

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides fundamental points which include background of the study, scope and limitation, research questions, objective of the study, and significance of the study. These points are necessary to guide readers on how and why researcher decides to do the research.

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 terrorism has successfully stolen the world concern, it even costs big amount of money for counterterrorism (Sandler et al., Gaibulloev, et al., 201:1). Yet, this terrorism issue does not seem to find its settlement until today. The fact that terrorist organizations especially Islamic State (IS) which also known as ISIS had recruited thousands of foreign fighters (Gates, 2015:107) by using various social media, it gives deeper fear for society to get involved with any terrorist organization. The target of recruitment is not limited to men but women as well. This complex issue leads the researcher to conduct a research which has benefit for the readers to be able to protect themselves and their family from any provoking information related to terrorism activity especially on the recruitment through social media.

Social media and their features allow people to share moments, information, and so on. Those kinds of features are proven useful for communicate, entertainment, or education purposes. By all of those features it is a sure thing that internet has everything that terrorist could possibly need to work the organization (Close, 2014:6). Terrorist realizes that social media is very useful for their organization development and continuously uses it as a tool to spread the terror, radicalization, even for recruits new members (Tsesis, 2017:606). Persons who are in charge for the recruitment usually use their persuasion skill to lure their target. The way those terrorist try to persuade their targets somehow can be classified as one of masculinity act forms since persuading is an action which purpose is to dominate other people. Thus, masculinity is the field that researcher is going to discuss in this research.

“Masculinity is a socially constructed component of gender that is typically associated with men and male characteristics...” (Johnson, Repta ,2011: 25). Meaning that masculinity is a society agreement on men’s characteristic moreover on men’s behavior, appearance, and also gender role. Johnson and Repta’s statement is supported by John Beynon’s book *Masculinity and Cultures*, “Men are not born with masculinity as part of their genetic make-up; rather it is something into which they are acculturated and which is composed of social codes of behaviour which they learn to reproduce in culturally appropriate ways” (2002:2). However masculinity is rather more complex than that, there are several aspects that need to be paid attention to give definition of masculinity. Connell in her book states that, “We should talk about masculinities not masculinity” (Connell, 2000:10). It is proven that masculinities are various so thus it should be considered as plural object. She also believes that the definition of masculinity is effected by few factors such as cultures and period of time, it can be seen in the same book of Connell by stating that, “Different cultures, and different periods of history, construct gender differently.” (Connell, 2000:10). The phenomena that societies from different background always have their own characteristic of masculinity strengthen Connell’s idea. For the example is how Hollywood defines manliness is different from how Korean people portray manliness. Hollywood would choose Tom Cruise as a person who represents the manliness of American people due to his action on movie which show his strength, braveness with a little bit of violent and also a strict facial lines. Meanwhile Korean people will choose Song Jong Ki as someone who represents their definition of manliness through his gentle behavior, and gentle face as well. Therefore, masculinity’s definition is more dynamic based on social and historical background (Connell, 2000:10).

Masculinity is one of studies which is included in Gender Studies that started developed in the late 1960’s (Pilcher, Whelehan, 2004:ix). Along with feminist movement popularity, people start to consider masculinity as part of the study and do some more research about masculinity. Today, people are very common to hear about masculinity. People are free to point out their own masculine characteristic on men. Thus, people especially scholars are interested in doing research on masculinity, they are aware that masculinity issues are not easy

but somehow important (Connell, 2000:5). Masculinity issue interest is not only spread through nations but also to various fields of study (Connell, 2000:4). Based on R.W Connell book with the title *The Man and the Boys* she stated that:

*“Health services are noticing the relevance of men’s gender to problems such as road accidents, industrial injury, diet, heart disease and, of course, sexually transmitted diseases. Educators are discussing not just the idea of programs for boys, but also the practical details of how to run them. Criminologists have begun to explore why boys and men dominate the crime statistics, and violence prevention programs are taking increasing notice of gender issues.” (2000: 4)*

Because of those reasons masculinity has several fields such as masculinity in psychology, violent masculinity, traditional masculinity, hegemonic masculinity and so on.

In this research the researcher decides to focus on the hegemonic masculinity to analyze a novel by Anna Erelle which the title is *Undercover Jihadi Bride*. Hegemonic masculinity is a form of men that had been believed by certain society that dominates the other masculinity form. John Beynon Conclude hegemonic masculinity by stated that, “...‘hegemonic masculinity’, which defines successful ways of ‘being a man’ in particular places at a specific time” (Kimmel 1994; Connell 1995; Beynon 2002). It does not merely mean that there is always one specific form of masculinity in a certain place and time. There must be several perceptions of how man should act or look like in the same place and time, but the one that believed by most of people in society and successfully stand as a domination above all other masculine form is the one that called as hegemonic masculinity.

The theory ‘hegemonic masculinity’ had been pointed out by Australian sociologist R.W Connell. Her sociology emphasized on the historical nature of social reality and the transformative character of social practice. She had contributes a lot in the matter of gender roles exactly in masculinity. Connell also known as Raewyn Connell as a writer for most of her book that released after 2006. She is a trans-woman that completed the transition on her late life. Thus, there are several of her books written under the name of Bob or Robert Connell.

She wrote several well-known books on its field such as *The Man and the Boys* (2000), *Masculinities* (2005), and many more.

Researcher intended to analyze *Under Cover Jihadi Bride* (2016) novel by Anna Erelle. The novel *Undercover Jihadi Bride* previously published in 2015 under the title of '*In the Skin of Jihadist*' which is written in French. This novel tells a true event about Anna a French Journalist using facebook fake account under the name of 'Melodie' to gather information about terrorist recruitment on French youngster which later led her to meet an important person from Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) called Abu Bilel. The thrill that this novel offers to its reader has made this novel one of international bestseller. The reason why the researcher chooses this novel as an object of this research is because this novel perfectly shows the real example of hegemonic masculinity. *Undercover Jihadi Bride* is based on a true story with a real person that can be an excellent example for all the readers about masculinity especially in hegemonic masculinity. This research focus on the character of Abu Bilel he is not only an important person for his organization, but also for this novel that shows how people get involved with terrorist organization. The way he persuades Melodie to join their organisation through beautiful words and how his sweet behavior change after Anna betrayed him is interesting to be analyzed. Because of that this research might be beneficial for all youngster and social media users to be more cautious to new people on social media.

Anna Erelle is taking both roles as the author and also the main character of the story. After all Anna Erelle is not the real name of *Undercover Jihadi Bride* author. She needs to hide her identity for security reason. She got a protection from the French government after she got blackmailed by Abu Bilel after the article released.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

After all of the exploration on the background of the study, the researcher discovers these following questions for the research:

1.2.1. How does the author portray Bilel's masculinity through her *Undercover Jihadi Bride*?

1.2.2. Why does Bilel's masculinity is the most suitable example of hegemonic masculinity inside terrorist organization?

### **1.3. The Purpose of the Study**

Based on the questions above the researcher intended to:

1.3.1. To analyze how the author portray Bilel's masculinity through her *Undercover Jihadi Bride*

1.3.2. To analyze on why Bilel is the most suitable example of hegemonic masculinity inside terrorist organization in *Undercover Jihadi Bride*.

### **1.4. Significances of the Study**

By doing this research the researcher hopes that it can give beneficial significantly for first, all of English department scholars who are interested in learning literature especially in the field of gender study and masculinity. The researcher hopes that this research gives them more knowledge to strengthen their concept about gender study and masculinity through Abu Bilel's Characteristic in *Undercover Jihadi Bride*. Second, to each layers of society for them to be more cautious on the current issue right now about terrorist mechanism on recruiting new members.

### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

This research uses the novel of *Undercover Jihadi Bride* (2016) by Anna Erelle and focuses on the character of Abu Bilel. The researcher applies Masculinity theory to analyze the novel and limit the theory to Hegemonic Masculinity only which is pointed out by R.W Connell that will be supported by the other experts through their writings.