

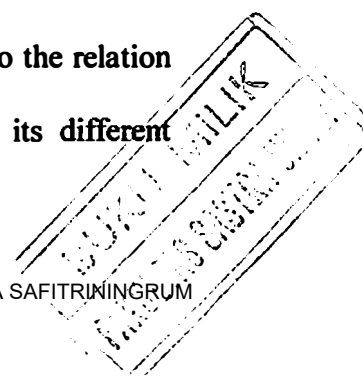
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Imperialism is related to domination of power and wealth to another society. According to Michael W. Doyle, "Imperialism is simply the process or policy of establishing or maintaining an empire" (qtd. in Said 9). Through imperialism, a country can dominate another society along with its all life aspects. The imperialist country can achieve it by force, political collaboration, economic, social, or cultural dependence (qtd. in Said 9). The imperialist country uses its power to dominate another society by controlling all life aspects of its community.

If an imperialist country has controlled all life aspects of another country, including its culture, the indigenous people may lost their identity because "culture is a source of identity" (qtd. in Said xiii). Culture shows identity of a country as a whole; the people, the society, and the tradition with its own characteristics that is different from others. As stated by Mike Storry and Peter Childs, "While culture may be seen as lived experience, shared by a community of people who relate to one another through common interests and influences, identity is concerned with how people see themselves, or are seen in relations to others" (6). Culture is related to a community who has relation to each other with its same experience they must face. Meanwhile, identity is related to the relation of a community with another. Culture can be used to identify its different



characteristics to the other communities. But on the other side, domination of power by imperialist countries in economic life of another country can influence its indigenous culture. According to Louise Tyson:

Cultural imperialism is a direct result of economic domination, consists of the take over of one culture by another; the food, the clothing, customs, recreation, and values of the economically dominant culture increasingly replace those of the economically vulnerable culture until the latter appears to be a kind of imitation of the former (372).

Economic domination is beginning of cultural imperialism. By dominating economic life of another country, the colonizer will also dominate all life aspects, including its culture. The dominant culture will replace the colonized culture. At last, this condition can make the indigenous people depend on them.

Domination of power also practiced by the British Empire through an Ordnance Survey of Ireland. An Ordnance Survey of Ireland is a survey which is done by the British Royal Engineers for the purposes of cartography and translation. The Irish language (local Gaelic place names) has to be recorded and rendered into English. In 1824, an Ordnance Survey of Ireland began to anglicize the names, redraw the land boundaries, permit valuation of property, and permanently subjugate the population (Said 226).

Imperialism through Ordnance Survey of Ireland can also be seen in Brian Friel's *Translations*. Brian Friel is one of Ireland's most prominent playwrights. He has written short stories, screenplays, film, TV and radio adaptations of his plays, and several pieces of non-fiction. Friel's early life had a strong influence on his writing. His father was a teacher, and his grandparents were illiterate peasants from County Donegal. Friel often writes themes that are derived from his own

family about Ireland. Donegal is another influence in Friel's life and work. In 1972, he was elected as a member of the Irish Academy of Letters.

Friel's plays deal with identity, the notion of truth, and communication, which he explores through the nature of language. For Friel, language is closely implicated with identity. It means that language can be used as a crucial process in determining identity of a person. Friel's plays expose the language in any real communication of the society. Language is very important in people's life. By language, people can communicate easily to convey their thoughts, ideas, desires, etc. Furthermore, language can also represent culture, tradition, and history, which could reflect a nation's identity.

In 1981, *Translations*, was awarded the Ewart-Biggs Peace Prize. This play shows that imperialism cannot only be achieved by military force, but also by controlling the language of the colonized people. This play is set in Baile Beag, a small village in agricultural Ireland. The play deals with an issue about language and communication problems when the Irish community must face the British Empire. As a small community in Ireland, Baile Beag in Donegal is in the brink of changes. The story takes place at a rural school, in August 1833, during the time when the British army is occupied with the mapping of Baile Beag, in order to change all toponyms in the country. The British army will change all place names written in Irish into English. The language of instruction used in school will be standardized into English, their town will have a new name and they will have to learn to speak English. Each student reacts differently, following his or her own different thoughts. Owen, the youngest son of the schoolmaster, has a task to

translate the place names from Irish language into English. But Hugh, the schoolmaster, thinks that English cannot change Irish as a rich language. Manus, Hug's oldest son, also says that the project itself is applied only for the benefit of the Empire. There are also some conflicts among the indigenous people and the destruction of the Irish community itself.

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the study above, the statement of the problems is formulated as follows:

1. How is the condition of Irish community in Baile Beag and its language before the period of British imperialism as represented in the play?
2. How is the process of mapping Baile Beag and standardizing the Irish language into English as represented in the play?
3. What is the impact of British imperialism through standardized language of Ireland as represented in the play?

C. Objective of the Study

Regarding the statement of the problems above, the objective of the study is arranged as follows:

1. To describe the condition of Irish community in Baile Beag and its language before the period of British imperialism as represented in the play.
2. To explain the process of mapping Baile Beag and standardizing the Irish language into English as represented in the play.

3. To describe the impact of British imperialism through standardized language of Ireland as represented in the play.

D. Significance of the Study

The aim of this thesis is to make a deeper comprehension on literary works, especially the play itself. By learning this thesis, the readers will understand about imperialism through language in Ireland. Besides that, this thesis is made to inform the readers, especially the university students about the most eminent play written by the Irish author that has awarded the Ewart-Biggs Peace Prize. Hopefully, this thesis could give some contribution in broadening the vision of the readers.

E. Scope and Limitation

The focus of this thesis is on the study of imperialism through language by analyzing the condition of the Irish community, the process of mapping the land, standardizing the Irish language into English, and also the impact of British imperialism in Ireland. In short, this thesis is developed from the condition of the Irish community in facing the British imperialism through standardizing the Irish language into English.

F. Theoretical Background

Since *Translations* talks about the condition in imperial era, postcolonial theory will be applied to analyze it. This theory is applied to analyze literature

produced by culture that is developed in response to colonial domination, and show the resistance of the colonized people against their oppressor. *Translations* will be analyzed by using the postcolonial theory by Bill Ashcroft et al. about control over language in imperial era. The British Empire controls the native language to maintain its power in Ireland.

Through standardizing the Irish language into English, the British will control Ireland and its community. Language becomes the medium through which a hierarchical structure of British power is established in Ireland. The theory will be applied by analyzing the condition of Irish community when the British Empire authorizes an Ordnance Survey of Ireland. There will be an uncertain condition when the Irish community must face domination from the British Empire through the mapping of the land and translating the Irish place names into English. This theory is used to analyze how the colonizer dominates the colonized, especially through standardized language of Ireland.

G. Method of the Study

In writing this thesis, two basic techniques are applied for undertaking the research. These techniques are data collecting and analysis. Data collecting is mainly gained from the play itself. For supporting the research, there are also some references gained from many library researches, which consists of literary books, essays, and critiques. In addition, there is also incorporation of some information gained from the internet related to the work of Brian Friel,

particularly *Translations*, and dictionary to find the exact definitions of certain literary terms.

After collecting the qualitative data, the data is interpreted by descriptive analysis method. The analysis will be made through the description of the character's dialogues, events, and actions in the play by using postcolonial theory. The theory will be applied to describe how the British control Ireland through standardizing the Irish language into English.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Anglicization : The process of making something English
(Encyclopedia)

Imperialism : The process or policy of establishing or maintaining an empire (qtd. in Said 9)

Transliteration : The process which is done by rendering the letters of one alphabet into the letters of another with different alphabetical system (Rachmadie et al. .35)

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW