

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter I is an introduction. In this chapter comprises the background of study, research of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1. Background of Study

Many civilizations in the world have various differences depending on their community in the territory that creates many diverse cultures and characters. The character is divided into two definitions, the first is character as person who is in the story, literary character, and the second is character as the characteristic of the person that is focused on the research-inclined as the way of someone thinks, feels, and behaves, someone personality.

Specifically, the character means the main element of human that compressed of belief, values, and individual attitude. It relates to the sense of trust, integrity, and perspective, the reflection refers also to the individual dignity and honour (Pradhan, 2009: 1). The origin of the character is basically grounded with the basic structure of human personality that declares character is nothing but the total of individual personality attributes, and the individual personality can be shaped by a particular cultural-ethos. It means that the American people have character that appropriates with the American culture and society.

The character of American appropriates with the culture and society that must not be separated from them—the American ideology. We know that it is famous for its individualism. For instance, when people want to get their achievement, individualism gives the facility. So, they will focus on the achievement to get the best way of life. But others consider that individualism has negative meaning than positive. So, that they avoid individualism ideology without knowing the deep meaning of it. The characters of American, based on their deep identity, are liberty, justice, intellectual welfare, equality of opportunity, and stimulation to service (Hoover: 1922: I9).

The meaning of Individualism is looked by the realization of society's activity that is in liberty as individual freedom that believes all of the humans are naturally free; self-reliance believes in us; intellectual welfare is the main goals that must be achieved by them; and equality of opportunity believes that man and woman have the same opportunity. Some of these aspects are found in literature as a representation of American individualism as one of their deep identity.

America is one of a country that has a critical role to play as the most powerful member of the world community. American people are substantively established by their ancestors as frontiers that are famous for their contribution to American civilization and wilderness. They deserved to create the new ideology. The concept of American thought, which a deep identity of American becomes. It is called American individualism that gives the freedom for their people. Therefore, American people have different character from other country.

America is the country that is composed of European immigrants that came to avoid the inappropriate rules that make them fleeing to American. In fact, some people may think that of the American as simply another European culture. But, many immigrants who came to America in large numbers were not “typical” Europeans. Many were fleeing Europe to avoid religious and political oppression. There were others that have an identity as criminals who were sent to the “New World” by the British. Most of the immigrants had values and beliefs that were not at all common in Europe. They arrived in an area of the world where actually with a purpose which their values and beliefs were very highly rewarded or reinforced. Some of the social scientists would even claim they were exaggerated and perpetuated in America because of its unique physical and social environment (Weaver, 2001: 4). So, America is a country that becomes the land of promises where everybody gets their freedom to achieve the dream.

Actually American is different from European because American believes that they are American although they are actually immigrants that fleeing from Europe but they decide that it has the difference with European Individualism that is enlightened by a negative meaning of it. For some people, individualism thought resides in dangerous ideas, for other people, it is social or economic anarchy, a lack of the requisite institutions and norms, for yet others it is the prevalence of self-interested attitudes among individuals. (Lukes, 197 I: 49). There is a statement that says about American individualism is not such another country's perspective and purely negative, but American clarifies that

individualism is the positive thing which already makes American become a big country.

Individuals and society have a link because in general an individual born and grow not far from a community group that will have an important role in developing the character of the individual, of course, America as an independent country apart from Europe. Then they decided to have a culture that is different from other countries and make individualism as a different identity although individualism itself developed from European's thought. But America thinks that their individualism is a thing which is positive and contains the needs of the Americans themselves (Riesman, 1969: 5-7).

In the 20th century, many American people challenge the status, in some cases are risking their lives and livelihoods to help the United States live up into its ideals. Others tell stories of people who persevere against obstacles in the pursuit of personal dreams, and in doing so capture the imagination of the nation and the world. It highlights heroes in the fight for civil rights and human rights, political leaders, scientists and inventors, athletes, pilots and astronauts. It also includes books about artists, writers and artists who have enriched American cultural life and helped shape the way we view ourselves as individuals and as a society (Lauterbach and Reynolds, 2007: I). The American people try to make a success for their goals including the American dream and the individual dream in the 20th century. Thus, to conceive the value of this, we can seek in the literature because literature is a part of a society that can give an explanation to understand this theory. According to Dubey (2013: 84), people's lives style, belief, trust,

culture, and others are never consistently uniform. With the passage of time, because changes that occur in the environment and with the advent of new technology, we observe that society does not remain stubborn with regards to their norms and values, the reflections that can be found at various forms of literature.

In the previous study, the study was conducted by Griswold (1981), the writer describes American character based on the assumption that cultural products such as in some way mirror the social order; this study describes the literature analysis of a random sample of 130 novels published in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Distinctive national characteristics are identified and compared with characteristics noted in novels by foreign authors.

Based on the problem above, the researcher will analyze American character in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*. Therefore, the researcher has some reasons to substantiate this research: first, *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee is one of novel that famous in 2015 and it was sold 1, 1 million copies of the novel. Second, there is no analysis of this novel at all yet. Third, the novel tells about American character that different with other countries, especially Europe. Thus, the problem of the research is about American character in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*.

1.2. Statement of Problem

As mentioned previously, there are many problems that researcher finds in the novel, such as racism in American culture and the social problem. To limit the study, the researcher will only analyze American character like in the following:

1. How is the American character described in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*?
2. What are the types of American character in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the statement of problem, this research focuses on the statement above, this study is intended to:

1. To describe American character in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*; and
2. To discover the types of American character in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*.

1.4. Research Significance

The main purpose of this research is to find American character that is shown in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*. This study contributes both theoretical and practical in the study of literature. Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute toward literature area and become the source in literature studies, especially on how to show and identify the description of American character in the novel. The results of the study are hopefully useful for the researcher to understand better about literature features and also for the readers by giving benefit and more information about the literature studies.

Practically, this study is also very important to be done because it has some benefits for everyone who wants to study and read the analysis, especially

about the issues that researcher explained. Therefore, the researcher hopes the analysis would motivate individuals interested in literature to do further analysis.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms may make reader easily to read and to know the meaning of this research. To understand the terms in the title of this research the definition of key terms are given the meaning of the words in the following:

American: The people that live in America. America, commonly known as the United States (U.S.) or The United States of America (USA), federal republic composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, and various possessions. The capital is Washington, D C., and the largest city by population is New York City. The extremely diverse geography, climate, and wildlife of the United States make it one of the world's 17 mega diverse countries. The U.S. territories are scattered about the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, stretching across nine official time zones. (in Johannesburg Summit, 2002)

Character: The way someone thinks, feels, and behaves, someone's Personality. Specifically, the character means the main element of human that compressed of belief, values, and individual attitude. It relates to the sense of trust, integrity, and Perspective, the reflection refers also to the individual dignity and honour (Pradhan, 2009: 1).

Go Set a It is a novel that was written in the 1950s and the manuscript is
Watchman: printed in 2015. The novel is famous until 1, 1 million copies were
sold.

