

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Life in the midst of society will not be free from problems. Injustice is one of the big problems in the world. Injustice varies as political injustice, economic injustice and social injustice. Social injustice can occur in a society as long as there is a group which marginalized rather than another group.

Social injustice is a phenomenon which has occurred in the society for long time ago (Dogra, 2014: 1) it happens in almost every country in the world, especially in England during the Nineteenth Century. The social injustice issue happens in social life such on society. It is discussed too in literary area such as Sociology. Sociology itself means the study that deals with human's life in the society (Saraswati, 2003, p. 2). Swingewood (in Faruk, 1994, p. 1) also states that sociology is a study on people in society and on the social process and the institution embedded on it. Therefore the basis of the understanding is the society thus sociological theory is the appropriate approach in this research. Damono (1984, p. 2) confirms that the sociology of literature is an approach to literature that considered the social aspects of human beings. It means that sociology of literature associated of human life or social problem such as politics, law, religion, norms and value of society. So, literature is studied and analyzed based on the sociological approach.

Jodi Picoult is an American author who was born on May 19 1966, in Long Island, New York until her family moved to New Hampshire when she was adolescent. Picoult wrote her first novel *Song of the Humpback Whale* (1992) when she studied in the creative writing at Princeton University, where she obtained her bachelor's degree. She also get her master's degree in education from Harvard University. She lives in Hanover, New Hampshire with her married man Timothy Warren van Leer and her three children : Samantha, Kyle and Jake. Jodi Picoult is an internasionally bestselling author of literary fiction and some of her novel also to be number one on the Australian and New Zealand fiction bestseller lists. Therefore, she is an amazing author who has written over twenty four novels that includes *Perfect Match* (2002), *My Sister's Keeper* (2004), *Sing You Home* (2011), *Lone Wolf* (2012), *The Storyteller* (2013), *Leaving time* (2014), *Small Great Things* (2016).

Some of those literary works have been made into film, like *My Sister's Keeper* which was made into film in 2009, *The Pact* was made into film in 2002.

Small Great Things novel tells about an African-American nurse named Ruth Jefferson. She had been working in the Mercy-West Heaven hospital for twenty years especially in a labor and delivery nurse. Ruth has a small family, include her son named Edison who will continue his study to the college. Her husband was died in Afghanistan in his army mission. In the family of her mother Ruth had an elder sister named Adisa and her mother who was old enough but she still works as a maid in Caucasian people's house. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong.

There are two reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing the novel. First, *Small Great Things* has an interesting story about the social injustice and racism in Flint, Michigan and there is an interesting character as Ruth Jefferson. She is a strong and courageous woman, fighting for her equality right. She also proves that as a black person she deserves to get justice in the court. In this novel the author gives the moral message that we have to understand social law. Second, the topic of social injustice in a *Small Great Things* novel has never been analyzed because this is a new novel.

Based on the data above, Jodi Picoult's finding the justice of law in social government in Flint and the protest about social injustice in Flint, the researcher is interested in analyzing the novel with the title: Social Injustice Toward Ruth's in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background above, there are several problem statements that can be formulated as follows :

1. What form of Social Injustice conflict is experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*?
2. What are the causes of Social Injustice conflict experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*?
3. What are the effects of Social Injustice conflict experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statements above, the writer formulates the objectives of the study are as follows :

1. To describe the form of Social Injustice conflict experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*.
2. To identify the causes of Social Injustice conflict experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*.
3. To analyze the effects of Social Injustice conflict experienced by Ruth Jefferson in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of the research is social injustice. In this research, the researcher will focus on the social injustice toward Ruth's reflected in Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things* using Sociological Approach.

1.5 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution for many people to enrich their knowledge who study literature. It is supposed that this study can be references for English Department students who study about literature that related with this study.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the thesis organization. The second chapter is the review of the related literature. This part consists of related theories and studies. The third chapter is Research Method. This part consists of research design, literary approach, data source, research instrument, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure. Furthermore, the chapter four is about the analysis of the data. The fifth chapter is the conclusion of the problem that has been analyzed.