

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The idea of amalgamation can be traced back to the era of Dutch colonization in Indonesia. At that time, almost every Dutch man, especially those from the higher position, had what so-called as “nyai”. “Nyai” is a native (pribumi) woman who was taken as a wife by Dutch gentleman, though the marriage might neither formally nor religiously legitimated. And nowadays, such phenomenon still exists and seems to be more adopted by women in Indonesia even with legal ties. And talking about amalgamation cannot be separated the marriage of two different cultures. Of course, it will arise some problems concerning with the culture; however they try to reconsolidate. Starting from this thinking, the writer wants to take a book, which contain the idea of amalgamation and cross-cultural counterpart with postcolonial background.

A continuity of preoccupations throughout the historical process initiated by European imperial aggression cover all the culture affected by the imperial process from the moment of the colonization to the present day (Aschroft 2). That is why more than three-quarters of the people living in the world today have had their lives shaped by the experience of colonialism (Aschroft 1). It is fascinating material to find out the reason behind the marriage between individuals from ex-colonized country.

and the ex-colonizer country, which can be traced through the historical background of colonialism.

Wide Sargasso Sea is a postcolonial literature written by a White decedent Caribbean writer with white descendant. The book tells the story about a Caribbean Creole's marrying to an English man. The couple have to deal with conflicts from out and inside their household pertaining to racial matters and post-slavery subjects. Because, much of what it deals with is of interest and relevance to countries colonized by other European powers, including Indonesia.

The idea of ordinate and subordinate is always there in an intercultural interface, including in the sexual relationship. For a long times the White has been thinking that the Blacks or Red-yellow-and-brown race are inferior. It is become tradition even in this modern world that tradition still exist in a new form, familiar with new imperialism and colonialism which involved thoughts, identity, or even personal beliefs. Cultural change both within societies and between societies can always be neatly accounted for by the hierarchy—dominating and dominated, oppressor and oppressed, or colonizer and colonized (Aschroft 2).

It is always interesting to find out about social fact depicted in a literary world and to formulate them as seen in the reality of social condition and interaction. Besides, Wide Sargasso Sea has the quality of uniqueness. We have to remember that postcolonial societies may have their own internal centre and peripheries, dominant and marginal, that the postcolonial subject is not a unitary subject, and there is

nationalism within nationalism, and they all exist in Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys. Jean Rhys is retelling the story of Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte to supply the untold story of the first Mrs. Rochester. Wide Sargasso Sea is the post-dated prequel not a sequel, and therefore enjoins future readers to envisage Victorian British as parasitic on its colonies. And in producing the untold story of the first Mrs. Rochester, Rhys, however deliberately exacerbates the Gothic mode of her predecessor, supplying omens, zombies, *obeah* and poisonous potions as part of the process of reclaiming the first wife for West Indian Culture.

Wide Sargasso Sea, somehow, sees the situation from a different angle. Antoinette as a Caribbean Creole sees England as a dream but for the main male character as a gentleman fresh from England sees Caribbean as a dream. And these perceptions make a deep gap among the two to understand each other and protect each other to remain distant. It might happen to a couple which has the same background, to find it difficult to cope with the differences. By turning a classical nineteenth-century novel inside out and giving the voiceless character an explanatory story, Rhys has constructed a critical examination of romantic thralldom and marital power—internalised and externalised institutions that support gender inequality.

B. Statement of the problem

From the background of the writing, the writer arrives to a decision to stick the discussion on this following matters:

1. How do the factors that make both main characters feeling in exile effect their marriage lives?
2. What is the relationship between money, lust, sex, and power in correlation with the colonial culture and sexual intrigue in the novel?

C. Objective of the Study

Concerning the ideas presented above the objective of the writing are as follow:

1. Explaining the factors of both characters feeling in exile that effect their marriage lives concerning their cultural background and colonial dichotomy model.
2. Finding out the relationship between money, lust, sex, and power in correlation with the colonial culture and sexual intrigue in the novel implemented in sociocultural conflicts between the main characters.

D. Significance of the Study

Postcolonial theory is a new fashion in analysing certain literary works. As a new wave in writing critical analysis, it is necessary to socialize what postcolonial is and what is the conception in today's realities. The writer hopes that this study will open a new perspective in viewing the vast expression of literature. This writing is also meant to give a reference to the other scholars who plan to take

the same sphere of discussion as well as to encourage the readers to be aware of the obstacles dealing with intercultural marriage as such can be found in Wide Sargasso Sea.

E. Scope and Limitation

Some writings have lost their main purpose soon as they focus on the unnecessary and misleading objects. In order to avoid such fatality, the writer will focus on first finding out the relationship between money, lust, sex, and power regarding to the marriage life of the main male character and Antoinette in the dazzling colonial and sexual conflicts in exile. This writing is based on the socialcultural background of the setting in the story, but leave the racial conflicts mainly as a decorative portion. The intertextual existence between the novel and Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre is out of discussion but still becomes applicable reference.

F. Theoretical Background

Two theories and two approaches are used in analysing this book. The postcolonial theory is mostly taken from Bill Ashcroft's The Empire Writes back (1994) and to analyse the relationship between money, lust, sex, and power Michel Foucault's History of Sexuality: Sex and Power (1997) is applicable as well as other related subjects. Concerning with the fact that Jean Rhys, like Antoinette, was born in

West Indies and her father was a Welsh doctor and mother was a Dominical Creole, her Creole heritage, her experiences as a white Creole woman, both in Caribbean and in England influenced deeply her life and writing, it is necessary to make biographical approach into usage. And to accompany the first usage, sociocultural approach is preferable.

G. Method of the Study

Compelling some sources related to the discussion in the library and Internet online services carries the method of this study. Theoretical books, articles, magazine, and encyclopaedias are used to collect the data. The writer also uses her own expressive judgment to analyse the novel. The literary work itself becomes the primary data. As what Komarudin stated in his book Metode Penelitian Tesis, 'Descriptive analysis is the descriptive explanation of the problem through the dialogues, events and action. This method is applied based on the work itself and supported by other information about the work, the writer consider that this is the most suitable method to be used in this writing.

H. Definition of the Key Terms

Colonial : an adjective to describe a condition that make a certain party always dependent to the other party.

- Exile** : being sent away from one's country or home, especially as a punishment or person who is sent away in this way
- Lust** : violent desire to possess something specially strong sexual desire for passionate enjoyment.
- Postcolonial** : a term for the new cross-cultural criticism which has emerged in recent year that is employed to distinguish the period before and after independence to the countries affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day.
- Power** : a noun for the ability, strength or force that can be used to get some control, influence, or authority over someone or something aside from the subject of power of nation and law.
- Sargasso sea** : 2,000,000 sq. mi. area of the North Atlantic Ocean, elliptical in shape and relatively still, that is strewn with free-floating seaweed of the genus *Sargassum*. Sargasso Sea is believed to be a 'graveyard' of the missing ships from the Bermuda triangle because of its stillness and silence.
- Sex** : the activities surrounding, centring on and leading to coitus as a sexual attractiveness and is most directly associated with a genital union.
- Sexual** : an adjective of sex or sexes and often associated with sex as a characteristic of an organic being.

CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL APPROACHES AND
RELATED STUDIES