

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In several countries under the authority of the totalitarian government, people cannot freely aspire their thoughts and opinion. This doctrine organized the people in the country to support the state ideology, or in other words, the state control almost every aspect of living. This situation happened in the Soviet Union when Stalin served as Secretary-General in the Communist Party. Stalin ruling upon all economic aspect in the Soviet Union. Besides, he was also established military police and secret police in order to maintain the social conformity toward his dominating authority. The military police have a purpose of obliterating anyone who tried to criticize and against him.

The domination of state authority as the ruling-class people toward lower-class people is an unexceptional issue to be discussed in literary works such as the novel since numerous novels depict certain situations of society, and also have the ability to represents a social condition inside them (Prasetya and Nurulhady 2013). According to Plato in Faruk (2012), the world in literary works is a copy of the real world which, as a matter of fact, is also a copy of the ideal world. As the copy of the real world and ideal world, artworks, including literary works as well, is a device to perceive the

reality of life. Althusser has discussed in his essay titled *A Letter on Art: Reply to Andre Daspre*:

I believe that the peculiarity of art is to 'make us see' (*nous donner à voir*), 'make us perceive', 'make us feel' something which *alludes* to reality. (Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays* 1971, 222)

The reality of life consists of several things which associate with individual, society, and state could be found in the narrative plot of literature. Not only to perceive, but literary works can also make the readers observe and feel the period when the literary works composed. Regarding its function as a source of ethics and aesthetics, literary works cannot be directly implied in real life, but rather, literary works only provide a suggestion.

With plentiful material and non-material resources, such as money and political position, the authority state as the ruling-class can easily dominate, or even oppress the lower-class people, in both material and ideological ways. State authority who have a high political position can dominate the lower-class people ideologically by making unjust regulations in order to fulfil the prominence of the ruling-class people, while in the other hand lower-class people have no choice but obey the regulations. To maintain the domination, the ruling-class people watching over the activity of lower-class people by order the other state apparatuses, such as police and army, to control the lower-class people by repressive force if an attempt of resistance occurs among them. According to Pertiwi (2015), the domination of the state would be occupied in the long period on

condition that the state has a social and discursive formation that corresponding to state ideology.

Several novels are written meant to criticize real phenomena in this world, especially the phenomena about the oppression conducted by state authority as the ruling-class people toward lower-class people through ideology and repressive way. One of the novels is Kelly Barnhill's *The Girl who Drank the Moon* (2016). *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (2016) is a children's literature book written by Kelly Barnhill and published by Algonquin Young Readers on 9 August 2016. The novel won the 2017 Newbery Medal, the highest award for children's literature in the United States.

Here, children's literature is defined as a part of literature that involve children as their audience. Since children are the youngest human being who are innocent and lack of experience during the early stages of their life, they need to be guided by older people, and one of the ways is guiding the children with Children's literature, such as fairy tale. Fairy tale usually served as a short story that tells about a protagonist character, such as an innocent child, or innocent animal in fable stories, who face a problematic obstacle along the story continues, and also face the antagonist. Further, the protagonist will find a solution to pass the obstacle and overpower the domination of the antagonist and have a happy ending. Children's literature also delivers the moral values to the reader so that the children can interpret in their life. The statement 'books which are suitable for children' is the meaning of children's literature, which indicates the term "children" and "literature" which cannot be separated. (Hunt, et al. 1999).

There are also several genres of novel that created by the writer as a result of their thought or ideas regarding what they wrote in the novel.

Based on book titled *Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature* written by Shelby Anne Wolf (2011), several historians of children's literature, such as F.J Harvey Darton, Percy Muir, and E.M Field, argue that the main purpose of children's literature is to give pleasure and entertainment to children as the main target of this literature genre. However, Darton later argues that children's literature also has moral didacticism aspect to makes the children being good (Wolf 2011). In accordance to entertainment and didacticisim aspects of children's literature *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* novel contains fantasy elements that will amuse children as the main target of this novel, while at the same time it narrates very insightful issues such as society, class, and oppression that will fulfill the education aspect of children's literature

The Girl Who Drank the Moon (2016) tells about a child who was abandoned by the people of the city that was covered by sorrow as the result of the sacrifice ritual to protect them from the witch. Meanwhile, in the other side of the city, an old witch saved her and have no idea why people of the city keep abandoning their babies every year. She saved the baby and accidentally gave magic to the baby. The story involves an ideal world of magic fantasy, such as the majestic appearance of the creature and high towers that cover mysteries kind of magic inside. According to the Elders, people of the Protectorate City have to sacrifice their youngest baby each year in order to

protect the city from the attack of the witch. As a consequence of this situation, people of The Protectorate have no choice but abandoning their youngest baby in the middle of the wood. This ritual brings never-ending sorrow to the Protectorate people throughout the year, as described in the novel that the Protectorate City covered by dark clouds as a symbol of sorrow. As the narrative continues, it turns out that sorrow is the source of power to the Head Sister to keep her alive and immortal. Hence, as long as she lives, she can rule the Protectorate City.

This study aims to analyze narrative of oppression by the state authority through the relationship between *actants* in the novel. The oppression in the novel is depicted through the sacrifice ritual that initiated by Head Sister and The Elders, which are the rulers of the Protectorate city. Here oppression refers to the idea of Louis Althusser's theory of ideological and repressive state apparatus.

The writer chooses to analyze *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (2016) novel because it has an interesting issue about the misery of the Protectorate people as the result of oppression by the Elders and Head Sister. This issue is suitable to be analyzed using Structuralist Criticism, especially Greimas's theory of *actant*, and Marxist Criticism theory, especially Althusser's theory about Ideological and Repressive State Apparatus.

There are several related studies used to conduct this research. The first study was taken from a journal article written by Evrim Ersöz Koç titled *Subject and State: Ideology, State Apparatuses and Interpellation in Fahrenheit 451* (2015), the second

study was taken from a journal article written by Ari Setyorini and Serwana Idris titled *The Practice of Ideological States Apparatuses in Lois Lowry "The Giver"* (2017). The third study was taken from an undergraduate thesis written by Gianita Maries Nafilla from Universitas Airlangga entitled *Nobody Owen's Revenge in Neil Gaiman's "The Graveyard Book"* (2018). Those three papers also contribute in providing insights about how to apply Marxist Criticism and Structuralist criticism theory to analyze the novel for this research.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the statement problem that the writer decided to deliver is:

1. How does the actantial scheme construct a narrative of oppression in *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*?
2. How does the functional scheme depict the people struggle against the oppression in *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In conducting the research, there is an objective expected by the writer to achieve. The objectives of the study will be planned to answer every question that has already been mentioned in the statement of the problem. Therefore, this research intends to:

1. To reveal how the connection among *actants* in constructing the narrative of oppression by state apparatuses in the novel

2. To explain the depiction of the Protectorate people's struggle against the hegemonic state apparatus.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The novel is chosen as the object of the research because the novel has an important issue to discuss, which the oppression of upper-class people toward lower-class people through hegemonic state apparatus, both in ideological and repressive way. Therefore, this comprehension of oppression by the state apparatuses hopefully leads to an insight of educative benefits ascribed for all people, especially children as the target reader of this novel, to criticize and question all information that they get, including from state apparatuses.

By conducting this research, the writer attempts to expand future research about oppression by state apparatus in the novel. This research also attempts to fill the gap in the English Department of Universitas Airlangga, where Kelly Barnhill's novel has not been used as a research object. Hopefully, this research tries to provide further information for undergraduate students who are interested in studying the issue of children's literature novel using the Marxist Criticism approach, specifically Althusser's Ideological and Repressive State Apparatus.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. *Oppression*: Oppression is the social act of placing severe restrictions by a political institution who have bigger power on an individual or a large group in order to exploit them. (Wormer 2015)

2. *Ideological State Apparatus*: Institutions that impose the ideology indirectly and non-violently such as the religious ISA, the educational ISA, the family ISA, and the legal ISA such as heads of state, parliaments, and supreme courts. (Ferretter, 2006, p. 84).
3. *Repressive State Apparatus*: Institution that includes all the repressive and coercive methods through which the authority compels people to act according to the rules and structures that ensure and prolong its domination such as Army, the Police, the Courts, the Prisons, etc. (Nikookar and Hoorvash 2018)
4. *Actants*: The indication of characters subordination that incorporates not only human being, but also a lifeless object and abstract idea. (Rimmon-Kenan 2002)