

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Humans are social creatures. Human sociality is fundamentally something that cannot be denied. Humans can only develop as whole humans only when they are in groups. Karl Marx states that “human sociability is more than an understanding that humans need others to meet their needs. The construction of a group for this serves to facilitate life in the community. Because with this group of people can help each other for their survival” (312).

As the concept explained, the reader can understand that in social life it will be easier if they are in groups, because they can complement each other's needs. The concept of ethnicity is almost the same as the concept of race. However, races are often distinguished based on physical characteristics, while ethnicity focuses on culture. According to Montague “races have often been distinguished on the basis of physical characteristics, especially skin color, ethnic distinctions generally focus on such cultural characteristics as language, history, religion, and customs” (9). According to Max weber, “Ethnic group is connote those human collectivities which ‘entertain a subjective belief in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of customs or both, or because of memories of colonization or migration” (389). Race and ethnicity are different. Race is identical to the characteristics of a group, whereas ethnicity is identical to the personality or culture of a group.

Kalish summarizes some of the markers of ethnic group identification as:

Geographical origin, migratory status, race, language or dialect, religious ties or faith, ties through kinship, neighborhood, and community, shared traditions, values, and symbols, literature, folklore, and music, food preferences, institutions that specifically serve and maintain the group, an internal sense of distinctiveness, an external perception of distinctiveness (16-17)

Based on the above explanation, the way of life of a group is certainly influenced by the way of life of their ancestors, as stated by Bulatao and Anderson,

Race is a potent social reality and an important and enduring component of personal identity. In censuses and most surveys, a designation of race is selected by individual respondents from officially specified categories. This self-identification does not mean that race is without objective basis, since it is roughly consistent with ancestral origins. (289)

In life there are certainly differences because in this life there are many groups, and none other than these give rise to a conflict where a group thinks that they are the most superior compared to other groups, it is called Ethnocentrism.

According to Sumner,

Definition of ethnocentrism is the sentiment of cohesion, internal comradeship, and devotion to the in-group, which carries with it a sense of superiority to any out-group and readiness to defend the

interests of the in-group against the out-group, is technically known as ethnocentrism. (p. 11)

Another groups. They defend their values and confront the values of other groups.

The concept of ethnocentrism is not far from human nature, which are selfish and ignorant to others. As Sumner and McGee say “ethnocentrism as a group level analogue to egocentrism, that is, as ethnic group self-centeredness” (37). From this concept, egocentrism is an attitude that reflects personality. According to Alicke, “Egoism is, people are often egoistic, 1 or self-interested, in comparative judgments. For example, the need for self-esteem often leads people to be unrealistically optimistic and to feel that they have better abilities than the average person”. On the other hand, the understanding of egocentrism according to Kruger et al, “people egocentrically pay attention to themselves more than others and that this form of egocentrism can overpower the egoistic tendency to view oneself in a favorable manner. Thus, although people are motivated to feel they have better skills than the average person, at times they may exaggerate the extent to which they are below average” (Qtd in Mattern 156). Based on the two meanings above, egocentrism exceeds egoism.

In Ethnocentrism there must be several groups that live side by side in a place. The problem here is when a group says that they are the most superior. This has caused some negative effects such as misunderstanding between opinions, selfishness that thinks other groups are wrong, the emergence of intolerance and

triggers inter-group violence. These things are certainly detrimental to minority groups who live side by side with other majority groups.

Ethnocentrism is one of the theories that can be used in analyzing a literary work. This theory is suitable to analyze a novel from Khaled Hosseini entitled *The Kite Runner*, because this novel contains different cultural elements in a country. Where a group in Afghanistan which considers itself to be the most superior among others. This novel tells about friendship between two children who were born from two different ethnics, namely the Pashtun and the Hazara. Where the Pashtun are a tribe that feels themselves to be superior to the Hazara. Based on the explanation above, this study is entitled “The Negative Effects of Ethnocentrism in Novel *The Kite Runner*” that focuses in analyzing ethnocentrism and its negative effect in *The Kite Runner* novel written by Khaled Hosseini.

B. Problem Formulation

The problem formulation to analyze *The Kite Runner* novel are:

1. What ethnocentrism does look like in novel *The Kite Runner*?
2. How are the negative effects of ethnocentrism in novel *The Kite Runner*?

C. Limitation of the Study

Ethnocentrism causes tremendous negative effects on life. This problem must exist because it is related to the culture of several groups living together. This

discussion is used to find out how ethnocentrism is displayed and the negative effects found in the novel *The Kite Runner*.

D. Objectives of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To find out how ethnocentrism is depicted in the novel *The Kite Runner*.
2. To find out the negative effects of ethnocentrism shown in the novel *The Kite Runner*.

E. Significance of the Study

The author hopes that this discussion is very useful for readers, especially to study cases of ethnocentrism and the negative effects caused by ethnocentrism. The author also hopes that this discussion can help the reader to learn how to analyze it and relate it to a literary work.

F. Organization of the Study

In order to clarify this discussion to the reader, this discussion is presented by following a systematic organization as follows:

Chapter I is an introduction that contains the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, organization of the study

Chapter II has tell about synopsis of *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini and explain the ethnocentrism theory that discusses about the negative effects of ethnocentrism.

Chapter III has subchapters. Those are types of the research, data, organizing, and analyzing data. Data collecting method and types of the data are explained in data organizing.

Chapter IV has tell about findings and discussion. It contains about quote, reference and comment.

Chapter V has tell about Conclusion and Suggestion.

