

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a form of the results of creative arts work whose objects humans and their lives use language as their medium (Semi 1988: 8). Beautiful literary work is not from the language that plays in the square but must be seen from the whole as in the theme, message, structure and in the values contained in the literary work itself relating to aesthetic, moral and conceptual values. From a literary work we can know social life, phenomena and culture when the literary work is made.

Literary work is a medium used by authors to convey authors' ideas and experiences. As a medium for the role of literature as a medium for expressing author's ideas to be conveyed to readers. In addition, literary works can also reflect the views of the author in the form of various problems which are surrounded

The social reality conveyed through the text to the reader is an illustration of the various social phenomenon that have occurred in the community and are presented again in the form of different ways. Literature displays the picture of life and life itself as a social reality.

Literary works have a unique relationship with social and cultural systems as the basis of the life of the author, so literature always lives and is lived by society and society as the object of sociology studies confirms the relationship between literature as a discipline and sociology as other disciplines (Kurniawan, 2012: 3)According to Abercrombie and Kurniawan (2012: 4) sociology has 2 root words: *socius* (meaning friend from Latin) and *logos* (in Greek) which means "knowledge about". literally, sociology means society. In general, sociology is an analysis of the structure of social relationships that are formed through social interactions.

One of the literary works that portrays the social life of the community is a novel. Nurgiyantoro (2010: 10) suggests that novels are works of fiction

built by building elements, namely intrinsic and elemental elements extrinsic.

The first thing the researcher when read *Norwegian Wood* Haruki Murakami's novel work is the reality of Japanese children's lives today, then the researcher raised it as a research because the novel itself could be a general picture of Japanese society which was created by the author by being influenced by the surrounding environment.

In this study, the author uses sociology of literature to study *Norwegian Wood* novel. Haruki Murakami is a great author born on January 12, 1949 in Kyoto, Japan. This *Norwegian Wood* novel has been famous novel and best Japanese book.

Norwegian wood by Haruki Murakami tells of a 37-year-old Toru Watanabe man who was on a trip to Germany using a plane again recalling his college years. When listening to instrumental Norwegian Wood, the title of the famous Beatles song in 1960. All teenagers liked the song as well as Naoko, the girl who had been a lover of Watanabe. The story took place in 1968-1970. It about 2 years.

Naoko is actually Kizuki's girlfriend who died of suicide due inhaling his own car exhaust fumes at the age of 17 years old. Kizuki's tragic death caused psychological injuries to Watanabe and Naoko. After Watanabe graduated, he continued his studies in Tokyo. He accidentally left his village to reduce pressure after Kizuki Passed away. Naoko also did the same thing. Then they met in Tokyo. This makes them become more intimate and have sex for the first time. As experienced by ordinary teens, they also experience problems in adolescents including : promiscuity, the demands of parent to be the best students, romance, and social deviations. This problem is experienced by many teenagers in Tokyo. Luckily Watanabe was able to survive that phase. Watanabe is introvert person, anti-social and aloof character. He has a hobby of reading novel, because the character is introvert so he only has two friends Kizuki and Nagasawa. Another case with Naoko who could not accept the death of her boyfriend. Kizuki and

Naoko have been together since grade 2 in elementary school. In the end Naoko experienced a psychiatric disorder because she was unable to hold back too much love for Kizuki. In the end Naoko was treated at a special treatment center for people with psychological disorders at “Ami Dormitory” even though Watanabe occasionally visited Naoko.

Watanabe continues to live as he should; he became a student at a private college and took part-time work for his living expenses. Although the relationship with Naoko is somewhat difficult and confusing. He still could drink and even have free sex with an unknown woman he met at the bar with Nagasawa San. At the college, Watanabe met his classmate named Midori who offered warmth of love. Midori has cheerful, honest character and frankly, finally Watanabe feels a different feeling from Midori.

Watanabe feels hesitant at intersection. With Naoko his love runs calmly like a river without ripples while with Midori his life also feels comfortable. Then at some time, Ishida Reiko who is Naoko's friend informs that Naoko had died by suicide. This made Watanabe feel even more confused. Finally Watanabe decided to wander for a month to find peace. When he returned in Tokyo and visited Ishida Reiko again. Watanabe tells about Naoko and Midori to Reiko, making Watanabe decide to express his true feelings to Midori.

Because the complexity of relationships experienced by the characters contain in this novel, especially regarding social interaction behavior and behavioral divergence such as killing self, free sex and so on. Thus caused problems in social life so it needs to be studied further .

On the basis of these thoughts, the researcher decided to write this thesis with the title: “*Social Life the Main Character Toru Watanabe in Norwegian Wood Novel : A Sociology of Literature*”

B. Problem Statement

From the explanation of the background study, so the researcher found the main problem

1. What kinds of social life were reflected in Norwegian Wood novel ?
2. How social life was reflected in *Norwegian Wood* novel ?
3. Why did the author depict social life in his novel ?

C. Objective of the Study

The researcher tries to explain some objective studies are:

1. To explain what kinds of social life were reflected in *Norwegian Wood* novel.
2. To describe how social life was reflected in *Norwegian Wood* novel.
3. To describe why the author depicted social life in his novel .

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, researcher only focused on the analysis sociological social life of the main character Toru Watanabe in *Norwegian Wood* (1987). The researcher uses a sociological approach to analyze the novel.

E. Benefit of the Study

This research is expected to be able to provide the results that use the benefits of the objective additions of the research are :

1. Theoretical Benefit

For the research adds knowledge in sociological observations of novel literature.

2. Practical Benefit

The research expected to give new knowledge about the sociological perspective of the novel as a useful reference for students to increase their knowledge.

For parties who have an interest in this research, hopefully the results of this study can be taken into consideration and can contribute ideas that can tackle the literature.

F. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “ A Sociological Analysis of the Social Life of the Main Character Toru Watanabe in Norwegian Wood Novel” consist of five chapters which are presented as follows :

Chapter I is introduction consists of Background of the Study, Research Questions, Objective of the Study, Limitation of Study, Benefits of the Study and Research Paper Organization.

Chapter II present Literature Review. It consists of Underlying Theory and Previous Study.

Chapter III is Research Method, which contains Type of Study, Type of Data and Data Source, Method of Collecting Data and Technique of Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV present Finding and Discussion.

Chapter V present Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Benefits for the research.