

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every people in the world when they heard the term of ethnic immediately they think about minority groups, culture or race. British scholar, ascribe only to minority group in a society. According to Cambridge Dictionary, ethnicity is a large group of people who have the same national, racial, or cultural origins, or the state of belonging to such a group. Ethnic terms refer to a particular group based on the similarity of race, religion, national, origin, or a combination of those categories that tied to the system of the cultural values (Frederich Barth: 1988).

Khaled Hosseini is an Afghan. He works as a doctor in California. Khaled was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965. His father worked as a diplomat and his mother taught Farsi and history at a high school in Kabul. When Hosseinis was 11 years old, the family moved to France. In September 1980, Khaled moved to San Jose, California. Hosseini graduated from high school in 1984 and enrolled at Santa Clara University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. The next year he entered the University of California, San Diego, and School of Medicine, where he earned a medical degree in 1993. He completed his residency in international medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1996.

Khaled Hosseini writes his first novel in March 2001 while practicing medicine. His first novel entitled *The Kite Runner*. This novel telling a story of two best friends name Amir and Hassan. Hassan is the son of Amir's father servant. Amir's father loves them both. Hassan is a successful "kite runner", knowing where the kite will land without even watching it. One triumphant day, Amir wins the local tournament, and finally Baba's praise to him. After Amir cut the last kite, Hassan goes to run the last cut kite, a great trophy. Hassan said "for you, a thousand times over". Unfortunately, Hassan runs into Assef and his two henchmen. Hassan refuses to give up Amir's kite, so

Assef exacts his revenge, assaulting and raping him. Wondering why Hassan is taking so long, Amir searches for Hassan and hides when he hears Assef's voice. He witnesses the rape but is too scared to help him. Afterwards, for some time Hassan and Amir keep a distance from each other. Amir reacts indifferently because he feels ashamed, and he is frustrated by Hassan's saint-like behavior.

To force Hassan to leave, Amir frames him as a thief, and Hassan falsely confesses. Baba forgives him, despite the fact that, as he explained earlier, he believes that "there is no act more wretched than stealing." Hassan and his father Ali, to Baba's extreme sorrow, leave anyway. Hassan's departure frees Amir of the daily reminder of his cowardice and betrayal, but he still lives in their shadow and his guilt. Five years later, the Russians invade Afghanistan. Amir and Baba escape to Peshawar, Pakistan and then to Fremont, California.

Fifteen years after Amir's wedding, Amir receives a call from Rahim Khan, who died from an illness. Rahim Khan asks Amir to come to Pakistan. He enigmatically tells Amir "there is a way to be good again". From Rahim Khan, Amir learns the fates of Ali and Hassan. Ali was killed by a land mine. Hassan had a wife and a son, named Sohrab, and had returned to Baba's house as a caretaker at Rahim Khan's request. One day the Taliban ordered him to give it up and leave, but he refused, and he was murdered, along with his wife. Finally, Rahim Khan tells Amir that the true reason he has called Amir to Pakistan is to go to Kabul to rescue Hassan's son Sohrab from an orphanage.

However, he does not find Sohrab. At the house, Amir has his meeting with the man in sunglasses, who says the man who does the speeches is not available. Assef is aware of Amir's identity from the very beginning, but Amir does not realize whom he's sitting across from until Assef starts asking about Ali, Baba and Hassan. Amir tells Sohrab of his plans to take him back to America and possibly adopt him, and promises that he never sent Sohrab to an orphanage again. This continues until his frozen emotions are thawed when Amir reminisces about his father, Hassan, while kite flying. Amir shows off some of Hassan's tricks, and Sohrab begins to interact with Amir again. In the

end, Sohrab only shows a lopsided smile, but Amir takes to it with all his heart as he runs the kite for Sohrab, saying, "For you, a thousand times over".

Khaled Hosseini second novel entitled "*A Thousand Splendid Suns*". This novel published by Riverhead Books in May 2007. This novel tells the story of two women who share their happy, sad, and painful of life together. First, on the story tells about Mariam a little girl who lives in a Kolba on the outskirts of Herat with her mother. Jalil, Mariam fathers is businessperson who owns a cinema and lives with three wives and none children. Mariam is illegitimate daughter, and she prohibited to live with them. On her fifteenth birthday, Mariam wants her father to take her to see Pinocchio at his movie theater, against the pleas of her mother. She do not care, she hikes into town and goes to his house. Jalil refuse to see her, her heart was broken. Mariam ends up sleeping on the street. The next days she returns to their home and fined her mother has committed suicide out of fear that her daughter had deserted her.

After her mother died, she lives with his father. His father arranged her to married to Rasheed, a shoemaker from Kabul who thirty-years older than her. Mariam pregnant several times but always had a miscarriage. It makes Rasheed became very rough. He was obsessed having a son.

A Thousands Splendid Suns also tells a story about Laila. Laila has close friends named Tariq. They are not only best friend, they falling in love each other. War comes to Afghanistan, and Kabul bombarded by rocket attacks. Tariq's family decides to leave Kabul. When Laila and her family were packing, a rocket destroys the house, killing her parents and severely injuring Lila. Laila rescued and cared by Rasheed and Mariam.

After recovering from her injuries, Laila discovers that she is pregnant. She is pregnant Tariq child. After Abdul Sharif informed her that Tariq has died, she agrees to marry Rasheed. When Laila give birth Aziza, Rasheed is displeased and suspicious. This results in him becoming abusive towards Laila. Mariam and Laila eventually become confidants and best friends. They plan to run away from Rasheed and leave Kabul but they caught at the bus

station. Rasheed beats Laila and Aziza deprives them of water for several days, almost killing Aziza.

A few years later, Laila gives birth of Zalmai, Rasheed's son. The Taliban has risen to power and imposed harsh rules on the Afghan population, prohibiting women from appearing in public without a male relative. There is a drought, and living conditions in Kabul become poor. He sends Aziza to an orphanage. Then one day Tariq comes to Laila house, and then Laila and Tariq are reunited. Laila realizes that Rasheed had hired Abdul Sharif to inform her about Tariq's fake death, so that he could marry her. When Rasheed returns home from work, Zalmai tells his father about the visitor. Rasheed starts to savage and beat Laila. He nearly strangles her, but Mariam intervenes and kills Rasheed with a shovel.

To save Laila Mariam confesses to killing Rasheed. Then Mariam was publicly executed, allowing Laila and Tariq to leave for Pakistan with Aziza and Zalmai. They spend their days working at a guesthouse in Murree. After the fall of the Taliban, Laila and Tariq return to Afghanistan. Laila and Tariq return to Kabul and use the money to fix up the orphanage, where Laila starts working as a teacher. Laila is pregnant with her third child, and if it is a girl, Laila has already named her Mariam.

Khaled Hosseini third novel is entitled *And The Mountain Echoed*. This novel published in 2013 by Riverhead Books. This novel tells a story about two brothers who separated caused by the environment and the economic conditions of their family. At first in the story, Saboor tells his children Abdullah and Pari a story of a demon that tests a father. Fall 1952, Saboor takes Pari in a red wagon to a long walk to Kabul. Abdullah insists on going with Pari and Saboor to Kabul. Pari and Abdullah meet up with their step uncle Nabi who works for a wealthy family in Kabul. Abdullah becomes upset when he realizes that Pari was not coming home with him and his father. A family in Kabul adopts Pari.

Parwana is jealous of her sister's names Masooma's of her great beauty. She feels unworthy and neglected because she not beautiful. Parwana is

in love with Saboor. Parwana thinks that Saboor is in love with Masooma. Parwana pushes Masooma out of a tree causing her to paralyze. Parwana feels so much guilty that she becomes Masooma's caregiver for many years. Masooma has Parwana help her to commit a suicide, so that Parwana will be free to marry Saboor. Then Parwana marries Saboor after his wife died. She does not love Pari and Abdullah as much her own son.

Parwana's brother Nabi works for a wealthy family in Kabul, they are Wahdatis family. Nabi is in love with Nila Wahdati. She is a half-French woman that writes poems about lovers. Nabi arranges for Pari to adopt by the Wahdatis. Nila and Mr. Suleiman Wahdati are very happy with Pari. Until his husband, Suleiman has a stroke. Then Nila leaves his husband and moves to Paris with Pari. Nabi becomes Suleiman's caregiver for many years. Mr. Suleiman dies and leaves Nabi everything.

Spring 2003, Idris and Timur are cousins that used to play near the Wahdatis' house when they were young. Idris is now a doctor he is uneasy with Timur because Timur is friendly and outgoing. Timur and Idris go back to Afghan to see about their parent's house. Idris makes friends with a deformed girl, Rhosi. Rhosi head hit with an axe by her uncle. Idris promises Rhosi that he will be back to get her for the surgery. Idris goes back to America with good intentions, but slowly gives up. Idris meets Rhosi again years later at a book signing. Rhosi signs his book and telling him not to worry. Then the nurse and Timur took care of the surgery.

Starts 1974, Pari and her mother live in Paris. Pari studies Math in college. Dr. Markos calls Pari and reads a letter that Nabi wrote to her. Nabi left Pari his home in Kabul. Pari starts to remember some of the missing pieces of her life in Afghan.

California 2010, Abdullah and his wife Sultana have a daughter named Pari. Sultana dies of cancer. Pari gives up a scholarship to study art in Baltimore to take care of her father Abdullah. Abdullah has dementia. Pari was trapped into this life because her father did not want to lose her, likes he lost his

sister. Abdullah's sister Pari comes to meet with Abdullah after a trip to Kabul. Abdullah does not recognize her.

There are few reasons why the researcher interest in studying this novel, first Khaled Hosseini novel amazing achievement. *The Kite Runner* novel becomes the first best seller in 2005 in the United States, according to Nielsen Bookscan. This book translated into 42 languages. This novel also received a lot of praise from the publisher. One of the praise is come from The New York Times Book Review. In 2007, Marc Forster directed a film adaptation of the novel. His novels adaptation nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film and the second novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* published in 40 countries and seller 12 million copies in the world. Also spends 15 weeks as number one on the New York Times bestseller list. The third novel *And The Mountain Echoed* was seller 3 million copies. Hosseini went on a five-week tour to 41 cities across America to promote the book. In October 2013, plans were confirmed to translate *And the Mountains Echoed* into 40 languages, among them Icelandic and Malaysian.

Second, all of Khaled Hosseini novel based on true story. *The Kite Runner* tells about social condition there are portrays the ethnical discrimination in Afghanistan, and social and moral responsibility between the main characters Amir and Hassan. The first appeal is ethnical discrimination in Afghanistan between Pashun and Hazara. In the second novel, Khaled Hosseini tells different story. He writes a story about women life in Afghanistan. In the second novel, he more focuses on friendship of two women and their suffering. In the third novel, Khaled Hosseini's tells the story of the brutal winter that happen in Afghanistan. Many children die because of the brutal winter. In addition, Hosseini tells a story of the blood bond between brother and sister who had to separate caused of the brutal winter that happened in Afghanistan makes the little sister must stay with another family.

Third, Khaled Hosseini novel has different touch in his novel. How he explain about the real condition in Afghanistan. How he explains each character on his novel, very detail and makes imaginations of the reader become

real. Khaled Hosseini as a male writer can describe the story of the women of Afghanistan with detail and touching story.

Fourth, setting of the novel, the setting of the stories takes place in Afghanistan and happens in war between Afghanistan and Uni Soviet. All of the three novels Khaled Hosseini based on phenomenon of Afghanistan. The story starts before civil war against Uni Soviet, during civil war against Uni Soviet, and after civil war against Uni Soviet. How people in Afghanistan fight for their live to survive in the war conditions. How they survive against their fear of the bombs that might destroy homes and kill them. How they survive to protect their homeland. How they try to rebuild their city after destroyed by war.

Based on the reason, the researcher is interested in doing research to analyze the Ethnicity by using sociological approach entitled **Ethnicity in Khaled Hosseini's Novels (*The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and And The Mountain Echoed*): A Sociological Approach.**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writers proposed the major problem statement of the study as follow:

1. What ethnic identities that are described in the novels?
2. What types of ethnicities that are depicted in the novels?
3. Why does the author address ethnicity in his novels?

C. Objectives of the Study

The followings are the objectives of the study that wants to achieve by the writer;

1. To identify the ethnic identities in Khaled Hosseini novels *The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And The Mountain Echoed*,
2. To describes the types of ethnicity in Khaled Hosseini novels *The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And The Mountain Echoed*,
3. To reveal why Khaled Hosseini give concern in ethnicity in his novels *The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And The Mountain Echoed*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses the research on how ethnicity reflected in Khaled Hosseini novels (*The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And The Mountain Echoed*) using sociological approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The writer really hopes that her research on Khaled Hosseini's novel has benefits. The benefits of this study will be illustrious into two benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study to give additional information and contribute to a larger body of knowledge, an academics reference by other researches to conduct further research and particularly studied on Khaled Hosseini's novels.

2. Practical Benefit

The research expected to give some contributions to the common students of English studies in discussing similar or related study. The study is enriching knowledge and experience of the other students who have interest with literary study on the sociological in the novel. Give deeper understanding and enrich the knowledge of the writer and the readers about Khaled Hosseini novels, based on Sociological Approach.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research paper organization of Ethnicity in Khaled Hosseini's Novel (*The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And The Mountain Echoed*) using Sociological Approach and it is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, it consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objectives of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Literature Review, it consists of The Notion of Sociology of Literature, Types of Sociology of Literature, The Notion of Ethnicity, Previous Study, and Theoretical

Application. Chapter III is Research Method; it consists of Type of Study, Object of the Study, Type of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of the Data Collection, and Data Analyzing Technique. Chapter IV is analysis *the ethnicity* novel. Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.