

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses about the background of this research. The researcher explain the issue that related with the topic of this research and give the reasons for choosing Postcolonial Identity in *The Namesake* novel. This chapter divided into five sub chapters, those are background of the study (1.1), focus of the study (1.2), research question (1.3), objective of the study (1.4), and significance of the study (1.5).

1.1 Background of The Study

There are so many authors in this world. Some of them create their literary works based on their true life story or only use their imagination. One of the literary works is novel. There are many author create their novel beautifully. The famous author in this world are Edgar Allan Poe, Jhumpa Lahiri, Toni Morrison, and so on.

Jhumpa Lahiri is the one of the famous author in this world. She is the American author who had written many novel and short story. Most of her novels and short stories are about postcolonial. She was born on 11 July, 1967 in London, UK. She born with the name Nilanjana Sudeshna but her nickname is Jhumpa Lahiri. She is an immigrant who had move to United States since she was in two years. She is the daughter of Bengali emigrants from the state of West Bengali. Although she grew up in there, her mother want her children grow up knowing their Bengali heritage and remember that they are Indian. She always ask her family to visit Calcutta (now Kolkata). By the time, Lahiri's ambivalence appear when she grew up and interact with many people in United States. She have to adjust herself with western culture, while she cannot forget about her original culture from India.

Lahiri was graduated from South Kingstown High School and took English literature as her major in Barnard College and received her B.A in 1989. After she studied in Barnard University, she continue her study in

Boston University and received multiple degrees, an M.A in English. An M.F.A in creative writing, an M.A in comparative literature and an Ph.D in Renaissance studies. She took fellowship at Provincetown's Fine Arts Work Center that lasted in 1997-1998. Then, she taught creative writing at Boston University and The Rhode Island School of Design.

Her career in writing start from 1999, when her first short stories collection *Interpreter of Maladies* was published. She received 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and 2000 PEN / Hemmingway Award. Not only that, she got the number one on The New York Times best seller list and New York Times book review editor. She received another award from her second novel, *The Lowland*, which was placed on the shortlist for Man Booker Prize, and also it was long listed for National Book Award for Fiction. It is also revealed to be a finalist on October 16, 2003. Because of *The Lowland*, she become the winner of The DSC Price for South Asian at the Zee Jaipur Literature Festival. Jhumpa Lahiri is corporate with The New Yorker magazine in which she has published her some short stories, mostly fiction, and few of non-fiction. She is also pointed to become a vice president of PEN American center since 2005, an organization designed to promote friendship and intellectual cooperation among writers. In 10th February, she is the appointed member of committee on The Arts and Humanities. Finally, in December 2015, she published her non-fiction essay *Teach Yourself Italian* in The New Yorker which is about her experience learning Italian.

One of her famous novel is *The Namesake*. This novel was published in 2003 and the film released in March, 2007 which directed by Mira Nair. *The Namesake* was inspired by Jhumpa Lahiri's life story that tells about Gogol Ganguli as the main character who has face postcolonial identity because she grew up in two different cultures. Gogol Ganguli is the child of Indian who immigrate in United States. Gogol's father, Ashoke Ganguli, decided to study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the engineering student who married with Indian woman, Ashima. They leave

Calcutta after married and settle in Central Square in Cambridge. Not so long, Ashima pregnant and give birth their first child, the baby is a boy. The name of their baby boy is Gogol Ganguli.

The story begin when Gogol grew up and feel embrace with his name. One day he decided to change his name to be Nikhil. Actually, Gogol is the pet name that his parent give it to him when Gogol still baby and Nikhil is the good name when he start to study at kindergarten. It is the common thing in India that one person have two names, pet name and good name. Pet name is for family call while good name is for public call. When Gogol in 14th years old, he start thinking that he is an American not an Indian. He do the same habit like what the American teenagers do. Gogol start to smoking, drink alcohol, and lost his virgin with many girls that he can not remember all of them. This situation make his parents feel worried that Gogol will forget about his identity and his heritage culture

Gogol make the relation with the American girl, Maxine, until he feels comfort with Maxine's family who is the native American. He prefers to spend his time with Maxine's family rather than his own family. In other side, Ashima want to see Gogol marry with India girl. Gogol breaks up with Maxine after his father died because of heart attack. He starts to focus and spend his time with his mother and his sister, Sonia. Because of his guilty, he wants to make his mother's wish come true. Gogol married with Moushumi who is the daughter of Ashima's friend. Gogol and Moushumi were married to make their parents feel happy until they decided to divorce because Moushumi feel oppressed with the life after married. In the end of the story, Gogol decided to collect Nikolai Gogol's novel like what his father do.

This novel is tells about the effect to immigrants generation who grew up in two different cultures. The one who have to face that phenomena is the main character, Gogol Ganguli. Mayangakarasi said in her journal that *The Namesake* deals with the tribulations of the immigrants in an alien land, the yearnings of exile and the emotional bafflement of cross cultural dilemmas (57). Because of cross cultural dilemmas, it can make someone

feel ambivalence, especially in this case is the immigrants like a Gogol Ganguli. Young said in Novia's journal

The contrast feeling that is caused by certain matter, people or action at the same time can be claimed as ambivalence. Ambivalence is at first developed in psychoanalysis, which describes a continual fluctuation between wanting one thing and wanting its opposite (2017:1)

Ambivalence cannot be separated from hybridity. According to Ashcroft, Griffiths, Tiffin (2007:108) in their book "hybridity commonly refers to the creation of new transcultural forms within the contact zone produced by colonization". Hybridity appears as a result of ambivalence. When the immigrants generation grew up in two different cultures such as eastern and western which are have the significance differentiation, they know about those two cultures. It happens because they have to adjust their self with western culture when they interact with the native people in the environment, meanwhile they still have to keep their origin culture when they are in their family. However, those immigrants generation have to keep their self-identity and do not forget about their origin culture.

The immigrant generation start to imitate the habit of native people when they have to adjust their self with new culture and habit to interact with the environment. This act is called as mimicry because ambivalence, hybridity and mimicry are related to each other. Novia said in her journal.

Ambivalence cannot be separated from mimicry because mimicry describes the ambivalent relationship between the colonizers and colonized. The colonizer encourages the colonized to mimic the colonizer by adopting the colonizers culture, habits, assumptions, institutions and values (2017:4).

The effect of ambivalence is the immigrant generation feels inferiority. This is about the unconfidence feeling with their origin culture. As we know that most of eastern countries are the land which colonized by most of western countries. From that, colonized consider that the colonizer has the high position than theirs. It makes the immigrants generation such as

Gogol Ganguli feels that he is similar with American. Because of this situation, most of them think that they prefer to feel proud of western culture rather than their origin culture. It is call inferiority complex.

Based on the background above, the researcher assumed that *The Namesake* is the novel about the immigrant generation who feel dilemma with the two different cultures, so that they have to face inferiority complex, mimicry, hybridity, ambivalence which are appear in their self. So, the researcher decided to analyzes this novel using post-colonialism because the researcher wants to find out the postcolonial identity of this novel. The researcher will analyzes about the formation of postcolonial identity in Gogol Ganguli's characterization and the effect of postcolonial identity in Gogol Ganguli's characterization. Ashcroft, Griffiths, Tiffin (2007: 168) states "Post-colonialism (or often post-colonialism) deals with the effects of colonization on cultures and societies". From that statement, the researcher concludes that post-colonialism is the theory about the effect of colonization which is appear in colonized and colonizer. These effect occur on the cultures and societies in this new era.

In addition, why the researcher choose this novel as the object of the research and using post-colonialism because there are many phenomena like what happens to Gogol Ganguli in *The Namesake* occurs in now days. The researcher wants to describe about the process when ambivalence start to appear in his self and resulting the mimicry and inferiority complex. Also, the researcher wants to show the hybridity in Gogol's characterization as a part of postcolonial identity. Those concept are related to each other as the unity of the effect from what happen between colonized and colonizer.

The researcher wants to show the reader, especially to the student of university who will get the benefit from this research that this research is very meaningful to knowing about postcolonial identity in Gogol Ganguli's characterization an the effect of postcolonial identity in Gogol's characterization as the main character in *The Namesake* novel. In addition, why the researcher chooses this novel as the object of the research because

as far as the researcher know that there has been no research that analyzed *The Namesake* as the object of the research in Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya.

1.2 Focus of The Study

Based on the background above, the researcher only discusses about the characterization of Gogol Ganguli in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri. Also, the researcher wants to focus on the formation of postcolonial identity that related with inferiority complex, mimicry, hybridity, ambivalence in Gogol Ganguli's characterization *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri.

1.3 Research Question

The main research question of this research is about postcolonial identity on Gogol Ganguli's characterization that divided into two specify questions, those are:

1. What is the characterization of Gogol Ganguli's in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri?
2. How is the formation of postcolonial identity on Gogol Ganguli's characterization in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri?

1.4 objective of The Research

The objective of the research are:

1. To analyzes the characterization of Gogol Ganguli's in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri.
2. To analyzes the formation of postcolonial identity on Gogol Ganguli's characterization in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri.

1.5 Significance of The Study

This research is very meaningful for the researcher. The researcher wants to analyze about postcolonial identity in Gogol Ganguli's characterization. The researcher wants to find out two different aspects in this novel, the first aspect is about the characterization of Gogol Ganguli

in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri, second is about the formation of postcolonial identity in Gogol Ganguli's characterization. The researcher would like to apply the knowledge about literature which the researcher got when studied in this department. In addition, the researcher wants to show the reader about four concepts of post-colonialism that appears in *The Namesake* novel by Jhumpa Lahiri, which can be seen in Gogol Ganguli's characterization as the main character.

Hopefully, this research can be useful for the readers, especially for the students of English Department who wants to know about post-colonialism in *The Namesake novel* by Jhumpa Lahiri. In detail, especially for the readers who want to know more about postcolonial identity that appears to immigrant generation like Gogol Ganguli. Also, the researcher hope that this research can be develop by the next researcher and can be the reference for the students who want to do the research with the same data.