

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Choosing the Subject

Literary works appear as a result of human inspiration from the power of imagination. This imagination is expressed and realized in real form as a masterpiece. Literary works are not limited to imagination or mere imagination but it is also a reflection and influence of the real life of the creator's environment. This means that literature is written and produced by the author as members of the community in their environment.

Literary work can also be defined as a form of reflection and ideals of a certain society. This can be seen from the description of literary works that show life that has happened or is happening, even the future that is expected by the public. The presence of literary works in the midst of society is also welcome as one of the socio-cultural realities.

There are two factors that determine the dominance and growth of particular literary works over other literary works in a region. First, consider how much or how frequently a literary work is discussed, as well as its influence on people's lives. Second, how does the literary work fit into the current political landscape of a given area.

Literary works can also dominate if they reflect or comment on the current political landscape of a region. For example, literary works such as "1984" and "*Burmese Days*" by George Orwell and "*The Handmaid's Tale*" by Margaret

Atwood depict societies ruled by authoritarian regimes and become relevant in the global political context of the time.

It is important to remember that the dominance of a literary work can also vary over time. Literary works that are initially little known can become dominant if they receive sufficient attention and support from the literary community and the general public. Apart from that, changes in the political landscape can also influence how a literary work is interpreted and received.

In an ever-changing society, the role of literary works as social and political reflections and critics is very important. Factors such as frequency of conversation and suitability to the political landscape can help us understand how literary works developed and influenced culture and thought in a region.

The San Saya rebellion that took place in Burma around 1930. The Saya San rebellion was one of the greatest anti-colonial movements in Southeast Asia in the 20th century, leaving thousands of people dead by the time it had concluded. The Saya San rebellion is useful because it can help us to understand other revolts and revolutions throughout Southeast Asia especially during the colonial period. The Saya San rebellion case-study demonstrates how contesting historiographies do have an effect on the production of history. Because the colonial narrative formed the dominant discourse of the period, that discourse was able to control the narratives based on the archival data, despite them being biased and framed from only the colonial perspective. In other words, the so-called official archives about the Saya San rebellion did not tell us much about

the rebellion, except for the administrative context that combined mostly only disciplines of ethnology, law and geography to reconstruct the narrative.

'*Burmese Days*' by George Orwell is a window into the lives of the British Officials serving in Burma under the British occupation of the Indian subcontinent. Orwell could draw a lot from the five-years he spent as a police officer in the Indian Imperial Police force in Burma. Katha on the west side of the Irrawaddy River was one of the places where Orwell had been posted and he created 'Kyauktada', the fictional place in '*Burmese Days*' based on this experience. 'Burmese Days' provides an honest caricature of British officials living in Burma and the local population during British rule. This book is very different from Orwell's more popular works – *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen-Eighty Four* (which of course came later). '*Burmese Days*', which was Orwell's first book, was published in 1934 following an autobiographical approach. There are no metaphors or allegories so it just brings you closer to Orwell, as a person.

The greatness of George Orwell that makes him special compared to other story writers is that he wrote his own stories. In addition, George Orwell's stories have easy and complex plots that show the depth of his imagination. George Orwell's ability to write this story certainly cannot be separated from how the world shaped him. Considering that he lived at the same time as the Indian people, of course he has gone through various complicated events, which most likely influenced his worldview and the stories he wrote. George Orwell served in Burma as a colonial soldier and had a cruel experience. Especially in the lives of natives and white people who always feel superior. In the novel *Burmese Days*,

through a character named Flory, the fate of a man who likes to read, is critical of white people, glorifies native people, but has a dark past is described. The man seemed to have been thrown into a poor, turbulent Burmese village. The village was under British colonial rule.

George Orwell is the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair, who was born on June 25, 1903, to British parents in Bengal, India. His mother separated from her husband, a poorly paid civil servant, shortly after their son was born. Blair's mother took him and his sister, Marjorie, back to England, where Blair was educated. In 1911 he began boarding school in Sussex, attending on scholarship. In 1917 Blair went to Eton, one of Britain's premier secondary boarding schools, also on scholarship. His poverty relative to the other students in these environments introduced him to the class divisions that would inform his politics and his writing. While at Eton, Blair read Jack London's *People of the Abyss* (1903), a firsthand account of the writer's experiences living in the slums of London's East End. London's work later inspired Blair to conduct similar research on poverty in Paris and London, the result of which was the 1933 memoir *Down and Out in Paris and London*. After Eton, Blair opted to serve in Burma (now Myanmar) with the Indian Imperial Police instead of attending university. His experiences in Burma inspired his lifelong opposition to imperialism, later reflected in his novel *Burmese Days* (1934) and in his 1936 essay "Shooting an Elephant." In 1928 Blair resigned from his post and returned to England.

Wellek and Warren (1990) stated that involving the author's life is an established method for studying literary works. Based on this opinion, and several facts stated above, researchers became interested in conducting research on the novels written by George Orwell involving his position as a writer. This research will be carried out by connecting events and various social activities involving George Orwell as a writer and looking at their influence on the birth of his work. So in this research, researcher will use the study of Genetic Structuralism as a theoretical basis for researching one of the novels written by George Orwell, namely, *Burmese Days*. *Burmese Days* was deliberately chosen because according to researcher this novel is the actualization of several facts and subjects that shaped George Orwell.

Genetic Structuralism is a theory of literary study put forward by Lucian Goldmann. He intended this theory as an attempt to go beyond the framework of Structuralism studies which only rely on structure and see the autonomous existence of literature. This theory also exists as a synthesis of two tendencies in literary theory and social theory of literature (Faruk, 1988)

In this research, there are at least two reasons why researcher chose to examine novels written by George Orwell and in particular chose the novel *Burmese Days*. First, George Orwell is a prolific novel writer and has contributed greatly to the development of literature. Apart from that, George Orwell was a popular novelist, which means his works were easily accepted. The second reason is that there are many life values that can be learned from the novels he wrote, especially the novel *Burmese Days*.

To support the statement above, researcher will conduct research on the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell based on genetic structuralism studies. The basic concepts in the study of Genetic Structuralism according to Goldmann are human facts, collective subjects, world views, structuration, and dialectics of understanding and explanation (Faruk, 2016). Based on this concept, the researcher will only discuss it from the perspective of world views.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the problem, researcher can formulate the problem as follows:

What is the author's worldview in the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell?

C. Objectives of the Study

In this study, based on the background exposure above, the purpose of this research is:

To find out and describe the author's worldview contained in the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.

D. Review on Related Studies

In regard to genetic structuralism analysis, the researcher found some similar topic in a previous journal.

The first journal is by Mutiara Widya Utami, Suminto A. Sayuti (2019) *Genetic Structuralism Analysis in Short Story Pusaka Tinggi Darman Moenir Text Structure, Social Structure and World View Perspective*. This journal

analyzes the author's worldview. This study aims to describe the concept of short story Pusaka Tinggi by Darman Moenir of the concerns of the structure in short story text, social structure of society that underlies the birth of a short story, the social worldview of the author in the short story, and the relationship between social structures with the world view authors in short story Pusaka Tinggi by Darman Moenir. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research using genetic structuralism theory Lucien Goldmann. The result of analysis of genetic structuralism in short story Pusaka Tinggi by Darman Moenir of indicates that the structure of short story text reflects the problem of disputes caused by the dissolution of understanding of Minangkabau society about the prevailing customs, the social structure underlying the birth of the short story is the social structure of Minangkabau society in a people in the inter- in Minangkabau, the authors 'world view of Darman Moenir in short story is social humanism in Minangkabau society, and the relationship between the social structure and the authors' world view involves the setting of the life of a Minangkabau people in a kinship group based on the customs governing the pattern of behavior in social relations in Minangkabau.

The second journal by Lukitaning Nur Jayanti (Jayanti, 2020) "Worldview in Maya Angelou's Poems: Lucienn Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism Approach". This journal analyzes a work of literature that was born inside society as a reflection of the author's imagination and representation in their life. Thus it can be said that the background of the authors as a member of their society can influence the works that they create as it consists of the social

reality of the life they lived. Maya Angelou is one of them, as she had influenced her literary works, as it represented through her thought and ideology as an individual. As David Kelly states in his essay “Poetry for Student” (1997), said that *“a particular world-view will express itself in particular music (poetic) sensibility. Angelou was writing from her gut experience, not from a study of ethnomusicology, but a good poet’s instinct is valuable precisely for the truths it somehow knows.”* Therefore, the purposes of the study are to test the validation of the Goldmann theory of Genetic Structuralism in understanding the Worldview approach and to verify David Kelly’s statement in his personal opinion of Maya Angelou. The research was conducted by analyzing Maya Angelou’s three poems in the eyes of the Genetic Structuralism point of view by Lucien Goldmann. There were two different sources of the data taken for this study. As a result, it shows that a collective subject that all human behavior with historical dimensions is connected, and worldviews are constructed by the coherence of the context within literal work with real-life social contexts of the author, have been approved and validated and that they can be viewed in Maya Angelou’s works. From the analysis, it can be concluded that each issue, theme, and problem in each of Angelou’s poems are all connected to the backgrounds of the author as they also influenced how the poems were made into their final forms. Those backgrounds are the structure of the collective subject representative of Maya Angelou's worldview, as she is also an individual who experienced a series of events in her life as a black woman and as a member of her society.

The third journal by Elysabet br. Zebua and Elly Prihasti Wuriyani (Wuriyani, 2022) “Application of Genetic Structural Theory in The Novel *Bruised Moon on The Edge of Toba* by Sihar Ramses Simatupang”. This journal analyzes to determine the genetic structure of the novel *Bulan Lebam di Tepian Toba*, by Sihar Ramses Simatupang. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to collect and analyze data on the material object of the novel *Bulan Lebam di Tepian Toba*, by Sihar Ramses Simatupang. Structural Genetics is used to better understand the theoretical concepts in material objects. As a result, this novel describes the facts of humanity and the collective subject of the Toba people through the figures of Hamonangan and Ganda. This novel describes the problems of human facts and collective subjects. Humanity facts tell about social activities and political activities. The social activity tells about the social problems in Tanah Batak due to the operation of the Paper Mill. Humanitarian facts that contain political activities tell about the approach of the authorities politically by not involving villagers in the control of clan lands. While the collective subject, tells about the social reality in Tanah Toba related to PT Indorayon (Paper Factory). The collective subject of the Toba Batak is used as a collective awareness to make social changes that have not been running in Toba Land. The author of the story shows his response as Batak people in refusing to control the exploitation of land carried out by PT Indorayon and the Village Head who cooperated unilaterally with PT Indorayon.

The fourth journal by Lismalinda and Budi Rizka (2021) “*Structure and Worldviews In ‘Anna Karenina’ Film: A study of Genetic Structuralism*”. This study aims to figure out the structure of Anna Karenina’s film and Leo Tolstoy’s worldview that is manifested in the film. This study utilizes the theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Golmann. This qualitative research is focused on the dialog of the movie and the author's social life. In order to complete the research, researchers have to go through a number of steps. The researcher first carefully watched the film and then collected some excerpts from the dialogue of the movie. Furthermore, the researcher reads several references to gain some information about the author's social life. The result of this study showed that the film 'Anna Karenina' expresses a Feminist-Liberal worldview. The social structure was dominated by the lower bourgeoisie, specifically Russian women, which hampered the development of material family life in accordance with modern society standards at the time. Films in the perspective of genetic structuralism are characterized by the presence of a hero called the problematic hero. This hero character is the main character that is presented in the film ‘Anna Karenina’, namely Anna, who is the main focus of attention in this film. Anna becomes the problematic hero because she is considered to have problems with herself and her surroundings. By using a genetic structuralism approach, it can be found that the film ‘Anna Karenina’ expresses the Feminism-Liberal world view. The social structure is dominated by the lower bourgeoisie, namely Russian women, which hampered the

development of material family life according to the standards of modern society at that time.

Based on the research above, it can be seen that there are similarities and differences with the research that researchers are currently working on. This equation is the theoretical basis used in the research, namely Lucien Goldmann's genetic structuralism. Apart from that, another similarity is the focus of the problem in the research. In this research, the researcher discusses human facts, collective subjects, and world views. Meanwhile, the difference in research lies in the type of literary work studied. The type of literary work studied is the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.

E. Research Methodology

According to Siswantoro (2005), a method is a systematic method designed and applied by a researcher in an effort to solve a problem or find the truth about a particular phenomenon related to the research subject. This research uses a qualitative description method.

1. Data and Source of the Data

The main data used in this research is a George Orwell's novel entitled *Burmese Days*.

2. Methods and Techniques of Collecting Data

Moleong (2019) defines qualitative methods as research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of spoken, written language and observable behavior. Data collection techniques are the most strategic step

in research. Data collection techniques will show the most basic steps in research so that research can lead to the problems found (Sugiyono, 2014). The data collection technique used in this research is the reading and note taking technique. The data collection process carried out in this research is as follows:

- a. Read intensively existing materials and data by using reading techniques.
- b. Select data that truly suits research needs.
- c. Mark the data that has been obtained from the reading results.
- d. Identify which data is appropriate to the problem.
- e. Record data according to research.

3. Methods and Techniques of Analyzing Data

This research is descriptive qualitative research, according to (Moleong, 2019), qualitative research is research that intends to understand phenomena about what research subjects experience, for example behavior, perceptions, motivation, actions and so on, holistically and by means of descriptions in the form words and language, in a special natural context and by utilizing various natural methods. The steps for analyzing this research data are as follows:

- a. Analyzing the socio-cultural conditions of society contained in the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.

- b. Analyzing the background of the author's social and cultural life in creating the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.
- c. Analyzing the worldview of the author of the novel *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.
- d. Draw conclusions based on data that has been analyzed based on research objectives.