

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It covers the background of the research, research questions, aims of the research, the scope of the research, the significance of the research, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

Social stratification or class in a particular society has been an interesting topic to discuss because it has a significant influence in social life. For example many decisions are made with reference to class. Which has resulted in the possibility that not every class is treated fairly.

According to Moeis (2008), social stratification is originally based on the word “stratum” which means layers. So, social stratification is a system which differentiates inhabitants of a society based on layers or hierarchical classes. The system has many kinds of rules which control many aspects of life and it is obeyed by all members of the society. The system differs from one culture to another or one place to another.

In relation to this, Bali has their own social stratification system called *SistemWangsa Bali*. This system is influenced by Hinduism and divides people into four social classes which are called *Wangsa*. They are the *Wangsa Brahmana*, *Wangsa Waisya*, *Wangsa Ksatria*, and *Wangsa Sudra*. According to the Veda, the Balinese Holy Book, every division of caste has its own role and social function in society. The people of *Wangsa Brahmana* have the authority to decide on the rules and regulation for the entire people. The *Waisya* has the role as the people who take care of the administration of society, *Ksatria* has the role as the military who

ensures the security of the society, and the people of Sudra have an order to drive the economical sector.

However, the perception towards the system has shifted. Wiana and Raka (cited from Budiana, 2009), explained that in Balinese society of today, there is a concept named *Triwangsa* which put the Brahmana as the highest class among any other *Wangsa*. This assumption directly put the people of *Wangsa Sudra* as the lowest and has the role to serve the other *Wangsas* above.

In relation to this present research, the interaction of the *Wangsas* in a novel will be discussed. A translated novel of *Tarian Bumi* entitled *Earth Dance* written by Oka Rusmini (2000) was chosen to be the subject of the research. *Earth Dance* is a Balinese novel that addresses the issue of the Balinese caste system. This novel shows the complicated problems influenced by issues around the caste system and its practices. The research looked into the complication of problems to learn more about the Balinese caste system as it is presented in the novel. In order to facilitate this research, the novel is referred to as ED therein.

In this present research, a post-structuralism method called deconstructive reading strategy was used in analyzing the novel. It was focused on the issue of the Balinese caste system told in ED to reveal meanings which might underlie the presentation of the Balinese caste system in the novel.

Deconstruction is not a method or a literary critic, but it can be called a new way of reading to find other possible interpretations by focusing on the role of binary oppositions depicted in the text (Derrida as cited by Barry, 2002). Deconstructive reading strategy has to reverse its binary opposition to make new interpretations regarding to its reversal. Thus, by using deconstruction reading strategy, the researcher aims to reveal the possible meaning that can be made from Balinese caste system in the text.

## **1.2 Research Question**

The inquiry will be guided by the following questions below:

1. What meanings can be made from the presentation of the Balinese caste system in the novel using the deconstructive reading strategy?

## **1.3 Aims of the Research**

1. To make meaning from the Balinese caste system as presented in the novel.

## **1.4 Scope of the Research**

The research focuses on how a deconstructive reading reveals other possible interpretation toward Balinese caste system in the novel entitled *Earth Dance* written by Oka Rusmini.

## **1.5 Significance of the Research**

This research is expected to give contribution to the study of literature by providing a new way to reveal possible hidden messages behind one particular literary work and to see it in different perspectives. Besides, this study is also expected to support and give more references on deconstruction study.

## **1.6 Context of the research**

The context of this research was about the Balinese caste system discussed in the novel entitled *Earth Dance* written by Oka Rusmini. Thus, any other system outside this novel and Balinese will not be considered as the evidences.

## **1.7 Research Methodology**

### **1.7.1 Research Design**

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The research is a textual analysis using a descriptive qualitative method. According to Belsey (2002), textual analysis was essential to the research. It is because textual analysis seeks to find new meaning to the text. To be specific the textual analysis is a deconstructive reading strategy as Derrida introduced and modified by Barry (2002).

Deconstruction can be called a new way in reading strategy to find other possible interpretations by focusing on the role of binary oppositions depicted in the text (Derrida as cited by Barry, 2002). Deconstructive reading has to reverse the binary opposition to make new interpretations regarding its reversal.

In relation to this research, deconstructive reading strategy was used to reveal the possible meaning which might underlie on the presentation of the Balinese caste system in the novel by focusing on the interaction of selected binary opposition from Balinese caste system in the text.

## **1.7.2 Data Collection and Data Analysis**

### **1.7.2.1 Data Collection**

The data were collected from the novel *Earth Dance* by Oka Rusmini that was published in 2007. The data used as the evidence in the process of analysis were the dialogues, description and any conflicts relating to the Balinese caste system.

### **1.7.2.2 Data Analysis**

By using the deconstructive reading strategy, the first thing to do is to determine the most distinctive binaries in the text. In this case the binaries are two women characters in the novel who represent *Wangsa Brahmana* and *Sudra*. They are Luh Sekar and Ida Ayu Ngurah Pidada. The process of determining itself is through the analysis of the conflicts encountered by the two women characters stated before. The conflicts chosen to analyze are those related to the Balinese caste system.

After determining the most distinctive binaries in the text, the next thing to do is deciding which binary that is privileged in the Balinese caste system and identifying what kind of privilege that is obtained by its binary. This step is functioned to define the hagemony influenced by the Balinese caste system that is presented in the novel.

Furtermore, as the requirements of deconstructive reading strategy in which to reverse the binary opposition in the text, the next process in to identify the gaps that are potential for a reversal. This can be seen from the cross-caste-marriage experienced by both women characters in the novel because this situation tradionally can change their caste. Thus, this situation can be defined as the reversal of binary oposition.

The next steps is to see the condition of this two women character after they got married and changed their caste. This step is aimed to see the impact of the cross-caste-marriage for both women characters in the novel as the representation of the bianry oposition in the novel. More spesifically, it can give more information about the condition of the privilege after being reversed.

The final process of analyzing the data is to make an interpretation about Balinese caste system from the reversal of this binary oposition and make the conclusion for the research.

## **1.8 Clarification of the Terms**

There were several terms needed to explain to avoid misunderstanding and misconception as follows:

### **1. Deconstruction**

- As implied in its name, deconstruction is to make something collapes so that its meaning changed, thus Barry (2007) calls deconstruction as reading against the graind. Besides, Bressler (2007) defines deconstruction as a new

reading strategy which allows the readers to make choices concerning to the various valid levels of interpretation towards the text.

## **2. Binary opposition**

- Tyson (2006) explains what Derrida stated about binary opposition. It is a way to know the meaning of a word by their *difference*. A word could have meaning because we know the opposite of the word itself. Thus, Binary opposition is two things which can be contrasted and defined by reversing its position.

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## **3. Caste system**

- The caste system is an integral part of religious dogma which divides the people into superior and inferior groups with different responsibilities, functions and standards of living (Gopal, 2012).

## **1.9 Organization of the Research**

This research was organized into five chapters.

1. Chapter I is Introduction which consists of background of the research, research questions, aims of the research, scope of the research, significance of the research, research methodology, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the research.
2. Chapter II is Theoretical Foundation. This chapter will provide the theoretical background about deconstruction and also several previous researches related to the context how deconstruction works.
3. Chapter III is Research Methodology. This chapter presents the research method that is used in this present research. This chapter also covers the research questions, subject of the research, data collection, data analysis.

4. Chapter IV is Finding and Discussion. This chapter consists of the analysis of the data based on the textual evidences found in the novel. Besides, this chapter will also provide the interpretation of the researcher towards the finding.
5. Chapter V is Conclusion. This chapter will conclude the finding of the research and give suggestions if it is necessary.