

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In this research, researcher takes issues about social discrimination that occur in *Question of Red* novel. Everybody has different status in their social class it is appear in life that make people different one to another. Marx Stated that “all society that had ever existed had been class societies of one kind or another” (Saunders, 1990: 5). And because of this difference discrimination occur, Ansel said that “Discrimination refers to unfair treatment of some sort”. (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 290), Ansel also mentions that “discrimination is costly both to individual and to society” (Ansel, et all, 1988: 304), because of the opinion above it is show that social discrimination happen because of the difference of social status, and to research about literary work, Marxist Approach or Marxism is the suitable approach to used.

Marxism is a loose term describing literary criticism based on socialist and dialectic theories, Marxist criticism see literary work as reflections of social institutions which they originate. According to Marxists, even literature itself is a social institution and has a specific ideological function, based on the background and ideology of the author. In the *Questions of Red* novel, the author ideology is reflected in the main character characteristic and the background of the novel is about the chaos between Communism and Nationalism ideology in Indonesia.

In late 1965's there was bloody tragedy which happened in Indonesia, it is the murder of seven great general as insurgency effort to take down the

government, this action called *G30s*, this action is believe do by Indonesian Communist party (PKI) because of that tragedy all people or some of student which related to this party is caught by the government, because of that tragedy people in Indonesia begin to discriminates person who relate to communist organization, the discriminates is not only to the person but also the family, they begin to class the society by called them a murderer and also a nation betrayer. So in any historical period dominant and subservient classes can be identified. Inequality in wealth and power was of fundamental moral concern to Marx. Some groups come to dominate others and to win for themselves a disproportionate share of the society, wealth, power and privileges. (Trainer, 2010:3) in this novel the dominant classes is the nationalist that means the communist is dominate by the nationalist it is show by the imprisoned of the communist people.

The prisoner or communist people which caught is named "*Tapol*" or Political Prisoner which imprisoned in Buru islands, because of the tragedy many people lost their right and lost their family, in this novel tell us how the Politic Prisoner live in Buru Islands, they live so poor, far from their family and also have to work every day and night for the government, they have been discriminates by the government with isolated them in distinguished island, and not give them a proper facility, they have to build their own facility such as hospital, bathroom, and even they have to share place to sleep, they have to farming their own food, and built a road then built another cell for the remain prisoner which caught, even government launch a policy that every family of the politic prisoner is banned to get a job or applied for a job.

Because discrimination, there is a lot of social conflict happen in the society not just in small scale such as stereotyping and prejudice among the people but also a larger scale such as clashed, big demonstration, protesting the exists Of communism in society. Not just in the society, but also in education world student is divide into two groups which is the group of nationalism and communism, in this novel the group always attacking each other because the different of the ideology they believe.

According to the theory of social discrimination in the context of intergroup relations, discrimination has a pejorative meaning. It implies more than simply distinguishing among social objects, but refers also to inappropriate and potentially unfair treatment of individuals due to group membership. Discrimination may involve actively negative behavior toward a member of a group or, more subtly, less positive responses than those toward an ingroup member in comparable circumstances (Dovidio, 2010: 8)

But according Allport (Dovido, 2010: 9) argued that in group favoritism plays a fundamental role in intergroup relations, taking psychological precedence over out group antipathy. He noted that ‘in-groups are psychologically primary.

Although psychologists have historically focused on the individual-level processes in intergroup relations, newer research informed by approaches from sociology, Black psychology, and cultural psychology illuminate how, independent of individual efforts or orientation, institutional and cultural forces maintain and promote intergroup bias and disparities. Institutional discrimination, which may originally stem from individuals’ prejudices and stereotypes, refers to

the existence of institutional policies (e.g., poll taxes, immigration policies) that unfairly restrict the opportunities of particular groups of people. These laws and policies foster ideologies that justify current practices.

According to Inman, Baron, and Rodin in (Nelson 2009: 94) discrimination is prototypically viewed as an *intergroup* phenomenon, that occurring between members of different groups rather than within the same group

Social conflict and social problem it's interesting to analyze because the researcher could learn about how the society works and the social dynamic. Marxist is literary criticism that analyze a literary work from social side and economic impact to the social function in society, one of conflict which the researcher want to reveals is about a social problem using Marxist theory, in Indonesian author Laksmi Pamuntjak's novel entitled *The Questions of Red*. This novel is also published in Indonesian entitled *Amba*.

Laksmi Pamuntjak (born 1971) is an Indonesian poet, novelist, essayist, and food writer. She is also an art consultant and writes for numerous local and international publications including opinion articles for the Guardian. Biography Pamuntjak, who writes in Bahasa Indonesia and English, is the author of two collections of poetry, *Ellipsis* and *The Anagram* (the former of which appeared in the 2005 Herald UK Books of the Year pages); a treatise on the relationship between man and violence based on the Iliaden titled *Perang, Langit dan Dua Perempuan*, a collection of short stories based on paintings entitled *The Diary of R.S.: Musings on Art*; five editions of *The Jakarta Good Food Guide*; two translations of the works of leading Indonesian poet and essayist Goenawan

Mohamad, *Selected Poems and On God and Other Unfinished Things*, and two best-selling novels, *Amba* and *Aruna dan Lidahnya*. Pamuntjak's first novel *Amba*, a national bestseller, is a modern take on *The Mahabharata*, set against the backdrop of the Indonesian mass killings of 1965 and the Buru penal colony. It was shortlisted for the 2013 Khatulistiwa Literary Award and has been translated into English, German and Dutch. The US edition of the English translation, *The Question of Reds* will publish in July 2016. The English translation of Pamuntjak's second novel, *Aruna dan Lidahnya*, is due for publication in the US in early 2017. It was shortlisted for the 2015 Khatulistiwa Literary Award.

The *Question of Red* is novel with background a political chaos and political turbulence which happened in Indonesia during 1965, this novel was reflected what happened in Indonesia as the result of the political turbulence society became unbalanced and began to discriminate each other. Because of the discrimination in society, people begin to classify each other as nationalist and communist, as the result there is a lot of social conflict which happened in society for example the scapegoating among the society, religion conflict, and group conflict. The researcher focus in social discrimination inside the novel, what is social discrimination, what kind of social discrimination, and how to resolve the social discrimination according the author of this novel.

Based on the background above, the researcher conduct a research entitled **“Social Discrimination in Laksmi Pamuntjak’s *The Questions of Red Novel* (2014): A Marxist Approach.”**

B. Literature Review

The researcher personally thinks that *The Questions of Red* is a unique novel to read and also to be a research object because this novel contain a lot of problem statement, but the researcher cannot find any previous study, because this novel is still new and limited edition.

The researcher used Marxist Approach to analyze the data and used Social Discrimination as an object. The researcher Analyze “**Social Discrimination Reflected in Laksmi Pamuntjak’s The Questions of Red Novel (2014): A Marxist Approach.**”

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher analyzing the social discrimination:

1. What kind of social discrimination?
2. What factor which cause the social discrimination?
3. How to resolve the social discrimination problem

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focus on the research in analyzing Social Discrimination reflected in **Laksmi Pamuntjak’s *The Questions of Red* novel (2014) on a Marxist Approach.**

E. Objective of the Study

Conducting the research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To describe *The Questions of red* based on structural elements of novel
2. To describe the social discrimination toward The Tapol
3. To analyze social Discrimination reflected in *The questions of red* on a Marxist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The researcher expected a lot that the research which investigates the issue Social Discrimination reflected In Laksmi Pamuntjak's toward communist and political prisoner in *The Question of Red* novel bears many benefits. The benefits of this study will be differentiated into two benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can be also as a reference for other researchers who want to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on this *The Questions of red* novel.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the writer in many things, especially in social problem which happened to the Indonesian in the past, that have made a big discrimination and even a mass kill in indonesia, and also for the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or for other

universities where have the same interest in literary on the literature from a Marxist approach.

G. Research Method

The research method of this research paper is broken down into five elements: (1) Type of the Study, (2) Object of the Study, (3) Type of Data and Data Source, (4) Technique of the Data Collecting and, (5) technique of the Data Analysis.

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research study which is takes the source data from words and other written text. Qualitative study is concerned with providing description of the phenomena that occur naturally. This study attempted to present the data from perspective of the observed subject.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the research is *The questions of red* novel by (Laksmi Pamuntjak's, the researcher is going to analyze it by using Marxist Approach).

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

a. Primary Data Resources

The primary data source of the study is *The Questions of Red* by Laksmi Pamuntjak's.

b. Secondary Data Resources

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are book, internet data and virtual references as documentation.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of collecting data is library research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected as evidence. These are technique of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Reading and Learning comprehension the novel repeatedly.
- b. Reading and translating the novel to get more understanding.
- c. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information.
- d. Accessing to the internet to get several information and article related the object of the study.
- e. Making a summary and determining (title, issue, topic, theory) about the novel.
- f. Classifying the data into several part categories.
- g. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this research paper is descriptive analysis the researcher identifies how Social Discrimination reflected in *The Questions of red* novel using Marxist Approach.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper organization of Social Discrimination reflected in Laksmi Pamuntjak's *Questions of Red* (2014) is as follows: chapter I is introduction, which consists of the 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 is underlying theories which consist of Marxist perspective and structural element. Chapter III deals with the structural analysis and discussion of the novel. Chapter IV is Marxist analysis of the novel, and the chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.