

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which covers the background of the study and followed by research questions, aim of the study, scope of the study, clarification of terms and the organization of the paper.

### 1.1 Background

The issue on race and ethnic often becomes an interesting theme of discussion. It usually reveals unequal treatment over some people that sometimes become a habit in society. The issues of the race and ethnic that refer to identity are related with many things including language, skin color and culture (Selden 2003:229-234).

Within this context, the race problems sometimes deal with discrimination and unfair treatment in the society. This discrimination often occurs because of prejudice that some races are superior to others.

This issue is sometimes revealed in many ways, one of them is by literary works including novel. Many people who actually the victim or just witnesses of the racism write their feelings through this way. Some of them tell the truth or just retell it based on others opinion, or just based on their educational background. As explained in Childs (2006:157) novel is also representation of reality which consists of sequence based on character, plot and also point of view. That is why novel also known as reflection of author's feeling, experiences and thought toward social life.

Related on that, Brian Castro might be one of the writers who portray the issue race and ethnic. Through his writing he portrayed the life of oriental people or sometimes Chinese-Australian. The Australian in the Castro's website (2010) even

stated that "his writing is as spare and controlled, yet as eloquent, as flowing and compelling as the finest Oriental painting." His work often deals with identity and place and its relation toward language and the experience of the character in his novel.

Actually, there is a lot of studies about identity such as "*Hybrid Identities and Adolescent Girls*" by Vaidehi Ramanathan. Different from it, which focuses on hybrid identity in Japan, the writer refers *Birds of Passage* as the object to reveals character portrayals in Australia.

"*Birds of Passages*" was known as one of his great work. This novel was revealing the quest for the identity of an ABC (Australian Born-Chinese). This novel also took many aspect of life that exists in the society during that time that was why this novel was joint winner of the *Australian/Vogel Award* in 1982.

...eminently readable...The correlation between literary authorship and finding an identity in a new country, a new language, anew culture has never been demonstrated more entertainingly. Castro novel is a moving experience... a major work  
(Jurgensen cited in Castro 1989)

## **1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic**

Related to the issue race and ethnic, the novel of "*Birds of Passages*" showed the reaction of the character in the novel toward the concept identity. In this term, the identity becomes the problematic thing because it also relates with nationality, race and ethnic (Selden 2003).

Considering the case above, the writer is interested in conducting a study on how ABC (Australia Born-Chinese) is portrayed in the novel "*Birds of Passage*". The

study will focus on the portrayal of ABC (Australia Born-Chinese) and examine racism issues which are related to the portrayal.

### **1.3 Scope of the Study**

This research paper provides an analysis in view of Postcolonial theory which is focus on the issues of racism that exist in the literary text. Within this context the present study examines how ABC (Australian Born-Chinese) is constructed in the novel “Birds of Passage”.

### **1.4 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background explanation above, the problem investigated in this research is conducted to answer the following question:

1. How is an ABC (Australian Born-Chinese) in “Birds of Passage” is portrayed in the perspective of Postcolonial Criticism?
2. How are these portrayal related to racism?

### **1.5 Aim of the Study**

The present study is aimed at revealing the portrayed of ABC (Australian Born-Chinese) in the novel “Birds of Passage” written by Brian Castro in terms of Postcolonial Literary Criticism.

### **1.6 Research Procedures**

In this study, the writer employs qualitative research and descriptive method as guide to analyze the novel which is based on Post-Colonial theory that focuses on racism and the characterization in the text.

Locke (2005:5) explains that the qualitative method concern on culture, context and researcher's interpretation of human activity". A descriptive study and a textual analysis method is applied to get a deep understanding in analyzing data may be used to develop theory, identify problems with current practice, make judgments or identify what others in similar situations may be doing.

Furthermore, the writer will apply several steps to limit this study. The following are:

1. Reading the Birds of Passage.
2. Employing a close reading method by taking notes on the textual evidence.
3. Analyzing findings in elaboration with related theories.
4. Making interpretations deliberately.
5. Extracting conclusion of the whole findings and discussion.
6. Making final conclusion and suggestion.

### **1.7 Data Collection and Data Analysis**

In this study, the data is taken from the novel and previous studies which was related with the issues. Then the writer will use textual analysis in study the novel.

Then the following elements are written as textual evidence based on the novel is:

- Definition of ABC and racism.
- Characteristics.
- Behaviors.
- The choice of word which is used in the novel.

This textual evidence would be described and organized in narrative.

Finally, the writer analyzed the data by applying the relevant theory that is Postcolonial which focus on racism. In this term, the writer would employed some relevant theories which was taken from the book of *Beginning Theory* (2002) by Peter

Barry, *The Empires Writes Back* (2004) by Bill Ascroft, *Dynamic Characters, How to create personalities that keep readers captivated* (1998) by Nancy Kress and also other literature references which relates with the topic.

Next the writer draws interpretation, conclusion and suggestion from this study.



## 1.8 Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding some terms used in this chapter is clarified as follows:

**Analysis** : the process of breaking a concept down into more simple parts, so that its logical structure is displayed. (Blackburn cited in Wittgenstein, 2011:40)

**Novel** : representation of reality which consists of sequence based on character, plot and also point of view. (Childs 2006:157)

**Portrayal** : the act or process or an instance of portraying: representation. (Webster 2010)

**Racism** : a way of thinking that considers a group's unchangeable physical characteristics to be linked in a direct, causal way to psychological or intellectual characteristics, and which on this basis distinguishes between 'superior' and 'inferior' racial groups. (Ashcroft 2001:199)

**Representation** : the way we 'make sense' the world of people, objects and events, and express or communicate about those things through language in order to make other people understand. (Hall 1997:16-17)



## **1.9 Organization of the Paper**

The paper will be presented as follows:

### **1. Chapter I: Introduction**

This chapter provides the background of the study and brief explanation of the issues and various aspects related to realization of this paper.

### **2. Chapter II: Theoretical Foundation**

This chapter covers a brief introduction of literary works and their aspects, framework of the research, and theory applied to this research.

### **3. Chapter III: Research Method**

This chapter includes an explicit description of the research methodology that has been introduced in chapter I.

### **4. Chapter IV: Findings and Discussion**

This chapter deal with the analysis result of the data gained. It presents the research findings and subsequently discusses them within the framework of the study.

### **5. Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestions**

This chapter provides the writer's conclusions and suggestions.