

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Research

Shattuck in his book entitled *Freedom on Fire Human Rights Wars and America's Responds* (2003: 222) stated, "On June 4, beginning in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and continuing in cities around the country, the Chinese army killed thousands of unarmed Chinese citizens who were peacefully demonstrating for democracy." Fukuyama as cited by Shattuck (2003: 222) explained, "In cities throughout China, tens of thousands of workers, students, and intellectuals who were guilty of nothing more than engaging in basic forms of political expression were rounded up and sent off to prison, or in some cases, summarily executed." Zhou (2005: 110) also explains:

The United States accused the Chinese government of religious persecution, destroying Tibet's cultural heritage, intentionally moving immigrants to the region, encouraging abortion and sterilization of Tibetan women, restricting Tibetan population growth, and suppressing Tibetan freedom of speech and freedom of association

According to the quotations above, it can be stated that People's Republic of China became a remarkable country related to human rights problems. China which employed Communist ideology had implemented an authority system to its society. This condition had got a special

attention to some Western countries and United States of America as the front liner in blowing the existence of human rights to the world.

God has created human being with the different characteristics whether physic or physically. The need to each other had created interactions in the daily life. So, all human beings are called social creatures. They could not live alone without others. Each individual has distinguished characteristics and the way of thinking. They were created by God completed with privilege that made them different from another creatures like plants and animals.

All human beings are unique and this condition must be respected. But, in some countries the employing of a rigid system had put aside and responded lack attention to it. As the result, the arbitrary treatments became the consequence for them. The persecution, torturing, war, discrimination, massacre and genocide are still occurred in some regions in the world for centuries ago in some regions in the world.

The humanity tragedies which emerged in the world had driven some important figures to have the more attention to important meaning of human rights. In December, 10<sup>th</sup> 1948, leading by President Roosevelt's widow, Eleanor Roosevelt and friends an important document had been declared. It's named *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which finally became a patronage of human's freedom and rights. This rule guaranteed

each individual liberty. Everyone had the right to act, express, and think based on their conscience.

*Daughter of China* was written by C. Hope Flinchbaugh in 2002. This novel had impressed some readers about the author's skill of playing the reader's emotion through the words, sentence, and paragraphs which she combined. Taking the situation in China, she was successfully brought the readers to imagine the dangerous and beating situation in a region where the human rights existence was regardless. It was her first fiction novel, and then followed by the next titles such as *Across the China Sky* and *I'll Cross the River*. She was distinguished in writing the themes of social problems related to human rights, children and women abuses, religion, and states. *Daughter of China* had brought the readers into the critical thoughts of the essential meaning of human rights for human beings.

*Dandy Daley Mackall, a co- author of Kids Are Still Saying the Dandiest Things said, "Daughter of China* is a striking first novel on many levels. Deeply imagined characters lead the reader through page- turning drama". The other testimony outlined by Tom White, a director of *The Voice of the Martyrs*. He stated," To understand the heartbeat of the Chinese church you must read this book." Those testimonies showed that the author was in a great skill in combining her ideas and the words so the reader could feel the real heart beating of the story within the novel.

Besides that, it could be said that *Daughter of China* was a countable novel because of its spotlight toward humanity problems which was still existed in a modern era.

The story began with Kwan Mei Lin, an eighteen year old girl who walked along the dark night through sugarcane to attend the hidden weekly house church meeting in a cow shed. It was forbidden and dangerous to be a Christian in China with its communism view. Mei Lin was Kwan Son's only daughter, her mother passed away when she was a child. At first, she only knew that her mother was died because she was sick, but her perception was changed since Amah, her lovely grandmother accidentally told the true story. Her mother was died because she was caught as a Christian by *Public Security Bureau* (PSB). She was tortured and imprisoned. Mei Lin lived in Tanching village with her father and grandmother who was a faithful Buddhist.

Kwan Mei Lin was a smart girl. She was the only daughter of Kwan So. Although Mei Lin lived in a village live, she had the modern thinking and passion which were rarely owned by most of the girls in China at that time. She had a dream to reach her big dream by continuing her study in Shanghai University after graduating from Tanching Senior High School. She did not want to spent the rest of her life only in Tanching village and take care of the rice paddies and the sugarcane. She wanted to have a better life with the good welfare.

Her belief as Christian could bring her into a dangerous zone anytime. One of the bad effects was the risk to her future career. If Mei Lin's faith was known by others especially the government she would be imprisoned and lost her chance to have an occasion to study in Shanghai University. She also would be labelled as a counterrevolutionary. She had a Christian close friend. He was Pastor Chen's son; the leader of house church meeting in Stanching village, his name was Chen Liko. He was also eighteen years old like Mei Lin. He often shared every ideas and advices to Mei Lin about everything.

One day, there was an issue that the house church meeting was detected by Public Security Bureau. The house church members were so anxious and worry every time when they did their worshiping activity. However, their faith of being Christian had encouraged them to continue the religious activities such as having the meeting, praying together, listening, learning and sharing their religious experience from every confession delivered by each member.

Their anxiety and worry came into a reality. When they gathered in house church meeting, the cadres of PSB suddenly came. Pastor Chen was interrogated, beaten, dragged and sent into the prison by them. The other members were also labelled as distinguished people because their religious activities were still done regularly. The worst consequence also emerged to Pastor Chen's family. It was especially for Liko's future and

dream to continue his study to WuMa Medical College. His big dream as a doctor might be failed because of the case which happened to his father. It was added by his father crucial position his father as a Christian leader of Tanching house church meeting. Luckily, Mei Lin and her father were safe in that poor tragedy.

The beating story also reflected when on the way to go to house church meeting, Liko and Mei Lin met a woman in the darkness. She was a sixth pregnant woman with her dirty clothes and the anxious face. Her name was Liu An. She was a nurse. She ran from Du Yan village because she was spied by the Women's Federation. They would take her to the county hospital and force her to abort the baby because she was identified in her second pregnancy.

Then, in the muddy and dirty condition, they carried Liu An to stay in Mei Lin's house. Amah and Mei Lin's father welcomed her as if she were a relative. In return, she practically stumbled over help trying to be helpful. Liu An's existence in their house reminded Amah of Mei Lin's fortune to be born safely. Since the One Child Law, most parents do not keep their baby girl. The sadness story was happened to Mei Lin's aunt, Te who begged to her husband to save their baby. The poor infant was born and put inside the jar and crying her last breath. Te lost her mind after being forced to lost the baby. But, the lucky thing happened to her because she could bear a baby boy in her second pregnancy. Most

Chinese kept their new-born sons because by tradition the boy would take care of the parents in their old age. Baby girls were mostly aborted, killed or abandoned. It was a China old tradition which were still exist among Chinese citizen.

In this novel, it can be seen that the conflict of choosing the religion became the most remarkable point. After the tragedy, the Chen's family was labelled as contra revolutionary. The attack from PSB cadres was continued to Liko and Mrs Chen. They were forced to pass out from their house, embarrassed and announced as the examples of the bad elements because of their belief as Christians. It became a special warning for Mei Lin had to be careful for avoiding the risks that might be happened to her in the unpredictable time. Pastor Chen's family became the black list for the country.

The novel clearly reflected how powerful the cadre's position which in this case as the representative of the government was. It was Cadre Fang who asked Mei Lin to get married with her. His powerful position as the cadre of PSB had encouraged his confidence to state marriage proposal to Mei Lin who was still her teenager age. Mei Lin was obviously rejected it although he promised her with the abundant properties and welfare. There was an assumption that it was the uncommon thing that most of Chinese women were getting married because of love. It was luck for them to get and find love after marriage.

Their marriages were arranged for procreation, parenthood, and financial security. Of course, this view was contradictive to Mei Lin who had different perspective. She believed that her education level and a great career were more important than the cadres' sweet promises. She believed that the education was an important point which could save her from the poverty problem in the future.

One day, Mei Lin's careless action at school had driven her into the gate of the poor fate. Professor Jiang, her teacher of Political class accidentally knew Mei Lin's gesture of Christian way of worshipping. She was so afraid and anxious. She thought that it was the end of her life and dream. Both of them were involved in a conversation. In order to be safe, she pretended that she was still loyal to the Communist party and did not want to replay that action anymore. But her Professor had given her the warning and a terror that might happen to her anytime.

After she came back from school, she told that urgent situation to her father. Suddenly the worst thing happened. Some cadres of PSB, including Cadre Fang, came to their house. They interrogated Mei Lin and her father about their treason to the communist party by involving the western belief in their daily life. In a difficult condition, Mei Lin finally outlined her brave of being faithful to Jesus and confessed him as her God; she could not leave her belief, and she declared that she was a faithful Christian. She also refused to leave the faith. Her statement was



like a thunderstorm for the cadres. The cadres directly caught her doubtless. They arrested, beat, tortured, and finally imprisoned her. She was brought out of her house with her full body injured. She lost her consciousness for a while.

She woke up with the dried blood in some parts of her weak body. She was at the dark, cold, dirty, and small room. She was in Shanghai Prison. The condition became worst because she was put in the ironical condition. There were rats everywhere, the smell of human's waste and the rats also fulfilled that small room. She was alone and did not know where she was actually. The PSB's cadres had laid her in a poor condition. She was starved and thirsty. She was only given the less nutrition food, like *kaoliang*, a kind of a coarse Chinese sorghum. Sometimes she was also given a rice bowl with sand in it. In her loneliness, she contemplated about her condition. She only could cry, scream and shout realizing her condition. Her faith had brought her into a dilemmatic situation. Her faith to Jesus had jeopardized her. Little by little, she remembered about her father and Amah. She was anxious about her lovely family's fate after the tragedy.

The living in a prison was not easy. But, as the powerless citizen she could not do anything except being given up about her condition. In that little hell; she was still interrogated. She had been asked for many times by the warden to convince her sins against the state. She was

forced to simply write a confession of her sins and did not have longer believed in Jesus Christ. But, she was still in her belief in her lovely Lord. Handling this condition, the wardens sent never ending mocking to her.

At the same time she had to be ready for losing her dream to continue her study at Shanghai University. She had to sacrifice her future dream as a teacher. There would be no university that registers someone who was labelled as a counterrevolutionary with a prison record. But, in this condition she preferred to be faith in Jesus. There was the indescribable of enjoyment for being Christian inside her soul.

Mei Lin's love of Christian did not stop although she was hurtled physically and psychologically. She thought that it would be a valuable occasion for her to have her own ministry spreading out the meaning of Jesus' love to the other prisoners. She had a brilliant idea about her intention. At first, she begged the warden permission to clean up the other rooms of the jail. After having the allowance; she pretended to have willingness to clean up the other prisoners' rooms. So, she could freely do her actions. She met some men in their weak and dirty condition. She finally could do her mission well. Unfortunately, her honour mission was known by the warden. The head of the warden was so angry with her. He also yelled the words that humiliated Mei Lin's God. The next day, the other warden was found in his death body. This situation was concerned as the odd to the other wardens. They thought

that it was regarded because of his words that dedicated to Mei Lin and her God had brought him into the misfortune. They felt so afraid if Mei Lin was still there, the bad fate would happen to them. Then, they decided to release her. A miraculous thing was happened to her.

When Mei Lin was released from Shanghai prison, she did not know the exact location she was standing. Then she walked along the path of the street. She saw the strange view that she'd never seen before. Big building of the shops and mall which were standing faced the blue skies. She was also upset with the people fashion with the skirt, sporty shoes, t- shirt, and jeans. She was worried if those were looking at her with the big questions because of her appearance.

Then, on her amazing feeling about Shanghai, she met an old woman named Deng Su, usually called by Mother Su. Mei Lin also told to her about Jesus. It seems that Mother Su welcomed to every single of Mei Lin's word. Mother Su gave the address of her apartment building. She also advised her to go there by herself in order not to be caught any curiosity by the police. There was also Sun Chang, Mother Su's daughter. Mei Lin was welcome and taken care in their apartment. It's luck for her that she could get the miracle meeting with the kind family. They treated her as if she were a relative. She was given the nutritious food and the comfort place to recover their painful body. They shared everything until there was the upset thing known.

In her leisure time, she walked down through the city. She enjoyed the city atmosphere until she met a nine year old little boy named Yatou. But, finally she was known as a little girl. She pretended to be a boy because it was a dangerous thing to be identified by others. She was in starving because she had not eaten for three days. Her parents and her grandmother were passed away and she was also homeless. It made Mei Lin was upset. She decided to go back to the apartment taking some foods. She was so afraid of being arrested. She was asked by Mei Lin to stay together in Mother Su's apartment if she was permitted. Luckily, Mother Su welcomed her well. But, it did not happen to Chang. She was in worried because it might be too risky to bring Yatou to their apartment. This condition did not happen too long. Chang finally could follow her mom's perspective to take care of Yatou.

Based on Yatou's sharing experiences she got the bad treatment in Shanghai Orphanage. She ran away and afraid of being arrested. Most of the children there were oppressed. They did not have chance to enjoy their rights. It especially happened to the girls. They had to pretend that they were boys. So, it was only a dream for her to have long hair. The orphanage workers made them get their hair shaved off every month or two, and all the girls hated to have bald heads. Mother Su, Chang, and Mei Lin really knew this condition. So, they also made up Yatou became more tidy looking in the boyish fashion. At that time, Yatou wanted to

change her name into Kwan Zhu. Kwan became a symbol that they were sisters.

The meeting with Brother Tom had brought her into a lucky fate. He was a domestic people with his Christian religion. But, he was carefully hid it from the other people. He was so kind and smart man. He was really excited to meet the other faithful Christian. He was so welcomed to Mei Lin. He gave her two Bibles. Since that day, Mei Lin became more optimistic that the beautiful fate would close to her.

Being separated from her lovely family had made Mei Lin thought to go back to Tanching. She planned to look for a job in order to fund her way back home. Luckily for her that on her way with Kwan Zhu (Yatou), they met Brother Tom with the good news for them. He brought an envelope with two train tickets and some money in it. It was like a miracle for Mei Lin that everything was happened so quickly. Brother Tom had a great planning for them. He planned it with the good preparation. He planned some brilliant ideas, so there would be no one who would saw them in strange perception. So, they would have the safe trip.

Finally, the train arrived in WuMa train station. They met Pastor Wong. After having the rest time for a while, they continued the planning to meet Zhu in the orphanage. They saw filthy condition that every room was in very bad condition. The most orphanages were infant baby girls but there were also some boys too. There were shabby, dimly lit room

that raked of urine and faeces. There were four rows of rusty cribs and cots, with four to five infant girls crammed in each one, crying on their own waste. There were also the babies who grabbed their bottles, ate lustily, and incapable of holding their own bottles.

Then, they could find Zhu in the other door. He was founded in a very sick condition. He had contracted pneumonia. He'd been unconscious for several days. Yatou needed few times to wake him up because of his weak body. In the deep on her heart, she was crying but she tried to strength him. She did preaching and let him to believe in Jesus. Zhu finally could be a Christian in his last breath. Then, he passed away. The starvation problems were occurred to children in the orphanage, but in the other side there was the opportunity to give stocks of juice to the orphanage workers. It was an ironical situation that most of the children were in a malnourished condition.

The following days, they continued their trip to Tanching village. It was the moment which was waited by Mei Lin. She could hug Amah and her father tightly. There was different condition of Mei Lin that she looked skinnier than as usual. The more happy moment was when Mei Lin could meet Li Ko. They had beautiful promise to be a couple and there would be a beautiful marriage under Jesus love as the faithful Christians. The story ends with the consistence of the Christians figures to keep the faith to Jesus Christ as the Salvation.

The novel had the special characteristics of raising phenomena within society. It exposed about the persecuted rights of people's life aspects in the modern era at the end of the twentieth century. The author did not only combine the human rights' problems but also her special religious intention of evangelical mission. This situation was happened as the effect of the author's social background which was related to her more attention to the problems about state, human rights, children, and religion.

For years, People's Republic of China had been popular with human rights problems. This problem got more attention from western countries including United States of America. But, China government always had the ways to overcome this interpretation. Wan (2001: 8) stated,

"Since the mid 1990's, human rights in China had settled in as a more diplomatic issue with the United States. While human rights remains on issue between Chinese and Western governments as a result of domestic pressure in the West, Beijing has succeeded in marginalizing human rights disputes in its official relations with the west. While insisting on a vigorous stance on human rights in China, the U.S government now sees human rights as only one of a whole series of issues in China."

China pulled the world's attention by the Tiananmen Square tragedy in 1989. This crackdown had signed that human rights in China was fragile since it was reported in media. This tragedy was an unforgettable moment because thousands of demonstrators consist of students was shot brutally by the Chinese troops. This tragedy had got

the hard warning from the western countries because it could be considered as human rights violation. Those demonstrators had claimed that democracy have to be employed in that country.

There are several reasons why the writer of this thesis recommended C. Hope Flinchbaugh's novel *Daughter of China*. First, the novel exposed two powerful countries in the world with the different views. They are United States of America and People's Republic of China. Second, it was an interesting thing that the novel's author is an American but she has the more exposition of the other country like China. Third, the author had more attention to the human rights violation problems and criticized them into the interesting language and plot. Fourth, there was another finding within the novel. It was the author's evangelical mission which was implicitly conveyed by the author

Evangelism is the action to spread out Christian belief to others in order to have the deeper understanding about Jesus' salvation. Evangelicals became the centre part of conducting these messages. The existence of evangelicalism had coloured the situation of United States president election at the late of the twentieth century. As the increasing of the religious society supported by the appearance of President George Walker Bush at the early era of millennium as the United States leader which had been backed by the ballots of evangelicals. He assigned some professional people who were prominent to their religious background to



be the leader of some ministries. In the era of President George Walker Bush, the religious right became on the top rank among American society. He also had the more concerned to the more attention to some social needs dedicated to his society.

Based on the explanation above, the writer constructs the title of this thesis as "CRITICISM AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN C. HOPE FLINCHBAUGH'S NOVEL *DAUGHTER OF CHINA* (2002)"

#### B. Problems Statements

The problems statements of the research are:

1. How is social context of Daughter of China?
2. How is the criticism of the author against the violations of human rights?
3. How is the author's evangelical mission?

#### C. Limitation of the Research

Recognizing the discussion area, the writer of the thesis focuses on the analysis into two main parts. The first is about human rights violations and the second is evangelical mission which conveyed implicitly by the author.

In advance, the writer of this thesis will focus on the problems of human rights violations reflected in the novel. Then, she will continue to

describe social context of People's Republic of China and United States of America's at the end of the twentieth century in terms of social, politic, economic, knowledge and technology development, cultural and religious aspects. After understanding the social background, she will analyse the human rights violations which were portrayed in the novel. Next, this research will be continued by the analysis of the author's voice against human rights violations.

Second, the other finding within the novel. It was about evangelical mission proposed by the author because of her more attention about religious problem in China society.

#### D. Objectives of the Research

The Objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To describe social context of Daughter of China,
2. To identify the criticism of the author against the violation of human rights,
3. To reveal the author's evangelical mission.

#### E. Benefits of the Research

The benefits of this research are categorized into theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this research can give more contribution in understanding about the social context of Daughter of China, the

criticism of the author against the violation of human rights, and the author's evangelical mission. First, the writer of the thesis will elaborate the background of the novel which deals with the social context of People's Republic of China and United States of America at the end of the twenty century. It will be very important for the readers to have more beneficial understanding about the social condition in United States of America and China. Besides that it can give the other understanding about the social relation between the literary work and a current social background.

Second, she also will elaborate the point of human rights. It will be an important thing for the readers to understand about the notion of human rights, historical development of human rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), classification of human rights, conceptual development of human rights, and human rights violations. There will be some beneficial information about the kinds of human rights violations which were reflected within the novel.

Third, she will investigate about the characteristics evangelical mission reflected in the novel. It will be beneficial for the readers to have more additional knowledge about the difference between evangelicalism and evangelical. The next information will be evangelical mission which was implicitly conveyed by the author.

Next, this research will practically give some additional information to the next researchers who are interested in having the literary research to recommend C. Hope Flinchbaugh novels to be investigated. Besides that, it is hoped that this research can inspire the readers to have more enthusiasm in investigating and developing literary research.

#### F. Thesis Organization

In order to give brief explanation of this research, this thesis is divided into seven chapters.

Chapter I elaborates the Introduction. It consists of background of the research, problem statements, limitation of the research, objective of the research, benefits of the research, and thesis organization.

Chapter II defines Literature Review which consists of the review of Previous Studies. Then it will be continued by the explanation of the sociology of literature. After that, there will be the explanation of the notion of human rights. This part consists of the notion of human rights, historical development of human rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, classification of human rights, conceptual development of human rights, and human rights violation. The next exposition will be the author's social background and evangelical mission.

Chapter III deals with Research Methodology. It consists of types of the research, object of the research, type of the data and data source, technique of the data collection, and technique of the data analysis.

Chapter IV describes the social context of United States of America and People's Republic of China at the end of the twenty century which elaborates in social, economic, politic, knowledge and technology development, cultural, and religious aspects.

Chapter V explores portrait of human rights violations in the novel. Chapter VI explores the voices of the author. This chapter will be divided into two major points. They are the author's critics or voice about human rights violations and the evangelical mission.

Chapter VII outlines the conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication of this thesis.