

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on analyzing a literary work that explains hegemony and ruling class in a novel. The writer analyzed influence of the hegemony in the novel, *The Hunger Games*. As a general introduction, this chapter describes background research, statement of problem, the purpose of the research, the significance of the research, definition of key term and organization of paper.

1.1 Background of Research

It is commonly believed that literary work always deals with human issues, such as love and hate, sadness, joy, sorrow, battle, struggle, and so forth. One of forms literary work which provides a vast room and great opportunity in describing details and fragments of human's live in the novel. Such a novel, because of its narrative shape, is usually suitable to present a more elaborate kind of plot which other forms or literary work cannot have. For it is evident that novel, according to Foster (1974: 17), "tells a story ... a narrative of events arranged in their timesequence—dinner coming after breakfast, Tuesday after Monday, decay after death, and so on."

Although a novel, is fiction, but there are still many possibilities that the work is inspired by real historical event and real circumstance on a certain place and period of time. Of course the evident is a fact which has been taken as a ground for

developing a certain narrative will change. This means that a fact is no longer a fact because of its transformation from historical event to fictional form.

A narrative, which is inspired by historical event, does not stand anymore as fact or news, but has become a literary text, because “real history,” according to Eagleton (1985: 177), “is cancelled by the text, but in the precise modes of that cancellation lies the text’s most significant relation to history.” Thus, even though the plot and the content of historical fact is similar with the content and the plot of narrative, it is really obvious that both of them have been established as very different forms of a works. A narrative should be analyzed in a literary research, while historical fact comes to the scope social sciences.

Based on the explanation above, something important that needs to be comprehended is that all of issues analyzed in this research taken from the narrative itself, not from the fact. History, human, and event, in this case, have to be understood as the elements of a literary work, precisely the work which is criticized in this research.

History is filled with human’s works, action, imaginations, achievements, and so on. It is possible that many works of literature take some important historical event as its theme. Since then, a literary work, precisely the novel, commonly presents the event of human’s live.

Though some works may tell stories of animal, they are always assumed as satirizing and presenting analogy of human. This is in accordance with Kristeva (1980: 95) states, that literature “confirms all the hypotheses of all human sciences.” So does the novel.

As one form of art is aesthetically pleasing, literature occupies an important space in the social life of the community. Not only used as mere entertainment, but literature can also be used as one way to understand the social conditions at certain times. However, despite the social facts into the manufacture of literary work, both cannot be said of literature if not synergize (Teeuw, 1988: 231).

A literary work is able to wrap up the historical and cultural realities, so that it can serve as a source of historical and cultural studies. Here lies the appeal of a literary work.

Literature is a science that has special approach. These approaches make literature more easily understood. One approach in the literature is the approach of hegemony. Hegemony is derived from the word *hegeisthai* (Greece) who has an idea to lead, leadership, power that exceeds the power of others. Hegemony in the dictionary is leadership. Hegemony was developed by the Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) who was a disciple of Karl Marx. Gramsci was not satisfied with that adopted Marx's concept of political development which is considered as a direct result of economic development. Even so, the theory of

hegemony has developed by both of them, both Marx and Gramsci. It's just that there are differences in understanding between the two theories.

Hegemony will always be associated with our daily lives that we can feel directly or indirectly. Even the media raises the issue that packed with novel as an overview of hegemony issues. The Cases discussed this time is hegemony in the novel, titled "*Hunger Games*".

The reasons for selecting these cases was due in the *Hunger Games* novel is very visible presence of hegemony that makes dominance differences in social class between an area called the district with the capital of a country called Panem, and the hegemony of the government in controlling the country. This case could have implications spacious against the statehood, for example, if a country has a state system like in the *Hunger Games* novel, then there is no doubt that many will be a revolt because the government has not managed to implement state system. It is right that do not implement the principle of justice to the people they lead.

Government policies related to the issue of the government's policy on Human Rights (HAM) because in this novel there are a lot of phenomena and policies regarding the authority and the authority of governments in leading the country. The concept and the theory will be validated by the subjects to be analyzed by testing the validity of the content of the document that have connection in a life and have implications for predicting future impacts/events.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The object of critical analysis in this research is Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games Trilogy*. As having been explained above, the topic is the hegemony within a society in which the law and order have made its people disappointed. The problems come to be the focus are :

1. How is hegemony constructed in *The Hunger Games Trilogy*?
2. How is the effect of hegemony to the lower class in *The Hunger Games Trilogy*?

1.3 Purpose of Research

The purpose of the research is consists of two points as below:

1. To understand the hegemony in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games Trilogy*.
2. To understand the effects to the lower class in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games Trilogy*

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of the research practicaly for the student this graduating paper can used as reference fo the study which analyzed the same topic. For the lecture, this graduating paper can be mediator and reference in giving the case of hegemony.

The research will be grounded on the critical analysis of a literary work and the criticism concerning the hegemony carried forward by the people to establish

their ideologies, completed with the effort of gaining and seizing power to each other in unstable government. This really has become the everlasting theme in any discussion about the life of mankind. The process of how a literary theory applied in a literary work is also included in the significance of this research.

1.5 Key Terms

In order to minimize misinterpretation on the key term used in this research, the writer clarified some key points as follows:

1.5.1 Hegemony

Hegemony is the ability of a person or group of people to influence a person's behavior or other groups with the aspirations and goals of the people who have that power.

1.5.2 Social Class

Social class is a group of people within a society who have the same socioeconomic status.

1.5.3 State

A state is a type of polity that is an organized political community living under a single system of government.

1.5.4 Civil Society

Civil society is the aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions that manifest interests and will of citizens.

1.5.5 Effect

Effect is a change that results when something is done or happens: an event, condition, or states of affairs that is produced by a cause.

1.6 Organization of Paper

This research consists of five chapters, chapter one (introduction) it deals with background of the research, statement of problem, purpose of the research, significance of the research, definition of key term, and organization of the paper. Chapter two (theoretical review) discusses literary criticism and theory which is relevant to the subject matter, and stands as theoretical foundation, added with biographical sketch of the author and synopsis of the novel.

Chapter three (research method) elaborate to the research design that used in the research; include some steps that the writer did in the research. This chapter also explain how the data were collected and analyzed to find the final result. Chapter four (findings and discussions) is the primary part of this research, it analyzes and discusses two points, they are how hegemony constructed and what its effect of hegemony in Suzanne Collin's *The Hunger Games* Trilogy. Chapter five (conclusions and suggestions) concludes the whole discussions and provides suggestions fo better understanding.