

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The influence is the power to affect somebody's actions, character or beliefs, especially by providing an example for them to follow, winning their admiration or making them afraid to disagree (Hornby, 1999: 611). The influence is caused by the experience, the others people, and the social condition, for example, the politic issue, economic problems, religious aspect and etc. The influence also happens to everybody is caused by the social condition, for example, some authors when they are creating their literary work.

Here, the authors are also influenced by their experience, other people, and the social condition at that time when they are creating their literary work. In other word, the social condition or the background of society and the experience of the authors always influences the literary work. That is why, the influence of something is essential for someone to create a literary work.

In Indonesia, literary works have more increased fast. It is different in some years before. It can be seen there are many literary works which are created by many authors from different background, such as a doctor or even an officer who can make a good literary work recently like a novel, book, and many more. Basically, literary work can give the readers many advantages

like an experience which someone has never felt it yet before in his /her life. Besides that, a literary work can give the readers an entertainment that can make them happy or feel satisfied with it.

A literary work is not only as an imaginative work, but it also can be an entertainment as mentioned above. A good literary work consists of advantages values for the readers. That is why, a good literary work is not only got from the arrangement of beautiful words, but it is also got from the values inside in it. An education value includes in it. An education value can be reached by reading a literary work, because a literary work represents human life. Literary work has many kinds of form, such as poem, poetry, drama, novel, and so on.

Novel is one kind of literary works beside poem, poetry, drama, and others. According to The World Book Encyclopedia, novel is a long fictional story written in prose. It is one of the most popular forms of literature. The subject matter of novels covers the whole range of human experience and imagination. Some novels portray true-to-life characters and events. Writers of such realistic novels try to represent life as it is. Novelist can arrange incidents, describe places, and represent characters in an almost limitless variety of ways. They also may narrate their stories from different points of view. In some novels, for example, one of the characters may tell the story. In others, the events may be described from the view point of a person outside of the story. Novels differ from histories, biographies, and other long prose

narratives that tell about real events and people. Novelist sometimes bases their stories on actual events or the lives of people. It can be seen in *The Rainbow Troops* which is English version of *Laskar pelangi* written by Andrea Hirata. It is translated to English by Angie Kilbana in the end of March 2008.

Laskar Pelangi is one of the most famous novels in Indonesia. It was published first by Bentang Pustaka on 2005. Then, it started to translate in English by Angie Kilbana in the end of March 2008. Kilbana changes the title of *Laskar Pelangi* into *The Rainbow Troops*. This novel was published on December 2009 by the same publisher Bentang Pustaka. It consists of 478 pages and uses full of English. The kind of cover of this novel is soft cover.

The Rainbow Troops or *Laskar Pelangi* won praise from Christopher Merrill, academic literature at the University of Iowa, United States. Hirata explains (in <http://bloggernewstop.blogspot.com/2010/11/laskar-pelangi-touted-american.html>) Christopher Merrill is director of the international Writing Program at the University of Iowa, the United States and is one that has made Iowa elected “Unesco City of Literature”. Furthermore, Hirata said that “ the truth was very difficult to get a compliment from him. Of the 34 authors International Writing Program at the University of Iowa this year, only me get compliment,”. According to Hirata, the compliment made him more confident and more grateful. Hirata also mentioned, Christopher Merrill

says that *The Rainbow Troops* is an impressive achievement and is a powerful work of imagination that sweeps Belitung life on the island.

Both *Laskar Pelangi* (2005) and *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) are written by Andrea Hirata. Andrea Hirata Seman Said Harun is an Indonesian novelist who comes from Belitung Island, Bangka Belitung province. This man becomes a famous man after his first novel *Laskar Pelangi* (2005) success in Indonesia and some countries like Malaysia and Singapore. Hirata was born in Belitung Island, Bangka Belitung province on October 24. Hirata graduated from University of Indonesia, majoring in economy. Then, he got a scholarship for Master of Science in Université de Paris, Sorbonne, France and Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom. Now, he works in PT Telkom Indonesia and still writes some novels such as *Laskar Pelangi* (2005), *Sang Pemimpi* (2006), *Edensor* (2007), *Maryamah Karpov* (2008), *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) which is the English version of *Laskar Pelangi* and his new novels such as *Padang Bulan* (2010), *Cinta Dalam Gelas* (2010), *Sebelas Patriot* (2011) and *Two Trees* (2011) which is English version and *Ayah* (2011) which is Indonesian version.

As mentioned above, *The Rainbow Troops* is translated by Angie Kilbane in the end of March 2008. Kilbane came in Indonesia in 2007 as a Fulbright scholar, but she couldn't get enough of the country so she picked up a Darmasiswa scholarship in 2008. Then, she became a student of literature at University of Indonesia. Before she came in Indonesia, she studied Indonesian

for two years at Ohio University and then she spent a year living in Singosari, East Java. Now, she teaches elementary and junior high school at the Lazuardi Global Islamic School in Cinere and Cilandak. This is her third year with them.

The Rainbow Troops novel tells the readers about the memoir of Andrea Hirata's childhood and adolescence. According to Rasyid (2005), the story of Laskar Pelangi (*The Rainbow Troops*) is very inspiring. He told that Hirata has written a novel which would increase people's spirit who has difficulty in education. The Rainbow Troops set in Belitong, a little island in the Indonesian archipelago south-east of Sumatra famous for its tin mines. The Rainbow Troops tells the story of a tight-knit group of Melayu Belitong students and their teachers fighting for education and dignity, even as they face continual hardship. Fabulously rich in natural resources, Belitong is also home to chronic poverty and educational discrimination. This amazing story tells of two teachers – Muslimah and Harfan - and their tireless efforts to fight for their ten students' right to an education. Together, they take the readers on a journey through the beauty of childhood friendship, the inspiration of love, and the power of education.

This novel is started on the acceptance day of brand new students in bad propagandize in an elementary school at the small Islamic school Muhammadiyah in Gantong village in 1974. That day was full of both hope and trepidation. The teachers – Muslimah and Harfan – have been eagerly

waiting for students to enroll at their decrepit Islamic primary school. Since the local director of education had already declared that their little school must close if it didn't meet the ten-student minimum. This particular day is obviously a nervous affair for both teachers. In the last minutes prior to a time extent acceptance of brand new students after a share had not been met, a teacher as good as impending students have been watchful for is ready to swallow a beating could not attend their school since their little school will be closed.

Fortunately, in the last seconds came a boy named Harun who saved their school so that it was not close by the local director of education. Besides Ikal (first name of Andrea Hirata when he was a child), the eclectic group comprises an assortment of characters (named by Muslimah as the rainbow troops), mainly Lintang, a fisherman's son who turns out to be a genius and Mahar, a musically obsessed dreamer who is never without a radio by his side. Then, there are Sahara is a disobedient girl; a strong boy Samson; who longed for to turn an actress Syahdan; A Kiong, a nervous boy; Harun, a small young kid trapped in an adult body; a handsome boy named Trapani; and the last is Kucai.

Indeed not all members of Rainbow Troops get the same apportionment of a coming in this novel. One of the examples is Lintang, a genius kid who always rides his bicycle as distant as 80 kilometers from his home to the school. His story which is written in this novel makes the readers

encouraged to go on to aspire to always spirit in their education. Then, there is a kid named Mahar who is very imaginative and creative. He succeed to win the first place in August Seventeen Carnival. There are still 9 people else of The Rainbow Troops which are narrated well in this novel.

The Rainbow Troops is an interesting novel because there are four aspects that make this novel really interesting. The first aspect is the story of this novel is based on the real memoir of Hirata's childhood and adolescence in 1970s. It is like a semi-biography book that tells a story of ten students who are very inspirational for human's life such as in their friendship, love, education stories, and many more. Andrea Hirata narrated this story well and touched the readers' heart, so that they can feel the youth spirit of the tenth of The Rainbow Troops at that time. The second reason is the reflection of the characters in *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel. Hirata tells the story to the readers same as when he was a young boy in Gantong village, Belitong Island. Sometimes, he tells the story to the readers with a young boy language and style. He is able to portray almost a whole of the characters in detail. His words can make the readers imagine as if they were in the story of *The Rainbow Troops*.

The third reason is simple plot. This novel is not difficult to be understood, because Hirata tells the readers with the beautiful and easy words to be understood. He started his novel by telling the readers when he enrolled to an elementary school at the small Islamic school Muhammadiyah in

Belitong Island. Then, he continues with the real-life events and activities in the school, home, environment, etc. By reading this novel, the writer feels that she as if in Belitong Island and did the experience with The Rainbow Troops. The last reason is this is the first time of the writer read a novel which its content about Belitong Island, comprises the story of it and its education in 1970s, and the social life there. These can be studied in sociological term which studies the social life of human.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel by using sociological theory as an approach to analyze this novel. Then, the writer conducted the title of her study is **THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN GAINING EDUCATION ON ANDREA HIRATA'S *THE RAINBOW TROOPS* NOVEL (2009) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

Laskar Pelangi (2005) or *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel by Andre Hirata is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the novel Laskar pelangi or *The Rainbow Troops* has been conducted by students. The first study about Laskar Pelangi (2005) or *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) is conducted by Mustafiah Nur Pratiwi, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2010), entitled *A Comparative Study Between English and Indonesian Address System Used in Novel Entitled Twilight Saga and Laskar*

Pelangi Tetralogy. She uses descriptive qualitative analysis which focuses on politeness principles in address system to analyze the data. The purpose of this study is to clarify the variations of address system and compare them. Besides that, it is to find out the reasons of using address system and compare them. The result of the data are firstly, the types of the variations of address system come into 13 types; first name, last name, nick name, full name, intimate name, kinship name, mockery, title, profession, title plus first name, title plus last name, title plus full name and title plus profession. Secondly, there are 9 reasons in using address system; showing anger, showing anxiety, showing intimacy, showing kinship, showing mockeries, showing name, showing power/authority, showing respectful, and showing solidarity.

The second study is conducted by Sutri (2009), a student of Indonesian Literature in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her research title is *Dimensi Sosial Dalam Novel Laskar Pelangi Karya Andrea Hirata: Tinjauan Sosialogi Sastra (2009)*. In her research, she uses words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and utterances in *Laskar Pelangi* novel as the data. Then, she uses dialectic model by Lucien Goldmann. The objectives of her research are to describe the structure elements of the novel and the social dimension on Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi* novel. The results are the structure elements of the *Laskar Pelangi* novel have some aspects which tied and strengthen each other. The structural aspects build the events and the story meaning of the novel well. Then, according to sociology analysis, it can be found that social

dimension and economic differentiation which focus on poverty problem in this novel concern on three aspects, i.e. a) temporal poverty, b) structural poverty, and c) the world view.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Mustafiah Nur pratiwi writes the use of English and Indonesian address system in *Laskar Pelangi* novel (2005) by using descriptive qualitative analysis which focuses on politeness principle in address system. While, Sutri writes social dimension in *Laskar Pelangi* novel (2005) by using sociology of literature perspective. The writer analyzes the influence of community spirit in gaining education in *Laskar Pelangi* novel by using sociological approach in literature perspective.

C. Problem Statement

“How does community spirit influence in gaining education reflected in *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel using sociological approach?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing community spirit in gaining education in *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel based on sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows.

1. To analyze Andrea Hirata's *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel based on the structural elements of the novel.

2. To describe community spirit in gaining education in *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel based on sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of studying *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel are.

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is hoped by the writer to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is hoped to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as reference by other universities students that interested in literary study on the novel based on sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *The Rainbow Troops* novel written by Andrea Hirata and publishing by Bentang Pustaka in 2009. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data sources of this study are *The Rainbow Troops* (2009) novel written by Andrea Hirata. The data involve dialogues, characters, action and the whole narration, which are relevant to the subject matter of this research.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from other sources such as essay, articles, biography of Andrea Hirata, Internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is the researcher reads the novel repeatedly and tries to imagine and understand the novel. Then she takes notes and underlines the important words, phrases of sentences, which are related to the study. Next she tries to relate the data collected and the point of discussion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural element of the novel and sociological approach.

H. Research Organization

The research organization of *The Influence of Community Spirit in Gaining Education on Andrea Hirata's The Rainbow Troops Novel (2009) : A Sociological Approach* is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of Sociology of Literature, Major Principles of Sociology of Literature, Structural Elements of the Novel, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Background of Indonesian Society in The Twentieth Century which covers social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, science and technological aspects, cultural aspects and religious aspects. Then, it is continued with History of Indonesian Education which consists of Education Problem, Elementary Schools, and Elementary Schools in Belitong, and The life of Andrea Hirata. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of *The Rainbow Troops* novel; it covers (1) The Structural Elements *The Rainbow Troops* novel; it consists of Characters and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *The Rainbow*

Troops novel that consists of social aspects, political aspects, economic aspects, cultural aspects and religious aspects and Discussion. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.