

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Reading novel is simply activity because we can read when we want and make us fun. Novel is an invented story in prose, long enough to fill a complete book. We can learn human experience of the author by studying the novel. We can't enjoy reading the novel unless we comprehend what the author wants in transferring the idea, so we should have more imagination if we want to know the idea of the author. Novel, one of literary genres, allows the readers to enjoy the goal and imagination of the writer.

By reading literary we can learn about the other culture from different countries in the world. Every country in the world has culture and custom that different than the others, but could be the same depending the clump. The cultures and custom in Indonesia are so different the culture and custom from England, so we can learn the culture and custom from both countries.

Culture has a big correlation with literature as a sociological issue because literature is written which talks about society and how people interact with each other. Literary works use sociological approach through the relationship among the characters, to know how they interact, and respect each other in the society although they come from different societies.

Sociology is relevant to the life issue because it deals with people in society and has a goal of understanding human society, human beings and their lives. Sociology has a wide range of society and social behavior that includes culture, family, gender, ethnic, politic, population, and also religion.

Ignorance is state of being uninformed (lack of knowledge). In this social life, ignorance is a wrong understanding on the concept. In the social life of ignorance arises because the ideas or values that are embedded long ago. In religion and social values sometimes occurs a perception that may be mistaken for believing the understanding given to us or just respect the culture. Example in the social life, when we're having an event recommended to us to make the ritual "slametan" that given the ease in the event. Whereas if we have faith in god we do not need it and to pray to Him. So, ignorance is happening in the social life of an understanding of embedded long ago that may be difficult to remove because of respect and to adhere to the understanding and has become a culture of the area.

*The Fall of the Imam* is a novel that was a very controversial and banned in many countries because it is considered insulting a religion. Written by Nawal El Saadawi, the author of the highly controversial over his works are known to be very idealistic and courageous. Nawal El Saadawi was born in October 27, 1931 in Kafr Tahla, Egypt, she is the second eldest of nine children. Her father was a government official in the Ministry of education, who had campaigned against the rule of the British occupation of Egypt and Sudan during the Egyptian Revolution of 1919. As a result he was exiled to a small town in Nile Delta and the

government punished him by not promoting him for 10 years. He also encourages her to study the Arabic language. Both her parents died at a young age leaving Saadawi with the sole burden of providing for a large family.

Saadawi began writing early in her career. Her earliest writings include a selection of short stories entitled *I Learned Love* (1957) and her first novel, *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor* (1958). She has since written numerous novels and short stories and a personal memoir, *Memoir from the Women's Prison* (1986). Saadawi has been published in a number of anthologies, and her work has been translated into over 20 languages.

In 1972, she published her first work of non-fiction, *Women and Sex*, which evoked the antagonism of highly placed political and theological authorities and led to a dismissal at the Ministry of Health. Other works include *The Hidden Face of Eve*, *God Dies by the Nile*, *The Circling Song*, *Searching*, *The Fall of the Imam* and *Woman at Point Zero*.

This novel tells the Imam (leader) in region that claims to be the representative of God on earth. He oppresses and deceives people in the name of God. It turns out that the Imam smell when the boy was being chased by police charged with murder. The Imam died very tragically for his own shot during the celebration of the independence of his country.

The Imam, who has foil legitimacy in religious issues, always uses God as a foundation and footing in determining the issues and interest, as well as personal interest. He had many religions interpret as they wish themselves. He said the Imam was a messenger of God equal to a prophet sent by God. What

was the decision is the decision is the decision of God and everything that prohibition is the prohibition of God too.

In the novel *The Fall of the Imam*, in fact the priest had a bad life, including some of the place, but the public does not know it. In view of the imam is the model that should always be obeyed his orders without any prejudice to protest and re-examine. Because, according to the Imam hell is manifestation of God manifested to the world by his servant, in the view of the people all the knowledge God has given to the priest to save his people from the torment of hell. Only the Imam, who knows all the events that will happen on this earth because he was given inspire by God.

In life behavior of the Imam is not in accordance with the advice he gave to the people. He told his people to throw all kinds of wine and liquor into the river, but on the court he drinks every night partying and drunk with officials. Almost every night, the Imam was always hanging out with a different woman. Even his wife did not just hang out with the priest but almost all the courtiers had intercourse empress the priest. Even before he came the priest once rapped a girl with his friends until the girl is pregnant.

For the Imam is a servant woman for men. Everything that men want must be followed and implemented. Errors are errors devil woman while mistakes men from God. A woman is just gratification for men lust if it is legal for disposal bored or given to someone else. Women should not be cheating or betrayal to the man because it was cursed by God but men will be betrayed or cheated because the men may has more than one woman.

Rottenness and ugliness of the priest began to appear when there is a girl who had no father and mother trying to find out where her father. According to the story of her mother and the man who had nurtured when she was at the orphanage that the properties owned by the same father as the properties that exist on the priest. The girl named Bint Allah.

Because felt they had no father, then Bint Allah regard themselves as God's daughter Isa Al Masih the son of God from Mother Mary. Since childhood, the woman Bint Allah is critical to the reality of life that experienced. She protested why men may be more than one wife while women cannot. She also disagreed with the attitude of a wife when her husband cheated in his wife just did not say anything accept what is. According to Bint Allah a lady if she can optimize her brain and mind in the sense that as women they should dare to criticize any politics and issues formulated by the patriarchy but bad impacts against women decision, although the decision is based on religious texts.

His manner was critical of the existing realities of life as well as her desire to know who his father actually delivers them to meet with the Imam. This attitude of the priest knows that Bint Allah is his daughter. However Bint Allah does not admit and accepts the priest as a father, because she did not want it father who is cruel act arbitrarily against women saw women as slaves and goods that can be traded. But finally Bint Allah killed the priest because she felt annoyed with his arbitrary twist religion lesson. Bint Allah was eventually sentence to death for killing the priest.

*The fall of the Imam* is interesting novel because there are three reasons why the writer is interest in studying this novel. First, the story is presenting religious conflict especially confused perception in the society about the essentiality of God. They are too easy doctrine by Imam because they haven't any knowledge about it before.

Second, this novel is not only the original idea but also make it controversial as a novel. Saadawi illustrates her opinion in the characters of her novel but in the same time she flicked us about the reality between us. Reading this novel the writer makes aware in surroundings.

Third, this novel presents a lot of social conflicts that in real life so close to us. Related to that, the writer interested in analyze based on sociological approach. That is why the writer intends to conduct a research of the novel with the title of research is “*The Ignorance of People to the Nature of God in Nawal El Saadawi’s novel The Fall of the Imam (1987): A Sociological Approach* “.

## **B. Literature Review**

The study on *The Fall of the Imam* novel has already been conducted in UMS, after looking for several literary reviews, the Write has found two researches about *The Fall of the Imam* novel that done by the other writers in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The first researcher is Nurul Hidayah (2010) *Imam’s Deviation In Nawal El Saadawi’s The Fall of the Imam Novel (1989): A Psychoanalytic Approach*. This research explored Imam's personality by using psychoanalytic perspective. The writer tried to tell about the system

personality that influences Imam to make the deviation.

Second researcher is Santoso (2011) *Freedom of Thought in the Fall of The Imam Novel By Nawal El Saadawi (1988): A Genetic Structuralism Approach*. This research discusses Saadawi's world view which present in *The Fall of the Imam* novel. The writer shows the novel it's of literary, the nature of author, and nature of society.

The similarity between this research and the previous researches is they focused on the same object, that in *The Fall of the Imam novel*. The different from the previous researches, this research focuses on the sociological aspects to analyze the problem.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Understanding that the problem is the most important part of research, the researcher analyzed the problem “How is the ignorance of people to the nature of God reflected in Nawal El Saadawi's *The Fall of the Imam* Novel (1987)?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focused this research in analyzing the ignorance of people the nature of God in *The Fall of the Imam* novel written by Nawal El Saadawi based on sociological approach.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To describe *The Fall of the Imam* novel based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze the ignorance of people to the nature of God in Nawal El Saadawi's *The Fall of the Imam* novel (1987) based on social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural, and religious aspects.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

In this study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *The Fall of the Imam* novel.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest with literary study on the novel.

### **G. Research Method**

The research method is divided into five points; they are type of the study, object of the study, type of the data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative study. It is a library research while data source are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the novel using a sociological approach.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is Nawal El Saadawi's novel *The Fall of the Imam*.

### **3. Type of the Data and Data Source**

This study, the writer uses two sources of data, namely primary and secondary data sources.

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data source is the novel itself, *The Fall of the Imam* by Nawal El Saadawi.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data such as the biography of the author, and website about *The Fall of the Imam*.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

In this research, the technique of data collection used library data. The data were collected from the books. Firstly, reading *The Fall of the Imam* novel repeatedly to identify and find the data needed for this research. Secondly, reading the related books to find out the relevant theory with the

issue. Thirdly, collecting the supported data with internet to find more information

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In the analyzing data, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative analysis. The analysis is started on the author and then the structural analysis of the novel and finally the individual analysis of the literature based on social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural, and religious aspects.

### **H. Paper Organization**

The writer organizes this research into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It covers the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory. It deals with the notion of sociological of literature, major principles, of sociological of literature, structure elements of the novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III determines to the historical background of the country in the novel. Chapter IV explains the structural elements of the story and discussion. Chapter V consist analysis which uses a sociological approach deals with the problem in the movie. Chapter VI consists of conclusion and suggestion.