

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In everyday life, we cannot separate ourselves from social life in contact with other people. Of Course, social life has long been forming from Adam and Eve's descent into modern life. Many events and phenomena occurred during social life tens or even thousands of years ago (Alexander,2003). Due to the emergence of various tribes and races, humans have differences, so the term for the sense of belonging to the tribe was later called identity. Identity is very important for us as humans because the role of identity is very important. After all, having an officially recognized identity can give individuals their fundamental rights. The identity that you generate or emerge from yourself will make you easy to remember and be known by people because of that identity; therefore, create or emerge your identity even bigger because identity is so important to get friends, family, etc. Identity is important because it supports how we relate to other social beings (Anderson,2004).

In knowing ourselves, we need an identity. Usually, identity can be formed because the surrounding community influences it. For example, I'm a man, I'm a Muslim, or I'm someone who comes from Indonesia. But if you guys ask someone who just moved from another city or even another country. Some are confused about who they are. For example, his race is Asian, but he thinks of himself as an American or someone who has lived in America for a long time, but in his heart, he is a person who comes from China. From here gave rise to what is called Hybrid identity.

In its brief definition, hybrid identity is where two or more aspects of a person's identity are combined, producing a unique one (Crawford,2014). Forms of identity. In other words, They live in the middle of two cultures, which leads to ambivalent identities. The past culture shadows their path because it has developed since they were born when they have to accept the new culture as their attempt to adapt to their new environment. That is the reason why immigrants are considered to live in two worlds. This cultural problem creates a negotiation between the old and new cultures. Migrants who fail in adapting to their new land to maintain their past culture find themselves as a new identity. Stuart Hall (1990), in his journal once stated the facts of existence related to the past and the future. It undergoes a constant transformation as it travels across the place, time, history and culture. Diaspora sees the phenomenon of immigrants as 'an acknowledgment of diversity' between past and new cultures. It is leading to the production of a new identity.

Moreover, it does not only happen in reality but also literary works (Hall,1990,p.713). Then there is also an opinion from Bhabha that hybridity is a term of abuse for those who produce offspring or a mixture; this study tries to discuss hybrid identity in Deming Duo. Bhabha (1994) says that hybridity initiates new signs of identity and innovative sites of collaboration and contestation.

One of the works that show Hybrid identity is *The Leavers*. *The Leaver* is a novel written by Lisa Ko (2017). It tells the story of a mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, who goes to her job at a nail salon—and never comes home. No one could find any trace of it. With his mother gone, eleven-year-old Deming was confused and lost. Finally adopted by white people parents, Deming was transferred from the Bronx to a small upstate town and renamed Daniel Wilkinson.

Nevertheless, far from all he will ever know, Daniel struggles to reconcile his adoptive parents' wishes for him to assimilate with his memories of his mother and the community she left behind. This is a heartwarming story about how a boy becomes his own when everything he loves is taken away and how a mother learns to live with past mistakes. Literature cannot be separated from culture. Cultural critics argue subordinate populations produce art forms that not only change their own experience but also affect the entire culture" (Tyson, 2006, p. 296). Literature was born in a cultural context. Therefore, the observation of cultural identity in this study cannot be separated from cultural studies. In a previous study discussed the Identity Negotiation of Chinese Americans Twoness in Lisa Ko's *The Leavers*. in the journal discusses how these characters run two cultures.

The writers chose this topic because Diaspora and hybrid identities are very relevant topics in the context of globalization and migration. The novel "The Leavers" by Lisa Ko depicts the story of a child of Chinese immigrants who is Diaspora to the United States, facing challenges in finding his identity in a different culture. This thesis can provide insight into the experiences of migrants and their efforts to maintain their identity in a new environment. Then, by exploring the themes of Diaspora and hybrid identity in this novel, you give recognition to the experiences of minorities and migrants, which are often ignored or underestimated. Your thesis can serve as a voice for a greater acceptance and understanding of these experiences.

1.2 Research Questions

1. How does diaspora affects the main character?
2. How does the character negotiate his hybrid identity adaptation?

1.3 Purpose of the study

According to the research questions above, the purpose of this study wants to implement the following statements:

1. This study explores the effects diaspora that lead to Hybrid identity through the experiences of the main character in the story of *The Leavers*
2. This study analyze how the main character Deming Duo struggles have a two different cultures

1.4 Scope of the study

This research explores the social conditions experienced by Asian people living or immigrating to the Western world. The novel's story revolves around a child who was abandoned by his mother due to deportation and raised by white adoptive parents. Being Asian but living in a different cultural environment, the main character develops two distinct personalities – one as an Asian and the other as an American. The concept of hybridity in the novel reflects the struggle of finding one's identity, particularly for nations recently freed from colonial rule. This idea aligns with Homi K. Bhabha's theory of the "intermediate space," a cultural exchange zone where individuals can develop unique selfhood strategies. The author and the novel's protagonist share a connection through their Asian

background and their shared experiences with identity-related challenges (Bhabha,2007).

1.5 Significance of the study

The outcomes of this study are expected to be beneficial in several aspects: as follows:

1. To give the readers a reference who are interested in studying social-politics, especially in literary works.
2. To enrich the reader's knowledge about the socio-political conditions that occur in a country and to better understand a culture, especially in literary works such as novels.
3. To make readers aware that there is still a culture that has been preserved for years and that culture influences and regulates the social and political conditions of society. share the awareness about hybrid identity.

1.6 Previous Study

When writing this thesis, the writers has just discovered one previous study that used The Leavers and Hybrid identity as the object of study. The first research was conducted by Viviani (2021). The title of this research is Hybridity and Mimicry of the Main Character of the Novel "Crazy Rich Asian" by Kevin Kwan: The Postcolonial Approach. The writer aims to identify to show hybridity and mimicry that occurs in Asian people depicted through novel characters. Hybridity occurs because of the cultural identity crisis suffered by the characters because they grew up in different cultures. This thesis focuses on researching hybridity and

mimicry. The writers found two kinds of hybridity performed by the characters: ethical and lifestyle.

The second research was conducted by Istari (2018). The title of this research is 'The Impact of Hybridity and Mimicry on the Identity of Indian Immigrants': Postcolonial Analysis in *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri. In his research, the writer has two objectives: to examine the identification of forms of hybridity and mimicry performed by Indian immigrant characters in the US and, secondly, to analyze how hybridity and mimicry affect their identity. Therefore, postcolonialism theory is applied, which discusses explicitly hybridity and mimicry. This research produces a hybrid mimicry of ways, values, and lifestyles.

The third research was conducted by Alitiyani (2014). The title of this research is 'Hybrid Identity and Cultural Clash as Reflected in Chinese-American Mothers and Daughters in Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*.' This research aims to identify how Chinese-American mothers deal with hybrids, observe how children deal with ideas, and uncover cultural differences between mothers and daughters. The study found cultures such as mothers born and raised in China. Then how to follow American culture, which is entirely different from his mother's. So the mother and child often collide because of differences.

The fourth study was conducted by Amrulloh (2014), 'The title of the research is Cultural Identities on Mimicry and Hybridity in Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*.' In his research, the writer aims to learn more about the mimicry and hybridity in new white teeth.

The fifth study was conducted by Zohdi (2017) with the title *Lost-identity; Results of "Hybridity" and "Ambivalence" in Tayeb Salih's Migration Season to the*

North. This study aims to examine how to identify hybridity and ambivalence. Also, the purpose of his migration was to take revenge on the imperialists, but as it turned out, he lost his own culture in the process. So based on the problems faced by the main character.

The sixth study was conducted by Nurcahyani and Kamil (2021) with the title Identity Negotiation of Chinese American's Twoness in *The Leavers: Postcolonial Approach* by Lisa Ko. The study explains how second-generation Chinese living in a multiracial American society, negotiating their multicultural identity, has become a crucial issue in everyday life and postcolonial discourse. This journal explains how the main character and Chinese American immigrants accept identity through identity negotiations.

The six previous studies mentioned above have addressed different issues and issues. Some of the above writers also analyzed their problems using Homi K. Bhabha (2004) postcolonial theory. The thing that distinguishes this study from previous studies is the primary data and objectives of this study. How the previous study discussed Chinese immigrants in America accepting cultural differences into a single entity in their lives. While in this study this study aims to examine the effects and struggles of the main characters when experiencing hybrid identity and also to find out the impacts produced by diaspora or population movement from one place to another using the theory of hybridity and diaspora Homi K. Bhabha.