

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Living in the world filled with diversity is indeed a grace and blessing. Humans can exchange their views about something which are seen from different point of view. These differences in seeing one problem or phenomenon might be happened because human is raised in different ethnicity, religion, races, and so forth.

These differences ultimately bring people to a point where humans proved to be a creature who can not live alone. Human eventually referred as social beings. Every human is interdependent on each other. As a result, human constructs society or community.

According to Amitai Etzioni, community is a combination of two elements: A) A web of affectladen relationships among a group of individuals, relationships that often crisscross and reinforce one another – rather than merely one-on-one or chainlike individual relationships; B) A measure of commitment to a set of shared values, norms, and meanings, and a shared history and identity – in short, to a particular culture (<http://www.gwu.edu/~ccps/etzioni/A296.pdf> retrieved at October 7th, 2012). Referring to the definition above, especially according to the second element, there must be an assurance about equality of treatment received by the people involved within a certain society.

However, in the reality, not every individual is treated equally within the community or society. This inequality of treatment to the member of a certain society leads to formation of majority and minority groups within the society. According to Louis Wirth define as it is in Gelles (317) minority group as a category of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination.

Wirth as it is written in Gelles (317-319) said there are four key points about a minority group. First, minority groups are disadvantage groups. Their members are excluded from full participation in society. Often they do not receive equal treatment under the law (in fact, they may be subject to special laws). Second, minority groups are held in low esteem and often become the objects of suspicion, contempt, hatred, and violence. Third, membership in a minority group is involuntary; it is an ascribed status, not an achieved one. Fourth, minorities are self-conscious. Their history, their values and beliefs, and the unequal treatment they experience make them see themselves as “a people apart”.

The existence of minority group indirectionally form the existence of majority group. Majority group hold the power and privilege in the society. According to Gelles (319) a majority group is able to impose its norms and values on others. In other words, they have a right to discriminate

others who do not live according to the norms and values exist within the society.

Discrimination is an unfair treatment received by group of people within a society. Yinger said, as it is written in Gelles (336) discrimination is the denial of opportunities and social esteem to individuals because they are members of a devalued social group or category.

In short, discrimination can be said as an unequal treatment which is done to a certain group of people. Adams said, as it is quoted in Priyanti (1) discrimination happens in several forms: homophobia, heterosexism, classism, chauvinism, religious, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, ableism, ageism, ethnocentrism, misogyny, sexism, and racism.

The most happening issue related to discrimination might be about race. From a sociological perspective, a race is a category of people who see themselves and are seen by others as different because of the characteristics that are assumed to be innate and biologically inherited (Gelles 316).

Racial discrimination is the act of discrimination done by an individual or a certain organization to an individual or certain group of people based on their race. Several studies have been done related to this term. For instance, Racial Discrimination in *Men of Honor* conducted by Flora (2009). She investigated that movie and finally found that there are several types of racial discrimination expressed in that movie. Meylin Priyanti S has also done a research with the same theme. The study is

titled as Representation of Anti-Semitism in John Boyne's *The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas*. She found that there are not less than 47 forms of discrimination expressed in that novel.

However, those studies have been done using fiction movie and novel . The writer on this research tries to analyze racial discrimination happened during the World War II through a based-on true story novel. This writer analyzes the racial discrimination happened in Germany under the authority of the Nazis toward Jews. In this paper, the writer will use Jews as the term of race, not as the term of religion or belief.

The writer has no intention to persuade the reader to hate Germans and take side on Jews. The writer only tries to analyze and present the discrimination happen to Jews during the Nazi's authority in Germany. This racial discrimination toward the Jews is called Anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism can be said as the movement of hatred toward Jews. Priyanti (3) said that the term of anti-semitism is first used in the 1870s which introduced by the German Wilhelm Marr and the Frenchman Ernest Renan. Discussing about anti-Semitism could not be separated to the term holocaust. Holocaust is the act of mass persecution and murder to the European Jews in Germany done by the Nazi under the authority of Adolf Hitler. During that time, Jews received this unequal treatment because they were not considered as part of the European race.

Based on the paragraph above, the writer would like to say that anti-Semitism is part of the act of discrimination. Rose (102) said that

there are three patterns of discrimination; derogation, denial, and violence. These three patterns of discrimination will later be used to analyze this research.

A written text, such as novels, poem, or news, is an effective media to raise the issue of discrimination. Novel can describe this issue wider than through poem or news, especially a based-on true story kind of novels. Elie Wiesel tries to raise this issue through his trilogy novels; *Night*, *Day*, and *Dawn*. These novels tell a story of a young boy who survived from holocaust period in Germany.

The writer uses *Night* to be analyzed in her research because it is the first book of the trilogy. *Night* was written based on a true story which happened during the World War II in Germany. *Night* has brought the writer to win The Noble Peace Prize in 1986. Through this book, Mr. Wiesel has also been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States of America Congressional Gold Medal, and the French Legion of Honor. He is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and University Professor at Boston University.

This novel represents how discrimination toward Jews is happened during the Nazi's authority in Germany. Based on this background, the writer in this research tries to show anti-Semitism represented in this novel. The writer uses sociology approach to relate *Night* as a literary work to anti-Semitism as a social issue.

1.2 Research Question

The research question for this study is: How does the novel, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel reveal anti-Semitism?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this research paper is to show how the novel, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel reveals anti-Semitism.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study only on the narations and dialogues in “*Night*” by Elie Wiesel which are revealing anti-Semitism.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer uses sociology of literature as the approach to relate the novel as a piece of literary work with anti-Semitism as social issue. A deep understanding and interpretation is needed to analyze this novel. It is hoped that the reader will know that critical thinking and good skill in interpretation is needed while reading a literary work. Sociology of literature will helps a reader to gain a better and deeper understanding in reading.

The writer hope that this research would be useful for both the readers and the writer herself to build a better understanding about the

term of anti-semitism and racial discrimination which occur to the Jews. It is also hoped that the result of this study will enrich the study of literature in English Department of State University of Jakarta. Finally, it is expected through this study, the students of English Language and Literature Study Program of English Department in State Univeristy of Jakarta will apply the theory to analyze other literary works.