

Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter presents basic information of the current study. It consists of introductory features of this research i.e., the basic consideration, research question, research objective, significances, the scope, and limitation of study. These sub-topics will be discussed methodically as the foremost considerations of the research.

Basic Consideration

Human mind is very powerful and deadly. One's thoughts could control many people's way of thinking. Controlling people's perspective could be done by many ways, e.g., by brainwashing people, by investing new viewpoint and by manipulating people's paradigm. A 'controlled' person will do anything, even worse, has no guilty feeling to voluntarily commit crime. Underlining the word 'crime', its definition is vast; despite it is often defined as act of breaking law and moral values. Montaldo (n.d.) once argued that it can be said that it is a crime when it occurs in the situation of breaking law "by an overt act, omission or neglect that can result in punishment". Crimes are done for reasons and backgrounds, e.g., the case of murdering to revenge grudge, the act of stealing goods to survive, or act of crime by a 'programmed' person.

People globally know well that crime is an evil. On the other hand, there are some cases where the criminals somehow sublimate the crime to be unseen. With their convincing and well - organized actions, they succeeded to manipulate public to

believe that their action is based on the name of good. If ordinary people have the fundamental understanding that crime itself is an evil, then what would it called when a crime doer managed to make it 'in the name of good'? Is it evil? Is it still can be categorized as a crime? The previous situation is what this study defined as situation of 'White Crime'.

Regarding white crime, there are no patent definitions and theories of it yet, since it had never been discussed yet. This study denotes phrase 'white crime' derivationally, where the phrase is basically derived from the combination of 'white', which is often symbolized as goodness or pureness, and 'crime', that is clearly noticed as an evil thing. Both of the contrary elements blend into a phrase – as what the study states – that stands for a crime that is covered by image or illusion of goodness.

World of literature is full of messages, and within the messages, there come wild interpretations. A literary work has its own world, and it contains mysteries that are interesting to be revealed. Literature itself is a mirror of humankind life. All the feelings and desires, all the experiences, all the love and hatred, all the social life, are depicted in the literary work, including all the acts of human kind.

One of kinds of literary work is novel. A novel is a kind of long prose. Encyclopedia of Britannica (n.d.) defines it as “an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of

persons in a specific setting.” A novel has its elements, i.e. Plot, Setting, Characterization, Dialogue, Point of View, and Theme (cited in King, 2015)

One thing to notice is that white crime situations are also displayed in the novel arts. One of the real examples is in the novel ‘The Da Vinci Code’ by Dan Brown. ‘The Da Vinci Code’ is chosen in this study because it perfectly portrays the situation of white crime. The novel describes the situation of white crime in hiding top secrets of a religion from some who tries to reveal it to the world. It is done by the authorities of the religion to avoid crisis and conflict of faith in the religion followers, which may ignite massive conversions into other religion. When the religion followers know the truth that the most essential thing in their religion are nothing than a huge lie compiled by their religion top elders long way back in the past and passed over generations, they will be desperately confused, and it is a big loss to the religion leaders. Synchronizing with the white crime, it is ‘intended’ for good; somehow, in keeping the secrets from its revealing, the religion authorities did everything they would. Even worse, they murdered every outsider who knows the secret, in terms of keeping the secrets still. They also murdered a senior religious nun at her own church to prevent the revealing of the secrets.

One sample of White Crime situation in this novel is shown as follows:

One hour, he told himself, grateful that the Teacher had given him time to carry out the necessary penance before entering a house of God. I must purge my soul of today's sins. The sins committed today had been holy in purpose. Acts of war against the enemies of

God had been committed for centuries. Forgiveness was assured.

(The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown, Chapter 2, p. 11)

This part of novel shows another indication of white crime, where in the sentences ‘The sins committed today had been holy in purpose. Acts of war against the enemies of God had been committed for centuries. Forgiveness was assured.’ It portrays a situation that the sins Silas (the murderer) was committed –in this case is murdering and intimidating people– is purposed for goodness and noble. Silas is fighting against enemies of God. By that way, Silas will get forgiveness and tolerance from God. A quite interesting notice needs to be taken in the sentence ‘Acts of war against the enemies of God had been committed for centuries’ where Silas was trapped in the illusion his Teacher create as if the four secret keepers are the enemies of God that are needed to eliminate and murdering them is a virtue instead of sins.

This research is done for the urge to reveal how white crime situation is happening in the novel. The novel tells a story about a symbologist and professor named Robert Langdon, who is trying to help Sophie Neveu to uncover the secret message given by Sophie’s grandfather, Jacques Sauniere, in the last seconds of his death. The message was later known as the search of the Holy Grail; one of Christianity’s most precious artifacts. In searching the artifacts, Langdon and Sophie faced obstacles from the DCPJ, a French police institution with similar authorities like FBI. The DCPJ are trying to arrest Langdon as a suspect of killing Sauniere. Later known, the verdict is only a manipulation of Captain Bezu Fache, head of DCPJ itself. Fache, with the help of Opus Dei (a very conservative Catholic organization)

wants to stop Langdon and Sophie from searching the Holy Grail. What Langdon and Sophie are searching is really an exact prove to reveal the secret that Jesus Christ is not divine and have descendants who are secretly protected by the Priory of Sion. The Holy Grail itself is Mary Magdalene, who in the novel is stated as Jesus' wife.

Revealing such enormous secret is enough to create massive crises of faith worldwide.

Further in the novel, Fache, Silas, and Bishop Manuel Aringarosa – the head of Opus Dei – is tricked and manipulated by a rich English historian, Sir Leigh Teabing. He is the main villain in this novel that wanted to capture The Holy Grail. Teabing perfectly prepared and planned all his steps to make The Holy Grail closer to him. He also trapped Langdon and Sophie to break the password of the cryptex – containing the suspected map of The Holy Grail's recent location – for him.

It is explained perfectly in the novel that the Vatican has been attempted to vanish related things about The Holy Grail and its keepers, Priory of Sion. They even charged and defamed Priory of Sion and their belief, pagan religions worshipping nature, as a devil-worshipping cult. They spread black campaigns to worldwide that Priory of Sion and all things related to pagan worships as evil. This is where white crime comes to surface, when people undoubtedly believed what the Church had been saying and punished many pagan followers in accusation of devil worshippers. What is strange, the followers considered the Church as the right side, despite the Church's massacre and annihilation towards great amount of pagan worshippers. They considered it as a virtue instead of a sin, an obligation to do for the sake of saving the

Church and God himself. In contrary, the Vaticans are the evil side, due to they are the ones who are responsible for creating massive amount of casualties to keep the truth about The Holy Grail in secret. By this situation, readers could think that to kill people in the name of God is allowed

Some may be unaware and belittle this phenomenon of white crime. However, what the world shows us is that white crime now is spreading worldwide. Numbers of events and incidents in the world contain the indication of white crime situation. People with influence, power and money start using media to control people's opinion and perspective. This is why start studying white crime is an urge because many cases like previous case could happen around common public. Studying white crime could be one act of anticipation of white crime situation. People also can detect and trace any indications of white crime situation by studying literary works.

This paper attempts to 'unwrap' even deeper on the setting up of white crime situation. In terms of analyzing the novel, narrative structuralism approach is the most appropriate 'operational knife' to use. Narrative structuralism is an approach of literary criticism by A.J. Greimas that focuses in analyzing the deep structure lies beneath literary works. Structuralism critic sees all things in universe have structure to be seen from the relations of things constructing the pattern or the structure. Narrative structuralism is used for the aim to discover the deep structure of white crime; how the structure of white crime is and what are the elements constructing it.

The data will be analyzed based on pragmatic context, since the indication of white crime situation is more pragmatic than literal. This study will build a red line

between what happen in the novel and in the reality, and will only intend to provide facts and analysis based on the novel.

Research Question

Based on previous background, this research intends to answer the question ‘How is white crime situation portrayed in the novel ‘The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown?’

Objective of Research

This research intends in carrying out how the white crime situation is described in the novel ‘The Da Vinci Code’ by Dan Brown and how the people in the novel set up the plan of White Crime.

Significance of Research

One basic function of literature is to educate people. Literary works are documents of time. Numerous novels, poems, films, and other literary works are made to document the time, to tell people a story within the time. Starting with the function of educating people, this research is mainly functioned to provide information to people of what is white crime, what is the characteristic, and how the white crime situation is applied in novel.

This research is expected to be beneficial for:

1. Later researchers:

This study provides how to analyze the implementation of white crime situation in a literary work. It may open the readers' comprehension about this new analysis of literary works. It could be beneficial to the linguistic agents and later researchers that are interesting in analyzing the white crime situation in a literary work. It could be utilized as a reference and supportive theory of the further researchers that will carry out white crime situation in a literary work. It also can be used as reference in conducting research on literary works by using narrative structuralism approach.

2. Readers:

This research may be beneficial to the reader in getting a conception of white crime. It could open the readers' knowledge of the white crime, what it is, and how it is applied in literary work. This research is also significant for there are great numbers of massive lies fulfilled the world, at least this research can briefly provide the depiction of what is happening out there. If we noticed carefully, we can find many white crime situations in our daily life. Currently, big deceptions are told everywhere. Many masterminds of conspiracy control the public and program the public's mind to think and to live as the masterminds want in a very well organized way. It is an urgency to start

paying attention on these phenomena and critically analyze the things happened in our life to avoid being trapped on the white crime situation.

Scope and Limitation of Study

This research has its limitation in focusing only on analyzing how is the white crime situation in the novel 'The Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown by looking inside the novel and determining texts in the novel that contains white crime situation. The data are analyzed pragmatically, and the way of getting the result of research is by analyzing the novel applying structuralism approach. This study only provides the result of analysis and in any way do not endorse or have any tendencies and indications in arguing people's belief and perspective.