

# Chapter I

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Prose is one of the genres studied in literature. There are several types of prose, and prose fiction is one of it. Fiction is a literary work formed in a narrative story that is supposed to entertain the reader. The term fiction, mostly in narrative forms of literature, is derived from imagination or fantasy. According to Abrams, (1981:61) in Nurgiyantoro (2005:2) "*Fiksi merupakan cerita rekaan atau cerita khayalan. Hal itu disebabkan fiksi merupakan karya naratif yang isinya tidak menyorankan pada kebenaran sejarah*" (Fiction is a fiction story or an imaginary story. Because fiction is literary work of narrative which not refers to the truth of history). Prose is a literary work that is wholly or partly imagined or theoretical, such as a novel.

Castle (2013:75) says that "a novel is in its broadest definition a personal, a direct impression of life : that, to begin with, constitutes its value, which is greater or less according to the intensity of the impression". Novel as one of literary works which explains some of the events based on what was described by the author. Not only that, the novel as a literary work can be analyzed to obtain information about various things.

Chinua Achebe is a Nigerian novelist and author of *Things Fall Apart*, a work that in part led to his being called the "patriarch of the African novel." Born in Nigeria in 1930, Chinua Achebe attended the University of Ibadan. In 1958, his ground breaking novel *Things Fall Apart* was published. It went on to sell more

than 12 million copies and been translated into more than 50 languages. Achebe later served as the David and Marianna Fisher University professor and professor of Africana Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He died on March 21, 2013, at age 82, in Boston, Massachusetts.

(<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/03/26-chinua-achebe-us-africa-policy-kimenyi>, 10th May 2016 02:30am) Chinua Achebe is the literary giant from Nigeria. In his various writings Achebe challenged the Eurocentric perspectives and instead brought an African perspective to the story of colonialism in Nigeria as expounded in his books, *Things Fall Apart* and *No Longer at Ease*. These books showed the clash between the Igbo and the British in Nigeria: first from the perspective of a Nigerian father, and in the second book from the perspective of his European-educated son.

From the quotation above, we know that *Things Fall Apart* is really the most favorite and famous novel in that time. Some analyzes about Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* has been published at an article entitled "An Analysis of Pre and Post-Colonial Igbo Society by Kenalemang (2013). The article tells before missionaries arrived in Igbo tribe, the hand of people still belief their ancestor god, and follow their proverb. The change happened when the missionaries had spread their religion and government, the impact of that things came when some of people convert to christiany and follow the missionaries belief, they strated to break their ancestor God and they won't to follow their proverb, thats why the clashes happened between people of Igbo who follow missionaries faith with people who follow Igbo's faith. Another that, according to Foley (2001) in his analysis

entitled *Okonwo's fate and the worldview of Things Fall Apart*. The article describes the analysis of Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* focused on the main character. They argued that at the heart of the problem lies the question of how to interpret the reasons for Okonwo's downfall or fate. If the British had not come to Umuofia, the clan would not have fallen apart and Okonwo would not have been led to commit suicide. Therefore, the writers interested to analysis the difference issues in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, the writers predicted there is hegemony in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* to be analysis used postcolonial approach.

The colonial impact on the Igbo in Achebe's novels is often affected by individuals from Europe, but institutions and urban offices frequently serve a similar purpose. The courts and the position of district commissioner in *Things Fall Apart* likewise clash with the traditions of the Igbo, and remove their ability to participate in structures of decision making. Likewise a man of the People, has symbolic of the postcolonialism crisis in Nigeria and elsewhere. Even with the emphasis on colonialism, however, Achebe's tragic ending embody the traditional confluence of fate, individual and society.

According to Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1994) about missionaries mentioned below :

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**"..... The missionaries had come to Umuofia. They held built their church there, won a handful of convert and were already sending evangelist to the surrounding towns and the villages".**

In this study the white missionaries had been living in Umuofia. During two years the Missionaries mostly change Igbo's religion and spreaded their ideological religion to be follow by Igbo's people and no longer the missionaries had some follower and then built their church as a holly place for them and also they sending the evangelist to surrounding the towns and taking the Igbo's power.

Postcolonial theory is used to analyze various cultural phenomenons, such as history, politic, economic, literature, and other thing that happen in the countries of former European colonies. Postcolonial theory is the opposite approach of orientation to the universe. Postcolonialism tried to reveal the negative consequences arising, on or after colonial such as such as: slavery, displacement of people, forcing the language, and the other forms of cultural invasion.

According to Robert (2001:2) Postcolonialism was diasporic production, a revolutionary mixture of the indigenous and the cosmopolitan, a complex constellation of situated local knowledges combined with radical, universal political principles, constructed and facilitated through international networks of party cells and organizations, and widespread political contacts between different revolutionary organizations that generated common practical information and material support as well as spreading radical political and intellectual ideas.

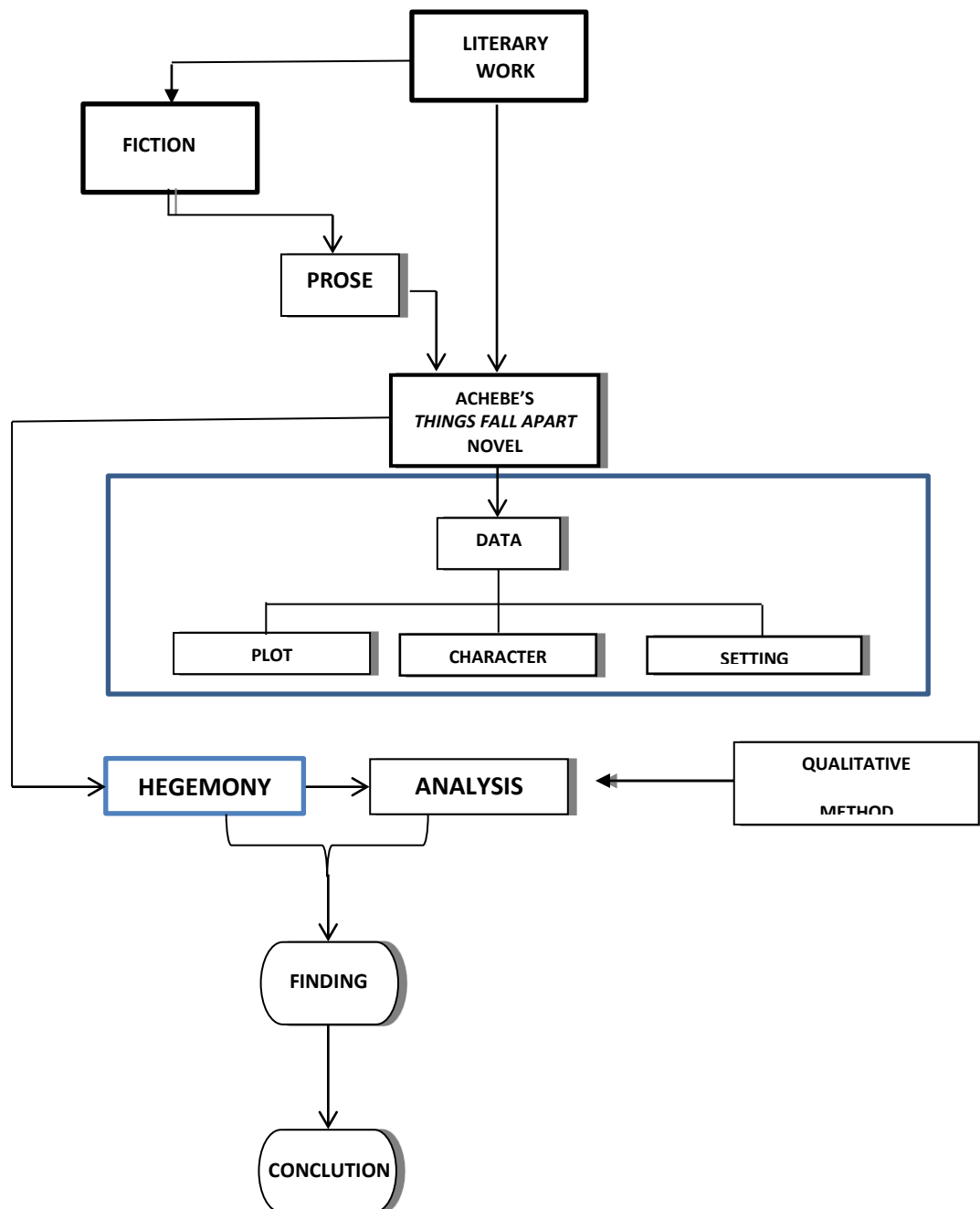
Hegemony is not a relationship of domination by using power, but rather a relationship agreement with the use of political and ideological leadership. According to Gramsci translated by Buttigieg (2007:64) Hegemony (civil society) and separation powers. The separation of powers, all the discussion that its implementation stirred up, and the legal theorizing it generated were the outcome

of a struggle between (the) civil society and the political society of a specific historical period, there was a certain unstable equilibrium among the classes due to the fact that certain categories of intellectuals (in the direct service of the state, especially the civil and military bureaucracy) were still too closely tied to the old ruling classes.

Gramsci added a new dimension to this problem by expanding the understanding that hegemony also include the role of the capitalist class and its members, both in seizing state power as well as in maintaining power has been obtained. Hegemony is a relationship between classes with other social forces. The hegemony is required and hence a more "interventionist" kind of government that will engage more openly in the offensive against the opponents and ensure, once and for all, the "impossibility" of internal disintegration by putting in place control of all kinds political, administrative, etc Gramsci translated by Buttigieg (2007:109).

Based on the reason above, The writer will analyze the postcolonialism elements which is hegemony from intrinsic elements in *Achebe's Things Fall Apart* is exist in plot, character and setting. The hegemony element serves as a record of the events of an imaginative story. Based on the background of the study, the writer chooses a research an entitled *Representation of Hegemony in Achebe's Things Fall Apart*.

## 1.2 Frame of Study



### 1.3 Research Questions

In this study, the research questions are made mainly based on the background of the study above, and also on the writer's own interest. The research questions are as follows :

1. How are the intrinsic elements such as plot, character, and setting describe in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*?
2. How are the intrinsic elements describe hegemony in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*?

### 1.4 Reasons of the Study

The reason why the writer want to analyze this novel it because no many people would like to know about literary work from Africa. But after Chinua Achebe wrote *Things Fall Apart* eventually there are so many people would like to analyze the novel. Further the novel has sell more than 12 million copies and translated more than 50 languages in the world. It makes *Things Fall Apart* became popular. It means there is something unique in *Things Fall Apart* to be known, the are several uniques custom in the novel but the most interesting custom in the novel it is about killing the birth of twin as the evil spirit.

Several researchers who has analyzed *Things Fall Apart* discussed about some issues such as Igbo custom and colonialism which roled by the missionaries. It makes the writer get interest to learn this novel by the writer's own prespective. The writer assume that the missionaries come in Nigeria with purpose. They also come in Nigeria not by coincidence. It means they had prepared for it. That writer thinks there is hegemony in the novel. Hegemony is supremacy class social to

take control another class social to be dominant using intellectual-moral leadership. It similar with the missionaries to master the Igbo people.

The writer anxious to know about the hegemony describes in fictional work then the writer wants to prove appearance hegemony in *Things Fall Apart* as the strategy which roled by the missionaries to get their interest. There is also data which describe about the Igbo who convert to be Christian then help the missionaries to build government (Page 176). It is very interesting to be analyze how smart the missionaries take control the Igbo's mind as if they came in Umuofia by providing assistance and ultimately influence people to take their power.

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

According to the research questions, the writer has purposes that expected to be gained through this study. The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out intrinsic element in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* such as Plot portray exposition, complication, climax and resolution. Then, describes protagonist and antagonist characters. And also describes the setting of time, place and social.
2. To find out strategy and kind of hegemony in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

### **1.6 Significances of the Study**

The result of this study is expected to give benefits to the writer especially, to the reader, institution, and other further researchers. Through this study, the writer personally expects to understand hegemony are described in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and also for the reader to be able to understand hegemony after reading this



study. In addition, the significances of this study can be divided into two major significances, those are:

a. Theoretical significance

The results of this study are expected to provide knowledge in the educational field and in further research on analyzing about hegemony after reading this study of a fictional work, especially of Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* novel.

b. Practical Significance

The results of this study are expected to provide input and knowledge for the reader, in order to understand, especially of the hegemony occurs in a fictional work. The writer also hopes that the results of this study can be used for advancement of literary works in Indonesia.