

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Political conspiracy is in a political sense that conspiracy refers to a group of persons united in the goal of usurping or overthrowing an established political power (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_conspiracy). In this novel, it means that conspiracy is to hide some facts from public in order self interest or organization interest.

According to Ramsay (2006: 20), conspiracy is “normal politics carried out by normal means, to include international relations and politics in which secret diplomacy and secret intelligence play major roles”. Besides, very few notions are generated in it is “as much intellectual resistance, hostility, and derision within academic circles as a belief in the historical importance or efficacy of political conspiracies” (Ramsay, 2006: 14). The essence of conspiracy theory is “the belief that an organization made up of individuals or groups was or is acting covertly to achieve some malevolent end” (Barkun, 2003: 3).

Dan Brown was born in 22 June 1964 in Exeter, New Hampshire, US. He is the author of *The Da Vinci Code*, the #1 worldwide best seller that has appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than two years. He is also the author of *Deception Point*, *Angel and Demons* and *Digital Fortress*, all which are New York Times bestseller. He lives in New England with his wife,

Blythe Newlon (<http://www.danbrown.com>). Having graduated from Phillips Exeter, Brown attended Amherst College and graduated from in 1986. In 1991 he moved to Hollywood to pursue a career as singer-songwriter, pianist, and joined the National Academy of Songwriters. Then Brown and Blythe developed a personal relationship, and married in 1997. Brown became an English teacher at his almatater Phillips Exeter, and gave Spanish classes in Hampton Falls. In 1996, Brown quits teaching to become a full-time writer. Brown subsequently wrote *Angels & Demons* and *Deception Point*, released in 2000 and 2001 respectively. In 2004, all four of his novels were on the *New York Times* list in the same week, and in 2005, he made *Time* magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the year. *Forbes* magazine placed Brown at #12 on their 2005 "Celebrity 100" list, and estimated his annual income at US\$76.5 million (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Brown).

Deception Point novel tells about a 2001 techno-thriller novel by Dan Brown. The plot concerns a meteorite found within the Arctic Circle that may provide proof of extraterrestrial life, and attempts by dark forces to prevent this finding from becoming public. This novel tells about conspiracy behind the election president of USA, when the mysterious figure makes fake meteorite case to defend the existence of NASA from under controlled by military. In every country, election is very important chance. Politician will do everything to make people choose them. Until it can be use invisible power, many countries have conspiracy.

The story begins when NASA's new Polar Orbiting Density Scanner (PODS), part of the Earth Observation System (EOS), a collection of satellites monitoring the globe for signs of large-scale change, has found an extremely dense spot in the Milne Ice Shelf. That shocking scientific discovery as proof of extraterrestrial life is something that NASA needs in the light of recent failures. Senator Sexton is a presidential candidate uses these failures as an example of government overspending to further his campaign. In order to ensure that the discovery, the President sends four leading civilian scientists (Michael Tolland, Corky Marlinson, Norah Mangor, and Wailee Ming) to the Arctic to verify the meteorite's authenticity, and also Intelligence Analyst Rachel who works for the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office), Senator Sexton's daughter.

A Delta Force team is also observing the discovery, when Ming reaches into the water to obtain a sample and falls in due to an attack by micro bots operated by the Delta Force team. Then Tolland sees the irregularity, he shares it with Corky Marlinson and Rachel Sexton. They report it to Mangor, and then four go outside to scan the ice from a distance. The scan shows Ming's body in the water and a column of frozen sea ice beneath the meteorite where it was drilled up into the glacier. Upon discovering this, the four are attacked by the Delta Force team, leaving Norah Mangor dead. Sexton, Tolland and Marlinson escape and are picked up by the Navy submarine USS Charlotte. The Delta Force team believes them to be dead, leaving the scientists a chance to tell the

President's advisor and Rachel's boss at the NRO about their discovery, and the subsequent attack.

Eventually, the Senator Sexton's motive for wanting to abolish NASA makes Rachel believe that the President and NASA are part of the conspiracy to kill them. If so, their motive would be to cover up evidence that the meteorite is fake and solely designed to gain support for the incumbent President in the upcoming election. Aboard Tolland's ship off the New Jersey coast, Rachel sends a fax message to her father asking for help. Rachel is surprised to see Pickering emerging from the helicopter, revealing that he is the commander of the Delta Force squad. He tells Rachel about her father's true motivations for becoming President, and that he masterminded the fake meteorite to hurt Senator Sexton's campaign, protecting the American people in his eyes. Pickering and his team attacked them, but they manage to get off of the ship. *Goya* is sucked in by the vortex, and Pickering is implied to have been killed in the wreck. Then Senator Sexton reads the fax message to the public to incriminating the President and NASA. But, Gabrielle changes the envelopes to be their scandalous data. It is securing Zachary Herney a second term as President. By the end of the story, Michael and Rachel have developed a romantic relationship (<http://www.infoplease.com>).

There are some of public responses from pro side. First, it has very interesting book tidiness. It has balance between the price and the book, physically and fills. Second, there is energy imagined in the novel so readers conceiving the situation in the story plot. They can stop reading for awhile, just

for thinking about the process of making this novel. Third, the readers are amazing about Brown's ability to make story braid. There is much information that can be founded, since he uses real facts melted in a fiction story. So they always wonder what happens on the next chapter, and read it faster without being bored. Besides they are cladding to Brown, they cannot imagine what kind observation that Brown have done to make details of the story which is connected with facts (<http://www.nanangnews.blogspot.com>).

In the other side, this novel also has some critics from the readers. First, it is about his accuracy of the fact that is to shocking common people. Second, there is not one paragraph that is close to some acceptable literary decency. Third, like the previous books it is too much like a Hollywood script. It is can guess that he uses his simple formula; big mystery, male protagonist, female protagonist, code to solve, surprise, and traitor with twisted motives (<http://www.goodreads.com>). However, it is a best seller novel with 81 million copies sold worldwide and has been translated into more than forty languages.

There are four reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel. The first reason is caused this novel has interesting plots. It is an easy to read, and his style is a rocket-fast thriller. So, when the readers read it, this novel is always interesting in the fast plot and guessing the end of the story.

The second reason is giving a lot of interesting facts. Here are some secret organizations in this story which are not much known by public. Brown states that the Delta Force, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and the

Space Frontier Foundation are real organizations. Also all technologies described in this novel exist. It can be imagined how great this novel.

The third reason is giving interesting settings. Here are some settings in this novel. Brown tries to figure out detail of White House. Besides the settings take place in the Milne Ice Shelf in Arctic, Navy submarine USS Charlotte, Air Force One, and so on which exist. It is so interesting with great details to imagine those places.

The last reason is political conspiracy that becomes main issue of the novel is reflected well. It is one of interesting aspects to be studied. In this novel, Brown writes about conspiracy as background in the United States election. This novel tells the existence of political conspiracy.

Based on the reasons the writer will observe *Deception Point* novel by using a sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurenson. So, the writer constructs the title *Political Conspiracy in Dan Brown's Deception Point Novel (2001): A Sociological Approach*.

B. Literature Review

This research deals with previous researches but it has difference in some matters. The previous study is mentioned here to prove that this research is different from others. The writer proposes two findings of previous studies conducted by the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

The first research was conducted by Sinta Nur Khasanah (UMS, 2011) entitled *Conflict of Interest Between Individual and State in Dan Brown's*

Deception Point (2001): A Sociological Approach. Her research aims are to find how conflict of individual and state is reflected in Dan Brown's *Deception Point* by correlating its structural element and social historical background of United States of America in 20th and 21st century. The results of her study show that: first, Dan Brown's *Deception Point* reflects social condition occurred in United States of America. Second, Dan Brown's *Deception Point* depicts conspiracy. Third, Dan Brown's *Deception Point* is criticism toward unbalanced situation and condition that can be found in character's characterization, narration and dialogue.

The second research was conducted by Mahfut Efendi (UMS, 2010) entitled *The Political Conspiracy in Bryan Singer's Valkryie Movie (2008): A Sociological Approach*. His research aim is to show the political conspiracy in Valkryie movie by using a sociological approach. The study comes to the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view, theme, *mise en scene*, cinematography, sound and editing are related to each other and form the unity into good quality of a movie. Second, based on the sociological analysis, there is close relation between the movie production and the social reality underlying it such as the global issues of conspiracy in a government.

The similarity of the study is from the data source of study on *Deception Point* novel. Then second is the focus on political conspiracy issue. The difference between the first previous study and the writer's research is in

the focus. The writer focuses on political conspiracy aspect and the effects of that. Then, the writer focuses on political conspiracy in Dan Brown's *Deception Point*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is how political conspiracy is reflected in *Deception Point* novel written by Dan Brown?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research paper, the writer focuses this research in analyzing the political conspiracy in Dan Brown's *Deception Point* novel based on a sociological approach by Swingewood and Laurenson (1972).

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problems above, the writer formulates the objective of the study in the following.

1. To analyze Dan Brown's *Deception Point* novel based on its structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze Dan Brown's *Deception Point* novel based on a sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this study has the benefits that are divided into theoretical and practical benefits, they are as follows.

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give new contribution and information to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Deception Point* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experiment of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the novel from a Sociological Approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the novel using sociological perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining the technique of collecting data, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Deception Point* novel written by Dan Brown.

It is analyzed by using a sociological approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *Deception Point* novel written by Dan Brown.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources of the study are books such as *An Introduction to Literary Studies*, *The Sociology of Literature*, and other sources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly to get deep understanding.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- c. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Arranging, researching, and developing the selected material into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

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

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of the “*The Political Conspiracy in Dan Brown’s Deception Point (2001): A Sociological Approach*” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of the Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Theoretical Approach; it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Major Principles of Sociology of Literature, Structural Elements of the Novel, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Socio Historical Background of America Society in the Late 20th Century that covers the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of *Deception Point* novel; (1) Structural Element of the Novel which consists of Characters and Characterizations, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme. (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *Deception Point* novel. It consists of social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, scientific and technological aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.