

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People may experience oppression during their lives. They experience oppressive conditions because they are a part of a group who have different characteristics such as race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, age, ability. People can be regarded as a group whose members live in inferior position and the other members live in superior position of society. This differences might lead to oppression.

“Oppression is a system that maintains advantage and disadvantage based on social group memberships and operates intentionally or unintentionally on the individual, institutional and cultural.” (Hardiman et al., 2007:58). Oppression occurs when groups of people in a dominant group do injustice toward a subordinate group. The dominant purpose is to get some benefits from the subordinate group. Oppressors usually set cruel and hard rules for the powerless group. The powerless group live under their control and they have no choice but to be obedient their rules.

Relating to the fact above, one of Suzanne Collins’s novels, *The Hunger Games*, presents the oppression. *The Hunger Games* is a novel that makes the writer more interested to analyze it, because oppression can be found in this novel. It describes the superiority of the dominant group, in Panem. The capital city of Panem is the Capitol, the wealthiest part. The Capitol is surrounded by the thirteen

districts. The Capitol is the citizen that is able to control all the districts. All the thirteen districts live in poverty and starvation. Since the district is powerless, the Capitol sets any systems to their benefit. The Capitol has created the system for each district to produce a particular industry, keeps the distance between one district and the others by making border between districts, and the injustice of the government shown in tesserae system. Because of the government's injustice, the districts rebel the government. The government gives the public punishment toward the districts by holding the Hunger Games every year. The people of each twelve districts must select two tributes male and female between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in The Hunger Games. They will fight and kill each other until there is a winner. The Hunger Games is the Capitol's system to oppress people in Panem. The Capitol oppresses not only psychologically but also physically of people in Panem.

A similar study had been analyzed by Daniel Johansson (2013) on her paper titled "Media Violence and Power in Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games Trilogy". He analyzed *The Hunger Games Trilogy* as a social critique of contemporary American society and the media affect in society.

Since the idea of oppression is very strong in this novel, the writer is interested to analyze the oppression in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games* as the title of her thesis because oppression usually occurs toward the powerless group in a country or may happen individually.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Dealing with the background of the study above, the problem in the thesis is stated below:

1. What is the reason of oppression in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*?
2. What are the types of oppression found in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of problem above, the objective of the study is to find the reason of oppression and the types of oppression in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study can give contribution toward the students who want to study literature especially Suzanne Collins's works. This study is also useful for students of English Department of Faculty of Letters the University of 17 Agustus 1945 in enriching the knowledge about literary work. The writer expects that through this study, they can appreciate literature as a reflection of human experiences.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of the study is the oppression in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*. The study is limited on the reason of oppression and the types of the

oppression. The discussion of the reason of the oppression is limited on powerlessness while the discussion of the types of the oppression is focused on psychological oppression, physical oppression, exploitation and marginalization.

1.6 Research Method

In this study the writer uses qualitative research. In qualitative research, the thesis writer applies a procedure that produces the descriptive data in form of written data. The data are reported in the words, rather than in numbers. (Creswell, 2003:199). The data presented in the form of words, phrases, and sentences indicating the oppression. The sources of the main data are taken from the original novel of *The Hunger Games* written by Suzanne Collins and published for the first time in New York in 2008. It consists of 27 chapters and 358 pages. Meanwhile the data collections are, the first, book selection. Second, is reading the novel. Third, deciding the title of the thesis. Fourth, is identifying the data which are related to the oppression. The five, is classifying the data in accordance with the reason of oppression and the types of oppression. The last, is analyzing. The writer also uses some books as reference, such as those related psychology, literature and any information about this study to get more clear description about oppression in the novel.

In writing this thesis the writer uses descriptive. The data that emerge from a qualitative study are descriptive. As stated above it can be concluded that the writer

results contain quotations from the novel to show the kinds of oppression.

This thesis applies the extrinsic approach. “Extrinsic approach is a kind of approach in which the analysis is focused on the outside the literary work such as sociology, psychology, history” (Wellek and Warren, 1977:79). Psychology that deals with the mind and mental processes, consciousness, and sensation has certain relationship with literature. Psychology is one of the studies of human beings, while literature studies an imaginary world resulted by human being. According to Wellek and Warren (1989:81), psychology and literature have different object. Psychology deals with human beings and their characteristics while literature deals with imaginary world of human beings. Although they have different object, they do not stand apart because psychology can be applied to analyze literature.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This chapter is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is the introduction which consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, research method and organization of the study. Chapter II is a review of related literature, which deals with theory of oppression. Chapter III is the analysis, which consists of the reason of oppression and the types of oppression found in the novel. Chapter IV is the

conclusion which is followed by bibliography and appendix consisting the biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel.