

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Interesting topics that often talks by people around the world is about Muslim or Islam. Muslim is some people who follow their Prophet Muhammad SAW that bring the peace to the world and his adherent to reach God's mercy in Islam religion. Nonetheless, many people who do not believe in Islam they are mad and judging Islam as bad as they think. As far as the writer knows, Islam is the religion which brings peace, loving each others, showing the rule of life, believing in Allah and Muhammad as Muslim's prophet.

Islam as usual is defined like: *al-Islam wahyu nilahiyunanzilailan abiyi Muhammadin Sallahu'alaihi wasallam alisa'adati al-dunyawa al-akhirah*, with the meaning Islam is a vision from Allah to Muhammad saw as a directive for happiness life in the world now and after life (Mudzhar,1998:19). Every Muslim knows that there is one Muhammad saw as the prophet and he is the one who gets the direct vision from Allah SWT, this religion have main learning in : faith, syari'at/Islam law, and morals . Then, meaning of Islam according to some expert based on *www.pengertianmu.com.*,first the definition of Islam by Leodurich that Islam as the nature humanity religion, economic and also has morality. Second, the definition by Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Abdullah at Tawairjiri, Islam is full self-surrender to Allah and believe that Allah is one and doing it's syari'at/Islam law with full of the respectful and separate away from polytheist.

According o the Offenhauer in Library of congress about *Women in Islamic Societies*, Muslim nations have extensively reduced both gender gaps and the formerly large differences in average ability between Muslim and non-Muslim societies (Offenhauer,2005:2). In a standard base of

Muslim community, usually people can find the example as in school of Koranic studies for children and young people or in Indonesia is close with the meaning of "pesantren" Muslim community is one, life in peaceful, happiness and everything is judging with the syari'at/Islam law.

There are many Muslim is spread of in every country, like in Indonesia that famous with the biggest Muslim in the world. Muslim community in Indonesia are grouping, they are: Muhammadiyah, MajelisTafsir Al-Qur'an, NU, and so on. Every group has its own orientation that others groups will not to follow because each of group think that their own group is best to follow, different in their own orientations both of Muslim group is believe in Allah SWT is one, Muhammad SAW as their prophet, and Al-Qur'an and Al-Hadist as their holy book.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English in Ahmed Lemu's book, "What is Islamic Culture" defines culture as the customs, arts, and social institutions, so on, of a particular group or nations. Culture is one way of identifying distinctive groups or nations, as far the researcher know that culture is distinguish one group to another or one nation to another, because culture as a symbol of the community(Lemu, Ahmed: 2009:15).Eastern culture in western perceives that many westerners still believe the Arab conquest of the Middle East quiet its artistic, literary, and scientific creativity. On the contrary, it was the Arabs who saved many of the works of Plato, Aristotle, and other Greek thinkers for later transmission to the West. Aristotle's encyclopedic writings, translated by Syrian Christians into Arabic, inspired such Muslim thinkers as al-Kindi, al-Farabi, IbnSina, and IbnRushd (Lawrence, 2010 :104).

Islamic always appreciate culture, especially the culture that give benefit for Muslim people in the world. Nicola Pratt in his essay

describes “Culture as an explanation for the nature of politics in the Arab world in particular the failure of democratization has obtained a bad name” (Pratt, 2005:2). In every Muslim community in the world, the culture of Muslim can be seen all of the people, Muslim is obliged to classify proper “Islamic” names or not, and to dress in the manner of definite cultures rather than others (Lemu, Ahmed: 2009:29).

In Al-Qur’an also discuss about culture, Allah says “*And among His signs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors: for in this, behold, there are messages for all who are possessed of (innate) knowledge!*” (Qur'an 30:22). In another verse about culture in Al-Qur’an, Allah says, “*O mankind! We created you from male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God are the most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is All-Knowing, All-Aware*” (Qur'an 49:13).

Eastern Culture that are shown in this novel *The Alchemist* in woman’s view are like where the woman could not meet others men that she has been marriage, the forbidden things for woman who has marriage is they are not allowed to talk to others men who as the guess in the Oasis and then they have to wear the black dress to show that they are in marriage. Then for all women, they have to cover their face with using the slight stuff. In man’s view, in every life of the man that has been marriage in Oasis they should rove and go for *hijrah* that is becoming culture for a man.

The Alchemist is a fiction novel written by Paulo Coelho. This novel is first published in Brazil in 1988. The alchemist is a novel that tells the journey of a young Spanish shepherd named Santiago to Egypt. Santiago depleted his life with only deal with his sheep and has problems such as doing same problem in his day like as looking for grassland and water for

the sheep then move from one place to another. However, once Santiago dreamed a strange thing, the dream of two consecutive child grabbed his hand and moved it to the Pyramids of Egypt and the child said that Santiago will find a his treasure there. Then, when Santiago start to make a decision to brush aside his dreams which he thought is too difficult to reach and bury the goal of his life, then he met an old man who encouraged him to dare to follow his conscience and realize or making true about his dreams.

There are some reasons why the researcher interested in analyzing this novel. First, the writer is interested with the title; *The Alchemist* is like someone who is an expert in the field of chemistry but in this novel tells about the journey of young shepherd to reach his dreams. Second, this novel makes every reader curious about the end of the story, whether Santiago keeps attempting in searching the treasure or he is giving up. There are many question turn up after reading this Coelho's novel. The writer curious about the question "how is the portrayal of Muslim community and culture in The Alchemist novel?"

Based on the data above, the reseacher analyzes *The Alchemist* novel by using sociological approach to reveal role of Muslim community and culture that Paulo describe in The Alchemist novel and the writer proposes to conduct a research entitled "*Portrayal of Muslim Community and Culture Reflected in Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist (1988): Sociological Approach*". To achieve the aims of the study, the writer analyzes the novel on its nature of the author.

B. Problem Statement

The reseacher purpose at analyzing the problem, based on the previous background of study and the main problem of this research is, "How is the portrayal of Muslim community and culture reflected in Paulo

Coelho's *The Alchemist* (1988)?” It can be described from (1) what is the characteristics of Muslim society reflected in *The Alchemist* novel? (2) How are the symbols that use to describe Muslim society directed in the novel?, and (3) Why Paulo Coelho describing Islam in such a way in the novel?

C. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the studies are:

1. To identify the Muslim culture society reflected in *The Alchemist* novel.
2. To identify the characteristics of Muslim society reflected in *The Alchemist* novel.
3. To describe the symbols used to describe Muslim society in *The Alchemist* novel.
4. To reveal why the writer describes Islam in such a way in his novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will focus on analyzing Muslim community and its culture in *The Alchemist* novel based on Sociological approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

By investigating Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, the study is expected to give two benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the study is projected and expected to be able to give information and some impact in a new 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 Alchemist* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer to be more clear about the issue, and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as a reference by other universities who have the same interest in literary study on the literature from An Individual Psychological Approach.

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 consists of conclusion and suggestion.