

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Every person in this world are inseparable from the original identity that naturally derived since they were born. This natural identity is influenced by the form of style, religion, customs, practices, and certain linguistics that together form a way or a tool to be used by parents and families as the member of social community. The song we sing, the clothes we wear, the style of communication we use to others for example, are the representation of the culture from every human being. It is special because one culture is different from another culture and there must be a certain linguistics used to connect each of them for interact.

Culture in wider range of knowledge could be named as the globalization of culture, the large bowl of way of life which involves all people from around the world to follow the practices consciously or unconsciously. The globalization is the effect upon culture of the “increasing connection of the world and its people”, is perhaps nowhere more visible than in the changing nature of the relationship between the world’s youth and their sense of identity (Solomon & Scuderi 2002:13). In relation to the globalization of culture, the term ‘youth’ is the one which will be highlighted because the youth are the most influential element in the cultural process. Moreover, the ‘youth’ which play role as the main character of the cultural process create the

phenomenon named youth culture. In a wide sense, ‘youth cultures’ refer to the way in which young people’s social experiences are expressed collectively through the construction of differentiating lifestyle, mainly in their leisure time, or in interstitial spaces in the institutional life (Feixa & Nofre, 2012).

Youth culture can be approached from the concept named *subculture*. It has been an interpretative tool, since it focuses on the structural connections of youth lifestyles and their relationship with class, generation, ethnicity, gender, and territory (Feixa, 2012 [1998], Hall and Jefferson, 1983 [1975]). The subculture is the term which are going to be discussed in this research as the main topic.

In conducting the study, there are various media which can be used as a corpus such as novel, news, editorial, poem, advertisement, etc. In this study, the writer use the novel entitled ‘*Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*’ by Haruki Murakami, the Japanase writer. Haruki Murakami is a novelist of magical realist fiction. He is popular with his abstract work and sticked to the open-ended story. In this sense, his works are also indicating that he’s anti-orient, portrayed in this novel when he mentioned either words or phenomenons which contradict with the oriental values, but closer to the western values. This novel offers a simplicity, easy to read, but not so easy to understand. Moreover, Murakami provides many of his originality such as made up of sex, music, and alienation.

Then in this chapter, the writer would introduce the main topic which exploring the Japanese youth subcultures through the characters in the novel. The

main male character, Tsukuru Tazaki, and the supporting characters are used to be the object that will be analyzed in this research. This research focuses in Japanese youth subculture because of two main reasons, first, Japan is already popular with the eastern culture which has an opposite values to the subculture. Second, Japanese culture nowadays has started to tolerate the subcultures and apply it as a lifestyle.

The focus on Japanese youth subculture will highlight the main male character's problem in dealing with the conflict with himself and with his friends under the question Style of Friendship. The first, inner conflict is refers to the conflict dealing with Tsukuru and himself where there are so much anxieties in himself as the abandoned, disappointed, and broken man. This inner conflict may also contributing the construction of his sexual orientation, which is the second research question in this research.

The whole examination above will be provided with the theory from Hebdige, Butler, and Freud. The topic of friendship problem will described as part of Hebdige's *The Meaning of Style*, the topic sexual orientation will described as the part of Butler's *Gender Performativity*, and the supporting topic of dreams which related to Tsukuru's sexual orientation will described as the part of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*.

In giving a background knowledge, this novel tells about the third-person narrative with the past and present of Tsukuru Tazaki, a man who have no clue why his life was somessed up sixteen years ago, living life as an abandoned person. The

setting of this story is in the early 1990, takes place in the home town of Nagoya, when the young Tsukuru, was a fan of train stations. The two boys and two girls that were his four best friends all had a color as part of their surnames, leaving him the "colorless" one. But one day in 1995, during his second year in college, his friends suddenly cut all relationships with him. That never-explained, his friends left him feeling suicidal then guilty as an empty person, lacking in color and identity.

In this case, the researcher uses the academic journal 'Youth Culture and Youth Identity' by Cara Heaven and Matthew Tubridy as the previous related studies. While they're focus in analyzing the youth culture from social science since the beginning of twentieth century and has produced the illustrated new trends of youth culture of the Western which are the origin place where the subculture issue first arosed before spreading to worldwide, this research is focus on the youth culture from Asia, especially from Japan, that more or less either the story or the writer, Haruki Murakami, is influenced by Western culture, which later will be discussed here

## **1.2 Research Question**

1. How is style of friendship of Japanese youth subculture represented in Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*?
2. How is sexual orientation of Japanese youth subculture represented in Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*?

### **1.3 Purpose of The Study**

1. This study aims to explore the friendship style as the part of Japanese youth subculture in Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*.
2. This study aims to explore the sexual orientation of Tsukuru as the part of Japanese youth subculture in Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*.

### **1.4 Scope of The Study**

This study focuses on Japanese youth subculture through the characters in Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki*.

### **1.5 Significance of The Study**

This study is expected to give an understanding about the Japanese youth subculture in *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki* in a wider range of knowledge. The findings of this study is aimed to contribute towards the practice of literature studies. Hopefully, this study could be useful for the readers, particularly for English Department students.