

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

A family is a group of people, which live in one house. Members of family may include father, mother, and children. Vespa, Lewis et al (2013) stated that family group includes family households and all family groups that do not include the householder (subfamilies). Malinowski's have three definitions about family. First, family is a bounded set of people (a mother, a father, and children) who recognize each other and are distinguishable from other groups. Second, family is a definite physical space, a heart, and a home. Third, a particular set of emotion, family love. Malinowski's idea is that family always divided into a father, mother and the children. These subfamilies may consist of either married couples or parent-child units. In many countries, family determines by blood, for the example is in China. The Chinese family has traditionally based on the structure of family from the ancestor until the grandchild. Chinese family determines by the clan which is clan is revealed the status social or class.

Family is a group of people and has a relationship. Every relationship always has a conflict. The conflict in family happens because every person has a different opinion about something. Communication is sometimes difficult to do with the family. Even though, paying attention has to do but to communicate the problem with member of family very difficult. Conflict is as a natural phenomenon that happens in social life event in family. According (Wall 1985), conflict is a process in which two or more parties attempt to frustrate the attainment of the other's goals. The factor underlying conflict are threefold: interdependence, differences in goals, and differences in perception. Jaycox and Repetiti(1993:351) state, "the family conflict measure included two items assessing physical aggression, and family members sometimes get so upset they

throw things”. When family conflict happens, sometimes physical aggression occurs and raises divorce violence. This conflict is social phenomenon that happens in society and it is part of sociology. Sociology is the scientific study of society, social relationship, and social institution. Sociology has subject matter to study such as the family, crime, social class, culture, literary work, and many more. Sociology has relationship between literary works that study about human life. Literature is human expression and defines the social phenomenon in society such as novel, drama, poetry, and many more. One example of literary works that studied by sociology is novel. Novel is literary work that describes fictional characters and usually has long prose and complex story. *Crazy Rich Asians* is one example of novel.

Crazy Rich Asians is written by Kevin Kwan (2013). Kevin Kwan is Singaporean novelist. He was born in Singapore as a child and now he lives in New York and became an American citizen. He publish *Crazy rich Asians* novel in 2013. This book inspired by his childhood in Singapore. This novel tells about Chinese society in Singapore. Medeiros et al (2008) argues Singapore as one of the major commercial and financial centers of Asia and as an important security partner of the United States, plays a role disproportionate to its size in maintaining security and stability in South Asia. Seventy eight percent of Singapore’s population is ethnically Chinese. According Medeiros (2008:162) “in 1963 election, the communist-controlled Socialist Front sought to exploit ethnic Chinese loyalties in its unsuccessful attempt to overturn the ruling People’s action party. As the result, Singapore founders sought to develop Singapore as a self-consciously multiethnic state and to attenuate its links with china to reduce the opportunities for Chinese political subversion of the nascent city-state”. Almost all Singaporeans lived in small nuclear families. China has large future economic and security environment. Singapore’s economy is center of final assembly. China also has important role in

Singapore's strategy of becoming preeminent East Asian hub for financial service.

In *Crazy Rich Asian* novel written by Kevin Kwan (2013) shows extended family of Chinese family. As it opposes the reality in Singapore, that Singapore tends to have small nuclear family, Medeiros (2008). In this novel tells Chinese live in Singapore. Barbara (1998) argues Chinese tradition favored large extended families; such families were always rare immigrant Singapore. It apparently motivates Kevin Kwan (2013) to write domestic issues commonly exist in extended family. According Garcimartin (2012:92) "extended family is affinity; a ban on marrying a spouse's blood relative". It means extended family has usual pattern. It is the children of the family, grandparents, uncle and aunts, or other relatives continued to care in a natural way. This novel published June 11 2013 by Doubleday (first publish). This novel has five characters with one extended family; there are Rachel Chu, Nicholas Young, Eleanor Young, Edison Cheng, and Astrid Teo. Those characters have a family; there are Young, Shang, T'sen, Cheng, and Chu. The main character is Young's family members and Rachel Chu. However, the story does not only focus on these families, but also Cheng's family tells the different conflict.

This story tells about Rachel Chu who has a boyfriend, Nicholas Young. Rachel Chu is a New York University professor of economics who is from Cupertino, California. Nicholas Young is one of Asia's richest men, and his mother is Eleanor Young. Nicholas is professor in New York. Eleanor is Nick's mother. She wants the best for Nick, especially a wife. She wants girl from upper class whose social status equal with them. After Eleanor knew Rachel from Chu's clan, she tries to find out Rachel's background.

Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young. She envisions a humble family home, long drives to explore the island, and quality time with the man she might one day marry. They will attend Colin's wedding with Araminta. Rachel never knows that Nick's family

home happens to look like a palace. She does not know that she will ride in more private planes than cars and that with one of Asia's most eligible bachelors on her arm. Rachel might as well have a target on her back. When they arrive in Singapore, Rachel is scrutinized by Nick's relatives and friends from many different angles: curiosity, envy, gossipy camaraderie, inquisitive probing, passive aggression (from Nick's mother, who chooses to be absent), and, just occasionally, genuine warmth. Eleanor is also very adamant that Nick marry someone from the close-knit, rich circle of her friends and plans to sabotage Nick and Rachel's relationship, Kwan (2013)

Astrid Teo is Nick's cousin who is from a very wealthy family, the Leongs. She begins her story in Paris, France before returning to her home in Singapore to find that her husband, Michael, is hiding a terrible secret. Edison Cheng is a wealthy banker and a cousin to Nick from Hong Kong who is obsessed with leading a perfect life. He wants to impress everyone at the wedding, but his plans fall short, because of his siblings and family. Nick's mother becomes more obsessed with the identity of Nick's girlfriend. Then his mother has even hired private investigators to analyze her family and her background. After Nick's mother knowing all about Rachel she never agrees that her son will marry with Rachel. After the Colin's wedding Nick ask to Rachel to marry with him. When they in Malaysia Nick design dinner that he will marriage Rachel, but suddenly his mother comes. Eleanor comes with his grandmother to foil Nick's plan. They disagree with Rachel because Rachel from bad family, her father was not dead, but now he in jail, Kwan (2013)

Therefore, novel *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan 2013 has very interesting plot. Why the researcher is interested to study this novel due to three following reason: first, this novel is work of fiction based on the imagination of the author. He writes good story, which tells a life of class society. Second, the conflict within the novel is based on upper class of society in their life. Therefore, after the reading the novel people know how the conflict in upper

class, how they live and how they resolve the problem. The third reason, this novel contains moral values for the readers where Rachel and Young's family members face the problem. They can resolve their problem very patient and calm.

Based on reason and illustration above the researcher will analyze family conflict reflected in novel *Crazy Rich Asians* using a sociological approach. Then, the researcher gives title: FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN KEVIN KWAN'S *CRAZY RICH ASIANS*(2013): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

1.2 **Research Question**

Based on the background of study, the researcher wants to analyze the problem as follows "How is the family conflict reflected in novel Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asian*?"

1.3 **Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statement, the writer wants to analyze family conflict reflected in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* based on a sociology approach.

1.4 **Benefit of the study**

This research can be benefit to:

1.4.1 Theoretical Benefit

The researcher hopes that this study will give new information to other researchers, particularly to the literary study of *Crazy Rich Asians* novel.

1.4.2 Practical Benefit

This study is expected to enrich information of knowledge and experience for writing in many things. This research also gives deeper understanding of the cases family conflict around us through the literary study. Furthermore, this research gives information for students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or the others

students who have same interest in literary study of literature from a Sociological approach.