CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the introductory part of the study. Therefore, some terms related to the study are explained below; they are the background of the study, research question, purpose of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The act of placing injustice restrictions on an individual, group or institution recognized as an oppression. D'Amato (1999) argue that oppression cannot be understood separately from capitalism because it shapes and depend upon oppression. Moreover D'Amato (1999) sum up capitalism is a society based on the exploitation of the many by the few. Capitalism fueled by inequality and the means to oppress and keep the working class and the poor down. The ruling class need to weaken any opposition in order to gain more profit from the working class. The term of oppression start from Marx criticism in capitalist society that emphasizing about the difference about the rich and the poor. Marx described that the way a group use their wealth and connection to hold the working class down as an oppression. D'Amato in 1999 stated in his article that he found that many people said that the concept of oppression from

Marx only concern on exploitation issue and unable to deal with oppression problem. Based on that doubt against the concept of oppression from Marx, a lot of idea and criticism arise. Some of them put the spotlight on oppression that based from hierarchical sexual ordering in society, some concern on how oppression which based from people race, until a very fluid concept nowadays like Lookism that put a highlight on how people that fit with social concept of good-looking have privileges from whose who are not.

The idea of oppression has continue evolving as it keep its presence in everyday process in normal life. In general we can say that oppression is an act of denying other people opportunity to reach their full potential (Young, 2004). Oppression mean to create inequality between ruling group and the other group. The ruling group tend to create policies, restriction, and unquestionable norm and habit to limit the other group choice in order to reduce their potential. People should have a free will to reach their potential in their own way and oppression mean to create a border between ruling group and the other to reach their potential or even make them think they don't have any potential. Furthermore Johnson (2002) sum up that for every social group that is privileged, there are one or more other social group are oppressed in relation to it. Oppression is a force that try to press upon people and hold them down and block them in their way to pursuit good life. Moreover he describe that privilege tend to open the door for opportunity and oppression tend to slam them shut. The ruling group share same interest and goal, they aim to make profit from that situation. The ruling group exploits difference to maintain and solidify its privileged position in society

Guðjónsdóttir stated in 2004 that throughout the Harry Potter novels heritage is an extremely important factor in determining the social status of people in the wizard society People are labeled into groups within the society based on their family history that is the blood that runs in their veins. Those that come from old and respected families are those that have the most powerful connections and considered as the dominant group in wizard society. Others that are not from that kind of family or do not share the same idea with them considered as the subordinate group. The books give a strong social criticism by showing how heritage controls the wizard society and where the power lies.

The system of classes in Harry Potter novel described in *Harry Potter and The Order of Phoenix* book. A wizards form the old and respected family in the wizard society and possess the most power, money and the best connections to other influential people called them-self pureblood. The wizards and witches that are pureblood come from old and respected families, often living in mansions that have stayed within the family for a long time, giving an image of them as the aristocracy in the society. The pureblood families are all interrelated since there are very few of them left and the importance is to keep the family pure, stated in the book as the Malfoy family and Black family share a family tree, both among the few old and respected families (Rowling, 2002). That show how this group of people like to keep their blood line with heritage.

As member of certain social group, people usually oppressed in various way. Various ways of oppression based on the act of oppression classified by Iris Young into five type. Iris Young was a political theorist and feminist focused on the nature of justice and social difference. She served as Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and was affiliated with the Center for Gender Studies and the Human Rights program there. Her research covered contemporary political theory, feminist social theory, and normative analysis of public policy. She believed in the importance of political activism and encouraged her students to involve themselves in their communities Young (2004) classified oppression into violence, exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, and cultural dominance.

Exploitation is the act of using people's labor to produce profit without compensating them fairly. Exploitation uses capitalism to oppress. Capitalism creates social gap in society and cause poverty and misery for people in lower classes. Under capitalism, poor people in lower class are forced to work for living and sell their labor power to upper class, while the upper class enjoy the profit from the labor's product. Capitalism keep the rich richer and the poor poorer. The other faces of oppression is marginalization. Marginalization is the act of relegating a group of people into lower social standing. Creating border and push a group of people to outer or the edge of society. Marginalization is an exclusion process, it expel a whole category of people to participate in social life. The other face is powerlessness, it linked with Marx's theory of socialism where the powerless are dominated by ruling class. The powerless people

though so little about themselves and usually indoctrinated by the mind-set of the ruling class. Another face of oppression is cultural dominance, it bring the ruling class culture to another level form of power and establishing it as a norm. Cultural imperialism can be marked by stereotype, the stereotype define what they can and cannot be. The last face of oppression is violence, violence probably the most visible form of oppression. The intention to damage or humiliate the person is a form of violence.

Peter Barry in 2009 point out that Marxist literary criticism maintains that the writer's social class has a major bearing on what is written by a member of that class. The author of Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling, lived in poverty as a single mother and struggled with unfulfilling jobs before writing the story of Harry Potter. With Barry's statement about Marxist literary criticism in mind it is evident that the treatment of the lower class in Harry Potter as well as the negative image of the ruling upper class and the authority that shapes the books is inspired by Rowling's life. The study choose J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novel as object of the study because in creating the magical world of *Harry Potter,* J.K Rowling create classes or group that only exist in *Harry Potter* wizard society.

The novel take place in Great Britain during the 1990's in both a magical and a non-magical society. The fictional world of Harry Potter is the magical world. However, that fictional world presents many social issue. The protagonist of the story is Harry Potter who is a well-known teenage wizard. In the beginning of the story Harry never know about his magical abilities and lives with his non-magical aunt and uncle

for 12 years in a London suburb. With the story of the novels, Harry shifts from the non-magical world to the magical world and the reader gets to know the magical world and all its contents through Harry's own transitioning after in his 12th birthday a half-giant wizard come and told him he was a wizard. Harry entered the magical world as a 12 years old boy who never know all norm and habit in magical world. The reader will introduced about magical world together with Harry as the story goes. Harry made friend with Hargrid, the half-giant wizard and met unique non-human character in magical world such as centaur and house elves with its own stereotype and specific rule in magical world. He also learn about many wizards and witches have one parent who called Muggle cause they are have no possesses of magical power and the other is a wizard or a witch, making them half-blood wizards. And there are muggle-born wizard / witch that both of their parents have no possesses of magical power but turn out to be a wizard and witches. And the other is called Pureblood wizards form the upper class in the wizard society and possess the most power, money and the best connections to other influential people.

This study will focus on analyzing six characters of *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's* and *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secret* characters which are Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, Rebeus Hagrid, Firenze, and Dobby to find out how oppression in the novel portrayed by J.K Rowling. This study aim to find out how oppression portrayed in the characters of J.K Rowling's *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's* and *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secret*. This study find that the writer

background will determine how the writer criticize the dominant group in society and how she portrayed the oppression issue on her first two novel because she created her own magical world with its society that have different classes or group from real world society.

The related study that also concern about inequality in Harry Potter novel conducted by Guðjónsdóttir (2014), she conducted a descriptive analysis on *Harry Potter* novels. The study applied Marxism theory to analyze the social class discrimination portrayed in the novels; by focusing on the social class in real life. The study is aimed to show how the authority and the upper class are portrayed in a very negative way. The result of the study showed that by applying Marxist theory focusing on class structure, and it is shown the upper class creates the superstructure while the lower class, formed by *Muggleborn* wizards and witches as well as the non-human beings, form the base of the society.

The other is Jasmina Gagulic (2016), she conducted a research which focus on analysis of stereotypes and prejudices in the *Harry Potter* series. The study focuses on find how the character in the novel facing stereotype and prejudice that exist in the wizard society in Harry Potter novel.

1.2 Research Question:

How the oppression portrayed in *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's* and *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secret* novel?

1.3 Purpose of the study:

Based on research question above this study aims to reveal the portrayal of oppression in *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's* and *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secret*

1.4 Limitations of the study:

This study focuses on analyzing every single narration which indicate an oppression toward six character from the novel which are Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley, Rubeus Hagrid, Firenze, and Dobby and classified the act of oppression by utilizing Irish Young's fife face of oppression.

1.5 Significance of the study:

The author hopes this research could enhance the knowledge of both writer and readers about how oppression portrayed in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's* and *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secret* characters considering oppression as one

of the important issue in human life. In addition, the researcher expects this research will give benefit, especially for the students of English Department who are interested in the same field of study.