

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research procedures, clarification of the terms, and organizations of the paper.

1.1 Background

This study reports an investigation dealing with the issue of Western hegemony. Western hegemony in this study refers to dominant influence of values from wealthy and industrialized countries.

It was Antonio Gramsci, an Italian theorist, who conceptualized the theory of hegemony. He modified a definition of ideology that is put forward by Marx. Although Gramsci was influenced by Marx, his idea is closer to Foucault's position:

Later theorist, like the Italian, Antonio Gramsci, who was influenced by Marx but rejected class reductionism, advanced a definition of 'ideology' which is considerably closer to Foucault's position, though still too preoccupied with class questions to be acceptable to him. Gramsci's notion was that particular social groups struggle in many different ways, including ideologically, to win consent of other groups and achieve a kind of ascendancy in both thought and practice over them. This form of power Gramsci called hegemony. (Hall, 1997: 48)

Using Gramsci's theory of hegemony as a base, this study attempts to explore the issue of Western hegemony in the novel *A Short history of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka.

The novel tells about an economic migrant family from Ukraine who moves to England after the World War 2. This family struggles to live under the Western hegemony that affects their identity. They come to England with their own identity, values, and culture. They speak their own language and practice their tradition. Their distinction in terms of appearance, language and culture makes their life hard compare to that of the English people. In dealing with this problem, each character in the novel reacts differently. The reaction of the migrant characters in coping with Western hegemony becomes the study's motivation in conducting this research.

There are a lot of study exploring the class issues especially on the matter of tensions and contradictions between powerful class and dominated class within literary works. However, this study is going to raise the issue of hegemony in the literary works especially novel. Therefore this study is significant because it raises the issue of hegemony in the novels. The results of the study are expected to share the light on the matter of hegemony study which has not yet been explored widely.

1.2 Research Questions

Having read the novel, the study concludes that many problems arise in the story among the migrants characters. The study would like to view the problems from the presentations of the migrants when they live under the dominant Western hegemony.

This research is framed within an umbrella question: How is the Western hegemony represented in the text?

Then the question is broken down into:

1. What kinds of Western values are found in the text?
2. How do the main characters treat these values? Do they affirm or resist it?
3. How do these values reconstruct the migrants main characters' identity?

1.3 Aims of The Study

This research aim at exploring the ways Western hegemony is represented in the text, and also:

1. The kinds of Western values found in the text.
2. The ways in which the main characters treat these values.
3. The reconstruction of the Western Values towards the migrants main characters' identity.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The focus of the analysis is the novel *a Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka. This research limits the problem around the issue of the Western hegemony domination represented in the text. The experiences of the migrants as minority class to cope with the Western hegemony domination are the aspects that can be analyzed by employing hegemony theory of Antonio Gramsci. In conducting this research, the study uses several chapters that elaborate the evidences relating to my investigation of topic.

1.5 Research Procedures

To analyze the representation of Western hegemony in the novel, this paper applies the descriptive method that is qualitative in nature. This approach was considered more suitable because it can be used to reveal and understand more deeply what is behind any phenomenon that happens in the text. Moreover this research will use a textual analysis because the data come in the form of story which represents reality.

With descriptive method, this research will go into great depth and detail in describing the analysis, therefore it will involve a close and critical reading of the text. This research employs close reading method that requires an analysis to the values of the novel. The values will next be framed critically by Gramsci's hegemony theory which explains why power can triumph within literary works.

1.6 Clarification of the Terms

In order to get better understanding of this research, the study provides clarification of the terms cited:

1. **Hegemony:** The predominant influence, as of a state, region, or group, over another or others. (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright 2000)
2. **Identity:** The set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable as a member of a group. (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright 2000)

3. **Migrant:** One that moves from one region to another by chance, instinct, or plan. (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright 2000)
4. **Western countries:** refer to wealthy and industrialized countries, especially countries belonging to Western European countries, United States of America, and Australia.
5. **Eastern countries:** refer to Eastern European countries which less developed than Western countries. For example is Poland as a post-war country.

1.7 Organization of The Paper

This paper consists of several chapters:

Chapter I Introduction

It presents background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the research, significant of the study, the research procedures, clarification of the terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II Review of Related Literature

This chapter will be the groundwork of the research paper; consisting of theoretical framework related to the study.

Chapter III Research Procedures

This chapter will discuss the context of the study, technique of the data collection, and the procedure of analyzing data.

Chapter IV Findings and Analysis

This chapter will deal with the findings and the discussion of the research.

Chapter V Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter will cover the conclusion and suggestion, which related to the research.

This chapter has generally discussed the introduction of the research paper that consist of the background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research procedures, clarification of the terms, and the organization of the paper. Next chapter will discuss the review of related literature.

