

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter one in this final project is divided into six sub-chapter. They are as follows: Background of the Study is placed in the first sub-chapter. Then it is followed by Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, as well as outline of the Study.

A. Background of the Study

A situation along with circumstances in a society is changeable in line with the changes and developments in the society. Hence, people should be able to adapt their environments in what the things has positive impacts or good impacts in order to learn more about what the advantages of those things. Moreover, tradition and changes always exist in a society. In a social interaction, tradition is mostly adopted by a group of conservatives. They take the changes if those values of changes can bring a better life. Most conservatives are commonly religious men because of their inheritance traditions.

The process of social interaction between individuals and groups as well as vice versa, is not all able to comply with social norms of the community, for those who cannot comply with the norm regarded as violators of norms or distorted. The regulation or rules arose as a foundation for the society to take an action. Hence, the society must be able to select or filter their actions before they begin to act. The role itself is made and applied that

purpose to be submissive by the society itself. Actually, the role that usually applied in society, based on the conviction of people who believe that the role applied can reduce or minimize the bad things of social conflict that often happen in society. One of these social conflicts is hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy is one of the social conflicts that commonly and usually appear in society. Hypocrisy is often defined in social psychology as not “practicing what you preach, saying one thing and doing another, or publicly upholding moral norms, especially for others to follow, but personally violating them in private” (Monin & Merrit, 2010:1). In this case, hypocrisy is to pretend, to be the role model in the society and tell many good things to the people but she or he ignore what he or she mentioned. As Nisbet & Wilson (1977), Schlenker (1980), and Greenwald (1980) argues that:

“Social psychologists are suspicious of actors' self-reported motives, in part because people are surprisingly unaware of their real motives, but also because two central features of the social psychological model of human behavior, that people care deeply about making a good impression on others and also wish to hold positive views of themselves, contribute to their claiming purer moral intentions than they actually have” (Monin & Merrit, 2012:1).

From the explanation above, it can be seen that psychology actually has a correlation with sociology. People sometimes does not realize their selves, what they have done as human beings then the society makes people understand what are the roles applied.

As one of the social psychology, hypocrisy is one of the things that easily found even in a small group such as family. For example, a mother who always tells her girl not to sleep late night, but she does the same thing what she forbids to her girl. Unconsciously, in this case, this mother becomes a hypocrite. This social conflict may be happened anytime, anywhere, and any situation. People sometimes become hypocrite for some reasons and factors. The social factor is one of the most factors which gives great influences in changing someone to be a hypocrite. A social member should obey the norms and rules that applied by the society in their homes. Besides, an individual is usually forced to fulfill the expectation of their society upon their position and importance in society. The responsibilities as a social member depended on having a high and honorable social status are to be the reason of being a hypocrite.

The novel of *The Scarlet Letter* written by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a very meaningful novel which contain of psychological and sociological aspects. This novel written is a novel that depicts the life of the puritan society of New England at that time. His background as a descendant of a prominent puritan makes him want to show more clearly about the life of Puritans society in the 17th century

through his book "*The scarlet letter*". The story of "*The scarlet letter*" presents the social conflict that happen in the puritan society which depicts the role to maintain the member of society itself. The puritan society depicted in the novel of "*The scarlet letter*" is one of example proved that a certain society has their own rules which is applied to the member of society itself. There is intolerance for those who not obey to the rules but in the other hand, people who broke the rules by such his/her can be said as a sinner.

Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale is one of the example of protagonist character that exist in the novel. Arthur Dimmesdale is a clergyman who does such an adultery thing with a beautiful young woman named Hester Prynne. He is a clergyman who has a duty to lead people into the good way but however as a human being, Arthur Dimmesdale absolutely has his own psychological side which is refer to his feelings and behaviors which are grounded in bodily interaction with the environment. Hence, Hester Prynne is the character that become a reason of psychological side of Arthur Dimmesdale because his of feeling, his behavior, and his act toward Hester Prynne. However, an action such adultery is can be consider by the puritan society as a great sin for people who do it which is indeed will causes a serious punishment. Ironically, when Hester gets some humiliated punishment, Arthur Dimmesdale is still and only praised by his congregation for his great sermon and attitude. In this case, Arthur Dimmesdale is

trying to behave as if he is not related to a problem that concerns the punishment given to Hester Prynne

“What can thy silence do for him, except it tempt him—yea, compel him, as it were—to add hypocrisy to sin? Heaven hath granted thee an open ignominy, that thereby thou mayest work out an open triumph over the evil within thee and the sorrow without” (Hawthorne, 1999: 50).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Arthur Dimmesdale trying to keep silent. Arthur Dimmesdale tried to defend and maintain his social status as a clergyman who respected and commended by the society because he knows that he is a person who always preach people to do the good things and to lead people into the good way. He is not brave and he cannot admit what he should be committed with Hester. The conflict shows a dramatic confrontation between human natural desire that leads to adultery and an authoritarian society in keeping the morality of its member. Hence, the psychological and the sociological is reflected by Arthur Dimmesdale which is focusing on the social conflict, where Arthur Dimmesdale still does not admit the mistake that he has done and still choose to defend and maintain his social status as a clergyman which is highly respected and commended by the society in this case puritan society, because unconsciously Arthur Dimmesdale has broken his roles as a clergyman and also has broken the rules or norms that have been applied by puritan society itself.

The social conflicts that shown by the character of Arthur Dimmesdale with the puritan society make the writer want to know deeply of the novel. There is might be some causes from society that becomes a factor why a clergyman like Arthur Dimmesdale can break his roles as a clergyman and also break the rules or norms of puritan society. That is the reason why the writer tries figuring out the influence of Arthur Dimmesdale as a clergyman on society and how are the effects of psychological and sociological treatment toward Arthur Dimmesdale as conservative clergyman.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the information above, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What are the impacts of Arthur Dimmesdale as a conservative clergyman in society?
2. How are the effects of psychological and sociological treatment toward Arthur Dimmesdale as a conservative clergyman?

C. Limitation of the Study

Related to the background of the study that has been explained, this study focuses on how Arthur Dimmesdale's attitudes in society because as it is known that clergyman has important roles and impacts toward society. Therefore, the writer highlights on psychological and sociological aspects dealing with the pressure experienced by Arthur Dimmesdale as a clergyman that shown in "*The scarlet letter*" novel.

D. Objective of the Study

The writer focuses on the following specific based on the data above as follows:

1. To explain the impacts of Arthur Dimmesdale as a conservative clergyman in society
2. To analyze the effects of psychological and sociological treatment toward Arthur Dimmesdale as a conservative clergyman

E. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to give some contributions and benefits, they are:

1. To give the reader an understanding of "*The scarlet letter*" by Nathaniel Hawthorne especially the character of Arthur Dimmesdale seen from psychological and sociological perspective.
2. To give the reader information about conservative as an ideology that usually belong to religious people as reflected in the character of Arthur Dimmesdale as a conservative clergyman in the novel of "*The Scarlet Letter*" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
3. To give the reader information about Puritan tradition and to get an understanding of the issue toward puritan tradition itself as reflected in the novel of "*The Scarlet Letter*" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
4. To help other researcher who wants to analyze "*The Scarlet Letter*" from psychological and sociological perspective by providing further information concerning those two perspectives.

F. Outline of the Study

This undergraduate writing consists of five chapters. Chapter one consists of introduction in which the study gives description of the background of the study and the reason of chosen the topic, limitation of the study, statements of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study and outlines of the study. Meanwhile chapter two refers to review related literature and the discussion of the theory which is used in this study, such as psychological approach, sociological approach, conservative, and puritan tradition as reflected on the analyzed subject. While chapter three discusses about the research method, description of the method and procedures of the analysis.