

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an art of language. As an art of language, literature uses language as its main media to form messages to the readers. To have an understanding about literature, we have to understand the language first and then how language works. Language has an important role for people as a social creature to communicate each other. As the main media of literature, language works as a system of sign. Sign in language can be in form of words in writing or speaking, symbol and etc.

Literature study describes the literary work to explore the values for the humanity. Therefore, literary work can be said to be worth when in the literary work contained properties or important things that are beneficial to the readers. Reading literature let us know and recognize specific things of people's lives because a literary work is a reflection of the life of society. Literary work is a very important work of art that has a great impact in our life because we can express ourselves by words which can describe our feelings and thoughts.

“Menurut Sumardjo dan Saini K.M (1988:3): sastra adalah ungkapan pribadi manusia yang berupa pengalaman, pemikiran, perasaan, ide, semangat, keyakinan dalam suatu bentuk gambaran kongkret yang membangkitkan pesona dengan alat bahasa.”

“According to Sumardjo and Saini K.M. (1988:3): literary work is a human's expression in the form of experience,

thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and belief in a form of concrete imagery that evokes the charm with the media language.”

Knowing that the scope of the study of literature is very vast, therefore to be able to find a clear definition or restriction in a study of literature, it can be done by looking at and understanding of literary works. Literary works are generally divided into two main categories, i.e. non-imaginative literature and imaginative literature. Novel is a kind of literary works that goes into the category of imaginative literature. In this study what was made as the object of this research is a Novel of Achdiyat Karta Mihardja entitled *Atheis*.

Atheis is a 1949 Indonesian novel written by Achdiyat Karta Mihardja published by Balai Pustaka and in the 1970s *Atheis* had become part of the Indonesian junior and senior high school curriculum. In 1969, *Atheis* accepted the literary prize from the Government of Indonesia, and in 1970, it already scored three times in the Malay language. After the novel was published, it caused considerable discussion. Religious thinkers, Marxist-Leninists, and anarchists decried the novel for not explaining their ideologies in more detail, but literary figures and many in the general public praised it; this positive reception may have been influenced by the nascent government's need to promote literature for nation-building.

Atheis is a novel which talks about Hasan’s life journey. However, after his encounter with Rusli and Kartini, Hasan felt the feeling of

falling in love to Kartini and began the journey of love story between Hasan and Kartini.

“Selamat malam dan terima kasih,” kata Kartini dengan suara yang mesra, seraya menarik tangannya dari gengaman tanganku yang erat itu.” (Mihardja: 1949,87)

Meanwhile, message that will be certainly conveyed by the author of the novel is not the love story of Hasan and Kartini, the real message that the author want to deliver to the reader is the dilemma of Hasan. This message can be understood by the reader through understanding situation, background, and characters in the novel. The dialogues in the novel can be treated as references to find the real message that the author want to convey. By treating the dialogues as system of signs, the reader can analyze those dialogues to understand the message that the author wants to convey beside the love story between Hasan and Kartini.

To create a work of literature, the text is definitely used as a primary medium to be able to be realized in tangible form, the text in the simplest sense is a combination of signs.

“Menurut Piliang (2003:270): Kata-kata pada novel atau unsur-unsur pakaian pada fashion dapat dianggap sebagai kumpulan tanda-tanda.”

“According to Piliang (2003:270), Words in novel or suit elements in fashion can be reputed as collection of signs.”

Therefore, as it has been presented above that the signs in the literary works are the words. In this study the researcher will make the use of these signs to find out the plot, the theme and the implicit meaning contained in the novel. In an effort to find signs that could represent the theme in a work of literature, particularly the novels, the main thing to know is the science and theories of literature, to support and facilitate the process of the discovery of the signs and see the relationships of the sign in the literary works.

A literary works is born from phenomenon that occurs around the author. What is poured in the literary works is the thought and feeling of the author related to the phenomenon that occurs around the author. Analyzing a literary work can help the reader to understand the phenomenon that influences the author to create that literary work. The research is expected to help us to understand how to analyze literary works by knowing such circumstances that influence this literary work, therefore the research is entitled: **An Analysis of Theme in Mihardja's *Atheis*.**

1.2 Research Problem

1. How are the structure of Plot, Characters and Setting of the *Atheis* novel by Achdiyat K. Mihardja?
2. How do structures of the novel represent the theme?

1.3 Limitation of the Study

This research focus on how to examine and search the structure of the novel to find out the theme contained in the Miharjda's *Atheis*.

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to find out what is the theme that contained in the novel *Atheis* by Achidyat K. Mihardja.

1. To find out how the structure of plot, characters and setting of the *Atheis* novel by Achdiyat K. Mihardja are.
2. To find out how structures of the novel represent the theme.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be a beneficial contribution for the English department and English students. There are some reasons why this research considered significant. Firstly, hopefully it can become a reference of how to find and analyze theme in literary works, especially in the form of Novel. Secondly, to become an example of how literary worker delivers the messages in his/her work. Thirdly, for the English Department Faculty of Arts and Letters, it can inspire them to improve their ability in analyzing a work of literature.

1.6 Organization of this Research Paper

This research paper is organized systematically by the writer. The organizations of the research in every chapter are as follows:

Chapter I (Introduction). It discusses mostly about the arrangement of the research's foundation and its subject matter which consist of background of the study, identification of the problems, limitation of the study, research question, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the research paper.

Chapter II (Plot, Theme and Implicit Meaning in Mihardja's Atheis). This chapter will describe the concept and theories that the researcher will use to analyze Mihardja's *Atheis* to find out how the plot of the novel is, what the theme of the novel is, and what the implicit meaning that contained in the novel is.

Chapter III (Research Methodology). This chapter will explain about research design, the descriptive method, and technique of data collection.

Chapter IV (Data Analysis, Findings and Discussion). This chapter includes description of data analysis, the research result and it contains findings and discussion.

Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions). This last chapter will discuss about the research conclusions and recommendations

Bibliography

Tabel 1.1 Frame of Work

