

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A humanism is someone who actively engages in promoting human welfare and social reforms, and who has no prejudice with human suffering on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, culture, religious or national divisions. A humanism's goal is to save lives, relieve suffering, and maintain human dignity. And also humanism is about the values espoused by humans in relation to their fellow human beings, such as tolerance, compassion, love, help, mutual assistance, prioritizing the public interest, and many others. All of these values are between humans and humans. Humanity is needed in social life to maintain justice. Justice in the sense of helping to uphold rights and balance degrees has limitation in following up on a case or any problem. Humanism values must always be considered so as not to be ignored; oppression originating from selfishness must be avoided in order to realize a just humanity in accordance with their respective portions.

Just and civilized humanity, quoting from the second Pancasila Principle, one of the points is to realize justice and civilization that is not weak means that its realization is positive. If there are things that deviate from the prevailing norms and values, appropriate actions must be taken. The humanism person occupies neutral ground, a place of complete impartiality where each person is permitted to decide for himself. No judgments allowed, No "forcing" personal views. Each takes a neutral posture towards another's convictions (Koukl, 2013). Humanity is also like not over-oppressing someone who has been responsible for his mistakes because he has received the punishment.

Literature always refers to human values that exist in people's lives. Therefore, literary work is a social reflection in society because it is worth humanity, which is something that is present from human experience. Literary works are human objects, human facts, or cultural facts because they are human products. However, this is different from other humanism facts. If other humanism facts are built by

relationships between actions, literary work is a unit that is built on the relationship between sign and meaning, between expression and mind, between the outer and inner aspects (Faruk, 1988). Based on this understanding, it can be said that literary work is basically built from social reality, as a social reflection of society. This result in phenomena that are presented in literary works can't be separated from what happens in the reality of society that surrounds the author as the creator of the world in literary works. Literature and sociology are not wholly distinct disciplines but, on the contrary, complement each other in our understanding of society (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972). It means literary and sociology have a close relationship.

Wellek (1962) found that "Literature is an idea which can be a philosophy and it is analyzed to yield a leading idea". Stephen king is the author of the novel *The Green Mile*, he wrote the novel because of a sense of empathy, the result of Haitian massacre in 1804 was a massacre carried out by black man to whites leaving revenge, after the massacre the whites had a bad judgment on blacks, since that blacks are discriminated against by whites. Stephen king touched his heart to make a novel that was lifted from the real story of a black person who always spread goodness even though he was always hurt by the whites, that every human being has the right to be given love and has the right to be loved. According to Wellek and Warren (1970) state that "the novel is a thought of the author, it can be the characteristic features because of something happened in time is from author's mind".

John Coffey is a big black man who lives alone after being separated from his parents. John Coffey was black, like most of the men who came to stay for a while in E-Block before dying in Old Sparky's lap, and he stood six feet, eight inches tall (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 10). He has super natural power gift from god. He can cure a sick person with a very high social spirit until he is willing to sacrifice his life to heal people. "I couldn't help-it, boss," he said. "I tried to take it back, but it was too late (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 20). He can heal people from their illnesses, as he did with Paul Edgecomb's bladder disease and then eliminate the brain tumor of the Prison Warden's wife. Effective human relation is a combination of knowledge, experience, skills, and attributes. Collectively these traits enable you to perform effectively. It

involves cognitive skills, relationship skills, and personal capabilities. (Marie Dalton, Dawn Hoyle, and Marie Watts, 2009).

But one day John Coffey had a bad thing. He was accused of killing two little girls. John found two little girls who were dying and then he tried to help with the advantage he had, but the two little girls were not saved. He was accused because residents found him with the corpses of the two girls covered in blood, even though John Coffey's intention was to save the girl. With the conditions at the time whites were always negative thought on blacks, John could not do anything. With the accusation, John Coffey was sentenced to death. John Coffey came to E Block, sentenced to death for the rape-murder of the Detterick twins (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 9). He is also tired with the world. Unfair, sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. A loner in a brutal and cruel world. The fact that he was black was detained against him; no one wanted to believe that he was innocent. In a world ostracized by racism, it is automatically seen as a murderer, adding that he is big. He is a gentle giant who feels like a mismatch in the world, and he just wants to leave it. That was the reason why he did not plead not guilty, he did not have the desire to live further. Relating to all the reasons above, the writer uses sociological approach. Sociology is essentially the science, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists (Swingewood, 1972).

The Green Mile is the name of a prison for high-class criminals, people who have severe punishment (death penalty). The wide corridor up the center of E Block was floored with linoleum the color of tired old limes, and so what was called the Last Mile at other prisons was called The Green Mile at Cold Mountain. (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 6). John Coffey was placed on *the green mile*, there was the first time he met Paul Edgecomb (the head screw). Paul Edgecomb is warden who is the wisest in moral and making decisions. "My name is Paul Edgecombe," I said. "I'm the E Block super - the head screw. You want something from me, ask for me by name. If I'm not here, ask this other, man - his name is Harry Terwilliger. Or you ask for Mr. Stanton or Mr. Howell. Do you understand that?" (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 17). He always treats prisoners as well as possible and always serves as role models for other wardens except Percy, because Percy has a governor uncle. Percy always makes

noise that always disturbs calm in Green Mile, Because his behavior wardens hate him. Percy had no business on E Block, where an ugly nature was useless and sometimes dangerous, but he was related to the governor by marriage, and so he stayed (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 10). But relationships are not relatively static entities, like chemical elements or the taxonomist's species, but dynamic, involving ongoing processes. We must therefore remember that any description we make refers to processes over a slice of time. (Ann Elisabeth Auhagen, 1996 : 8).

Mr. Jingles is a pet mouse owned by Eduard Delacroix (prisoner) to be friends in prison, and it becomes its own attraction in E Block. Mr. Jingles always does all orders from Eduard Delacroix, like the attraction of a circus. Be still, Mr. Jingles," Delacroix said, and the mouse stopped on his left shoulder just as if he had understood (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 15). Mr. Jingles is always entertaining; his behavior can calm Eduard Delacroix who is nervous because he will be executed. Eduard Delacroix also made a sleeping basket for Mr. Jingles. The prisoners and guards were entertained by the presence of Mr. Jingles. Three or four days after Mr. Jingles started doing the trick with the spool, Harry Terwilliger rummage through the arts and crafts stuff we kept in the restraint room, found the Crayola's, and brought them to Delacroix with a smile that was almost embarrassed. "I thought you might like to make that spool different colors," he said. "Then your little pal'd be like a circus mouse, or something" (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 143).

The next day Warden Moores (Block E guards) came to check the condition of the warden, secure and supervise the prison area from unfair acts. Besides, he is also the person who regulates the position of a guard, accepting or removing the guards. I worked for three wardens during my years as a Cold Mountain guard; Hal Moores was the last and best of them in a walk. Honest, straightforward, lacking even Curtis Anderson's rudimentary wit, but equipped with just enough political savvy to keep his job during those grim years ... And enough integrity to keep from getting seduced by the game (*The Green Mile*, 1996: 50).

Swingewood and Laurensen (1972) state that "The main purpose of any viable sociology has functioned as an instrument to grasp the meaning of the authors and to improve understanding of the society based on the phenomena as social life".

There are reasons of why the researcher chooses this novel. The first reason is that the novel has a unique story and an interesting plot to read and understand. The author tells how difficult the situation must be for the main character. The main role is big black but has a soft heart, has super natural power from God, it makes the reader curious to read this novel to completion.

The second reason is that the author gives sarcasm to us through the novel so as not to judge someone by just looking at the cover. Until those who become victims do not have the right to defend themselves. In the novel John Coffey is one of the victims of injustice in those days.

The last reason is has a unique storyline and strong character in each character, making researchers and readers inspired by each story. Other than that it can be used as reference in addressing a problem more wisely.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher will observe *The Green Mile* novel by using sociological approach. Therefore, the researcher constructs his proposal entitled **HUMANISM REFLECTED IN STEPHEN KING'S *THE GREEN MILE* NOVEL (1996): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher proposed the problem. These are the questions to discuss?

1.2.1 How are the Sociological elements described in *The Green Mile* novel?

1.2.2 How is Humanism reflected in *The Green Mile* novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is simply answering the problem proposed previously. So it is said:

1.3.1 To describe how the Sociological elements based on *The Green Mile* novel.

1.3.2 To analyze how Humanism based on the sociological approach in *The Green Mile* novel.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher limits the problem on the analysis about humanism in *The Green Mile* novel based on Sociological Approach.

1.5 Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the research can be clarified as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study expected to contribute to development knowledge of analysis, academic references to support the theory of socialism.

1.5.2 Practical Benefits

This research is also expect to make readers understanding humanism and socialism in literature especially for students majoring in English department who are interested in Stephen King's work to use an analytical approach to socialism. In other words, this research can be a source of comparison for further research.

1.6 Paper Organization

The organization of this study is explained in order the reader can understand the content of the paper easier. The organization as follows:

Chapter I is introduction which contain background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study and paper organization.

Chapter II is Literature Review. It consists of Underlying Theory (Sociology of Literature, Major Principle of Sociology Literature, and The Notion of Humanism), Previous Studies, and Theoretical Application of Sociology Literature.

Chapter III is Research Method. It consists of Type of the Study, Object of the Study, Types of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of the Data Collection, and Technique of the Data Analysis.

Chapter IV is Sociological Analysis. It consists of Sociological Analysis (Social Aspect, Political Aspect, Cultural Aspect, Religious Aspect, and Science and Technology), Humanism Analysis (Self-Actualization, Self-Esteem Needs, Love and

Belongingness Needs, Safety and Security Needs, and Psychological Needs), and Reason of the Author.

Chapter V is Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.