

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The White Queen is a historical novel written by British novelist Philippa Gregory. It was first published on 18 August 2009. This novel was published by Simon & Schuster Books. The series of the novel is *The Cousins' War*. There are 664 pages and 46 chapters. This novel was published in United Kingdom (UK).

Philippa Gregory was born on 9 January 1954 in Nairobi, Kenya, the second daughter of Elaine (Wedd) and Arthur Percy Gregory, a radio operator and navigator for East African Airways. When she was two years old, her family moved to Bristol, England. She was a "rebel" at Colston's Girls' School where she was obtained a B grade in English and two E grades in History and Geography at A-level. She then went to journalism collage in Cardiff and spent a year as an apprentice with the *Portsmouth News* before she managed to gain a place on an English literature degree course at the University of Sussex, where she switched to a history course. She worked in BBC radio for two years before attending the University of Edinburgh, where she earned her doctorate in 18th-century literature. Gregory has taught at the University of Durham, University of Teesside, and the Open University, and was made a Fellow of Kingston University in 1994.

Gregory has published a series of books about the Plantagenets, the ruling houses that preceded the Tudors, and the Wars of the Roses. Her first book *The*

White Queen, published in 2009, centre on the life of Elizabeth Woodville the wife of Edward IV. *The Red Queen*, published in 2010, is about Margaret Beaufort the mother of Henry VII and grandmother to Henry VIII (<http://www.philippagregory.com>).

This novel tells a life of Elizabeth Woodville, wife and queen of King Edward IV and her work in the political and government in the England. She is a poor widow. The story began in spring 1464, when the Cousin' War happened in England, or famous with The War of Roses, between Lancaster family and York family. Elizabeth Woodville was twenty seven years old, and a widow. She and her sons from the ex-husband, Thomas and Richard, wanted to meet with the young King Edward of York. Elizabeth, newly widowed, comes to Edward with a financial plea - but ends up getting more than money in return. Nobody expected Edward would fall in love to Elizabeth. Actually, he married Elizabeth, who is a poor widow. Elizabeth and Edward have secretly married for love, and he get a wont York of Lancaster, Edward IV made Elizabeth as a Queen of England.

Elizabeth must pay more expensive for her ambition to give influence of her family (Rivers family) in the England Monarchy. It begins when her father and her brother died. Luckily, Elizabeth has her mother, Jacquetta, who supported her. Edward got a difficulty to survive of the pressure from Warwick who got support from Margareth from Anjou, wife of King Henry VI. Edward was scared because he would lose and Elizabeth gave suggest that he would win. It showed that Elizabeth and Edward really love each other, they married within love.

Finally, Edward IV won from Lancaster family and believed that York family had absolutely power, but it also had many danger. The danger came from his two brothers, George, Duke of Glochester and Richard. Anthony Woodville, Elizabeth's brother was a good person. After Elizabeth got their first son, Edward, Prince of Wales, George has no more chance to get position of king. He did everything to get the position. He judged Elizabeth as a magician, and he also judged her brother Edward not a son of her mother. Although Edward IV loved him very much, he must be fear as a King and he must give punishment for his brother. Finally, George died with the embarrassment and in a tragic way.

When England was peaceful without danger of war, at April 1483, Elizabeth was sad that his husband, Edward IV, died. At this time, the war would be a danger. Elizabeth planned to give her son that position, Prince Edward of Wales a king. But it was rejected by her brother in law, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

Conflict of interest in our life cannot be left because we always interrelated with others. Essentially, interest does not only make conflict but also influence attitude to each other. Although in our life, interest more often makes conflict than convergence. It can be seen from the government system in England. In the king election, there is one person who can be a king. They are king's family and generation of king. They will do anything to be the king. If they fail to be a king, they will try the other ways to make their rival fall.

Pro-Rader opinions of *The White Queen* novel are Andrea Morabito and Pareka. Andrea Morabito (2013) said "That may begin to change, however, as

cable networks look for the next creative jump-start, and its appeal to women viewers. Starz CEO Chris Albrecht said female appeal was one reason for picking up the network's newest drama, *The White Queen*, based on Philippa Gregory's book about England's War of the Roses. Along with *White Queen*, there are other female-friendly projects in the premium cable pipeline”. This statement showed that Andrea Morabito like the story of *The White Queen* novel (<http://search.proquest.com/docview/1426801559?accountid=34598>). The other is by Pareka (June 8th, 2010) “I have a confession to make: I've been known to read trashy books. Now, this isn't something that I like to shout from the rooftops, but if you spent your days reading Chaucer, you would unwind with something less cerebral too. I've done the romance novel thing, but the formula becomes grating after a while. So, my most turned to brainless literature is mediocre historical fiction.” The argument showed that Pareka excited with the story of *The White Queen* novel by Philippa Gregory (http://www.pajiba.com/book_reviews/book-review-the-white-queen-by-philippa-gregory.php).

Contra-reader opinions of *The White Queen* novel are Jonathan W. Thomas and Mvthebookbabe. The first argument by Jonathan W. Thomas (2013) “I'm annoyed that this is a thoroughly British story”. Based on two arguments by Sarah and Jonathan, the arguments showed that they didn't agree about *The White Queen* (<http://www.google.reader-reviews-what-you-thought-of-the-white-queen.htm>). The other is by Mvthebookbabe (August 17th, 2013) “This sounds like

an interesting read. I might try it. Awesome review, girly! I'm sorry that you didn't find this one as plausible as the Tudors' series, though.” (<http://www.allfantasyworlds.com/2013/08/book-review-white-queen-by-philippa.html>).

There are four reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this novel; the first reason is because the writer wants to know the character and characterization of the novel. Many people want to get the high position in England. In this novel the writer wants to explore the character of a queen who has big ambition of power in the England.

The second reason is because it is a truthful novel. It tells about the struggle of a woman who wants to give her influence in England, so the writer wants to know the plot of *The White Queen* novel.

The third reason is because the writer wants to analyze the grammatical language which used in *The White Queen* novel. The style of novel is very interesting.

The fourth reason is conflict of interest that becomes major issue of the novel is reflected in a good way. Every people have an interest. But they use public interest to get their interest.

The writer uses the Marxist Literary Criticism as an approach to explore this novel, because the story of the novel is about the public interest and individual interest which relates to the conflict of interest. So, the writer presents the title:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN PHILIPPA GREGORY'S *THE WHITE QUEEN* (2009): A MARXIST LITERARY CRITICISM

B. Literature Review

There is no literature review associated to *The White Queen* novel by Philippa Gregory at last among university in Central Java such as UMS. So the writer cannot measure up to the other's research because it is the first study of *The White Queen* novel. The writer applies Marxist Literary Criticism to explore the data and uses *The White Queen* as an object. The writer cannot find the linked research because the data source is the newest novel at 2009. So the writer cannot measure up to the others research because it is the first study of *The White Queen*.

C. Problem Statement

The main problem of the study is "How the conflicts of interest reflected in Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* based on Marxist Literary Criticism."

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer concentrates this research in analyzing conflict of interest reflected in Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* based on a Marxist Literary Criticism.

E. Objectives of the Study

In taking this research the writers creates the objectives of the study as follow are:

1. To describe *The White Queen*. The writer concentrates this research in analyzing conflict of interest reflected in Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* based on a Marxist Literary Criticism.
2. To analyze conflict of interest reflected in *The White Queen* derived from a Marxist Literary Criticism.

F. Benefits of the Study

The writer really expects that her research on *The White Queen* has benefits.

There are two benefits of this study which will be recognized:

1. Theoretical benefits

The product of this study is expected to be able to give contribution and information to the growth of the knowledge, and to be used as academic reference by the other researchers to conduct further research and principally the literary studies on *The White Queen* novel.

2. Practical benefits

The study is expected to develop knowledge and experience of the writer on how to use literary study on the novel from a Marxist Literary Criticism.

G. Research Method

In the research, the writer uses library research by using restrictively qualitative method. In this research, the writer has some steps as follows:

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is conflict of interest reflected in *The White Queen* by Philippa Gregory. It was analyzed by using a Marxist Literary Criticism.

2. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two data sources that have to do with this research, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources.

a. Primary data sources

The primary data source is *The White Queen* by Philippa Gregory. The data follow structural elements of the novel.

b. Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources are the biography of the author, the historical background of France, the Marxist theory books and other relevant information that are related to the study and also website about *The White Queen* novel.

3. Technique of Data Collection

The methods of collecting data is note taking, with the steps are:

- a. Reading the novel.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed
- c. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data sources.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.

- e. Looking for books to search any information that relates with the novel such as novel's subtitles, identity, response of the reader, etc.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural elements of the novel on conflict of interest reflected in *The White Queen* by Philippa Gregory and the Marxist Literary Criticism.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of "Conflict of Interest in Arlene Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen*" 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 nature of Marxism, The major principle of Marxism, the notion of conflict of interest, Structural Elements of the novel and Theoretical Application. Chapter III deals with social historical background of England in early twenty first-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 Literary Criticism analysis. Chapter VI presents Conclusion and Suggestion.