

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

According to Richard Gil in book *Mastering English Literature*, a novel is a world specially made in words by an author. A novel exists in the way it does because an author has chosen to put it together in that particular way. This means that novels are not real life. Like all works of art such as poems, plays, pots or pieces of music. They have been constructed or crafted. Novels, however, are fictional that is to say they have been made up. A character in a novel cannot be compared to a real person from whom he or she has been copied, because, for example, there is no Jane Eyre in real life. She or any other character in novel only exists on the page (77).

When the novelist write a novel, it is important to know about how author arrange events, how author tells stories, author's attitudes and irony (Gill 86). It has purpose to know or to understand the meaning of the novel. According to Kennedy X. J. in book *An introduction to Fiction*, Every novelist has different style and genre when he or she writes a novel (76). There is a novelist who writes his or her novel use social issues as a genre. She is Nadine Gordimer in her novel *The House gun*.

Nadine Gordimer was born in Springs, Transvaal, South Africa in 1923. She is a white South African, political activist, novelist, and Nobel Prize winner. She has always focused on the social issues that force people together, and

explored the tensions that twist and buckle their lives (Paul The Other Side of the Story: In South Africa, Two Parents Struggle to Understand How Their Son Could Commit Murder). She had remained in South Africa, lived in Johannesburg since 1948. She was educated at a convent school and a year at Witwaterstrand University. Her first short story was published at the age of fifteen in the liberal Johannesburg magazine, Forum, and during her twenties, her stories appeared in many local magazines. In 1951 the New Yorker took one of her short stories. Her short story collections include *A Soldier's Embrace* (1980); *Something Out There* (1984); and *Jump and Other Stories* (1991). *Loot* (2003), is a collection of ten short stories widely varied in theme and place.

Gordimer is known as the writer that has work concerning with black and white relation. When she was child, she always saw black people as laborer who received bad treatment from white people. She saw this condition in her own family. Her parents have mining industry and the laborers are black people. There, her family treats black people badly. From that situation, Gordimer muses and starts to write a story. She always thinks why white and black people cannot live in the same position and receives same treatment. Besides, Gordimer is known as activist who opposes apartheid. She becomes a member of African National Congress (ANC) when it was still listed as an illegal organization by the South African government. Her work has consequently served to chart, over a number of years, the changing response to apartheid in South Africa. Her first novel, *The Lying Days* (1953), was based largely on her own life and set in her home town. In 1974, her novel *The Conservationist*, was joint winner of the Booker Prize for

Fiction. Her latest book is the collection of short stories, *Beethoven Was One-Sixteenth Black* (2007).

Gordimer has won some of the most prestigious literary awards in the world, culminating in the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991. She has been given honorary degrees from Yale, Harvard, and other universities and has been honored by the French government with the decoration *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Artes et des Lettres*. A vocal member of the long-outlawed African National Congress, she is also a founder of the predominantly black Congress of South African Writers. Nadine Gordimer has long been considered a preeminent interpreter of South Africa, and also its conscience.

In 1998, Nadine Gordimer published *The House Gun*. *The House Gun* tells about the murder trial which faced by Duncan Peter Lingard. Besides, this novel tells about domestic violence in South Africa after the end of Apartheid. Because *The House Gun* is written by Nadine Gordimer after the end of apartheid in South Africa. She is influenced by the situation and condition of South Africa which is faced economic crisis which affected the increase of violence such as murder. The violence comes from the poverty of South Africa society (Calvocoressi 423). Besides, revenge to white people is the cause of violence (MacDonald Kekerasan Anti-Putih di Afrika Selatan). Black people do violence to hold out their life. Most of the violence is done by black people and the white as the victim of the black (Calvocoressi 433).

In this novel, we can see different character which is written by the author. Every character has each role in the story. As the white characters who will be

analyzed in *The House Gun* are Duncan Peter Lingard, Carl Jespersen, Harald Lingard, and Claudia Lingard, and Hamilton Motsamai is the main character of black. The character of Harald and Claudia Lindgard has adapted to the transition of a Democratic South Africa by selling the family home and moving to a townhouse complex with grounds maintained and security-monitored entrance. Their son, Duncan, an architect, has taken the family dog to live with him in a cottage on the grounds of a large suburban home he shares with a group of young urban professionals, black and white. Claudia works as a doctor with a private clinic. Harald sits on the board of a large insurance company. Carl Jespersen is a homosexual who works in advertisement agency. He is murdered by his friend, Duncan, because he is found is making love with Duncan's girlfriend. Black character is portrayed by Hamilton Motsamai. Hamilton Motsamai is portrayed as great lawyer and he helps Duncan to finish the murder case that Duncan's does.

The Lingards, forced into examining that ill-defined world of adult children and parents, realize not how little they know, but how much they do not. Harald, a man immersed in religion and literature, seems surprised when he comes across Duncan's diary and finds there is a quote from Dostoyevsky. As a doctor, Claudia stands on the other side of the divide from those who cause pain. The divide of the ultimate, between death and life. And now she stands on the other side from her son. By this she meant that the reader comes to understand her characters and their thoughts through a process of accretion, through the gathering of nuances.

The writer is interested to analyze the portrayal of white and black people in *The House Gun* using New Criticism especially in intrinsic approach because it shows different portrayal of characterization in every character and it has each role in every story. Besides, this novel has setting in South Africa in post-apartheid. The writer believes that the research will be useful as a reference to make literary essay especially about characterization in the novel.

## **B. Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of the study previously mentioned, the most interesting point found in *The House Gun* is the characterization. The writer has generated the problems on:

1. How are white characters portrayed in the novel?
2. How is black character portrayed in the novel?

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

Regarding to the statements of the problem, the aims of the analysis of the thesis are:

1. To illustrate how the white characters are portrayed in the novel.
2. To illustrated how the black character is portrayed in the novel.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that this study will contribute a significant meaning to both the writer and the readers. The analysis is supposed to present a deep understanding of the novel and literary works as the medium to make an academic research for intellectual purpose. The study provides knowledge about the characterization of white and black people in *The House Gun*. The analysis is about the setting, plot of the novel, patterns of actions of the novel, and also the portrayal of major character of white and black people in the novel. Besides, the writer wants the readers to know more about one of Nadine Gordimer's novels, *The House Gun*, which is established as one of greatest novel.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The writer needs to make scope and limitation to the analysis so that the study will not move far from the main subject. The study is concentrated on the analysis of the portrayal of white and black people in *The House Gun*. To obtain this, the writer applies the new criticism especially intrinsic elements mainly the character to support the analysis. Nevertheless, the main focus is the portrayal of white people and black people. The white people that will be analyzed are Duncan Peter Lindgard, Carl Jespersen, Harald Lindgard, and Claudia Lindgard. As the black people that will be analyzed is Hamilton Motsamai. The writer wishes to know the characterization of white and black in *The House Gun* deeply. The analysis of the characters' speech, dialogues, and actions helps the writer to

accomplish the purpose of the study. To support the deep analysis, the writer includes setting and plot of the novel.

## **F. Theoretical Background**

The study of literary work cannot be separated from theory. Theory plays an important role for the writer in explaining the problems, which exist in the statement of the problems. The relevant theory will be able to find the appropriate analysis of the work. It is obvious that theory will help the study of literary work as scientific research by collecting the supporting facts and formulating the answers of the problems. In this subchapter, a short description about the theory used in this study to analyze the novel will be given.

This study is using new criticism especially in intrinsic approach. New criticism is the concepts concerning the nature and importance of textual evidence-the use of concrete, specific example from the text itself to validate our interpretation (Tyson 117). Intrinsic approach is the way to identify the elements within the text itself. The use of intrinsic approach is based on solely of the context created by the text and the language used in the text. This approach use close reading method in analyzing *The House Gun* novel. Close reading, the scrupulous examination of the complex relationship between a text's formal elements and its theme, is how the text organic unity was established by the new critic (Tyson 124). By this approach, it means that the work by itself, without necessarily studying the life of its author, or the age in which it was written, or its possible effect on its reader. Intrinsic elements of the novel consist of the plot,

characters, setting, point of view, theme, symbolism and other elements inside of the novel. Thus, this thesis limits on the character, setting and plot of the novel.

In describing the characters, authors usually use certain methods in presenting a character. These two methods are direct presentation and indirect presentation. Direct presentation means the author has to tell what a character looks like through his description. In direct presentation, the author tell the readers straight out, by exposition or analysis, what a character is like, or has someone else in the story tell the readers what he or he like (Perrine 84).

## **G. Method of the Study**

### **G.1. Method of Data Collecting**

The method applied in this study is the library research. The main source is the novel itself, *The House Gun* by Nadine Gordimer. The study will use the procedures of data collections on this novel, which is close reading. Besides, information was also got from any particular books dealing with literary theories and the site sources from the internet, which contain Nadine Gordimer's background and other related materials.

### **G.2. Method of Data Analysis**

In order to make a complete analysis, the study uses the qualitative research. According to Nawawi, qualitative data is used a lot in philosophies research and some is used in descriptive research and histories research. Qualitative data is stated in sentence form or essay (97). "Qualitative research" is



not a single entity, but an umbrella term, which encompasses enormous variety (Punch 139). Therefore, the qualitative data can be defined as empirical information about the world, not in the form of number (Punch 59). In analyzing the novel, the study uses intrinsic approach.

## **H. Definition of the Key Terms**

Defining some key words will enable the readers to understand this study more easily. The reader will often meet some words below:

*Apartheid*: political system in South Africa which separate people by skin color and race.

*Character*: a term used in literary work, especially in prose and play, to name persons who involve and take roles in developing the story. They are the actors of the story presented by the author in their work.

*Characterization*: technique that the writer uses to depict clear images of a character and also the personalities he or she writes about.

*Describe*: say what something is like.

*Black people*: the indigenous of Afrikaners and they have black skin color.

*White people*: people who are accepted as being exclusively of European or Caucasoid descent.