

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

God creates people tribe by tribe in order to know each other. God creates the white, the red, the black, and the yellow skin that are widespread in the whole continent in this earth. In this world, there are many tribes that still exist in the recent day, but some of them are extinct. It happens as every tribe wants to show their existence. To catch their goal, sometimes people kill each other or make war to be the best among them. For instance, Adolf Hitler with his war to kill the Jews in 1943, and recently America with President George W. Bush made an invasion in Iraq in 2006. Those cases are resulted as there is no understanding among the people. The winner is categorized as the super power or the greatest leader at the time.

The war always effects the circumstance or the certain environment, especially social, culture, politics, economy and more. That is why there are some authors that are interested in reflecting the real situation into the literary work such as James Fenimore Cooper who involves himself as the witness of tribal war in America in the 18th century between the white and the red or well known as Indian. James Fenimore Cooper is the white man as he is ordinary frontiers from England who interacts and lives directly with the red or the native America.

Most of his literary works describe the reality which happened in the 18th century in America such as: *The Pilot* (1823), *The Pioneers* (1823),

which turned out to be the first of the five books known collectively as the Leather-Stocking Tales. All of these featured the character of Natty Bumppo (also known as Hawk-Eye and Leather-Stocking). *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826) was the second of the Leather-Stocking Tales then *The Deer slayer* (1841), *The Pathfinder* (1840), and *The Prairie* (1827) followed to complete the five books. All those books tell us about the racial interaction between the white and the red in 18th century.

James Fenimore Cooper`s novels are focused on the perspective or view between white man and the Indian which involves interaction relationship among them. Obviously, the social, culture, economy and politics are barely reflected here. He was the first successful American novelist. He was born on September 15, 1789, in Burlington, New Jersey. He was the son of a judge. A year after his birth, the family moved to Cooperstown, New York, a frontier settlement near Otsego Lake, where his wealthy father owned large amounts of land. Most of his entire novels tell us about what have happened during the European invasion to America in 18th century and the interaction between white man and the native people red skin (The Indian). He is just like the common white, going to school to study, church for pray that make him different from the local citizen that spent their life in the wood to hunt and to kill animals for food or to take the animal skin for mocasin or shoes, and may be for clothes.

In novel *the Last of the Mohican* Hawk-Eye or Natty Bumppo (another epithet) is the major character. He is a white man who lives and interacts with

the native people or Indian and involves himself as the one of Indian tribes namely the Mohican tribe. Some people always say that he is the Indian who has the white skin.

The different background about culture, social level, and economic between the white who brings the Europe culture and the native who keeps their grand ancestor faith rises to its climax and finally resulting genocide among the white and the red as there is no way out and finally the pride of their ancestor blood brings them into the final answer that is war.

James Fenimore Cooper was starting his story when the French and Indian force under General Montcalm press southward from Canada into English colony of New York in 1757, General Webb dispatches 1,500 British reinforcement from Fort Edward, near Glens Falls, to nearby Fort William Henry, at the southern tip of Lake George. Traveling with the troop movement and personally escorted by Major Duncan Heyward go Cora and Alice, daughters of Lieutenant Colonel Munro, commander of Fort William Henry. They are joined by David Gamut, a comic, hapless Yankee teacher of sacred music, especially psalm singing.

Their Indian guide is Magua, a Huron exiled among the Mohawks, allies of the British, but recently reinstated as a chief of the Huron's, who support the French side. He promises to take Heyward, Gamut, and the Munro girls to Fort William Henry by a route shorter than that to be used by the heavily encumbered contingent of troops, but his real intention is to lead them into an Indian ambush. In the late afternoon they found the trail of Hawk-Eye and his

two Mohican Indian friends, Chingachgook and the latter's son, Uncas, who apprise Heyward of Magua's deception. When they try to capture Magua, the Huron escapes then Hawk-Eye is certain that Magua will soon return with hostile Indian forces.

Hawk-Eye agrees to guide the four travelers safely in the morning but at night no one could safely pass through the forest filled with predatory Indians. Heyward's and Hawk-Eye's group move, with via canoe, to an island in the turbulent waters at the foot of Glens Falls. Then they found the cave and spent the night in that cave. Firstly they repulsed the Indian attack, led by Magua. But because less of number they had caught by hostile Indian, but Hawk-Eye and the Mohicans escaped from that attack. After Magua took the four travelers into the wood, he decided to marry Cora. But Cora refused. In that dispute Hawk-Eye and The Mohicans Showed up and defeated the Huron with the gun, but Magua could escape.

In that journey, in the end Cora, Alice, and Uncas were caught by the hostile Indian Huron in the Huron village and after long discussion among them with the chief of Delaware tribe, finally no way out and there was a war between The Mohicans with Hawk-Eye against the Huron tribe.

Throughout all of James Fenimore Cooper's writing, the writer is interested by the racial interaction between frontiers and the native. The writer will analyze Racial Interaction in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last Of The Mohicans* through the genetic structuralism analysis.

B. Literary Review

In analyzing this novel, the writer finds other writer that discussed the same novel. Firstly, he is Tiwbet Dillah (1999) *The Coping Behavior in James Fenimore Cooper's The Last of the Mohicans: An Individual Psychological Approach*, UMS. His analysis emphasizes on how the major character Hawk-eye cope with his problem to live among Mohicans. Secondly The anxiety in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans: A Psychological Approach* (Tri Wahyuni: 2001). In this research entitled "Racial Interaction in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans: A Genetic Structuralism Approach*", the writer emphasizes the analysis on relating the structure of the work to the large structure of the social realities in which the work was made.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study is "What is James Fenimore Cooper's worldview on racial interaction in his novel *The Last of the Mohicans*".

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study because of time and fund inadequateness. The researcher is going to analyze the author's view through the genetic structuralism perspective

E. Objectives of the Study

The objective of this research is to find James Fenimore Cooper's worldview on racial interaction in his novel *The Last of the Mohicans* by

analyzing the structure of the novel and identify the relation between the structure of the novel and the social historical background.

F. Benefits of Study

The writer takes a great expectation that the study will have the benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits:

- a. The study is expected to contribute the literary study on James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohican*.
- b. The study is expected to find out the researcher's curiosity about life and racial interaction in 18th century in North America.

2. Practical Benefit:

To give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing the novel that is analyzed in this research into different perspective.

G. Research Method

In analyzing the sociology of *The Last of the Mohicans* and revealing James Fenimore Cooper's worldview, the writer uses the qualitative method.

1. Type of Research

In conducting the research, the researcher applies a qualitative research which has a result of descriptive data in the forms of written or oral word for observing people or behavior. It is also does not need statistic data and calculation. Descriptive qualitative method is researches

that are not presented in digits or statistic but it yields the data and the result in the form of description (Bodgon and Taylor in Aminudin Editor, 1990: 14).

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

This study uses library data, which are classified into two categories; primary and secondary data. The primary data are the text of *The Last of the Mohicans*, whereas, the secondary data include material about genetic structuralism, the theory literary criticism and other materials relevant to the analysis.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the writer uses the library in collecting data, the present writer follows some steps such as

- a. Reading *The Last of the Mohicans* novel.
- b. Reading some related books to get the theory, data information.
- c. Understanding parts of the related books also of the work.
- d. Writing the data on certain papers.
- e. Classifying the data into groups according to categories elements of literary study.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of analysis the data in this study is descriptive and hermeneutic by interpreting the text in order to find out the most probable intention of the author. The writer uses genetic structuralism approach to reveal the problem in the analysis between the society background and the

novel, then applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also adds the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly the researcher is looking for the selecting correlation of data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper consists of six chapters. It begins with Chapter I that comprises of the introduction, which includes background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. In Chapter II, the writer presents the underlying theory of Genetic Structuralism. The biography of the author and Historical Background of The North Society is presented in Chapter III while in Chapter IV consists of structural analysis of the novel *The Last Of The Mohicans*. Chapter V composes sociological analysis. Finally, the writer concludes the paper in chapter VI.