

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains introduction. It is begun by background, statement of the problem, research objective, research significances, and definition of keys terms.

1.1 Background

History connect the past. The history that the researcher meant is the past itself. The history was the event to create a better future. It is in the past could record by thought, or traveler writing by someone who experience or witnesses history. It also to avoid of adulterate of history.

A literature as a bridge to connect people with a history. In literature there is a language. Language in literature can use to make a history can easy to be understood. As Richard Wright wrote his experience in Asia-Africa Conference in his Travel writing with the title *The Color Curtain*.

The event that held in 62 years ago was the first crossbar in the changing of world politics. The Asia-Africa Conference or in the next sentence will called AAC is a home for third nations which become the purpose of colonized by West nation. It proves the born of justice world.

Before Asia-Africa conference held, in 1928 Sukarno wrote the article '*Indonesianismedan Pan-Asiatisme*' suggested the importance of awareness of solidarity among the peoples of Asia who at the same time struggle for independence and justice.

The Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung. The conference was sponsored by the Asian nationalist leadership of Indonesia, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Burma (Myanmar), Pakistan, India. The chief of the conference is Ali Sastroamidjojo as Prime minister of Indonesia. The prominent figure were Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime minister of India, U Nu as Prime minister of Burma, Sir John Kotelawala as Prime minister of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Mohammed Ali as Prime minister of Pakistan. Their agenda addressed race, religion, colonialism, national sovereignty, and the promotion of world peace. Despite the pragmatic premise for such a meeting, it would take on monumental importance for the shaping of future Cold War and identity politics, bearing importance lessons for political struggle today. The momentous gathering of twenty-nine formerly 'colored' nation considered how they could help one another achieving social economic well-being for their large impoverished population.

Far away from Bandung, Richard Wright (1908-1960) as a Journalist staring and read the item in his the evening's newspaper about Asia-Africa Conference.

"Twenty-nine free and independent nations of Asia and Africa are meeting in Bandung, Indonesia, to discuss "racialism and colonialism" (Wright: 1956: 11)

Gilroy said that Gathering in Bandung, as Wright seen from the newspaper, the representatives of these countries discussed ‘the position of Asia and Africa and their people in the world of today and the contribution they can make the promotion of world peace and cooperation’. Wright claimed that this Conference is one of the biggest conference that holding by colored people about colonialism and racialism. Richard wright is one of African American writers which is in unique position in observing these event from both in internal as a western and as a colored people. Drawing upon his own experiences as a native southerner, as well as a resident of Chicago and New York later in life, Wright’s work consistently of the modern American black male identity at this time. Significantly, Wright’s perspectives was not only American but also cosmopolitan as he left the United States permanently in 1947 for France. Although some critics would later insist that Wright’s exile in France blunted his usually sharp focus on American race relation, as demonstrated in the masterpieces *Native son* (1940) and *Black Boy* (1945), it rather seems that Wright’s ‘retreat’ to Europe afforded him a unique vantage point from which to forge connections between the nature of racism in the U.S and racism on global level generally (1993: 147).

In *The Color Curtain*, Wright occupies himself as the travels to the Bandung Conference different with another his fictional works. Thus, though *The Color curtain* indicates the representative of the black and colonizes psyche on the part of wright, that is, the effective ties of race, religion, and colonial experience that brought these nation together, he nonetheless espouses a problematic neo-colonialist solution for them — Westernization and attendant modernization.

Indeed, despite his much touted 'outsider' position, Wright's advancement of this Western position ironically demonstrates the insidious nature of modern colored and postcolonial identity, behind which the West is already, a lurking presence. Accordingly, alongside Wright's fictional works, *The Color Curtain* can be read as existentialist text precisely because of its examination of the necessarily fraught positioning of the modern black or colored individual for whom the achievement of an authentic personal identity.

This travel writing has been researched by Kurnia (2012) the book represented the unfair justification toward the East, the ambiguous justification towards the west, and the double consciousness of Richard Wright's identity. In the sense of Richard Wright, the double consciousness has three manifestations. *First*, the power of west on 'the other' the East life and thought. Here, as if a hierarchy and core-periphery relationship between the West and Orient. *Second*, the racism that exclude Wright from the mainstream of society, being and American Simultaneously. Richard Wright's identity and *The Color Curtain* were the products of his internal conflict between being the African and the American, being the Eastern and Western.

The researcher focus on how The Eastern point of view to the West in *The Color Curtain* and how Richard Wright's point of view as an Easterner in *The Color curtain*.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Richard Wright as a journalist attending to the Asia Africa Conference as a western people background but he has a background as a colored people that represents the Eastern people. So, the perspective of Richard Wright was not only as a western people but also an Easterner but he attended as the Western for reporting the big conference that held with the Eastern and colored people.

Because of phenomenon the researcher limits the analysis of Richard Wright's account by presenting and focusing the following problems:

1. How does the Eastern point of view to the Western in *The Color Curtain*?
2. How does Richard Wright's point of view in *The Color Curtain* as an Easterner?

1.3 Research Objective

Refers to the research question above, the researcher has two purpose of this research:

1. To find out how the Eastern point of view to the Western in *The Color Curtain*.
2. To find out how Richard Wright's point of view to the West as an Easterner in *The Color Curtain*.

1.4 Research Significance

In this research, the researcher wishes can give a significance benefit of the reader and also the researcher. Then, this research can be a reference for the

other researcher expected that this research can give a new knowledge for the readers in understanding how the novel of travel writing realized that Indonesia is homeland for the writers and is the product of western dominations.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Occidentalism

Hasan Hanafi (1998) said that Occidentalism is the way the East seems the West, which is the contradictory with Orientalism. Occidentalism focus on how Eastern that always underestimate by western that always has been object to hegemony with western perspective. In the other hand, Kasdi and Farida (2007) state that Occidentalism as a neutrality perspective between East and West. It is a relation that should break by the hierarchy. In the West and the East there are a superior and inferior to the balance dialectic style. This dialectic style is not to impact but for fill one of the other. And then, it also to avoid the relation which hegemonic and dominative from West to the East. It means that researcher sees that Occidentalism to explain the action of the East upon the West.

2. Travel Writing

Travel writing is a genre that has that focuses on accounting of real or imaginary places. In other word, it typically records the experiences of an author touring a place. It encompasses number of styles that may range from the documentary to the evocative, from literary to journalistic, and from the humorous to the serious. it was part of wide political spectrum of the necessary reimagining of

the world first occasioned by the post-World War two resistance movements and wars of liberation in the former European colonies (Campbell: 261). The researcher argue that the travel writing can use to analyze a history or experiences that has written by someone who experienced the event in that time which makes she/he wrote that history.

