

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Basically, humans are social beings. As social beings, humans cannot live without the help of others. Whatever the circumstances or abilities, they definitely need the help of others (Zuriah, 2011: 32). It means that humans are essentially social creatures, that is, they are interdependent with one another. It is human nature to live in society and always interact with other people. To survive, humans need other people. One example of human activity as a social being is *gotong royong* or mutual cooperation. Therefore, humans as social beings must care about everything around them. They must realize the importance of mutual respect, love, and care for fellow living beings.

However, in the current era of globalization and technological sophistication, which has many positive impacts on society, it also has negative impacts. Humans as social beings are too busy demanding personal rights and pleasures. They seem reluctant to carry out their obligations to society. Some of the negative impacts of globalization are a consumptive lifestyle (behavior or lifestyle of individuals who like to spend money without careful consideration), individualistic attitude (attitude of a person who is concerned with self-interest and as if he does not need help from others), westernized lifestyle and social inequality. Social inequality can also be seen from several examples of social phenomena, especially in Indonesia, i.e, poverty, unequal education, people's per capita income that is below the regional minimum wage (*UMR*), and damaged morale and behavior of students. All of these impacts

mentioned are social problems that are currently common in society, especially in big and metropolitan cities.

To overcome these bad phenomena, each individual must carry out his role properly in society. They must have sensitivity and social awareness because this is one of the important needs of society. Social awareness in the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (Tim Prima Pena, 2015: 562) is defined as a person's full awareness of his rights and obligations as a member of society. On the other hand, social awareness can also be referred to as the ability to be able to read, realize, and understand what is experienced by the people around them and their environment. Social awareness in society is essential. With that, humans can develop knowledge so that they become social beings who are educated, and who carry out social life with a high understanding of education, so that they understand the same position as one another, by not always looking at differences based on wealth, honor, power, and education. Social awareness has the goal of forming a society that can live together without differences and without harming one another.

In line with the explanation above, the researcher discusses social awareness in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*. This novel tells about the social and political conditions of Indonesian society during the colonial and independent governments. It deals with themes of power that make people respect and have authority in controlling society. Therefore, Minke, an indigenous boy who has a European mindset, observes the social conditions around him and is aware of this. He, a proud, highly educated, strong-willed individual, refuses to accept the hierarchy that parcels out freedom and power according to the amount of European blood running through one's veins. He and *Nyai*, his friend, fight back against European laws firmly as they could.

There are several reasons the researcher analyzes this novel. First, because of this novel has been translated into thirty-three languages. Second, the researcher is interested in discussing the social conditions of Indonesian society that occurred during the colonial government. Third, this novel is a realistic historical novel, which describes the actual condition and situation during the Dutch colonial period. By researching this novel, the researcher at the same time studies the history of Indonesian society, because a great nation is a nation that knows its own history.

Thus, the researcher will discuss the social awareness that occurred during the colonial government which is depicted in the novel *This Earth of Mankind* by Pramoedya Anata Toer.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem, several problems can be identified, including the following.

1. What is the social awareness in Pramoedya Anata Toer's *This Earth of Mankind*?
2. What are the aspects of social awareness that appear in Pramoedya Anata Toer's *This Earth of Mankind*?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the background of the study and the statement of the problem, this research focuses on and aims at:

1. To show the social awareness that appears in Pramoedya Anata Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*.
2. To elaborates on the aspects of social awareness that appear in Pramoedya Anata Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This research discusses social awareness in Pramoedya Anata Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*. This research is analyzed using a social psychological approach. It is used because this approach is very suitable for discussing individual behavior and social situations. The researcher uses the concept of social awareness by Sheldon (1996) which contains several explanations of social awareness. To limit the research in a certain space, the researcher will discuss three points of the aspects of social awareness, namely cognition, social environment, and goals and motives in chapter IV.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Good research is research that benefits all parties, whether the researcher, the instancies involved, or readers. Therefore, this research has two benefits, namely theoretically and practically.

- a. Theoretically, this research can be used as input in addressing and discussing social awareness. This research is also expected to provide references and input for the development of new knowledge.
- b. Practically, for the public or readers, this research is expected to provide information related to social awareness. For the researcher, this research is useful as a means of developing scientific insights, and this is a requirement for completing education, namely achieving *Sarjana's* degree (S1) in English literature Faculty, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Novel**

A novel is a form of literary work. Novel comes from the Latin word *Novellus*, which in German is called *Novella* and in English, it is called a novel. Kemdikbud (2017: 109) states that a novel is a work of prose fiction with a long and complex sequence of events or life stories of a person and the people around him/her by highlighting the character and nature of each character or actor.

According to Eagleton (2013: 5), a novel is a piece of prose of reasonable length. Not all novels are written in prose. There are novels written in verse. The novel is a genre that resists exact definitions. We can find poetry and dramatic dialogue in the novel, along with epic, pastoral, satire, history, elegy, tragedy, and any number of other literary modes. Jassin in Nurgiyantoro (2005: 16), says that the novel is a prose essay that tells an extraordinary event from the lives of people (story characters), extraordinary because from this incident a conflict or dispute was born, which then determines their fate and destiny.

Based on the understanding of the novel above, it can be concluded that the novel is a literary work in the form of long prose and contains the story of a person's life with the society around that person.

#### **2.2 Relationship Between Literature and Social Psychology**

Literary studies are always open to various understandings and intertwined in various fields of science such as sociology, psychology, history, philosophy, and others. In other words, literature can be used as a medium of expression to interpret humans based on their existence and culture, personality, and differences. This is as

stated by Suhariyadi (2014: 26), literature is multidisciplinary, which means that literary theory can be used as a basis for understanding in any field.

Social psychology is a combination of two sciences between sociology and psychology. Social psychology is used to study social phenomena with a psychological perspective, namely social awareness in Pramoedya Anata Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*.

Baron & Byrne (2008), say that social psychology is a field of science that seeks an understanding of the origins and causes of individual thoughts and behavior in social situations. This definition emphasizes the importance of understanding the origins and causes of behavior and thoughts. According to Sears (1991), social psychology is a science that seeks systematically to understand social behavior, regarding a) how we observe other people and social situations, b) how other people react to us, and, c) how we are affected by situations social.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher can conclude two things. First, literature can be used as a forum or basis for understanding in any field, including the field of social psychology. Second, social psychology is used to study social phenomena from a psychological perspective. In line with this understanding, researchers will discuss social phenomena, namely social awareness using a psychological perspective. Social psychology deals with social influences on individual processes and their perceptions, attitudes, and interactions.

## **2.3 Social Awareness**

### **2.3.1 Definitions of Social Awareness**

Social awareness is a person's full awareness of their rights and obligations as a member of society. In line with this explanation, this novel discusses social

awareness in Pramoedya Anata Toer's *This Earth of Mankind*. Then, the researcher will explain the definition of social awareness through the explanations of the experts below.

Wegner & Guiliano in Sheldon (1996: 620) state that social awareness is mental events in which one forms mental event in which one forms a mental representation of either oneself or another person. It means that social awareness can be interpreted as a representation of one's soul of himself and others.

Prasolova-Forland (2002) states that social awareness relates to a person's awareness of social situations experienced by oneself and others so that individuals can know and be aware of things that are happening around them, such as what other people are doing, whether someone is engaged in a conversation and can be interrupted, who is around, and what circumstances are going on.

According to Freire in La Abute (2019: 188), social awareness arises because a person must have social intelligence. This intelligence is not only limited to sensitivity, sympathy, and empathy for the situation of people who are experiencing oppression both physically and psychologically, but a form of one's understanding of social reality so that he understands what he should do in responding to this reality even though it has to go against the structure or system. existing in society itself. Real social intelligence is one's awareness of the social reality that occurred in his era.

Based on explanations regarding social awareness, it can be concluded that social awareness is the sensitivity possessed by individuals to analyze social conditions and situations. This is usually depicted with individual empathy, to pick up on social signals and social needs.

### 2.3.2 Elements of Social Awareness

Azzet (2010: 78), in his book *Mengembangkan Kecerdasan Spiritual*, suggests that social awareness is divided into four elements including primal empathy, attunement, empathic accuracy, and social cognition.

- a. **Primal Empathy:** Building awareness to be empathetic is a must. Because empathy is the most important and fundamental thing for someone to have so that their social intelligence can develop optimally. With empathy, a person's relationship will be closed because they can feel each other and at the same time understand each other's feelings, needs, and moods. Thus, the bond feels closer to one another. This is what is needed so that a person feels comfortable, valued, needed, listened to, and various other personal needs. Thus, two or more individuals who are in a relationship will feel a role and are not alienated in their social environment.
- b. **Attunement:** Attunement is the ability to be able to listen openly so that one can understand what someone has said. The purpose of this ability is how someone can listen well and effectively so that they can respond quickly and can provide a harmonious and positive response.
- c. **Empathic Accuracy:** That is the ability to be able to understand properly and precisely what is the feelings and thoughts of other people. And this ability is developed after we listen carefully to what has been conveyed by other people, whether it is related to their feelings or thoughts.
- d. **Social Cognition:** Social cognition or social knowledge is more about how one understands the social world. Understanding this issue is very important because, without knowledge of what the social world is like, what are its



characteristics, and intricacies, and how the social world is intertwined, it will be difficult for someone to be able to carry out social interactions.

### 2.3.3 Aspects of Social Awareness

According to Sheldon (1996: 621), there are two aspects that affect a person's social awareness, including the following.

- a. **Cognition:** Each individual has their own habits or style in paying attention to information obtained from their social environment. This shows that the cognitive system that each individual has is different from one another and can influence their social awareness in social interaction (Sheldon, 1996: 621).
- b. **Social Environment:** Awareness of the social environment can help a person build bridges between himself and others in social life (Sheldon, 1996: 621).

To reconcile the idea of the aspects of social awareness in the two parts above. With the aspects that can be found in the novel, it is crucial to take other points as described by Franzoi, et.al (1990: 641-659) i.e goals and motives in order to make them match. They confirm that social awareness can be influenced by goals and motives. These goals and motives reflect the social information needed by a person. For example, people who often position themselves as other people in order to understand what other people feel will tend to do that (Franzoi, et.al, 1990: 641)

### 2.3.4 Dimension of Social Awareness

Sheldon (1996: 628) explains that social awareness has three dimensions, namely tacit awareness (self-perspective and the perspective of others), focal

awareness (self as an object and others as objects), and content awareness (observable appearance and experience unobservable).

Based on the differences that exist between the perspectives taken for social evaluation and the targets of a social evaluation, Wegner and Giuliano (1982: 1-17) introduce two basic dimensions of social awareness, namely tacit awareness, and focal awareness. Tacit awareness can be defined as a person's point of view or in other words "from which side he sees". Meanwhile, focal awareness can be defined as the object of an evaluation or "what he sees".

Sheldon and Johnson (1993: 320) add that individuals do not always access a target from privileged awareness, but also non-privileged awareness. Non-privileged awareness can be seen from three things, namely a) a person does not have to psychologically use other people's perspectives to evaluate his own appearance, b) a person does not always have to see other people's perspectives to find out what other people might be experiencing, and c) a person can detach from his personal experiences by psychologically using another person's perspective.

### **2.3.5 Forms of Social Awareness**

Based on the dimensions of social awareness, Sheldon and Johnson (1993: 320-330) found a social awareness model that contains several dimensions of the forms of social awareness used by people in their social life. These forms of social awareness include:

- a. Self-experience seen from one's own perspective:** This form of social awareness can occur when a person tries to understand his anger and can be illustrated by the thought "I'm really angry". This form of consciousness means

that it can be seen or formed when humans tell the truth about what they are feeling.

- b. Appearance seen from the perspective of others:** This form of social awareness can occur when someone wears a different color shirt when appearing in front of a crowd, and realizes that people are watching him. This form of awareness can be understood when one is aware of being the center of attention of many people.
- c. The experiences of other people are seen from their own perspective:** This form of social awareness can occur when a person tries to feel what other people feel and can be illustrated "I also feel ashamed if I become him". This form of awareness occurs when we position ourselves with other people as if we are also feeling what other people are feeling.
- d. The appearance of others is seen from one's own perspective:** This form of social awareness can occur because someone is laughing at the appearance of others.
- e. The appearance seen from one's own perspective:** This form of social awareness can occur when a person examines his appearance carefully in the mirror and can be exemplified by an anorexic who insists that he is too fat, despite the protests of others.
- f. The experience yourself seen from the perspective of others:** This form of social awareness can be illustrated by the thought "He reacted as if I was angry, maybe I am angry" This form of awareness can occur when we realize that what others see of us may be true.
- g. Seeing other people's experiences from one's own perspective:** This form of social awareness can be illustrated by the thought "He has no right to be angry".

This form of consciousness occurs when we don't want what we feel to be felt by other people so that someone doesn't feel discouraged and describes it through what we have felt.

- h. The appearance of other people is seen from his perspective.** This form of social awareness occurs when he realizes that there is a teenage obsession with his face or certain parts of his body. This form of social awareness occurs when we judge other people according to our own perspective as if what other people think is not suitable for them, which is appropriate only according to our perspective.