

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature as an oral or written work that has various characteristic features such as originality, artistry, beauty in content and expression, Panuti Sudjiman (1986 : 68) . Literature is an art in some materials. Literature also give the viewers, readers, and audience entertain. The example are like movie, novel, poetry,etc. This study will focused on the novel from Eric Weiner’s Man seeks God, which takes religion as its main issue. The reason to analyze this novel is because this novel is very interesting and this novel gives us some knowledge of the power as discussed. Also this novel teaches us how to respect and tolerate other religious communities.

According to Reville, “ Religion is the determination of human life by the sentiment of a bond uniting the human mind to that mysterious mind whose domination of the world and itself recognizes and to whom it delights in feeling itself united .” (Mawuntu and Krasnov, 2019:33). The religion is a guidance that organize human pattern of life. The goal of religion is avoid human from anything that dangerous for human. The religion has bond that should be obedient come from one of the greatest power as an unseen power because it cannot be seen by human sense but has great impact for human life.

Glock and Stark (1965) define religion using Durkheim’s Religion, or what societies hold to be sacred, comprises an institutionalized system of symbols, beliefs, values, and practices focused on the question of ultimate meanings. In this quote, Glock and Stark start their generalization of Durkheim’s definition of religion by equating or placing religion on a par with “what societies hold to be sacred”. The “sacred”, writes Glock and Stark, is however defined as something that “provide, or symbolize, solutionsto questions of ultimate meaning (Willander, 2014:40).

Religion becomes means of solving a problem related to wordly problems, religion is also a reference when there are a problem with the inner

soul. Many humans who less interpret the religion a a container in seeking peace of mind and also peace of the soul. As a religious human, being has an awarness that life is a gift of God. Therefore they understand that life must be preserved and preserved to be saved.

According to Wallace (1996) ) Religion” is a set of rituals, rationalized by myth, which mobilizes supernatural powers for the purpose of achieving or preventing transformations of state in in man and nature”. Religion may be regarded as the belief and patterns of behavior by which humans try to deal with what they view as important problems that cannot be solved through the application of known technology or techniques of organization (Marzali, 2016).

This novel written by Eric Weiner and published in 2016. Based of the witter’s experiencewho tells about the true story from the writer, and this is came after a health scare landed him in the hospital. He was in pain , waiting a diagnosis, when a well- meaning nurse asks him”Have you found your God yet?”.

This self-described “confusionist” sets off on a journey through five countries and eight religions to figure out which faith fits him best. Weiner explains in his introduction he was born into a family of “ gastronomical jews” whose sense of a divine presnce began and ended in the kitchen: if we could eat it then itwas jewish and, by extension, had something to do with God.

As far as he was concerned, God resided not in Heaven or the Great void but in the frigidair, somewhere between the cream cheeshe and the salad dressing. We believed in an edible deity, and that was about the extent of our spiritual life.

Weiner ‘s sampling of the religious smorgasbord generates some rich insights. He notes that Buddhism is based on “ a tiny barely perceptible pause between our thoughts, a pause that, while we nornally are not even aware of it is existence, contains the entire universe.

A journey to Turkey to investigate sufism opens Weiner to the joyous, mystical side of Islam. And he is moved by the self-sacrifice that many major religions, from Buddhism to Roman Catholicism encourage. At the other extreme is Weiner's uproarious visit to a Las Vegas convention of Raelians, a U.F.O.- (Unidentified Flying Object) based sect whose adherents believe human kind was created 25000 years ago by a benevolent race of aliens called the Elohim.

Relating to all the description above, the writer uses sociological approach, from the functionalist perspective of sociological theory, religion is an integrative force in society because it has the power to shape the collective beliefs. According to Durkheim (*The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, 1912), Religion a unified system of belief and practices relative to sacred things and then that is to say, things set apart and forbidden, belief and practices which united into one single moral community called church all those who adhere to them (Durkheim, 1912).

So, religion is a symbol of collective representation in its ideal form. Religion is a means of strengthening collective consciousness such as religious rites. People involved in religious ceremonies then their consciousness about collective consciousness is getting stronger. After the religious ceremony the atmosphere of religion is brought into daily life, then gradually the collective consciousness is weakened again. Thus religious rituals are means considered to play a role in creating a collective consciousness among the people, or in other words religious rituals are charge for humans to reconnect to their God.

Relating to the description above the writer used the sociological approach to analyze the novel to dig up the elementary form of religious life entitled. To achieve the purpose of the study, the writer analyzes the novel on the sociological aspects namely sociology of the religion.

So, Weiner dismisses such sects as "some frothy tonic for our everyday neuroses, " their allure lying in their evasion of the arduous demands made by the world's" good religions". At the end of book, Weiner

embraces a hybrid God cobbled together from his various encounters: “His foundation is Jewish , but his support beams Buddhist. He has the heart of sufism, the simplicity of Taoism, the generosity of the Franciscans, the hedonistic streak of the Raelians”. It is a neat way to tie up the loose ends, but it somehow left the writer a nonbeliever.

The reason why the writer is interested analyzing this novel is , because this novel tells how a man finds his faith by the journey that he made. His past and come across many religion from the others countries. Thus the researcher entitled **THE ELEMENTARY FORMS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE REFLECTED IN ERIC WEINER’S MAN SEEKS GOD (2011): SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

1. How is the journey of Eric Weiner in seeks of god depicted in the novel?
2. How is the elementary forms of religious life reflected in the journey of Eric Weiner reviewed from sociological approach?
3. How are the problems faced by Eric Weiner on his journey to seeks God?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The objective of the research is

1. To find out the journey of Eric Weiner in seeks of god depicted in the novel.
2. To find out the elementary forms of religious life reflected in the journey of Eric Weiner reviewed from sociological approach
3. To find out how the problems faced by Eric Weiner on his journey to seeks of God.

### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The study give benefits as follows:

#### **1.4.1 Theoretical Benefit**

The researcher hopes that this study can impact a new contribution an information to the larger body of knowledge especially the literary study on *Weiner's Man Seeks God (2016)*.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Benefit**

This research is expected to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. It is also can be used as reference for other university students who are interested in literary study on *Weiner's Man Seeks God (2011)*.