

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Stereotype has become a crucial problem in many ways of life. It is because it deals with the way the people think of others regardless the fact. Because of stereotype, people treat others as their own criteria that sometimes can negate the other people's existence. In this case, the African people have experienced many denials in society because of the stereotype. Therefore, the novel *Home and Exile* has become one of African novels that present the struggle against the stereotype.

Home and Exile (2000) is more personally revealing than anything Achebe has written, *Home and Exile* as the great Nigerian novelist's first book for more than ten years-is a major statement on the importance of stories as real sources of power, especially for those whose stories have traditionally been told by outsiders. In three elegant essays, Achebe seeks to rescue African culture from narratives written about it by Europeans. Looking through the prism of his experiences as a student in English schools in Nigeria, he provides devastating examples of European cultural imperialism. He examines the impact that his novel before like *Things Fall Apart* (1964) had on efforts to reclaim Africa's story and redress the distortions perpetuated in European tells the African experience. He argues for the importance of writing and living the African experience because, he believes,

Africa needs stories told by Africans, for shaping their true identity. *Home and Exile* expresses his deconstruction of the stereotype of Igbo as his native.

Home and Exile began with the author's description about the stereotype of Igbo. As the Afro-American, actually the author of the novel cannot accept if his native were constructed as a tribe. The Western people, with their modernity, could say that the societies that are modern automatically can be said that they are nations and were perfectly civilized unlike the tribe. It is constructed because of the influence of people's thinking about stereotype, it is the unfair judgment, people will be called as a nation or a tribe only based on modern or not modern.

Chinua Achebe was born in Nigeria in 1930. He was raised in the large village of Ogidi, one of the first centers of Anglican missionary work in Eastern Nigeria, and is a graduate of University College, Ibadan. His early career ended abruptly in 1966, when he left his post as Director of Personal Broadcasting in Nigeria during the national upheaval that led to the Biafran War. He was appointed Senior Research Fellow at the University of Nigeria, Nsuka, and began lecturing widely abroad. From 1972 to 1976, and again from 1987 to 1988, Mr. Achebe was Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and also for one year at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (iii).

Mr. Achebe has received numerous honors from around the world, including the Honorary Fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as more than thirty honorary doctorates from universities in England, Scotland, the United States, Canada, Nigeria, and South Africa. Some of his works are his volume of poetry, *Christmas in Biafra*, written during the Biafran

War was the joint winner of the first Commonwealth Poetry Prize. Of his novels, *Arrow of God* (1964), won the New Statesman-Jock Campbell Award, and *Anthills of Savannah* (1987) was a finalist for the 1987 Booker Prize. He is also the recipient of Nigeria's highest honor for intellectual achievement, the Nigerian National Order of Merit (iii).

Arrow of God tells about Ezeulu, the chief priest of Ulu, the leading deity of a group of Ibo villages. He seems secure in his position, but contact with the British colonial administration becomes the catalyst for a power struggle within the community that will unseat both him and his god. *Arrow of God* is a classical tragedy: Ezeulu is unlucky in facing challenges outside his experience, but his fall is also the result of his pride and his refusal to take advice from friends and family. *Anthills of Savannah* is a story of a nation facing the political conundrum of a new found independence (online). By this novel, Achebe describes this confusion through the lives of three political leaders and through alternation of narration tries to give a wholesome picture. However at times, the different narrators do not seem too different but appear as one. In that he has failed to give multitude to his thought.

Western might see that the African, especially the Igbo, is very traditional, having fallen behind etc, but on the contrary the African will feel that they were perfectly civilized and modern. They believe that the society's identity does not based on the modernity of its society, since the modernity is just a person's construction, and the construction of a person about identity can be very different.

Those all parts of the novel which make it interesting, trigger the writer to

study it more deeply. Initially, the stereotype of Igbo is labeled as a traditional tribe, but if we look again into the novel and make relationship with the stereotype and its relation with traditional and the term of modernity, we will say that Igbo is a nation. Therefore, the writer will focus on the stereotype as the most important aspect of the analysis.

B. Statement of the Problems

The background of the study leads to some statements. The following statements are supposed to make a clear focus on the analysis:

1. How is Igbo stereotyped and what impacts do such stereotyping create?
2. How does the narrator portray new characteristics of Igbo as his struggles against the stereotype?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem that are stated previously, the objective of the study is the following statements:

1. To identify the stereotype of Igbo and the impacts of the process of the stereotyping.
2. To identify the portrayal of new characteristics of Igbo on the struggles against the stereotype.

D. Significance of the Study

The study is to reveal the stereotype of Igbo people through the character's description in the novel. It is expected that the readers can obtain some information on *Home and Exile* by Chinua Achebe and analyze the problem of stereotype by examining how the people who are stereotyped reject stereotypes. The writer hopes that the study in revealing the stereotype is able to inspire the readers to apply other series of topic on stereotype to do next studies to gain more knowledge.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study concentrates on the subject of stereotype of the Igbo in the novel *Home and Exile*. However, since there is only a single narrator in the novel, the writer gives the limit of the study based on the narrator himself. Therefore, the study focuses on the process of the formation of the stereotype in the relation of traditionalistic, and the term of modernity. The limitation on the analysis is aimed, not to narrow the analysis, but to gain a deeper analysis.

F. Theoretical Background

Postcolonial theory has born many other theories. One of them is well known as the Theory of Stereotype. Theory of Stereotype by Stuart Hall is applied as the main theory. Stuart Hall in the book *Representation Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices* defines that stereotyping reduces people

to a few, simple, essential characteristics, which are represented as a 'fixity' by nature (Hall 257).

A stereotype is a generalization about a person or a group. People develop stereotypes when people are unable or unwilling to obtain all of the information that people need to make fair judgments about a person or group (online). There is an unfair judgment to an individual for he or she merely belongs to a certain group that is stereotyped. Even when people never have a contact with the individual or a group, the people for the stereotype attached to him or her have already determined the group or the person. Stereotype harms a group, society or an individual because wherever that people go, they are identified with the stereotype on them.

G. Methods of the study

The method used in this study is library research, while the main sources used is the novel itself. This study uses the method of data collection from the novel by having a closer reading in the interpretation of the problems appeared in the novel. Then the process of making the data is also required to make the determination of the data based on the criteria. The criteria used here are related to the subject of stereotype which is attached by the aspect traditionalistic, and the term of modernity.

Furthermore, the writer also uses other information from other sources dealing with the notion of stereotype to support the analysis. In order to make a complete analysis, the qualitative method is also used as well. Qualitative

methods are a complex, changing, and contested field of a site of multiple methodology and research practices. As Punch has said that qualitative research is not a single entity, but it is an umbrella term, which encompasses enormous variety (Punch 139). And the qualitative data can therefore be defined as empirical information about the work, not in the form of number (Punch 159). It means that in doing the analysis, the writer uses the descriptive analysis and also the explanation through the novel *Home and Exile*.

H. Definition of key terms

There are some terms that repeated several times in the analysis. The terms are defined to get easier in understanding the analysis as the followings:

Against : in opposition to some one or something, as a protection from some one or something

Convention : What is generally believed or expected about how people should act or behave in certain circumstances.

Modern : using or having the newest methods, equipment, buildings, etc.

Modernity : Modernity is a term used to describe the condition of being Modern. Since the term modern is used to describe a wide range of periods, modernity must be taken in context.

Nation : A country or all the people in a country. A community of people of mainly common descent, history or language, etc., forming a state or inhabiting territory.

Stereotype : it holds the few 'simple, vivid, memorable, easily grasped and widely recognized' characteristic about a person or a group, reduce everything about the person or a group to those traits, exaggerate and simplify them and fix them without change of development eternity.

Tribe : Group of (especially primitive) families or communities linked by social, religious or blood ties and usually having a common culture and dialect and a recognized leader.”