

# CHAPTER I

## INDRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

It is interesting to know about historical event such as revolution or significant changes. Because the incapability of seeing directly what happened in that time, the story mostly known through reading a story or watch the historical channel on visual media. Along with the story, one theory that put attention of the history is Marxism.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (mid 19th century) stated that Marxism is the human actions and institutions which economically determined and that class struggle is needed to create historical change and that capitalism will ultimately be superseded by communism. From many forms of exploitation that happen in many historical events, the victim sometimes forced to obey the upper class that finally lead to misunderstandings and even conflict among the classes in the society. This is because some factors, such as they could not catch the demand of the upper class properly and sometimes the upper class has a specific purpose or to take advantage by hiding the truth.

Wood (2004) found there are concerning aspect of Marxism, they are: dialectical materialism, social alienation, exploitation of class, and economic determinism.

The reason why the writer chooses the aspect of Marxism is because the writer also finds the same situations in a novel titled "*Twelve Years a Slave*" by Solomon Northup in 1855 which rise the effort of a man towards slavery and

endure the oppression of the upper class. The man is actually himself, was a free-born African American from New York, the son of a freed slave. With the explanation above, this novel caught the writer attention while the story showed conversations and occurrence that needed an understanding to get the meaning of the novel. The writer later did library research and read some Marxism books as the writer finally got a Marxism study concerned with the topic from particular books. This novel has many interesting conflicts between upper and lower class to analyze especially in the scope of Marxism conception. That's why the writer is interested in finding out and learn more why the main character affect his life during the experience of being a slave seeing from the aspects of Marxism. The aspect of Marxism is the main point as the relationship between social class and the impact becomes the basis of writer's assumption in analysis. Therefore, based on the explanation above, this is the reason why the writer chooses *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup Novel as the object of the study.

Generally, literary works like novel contains many situations of life, which means as the illustration of the social life. One of them is slavery. Slavery is related to the political, social, and economic aspect of life. According to Andriyani and Aquarini in Ramadliyantie (2009:29) slavery in any forms is a disease. It makes sense when somebody has a disease; they have to do something to heal herself. Moreover, slavery becomes the interesting subject to find that black people are used for the property of white people.

## **B. Problem of Study**

In accordance with the background of the study, there are two problems formulated, they are:

1. What are the aspects of Marxism in *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup Novel?
2. How are the Marxism portrayed in *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup Novel based on the aspects?

## **C. The Objective of the Study**

Related to the problem of the study, the objectives of the study are stated as follows:

1. To find out the aspects of Marxism in *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup Novel.
2. To describe how the aspect of Marxism are portrayed in *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup Novel based on the aspects.

## **D. The Scope of the Study**

The study focuses on the Marxism conception towards the aspect of Marxism. It is also a certain point to confirm the content of *Twelve Years a Slave* of Solomon Northup novel contains Marxism. The data are text or sentences produced in the novel related to the context of Marxist aspects.

### **E. The Significance of the Study**

The research findings were expected to be useful in theoretically and practically. In theoretically, the findings of the research will give more horizon and enlarge the discourse on literary studies especially to the study of sociology of literature in using Marxist theory and also useful information in understanding Marxism acts. Practically, it is hoped that this research can give a contribution to other researchers who want to conduct further research in Marxism by using another media.

