

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Mockingjay is science fiction novel created by an American author, Suzanne Collins. It is the third series after *The Hunger Games* (2008) and *Catching Fire* (2009). *Mockingjay* was released on August 24, 2010 in the United States by the publisher Scholastic. While in Indonesia, the novel was published by Scholastic Press in January 2012. *Mockingjay* sold 450,000 copies in its first week of release and received many positive reactions from critics. The story tells rebellion of districts inside the country. The rebellion appeared because of the dictatorship president. (Mockingjay, 2013).

The author, Suzanne Collins, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1962, Suzanne Collins was the daughter of an Air Force pilot. She lived in eastern United States of America. She was graduated from Indiana University with a double major in Drama and Telecommunications. Collin's career began in 1991 on several child program television such as nickelodeon, little bear, Clarissa explained all and Oswald. After meeting children's author James Proimos while working on the Kids' WB show *Generation O!*, Collins was inspired to write children's books. Collins published her debut book, *Gregor the Overlander*, the first book of *The Underland Chronicles*. In 2008, the first book of *The Hunger*

Games series was published. *Catching fire* was published in 2009, while *Mockingjay* was published on 2010. (Collins, 2013)

Mockingjay tells the panem rebellion. Rebellion is started when district 12 in Panem is bombed by capitol. Every citizen in district 12 migrates to district 13. People of district 12 and district 13 unite to rebel tyranny capitol. District 13 rescued Katniss Everdeen, the winner of hunger games. After being rescued by the rebels of District 13, Katniss is convinced to become "the Mockingjay": a symbol of the rebellion against the tyrannical Capitol. As part of the agreement, she demands that the leader of District 13, President Coin, grant immunity to all of the Quarter Quell participants, and that Katniss reserves the right to kill President Snow, the dictator of Panem. (Collins, 2010).

Katniss assumes that Peeta, her boyfriend, is killed by Capitol. Evidently, Peeta is still alive. President Snow shows Peeta on television, and considered as Panem traitor. Finally, District 13 leaders decide to rescue Peeta. After the rescue, it is discovered that Peeta has been brainwashed into believing Katniss is the enemy, and he attempts to strangle her during their reunion. Peeta's brainwashing deeply disturbs Katniss, but he gradually improves after much treatment and therapy. His childhood friend Delly Cartwright helps with his recovery by recounting happy events from their past. (Collins, 2010)

Soon, Peeta recovers fully enough to train. Katniss and her propaganda unit are sent off on a mission to the Capitol, and President Coin later sends Peeta with them in replacement of another soldier, although his many scarred memories fuel

his rage. The rebels, including Katniss, gain control of the districts and begin an assault on the Capitol. Many members of Katniss's team are killed during intense urban warfare, including Hunger Games victor Finnick Odair. Even though many members of Katniss's team are killed; the victory is on the rebels' hand. (Collins, 2010)

After the rebels' victory, President Coin and her inner circle decide to punish the Capitol just as the Capitol once punished the Districts, by holding a final edition of the Hunger Games with children from the Capitol as tributes. While recovering from the same explosion that killed her sister, Katniss happens to run across President Snow, who is under house arrest and awaiting execution. Snow tells her that he did not order the assault that killed Prim, and that he would have escaped if he had had access to a hover plane. Instead, he accuses Coin of being behind the bombing. When Katniss expresses her doubts about his innocence, Snow reminds her that they had agreed not to lie to each other following the 74th Hunger Games. He also explains that the bombing of the children would have served no purpose for him, as it turned the remaining Capitol citizens against him. (Collins, 2010).

Shortly thereafter, Katniss recalls that the bombing resembled a trap originally developed by Gale Hawthorne. Gale denies being involved, but Katniss cannot repress her suspicions. At Snow's execution, Katniss thinks back to her conversation with him, and realizes that someone high up would have had to have given permission for Prim to be on the front lines despite her young age. Making it

look like the Capitol killed Prim would push Katniss's loyalty to Coin and would also drive a wedge between the Capitol and President Snow. When she is given the opportunity to execute Snow, Katniss makes her decision, raises her bow and shoots Coin instead, killing her. A riot ensues and Snow is found dead. Katniss attempts to consume the suicide pill on her uniform, but Peeta stops her. (Collins, 2010)

Katniss is acquitted of Coin's murder due to her apparent insanity and sent home to the ruins of District 12, along with others who are attempting to rebuild. Peeta returns months later, having largely recovered from his brainwashing. Katniss again falls in love with Peeta, recognizing she needs his hope and strength, in contrast to Gale who has the same fire she already finds in herself. Together with Haymitch, they write a book filled with the stories of previous tributes of the Hunger Games and those who died in the war to preserve their memory. (Collins, 2010).

Twenty years later, Katniss and Peeta are married and have two children. The Hunger Games are over, but Katniss dreads the day her children learn about their parents' involvement in both the Games and the war. When she feels distressed, Katniss plays a comforting but repetitive "game," reminding herself of every good thing she has ever seen someone do. The story ends with Katniss' somber reflection that "there are much worse games to play." (Collins, 2010).

Mockingjay has received generally positive reviews from critics, while reception by the public and fans has been mixed. Katie Roiphe of The New York

Times said it is "the perfect teenage story with its exquisitely refined rage against the cruel and arbitrary power of the adult world". Publishers Weekly stated "the best yet, a beautifully orchestrated and intelligent novel that succeeds on every level". The review went on to praise the "sharp social commentary and the nifty world building". However, Mockingjay still lack of perfect, Katie Rophie stated that it was not as "impeccably plotted" as The Hunger Games. (Mockingjay, 2013).

In addition, Mockingjay gets some rewards. Mockingjay has reached best seller from some popular magazine and newspaper in USA such as New York Times, Publisher Weekly, and USA Today. Furthermore, Mockingjay also get Weekly Best Book of 2010 by Publisher Weekly, Best Book of the Year from Kirkus and A 2010 Booklist Editors' Choice. Based on New York Times Book Review, The appeal of the novel is its plot. The plot embraces the politic movement of novel in 1984. In further, School Library Journal adds that the plot is tense, exclaimed, and dramatic. Los Angeles Times also states that mockingjay's plot is mesmerizing, riveting, and terrible.

The first character in Mockingjay is Katnis Everdeen. Suzzane Collins uses Katnis Everdeen as her characterization. Katnis is a strong-beautiful girl. She was a girl who thrived on being her family's caretaker and providing for others, a girl who sights out freedom wherever she can find it. A girl who will protect her little sister, Prim, at all costs, even if it means dying in the Hunger Games. Because of her strength, the people of District 13 choose her as Mockingjay.

The plot in *Mockingjay* is so dramatic. In *Mockingjay*, there was no introduction of the plot. The plot goes directly into the problems. There were bombing in District 12, many people of district 12 are dead in that bombing. Peeta, Katniss' boyfriend is taken by capitol. The Katniss' village is also destroyed by capitol. The bombing, the destroyed, all of those make Katniss wants the revenge.

In the story, Katniss becomes the first character. Suzzane Collins also uses Katniss as her Point of View. It can be seen in the *Mockingjay* novel page 4. 'My name is Katniss Everdeen. I'm seventeen years old. My home is District 12. I was in the Hunger Games. I escaped. The Capitol hates me...' (Suzzane Collins, 2010). By using Katniss as the narrator, the reader can see what in Katniss' mind, tough and character. The reader also feels enter to the story. As a reader, we can see Katniss sometimes drifts into depressive fogs. For example, after she kills President Coin, and she's imprisoned in a room contemplating suicide for days – maybe even weeks or months – things are happening in Panem.

In the writing style of *Mockingjay*, Suzzane Collins often uses Symbolism, Imagery, and Allegory in her writing. We can see from the title of the novel; *Mockingjay*. Well, a mockingjay is a bird, of course a hybrid one. They originate from a species known as the Jabberjay. Jabberjays were birds that the Capitol genetically engineered to be species during the rebellion of the past 13 districts. The little guys were meant to overhear subversive conversations, and bring that information to the Capitol, and repeat what they heard. This is all fine a, of course,

until the rebels caught on and started feeding the Jabberjays false info. Once the Capitol figured this all out, the birds became useless to them. The Jabberjays were left alone in the wild where they mated with female mockingbirds. After a few generations, the hybrid birds could no longer repeat or carry information, but they instead learned to carry a tune and to repeat songs and melodies. Hence, the Mockingjay was born. Katniss, like the mockingjay bird, must repeat others' words instead of her own. But she's sure trying to break away from being manipulated and find her own voice.

The story of *Mockingjay* is about rebellion. The rebellion happens because the dictatorship of Capitol. The capitol forces every district to send a couple teenagers for participating hunger games. It is game taking one survival only. Because of this game, many teenager dies every year. This games and the dictatorship of Capitol make every district want to rebel the Capitol government. The story represents people that every dictatorship leader can be taken down by handing up the guns, just like in Egypt, Iraq and many others.

By reading *Mockingjay*, it can be assumed that if a president or leader in a country has high ambition to dominate arbitrary, the society will be saturated, and it can increase the madness, at last, the society rebel the tyrant govern. It often happens in many countries in real world, such as Saddam Husein, Husni Mubarak, Hitler and many others. From the phenomenon above, the writer is interested to make a research on *Mockingjay* Novel form the sociological approach entitled

Rebellion Against the Unjust Authority Reflected in Suzanne Collins *Mockingjay* (2010): Sociological Criticism.

B. Literature Review

After looking for several literary reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer has not found the research about *Mockingjay* Novel done by other researchers. However, There are some article and book review on the *Mockingjay*. There researcher found article which made argument about *Mockingjay*. Firt, Rick Margolis (2010), his article is entitled *The Last Battle: With 'Mockingjay' on its way, Suzanne Collins weighs in on Katniss and the Capitol*. His article was published on School Library Journal. In his article, he criticizes that how could three young teenager such Katniss, Gale and Peeta are able to organize the powerful government. It never happens in the history.

The other article reviewing the *Mockingjay* is Los Angeles. The author is Susan Carpenter (2010). Susan states “Much of the action takes place on a battlefield akin to Iraq — where innocent civilians are murdered to further a cause and each side resorts to unsavory tactics that could lead to a terrorist label”. From her review, it can be stated that the social situation of the country in *Mockingjay* is just like in Iraq. The starvation, power abuse can make the citizen rebel to the government.

C. Problem Statement

The most important thing in a research study is knowing what the problem is. In this research, the problems of the study are divided into three:

1. How is the rebellion reflected in Suzzane Collins' *Mockingjay*.
2. How is the story related to the American Society at the early 21st Century.

D. Objective of the study

The objective of the study can be formulated as below:

1. To analyze *Mockingjay* based on its structural elements.
2. To describe *Mockingjay* viewed from a sociological approach.

E. Benefit of the study

The benefit of this study can be drawn as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit.

This study is expected to give a real and new contribution and information to library theory especially a sociological approach toward boys don't cry movie.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the writer to get deeper understanding about the novel and how to use literary theory in analyzing a literary work.

F. Research Method

1. Type of the study

The writer uses a descriptive qualitative research in this research because there is no need a calculation. It aims to analyze *Mockingjay* novel using sociological approach. Whereas, the writer uses some steps to conduct this research paper, (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of collecting data, and (5) determining technique of analyzing data.

2. Object of the study

The object of this study is *Mockingjay* novel directed by Suzanne Collins and published by Scholastic analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Type of Data and Data Source

The type of data is in the form of text. Text can be defined as all of written works. Here, the researcher uses text as the only one type of data. Text can be all of information in written form such as script in blog, books or other information from internet.

Meanwhile, source of data can be divided into two parts as follows:

a. Primary source

The primary data are taken from the script of *Mockingjay* novel

b. Secondary source

The secondary data are taken from other resources related to this novel such as biography of the author, some books, internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

In conducting this study, the writer uses the technique of note taking. Note taking relates to reading some relevant books, browsing some materials and some other resources related to the novel and analysis and classifying the data.

5. Technique of Analyzing Data

In this research, the writer uses a descriptive analysis for technique of analyzing data by exploring the structural elements of the novel and sociological approach.

G. Research Paper Organization

This research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory dealing with notion of sociology of literature, types of the sociology, structural elements of novel and theoretical application. Chapter III is social historical backgrounds of American society in the late nineteenth century. Chapter IV is structural analysis of

Mockingjay novel that consists of character and plot. Chapter V is sociological analysis of *Mockingjay* novel. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.