

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises the background of research with negative stereotyping topics for Asian women in the drama *M. Butterfly*. Then in formulation of the problem, researchers have two problems, namely: What is the negative stereotype attached to Asian women found in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*, and how are the descriptions of the Asian women's attitudes to negative stereotypes and the impact of negative stereotypes in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. After finding these problems, a research objective will emerge. The research objective in this study is in accordance with the formulation of research that are to identify the negative stereotypes attached to Asian women found in David H. Hwang's *Butterfly* and to identify the description of the Asian women's attitude to negative stereotypes and the impact of negative stereotypes in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. Next is research significant. In this research significant there are two advantages, namely theoretically and practically. Then a conceptual framework was developed which contained theories about structuralism, drama, stereotype opinion in drama, Asian women in literature, synopsis of *M. Butterfly* and biography of David H. Hwang. After that is the problem statement. The contents of the problem statements are about formulation of research. And the last is previous studies. Previous studies used by researchers here were about the topics discussed, namely about stereotypes, attitude and also *M. Butterfly*. To find out more clearly about the points to be discussed in chapter 1, the reader usually sees an explanation that has been written below.

1.1 Background of the Research

Now the community is developing into a multicultural society. In achieving the necessities of life for multicultural communities will experience various obstacles such as ethnicity, racial, religious, class and gender. This results

in discrimination and oppression because of differences that arise in the community.

Discrimination against women in various aspects of life has happened a long time ago. Discrimination against individuals includes gender, age, race, and sexual orientation. The discrimination also affects the political, economic, social and cultural fields. Women feel unfair with this discrimination, but inevitably they must accept this patriarchal order that women's interests ultimately always lower men's interests (Morris, 1993). This patriarchal order always puts women in second place after men. So that men are always considered superior to women, because men are not required to complete homework, washing, cooking, educating children, even feeding. Whereas women are required to complete all the work.

Gender differences that are built socially and culturally have caused structural inequality between women and men. In general, the nature of a woman has always been a reason throughout history. Like submissiveness, obedient a woman towards male behavior. This also happens in the fields of work, politics, religion, law and even the education sector. Unlike the case with men who are always considered to have an important and strong role in building society in their perspective by using masculine views formed by men.

Men also make women figures imaginary and idealized men. Even so, women at that time did not feel guilty and did not even care about the action. Femininity does not only represent the nature of purity, kindness and beauty but also represents the nature of evil and even death. These cultural differences that occur with each other make the emergence of stereotypes. According to Jandt (2004) Women's stereotypes traditionally assume they are submissive and obedient. While stereotypes for men make them assertive and competitive.

The stereotype of women and stereotypes towards men is very different. The figure of a woman is always described as a cute, kind, gentle, sensitive and fragile figure. While the women figure is always described as a strong, arrogant,

rational and tough figure. These stereotypes arise with the influence of gender perceptions, but one's gender perception can differ from one person to another. This difference may be due to the influence of socio-culture, religion and customs. In addition, diversity in ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds will also have a major impact on people's gender perceptions.

Sometimes stereotypes may be positive but in general, stereotypes always lead to negativity. Stereotypes can have a very serious effect when someone uses them to interpret a person's behavior. Jandt (2004) also says that stereotypes are very dangerous because they inhibit communication in three ways, such as: causing someone to consider widely believed beliefs to be true even though they might not, then the use of stereotypes that continually reinforce beliefs, and the last is stereotypes that can become "self-fulfilling predictions" of stereotyped people. Until now, stereotypes still exist.

These stereotypes also occur in Asian women. Asian women are always considered weak, submissive and obedient. It was actually used by westerners, for example in China. China is one country that has a unique history, especially the rules about women. According to Jandt (in Yulianti, 2012) said that before the 20th century, China was ruled by a series of dynasties and through this century most of its people did not care about the outside world. In Chinese culture there is more respect for boys than for girls. The traditional attitude of Chinese women is submissive and humble. In Chinese culture a woman must submit and obey her father, husband or brother because the one who has the authority is the man. That makes the position of women lower than men in society.

Stereotype a *good women* that has been made for a long time in China. Dull (1972) states that a woman's humility and weakness are behavioral patterns that have been established for women in ancient Chinese society, because ancient Chinese society has the principle that women are inferior to men. That means that good women in Chinese society must be weak. This stereotype actually became a negative stereotype for westerners against Asian women. So that many of them take advantage of this negative stereotype for personal gain or even political

interests. One drama that contains negative stereotypes toward Asian Women is a drama called *M. Butterfly* by David H. Hwang (1988).

M. Butterfly is a play written by Chinese-American writer David H. Hwang. David H. Hwang explores cultural and gender stereotypes in making this drama script. This drama has also been arranged in many different places and time periods. The characters in this drama are also written in detail, starting from the Bourisicot story with the storyline quoted from the Italian opera *Madame Butterfly* 1904 by Puccini, where in the story *Madame Butterfly* by Puccini tells the story of a Japanese woman falling in love with a an Englishman who finally left her. So at the end of the story is the Japanese woman committing suicide. After telling a part of the story of the *Madame butterfly*, Hwang continued his writing with the story that was in his mind.

M. Butterfly drama by Hwang focuses on the relationship between Rene Gallimard and Song Liling. Rane Gallimard is a French diplomat who already has a wife and lives in China to fulfill his duty to the State. While Song Liling is a very well-known Opera player in China, but Song Liling is actually a man who acts as a woman to spy on the French as well as extract state secrets from Gallimard. *M. Butterfly* begins with a fantasy of Gallimard's perception of Asian women. Westerner stereotypes about Asian women tend to be highly romanticizing cultures that seem exotic without distinguishing between reality and fantasy. Gallimard's fantasy, which is based on his belief in stereotypes, is the main cause of his fall. In fact, he does not want to see reality, because his reality is a fantasy.

The title of this study is *The Negative Stereotyping towards Asian Women In David H. Hwang's Play M. Butterfly*. The researcher chosen the object of this study because up to now stereotypes of Asian women still exist. Unconsciously, Asian women are still trapped in Western thought. That is why researchers raise the negative stereotypical theme of Asian women. This is done to make women aware of the importance of recognizing women's identities in their lives. Thus, the stereotype of Asian women's themes in Hwang's *M. Butterfly* can be used with one

of the many literary theories and perspectives provided that it is a negative stereotype.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

In this research, the researcher will analyze the negative stereotype, the attitude, and the impact of negative stereotypes to Asian women in Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. In the drama, Asian women represented as in the drama there is a female figure who is seen negatively by western so that the researcher analyzes this. Based on the explanation above, the researcher has two questions as follow:

1. What negative stereotypes are attached to Asian women found in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*?
2. How are the descriptions of Asian women's attitude to such negative stereotypes and the impact of negative stereotypes to Asian women in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*?

1.3 Research Objective

The emergence of this research objective comes from the formulation of research. In this study the researcher found two research objectives, including:

1. To identify the negative stereotypes are attached to Asian women found in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*.
2. To identify the description of Asian women's attitude to such negative stereotypes and the impact of negative stereotypes to Asian women in David H. Hwang's *M. Butterfly*.

1.4 Research Significant

This part is about research significant that contains about benefits to the reader. There are several benefits expected by conducting this research. The

benefits of this study are theoretically and practically. To find out more details about these benefits can be seen below.

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to be able to make new contributions, especially in the study of literature about negative stereotype in the *M. Butterfly* drama. In addition, researchers want the results of this study to be useful as well as reference information and alternatives for other people, especially English literature students who carry out similar research.

2. Practically

This research will help researchers to enrich their knowledge related to feminist postcolonial. This research will also provide a deeper understanding in the field of literature as a reference for other researchers in analyzing the *M. Butterfly* drama using a different perspective.

1.5 Previous Studies

In this study researchers referred to five previous studies. Previous studies in this study include attitude, stereotypes and *M. Butterfly*. The first is (Cynthia, 2017) thesis entitled *Perubahan Sikap Tokoh Saki dalam Novel Cinderella Teeth*. In this research, Cynthia used intrinsic element analysis and psychology literature approach and assisted with social psychology using qualitative methods. With this approach and method, researchers can find out how the process of changing attitudes and factors that influence changes in the attitude of the character of Saki. Based on the research conducted it can be concluded that the Saki behavior change process occurs through four processes, namely adoption, integration, differentiation, and trauma.

While in this study, the object of this research is a drama entitled *M Butterfly*. Here researchers have similarities in analyzing the attitude of a character that is using social psychology. But this study also has differences,

namely in the research method. In this research method, researchers used the literary criticism method. With this approach and method, researchers were able to find out how the attitude changes process and the factors that influence changes in Asian women's attitudes toward negative stereotypes.

The second is the Kusumasari (2016) academic thesis entitled *Analisis Perbandingan Sikap Tokoh Utama Perempuan Dan Tokoh Utama Laki-Laki Dalam Menghadapi Permasalahan Hidup Pada Novel Bintang Anak Tuhan Dan Sebening Air Mata Kayla*. This research uses Gordon Allport's theory because it expresses the attitudes of the main character. From the behavior of the main character can be known the nature, habits, attitudes that exist in everyday life. The problems that want to be studied are about trait, habit, and attitude. This study used descriptive qualitative method. In this study, researchers chose the object of drama to be analyzed while Kusumasari chose the novel as an object to analyze. Here the researcher has the same research objective, namely to find out the attitude that appears on the character. However, the research method used by researchers is different from Kusumasari. The researcher used the literary criticism method to facilitate research.

The third is a thesis by Santosa (2015) This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with a feminism approach. Regarding gender discrimination, there are three forms of gender discrimination: it is forbidden to help her husband in leading a family, is prohibited from sharing his opinion in family discussions, and is prohibited from taking on male duties. There are also two stereotypical forms of women; emotional women and scared women. Second, there are five efforts made by the main characters to deal with gender discrimination and stereotypes. Third, the significant meaning of the efforts is that women can participate in the public sector which proves that women are able to take on male roles, and women cannot be considered subordinates man. The discussion is almost the same as the one that will be investigated by the researcher, which is about stereotypes of women, but researchers discuss negative stereotypes. The

stereotype given is almost the same, namely about women who are weak and helpless.

The fourth is a journal by Pradana (2014) entitled *Gender Stereotypes in Anna Karenina Film*. in the study explained that the Anna Karenina film contained many signs represented by conversation texts and image texts to support the stereotype that women work in domestic areas and labeling 'bad women 'in society. The research carried out by Pradana is almost the same as what is done by researchers, namely analyzing stereotypes in a literary work, but in this study the researchers analyzed the negative stereotypes of Asian women in the M Butterfly drama while Pradana analyzed the Gender Stereotype in Anna Karenina's Film.

The fifth is previous study about *M. Butterfly* by Wen (2013) This journal title is *The Subversion of the Oriental Stereotype in M. Butterfly*. This journal is to examine the Oriental stereotype propagated by Giacomo Puccini's Madame Butterfly and how it is subverted in David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. In this study researchers had the same research object about the M butterfly. But the discussion that the careful researchers will be very distorted with Wen's analysis. Here the researchers analyzed the negative stereotypes of Asian women given by the West. Whereas in Wen's research on stereotypes and M Butterfly more led to the rejection of stereotypes given by westerners to Asian women.

Then the last is the previous study by Yulianti (2012) entitled "The Rejection Of Negative Stereotyping Towards Oriental Women in Hwang's *M. Butterfly*". This research is a study of Hwang's *M. Butterfly* based on the Feminism approach. The purpose of this study is to describe negative stereotypes of Oriental Women in games and the rejection of negative stereotypes towards Oriental Women. This research is qualitative with content analysis method. The object of this research is Feminism in Hwang's *M. Butterfly*, and the data in the form of words, phrases, and sentences found in the drama.

When viewed from the title, at a glance the discussion and the object of research that the researchers did have in common, but the contents of the

discussion in this study are very different. In contrast to Yulianti who used feminist theory in her research, here researchers used the negative stereotype theory from Amy Ling. Then the purpose of this study is to describe the negative stereotypes towards asian women and to know the attitudes and effects of negative stereotypes on Asian women. Then the researchers also used the literary criticism method to facilitate the conduct of the research. Research by Yulianti is thorough and conscientious researchers are very different because in her research she discusses the rejection of negative stereotypes in which the topic of negative stereotypes and also stereotypical rejection negative. Whereas in this research the researcher discusses negative stereotypes which in it contain problem topics about negative stereotypes, attitude and also impact from negative stereotypes.

Next is the previous study of authority by Wibawa (2012) entitled *Representasi Stereotip Budaya Dalam Film (Analisis Semiotika Tentang Representasi Stereotip Budaya dalam Film "Romeo Juliet")* according to him the Romeo Juliet film raises the theme of representation of hostile conflicts that occur between Persija supporters Jakarta (The Jakmania) and Persib Bandung supporters (Viking / Bobotoh). The description of some of Romeo Juliet's film scenes explains how stereotypes have the potential to trigger various kinds of problems in The Jakmania and Viking rivalry conflicts. This study uses Roland Barthes's two-stage significance semiotic method.

The conclusions obtained from the research data analysis process have been conducted by authority stated that the actual conflict between The Jakmania and Viking was a cultural conflict caused by the perception of negative stereotypes. The perception of negative stereotypes possessed by members of both The Jakmania and Viking supporters has become a shared perspective and has become the ideology that the group believes. The conflict between The Jakmania and Viking is a problem that cannot be resolved because the perception of stereotypes has been maintained by members of the supporters, so that the conflict has the potential to become a social problem that will not end.

even though the object of research and the method used by the researcher is very different from the authority used, the discussion that the researcher will discuss about the same as the authority that has been conveyed is about stereotypes. cultural conflicts caused by perceptions of negative stereotypes. as in the research that researchers will discuss, namely about the negative stereotypes given by westerners to Asian women. even though westerners live and live in countries that are not their homelands, they still have a negative stereotype of Asian women. so that many of them don't get along with indigenous people.



1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The following definition is used to avoid misunderstanding at the terms used in this paper:

1. Negative Stereotypes

Negative stereotype towards Asian women according to Amy Ling (in Maynard and Purvis, 2005) there are two types of stereotypes, namely Dragon Lady and Lotus Blossom. Dragon Lady is described as a very cunning and dangerous woman. While Lotus Blossom is described as a woman who is always weak and submissive to a man.

2. Asian Women

The historical development of Asian women began when the Asian continent appeared. The Asian continent is divided into six parts, namely Central Asia, Eastern Asia, Northern Asia, Southern Asia, Southeast Asia and Western Asia. In this study, researchers will discuss about women in East Asia, especially women in China or often referred to as Chinese and his title is based on the stereotype in China.

3. David H. Hwang

David H. Hwang is a Chinese-American writer. He has written many works and has also received many awards. David Henry Hwang was born on August 11th, 1957 in Los Angeles, California. He was born to a married couple named Henry Yuan Hwang and Dorothy Hwang. His father was a banker who immigrated to the United States, while his mother was a piano teacher. Hwang was the first Chinese-American writer whose work was awarded. He always creates themes about Asia in his work. Like the *M. Butterfly* drama. In this drama, it tells about Asian women, especially Chinese with western men. Asian women especially Chinese have had hereditary rules that must be obeyed. Chinese women are portrayed as women who are obedient, meek, must obey their

husbands, are good at taking care of their homes and are not even allowed to leave the house. If the rule is violated, it will defame the family. In addition, westerners always assume that Asians are weak and helpless towards westerners.

4. *M. Butterfly* Drama

The *M. Butterfly* Drama is an American drama because it was written in America and published in New York in 1988. The drama was written by David H. Hwang. This drama is biased as a tragedy drama because the content of this drama is about destruction, gloom, sadness, despair and even Gallimard's character commits suicide like a Japanese woman who named Cio Cio Sun. Gallimard chose to die because he prefers to die with honor rather than live disrespectfully. That was done by Gallimard because the beginning of his love and admiration for Song was when Song played the Sun in the drama *Madame Butterfly*. The end of the story from *Madame Butterfly* is suicide carried out by Sun who felt betrayed by Pinkerton. In addition to being betrayed, Sun also felt humiliated by Pinkerton because the arrival of Pinkerton to him was only to pick up and bring his child to America. In addition, Pinkerton also invited his wife to meet Sun.

5. Attitude

Attitude according to Pickens (2005) says that when someone talks about a person's attitude, it will refer to someone's emotions and behavior whether it is positive or negative. A person's attitude can cause thoughts, emotions and even actions. The attitude of Asian women towards negative stereotypes can be either positive or negative attitudes. It depends on the citation and conditions experienced by Asian women in this drama.

6. Impact

The impact of negative stereotypes on Asian women. Fitz-Gibbon argues about the impact that the impact can be positive or negative and may occur intentionally or unintentionally. When using this definition, measuring impact is about identifying changes and evaluating changes. It can also happen to someone who accepts stereotypes from people or groups of people. Just like the stereotypes of western people against Asian women. According to them Asian women are weak creatures. When Asian women know the stereotype, not all of them justify it and some even deny that they are not weak women.





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