CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Most of people in the West seem to be familiar with stereotypes and negative image of Arabs and Moslems. Many people in the West get these images from books, television, movies and speeches. The long history of meeting between Western civilization and Eastern civilization has produced a tradition of portraying the Eastern cultures largely in negative side. Islam and Moslem as representation of Eastern civilization are described in Western culture as separate and 'Other'. According to The Runnymede Trust, a document about Islamphobia, Islam does not have values as Western values. Islam is also described as inferior to the West. Islam is seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, support of terrorism and involved in a clash of civilizations (online).

The negative image of Islam has appeared since many centuries ago. Some images are rooted in Greek notion of barbarians, and then it strengthened in the Middle Ages. They have been carried through the Crusades and spread during the colonial expansion and developed by Orientalist in the 19th and early 20th century. The West views the Arabs and Middle East always associated with Islam. In fact not all Arabs are Moslem and Moslem are not only from Arab. Many Arabs in Middle East are Christian, Jewish, Druzes etc. The Western regards as the superior and civilized has developed the prejudice and judgment toward them as uncivilized, barbaric and inferior. The stereotype of Orient people particularly

Arab people was mentioned by Western like this "Orientals or Arabs are thereafter shown to be gullible, "devoid of energy and initiative," much given to "fulsome flattery," intrigue, cunning and unkindness to animals; Orientals cannot walk on either a road or a pavement (their disordered minds fail to understand what the clever European grasps immediately, that roads and pavements are made for walking); Orientals are inveterate liars, they are "lethargic and suspicious," and in everything oppose the clarity, directness, and nobility of the Anglo-Saxon race." (Said 1979: 38-39).

Today, the negative image of Islam and Moslem still exists, and it is getting worse since the Black September 2001, the attack to the twin towers of World Trade Center at 9 September 2001 and killed more than 4000 people. Islam and Moslem are two words often associated to violence, backward and barbarism. The Western have their own definition about universal and civilized culture, based on their own standard and values. The other standard and values outside them cannot be accepted as civilized. The Eastern or Oriental which are in many entire aspects different than the Western, is replaced under them.

The novel "Inshallah" is written by Oriana Fallaci, she is an Italian journalist, author and political interviewer. She has interviewed many internationally known leaders such as Henry Kissinger, Ayatollah Khomeini, Omar Khadafi, Indira Gandhi, Yaser Arafat etc. Fallaci has made controversy in her views about Islam and Moslems people. She often makes statements which are offensive to Islam and Moslem community. She thinks that many Moslem immigrants in Europe will threat and banish the Western culture. After retirement,

she returned to concern in writing a series of articles and book highly critical of Islam and Arabs that aroused substantial support, controversy and accusation of racism. Critics described her as 'Islamophobic'. Since Black September 2001, she made her mission to warn the Western world against the threat, of aggressive side of Islam, she dedicated herself in the fight against "the greatest threat to Western civilization since the Cold War, Islamofacism" In her statement, quoted by wikipedia.org she says "You ask me about the contrast between the Two Cultures? Well, to be honest, our cathedrals are more beautiful than the mosques and the synagogues." And, in the other quotation, "The clash between us and them is not a military one. It's cultural one, a religious one and the worst is still to come ' (online).

The novel *Inshallah* first published in Italian, and then it was translated by Fallaci herself and James Marcus into English. This novel got Prix Antibes award at 1993. The story is set in Beirut, Lebanon, when the international peace keeping force came to Lebanon as mediator in Lebanon Civil War. At that time, Beirut was divided into two zones, the Christian Maronites were in the Eastern Zone and the Moslem in the Western Zone, the Italian soldiers guard at Western Zone, the Moslem area. The story focuses on the Italian views regarding with the representation of Lebanese-Moslem people. The story begins with the suicide bomb to American and French army post. Italian is the only army, which is not attacked, but they in the anxiety wait for the third bombing. In the way to prevent the attacked they approach one of influential Mullahs in Beirut. The Mullah gives them protection but with some conditions that he asked. The Italian agreed give

Lebanese-Moslem food and hospital including medicines and paramedics, but the local people mostly are Moslems plunder the equipment of hospital and food.

The Italian soldiers are one of part Multinational Force to maintain the peace on there. The misunderstanding and misinformed about the Moslem culture made Italian soldiers have difficulties in their relation toward the Moslem people. At the same time, the Lebanese Moslem people cannot accept the arrival of the Multinational Force. The Italian soldiers as the representation of Western and the Lebanese-Moslem people as representation of Eastern.

The writer is interested in this novel because the novel portrays the Western and Moslem world relationship today. The negative label given by the West to the Moslem people, actually, based on the misinformation and misconception about Islam and Moslem.

B. Statements of the problem

1. How are Lebanese-Moslem people represented in the novel through the point of view of Italian soldiers?

2. How are the superiority of Western represent in the novel?

C. Objective of the Study

1. To explain the Lebanon-Moslem constructed by Western point of view

2. To show the superiority of Italian soldiers as the representation of Western.

D. Significance of the Study

The study might be helpful and add knowledge for any other writers who have deep attention in exploring the Islam representation in the world today. The study is about Moslem representation and Western superiority in the frame of Orientalism. The writer significantly notes the number of negative stereotypes without neglecting the positive side as the balanced not as the confronted. The writer hopes the reader will open up their mind in response to a social changing context in the relationship between the Moslem and the West..

E. Scope and Limitation

It is important to make limitation in the study so that the study will not become too wide. The study focuses on the representation of the Moslem people and the Italian soldiers' view toward them on the novel *Inshallah*. The analysis contains the explanation of the two problems above and will be related with Orientalism theory.

Since the story involves many characters, the writer will need to discuss some of them in order to give sensible depiction of Lebanese-Moslem through the Italian soldiers as the representative of the Westerner. All the characters, dialogues and setting, that relevance to the statement of the problems, will be analyzed interconnected with the Orientalism. Those will be enough to limit the study, so that the study will not analyze other aspects which are not relevant to the main problem.

F. Theoretical Background

The writer will apply the theory of Orientalism as background to analyze the novel *Inshallah*. Orientalism is a study of Orient or Eastern people that are in Arab, Moslem world, Asia, China based on Western view. Orientalism is analyzed by Edward W. Said. He wrote in his book that Orientalism is fundamentally a political doctrine willed over the Orient as the weaker than the West, and elided the Orient's difference with its weakness (Said 1979:204). Said identifies a European cultural tradition of "Orientalism" is a particular and long-standing way in identifying the Eastern people as 'Other' and inferior than the Western people. This is mean, that the East becomes the repository or projection of the aspect that the Westerners do not choose to acknowledge (cruelty, sensuality, decadence, laziness and so on) (Barry:192).

In Tyson's *Critical Theory Today* it is written that Orientalism's purpose is "to produce a positive national self-definition for Western nations by contrast with Eastern nations upon which the West projects all the negative characteristics it doesn't want to believe exist among it's own people" (Tyson:367). Thus the Chinese or The Arabs, or whatever Asian or Middle Eastern population that are politically convenient, are defined as cruel, sneaky, evil, cunning, dishonest etc. "Citizens of the west themselves. In contrast to imaginary "oriental" they've created, as kind, straightforward, good, upright, honest and moral. In short, the oriental is an invention of the West, by contrast to whom it has been able to define itself positively and justify any acts of military or economic aggression it has found advantageous." (Tyson: 367-368).

Edward Said's evaluation and critique of the set of beliefs known as Orientalism firstly, was limited to the Middle East. As the colony of British and French, the Middle East had experienced how it became to be "Western style for dominating, restructuring and having authority over them." (Said 1978:3). British and French were the pioneer nations in the Orient and in Oriental Studies."(Said 1979:17). The time the Middle East was represented as the Arabs and Islam. The representation of Islam and Arab is not far from negative label given by the West. Moslem people are represented as the opponent of the Western. The representation of Moslem creates the contradiction such as if the West are peaceful, democratic, tolerant and rational, so the Moslem people are violence, fanatics, intolerance and irrational.

G. Methods of The Study

After reading *Inshallah* by Oriana Fallaci, the study started by finding and formulating the problems which are proper to be analyzed. The study is continued by determining the significance of the study, making the scope of limitation of the study, and determining the relevant theory to be used in the analysis. Finishing all those, the next step is collecting the data. The study continued by library research to collect the data and material related with the issue.

The data and material are collected from various books both on criticism and encyclopedias, articles and other printed material dealing with Oriana Fallaci's work, especially *Inshallah*. The data and materials collected are classified into primary and secondary data. The primary data are data from inside

the novel *Inshallah* itself and the secondary data are data that related to the author of novel, the background of the writing of the novel and the other studies of the novel. Then which data and material which are proper to be analyzed using some tenets in Orientalism are determined.

H. Definition of Key-Terms

- Orientalism: an exploration of the historically unequal relationship between the world of Islam, the Middle East, Japan, China, India on the one hand, and that of European and American imperialism in the other.

- The Other/The East: an opposed group to the West that is defined as the minority and has lower values than the West. A group that experiences the West's suppression and unfairly treatment.

- Euro centrism: the idea of European culture as a superior one in the comparison with all the non-European peoples and cultures

- Representation : the act of representating, standing in for some one or some group and speaking with authority in their behalf.

- Stereotype : a false interpretation of given reality, oversimplied, rigid and generalized belief about group or people in which all individuals from the group are labeled with the perceived characteristic of the group.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS