

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature and politics are two disciplines which have a connection to each other (Farrel, 1942). The relation between politics and literature itself can be seen through literary works. As Bertens (2001, p. 113) states that literary works “always have a political dimension in the sense that on closer inspection they can be shown to take specific stances with regard to social issues, either through what they say or through what they do say”. Eagleton (1996) also states that literature deals with societies, power, and the way people see history or, in other words, it deals with politics from the beginning.

If politics and literature are bounded, then ideology is the bridge between those two. As Hartley (2013, p. 5) states that “we must first have a basic grasp of the concept of ‘ideology,’ since this is one of the most useful terms for linking politics and literature.” According to Eagleton, ideology is “the way men live out their roles in class-society, the values, ideas and images which tie them to their social functions and so prevent them from a true knowledge of society as a whole (p. 6).” In relation to literature, Eagleton (2002, p. 7) also says that literary works are “forms of perception, particular ways of seeing the world; and as such they have a relation to that dominant way of seeing the world which is the social mentality or ideology of an age.” If literary works are particular ways of seeing the world and they have a relation to ideology, then it means it is important to analyze ideology that is constructed in literary works in order to comprehend them.

One of the writers in Indonesia whose ideology looks strong in his literary works is Pramoedya Ananta Toer. As Boef and Snoek (2008) write, Pramoedya was a writer who was always arrested and his books were banned by the Dutch colonialist, the Old Order, and the New Order because of his political tendency.

He was also a member of an artist organization, *Lekra*, and had a contribution in the spreading of socialist-realism doctrine in Indonesia. In 1980, *Bumi Manusia*, the first part of Pramoedya's *Buru Quartet*, was published. This *Buru Quartet* (*Bumi Manusia*, *Anak Semua Bangsa*, *Jejak Langkah*, and *Rumah Kaca*) is story about the birth of Indonesia nationalism. *Bumi Manusia* was greatly welcomed and had been reprinted five times when the second book was published. However, the first two books were banned by New Order regime because the regime saw that the books implicitly propagate the doctrine of Marxism-Leninism. In 1985, the third book, *Jejak Langkah*, was published and also immediately banned by the regime.

The third novel, *Footsteps*, is chosen to be analyzed in this study. The reason why this book is chosen is because Minke, the main character, already has a firm political idea and realizes the condition of the colonized people that are oppressed by the colonialist and the feudalists, which is not shown up yet in *This Earth of Mankind* and *Child of All Nation*. He also already moves to Batavia/Jakarta from Surabaya, the setting of the first two novels. Thus, the clash of political ideas between the colonized and the colonialist is extended in Batavia, the city which is bigger than Surabaya. Then, Minke engages in politics by founding the newspaper *Medan* and the political party *Syarikat Islam*. Using the newspaper and the political party, Minke finds the tools to propagate his ideology and agitate the people. Different from the first two novels, the portrayal of ideologies and ideological differences between the oppressor and the oppressed therefore, are more apparent in *Footsteps*. These opinions are supported by Boef and Snoek (2008) who believe Minke is an egg in the first novel and then hatches in the second novel. They find that the protagonist, Minke, has become mature in the third novel of the *Buru Quartet*.

There are at least two studies on the *Buru Quartet*. One of the studies is conducted by Allen (2004). By using social realism as the approach, she focuses on how the novels are constructed by the socio-cultural conditions. First, she finds that there are affiliations between Minke, Tirtoadhisoerjo, and Pramoedya. Second, she finds the affiliation between the novels and their backgrounds. She

proposes to read the novels as historical fiction rather than pure fiction. She also views that the attentions, selling, responses, criticisms, and bans the novels get indicate that there are binomial oppositions in the New Order era. Thus, these binomial oppositions lead the people to the controversy about whether these novels are just propaganda or educational books. Meanwhile, Kleden (2011) uses three perspectives to read the *Buru Quartet*. These three perspectives are: power, gender, and relation of production. He finds that change in the society, including emancipation of the colonized toward the colonialist and emancipation of women, is affected by the ownership of the production.

Besides the study about Pramoedya's works, there is also the study that analyzes ideology in literary work. The analysis about ideology in literary work can be found in Moradi and Mohammadi (2015) study. They focus on the ideology within Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* by employing Althusser's theory on repressive state apparatus and ideological state apparatus. The analysis concludes that the dominant class in the novel is proofed in using the physical repression over society. Besides that, the dominant class also uses the ideologies in the state and public institutions in order to direct the people

Different from the previous studies above, this study only focuses on the third novel of the *Buru Quartet*, *Footsteps*. This study also limits its focus on the kinds of ideologies that are constructed in the text. The ideologies and their construction are analyzed in this study by using Marxism as the approach. Marxism is chosen as the framework in this research because it views that the society and ideas are something that appear and are determined by the economic base. It also connects ideology with class in society. As stated by Bressler (2007) that Marxism connects the comprehension of ideas, society, and truth in certain era to the condition of economy and politic. Thus, it makes easier for people that want to analyze ideology in the novel because Marxism gives the concrete base for ideology analysis.

In analyzing the novel, Eagleton's Marxian theory that says ideology has some features, which are: unifying, action-oriented, rationalizing, legitimating, universalizing, and naturalizing (1991) is employed in this study. This theory is

chosen since it is suitable for the aim of the study which is to find what ideologies are constructed in the novel.

Furthermore, this study offers an alternative way to study Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Footsteps*. This study also may encourage other students to study the other three novels of the *Buru Quartet*.

1.2 Research Question

This study proposes a guiding question:

- What ideologies are constructed in the novel?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The aim of this study is:

- To construct ideologies in the novel.

1.4 Research Methodology

This study employs descriptive qualitative method, where the basis concept of this method is that the data take the form of words and the analysis depends on explanation. However, the characteristics of the method also include that the researchers have to take more attention in comprehending reality in itself and there are a lot of alternatives explanations rather than if the researchers use numbers (Elliot & Timulak, 2005, p. 147). Tesch (as cited in Dey, 1993, p. 3) expresses that the method is "oriented to providing thorough descriptions and interpretations of social phenomena." It also can be used to classify the characteristics or elements of the subject (Neville, 2007, p. 2).

Terry Eagleton's Marxist theory is employed in this study since it will focus on the ideology, specifically on what ideologies are constructed in the text.

Eagleton (as cited in Hartley, 2013, p. 6) says that ideology is “the way men live out their roles in class-society, the values, ideas and images which tie them to their social functions and so prevent them from a true knowledge of society as a whole.” Furthermore, Eagleton (1991) also states in his another book that ideology itself has a lot of definition and is related to the interest of social classes. Then he proposes several features about ideology, which are: unifying, action-oriented, rationalization, legitimation, universalizing, and naturalization. These characteristics or features will be used to analyze the data which are collected from the novel.

The Research Methodology of this study is discussed more in Chapter III.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study only focuses on the third book of *Buru Quartet*, *Footsteps*. The data in this study are limited on main character’s narration and characters’ dialogues which show the conflicts that are occurred in the text.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study offers an alternative way to understand one of Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *Buru Quartet*, *Footsteps*, by looking at the ideologies that exists in the novel. This study may encourage other students to study the other three novels of Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *Buru Quartet*, whether they are in English or Bahasa Indonesia.

1.7 Clarifications of Terms

1.7.1 Ideology

Ideology is the ideas, norms, and values of the ruling class which is legitimated in society and become the social awareness. It also constructs false consciousness in society in order to hide the truth from them (Eagleton, 2002).

1.7.2 Ideological features

The definition of ideological features proposed by Eagleton (1991):

1. **Unifying** is to unite the members/people in the same group or classes and who share the same social mindset. It also has a probability to push the unity to society.
2. **Action-oriented** is to transform ideas from somewhat metaphysical into practicable set of actions.
3. **Rationalization** is “systematic attempts to provide plausible explanations and justifications for social behaviour which might otherwise be the object of criticism.”
4. **Legitimation** is “establishing one’s interest as broadly acceptable, rather than lending them a spurious wash of legality.”
5. **Universalizing** is to make impermanent/not absolute ideas and importance become ideas and importance of all human being.
6. **Naturalization** is to associate the ideologies to what people think are normal.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study contains five chapters which are:

Chapter I

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, research methodology, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the terms, and organization of the study.

Chapter II

This chapter contains review of related literatures that are related to the study.

Chapter III

This chapter consists of method of the research, object of the study, characters in the novel, data collection, and data analysis.

Chapter IV

This chapter discusses the findings and discussion of the study.

Chapter V

This chapter contains the conclusion of the study and suggestions.