

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In human life, forms of conflict very often occur from ancient times to the present. Conflict among humans or group is ingrained in humans, because it is already a part of human's ego. According to McLeod (2016:1), human's ego is about seek pleasure and avoid pains, in other words, it is to reduce individual tension. Basically a conflict occurs because of a difference. It can be initiated by a difference of opinion, interest, equality, etc. As we know, human nature will defend the interest and welfare of the group or herself is one of human nature that is super ego. They were fighting for their own interests or pride until the conflict happenend.

Such conflicts may occur at a higher level when an individual has the same interests and goals that is at the group level. It is not much different from the previous one, the difference is the quantity of individuals and scale. One is a racial conflict. Racial conflict is actually a form of discrimination that is taboo in the world. Racial conflict is actually a form of conflict that occurs because of differences of race or ethnicity where each of them more prioritize the interests of their own group.

In this study, the authors connect the issue of racial conflict with sociology theory in literature. In the literature, sociology learn about relationships and phenomenas in the society of the novel. Wellek and Warren (1962:110) said that "Literature is a reflection of society, a force in society, or simply separated of social life". Basically, the phenomenon happened in society influence the literature works in the form of issue. *The Revenant* has a racial conflict issue. It is the one of many phenomena of forms of social relations between racial groups 1 with other racial groups. In the sociological approach, a conflict became a complex social phenomenon because many forms of conflict and also many factors that cause conflict. Issues of conflict

are also presented in the works Michael Punke others such as "Fire and Brimstone" and "Last Stand".

The Revenant takes place along the Missouri River. In 1823, and not too long since Lewis and Clark opened the northwest quadrant of the country for business, namely for hunting and the fur trade. Hugh Glass as the main character in this novel entered in a new company founded by William Ashley, Rocky Mountain Fur Company in 1822. The company is a company that traded furs. The fur trade is potential as materials for making clothes and hats.

In early 1823, Hugh Glass went to the Missouri River along with a number of experienced trappers. In May, the group stopped in the Arikara village. In this village, Ashley wants to exchange ammunitions with horses. However, one of them was killed by an Indian in the village. When morning came, Ashley attacked by the Arikara Indians in the village, and they loss of a few people. Ashley and other traders run to the river. Hugh Glass tried to report the incident in the Arikara village. He sent people to inform Colonel Henry Leavenworth about the attack. Then, Colonel Henry sent 240 soldiers, 750 Sioux, 50 Missouri Fur trappers. Fourteen people including Andrew Henry and Glass split with Ashley after burning Arikara villages. Then, Glass decided to secede and create a separate camp.

One morning, Hugh Glass went to get some berries. Then, he met with Grizzly bear. Grizzly bear attacked Glass. Henry heard the Glass cries, and found him with the condition that the bloody and wounded all over his body. Jim Bridger and John Fitzgerald asked Henry to accompany Hugh Glass who was in a coma for five days. Both men were aware that the area is still not safe. Jim tried to convince Fitzgerald to go immediately before the Indians found them. And he said that Glass will not survive with his wound. They then dug the grave for Hugh Glass. Then take out all the equipment. They let Glass dying beside the new graves and left him for dead.

Glass angry to what they have done to him, he was driven on by his thirst for revenge against the two men who had deserted him. Glass takesome months to reach fort Kiowa and recover from his injuries, after that, he

decided to find the Bridger and Fitzgerald to revenge. Glass then went back to the frontier and continue his life as a trapper and fur trader. He got a job as a hunter at Fort Union, but in the winter, 1833, he and two companions attacked by Arikaras near the Yellowstone River.

This novel became famous because this novel adapted in the film with the same title "The Revenant" in 2015. The film is directed and produced by Alejandro G. Inarritu and also played by Leonardo De Caprio, Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson and Will Poulter. The Revenant won three Golden Globe Awards, five BAFTA Awards and at the 88th Academy Awards in 2016.

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this novel. First, *The Revenant* is a novel that tells the story of mankind's struggle against suffering and pain for survive and revenge. So, the readers can be motivated in order to better appreciate the meaning of the process in the struggle. Second, The novel gives the reader an understanding of the power of motivation. With the motivation, the impossible can become possible. Third, *The Revenant* is a novel that has timescapes in the 1800s. So, the writer can merge and compare the data based on history of that timescape how the racial conflict progressed at that time. The last, *The Revenant* has the essential elements for this study such as racial conflict, conflict theory, sociology, etc that needed in this research.

Relating to all descriptions about the novel, the writer uses Sociological theory approach. It focuses on the conflict between 2 subject that have different background, who was oppressing and who was oppressed, and how the conflict happened. The work is more meaningful because the writer knows the relation between the topic issue, theory, and history, in order that we know the background of it making.

By using the Sociological theory approach the writer analyzes *The Revenant* novel by Michael Punke and the topic issue is racial conflict. Therefore, the research paper title is **“Racial Conflict in Michael Punke’s *The Revenant* Novel (2002): A Sociological Perspective”**.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background, the major problem of this paper is about the indicator of Racial Conflict reflected in Michael Punke's novel "*The Revenant* (2002)" as follows:

1. What is the indicator of Racial Conflict in this novel?
2. How the Racial Conflict portrayed in this novel?
3. Why did the author address Racial Conflict in the novel ?

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To identify the indicator of Racial Conflict in this novel?
2. To describe how the Racial Conflict portrayed in this novel?
3. To reveal why the author addressed Racial Conflict in this novel ?

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing racial conflict in Michael Punke's *The Revenant* novel (2002) on Sociological

E. Benefits of the Study

From this study, it is expected that the result of this study can give advantages for the following elements, as follows :

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research can give a contribution to English learning and give a new information to other researcher especially study on Michael Punke's novel *The Revenant* (2002), novel analysis using a Sociological theory perspective.

2. Practical Benefit

This research give a deep understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer himself about the analysis this novel based on a Sociological theory perspective. Generally, to the reader and other students also can be used as reference to study in

literature especially in Michael Punke's novel *The Revenant* (2002) based on Sociological theory perspective.

F. Paper Organization

Chapter 1 consists of Introduction and explains the background. In this chapter the writer covered: (1) Background of the Study, (2) Problem Statement, (3) Objectives of the Study, (4) Benefits of the Study, (5) Research Paper Organization. Chapter 2 related literary theory (underlying theory and previous study). Chapter 3 is research method. Chapter 4 consists of finding and discussion. Chapter 5 consists of conclusion and suggestion.