

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is simply a written work that contains qualities. Literature's primary aim is to tell a story. The subject of the story is particularly human, describing and detailing a variety of human experience, not stating facts or bits and piece of information. There are so many kinds of literature products such as music, novel, art, poem, drama, etc. The novel is collection of many ideas, stories, and characters, bound with the writer's imagination to become a story. It means, when the author makes their literary work, that is an expression of the problem from the novel. The kinds of the novel problems are love, struggle for life, conflict of life, war, violence, and rebellion.

The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins is one of novels that tell rebellion problems. Rebellion is an act of disobeying, resistance, revolting, fighting against, rejection to submit or to bow to any authorities that the person thinks they are against his/her goal. In a larger conflict the rebels may be recognized as belligerents without their government being recognized by the established government, in which case the conflict becomes a civil war (Kermit, 2001:246-247).

Rebellion is interesting objects to be explored. These themes are often used by authors of literary work to build their story. One of writers which reveals about rebellion is American author Suzanne Collins in his novel entitled *The Hunger Games*. It was originally published in one of the many famous novels.

American writer Suzanne Collins is the author of the bestselling The Hunger Games series and The Underland Chronicles. Suzanne Collins was born on August 10, 1962, in Hartford, Connecticut. The daughter of an Air Force officer, Collins moved a considerable amount during her childhood, living in places like New York City and Brussels and her

family moved several times when she was young. After proving herself as a talented children's television writer, Collins published her debut book, *Gregor the Overlander*, the first book of *The Underland Chronicles*. In 2008, the first book of *The Hunger Games* series was published. For the Collins family, history was an immensely important topic. Much of that was driven by Collins' father, who taught history at the college level and was open with his kids about his military experience, including his deployment to Vietnam.

The Hunger Games (2008) is set in the world, but in a post-apocalyptic time. The Capitol is the cruel Government of the twelve districts of Panem, which was once North America. As punishment for a revolution in the past, the Capitol created the Hunger Games. One boy and one girl (aged twelve to eighteen) are chosen from each district to fight on live television until only one child remains. Our main character is Katnis Everdeen, who volunteers in the place of her younger sister Primrose for District Twelve. The male “tribute” for the district is Peeta Mellark, the son of a baker, who is in love with Katnis. During the Games, Katnis uses his love to her advantage, so that the wealthy audience can send her food and medicine.

All the citizens from all districts hate the Capitol because of the oppression, poverty and violence that they suffer. Katnis angers the Capitol during the Games when her new friend Rue from District Eleven is killed, and she shows compassion by laying flowers on her body. Furthermore, at the end of the Games, only Peeta and Katnis remain, so each refuses to kill the other. Instead, they agree to eat poisoned berries together so that there is no winner for the Capitol. In response, rather than being humiliated in front of the districts, the Capitol allows the couple to win together. The other districts watching the Games have now witnessed an act of rebellion, and they want more. Thus, a second revolution is about to be born.

Catching Fire (2009) is about the development of this revolution. The Capitol is furious at Katniss for starting a second rebellion, so they create a special version of the Hunger Games for all the previous victors, which means that she and Peeta must return. During these games, they create a team of victors, who manage to destroy the arena and escape to District Thirteen, which most people think that does not exist. However, the Capitol capture Peeta, and they destroy District Twelve.

Mockingjay (2010) tells the story of Katniss leading the revolution of the Capitol and President Snow. The rebels use her in the media as the symbol of their rebellion. They rescue Peeta, but he has been tortured and now he hates and fears Katniss. A team of rebels including Peeta and Katniss then go on a mission to assassinate President Snow in the Capitol, but Katniss's sister Primrose is killed by a bomb. Katniss later discovers that the president of the rebels makes this bomb, so she kills her own president in place of Snow. She then returns to her home, District Twelve, to try to recover with Peeta. At the end of the book we see them get married with two children.

There are some reasons why the researcher researches *The Hunger Games trilogy* novel:

First, The Novel is far more political than any teenage drama written in the 21st century. Katniss Everdeen is not just saving her folks but she must free a whole nation from tyrannical oppression and poverty. For those who don't know the plot, it is set in a near future where countries have been destroyed and replaced by 12 Districts under the control of the Capitol. In *The Hunger Games*, while some elements are a little fantastical, they are all developed through technology and can find believable explanations that can make them potentially real. The conception of the arena and its dangers, the weapons, the different machine all are very futuristic but not too unreal.

Second, the novel is very classical story of Theseus is central to *The Hunger Games*. Collins has mentioned this in interviews about the series.

The classical myth describes how Athens would send seven youths of each gender to the Labyrinth to be devoured by the Minotaur. Theseus, the king's son, volunteers himself, and this is what Katnis Everdeen does in Collins's series. Collins has described Katnis as 'a futuristic Theseus'. This allusion to classical mythology is, along with Panem, and the gladiatorial games of ancient Rome, one of many classical references in Collins's series.

Third, the plot of the novel is much excited because the plot driven blend of suspense, science fiction, and romance. "The plot is front and center here the twists and turns are addictive, particularly when the romantic subplot ups the ante yet the Capitol's oppression and exploitation of the districts always simmers just below the surface, waiting to be more fully explored in future volumes. Collins has written a compulsively readable blend of science fiction, survival story, unlikely romance, and social commentary.

After reading the novel we can take the conclusion and the moral message about the story. We can reject the content of the novel or we receive the content that reflects the good think of real life. There are many arguments about the novel such as from the cover, title, the author, languages, the content and other. The last reason is to elaborate the good character from the novel and apply it in real life.

Based on the background above the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled "**Rebellion reflected in The Hunger Games Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins (2008 -2010): A Marxist Approach**".

B. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher aims at analyzing the problem:

1. How does the author describe the rebellion in the novel?
2. What are the causes and effects rebellion in the novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

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

1. To describe rebellion reflected in *The Hunger Games Trilogy Novel* (2008-2010) by Suzanne Collins.
2. To analyze the causes and effects of rebellion in *The Hunger Games Trilogy Novel* (2008-2010) by Suzanne Collins.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on the research in analyzing Rebellion toward character in *The Hunger Games Trilogy Novel* by Suzanne Collins on a Marxist approach.

E. Benefit of the study

The study is expected to give benefits to give as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher wishes that this study can impact a new contribution and information to the large body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *The Hunger Games Trilogy novel* (2008-2010).

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the researcher in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or for other universities who have same interest in literary study of the literature from a Marxist Approach.

F. Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, and limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is dealing with underlying theory,

which explains the notion of Marxism, major principle of Marxism, notion of rebellion, and previous study. The third chapter is research method, type of the study, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis. The fourth chapter is social background of North America in the twenty first century. The fifth chapter is dealing with the Marxist analysis and the last chapter deals with conclusion and suggestion.