

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explain about the introduction that consists of: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the research, and the last is scope and limitation.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Post-colonialism is an expansive and always showing signs of change development that has excited a decent arrangement of both intrigue and contention (Hiddleston, 2014:1). Postcolonial theory gives us the tools to explore psychoanalysis, marxism, feminism, ethnicity, religion, other cultures. these factors are interrelated and can affect the human experience that we can see in ourselves and our world (Tyson, 2014:189).

Singapore is one of the example regions which was colonized by British because of the Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles attention in its strategic location. It is on the major sea route between China and India. British was looking for a port that could bring profits in establishing their trade. During World War II they lost their authority to protect Singapore from Japanese. However, Japan surrendered and the British re-possessed Singapore. Singapore is a multiracial and multicultural country with a majority of Chinese, Malay, and ethnic Indians (International Journal of Intercultural Relations 37 (2013) 714–726).

In this research, the researcher is interested in how post-colonial identity reflected toward women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel by Kevin Kwan (2013) which takes place in Singapore. It is a hilarious and heartwarming New York Times bestselling novel which is also inspired Warner Bros to be appointed as a movie that directed by renowned Hollywood director, Jhon M. Chu. At the beginning of the novel, Kevin cited a quote from the fourteenth century by Ibn Batuta “nowhere in the world are there to be found people richer than the Chinese.” (2013:1). He stated that his intention in writing the novel was to "introduce a contemporary Asia to a North American audience". He also added a quote by

Napoleon Bonaparte at the beginning of his movie "Let China sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world".

Kevin Kwan is the author of the international bestsellers *Crazy Rich Asians* who was born and raised in Singapore. He declared the novel was based on his own childhood while in Singapore. Kwan was born into a wealthy family in Singapore and *Crazy Rich Asians* draws on the luxurious ways of life he watched as a child. When he was eleven, he moved to the United States. After that, he got his first degree in creative writing from the University of Houston. Even though he also pursues other fields but he has a passion for books that are also supported by his knowledge when he was educated in college. Therefore it is not surprising if he produced the best selling novel.

The novel is about Rachel Chu, an economics professor who was invited to accompany her boyfriend to Singapore. Rachel agreed to come to her his best friends wedding. However, during this time Rachel did not realize that her lover was a wealthy person in Asia who was wanted by many other women. The situation is increasingly complicated when her boy friend's mother did not agree with their relationship. The reason was Rachel's background and her identity as an Asian American.

Post-colonialism's considerations are focused on geographic zones of power that have stayed generally undetectable, however that prompt or involve queries of history, ethnicity, complicated cultural identities and queries of illustration, of displaced people, migration and immigration, of poorness and wealth—but importantly, fundamentally, the energy, quality and inventive cultural that develop in exceptionally positive ways from such demanding conditions (Young, 2009:14).

The reason why the issue needs to analyze because is related to tradition, culture, and social life in the present. Like the setting background in this novel taken in Singapore which is also a former British colony. Thus, there are some places that are described in colonial architecture. Not only, in place settings but also, in influencing their character's identity.

Examining novels is inseparable from the characters, settings, and event in the novel. The researcher was interested to analyze especially the female

characters in the novel through the three identities of post-colonialism that are ambivalence, mimicry, and hybridity. The first of post-colonial identity is ambivalence. It describes as a contradict because of the mix of attraction and repulsion that characterizes the relationship between colonizer and colonized. The second is mimicry. Mimicry seems once members of a colonized society imitate and go up against the way of life of the colonizers. From the way of thinking, dress style, lifestyle and also her dream. Rachel looked like imitate American. The last is hybridity is a cultural exchange between colonizer and colonized. A form of multiculturalism in which two cultural become once (Bhaba, 1994).

In this novel, there are many female characters with different personalities that are interesting to be analyzed with the lens of post-colonialism. The researcher chooses to analyze two female characters. The reason why the researcher chooses female characters only because they are dominant characters in the novel.

The female characters in the novel described her struggle with her life and had a complex character because of their Asian American identity that they had. Like, Rachel who tried hard to be accepted by Nick's mom who was concerned about her identity. Rachel and Peik Lin characters were related to the theory that the researcher used in the analysis. Besides, the portrayals of female characters are always intriguing to discuss from any aspect. Since women have different thoughts, wants, and needs regarding on their cultural background which influences how they behave.

The female characters who were chosen in this research are Rachel Chu and Goh Peik Lin. Rachel is described as a female figure that has intelligence, bravery, strength and she is a professor at NYU. Rachel's characterization is also influenced by the other characters around her, like her Mom and her friend, Goh Peik Lin. Peik lin itself is described as a bourgeois who has been affected by western culture. For example, her dress style looks western and she is a shopaholic. As the researcher sees, many related aspects between the characters and the post-colonialism were discussed by the researcher. Thus, the researcher sees that by using post-colonial perspective, especially by using post-colonial theory on identity, it is expected to make the analysis of each character intelligible.

## **1.2 Statements of The Problem**

There are three statements of the problem that focused on post-colonial identity, There are:

1.2.1 How is the Mimicry of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan?

1.2.2 How is the Ambivalence of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan?

1.2.3 How is the Hybridity of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan?

## **1.3 Objectives of The Study**

The researcher has a purpose that she wants to show to the reader. The purposes of this study are:

1.3.1 To analyze the Mimicry of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan

1.3.2 To analyze the Ambivalence of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan

1.3.3 To analyze the Hybridity of women characters in *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan

## **1.4 Significance of The Research**

The researcher expects this research can give benefits to the readers who seek to analyze literary work and hopefully the readers can be more understanding about the effect of post-colonialism issue that showed in women characters through *Crazy Rich Asians* novel. Besides that, the researcher also hopes that this research can make the readers interested in reading and enjoying literary works. It can be used as a reference for literary research for the student.

## **1.5 Scope and Limitation.**

In this research, the researcher has scope and limitation for her work. The researcher's scope is *Crazy Rich Asians* novel by Kevin Kwan. While, the limitation of this research will examine the portrayal of Post-Colonial identity

through ambivalence, mimicry, and hybridity in the women characters in *Crazy Rich Asian* by Kevin Kwan.

