**Chapter I**

**Introduction**

**1.1 Background of the Study**

Literature is the place to express ideas through writing. Therefore the writing activities have some kind of genre; the genre itself can evolve based culture that occupied. One genre of literature is fiction.

Fiction is one of literary genres. Even if the impossible things could not be happen in a real life, it could be happen in a fiction story. But there is a non fiction story in a literary works, the story based on true story. According to Abrams (1981:61), Fiction refers to narrative prose, those are novel and short story, and then fiction is often considered synonymous with novel.

All literature has similarities and differences. The similarities and differences that gave a study to compare and also find the causes of the emergence of similarities and diffirences. According to Basnett (1993:20), everywhere there is connection, everywhere there is illustration. No single event, no single literature is adequately comprehended except in relation to other events, to other literatures.

Because literary works not only have similarities but differences as well. Therefore, the writer choses two novels that will be compared on Japanese culture, which are Primasari’s French Pink and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark.

According to Darma (2003:53), that comparative literature was born of the realization that literature is not single, but literature is plural, as well as all rhw literature there are similarities and differences. Similirarity can occur due to human problems, as recorded in the literature. In essence differences occured because inevitably literature is dominated by local circumstance.

Comparative literature to be studied by the writer is to study the relationships literature of two or more national culture is usually has different languages, and there is an influence on the literary works of the other literary works. According to Wellek and Warren (1995:53), terms of comparative literature in this case, includes the study of the relationship between two or more literary. Comparative literature equated with a thorough literature study.

There are five approaches that can be used in the study of comparative literature, theme, era, genre, and the last is the relationship between literature and the arts. This research only focused on theme in study comparative literature. Because curtural comparison can be seen from the theme, it can facilitate the writer to compare Japanese culture of each novel.

The writer chooses Primasari’s and Rikako’s book because the setting of the novel is very interesting and the language used by the authors are not too hard to imagine by the reader. The theme is related to Japanese culture and the writer is interested with the research of these novels because the novels have a cultural background or setting and the same place though the authors are different countries. Analyzing the whole story by the intrinsic element is the best way to find the data. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995:23), intrinsic elements are the element that builds the literary work itself. Those elements caused literature is present as a literary work; the factual elements can be found if people read the literary work. Consideration of that reasons, the writer want to conduct a research about comparing a Japanese culture between two novels.

The writer adds some quotation from Primasari’s and Rikako’s novel which triggered the Japanese culture of each novel. Primasari is an Indonesian who wrote a Japanese-themed novel based on direct experience that has been to Japan. Whereas, Rikako is a Japanese who wrote the same theme as Primasari. She wrote a novel based on her daily life.

The Japanese culture has been shown from the first chapter. In Primasari’s *French Pink*, wherein when the main character named Hitomi apologized by bowing down to people she talked to, Yoshimoto-san. When she was not listened to what Yoshimoto-san said.

*“Hitomi mengerjap. Dia segera membungkuk dalam-dalam. “Gomenasai, aku sama sekali tidak bermaksud—ano, ulang tahun cucu Anda ya, Yoshimoto-san?” Hitomi membuka etalase, mengambil beberapa gulung pita yang lebih semarak” (chap: I pg. 2-3).*

“Hitomi blinked. She immediately bowed in. “Gomenasai, I did not mind to—ano, your grandson’s birthday, Yoshimoto-san?” Hitomi opened the storefront, took several ribbons were more lively.” (Chap: I pg. 2-3).

Based on quotation above, the writer think that Primasari would like to shows how the Japanese people apologized by bowing down to person they talk to. It is one of the Japanese cultures that look at her novel. Japan is famous fot the hospitality of their local natives. They bow not only when they apologized, but also when they introduce themselves and visit other people’s house.

In addition how the behavior of the Japanese people has become their culture. In Primasari’s novel also told how of the Japanese house’s shape and also their use pillow for sit while louging or receiving guests.

*“Dia memandang sekeliling begitu membuka mata, sebagaimana rumah-rumah lain di Tokyo, tempat tinggalnya pun berukuran mungil, dengan perabotan minimalis, lantai mengkilat dari kayu, juga Tatami” (chap: I pg. 11).*

“She looks around, when she opened her eyes. As well as other houses in Tokyo, A small space living only with minimalist furniture, wooden floor, and Tatami” (chap: I pg. 11).

Based on quotation above, Primasari would to illustrate how the Japanese house which use *tatami*—the named of Japanese pillow. Not all of Japanese people have a sofa; therefore they use a mat or tatami for sit.

In addition, in Rikako’s novel there are also some cultural depictions one of the characters in her novel named, Kominami. When Kominami want to enter a kind of Japanese red bean, Dainagon into her green tea.

*“Ano, bisa minta waktu sebentar? Konami mengangkat tangannya, Aku ingin mencoba memasukan Dainagon ke dalam kue teh hijaunya, boleh tidak?” (Chap II pg. 57).*

“Ano, could have a minute?” Kominami raised her hand. “I want to try to add a Dainagon into green tea cake, can I?” (Chap II pg. 57).

Based on quotation above, the writer think that Rikako would like to show Japanese people who always mixing a food or beverage containing green tea with red beans. In Japan, red beans are very popular the one is Dainagon. Dainagon is one of the most expensive red beans in Japan. Therefore, so many Japanese people who consumed red beans. Besides used as porridge, red bean can also be mad into cakes mixed with green tea. Japanese people belives that if they consume, they will have along healthy life.

Besides Japan is famous for the hospitality of their local natives, Japanese people also known as hard worker. This thing is a culture or tradition that has become a habit for every Japanese people. Japanese people are hard worker seen in Rikako’s novel Girls in the Dark. Where Nitani Mirei is a student in high school doing a part time job.

*“Kerja paruh waktuku (sebenarnya kerja paruh waktu sangat dilarang oleh sekolah) sama dengan Ibu yaitu sebagai kasir di supermarket, di sana aku juga ridak bisa menyesuaikan diri dengan anak-anak sebaya, dan hasilnya aku melalui hai-hariku dalam diam.” (chap: II pg. 23).*

“My part-time job (in fact part-time job is prohibited by school) same with my mom, I was a cashier in a supermarket. There, I could not adjust with children who have the same age as me, and the results, I got through the day in silence” (chap: II pg. 23).

Based on quotation above, the writer can evaluated that Nitani Mirei doing a part time job with her mother, whereas she still a high school student and also her school prohibited the students for doing any part time job. Because the cost of living in Japan is expensive, persistent nature of the hardworker has become a culture in Japan. Hard work not only for an adult but also for the teenagers, they have started to work.

Beside that, the writer very interested of Japanese culture, because Japanese culture is very diverse culture and also very unique and interesting to know. So, she wants to compare a novel set in Japan with Indonesian author and the novel with the same set but the author is Japanese.

**1.2 Research Problem and Limitation**

The writer’s research paper uses two different novels as the main object for comparing the Japanese culture that is present in both novels; there are Primasari’s French Pink and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark. This study is focused on the intrinsic elements and cultural differences.

The writer is limited the scope of the research. This research only focus on three kinds of intrinsic element; theme, character and setting. The Japanese cultures in two novels are very interesting. The limitation of the problem is needed because it will help the writer focus about cultural differences and discuss about the intrinsic element which are chosen.

**1.3 Research Questions**

To reach the purpose of this paper, the writer formulates the question as follows:

1. What are cultural differences between Primasari’s French Pink

and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark?

1. What causes the differences between Primasari’s French Pink and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark?

**1.4 Objectives of the Study**

In every study, researcher must have a purpose in making a research, in order to be useful to other researchers and also for the others. In this research, the writer has a purpose. First, the writer want to find out what are cultural differences between Primasari’s French Pink and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark. Second, the writer wants to find out what causes the differences between Primasari’s French Pink and Rikako’s Girls in the Dark.

Beside two objectives above, the writer hopes that it can help her to comprehend the content of the novel through intrinsic elements. How to connect literature with other literature, how to influence both of the novels and what can be taken and what is provided by both of the literary works. This study also focused to find out what causes the cultural differences between two novels.

**1.5 Significances of the Study**

This research is expected can be useful for the readers, either theoretically or practically, those are:

**1. For Writer**

The writer hopes this paper can enrich her knowledge about cultural differences. Besides that, the writer can know further about Japanese culture that appeared in the novels, French Pink and Girls in the Dark. So that the writer can share provide information to other people or readers about this study.

**2. For Readers**

The writer hopes this paper can give information for the reader about cultural differences in the novel. The readers will know what cultural differences between two novels from the result of her observation.

**3. For Further Researchers**

The writer hopes this paper can be used as a referential for the future researchers who have lack of material or information when doing their research. Beside that, the result of this research is expected become a useful documents and can help the further researches who interested or have the same topic with this research.

**4. For Fellow Students**

The writer hopes this paper can give the contributions as a reference for English Department, especially for English Department students in Faculty of Arts and Letters, Pasundan University.