CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background of the study, presents the research questions, discusses the purpose and the scope of the study, and shows the clarification of the key terms. Furthermore, this chapter briefly discusses the research methodology, and outlines of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Representation is a textual description of reality, whether it is in mental form, social form, or physical form (Fairclough, 2003). Textual description refers to how reality is portrayed in text. Moreover, the representation can be found in any types of texts, yet, how the reality is represented might be different from one text to another. This is due to the fact that representation is influenced by the ideology of the text producers. The ideology can then be manifested in the text through utilizing one of social practice elements, for example social actor. Social actor, as stated by Blaikie (2007) refers to any person who engages in particular activity in the text. He further argues the existence of social actor itself depends on the intention of the author. The author can omit or include social actor which corresponds to their ideology. Regarding this, White (2000) argues that social actors in the text can be analyzed to discover hidden ideology. One framework that can be utilized to unmask hidden ideology is Critical Discourse Analysis.

According to Wodak and Meyer (2009), Critical Discourse Analysis focuses on investigating power relation and ideology manifestation. To reveal the hidden messages and ideology, CDA provides several different approaches, one of which is socio-semantic approach. Proposed by van Leeuwen (2008), this approach allows text analyst to see how the author represents social actors through the categorization of social practice elements and the significance of the social actors.

This approach to CDA has been used in a number of studies on the representation of social actors in texts. For example, a study conducted by Kheirabadi and Moghaddam (2012) analyzed how Iranian and western actors are portrayed in 50 international news articles regarding Iran's nuclear program. The result revealed different attitudes in representing the actors, despite the claim of neutrality from the international news agencies. The Iranian social actors were shown as irrational hardliners, while the western actors were portrayed as the logical peace seeker ones. Another study that employed socio-semantic approach was conducted by Bustam, Heriyanto and Chitraresmana (2013) who investigated the representation of social actors in six headlines articles of *The Jakarta Post* concerning FPI"s rejection to Lady Gaga's performance in Indonesia. They found news agency was being biased through omitting FPI in presenting the news. Another study came from Vitananda (2015) who examined children and animal representation in two different folktales written by Andersen entitled *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Little Match Girl*. The analysis showed the social actors were represented as active and passive agents, and treated as human beings in the stories.

As exemplified in the previous studies above, research on the representation of social actors so far has focused on political texts with adult narratives. Other texts like short stories with children authors have only received little attention. As have been argued by many linguists, such as Kress (1990), van Dijk (2008), and Wodak and Meyer (2009), CDA is not interested in analyzing ideology in political texts only, but also in everyday texts. Therefore, analyzing these rarely-researched texts is thus important. For this reason, this present study is conducted in order to investigate how children social actors are represented in short stories written by a child writer. For the analysis, five different stories of *Si Hati Putih* compilation are chosen as the data. Meanwhile, in analyzing the representation, socio-semantic approach by van Leeuwen (2008) is employed as the framework in the present study.

1.2 Research Questions

This study focuses on the representation of social actors in *KKPK* to answer the following questions:

1. How are children social actors represented in five different stories of *KKPK* novel entitled *Si Hati Putih*?

2. What does the representation signify?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate how children social actors are represented in five different stories in *Si Hati Putih* series. This study, moreover, tries to reveal the meaning derived from the representation.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study was limited in investigating the representation of children social actors in five short stories entitled "Si Hati Putih", "Sahabat Baru dari Jakarta", "Hantu yang Lapar", "Hadiah Tak Terduga", and "Es Cendol Ulat Bulu" written by Nadia Shafiana Rahma (2013). The data that were used are limited to stories with children as the characters. The data of this present study then analyzed by socio-semantic network proposed by van Leeuwen (2008)

1.5 Clarification of Terms

1. Representation, as stated by van Dijk (2002), refers to the way language employed in a text to express the underlying meanings.

2. Critical Discourse Analysis is a critical linguistics approach of scholars who find the larger discursive unit of text to be the basic unit of communication (Anthonissen, 2001) as cited in Weiss and Wodak (2003).

3. Socio-semantic approach, according to Wodak and Meyer (2009), is one of CDA approach which focuses on discourse as recontextualization of social practices.

1.6 Research Methodology

To answer the question on how children social actors are represented in the text, this study employs qualitative design. As stated by Mcleod (2001), qualitative design does not intend to test hypothesis, but to describe and provide insight into the phenomenon. Qualitative design also involves the use of a variety of empirical materials such as case study, personal experience, life story, and interview (Denzin and Lincoln, 2011). Similarly, Punch (2013) states that qualitative design uses different types of data except numbers. From this explanation, qualitative design is suitable for the purpose of the study which seeks to investigate how children social actors are represented in narrative text written by a child author.

The data for the study are taken from five stories in the short stories collection entitled *Si Hati Putih*. All of the stories that are used in the analysis mainly set on children everyday lives. Moreover, the stories include more than one child social actor. Considering the focus of the study which seeks to investigate how children social actors, both as main characters and supporting characters represented in the texts, this book is considered appropriate.

The selected data are analyzed by using socio-semantic approach by van Leeuwen's (2008). To do the analysis, first, the sentences are broken down into clauses and clause complexes to find out whether the social actors are presented or not. If the actors are omitted, the clauses are further identified to see whether the author used backgrounding or suppression strategy. On the other hand, if the social actors are mentioned, the clauses are further analyzed to find out which inclusion strategy used by the author. The final step is comparing the representations to find out the significance of representations from which the conclusion is drawn.

4

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This research paper is composed of five chapters. Each chapter includes several sub-chapters which elaborate detail explanations related to the study. The first chapter is introduction which consists of background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, scope of the study, clarification of terms, research methodology, and organization of the paper. Then, it is followed by literature review in chapter two which covers the explanation regarding the theories used in the study. Research methodology as the following chapter includes research design, data collection, data analysis, and short stories summary. After research methodology, findings and discussions which present the analysis and the result of the study will be in the next chapter. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion as the conclusion remark of the study and suggestions for further study, especially in doing socio-semantic approach analysis.