

## CHAPTER I

### A. Background of Choosing the Subject

Literature is part of human idea and an imitation, reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the “truth“ of its representation to the subject matter that it is represent, or should represent (Abrams, 1957: 51). Thus giving a glimpse of author’s life experience through its work and reason behind it. As reflection to human nature, literature posses every social facts such as ideology, world view, including social issue such as race discrimination in America during 1900s.

Race Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability. Throughout the history race discrimination has been an issue due to its nature suppressing the others unfavorably due to certain characteristic. One of the best example is the social stratification in american back in 1930’s. Slavery, gender discrimination and Cults namely KKK became one of the dark history of america. This issue has been brought to numerous book title as the main conflict such as *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.

America during 1900-1939 is under the segregation era or era in which racial oppression and discrimination escalated across the US. This era start right after the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment which ablished slavery in US established. African American rally their way to industrial cities to find work to fill labor shortage due to WW I in 1914-1918. Though some people still discriminated and exclusion in

working environment, as well as school and in the public. Groups, ideology or even cult like KKK keep reforming in denial of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment. Thus affecting multiple elements in life including literary works.

*Shadow Over Innsmouth* written in 1936 by H.P. Lovecraft. The story took place in America in 1927. The main character encounters various events that really turn the atmosphere to immense tension. It happened after he visited a town he was unfamiliar with. There he meets with people or race rather, in strange characteristics and yet bringing out an odd presence until the situation strays deeper into a darker plot. Slavery, cult, and xenophobia lead the reader into a environment resembling to the author's life experience back in his era.

Work of literature doesn't come instantly without trigger and inspiration such as experience, phenomenon, and world view. H.P. Lovecraft is one of the most controversial writer until this day due to his racism and view to his surrounding. This is due to the view toward other race back in the author's era is still lack of tolerance towards other race. Slavery against black African descent display the Social stratification in America back in 1900's. Along with raised by his mentally ill parents H.P. Lovecraft convey his world view toward his literary works.

This however really drew my attention to think about the social structure in Innsmouth. Social issue and how the author portrayed the situations in the story really suits the sociology theory of Hippolyte Taine to find the predominant characteristic that determines his work with 3 main aspect, race environment and time. "Three different sources contribute to the production of this elementary

moral state, race, environment, and epoch”(Taine 1863) . Since Hippolyte Taine Theory settled in sociology analysis by race , environment and moment, we can compare the 3 elements into the novels. Firstly from races involved throughout the story, not only races but also stereotypes and ideology. The environment involving social structure, events and tragedy. And lastly time or what era does the event happening from year to whose the monarch currently ruling. Supported with M.H. Abram expressive theory that indicates Literary theory as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the “truth” of its representation to the subject matter that it represents(Abrams, 1971: 8).

The importance of this research is to interpret the author life reflected in their literary work. Especially in Taine’s theory regarding 3 different element namely race,moment, and time to seek the dominant factor of author’s rea life interpreted in their literary work. Moreover giving more detailed regarding the sociology of the literary work.

H.P. Lovecraft work of literature has been one of the iconic author of all time. His works became referenced in numerous books, movies, and stories. It elevate to a great degree that it became a genre named “lovecraftian horror”,”eldlich horror”, or “cosmic horror”, which named after H.P. Lovecraft name. It emphasize the relation of human kind and alien existence that some of the beings are so supreme and beyond the human comprehension. *Shadow Over Innsmouth* which is one of the iconic Lovecraftian story and the only story that was published in book during Lovecraft’s lifetime. It is interesting that the story

have been adopted by many authors in many forms like Stephen Jones and Shinsuke Minegishi even after Lovecraft's death. From novels, comic, and games *Shadow Over Innsmouth* influences can be found on modern media, such as *The Thing*, *Sinking City*, *Bloodborne*, etc.

Discussing Social structure of American rural town can be really interesting. Especially Scouring the story world of *Shadow Over Innsmouth* created by H.P. Lovecraft and relating to the real life so that it feels alive and believable. Moreover analyzing the social stratification and the author's view towards surrounding social environment.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

Based on the explanation above, there are 2 research questions, they are :

1. How is race, environment, and time reflected in the *Shadow Over Innsmouth*?
2. How does the Author experience reflect to the *Shadow Over Innsmouth* ?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study are as follows :

1. To analyze the Hippolyte taine criticism take role in the *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.
2. To reveal the Author's experience reflected to the *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.

## **D. Review on Related Studies**

Research and studies dealing with H.P Lovecraft's *Shadow Over Innsmouth* is needed in order to find proof or clue to support statements

mentioned in this study. Through observing and understanding the other studies may give insight over the writer's view of a certain subject that I can use due to significant relation.

Firstly, *A Sociological Approach On Langston Hughes Poems* thesis by Ade Agung Sahida the thesis explain the *Negro* poem by Langston Hughes using sociological approach by Hippolyte Taine. Applying the Taine's theory to analyze life of African American in 1930s in America. Presenting historical truth and reflection in racial identity as the goal of the research paper. Providing further data for Hippolyte Taine's theory apart from the different subject the study analyzing the sociology of America during the Poem was written.

Secondly, Followed by the *An Analysis of Discrimination Racism in "Invisible Man" Novel By Ralph Ellison Using Sociological Literature* by Widyana. A thesis discussing the sociology of *Invisible Man* with Hippolyte Taine Theory. Seeking the seventeenth century condition regarding race discrimination and slavery during the Abraham Lincoln era reflected in the novel. This paper use the same Hippolyte Taine theory as approach for the different subject to depict the novel story as the author's personal live.

Thirdly, A paper by Steffen Woll titled "*The Horror of the Oriental Space and Language in H.P. Lovecraft's The Shadow Over Innsmouth*" (2019). The research shows the story's depictions of Orientalized Others and hybrid Identities as well as distortions of language and western rationality. Giving the orientation of several characteristic in the Subject of this study namely *Shadow Over*

*Innsmouth*. However the author of the paper chosen different approach to the current study the researcher analyze.

Fourthly or the Last one is “*Racism and fear in H.P Lovecraft’s The Shadow Over Innsmouth*” by Mattias Petterson In 2016. The study focused on the racism issue on the novel *Shadow Over Innsmouth*. The author seeks for proof of racism act done by Lovecraft and it’s effect on his writings which is caused by the nature of racism in America during the author’s era. This may give precious data to racism issue that will be discussed in this study, yet this article does not have the same approach for this study.

## **E. Methodology and Research**

### **1. Data and source of data**

#### A. Main Data

The main data is acquired from *Shadow Over Innsmouth* (1936) with 56 pages by H. P. Lovecraft. Discussing the novel the researcher will mention numbers of words, sentences, paragraphs, and so on.

#### B. Supporting Data

The supporting data is collected from several sources from books, biography, and other source that relevant to the study. The supporting data is meant to sharpen the analysis on this study.

### **2. Method and Technique of Collecting Data**

The method and Technique of collecting data itself will be collected from the current source while applying qualitative analysis. Proceeding with reading

and identifying based on the theory and approach that have been chosen. They are Journal articles, books, and other relevant sources. Finally assembling the data accordingly to form a proper research paper.

### **3. Method of Analyzing Data**

The Procedure of Analyzing data include several steps which:

1. Researcher Reads the novel *Shadow Over Innsmouth* in order to understand the point of the novel
2. Finding the race discrimination of *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.
3. Analyze Hippolyte Taine's theory on race, environment and moment in the data that have been collected.
4. Next find the relation in real life based on Expressive theory by M.H Abrams from data which has been collected is needed to explain further relation from different angle outside the sociology perspective.

### **F. Presentation**

This study consists of 4 chapters. The first chapter includes background, research question, objective, review on related studies, research method, and presentation. The second chapter involves a theoretical approach which explains the theory and approach that will be used in the study. The third chapter will describe and analyze the Hippolyte Taine's theory over the horror of *Shadow Over Innsmouth*. The last chapter will be the conclusion.