

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. This chapter has seven sections. There is a background of research, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, research scope, conceptual framework, and previous studies.

### 1.1 Background of Research

*Minaret* is one of the writings by Leila Aboulela. This work inspired by a glimpse of her life with her mother and grandmother who taught religion while living in Khartoum, Scotland. Besides, Aboulela is one of the writers of Muslim women who write in the United States and Britain whose writing focus on Muslim women who adhere to Islamic values living in the West. This novel was written in English and published in 2005. This novel is exciting to work that tells about the life's journey of young Sudanese woman named Najwa, who goes from having everything and living quite the fancy life to losing all her status, wealth, and family due to a coup that overthrows the Sudanese government and ousts her father. As a result, she finds solace in turning to her faith and religion, and the story outlines the turn of events that led to her, previously a secular individual, to seek refuge in her religion and veil.

This novel represents every Muslim diaspora life, especially Muslim women living in the West in this *Minaret* novel telling stories set in two cities, namely Khartoum and London. Because it fixed in two cities from two different countries, it is clear that there are

different customs in both countries. The existence of these data refers to the local color depicted in the novel. According to Sastrowardoyo (1999, p. 80), local color is a term that aims to add various dashes of realism that deviate from reality in a literary work. Usually, local colors describe in words or sentences that refer to several things, including; habits, clothing, type of language from the public belief system, and others. The presence of these local colors to provide a distinctive atmosphere but the real one is poured out by the author in his work. As in one of the quotes in the novel *Minaret* below

“I wished I could feel like an emancipated young student, driving her own car with confidence. Was I not an emancipated young woman driving her own car to university? In Khartoum, only a minority of women drove cars to university less than thirty per cent of students were girls—that should make me feel good about myself. But, I preferred it when Omar was with me, when Omar was driving, I missed him.” (Aboulela, 2005, p. 10)

In the quotation shows that in Khartoum—which is the setting of the story, the emancipation of women has not been like emancipation in other countries because it can say that the government had not permitted to emit for women. Like those in quotes were driving a private car to a university or traveling anywhere, only a few women do it. Conversely, the condition of other countries in the west where women's emancipation has been widely understood, especially regarding driving cars or private vehicles that are already free. This quote is one of the exciting things told in novels, local colors found in the Aboulela's *Minaret*. In writing this novel, Aboulela was inspired by her own life while living

in London. The story background is also a representation of what she saw.

This researcher chose “The Local Color in Leila Aboulela’s *Minaret*” as the topic in the study because in the *Minaret* has an overall exciting story to study. Especially among Aboulela’s works, this novel *Minaret* (2005) has drawn more readers and critical attention to other work. Also, because of *Minaret* make her as one of the influential authors of the new wave of British Muslim writer.

Furthermore, in fact, in Aboulela’s works, her novels always raise stories about what she sees or even what she wants to criticize about the conditions that occur today and of course the local color can still found in these works. As readers can see in her first novel entitled “The Translator” which based on the place Aboulela lived, Scotland, precisely in Aberdeen and in Sudan, precisely in Khartoum. That novel tells about a conservative Muslim named Sammar who fell in love with a researcher and lecturer about the Middle East and Politics in Third World named Professor Rae who had different beliefs with her. The local color indicated by the point of view of a character who experiences a culture shock. Besides, the translator's novel is exciting because it has two places in which the two places certainly have different climates, geographies, cultures, religions, and ethnicities.

## **1.2 Statement of Problems**

The object in this research is a novel entitled *Minaret* by Leila Aboulela that contains a complicated story, especially about family, class, ideology, and religion. This novel of *Minaret* is consist of broken into six sections. Which each section or every single chapter

on the novel tells about the Najwa's journey in Khartoum and London from 1984 to 2004, which presented in a straightforward, coherent and exciting way. Besides, the author of *Minaret* is a devout Muslim, and her faith informs much of her written work as found in this whole story of *Minaret*.

Based on the statement above the researcher is going to determine the research question as follows:

1. What is the background of local colors in Aboulela's *Minaret*?
2. What local color described in the novel?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the research questions, this research aims to:

1. Analysis the background of local color in Aboulela's *Minaret* writing.
2. Find out the local color described in the novel.

### **1.4 Research Significance**

The results of the research are expected to give a contribution to the theoretical and practical uses of language.

1. Theoretical Benefits

Theoretically, the research findings are expected to enrich the comprehension and understanding of local color in literary works, especially finding local color in the novel.

2. Practical Benefits

Practically, the research findings will be useful for English Lecturers, English students, other readers or and others researcher that used to reading resource in discussing and also become a reference in analyzing study about local color.

### **1.5 Research Scope**

In *Minaret* novel by Leila Aboulela there are many local colors in it. Local colors that refer to various aspects, including customs, clothing, characters, themes, and settings. Hence, it can describe the situation in the story and also introduce the variety of an area in the novel. In addition to local color aspects, there is a local color background. Local color background explains the author's experience behind the *Minaret* novel.

### **1.6 Conceptual Framework**



*Minaret* is a novel written by Leila Aboulela. The novel tells the story of the journey of a young Muslim woman named Najwa, who seeks her identity when a problem happens to her. Her family accept a coup and political exile, which requires her to stay in London due to the case of her father, who is a government politician. As a result of the coup, her family fell into poverty, power, and all her wealth vanished in an instant. A few years living in London because of exile, her father was reported dead. That's the beginning of a lot of problems arise later in her life. Her mother fell ill even a few years later, and her mother also left his father. Her twin brother—Omar jailed for a drug case. Stay Najwa alone in London. She must solve the complicated problems that occur to her family. In her isolation, she begin her journey, looking to her identity, seeking peace in her heart. On her journey, she works as a housemaid as well as a baby sitter in an Egyptian family. In this novel, she also clearly illustrates the various conditions of Najwa's life when she was in Sudan and London.

In the novel there are many local color. According to Cochran (1932, p. 343) local color is a term applied to fiction that focuses on the background of local colors that are related to customs, dialects, and dress. Then, local color are peculiarities contained in an area that is poured into literary works by the author. Local colors that refer to various aspects, including customs, clothing, characters, themes, and settings. Hence, it can describe the situation in the story and also introduce the variety of an area in the novel. To analyze local colors in novels, the researcher used Campbell's theory regarding aspects of local color. According to Campbell, each local color story contains aspects of local color consisting of; (1)

background—which describes time, space and atmosphere and is an important part related to character, (2) character—someone who represents in a narrative, (3) narrator—observer of the character in the story, (4) plot—the path of a story, (5) the theme—the basis of a story that can sometimes be an implicit or explicit theme. It is an important part that supports local color in a story.

In this research also the researcher used the mimesis approach. As Ravertz (2007, p. 12) explained mimesis in literature functions as an approach in studying literary works. Mimesis is a term derived from Greek which means imitation. In terms of literary criticism, mimesis is an approach in studying and studying literary work. In this case, the reflective or mimetic approach is an approach that links literature with reality. The beginning of the emergence of the term mimesis is the difference in perspective between Plato and Aristotle about philosophy and life. Besides, Abrams (1976, pp. 8-9) remarked the mimetic approach is the most ancient artistic approach. The basis of its history begins with a different view of Plato and Aristotle. According to Plato, the underlying reason is the world of experience, which means the literature itself cannot represent the real reality, but only as an imitation. Structurally the artwork itself is under reality. What became Aristotle rejected Plato's view on the pretext that artworks are trying to purify the human soul as catharsis (emotional relief after experiencing inner tension and conflict due to a dramatic act). Besides, artworks also try to create their world. In this study, the researcher focused on the local color background found in Leila Aboulela's *Minaret* and local color aspects found in the novel *Minaret* by Leila Aboulela.

## 1.7 Previous Studies

Every research comes to be perfect if used previous study, because it to continues the research before. There are some previous researches related to this research and the researcher makes a classification table to make it easier to find linkages with previous research. As shown below:

Table 1.0.1 Classification of previous studies

<b>Title of the research</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Theories</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Object of study</b>
Warna Lokal Melayu dan Tionghoa dalam <i>Kumpulan Cerpen Istri Muda Dewa Dapur</i> Karya Sunlie Thomas Alexander	Reddy Suzayt	Literary sociology theory and Koentjaraningrat's literary anthropology	Descriptive Qualitative Method	<i>Kumpulan Cerpen Istri Muda Dewa Dapur</i> by Sunlie Thomas Alexander
Warna Lokal dalam <i>Novel Isinga</i> karya Dorothea Rosa Herliany dan Implikasinya terhadap Pembelajaran Sastra di SMA	Endah Kurniasari	Literary sociology theory	Descriptive Qualitative Method	<i>Isinga Novel</i> by Dorothea Rosa Herliany
Warna Lokal dalam <i>Novel Jurai: Kisah Anak-anak Emak di</i>	Ria Ayu Wahyuni	Literary Anthropology theory	Receipts descriptive analysis Method	<i>Jurai: Kisah Anak-anak Emak di Setapak Impian</i> by



<i>Setapak Impian</i> Karya Guntur Alam				Guntur Alam
Local Color in Realist Fiction: Daniel Dafoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and John Steinbeck's <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Santi Ramdhani	Marxist theory	Descriptive Qualitative Method	Daniel Dafoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and John Steinbeck's <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
Praise and Blame as the Portrayal of the Holy Qu'ran Moral Value in <i>Minaret</i>	Ai Rodiah	Morality of Literary Criticism Theory by Ibn Rushd	Qualitative Method	<i>Minaret</i> by Leila Aboulela
Representation of British Muslim Identities in Leila Aboulela's <i>Minaret</i> and Nadeem Aslam's <i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i>	Nesrin Koc	Post-colonialism and Postcolonial Theory	Content Analysis Method	Leila Aboulela's <i>Minaret</i>
Warna Lokal Toraja dalam Novel <i>Puya ke Puya</i> Karya Faisal Oddang	Satriani	Structuralism Theory	Qualitative Method	<i>Puya ke Puya</i> by Faisal Oddang
Warna Lokal dalam Latar <i>Kumpulan Cerpen Tarian</i>	Patmi	Structuralism Theory	Qualitative Method	<i>Kumpulan Cerpen Tarian Gantar</i> by

<i>Gantar</i> Karya Korrie Layun Rampan				Korrie Layun Rampan
Warna Lokal dalam <i>Cerpen Sebambangan</i> Karya Budi P. Hatees dalam Rancangan Sastra di Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP)	Yessi Eva Nora	Local Color's Theory by Abrams	Descriptive Qualitative Method	<i>Cerpen Sebambangan</i> by Budi P. Hatees
Politics of Identity in Multicultural Setting a literary Analysis of Leila Aboulela's <i>Novel The Translator and Minaret</i>	Sara A. Asmakh	Postcolonial Theory	Content Analysis Method	Leila Aboulela's <i>The Translator and Minaret</i>
Islamic Feminism and Concept of Hijab: A Study of <i>Leila Aboulela's Minaret</i>	Ashraf Ibrahim Zidan	Islamic Feminism Theory	Content Analysis Method	<i>Minaret</i> by Leila Aboulela
Islam and Muslim Identities in Four Contemporary British Novels	Hasan Majed	Islamic Postcolonialism	Postcolonialism Method	Hanif Kureishi's <i>The Black Album</i> , Monica Ali's <i>Brick Lane</i> , Fadia Faqir's <i>My</i>

				<i>Name is Salma, and Leila Aboulela's Minaret</i>
Warna Lokal Minangkabau dan Kesosialan Pengarang dalam Kumpulan Cerpen <i>Penari dari Kuraitaji</i> Karya Free Hearty	Rio Rinaldi	Local Color Theory	Descriptive Method	<i>Penari dari Kuraitaji</i> by Free Hearty
Negotiating the Veil and Identity in Leila Aboulela's <i>Minaret</i>	Susan Taha Al-Karawi	Victor Turner's Liminality and Homi Bhabha's Hybridity	Content Analysis Method	Leila Aboulela's <i>Minaret</i>

There are some significant differences between the previous studies listed in the table and this study. The difference lies in the use of methods, theories, and differences in research focus. In this study, researchers used a descriptive method that describes research data descriptively with mimesis approach in the research methodology. Meanwhile, in this study, the researcher focused on aspects of the local color depicted in the Leila Aboulela's *Minaret* as the object of the study by applying the theory by Donna M. Campbell.