

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In literary criticism, the relationship between readers and the literary text cannot be separated. When readers read the literary text, it gives an impact to reader's idea to interpret the meaning within the literary text. Roland Barthes (in Newton, 1997: 121) stated, once the text was published, the author have no intervention of readers point of view about the text. It means, readers are free to interpret the meaning within the literary text. Readers response is an entity of reader understanding which prove they understand or able to give meanings in the literary text.

Cultural aspect is one of extrinsic elements which always found in literary works especially novel. Ratna (2009: 329) argued the literature contains cultural aspects. Koentjaraningrat (2009: 164) argued cultural aspect is universal, so, it is true that cultural aspect could be found from any culture in any region in this world. In the novel, the author mostly discusses cultural aspect in their masterpiece to explain it to the reader so they could understand social and cultural background in a book.

Cultural authenticity is the authenticity of cultural aspect and values within a book. In cultural authenticity, the reader's perspective is urgently needed.

Cultural authenticity is the success with which a writer is able to reflect the cultural perspectives of the people whom he or she is writing about, and make readers from the inside group believe that he or she "knows what's going on." (Bishop, 2003, 29)

Gopalakrishnan (2011: 37) stated cultural authenticity is determined by how close the author's perspective to the reader's perspective. Killen (2011, 3-4) stated "cultural authenticity is up by multiple levels, a range of people, time periods and social and cultural contexts and those things can not belong to just one person because it is an ever-changing sundry which was determined by people/group through their engagement with texts in interprets meaning". Also, he added cultural authenticity is a construction which was built by the social and cultural aspects within a text. Therefore, the writer chose cultural authenticity because it is very useful to gain the reader's perspective about the authenticity of cultural and social values in a book especially in a novel. Cultural authenticity as stated by Howard (in Short & Fox: 2003, 373) is how the reader sense the authenticity of cultural experience which has been portrayed in a book.

One of novel which contains of cultural and social aspect is *Sitti Nurbaya* by Marah Rusli. This novel is still considering one of the finest works of early modern Indonesian literature. This novel is very interesting because this story portraying the clash between traditionalism and modernism in Minangkabau society in 1920's.

Based on the importance of cultural authenticity, the writer interested to analyse

1.2 Research Question

1. What Minangkabau cultural aspects are revealed in *Sitti Nurbaya*?

2. What Minangkabau cultural aspects in *Sitti Nurbaya* are responded by readers?
3. To what extent do the readers understand the cultural authenticity of Minangkabau culture depicted in *Sitti Nurbaya*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To find out Minangkabau cultural aspects in *Sitti Nurbaya*
2. To find out what cultures in *Sitti Nurbaya* are responded by readers
3. To elaborate the extent to which the readers understood the cultural authenticity of Minangkabau culture in *Sitti Nurbaya*

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on how the readers understanding towards cultural aspect which shows the cultural authenticity of Minangkabau culture in *Sitti Nurbaya*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study expects to enrich a wider understanding about the theme of the study. Also, this study gives a new understanding in cultural authenticity for English Department student.

1.6 Previous Related Studies

There are several similar studies has been conducted. First researcher by Chloe Killen from University of Newcastle with the thesis title is *Perceptions of*

Authenticity in the Production of Australian Children's Picture Books. This research examined the cultural authenticity has been perceived in Australian children's picture books and propose a confluence approach that accounts for the author, the text, the reader and their contexts together in a system of mutual influence as an effective way of understanding authenticity.

The second researcher is EunYoung Yoo-Lee with the thesis *Evaluating Cultural Authenticity in Multicultural Picture Books: A Collaborative Analysis for Diversity Education from the University of Chicago (2014)*. This study examined the issue of cultural authenticity reflected in multicultural picture books in order to provide a new direction for diversity education for children. Specifically, it attempts to reframe issues surrounding the topic of cultural authenticity based on a systematic and empirical analysis of picture books that represent three different ethnic groups: African, Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans.

The third researcher is F. D. Yung with the thesis title *A Study of Cultural Authenticity in East Asian English Fiction for Children (2011)*. This thesis explores the authenticity of the cultural representations of East Asian cultures in English fictions for children.

Those previous study are also using Bishop's cultural authenticity theory. However, different from them, this study analyse novel and use the questionnaire to find out the response of cultural authenticity in Sitti Nurbaya, with English Department students as the respondent. Those previous studies above are to enrich the writer's understanding of cultural authenticity and lead the writer to this study.