

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Runaway Jury is American novel. The novel refers to fraud or conspiracy in a trial. *The Runaway Jury* was published in June 1996 by Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group in New York. The first edition of the novel *The Runaway Jury* is in Hardback, The novel has 401 pages and 43 chapters. *The Runaway Jury* is much more than a sober and insightful novelization of the vagaries of civil law. This novel is a thriller about two competing efforts to rig the jury's verdict. The Novel is written by John Grisham.

John Grisham was born in Jonesboro Mississippi in 1967. His career as a writer developed when he was at the age of 36 years old. He writes seven novels. The title of his novels are *The Room*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Street Lawyer*, *Testament*, *The Brethren*, *The Runaway Jury* and *Broker*. All of the novel is becoming the best selling novel in each year. Started in 2001, Grisham adapted for film and television, including *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Rainmaker* and Original Screenplay *The Gingerbread Man*.

This novel tells the story of a widow who demands a cigarette factory because her husband dies of cancer caused by smoking. According to her, cigarettes have nicotine that makes people become addictive and lead to

death. The case ends up in court. The plaintiff demands to close the factory, but the factory party refuses, the factory party also has supporting parties led by Fitch, he is a cruel and cunning person. Fitch has businesses in the areas of tobacco, which is very influential for the cigarette factory. Actually, this case is not the first thing that happens, but Fitch always wins the case.

Fitch uses a variety of ways to win the trial. He hires people to stalk and bribes a jury. The jury in the case found a boy named Nicholas Esther. He knows what has been done by both parties. He also has a video cheating done by Fitch parties. He does not put the interest of anyone, he is just looking for the truth. This is what is feared by Fitch, because Nicholas is very smart, he is difficult to be influenced. Marlee, Nicholas's girlfriend is influenced by Fitch, He used her to search for information about Nicholas. Marlee is bribed 10 million dollars.

Suddenly on a night, Nicholas's apartment is burned. All goods are burned and left only charred rubble wall. Nicholas suspects that Fitch has reason to do it by destroying video evidence in the apartment. However Fitch does not remain silent, he becomes even more active in the jury at trial. Thus, Nicholas was considered by other juries as the head of jury. Nicholas argues that the plant is given a verdict of \$ 2 million in compensation and penalties for 400 million dollars. All the judges agree with Nicholas. the end the judges agree with the arguments presented by Nicholas. The widow is very grateful to Nicholas. While Fitch can only accept that is defeated, he also receives a thirst that turns Marlee also had tricked him that makes his company closed.

After a month passed, Marlee comes to Fitch, He has 10 million dollars to restore the hope of Fitch. Fitch is aware of what she is doing.

This novel has a customer review on Amazon.com. Amazon is a website that provides reviews about the world-famous novel. In the novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Grisham has 475 reviews. There are many readers giving comments about the novel. The researcher take two examples representatives reviewer from Amazon.com.

According to one of the reviewers on Amazon.com, Myrna Thayne (2013). After she read the novel, she very admired John Grisham. The novel was very impressive because this novel and most of the works of John Grisham were based on a true story. Grisham wrote his novel carefully, he could make the reader explore the characters and places in the novel.

Besides giving positive comment, the readers also gave negative comment. For example the comment, one of the reviewers on Amazon.com, Laura Sauer (2011). She said that John Grisham's novel was less character and characterization, the story of this novel was too bland. This made the reader feel bored while reading this novel.

The novel has a many costumer review on Amazon.com because there are 2.8 million copies of the novel. At the end of 1996, *The Runaway Jury* was number ten on the list of the top ten bestsellers of the decade. The novel becomes the number one bestseller in Publisher's Weekly for seven weeks in June and July of 1996. At the end of 1996, estimated that Grisham's income was 30 million.

Researcher chooses the novel because this novel is the top ten bestsellers of the decade. According to the researcher, this novel has a point of interest in terms of structural elements, point of view, theme, plot, and moral message is very interesting.

Structural elements on this novel are strong. This novel has a strong character and characterization. For the setting, The setting is set in Biloxi, Mississippi in the mid-1990s, and is yet another lawsuit against the tobacco companies. Grisham makes the plot seem predictable, which makes the twists at the end even more effective and shocking to the readers.

The story is told by an omniscient third person who facilitates the many different plot lines that run through the novel. The narrator effectively relays the thoughts and feelings of all the characters, making us feel as though we are seeing things through their eyes. This also gives us insight into where the plot may be going and there are many times where the reader knows more than the characters do.

Theme in novel *The Runaway Jury* has inspiring moral value. The theme is about how and fraud trial in America. The novel tells a story between the two parties that want to resolve a case through trial. One of the parties cheats in order to win a court case. This novel has a very strong political value. Besides getting the story from novel content, readers also get knowledge about the trial in the America.

Plot in the novel *The Runaway Jury* is forward. This novel tells the story about the trial started issues, then when the last conflict happens and

also tells the outcome of the trial. So the plot is easy to understand by the readers.

This novel also has a capitalistic ideology. Capitalistic influences people's lives. A capitalistic control is conducted by a party who is able to and has everything to win, while those who do not have it will be threatened and difficult to win a case. Because capitalistic is dominated by someone who has everything. This novel also has similarities in that regard. When the party and the fitch fight a poor widow.

This novel has a strong moral message about world of politics. Based on the various conspiracies in trials in this novel, about the fraud done by the Fitch and groups. It can be concluded that in the world of politics, the courts are not always fair. Therefore, the researcher tries to analyze political problems in novel entitled *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham with title: COURT CONSPIRACY IN CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY IN JOHN GIRSHAM'S *THE RUNAWAY JURY* (1996): A MARXIST CRITICISM.

B. Literature Review

As long as the writer knows, the writer cannot make the comparison with the other researcher. There are many students of Department of English Education who have ever studied the Marxist Critiscism as a research approach, but *The Runaway Jury* is never studied by the students of Department English Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

The writer proposes the major problem with research question “how court conspiracy in capitalistic society is reflected in John Girsham’s *The Runaway Jury* (1996)?”

The problem of the study is then dissected further into the following research questions:

1. How is court conspiracy in capitalistic society elaborated in John Girsham’s *The Runaway Jury* (1996)?
2. How is John Girsham’s *The Runaway Jury* (1996) related to the American society at the end of the 20th century?
3. What is the dominated issues of the John Girsham’s *The Runaway Jury* (1996)?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this proposal research, the writer focuses on analysing the court conspiracy in capitalistic society based on a Marxist Criticism in the major character in the novel *The Runaway Jury* (1996) by John Girsham.

E. Objectives of the Study

According to the problem statement above, the writer has some objectives of this study as follows:

1. To analyze the court conspiracy in capitalistic society in the novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham based on structural elements by finding character and characterization, setting, plot, style, and theme.

2. To analyze novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham based on Marxist Criticism.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows :

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contribution to the large body of knowledge, especially the literary study on novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham based on Marxist Criticism.

2. Practical Benefit

This study to expected to improve the researcher's understanding especially in Marxist Criticism in literature.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The research about this novel belongs to qualitative research, because it does not need statistic to explore the fact. Qualitative research is a type of research that does not include calculation and enumeration.

2. The object of the study

The object of the study is the novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham.

3. Type of the data and the data source

a. Type of data

Textual data that consist of word, phrase, and sentences on the novel.

b. Data source

Type of data source in this research are classified in two categories:

1) Primary data

The primary data of the study is novel *The Runaway Jury* by John Girsham.

2) Secondary data

The secondary data source consist of material about Marxist Criticism and theory of literary book which dealing with the research.

4. Tecnique of collecting data

The method use in this study is library research. The tecnique of the collecting data procedure applied in this research are as follow :

Text :

- a. Searching the novel from internet.
- b. Reading the novel.
- c. Reading the novel again to get more understanding.
- d. Making easy interpretation about the novel.
- e. Classifying data according to categories of element of literary study.
- f. Selecting the relevant sources.

5. Tecnique of analyzing data

The tecnique of the analyzing data in this study is using the descriptive analysis that is started from the structural elements of the novel and finally Marxist Criticism analysis of the novel.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “Court Conspiracy in Capitalistic Society in John Girsham’s *The Runaway Jury*: Marxist Criticism’ is as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents the notion of Marxism criticism, Marxism issues, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. Chapter III deals with social background of great britain at the turn of century. Chapter IV deals with the structural analysis of the novel, which involves the narratives elements, technical elements, and discussion. Chapter V presents the Marxist analysis of *The Runaway Jury* (1996). Chapter VI presents Conclusion and Suggestion.