the pressure of debt to Mr. Epps, this indicates that the current slave has become part of the property traded for survival. Mr. Epps itself is a picture of abusive employers in treating slaves as well as word racist is not only a general overview of the period but have glue on the black race in America, while Mr. Bass people who balked of applicable law at that time as a reflection of injustice against the Negroid race.

Racist issues featured in the film, reinforce that one racial structure that exist in society are white people acting as employer and be a group that is above the black person who acts as a slave. Black people are not the dominant group must follow the rules of the white people. Blacks "positioned" as a party that uses the facilities provided separately by the white people, as clearly visible presence of separations such as settlement. The picture shown in the film according to the statement Silva in his book about the racial structure *Racism without Racist: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States* pressure on whites against blacks, or as it is called *white supremacy* (2006: 8).

In this study I use a sociological approach to look at the nature, behavior and development of society and the theory of relations prejudice and discrimination as core theory in this study

Problem Statement

The research problem is how prejudice creates racial discrimination in the film *12 years a slave* a film by Steve Mcqueen.

The Objective of Research

To describe whether the film *12 years a slave* shows the relationship between prejudice on blacks and discrimination and that such relationship are shown.

The Scope of Research

This study focuses on analysis script using prejudices and discrimination theory based on Mclemore theory. It was taken from *12 Years a Slave* Movie and script. The limitation of this research is this research will be only focuses on three characters who are Mr. Bass, Mr. Epps, and Mr. Bass.

The Significance of Research

This research will introduce a new research in literary subject in English department. It is because this research will analyze relations of prejudices and discrimination against black people using McLemore theory and sociological approach, and it is never been examine before by students in English Department and State University of Gorontalo. This research describe how prejudice created racial discrimination structure and explain the factors that support the creation of discrimination in society today. It is also will be a new reference for readers that not only structural approach can analyze the conflict in literary subject, but also can examine by using McLemore theory. Moreover structural focus on the element of literary, meanwhile McLemore is focused on prejudice and racial discrimination. This research aims to provide more knowledge to students, especially in the field of literary study using sociological approach that is still rarely used.