

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background of The Study

Marxism literary criticism focuses on the premises that literature has ideological function, based on the background and ideology of the author. Class struggle and relation of production becomes central basis of this analysis (Siegel, 2011). For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the arts, science, technology, media, literature, and so on. Human events and human productions cannot be understood without understanding the specific material/historical circumstances in which those events and productions occur. Terry Eagleton (1976) defines Marxist criticism as “not merely a 'sociology of literature', concerned with how novels get published and whether they mention the working class. Its aim is to explain the literary work more fully; and this means a sensitive attention to its forms, styles and, meanings. But it also means grasping those forms styles and meanings as the product of a particular history.”

Marxism is still relevant to be used as base theory for many aspects, especially literature. For example, Nurman et al (2020) in their article “Class Exploitation in Ron Rash’s *Serena* Novel: a Marxist Criticism” which discusses about class distinction and labor exploitation in that novel, in addition of “Marxism and Literature: Marxist Analysis of ‘The Garden Party’” (Bashir, Mir, and Mehmood, 2020). Not only talking about class struggle, Marxism also conveys not only class struggle, but Marxism also conveys state apparatus, in which Louis Althusser is the expertise of it.

There are many Marxist theorists besides Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, two of them are Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser. While Gramsci focuses on hegemony theory, Althusser focused his research on state apparatuses theory. I choose Marxism literary criticism because Marxism is still a relevant theory to

study and it will relate to Indonesian context, even though communism and such ideology are banned in Indonesia. Also while there are plenty number of research about Marxism literary criticism, most of them talks about class oppression or exploitation, I would also like to analyze the novel “1984” by George Orwell because it will be a good example of how an authoritarian government oppress people and forcing obedience through state apparatuses. For the theory, I use Louis Althusser’s state apparatus theory as a base theory because while there are many researches about Marxism, there are still few researches about state apparatus on literary works such as novel (Pertiwi, 2018), (Setyorini and Idris,2017).

1.2 Research Questions

1.2.1 How does the government utilize the apparatuses to oppress the people in the novel “1984”?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This research aims to find Marxism value of the novel “1984”, especially on state apparatuses and how Winston Smith, the main character, deals with the problem from Marxism perspective

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is the novel “1984” written by George Orwell in 1949. This research will provide in-depth analysis about state apparatuses and how the government oppresses and doctrine its people.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is important to further study about Marxism literary criticism, especially study about Louis Althusser’s state apparatus theory.