

# I

## Introduction

This chapter covers the introduction of the present research. It consists of ten sections: background, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, aims of the research, scope of the research, significance of research, research method, data collection, data analysis, and organization of the paper.

### 1.1. Background

The concept of independence of a country is still controversial. People can see it as the liberty of a country to organize their own life, their own decisions, or even to make their own laws without interference of other countries; as cited from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2000: 689) that the word independence means a freedom from political control by other countries. Unfortunately, mainly countries cannot totally achieve complete authority to manage their own government; the interference of powerful countries predominantly from the West still have a great influence toward other countries. It becomes a clear depiction that imperialism explicitly ceased but the process of imperialism itself exists continuously. As cited from Said (1994: 221), Yeats

affirms that imperialism itself had already been a continuous process for several centuries of overseas conquest, rapacity, and scientific exploration.

For decades British and France had fought over the territory in North America. France and Indian War (*Seven Years War*) was one sequence of conflicts over land in North America in the 18<sup>th</sup> century between British and France. To compose more powerful arm forces; both of these countries employed American Indian tribes and local colonial forces as their allied forces. A *Seven Years War* becomes the main setting of story within the novel entitled *The Last of The Mohican* written by James Fenimore Cooper. Cooper is an American Novelist who was born on 15 September 1789 and died on 14 September 1851. One of his memorable works is *The Last of The Mohican* which mainly describes the cultural imperialism of France and British toward the Native American named Indian (Dekker: 2005).

Having read the novel, the writer thinks to analyze it to reveal the depiction of British and France cultural imperialism in North America, especially the oppression of colonists and the resistance that come from the Native American depicted in the text. To analyze the issue of cultural imperialism and resistance within this novel, the writer employs postcolonial criticism as the theoretical framework.

According to Ashcroft et. al. (1977), they said that by the late 1970s the term postcolonial had been used by a few literary critics to describe the various cultural effects of colonization. (As cited in Said, 1994: 197)

Postcolonial emerge as the effect of imperialism movement. Ashcroft (2002: 1-2) in his book entitled *The Empire Writes Back* asserts the definition of postcolonial as cited below:

The semantic basis of the term 'post-colonial' might seem to suggest a concern only with the national culture after the departure of the imperial power. The term 'post-colonial' is to cover all the culture affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day. This is because there is a continuity of preoccupations throughout the historical process initiated by European imperial aggression.

Postcolonial extends its development through postcolonial criticism as the critique toward Western superiority. Young (2001: 65) expresses that postcolonial theory works on the very opposite assumption; that the intellectual and cultural traditions developed outside the west represent a body of knowledge that can be organized to great consequence against the political and cultural hegemony of the West.

A significant work that employs the postcolonial criticism is *Orientalism* theory, published by Edward Said (1977); in book, he asserts that postcolonial is a precise approach to interpret and examine the Eurocentric Universalism which takes for granted both the superiority of Europe or Western and the inferiority of what is not (As cited in Peter Barry, 2002: 128).

Based on the theory that are mentioned above, it is possible for *The Last of The Mohicans* to show the depiction of cultural imperialism and the resistance that come from the oppressed toward the colonists.

## **1.2. Reasons for Choosing Topic**

The novel has been chosen because it implies cultural imperialism issue that is relevant to the framework of postcolonial criticism. After reading the historical fact of America through this novel, the writer believes it is very interesting to analyze the process of the country establishment through imperialism. In this novel, James Fennimore Cooper tries to put forward the battle of France and British, which had sacrificed the land of Native American called Indian. Much oppression described in the novel especially concentrates on cultural imperialism from the colonizer toward the colonized people.

## **1.3. Research Questions**

The research questions of this research are:

1. In what ways are cultural imperialism depicted in the text?
2. What kinds of resistance from the Native American are depicted in the text?

## **1.4. Aims of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, the aims of the research are:

1. To investigate the ways the cultural imperialism of Native American are depicted in the text.
2. To investigate kinds of resistance are depicted from the oppressed.

### **1.5. Scope of Research**

The research is limited to discuss the depiction of cultural imperialism of colonists and the resistance that come from the colonized which are depicted in the text. The research focuses on the cultural imperialism of Native American when *Seven Years War* happened in the North America. Cultural imperialism elaborates two major oppressions of colonists (British and France) toward Native American: first oppression describes culture insertion which consists of the use of colonial language as the legal language, the situation in which the colonists acquaint their cultures (evidenced by cultural artifacts), and gospel of Christianity; the second oppression depicts cultural clashes between tribes. Whereas, the research also discusses various kinds of resistance that come from the Native American as the response toward those oppressions; the writer classifies kinds of resistance into three categories of resistance that are *rejection, modification, and affirmation* (“zero” resistance) toward the oppressions of the colonists. In conclusion, the research employs postcolonial criticism as the approach to investigate cultural imperialism of Native American and their resistance.

### **1.6. Significance of Research**

The findings of the research are expected to allow people to understand the depiction of cultural imperialism phenomenon and its resistance that come from the colonized people. In addition, the research gives the reader a good knowledge of how the imperialism influences Native American culture.

## 1.7. Research Method

This research will use qualitative descriptive research, framed within textual analysis approach. As cited in Maleong (2004: 6), qualitative approach is aimed to understand phenomenon occurred among research subjects such as behaviors, perceptions, motivation, actions and historically which reveal social context in the novel.

### 1.7.1. Data Collection

In this research, the data are collected from the novel *The Last of The Mohicans* written by James Fennimore Cooper. The form of data consists of words, phrases, sentences, dialogue, and narration that are presented with a purpose to answer the research questions.

For collecting a sufficient and appropriate data, the research will be conducted through the following steps:

1. Finding, reading and re-reading the novel carefully to get the deeper understanding of issues in this novel, especially about the cultural imperialism of the Native American depicted in the text.
2. Finding and reading other sources related to the research to form the theoretical framework.
3. Finding the textual evidences that connect to the issue of cultural imperialism.

4. Categorizing the data, focusing on the cultural imperialism of Native American and the resistance that come from them as depicted in the text.
5. Analyzing and interpreting the data based on the postcolonial theory.
6. Make conclusion of the research.

### **1.7.2 Data Analysis**

In this research, the data are taken from the novel which is related to the cultural imperialism issue. The writer uses textual analysis as an approach to analyze the novel. Textual analysis is generated through the finding and discussion of textual evidences; the textual evidences consist of oppressions of the colonists and the resistance that come from the colonized.

The writer analyzes the data by applying the relevant theory that is postcolonial theory which focuses on cultural imperialism. In this term the writer employs some relevant theories which are taken from mainly theories by Edward Said and supported by other theories from Frantz Fanon, Bill Ashcroft, Ania Loomba, and also other literature references which relates to the topic.

At last, the writer draws interpretation, conclusion and suggestion from this research.

## 1.8. Organization of the Paper

The paper consists of five chapters:

### Chapter I

This chapter is the introduction section that consists of background, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, aims of the research, scope of the research, significance of research, research method, data collection, data analysis, and organization of the paper.

### Chapter II

This chapter describes the theoretical framework of the research, containing the basic theory for investigating the cultural imperialism issue.

### Chapter III

This chapter contains the research method of the research, including the data collection and data presentation.

### Chapter IV

This chapter provides the analysis of the data using the postcolonial theoretical framework.

### Chapter V

This chapter is the conclusion of the research and suggestion for further research.