

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Survival of the fittest is a state of method that describing the mechanism of natural selection that begun from Darwinian evolutionary theory. The biological concept of fitness is defined as reproductive success. In Darwinian terms the phrase is best understood as "Survival of the form that will leave the most copies of itself in successive generations." Survival of the fittest is expressed when scientists explain the ever-prevailing laws of nature that those who are strong will survive, and the selection will continue to apply naturally from time to time. On Mashudi's (2012) opinion there are four process of evolution: first, The Struggle for life, and then, the Struggle for life again, and also natural selection and the last is progress. Heather Scoville give the opinion that "In general public, natural selection is usually described as the survival of the fittest If, if the term is further emphasized, however the majority will answer incorrectly. For a person unfamiliar with natural selection what it really is, "fittest" means the best physical specimen of the species and only form best and best health that will survive in nature". In every generation of individuals, the *fittest* is chosen and this is the great power that makes the biological world today. Selection can explain why cheetahs run fast, cheetahs run fast to catch food and feed their child. Cheetahs who do not run fast get a little food, and fewer of its children can survive.

Survival of the fittest not only happen in climate and ecosystem in forest or other wildlife away from the hustle and bustle of life. In modern society survival of the fittest can be found in any field. In fact, the biological evolutionary mantra of 'survival of the fittest' can just as readily be applied to the society, although fittest does not necessarily mean the biggest or even the best. From a social context, perhaps adaptability and the ability to evolve when required are more important. In the modern society, for example, people who are deemed incapable to pursue efficiency and productivity will fall to the sideways

and being unemployed, because he is less competitive with the stronger who have capability to pursue productivity. Each individual should have the character and willingness to develop in a better direction. Just like the cheetah that run fast to catch food, humans must also move in order to survive and not be rivaled by the other.

One example from the application of survival of the fittest in social life is depicted in a novels written by Kiera Cass, *The Selection* series. In her novel that affected from the sociology of real life, Kiera Cass inserted the concept of survival of the fittest into her novels series entitled *the Selection*, *the Elite* and *The One*. Survival of the fittest in this novel occur when the prince of Illea hold the competition to select a wife from Illea's girl. In this novel all the contestants will compete to catch the heart of prince Maxon for several time by passing some selection, and in the end only one girl selected from 35 contestant.

In this *The Selection* series, Kiera Cass wrote the storyline epically. Cass told about a girl named America Singer who lives in Illea, a country with eight castes depending on one's social and economic status. Ones are the royals and most desirable, with the Eights being the lowest and poorest. Once upon a time Crown Prince Maxon Schreave will be holding the Selection, a competition for the prince's hand and the crown for a princess. For all participants of selection with the caste under The Three, automatically will become a Three. And if she manages to become Princess Illea, she and her family will officially become The One. All of young lady in Illea were very enthusiastic but America Singer, because she has been secretly dating with Aspen, a man from The Six caste. Her mother, Magda tried to persuade America to follow the selection until she want to. However, it is not easy for America Singer to compete alongside 35 other girls. Certainly she would pass many things in the selection, even she was also almost out of competition because she was rude to the prince. Step by step of the competition passed, one by one of the Selected ladies are eliminated until became The Elite. The Elite was the second stage of the competition, which consist of 6 ladies and will compete to be queen of Illea.

An epic novels certainly cannot be separated from a talented author. Kiera Cass, is a women behind *The Selection* novel series. Cass was born and raised in South Carolina. She attended Coastal California University before transferring to Radford University. She graduated from Radford with a degree in History. Most of her novels told about kingdom's life and society. *The Selection* series caused Kiera Cass get the predicate as New York Times Best Selling Author. The Selection is the first three novel of *The Selection* series, the second book is *The Elite*, and the last book is *The One*. The first book of *The Selection* was published on April 24, 2012. The second one, *The Elite* was first published on April 23, 2013. And the last book of this series is *The One* that published on May 6, 2014. The series has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide and is published in 32 languages, moreover it was announced at Kiera Cass official website on April 22, 2015 that Warner Bros has won the film rights of *The Selection* series (Kiera Cass, 2012).

There are many reader's responses to this novel some of them are from Adriana Drian's blog she said "Of judgment, this novel is very nice. I give 4.5 from 5 star for *The Selection* I'm absolutely be a fan of Kiera Cass now!" another reviewer is Mariya (2012) who rated 5 stars in goodreads.com she said "The Selection was one of the best books I have ever read! Everything about this book I absolutely loved and I have no freaking clue how I am going to wait more than a year for the second book to come out. Such torture!" Most of the readers of *The Selection* in goodreads.com rate it with 5 stars, but some of readers are gave low rate, Shannon (2012) just gave 1 star rate and commented "If you can get past the 'I'm smelling my armpit' cover, and also the silly names, and the horribly unoriginal storyline, and the terrible writing. Seriously, though, read reviews for this one. They're not favorable for a reason."

Based on the high rate of this book, then the researcher take *The Selection* series by Kiera Cass as the research data source, and the researcher intend to choose sociological analysis which obviously related to the issue. There are some reason why the writer interested to choose this novel to be analyze. Firstly, not much of researcher who analyze this novel before in research paper until

October, 2017. Secondly, this novel has a good story and plot related to the issue. It means that *The Selection* by Kiera Cass obviously depicts the process of survival of the fittest through the competition. The researcher hopes that this research can be good reference to the other researcher in the future. Based on this study background, the writer attracted to conduct the research entitled: *Survival Of The Fittest in Kiera Cass's The Selection (2012): Sociological Analysis*.

B. Problem Statement

Based on consideration above, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the indicators of survival of the fittest in *The Selection*?
2. How is survival of the fittest depicted in *The Selection*?
3. Why did Kiera Cass give concern in the survival of the fittest?

C. Objective of the Research

From the research question above, we can determine the objective of the research, they are:

1. To identify the indicators survival of the fittest in *The Selection*
2. To describe how is survival of the fittest depicted in *The Selection*
3. To reveal why Kiera Cass gave a concern in survival of the fittest

D. Significant of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to be reference to other researchers who want to study about survival of the fittest in Kiera Cass's novels especially in *The Selection* series and in the real life.

Practically, the result of the study is expected to be useful for the other researchers in their research. And the moral value in it can be useful for English teachers to be able to compete in a better direction.