

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In the concept of human being, there are two consequences of roles. First, as an individual in which they can actualize their own point of view, ideas, orientations and needs in to many form of works of art. While the second one is as member of the society. In this role, they are expected to obey certain norms and values as self-control in the way to act and behave, so that the other member accepts them, in short, to keep their existence, human being must have self-consciousness and collective consciousness.

Literary work as a kind of art and as a form of creativity can be seen from two different sides. The first perspective sees the literary work as an entertaining reading material and the second view sees it as a self-reflection toward the existing social phenomenon. Due to the second point of view, literary work can help the readers to comprehend the true events and the social facts, so that they can find new meaning in life.

Literary work is not something that falls from heaven and appears suddenly in the writer's mind as a magic, but is more as a deep interpretation toward the meaning of human existence due to their self and their relation with another men, social community and certain happening in certain period of time. Social community where the author belongs can give the inspiration in creating the literary works, which reflect the author's social background,

feeling and point of view toward the social facts. In short, literary works are kind of social portray, due to one's way of thinking.

Social facts and phenomenon are always interesting to be discussed or written. One writer who concerns with this matter is John Grisham. He is a lawyer and begins to write his novel in 1987 with title *A Time to kill*. His other novels like *The Camber*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Rainmaker* and *The Firm* have been turned into film. He focuses his story to legal thrills due to his experiences as a lawyer, and all of his fifth teen novels are New York Time Best seller. The new genre of his of his novels can be found in the title *Skipping Christmas* and *A Painted House*, which emphasize on the family and social relationship based on his childhood experiences. His novel have been published in 29 languages and made him as the best selling novelist verse *Publishers Weekly* (www.bookreporter.com/grisham/bio.html)

A Painted House was published in February 2000 by Doubleday in form of hard cover and reissued in 2001 by Dell. The novel has 456 pages and 35 chapters. *A Painted House* also have been turned into film for television and won the Hallmark Hall of Fame Presentation on April 27, 2003. This novel with 7 million copies in print, was on the New York Time bestseller list 18 continuous weeks (www.info@hallmark.com/apaintedhouse.html). The story of the novel is about a boy named Luke Chandler who had never kept a secret or told a single lie until his seventh years. But during the summer of 1952, when his family must do whatever it takes to bring in a good cotton crop, two group of migrant workers-Hillbillies and Mexicans come to work the Chandler's cotton

farm. In the group of workers, there are two dangerous men-Hank Spruill, the Hillbilly and Cowboy, the Mexican. Suddenly, mysteries flood Luke's world. Luke witnesses things that could threaten his family's entire community. He witnesses one brutal thrashing that Hank gives a local boy is forced to keep. A beautiful young woman-Tally Spruill catches Luke's eyes and she brings new adventure to adult world to Luke. A forbidden love affair is brewing Luke's Uncle-Ricky Chandler who is sent to Korean War and girl next door named Libby Latcher, fatherless baby born and gives another dark secret that must be kept by Chandler family. Trot Spruill, the handicap boy secretly painting the bare clapboard of the Chandler's farmhouse. At the uncertain weather in summer time, Luke once again witnesses the other brutal murder. This time, Cowboy kills Hank, another secret that remain in Luke's life. At the heavy storm, Tally and Cowboy runaway from the cotton farm to North for a better life. Finally, the weather goes bad and causes big damage to Chandler's cotton farm. The picking season ends and Luke's parent decide to leave the farmhouse to work at the car factory in North. They leave the cotton farm just after they finished painting their house.

About this book as quote in [www.info@hallmark/apaintedhouse .html](http://www.info@hallmark/apaintedhouse.html), Grisham says that many of the stories woven together in *A Painted House* are old family tales and most of them probably not true, handed down from his grandfather to this father. He also points out that novel is not a kind of biography, but due to many critics, the novel could be seen more than a family nostalgia. In other side, many critics claim that it has rich conflict and deep

characterization, and the theme he used is timeless and universal, so that the story may happen anywhere.

In this novel, Grisham, according to many critics as a stated in www.info@hallmark.com/apaintedhouse.html, represents not only his childhood experience and family memory, but it also captures general about human being and social realities of the exist society which reflected culture, showing the essence of an era and people who live within it.

The struggle of man for a better life is one of many main issues that can be found in the novel. In this part, Grisham tries to tell that one cannot have everything and also has limited capability. In spite of the fact, everyone must have some obsession and dreams in his life, so that his must work hard to make those hopes come true. Make a better life is not easy, but hardship to preserve and never give up are the key to gain big succeeds.

Another dominant issue that is delivered in this novel is about the essence of the relation between human being both in the form of family and social relationship. For this Grisham points out that the family relationship is more than blood tide and it should represent the harmony between each member. While in social relationship human being as an individual should place them selves as a part of the society and treats other tolerably. In short, those kinds of relationships are not only a form of formality to abuse and gossiping.

The other issue is the life of farmer. In this novel, farmers as important chain in production process, are often treated unfair and live in poverty because of the big debt they make to preserve their land. The unstable price of fertilizer and seeds in the beginning of the plant season or decrease of the price in harvest season is common problem faced by farmers, beside the uncertain weather, which can influence their crops quality. In short, farmers are always competing against big cooperation, and the owners of big capital are always a step forward but not the farmers.

The labor problem also gives strong nuance in the novel. The workers who mostly the migrant ones often accept wicket treatment from their agent and their employer. Bad transportation and shelter are the common problems beside the poor salary and in human work hour. In other words, the workers distribution and wages are depends on the market needs.

Gender inequity is another color of the story of the novel. Men are superior and women are considered as the marginal part of the household and the society. Women are also voiceless and powerless to defend their wants. Traditional values give strong influence in the forming of relationship pattern, and such condition still happen at any societies.

The other problem shown in the novel is violence. This problem can happen at any societies and everyone can be the victim. In other words, everyone is exposed to violence in both household and society. This matter may happen over and over if the parent and the society still employ the same value and norm that place physical completion as something accepted.

All those issues above which are used to describe the life of Rural Arkansas are timeless and universal. It can happen anywhere and anytime. And Grisham also does not deny if the readers considered true about the book and the story because everyone has their point of view (www.info@hallmark.com/paintedhouse.html).

This matter represents that human as the perfect creatures should give benefit to their own self and the other surrounds them. In short, self and social recognition are needed in keeping the human existence.

Moreover, due the literature as a social portray and mirror up to nature and society, the writer uses Goldman's genetic structuralism approach to analyze this novel so that she can get the understanding about the work completely.

B. Literature Review

As far as the writer knows, the analysis of Grisham's *A Painted House* is not already done yet in UMS, UNS Solo, UGM, and Sanatha Dharma University. It is the first study ever done on the novel around Solo and Yogyakarta.

Because of the reason above, the writer thinks every interesting to reveal this novel, so that she can support the other researcher to study the novel in different point of view.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study is how is John Grisham's Worldview in *A Painted House*.

D. Objective of the Study

The objects of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the structural elements of the novel.
2. To reveal the worldview of John Grisham by relating the structure of the novel and the social rarities of the society.

E. Benefit of the Study

Through this study, the writer hopes some benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give additional contribution in larger field of knowledge, especially in literary studies on John Grisham's *A Painted House*.

2. Practical Benefit

To enrich the writer's knowledge and experiences dealing with literary research , genetic structuralism, and *A Painted House*.

F. Research Method

To analyze the data found in *A Painted House*, the writer uses the qualitative method.

1. Research Object

The research object of the study is John Grisham's worldview in *A Painted House*.

2. Type of the Data

The type of data employed in this research is textual data and classified in two categories.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary source is the novel itself, *A Painted House* by John Grisham.

b. Secondary Data Source

These data deal with the materials that cover the literary critics and social background and condition of American society in early twenty first century. In addition, the sociology materials and several criticism and some other articles dealing with John Grisham and his work are also involved.

3. Method of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is library research. In this study, the writer collects records of primary and secondary data in

short of documentation uses as evidences. The procedures done are as follows:

- a. Reading the printed John Grisham's *A Painted House* over and over to get a better comprehension about the work.
- b. Identifying the data and classifying them into some categories and analyzing them.
- c. Selecting the data found in library and internet, which is considered important and relevant to analysis.

4. Technique of Data analysis

Technique of data analysis in the study is descriptive which is used to analyze intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel.

G. Paper Organization

In order to make this research easier to follow, this report is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 consists of introduction covering the background of the study, the problem statement, the objective of the study, the benefit of the study, literary review and research method and paper organization. While chapter II covers the underlying theory, which explains the Genetic structuralism approach. In Chapter III, will be discussed about the biography of the author and the historical background of American society in early twenty first century. Chapter IV covers the structuralism analysis of the work. While in Chapter V, the sociological analysis will be presented. And the last Chapter will cover conclusion and suggestion.