

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### A. **Background of The Study**

Culture is a characteristic of a country to make different to another place, it can influence their citizen of the country. Culture are conducting the race, ethnic, nationalism, and religion of the citizen. Everyone surely has a culture inside of their personality, it called identity. Culture is the reflection of someone identities, it can identify by their race and ethnic. Identity can be influenced by another culture in which accepting by someone from another country. This situation happens in the postcolonial era, such as the situation of the novel *This Earth of Mankind* that explains how condition after the Dutch colonizes Indonesia. This postcolonialism era of the novel *This Earth of Mankind* explains although the Dutch do not here, they still have power in Indonesian's government. The government of Indonesia has three categories level of their citizen there are indigenus, Indo-Europa, and Indo. The Dutch still give the impact of Indonesian Culture, the citizen of Indonesia believe that to be like Dutch person is higher level.

By the situation above, Minke as the main character of the novel *This Erath of Mankind* is indigenus. He is a son of Tuban regency, his father always keeps Javanese culture. Minke himself belonging to upper classes of Javanese blood, usually called priyayi in Javanese people. But, he as affordable as possible be rid of Javanese people to be a free person. He dislikes his nationalism because his friend always disparages his identity, his feel lower class of his friends because he does not have any power to defend himself. Minke also dislikes his local identity, because he is indigenus of Javanese culture. He is very grugged with his father because his impression is when he lifts respectful greeting he looks as his father does for his grandparents, he feels all of his knowledge that he gets of his school lose. So, he wants to lose his nationalism and his local identity of himself, and he wants to be the Dutchman. Someone who want to lose what is naturally personality such as their culture, their race, and ethnic of their identity and change to another culture it called crisis identity.

Crisis identity itself is someone who wants to lose some or all of his identity that he has. It is caused by another culture or education

that he feels better than his culture. In a similar situation, because of their race, the country where they born, their ethnic origin or their culture always making lower by another culture. The people are crisis identity is by doing mimicry in their life. Lacan, as quoted by Bhabha (1994:85), stated that "Mimicry reveals something in so far as it is distinct from what might be called itself that is behind". It means that mimicry is an imitating of something different of people to applicate in their life. Therefore, people who crisis identity will encounter ambivalence, it means the person who has opposing strength of feeling and behavior. If someone who crisis identity she/he has assumed that their basic culture is low.

Cultural studies view cultures not as permanent, limited, steady and separate entities, but rather as continually interrelating and changing circles of practices and procedures. Grossberg, as quoted in Jasjukevica and Briska (2016), argued that "Cultural studies as an interdisciplinary field of research and teaching investigates how culture creates and transforms individual experiences, identities, everyday life, social relations and power" It means that study cultural is important for us, because by study culture can encourage knowledge of the culture, nationality, the identities, and build social communication and behaviorism as the citizens of the country. Cultural studies combine a variability of politically engaged critical methods drawn from and including postcolonialism to study cultural phenomena in several cultures and historical periods.

By the statement above, the colonialism gives impact until now, although in the globalization era the lifestyle of the colonialism there is still. Indonesia is one of the countries that was once colonized by Dutch. Dutch is the longest colonial period in Indonesia, it is 350 years and through several generations of Indonesia. It gives the big impact on culture, education, lifestyle, and identity of Indonesian people. Fanon, as quoted in Bhabha (1994:42), stated that the very essence of humanity become dissociate in the colonial condition. According to the statement, the people who have colonialism will change their life to be more appreciated by the colonialist. The people will change their culture, their lifestyle, and make higher education. They try to be European people by imitating their culture, as like they do not use Javanese traditional clothes, customs, and more use the Dutch language in their communication

with their environment. Those habits will make someone's identity lose or usually called crisis identity.

*This Earth of Mankind* is a novel that represents about crisis identity because Minke as the main character of the novel wants to lose his identity and change to another identity. He wants to be a modern people with his knowledge that he gets in his school. Crisis identity also describes when someone who wants to change his culture, his knowledge, his lifestyle, and he wants to change all of his identity. Crisis identity in this novel describes Minke as the main character he wants to reject his culture and change to colonialism culture because in colonialism culture there are no more rules like as Javanese culture. Javanese culture often has seen the lower culture and get over discrimination by colonialism. So, it makes him lost his identity.

Based on the problem of the novel the researcher can emphasize the real situation Minke as the main character he does not like about the Javanese culture. He has a perspective that Javanese culture has many roles, such as when he wants to meet someone who older or higher position in Javanese culture he must be crawl or kneeling in front of the someone he wants to meet. When someone comes from an indigenous family, the Dutch think he comes from a low level. That all makes Minke perception that everything that he learns about Netherland and his knowledge feels lose from his self and Javanese culture make someone low level. Although his father is a regent of Rembang, his father want to Minke to be intellect one within brought his natural culture, but he does not want to be like his father. Barry, as quoted in Olsson (2010), stated that "hybridity that is the situation whereby individuals and groups belong simultaneously to more than one culture, for instance, that of the colonizer, through a colonial school system, and that through local and oral traditions". Minke's identity was influenced by their environment in his school that basically Dutch education.

Research on crisis identity has been done by Asma (2014) student of Mohamed Khider University – Biskra, who wrote: "Postcolonial African Literature and the Identity Question- A Special Reference to Ngugi was Thiong'o's Ideological Pronouncements". He found that postcolonialism and its relation with an identity of Ngungi's view. The problem is, she represents how Ngungi views and deals with

the identity question on a personal level and the way he dealt with the main components that influence identity; such as language, hybridity, place and displacement, and otherness in his works. Another research was written by Dizayi' (2015) student of Istanbul Aydin University - Turkey, who wrote: "The Crisis of Identity in Postcolonial Novel". Dizayi' found that search for own identity is one of the important issues that newly freed nations from colonial authority obsessed with. But, it is different from this research because crises in one way or another also related to the fact that societies and individuals once were colonized, now they are confusing to find their real identity.

The other research was written by Amrulloh (2014) student of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University – Malang, who wrote: "Cultural Identities on Hybridity and Mimicry in Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*". Amrulloh found that hybridity and mimicry practiced by the character in the novel *White Teeth* in their hobby, their style, and behaviorism which influenced by English culture. It is the effect of cross-culture by the immigration from another country to their country. From the previews study above, it is different from this research because the crisis in one way or another also related to the fact that societies and individuals once were colonized, now they are confused to find their real identity. Other research was written by Dewi (2014) student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, who wrote: "Woman's Independence Reflected at This Earth of Mankind Novel by Pramoedya Ananta Toer (1975): A Feminist Approach". Dewi found that independence woman happened in the novel *This Earth of Mankind* by Pramoedya A. Toer (1975). It reflection of feminism theory that explain how women struggle with their life. They can choose their way by their self to make their life better than other.

As additional points to show why I choose this novel as my research is even this novel the author often nominated for a literary Nobel, the novel wrote when the author was in detention on Buru island around 1975 but was only published in 1980 and received a remarkable reception from domestic and foreign readers. This novel extent that within a period of one year (1980-1981) has been reprinted as much as 10 times. The book has sufficient time prohibited from circulating and drawn from circulation because it is considered voicing Marxism-Leninism and Communism. In 2005, Tetralogy Buru was reprinted by Lentera Dipantara and has been translated into

33 languages and spread throughout the world as an Indonesian Contribution to the world. The novel shows a pure-blood Javanese and a mixed-race Indo set against the backdrop of the emergence of Indonesia anti-colonial sentiment near the start of the 20th century. This novel recommended for the world of education to know the history of post-colonial in Indonesia. It gives the deeper meaning that after independence Indonesia still occupied by Netherland, and there is still discrimination although indirectly. The novel also represents this era that there is still many imitations of western culture that make their losing identity.

### **B. The Scope and Limitation of The Study**

From the background above the researcher wants to show the scope of this research is literature study. The limitation of this research is crisis identity of Minke in Pramoedy A. Toer in “This Earth of Mankind” cultural study.

### **C. Statements of The Problem**

Based on the background above, it is found that the problem that faced by Minke as the main character of Pramoedy A. Toer in *This Earth of Mankind* the researcher can give the statement of the problem are:

1. How is the identity of Minke described in Pramoedy A. Toer in *This Earth of Mankind*?
2. What are the impacts of Minke’s crisis identities in Pramoedy A. Toer in *This Earth of Mankind*?

### **D. Objectives of The Study**

By describing the statements of the problems of this research, the researcher will explain the statement of the problem of this research. It is found that there are two objectives of this study:

1. This research attempts to describe how the Minke identities are represented in Pramoedy A. Toer in *This Earth of Mankind* that practice crisis identity.
2. This research attempts to explain the impacts of Minke's crisis identity in Pramoedy A. Toer in *This Earth of Mankind* in which Minke change his culture, education, and perception.

### **E. Significances of The Study**

The researcher may give a benefit for education such as student and teacher, and also for the next researcher by this research.

1. For the English teacher, this research may be useful for teaching about Indonesian historical in colonialism, and give students foundations to keep their culture and identity for this country.
2. For the students of English department, this research may be useful to give inspiration to always keep spirit to study another education but must still keep their culture and identity of their self. To know about the condition of Indonesia in the postcolonialism era.
3. For the next researcher, this research can provide a good reference to make renewal good research. This research to contribute in the library for reference for the next study.

### **F. Definition of The Key Terms**

In this part is an important thing to guide the reader to make a correlation of many understanding, especially about the definition of the key terms that theory the researcher use. In other hands, it will be useful in approval to guide the difficult concept to the simple one in this research and it goes to number as followed;

1. The cultural study, is a study about the culture that have some aspect inside the study include socialism, behavior, norms or civility. Ryan (2010), argued that "Culture understood as what maintains civility in communities is necessary because nature propels humans toward physical survival in ways that can lead to violence, domination, and injustice. Culture and civility are our ways of tempering those physical urges, but violence, domination, and injustice occur nevertheless, and Cultural Studies has a moral, ethical, and political dimension to the degree that it takes stock of that reality."
2. Post-colonialism is an era that the country was colonized by another country but not absolutely free from the colonialist. Sawant (2011), claimed that "postcolonialism is the continuation of colonialism in the sense that the colonies get freedom only from the political rule and there started the

complex process of postcolonialism, self-imposed colonialism."

3. Mimicry, Lacan, as quoted in Bhaba (1994), stated that "Mimicry reveals something in so far as it is distinct from what might be called itself that is behind. The effect of mimicry is camouflage, it is not a question of harmonizing with the background, but against a mottled background, of becoming mottled - exactly like the technique of camouflage practiced in human warfare.". It means that mimicry is a process imitating that someone does from other people and adopting for their life, start from the habit, education, personality, lifestyle, culture, and etc.
4. Identity, Burke & Stets (2009), stated that "an identity is the set of meanings that define who one is when one is an occupant of a particular role in society, a member of a particular group, or claims particular characteristics that identify him or her as a unique person." From the statement, we know that identity is a something in which someone has in their self and to be their characteristic. Crisis identity, Erikson, as quoted in Fearon (1999), claimed that "the condition of being uncertain of one's feelings about oneself, especially with regard character, goals, and origins, occurring especially in adolescence as a result of growing up under disruptive, fast-changing conditions."
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