

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is very important thing in human's life. All people, male or female in the world use language as the medium of communication or everyday speech. It also helps to deliver opinion by using oral or written of human's communication. Falk states that language is always there, and we make use of it automatically, often without any conscious effort (1985: 3). It is very impossible for human to live without language. Therefore, human always uses and develops it day by day in order to get communication fluently.

There is a strong relation between language and literature. Griffith states that the medium of literature is language, both oral and written. But not everything written or spoken is literature. Creators of literature use language in special way, a way different from that of scientists or people using everyday speech (1949: 33). This statement means that literature can not be separated with the language because it is the medium of literature. The scientists use language for its value, its ability to provide symbols (words) that mean one thing precisely such as H_2O meaning water, O_2 meaning oxygen, and so on, while the writers of literature use language in special way, that is, for its expressive and emotional qualities based on their thought in creating literary work as the product of literature such as poem, novel, and so on.

Literature itself mirrors or expresses life. Jones states that Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (1968: 1). Therefore, people can broaden their horizon about the life in the world around them by reading literary work.

Literature contains substances of art, which give the valuable unique pleasures for both the writer and the reader such as music, style of writing, pattern of color, the beauty of nature and etcetera. According to Hornby (1995: 687), literature is writings that are valued as works of art, especially fiction, drama, and poetry. It means that fiction, drama, and poetry are the forms of literature containing aesthetic substances of art.

Fiction is classified into short story and novel setting apart from the fact of real life. Griffith (1949: 35) states as follows:

We commonly use the term *fiction* to describe prose works that tell a story (short stories and novels). In fact, however, all work of literature are "fictional" in the sense that the reader sets them apart from the facts of real life.

It means that in fiction, the writer describes some of characters, events, dialogue, and settings which exist only in his or her imagination. The writer may also draw them based on his or her real-life observations and experiences but not all of them are the same as the real life, which some exist and others are existed. Furthermore, the writer may ignore the laws of real world such as fantasy fiction, wherein human beings fly, magic performance, remain young, life after the death in paradise or in hell and etc.

One of the most interesting forms of fiction is novel. Novel is almost the same as short story. The difference between novel and short story lies in the

length and complexity of the story. Jones states that a novel is like a short story, except that it is longer. Both are prose fiction, both deal with truths, both deal with problems and conflict (1968: 80). It means that novel is longer than short story, but the topic or the theme is totally the same, that is about a living thing.

Reading novel is very useful to increase the readers' imagination, to sharpen their mind, and to increase their sensitivity about certain problems related to life or event. Even, someone can know character and personality of someone else because novel depicts about person's character, person's problem and life. Shiply states that novel is the work however related to life or actual life of person or event in which the imagination of the author shapes the materials (1970: 199).

This thesis discusses novel of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. It is a 1958 English-language novel written by Nigerian, Chinua Achebe. It is a staple book in schools throughout Africa and widely read and studied in English-speaking countries around the world. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first African novels written in English enriching European literary works, unmistakably African. *Things Fall Apart* became one of the masterpieces of 20th century African fiction.

Achebe depicts the Igbo as a group of people with great social institutions. Its culture is rich and impressively civilized, with traditions and laws that place great emphasis on justice and fairness. The people are ruled not by a king or chief but by a kind of simple democracy, in which all males gather and make decisions by consensus. Okonkwo is a leader and local wrestling champion in Umuofia, one

of a fictional group of nine villages in Nigeria inhabited by the Igbo ethnic group applying patriarchy as a system of social organization.

One of Achebe's main tools is digression. It can be found in the main character, Okonkwo dealing with patriarchy system in Igbo society. Besides that, this novel also documents what the white man has destroyed in Igbo society. By reading this novel, the reader can learn much about Igbo's customs and tradition. Depicting this world is a central part of the novel. From explanation above, the reader can know that this novel is very interesting to be analyzed. It is the reason why the writer chooses this novel to be analyzed.

The writer is interested to analyze patriarchy on Okonkwo's family in Igbo society in the Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* very much. Patriarchy has influenced Igbo's style of life very much. Men dominate the allocation of prestige. It seems to lack equality and freedom because due to its patriarchal nature, the father seems to exercise unlimited amount of power and dominance over the wife and children. The general belief is that women are subjugated in the Igbo culture and tradition. The Igbo also boast a high degree of social mobility. Men are not judged by the wealth of their fathers, and Achebe emphasizes that high rank is attainable for all freeborn Igbo. In short, male socializations in many Nigerian cultures aim largely to make them to be domineering, ruthless, and in control, and to see themselves as naturally superior to women. On the other hand, female socialization often aims at making girls and women submissive, easily ruled or controlled, and to see themselves as natural inferiors to men.

The writer chooses "Patriarchy in Okonkwo's Family in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*" as the title of the thesis because "patriarchy" is the most interesting topic appearing in the novel. Besides that, the writer finds that "patriarchy" causes many complicated problems toward Igbo's style of life especially Okonkwo, such as violence, polygamy, and inferiority. All of them are very interesting to be analyzed in order to enrich reader's horizon about life.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

According to the title of this thesis, that is "Patriarchy in Okonkwo's Family in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*", the writer would like to discuss the problems as follows:

1. What are the kinds of patriarchy on Okonkwo's family in Igbo society in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*?
2. What are the effects of patriarchy on Okonkwo in Igbo society in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

To answer the problems that are stated above, the writer determines two important goals, they are as follows:

1. To figure out the kinds of patriarchy on Okonkwo's family in Igbo society in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.
2. To explain the effects of patriarchy on Okonkwo, the main character in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

The writer limits the problem to discuss in order to get a detailed understanding of the topic of the discussion. In this writing, the writer takes Chinua Achebe's novel, that is, *Things Fall Apart*. The writer would like to pay attention only on the kinds and the effects of patriarchy, and limits the idea by focusing in the positive and negative effects of patriarchy on Okonkwo in Igbo society.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this thesis will be useful for the readers in getting knowledge about patriarchy and its effects, both positive and negative, which are shown by Okonkwo's family through his style of life in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. By understanding the effects of patriarchy deeply, the readers will consider that novels are not only as reading materials but also as the medium to increase their imagination, thought, and sensitivity toward life in the society surrounding them.

Furthermore, the result of the study is intended to stimulate other researchers to do a further research on this topic and can be used as the important reference. The last, of course this thesis will be useful for the writer himself to enrich the horizon with the expression of life concerning with the novel.