

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As we know, some people still believe in superstition. Some of superstitions are reflected to belief in Gods or Soul. There are some countries in Asia that still belief in superstitions like Indonesia, Japan, China, and Thailand. In Indonesia, all of ethnic has their own belief in superstition. The first and the famous ethnic that believe in superstition is Javanese. Javanese people has so many superstition that they believe, such as *Wudunen*, some people said that when you get a blotch on your ass, that should be a curse because you've sitting on a pillow. Because pillow is essentially for your head, not for your ass. The other superstition that Javanese people believe is *Timbilen*, they said When one of your eyes get swollen or there's a blotch around your eye that caused so, it's because you have peeking something or someone stealthy. Javanese people also belief that When we got shit like there's a tiny lizard pooping above us and its shit had fallen on us, then maybe we are going to have a bad luck.

Beside Javanese, Sundanese also believes in superstitions. The first is superstition about marriage. Sundanese believe when you are married Javanese you will be miserable. The second is when you are pregnant when full moon, you should not hide under the table, it can cause your child will have a birthmark. The last is you do not have to eat from a mortar, because when you get married you will get married a widow or widower. The other ethnic in Indonesia that still believe in superstitions is a Melayu Taluk ethnic from Riau, they have believed that when you move around while eating, you will have many husbands. The other superstitions from Melayu Taluk is women should not be knocking on the table because it will get older husband .

The second country that still believe in superstition is Japan. Based on *popculture.knoji.com* there are so many popular superstitions in Japan. Most of these superstitions are intimately related with the culture and tradition of the Japanese people. Some of Japanese superstitions have close link with Chinese tradition. A major part of the Japanese superstitions are based on the ancient Japanese Pagan beliefs and animistic traditions in which living and natural things were considered to be endowed with some spirit. The first is sleeping with your head in the northern direction could mean that you will have a short life or you may die soon. The second is if you see a spider in the morning, it means good luck so you shouldn't kill it. If you see one at night, it means bad luck so you can kill it. The third superstition in Japanese is cutting your fingernails or toenails at night is bad luck. If you do so, it is believed that you will not be with your parents at their deathbed. The fourth is the first dream of a Japanese New Year will come true. and the last is 4 is unlucky because it is sometimes pronounced *shi*, which is the word for death.

The third country that belief in superstitions is China. Based on <http://www.chinatownconnection.com/> there are some superstition during chinese new year which are prevalent, such as on the midnight, every door and window in the chinese house has to be opened to allow the old year to go out. The other superstition that they believe is that if a dog howls for a few hours in late night, it means someone died somewhere. Another superstition of the Chinese is that building a house facing the North would bring in ruin to the family. And the popular superstition in China is they believe that the number 8 is a lucky number because the pronunciation of the number 'eight' and the pronunciation of the word for 'prosperity' in Chinese are similar. Hence, the number 8 has much value in the social life in China. So if a house number or the registration number of a car has the 8 as a number, people think it is a lucky sign. Often people pay big sum to win a number with 8 for their car.

The other country in Asian that also believe in superstition is Thailand. The first is superstition to single ladies, do not sing while cooking or eating, or you will end up with an old husband. The second is we will see a ghost if you bend down and look between your legs. The third is never say a baby is cute because a ghost will come and take it away. And the last is if you sneeze, it means someone is missing you or someone is talking about you (<http://learnthaiwithmod.com/>).

Not only in Asia, some western country also believe in Superstition, one of them is England. England has belief about something that makes them good luck or bad luck, like lucky to meet a black cat, lucky to touch wood, lucky to find a clover plant with four leaves. And something that they believe bring bad luck are the number of thirteen, unlucky to open an umbrella in the door, seven years bad luck to break a mirror, etc. American also has the same belief in superstition with England. They believe that seven is a lucky number, it is unlucky to walk under a ladder, Friday the 13th is an unlucky day, 13 is unlucky number.

Superstition is one of social phenomena. Scientific study that discuss about social phenomena is Sociology. Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. A dictionary defines sociology as the systematic study of society and social interaction. The word “sociology” is derived from the Latin word socius (companion) and the Greek word logos (study of), meaning “the study of companionship.” While this is a starting point for the discipline, sociology is actually much more complex. It uses many different methods to study a wide range of subject matter and to apply these studies to the real world. Sociologists study all aspects and levels of society. A society is a group of people whose members interact, reside in a definable area, and share a culture. A culture includes the group’s shared practices, values, and beliefs.

There are so many literary work that has discuss about social phenomena. Mark Twain is one of the writer who write the novel about social phenomena like racism, freedom, slavery, and superstitions. Mark

Twain was born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, Samuel L. Clemens is the real name of Mark Twain, which is Mark Twain is his pen name for several novels, including two major classics of American literature, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Mark Twain was not a mere humorist or entertainer of boys and girls but he was a social satirist . He wrote novels attacking the American society . His satire was based on the reflections of his private experience.

Superstition is one of social phenomena. Scientific study that discuss about social phenomena is Sociology. Literature has a tight relationship with sociology because both of them study about social phenomena. Sociology of literature is the fundamental concepts, principles, and methods of sociology that analyzes the influence of social culture and cultural factors upon human behavior, and evaluates effect of group processes, social classes, stratification, and basic institution on contemporary society. The relationship of literary work and sociology is distinct. Literature is something unique of the human life which organized as literary work and reflected from the daily life of human and society. The sociology is study about society and relationship of human social condition, culture and social structural. Literary work is made on phenomenon from the human life, society and social life.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is one of literary work that concept about social phenomena, mostly racism, freedom, slavery, and superstitions. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Fin* is a novel that is published in 1884. This novel consisting of 43 chapters and 366 pages. Perennially popular with readers, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has also been the continued object of study by literary critics since its publication. It was criticized upon release because of its coarse language and became even more controversial in the 20th century because of its perceived use of racial stereotypes and because of its frequent use of the racial slur "black people", despite strong arguments that the protagonist and the tenor of the book are anti-racist.

This novel tells us about the struggle to get freedom. The major characters of this novel are Huck Finn and Jim. Huck is a boy who comes from the lowest levels of white society. His father is a drunk and a ruffian who disappears for months on end. Huck himself is dirty and frequently homeless. Although the Widow Douglas attempts to “reform” Huck, he resists her attempts and maintains his independent ways. Jim, Huck’s companion as he travels down the river, is a man of remarkable intelligence and compassion. At first glance, Jim seems to be superstitious to the point of idiocy, but a careful reading of the time that Huck and Jim spend on Jackson’s Island reveals that Jim’s superstitions conceal a deep knowledge of the natural world and represent an alternate form of “truth” or intelligence.

There are some reasons why the writer is analyzing this novel. The first is the writer is interested with the title of the novel that shows about adventures. The second reason is the characters of this novel are unique, the writer loves the major character Huck Finn, the child that has spirit to get freedom. And the last reason is this novel has a unique issue like superstitions.

Based on the background above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled “*Superstitions in Mark Twain’s Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)*”.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writer aims at analyzing the problem “What is superstitions is reflected in Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)*?” It can be described from (1) what types of superstitions in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel?, (2) how the superstitions depicted in the novel?, and (3) why Mark Twain address superstition in the novel.

C. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the studies are:

1. To analyze what the types of superstitions reflected in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel.
2. To analyze how the writer depicted the superstition in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel.
3. To analyze why the writer address superstitions in his novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will focus on analyzing superstitions on the major character, Jim in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel based on Sociological approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

By investigating Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, two

benefits can be gained as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

It gives contribution to the larger body in knowledge particularly literary studies in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. It is expected that we have a clear and concrete view on how the Humanistic Psychological approach is applied analysis of the novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the novel.

F. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which explains the background of the study, problem

statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization. The second chapter is literature review, it describes underlying theory, previous studies, and novelty. The third chapter is research method, it contains type of research, object of the study, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is the analysis. Chapter V is the last chapter of this research paper of this research that consist of conclusion and suggestion.