CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the first part of the paper. It contains the background of the research and what the research aims to find. In this chapter the method of the research is also introduced in order to give the readers a brief illustration of how the research is conducted. In addition, in the last part of this chapter there is a brief explanation on how this paper is organized.

1.1. Background

History has recorded that many countries, in the continents of Asia, Africa and even America, were once colonized by some European countries. Some had to fight for their independences for a long time. Some only tasted colonization for a brief yet painful moment. One thing those countries have in common is that they all have once been the colonized for their colonizers. That means they, the colonized and the colonizers, have made interactions and by interactions here it means any action, thought, oppressions or resistances done by both colonizers and the colonized during the colonial time. These interactions surely had affected and brought changes especially to the life and the people of the colonized countries.

As a matter of fact, long before the colonizers had come to their lands, these people had their own lives and cultures. The colonizers, however, forced the people in these lands, or the natives, with the new ways of living they found suitable for themselves and they changed the natives' lives partially or even

totally. What is interesting, the changes were not always one sided. There is a fact, according to Ashcroft (1995: 183), that "the transaction of the post-colonial world is not a one-way process in which oppression obliterates the oppressed or the colonizer silences the colonized in absolute terms. In practice it rather stresses the mutuality of the process". These colonizing activities done by the colonizers could also bring changes to their own ways of living. We can say that after some time of living "together" the colonizers and the colonized exchanged each other's cultures. From those exchanges emerged a new form of culture which is hybrid.

Hybrid is actually a term originated from the botanical field. The word hybrid is meant to be used for calling a plant that is an offspring of two different kinds of plants. On the other hand, hybridity is the process of "making one of two distinct things" (Young, 1995). This process of hybridity was introduced for the first time by Homi K. Bhabha in his book entitled *The Location of Culture* (1994). According to Bhabha, hybridity is the "Third Space" of enunciation. It means that there is a new space emerging from the collision of two different cultures. Furthermore, Bhabha also states that hybridity is a stairwell; this stairwell symbolizes the process of two cultures colliding. In there, there is a "connective tissue that constructs the difference between upper and lower, black and white" (1994: 4).

Hybridity produces what is called hybrid. It is a mixture of two different things or two different race. Thus, this hybridity can be found in many forms like languages, customs or even the race.

In this research the main focus is a main character of a Sundanese novel that is described as a hybrid. The character is a hybrid of Indonesian and Dutch races. There is a special term used for calling the hybrid race of Indonesian and Dutch, an Indo. This Indo character chosen in this research is taken from *Siti Rayati* by Mohammad Sanoesi.

Siti Rayati, which was published for the first time by Dahlan-Bekti printing house in three volumes from 1923 to 1927, makes an interesting research subject as the publication of the novel "coincides with a traumatic moment in the nationalist period, the years 1926-27, when a number of Communist-inspired uprisings against colonial authority took place in (among other places) the countryside of West Java" (Mukherjee: 2004).

The fact that the story is written in Sundanese (regional-language spoken in West Java) and takes place in West Java territory, this novel is said to "shake Sundanese life to its core" (Rosidi, as taken from Mukherjee: 2009) that means the novel gives a significant political impact that makes the novel famous especially for those people living in West Java at that time.

Historically speaking, *Siti Rayati* was also one of those "feral readings" or *bacaan liar* as it was not published by the Dutch-owned-publisher Balai Pustaka. As taken from Mukherjee (2004), *Siti Rayati* belonged to the 'other' group which often times used novels as their own presses and political pamphlets (Mukherjee: 2004).

Thus, *Siti Rayati* makes an interesting subject of research as its story, settings, publication and characterization have at least a message that could mean something for people at that time especially Sundanese people.

This novel was originally written in Sundanese and its English version was published in 2009 by Kiblat Buku Utama publishing company. It is the English version one, translated by Wendy Mukherjee, which the research will use.

1.2.   Statement of the Problems

This research is done in order to answer the followings:

1. How is the hybrid character described in Mohammad Sanoesi's *Siti Rayati*?

2. What is the alternative meaning of the hybrid character described in Mohammad Sanoesi's *Siti Rayati*?

1.3.   Aims of the Study

This study is conducted to find out how an *Indo* character whose name is Siti Rayati is described in the novel by Mohammad Sanoesi titled *Siti Rayati*. This description then will be discussed using the Post-colonial point of view to see what makes an alternative meaning of the *Indo* character descriptions in this novel.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is conducted by the researcher mainly to fulfill the requirement to earn his degree but this research is also useful for the enrichment of research paper on Indonesian literary works that are translated into English.

1.5. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach. It is done since the data presented here is not in the form of statistic. "Qualitative analysis can refer to research about persons' lives, lived experiences, behaviors, emotions, and feelings as well as about organizational functioning, social movements, cultural phenomena, and interactions between nations" (Strauss & Corbin - 1998:11). The research will focus on the cultural phenomenon. To analyze the data, the researcher employs textual analysis using the post-colonial framework because the issue which becomes the main focus in this research is closely related to post-colonial issue. The details of the methodology are explained further in chapter 3.

1.6. Organization of the Paper

This research paper is organized into five chapters. Those chapters are arranged as follows:

Chapter I is an introduction. It includes the background of the study, and brief explanation of the issue and various aspects related to the realization of this paper.

Chapter II provides further explanation of the theoretical framework used in the research.

Chapter III discusses the methodology used in analyzing the data. It includes the research procedure of this study and the tools used to analyze the data. Both of them are explained thoroughly in this chapter.

Chapter IV is about the data presentation and the discussion of the data. In this chapter all the result derived from the research will be applied to the theoretical framework.

Chapter V is about the conclusion and suggestions of the study. The conclusion is what comes from the application of the theoretical framework and the findings in previous chapter, only in this chapter they are presented in brief.