

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature is part of the manifestation of social conditions. Literary work is a form that reflects the behavior, events, uniqueness, and diversity of society in any given period of time. All forms of public reflection can be composed in a sketch of a literary work without eliminating the original sense of the reality that occurs in society. Basically, there is an essential relationship between literature and society. According to Ratna (2004), the relationship occurs because (a) literary works are created by authors; (b) the authors themselves are members of society; (c) the author makes use of the wealth that exists in society; and (d) the works can be reused by the community.

Literary works cannot be separated from human existence. The characters who are the subjects or actors in the story will reflect individual characters or certain social characters. This means that if the literary work originates from the eastern part of Indonesia, the manifestation of human existence will not be separated from the habits or real conditions of the people there. (Susiati, 2020)

In addition, literary works have two important aspects, namely content and form. The content is in the form of human life experience, while the form is in the form of a way of assessment, namely the way of writers using beautiful language to accommodate the content (Semi, 1989). Meanwhile, Pradopo (2003) argues that literary works are created by authors inseparable from society and culture. Often writers highlight the cultural richness of the people, ethnicity, or nation.

Other form of relation between literature and human existence is that the relation of literature to the psychology aspects of the literary work. Literature and psychology are two branches of sciences that study human soul. Psychology deals with human behaviors and their effects while literature depicts human behavior through fiction. These two branches of social science studying human behavior are interrelated and mutually beneficial. The basic building block of the correlation between literature and psychology is a literary work. Literary works study human beings and describe their inner world with all its aspects. The reason is that a literary work is at the same time a product of a certain psychological condition. A literary work supports psychology in terms of depicting human psychological conditions. (Emir: 2016)

The psychological phenomenon is also found in the novel *Arok Dedes* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The author creates the story based on the society and culture of the Javanese community of Indonesia. This novel is one of the literary works that took its plot at Pekuwuhan Tumapel led by an *Akuwu* 'district leader', named Tunggul Ametung. The influence of Javanese tradition gives a great effect to the conflict found in the novel. At a glance, the characters in the novel such as Ken Arok, Ken Dedes, Tunggul Ametung remind us of the history of Singosari, one of the great kingdoms in Indonesian tradition history. The novel *Arok Dedes* is a story that raises the names of characters from the real world (history). According to Nurgiyantoro (2005: 169), the appointment of historical figures into fiction and directly related to story characters, actually increases the level of fictionality of the work concerned.

Related to the aims of this study, *Arok Dedes* is selected as an object of study based on the premise that this novel is Pramoedya Ananta Toer's literary work which is

very monumental and is considered a reflection of the history of domestic politics for many years. Arok led Tumapel as a leader with his leadership skills which are inseparable from the concept of the philosophy of leadership in the Javanese people. Arok led Tumapel after the coup against Tunggul Ametung, a leader who was considered by the Tumapel's community as a dictatorial leader. He brought Tumapel to be a large kingdom called Singosari. Arok's leadership in the novel reflects his tough, not just as a leader. He was a leader of the *Shudra* who had a knightly heart and had a *3 plica* spirit, meaning that he was a brave figure of the lower class society who fought for equality in society as a whole. He tried to embrace all components of society from the *Shudras* to the Brahmins to jointly fight for their rights as humans. This topic still relates the current situation as well as condition in Indonesia.

In accordance with that, it is reasonable to do a study on the topic of leadership based on the novel from the perspective of the Javanese political leadership concept. Thus, this study is conducted under the title "Javanese Political Leadership in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's Novel *Arok Dedes*".

1.2 Problem Identification

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions of this thesis are formulated as follows:

- a. What are the styles of Javanese political leadership found in the novel *Arok Dedes* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer?
- b. How are the styles of Javanese political leadership revealed in the novel?

1.3 Objectives

In accordance with the problem identification of this thesis, the research objectives are as follows:

- a. To find out the styles of Javanese political leadership in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novel *Arok Dedes*.
- b. To analyze how the styles of Javanese political leadership are revealed in the novel.

1.4 Scope

As one of the best seller novels, *Arok Dedes* contains various aspects of analysis. However, this study focused on the styles of Javanese political leadership proposed by Endraswara (2013) in which he claimed that Javanese leadership is based on the 5M styles namely 1) *melek/awas* (awareness/controlling), 2) *melik* (feeling of ownership), 3) *muluk* (grandiose alleviating poverty, 4) *melok* (able to realize the aspirations of the people), and 5) *meluk* (embracing all the people). Besides, this analysis reveals how the protagonist of the novel by the name of Arok made use the the 5M styles in the novel.

1.5 Significances

a. Theoretically Significance

This study theoretically gives contribution to the study of literature, especially on the relation between literature and the psychological aspects of the literary work. Since literary study may help us learn the social phenomenon revealed by the authors in their literary works, like novel, this study may give contribution to the new insight of literary analysis in this case related to the topic of leadership – Javanese political leadership.

Further, this study can open the opportunity to enrich the previous existed theory, particularly literary theory, related to the topic of leadership style.

b. Practically

Practically, the results of this study are expected to provide benefits for readers in understanding the value of leadership, specially the Javanese political leadership, contained in the novel, and as a link for information about literature and society in understanding the meaning contained in the novel as well. Leadership issues nowadays are regarded as one of the most talked topic that always involved in everyday talk among communities. In Indonesia, particularly, as one of the biggest ethics, Javanese culture gives contribution to the style of leadership since the leader of Indonesia are mostly from the Javanese ethic. Therefore, as one of the popular novels dominated by the Javanese culture, this novel deserves to be examined by various parties as an enhancer of people's knowledge in literature and history of Indonesian.