

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a result of human thought based on human experience and imagination which is expressed in the form of works. In addition, the means used to convey or express the results of their thoughts are using language. Literature can also be used to describe something through writing or a very beautiful work. According to Terry Eagleton, Literature is a beautiful written work that writes something in the form of language that is condensed, deepened, twisted, shortened and twisted, made odd or other aesthetic composition methods through language tools (Eagleton, 2010, p.4). In addition, according to Ahmad Badrun, Literature is an artistic activity that uses language and other symbols as a tool to create something imaginative (1983, p.16). There are two types of literature, namely fiction and non-fiction. Where the types of fiction are poetry, prose, and drama but if in non-fiction such as literary criticism, autobiography, biography, and essay. However, the researcher uses poetry as an object for research.

Poetry is a literary work in the form of beautiful writing in which there are thoughts and experiences of the creator of the poem which are packaged in beautiful words. According to Hudson (Aminuddin, 2009:134), poetry is a literary work in which the creator uses words as a medium of delivery to produce illusions and imagination, just like a painting that uses lines and colors to describe the painter's ideas. Moreover, according to Ralph Waldo Emerson, poetry is a teaching that deals with fewer words.

Maya Angelou is one of the characters who expresses her thoughts based on her life experiences which are poured through the form of poetry. Maya Angelou is a poet as well as an African-American activist. In 1993, Maya Angelou was the first woman ever to be asked to read her work at the inauguration of the President of the United States. Her real name is Marguerite Annie Johnson and was born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA and

died on May 28, 2014 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA at the age of 86 years. Maya Angelou has a very bitter life story in her childhood where she got bad treatment from the people around her like she was raped by her mother's boyfriend because of racial and discrimination backgrounds at the age of 7 years. So she told it to her brother and her mother's boyfriend was arrested by the police and after being released, her mother's boyfriend was killed by Maya Angelou's uncle. So that trauma caused Maya Angelou to be silent for about 5 years. From bad experiences that happened to her, so that she was able to create very beautiful works such as her poems entitled Africa, Caged Bird, Still I Rise, and A Brave and Startling Truth according to the object of the research.

In the poems of Maya Angelou each of the poems has a story. Such as a poem entitled Africa (1975) in which there is an image of a robbery that is very detrimental to blacks, in addition, in Maya Angelou's poem entitled Caged Bird (1983) there is an image of oppression to blacks, Still I Rise (1978) is a picture of blacks who are starting to dare to fight, and in the poem entitled A Brave and Startling Truth is a picture of the victory of blacks. So, according to the four poems, the researcher uses the existentialism theory of Frantz Fanon. Which in Fanon's theory explains the psychological impact experienced by the colonized (blacks), the background to the occurrence of black colonization, and the spirit to fight colonization.

Based on the information above, the writer is interested in analysing Maya Angelou's poems entitled Africa, Caged Bird, Still I Rise, and A Brave and Startling Truth which are related to the existentialism theory of Frantz Fanon. So, the author gave the title in the research "Rebellion to Oppression in Maya Angelou's Poems: Africa, Caged Bird, Still I Rise, A Brave and Startling Truth: a Philosophical Approach".

B. Problem Statements

The problem of the study is dissected further into the following research questions:

1. How is condition of American Black in Maya Angelou's era?

2. What are the meaning Maya Angelou's poems seen of existentialism theory of Fanon?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the Study are as follows:

1. To explain existentialism theory of Fanon.
2. To explain condition of American Black in Maya Angelou's era.
3. To explain the meaning Maya Angelou's poem seen of existentialism theory of Fanon.

D. Significances of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher hopes that this research can provide knowledge and information for the public regarding literary studies, especially regarding the conflicts experienced by black people through the poems of Maya Angelou which are studied with the existentialism theory of Frantz Fanon.

2. Practical Significance

The researcher hopes that this research can be used as a reference for further research, especially for English language education students with research on black oppression.