

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, the advance on technology has brought great change in transportation to be more modern and sophisticated. This makes the border between countries become more liquid and welcome for the new arriver. Therefore, people can easily move to other region or countries. People movement to other countries can be driven by unsatisfying circumstance in indigenous country, for instance, economic crisis, political harassment, and conflict of war. One of the examples can be seen in human boats of Afghan who sails crossing the ocean to Australia for gaining new lives as immigrants. Another example is Palestinian immigrants who live in the overreas because of the military conflict. Immigrants are defined persons who have moved across international borders from their country of origin and taken up residence in another country. Persons are classified as immigrants if they are living in a country settlement, but were born in some other country (*Children Immigrant Families in Eight Affluent Countries* 4). In some cases, the immigrants who stay and live quietly in new country usually get married with local or host land people. Hence, they have children with mix blood descend. From these descendents, the immigrants sometimes grow up from generation to generation in new country. According to Bammer (1994),

he says that such movement of dislocation and displacement are the defining feature of the twentieth century (Bhatia 6).

However, living in the new country is not easy since the immigrants must have to face some problems in new country for instance language barrier, difference in religion, clothes, custom, and culture. To overcome these troubles, most immigrants establish their own communities and settlements. They often choose to live among their own people due to the comfort of a familiar language, food, and lifestyle is strong. Immigrants find that the adjustments are easier if they live near others from the same homeland. In this neighborhood, they could hear their native language, shop at stores where familiar foods and other items are available, and not feel out of place (Dorothy & Hoobler 117). The immigrants are frequently perch homesickness with their motherland, though they live and have family in new country. They keep deciding to return to their country of origin.

The reality about immigrant's life above can be seen in Naomi Shihab Nye's novel *Habibi*. Naomi Shihab Nye is a mix blood woman Arab - American. Naomi Shihab Nye was born in St. Louis America. Naomi Shihab Nye spent her adolescence both in Jerusalem and St. Louis. For her composition, she has been awarded: James Adams Book Award, ALA Notable Children's Book, ALA Best Book for Young Adult, and Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature, Texas Institute of Letters Best Book for Young Readers. She also as editor whose book has appeared widely *Fuel*, *Red Suitcase*, and *Words under the Words, This Same Sky*, and *the Tree Is Older than*

You Are: Poems and Painting from Mexico, as well as The Space between Our Footsteps: Poems and Painting from Middle East.

The content of the novel itself is interesting because this novel tries to explain immigrant's life and the conflict pursue. Another interesting point in this novel is *Habibi* wants to demonstrate that immigrants' conflict has effect to their offspring. This novel is picked for a research by the writer because this novel represents Arab – American culture and moreover, the writer looks that is still few books of Arab – American author who appears in research. Furthermore, through this book out, the readers are able to gain information for instance to dive culture and ethnic society in Palestine: Arabs, Jews, Middle Europe descend, likes Greece and Armenian and those ethnics live calmly and each of society still maintains their homeland and their ancestor culture (Thubron 182).

The main characters in this novel are Liyana and her father Kamal Abboud. Liyana is interesting to discuss in this research because she is demonstrated in this novel as a mix blood girl. Her father is Palestinian and her mother is American. Because of her blood, she adopts two different cultures. The effect of mixing two cultures leads Liyana to the cultural conflict. This conflict is also supported by Liyana's unstable emotion. Kamal Abboud becomes ultimate character in this novel because he establishes Liyana's identity and helps Liyana to negotiate her cultural conflict. In addition, through character of Kamal Abboud, it can be seen that an immigrant always desires to move back to original country even though he or she has

lived in new country for years. Nevertheless, it is told in this novel that Kamal Abboud also feels as an American, it is caused by his contacting with American values.

After knowing the issues from this novel, the writer will analyze the Diaspora phenomena in main character Liyana in *Habibi* novel and the writer also discusses the sort of conflicts in the first and the second generation immigrant's life experience because in this novel Liyana is considered as second generation immigrant and Kamal Abboud is considered as first generation of immigrant. The issues in this novel is interesting to be analyzed because the problem is different compared other books. As a girl who has mix blood descends, Liyana faces the conflict to put her identity. She could not accept both Palestine and America fairly especially when her family decides to move to Palestine. In contrast, most of the books tell about the character(s) that leave their native country to the superior country such as America. When Liyana's father announces that they will move to Palestine, Liyana's conflict has appeared. In addition, without her father guidance, it is hard for Liyana to solve her cultural conflict in Palestine, thus, Kamal Abboud's stand is also inserted by the writer in this research.

To analyze the issues in this research, Postcolonial theory is used. This theory is chosen in this research because it focuses on global issues, on comparisons and contrasts among various people, means that it is up to the individual members of specific populations to develop their own body of criticism on the history, traditions,

and interpretation of their own literature (Tyson 417). In this context, the specific population in this research is immigrants which relates to one of term in postcolonial theory, Diaspora. Diaspora itself is about the crossing people into new world, but still tries in maintaining indigenous identity. Therefore, Homi K. Bhaba is applied as the only key theorist for the analysis. Bhaba says that Diaspora comes to change the history of the nation (Laura and Parry 59)

Through this research, the reader is expected to know about Liyana's cultural conflict in Palestine and influence her cracking memory when she was in America to her identity as the second generation immigrants. As the second generation immigrants, Liyana gets complexity culture circumstance in Palestine. In one side, Liyana is get used to using Arab cultures; clothes, languages, religions, dishes, and environments. Meanwhile she still maintains her identity as an American. However, as the first generation immigrant, Liyana's father is leaning to be a Palestinian and his Arab identity is strong enough. As a Palestinian, Kamal Abboud persuades Liyana to become an Arab, but still maintain her American identity.

Habibi's story's is begun when Kamal Abboud migrates from Palestine to America in order to continue his medical study and run away from military conflict. Then, he gets married with American woman, Susan and they have two children Liyana and Rafik Abboud. Kamal Abboud's children are born in the United States. After living for years, he returns to Palestine. However, this plan is not easy for

Liyana because she realises that when she moves there, she must adjust to culture, life style, and custom. In her mind, it can be said that it is one of hardest things to do.

When the Abbouds have arrived in Palestine, Liyana starts feeling sadness, shock, and homesickness of her previous life in America. In her new home in Palestine, Liyana experiences cultural shock in dealing with her new environment. Liyana considers Arab culture is uncanny and anxiety. As a result, it enforces Liyana to adjust with different culture around her regarding she was grown up in western culture. This eventually brings her into identity matter as she in one side tries to maintain her American identity but on the other side she has to negotiate with Arabian values in Palestine.

First time, it is hard for Liyana to realize herself that she is not in America anymore. As soon as she lives in Palestine, she is always haunted by her past time in America. In many occasions, she always tells her experience to her friends in Palestine. She keeps behaving as an American girl even she has already moved to his father's country; she always acts in American style. Liyana often thinks about her identity and she always compares between Arab and American tradition. Often, her father suggests Liyana that she is not in the United States anymore but in Palestine, a conservative country. Her father also asks Liyana not to compares one country's customs by another's. In this novel it is clearly recognized that her father has role to shape Liyana's identity and help Liyana to negotiate cultural conflict in Palestine. This story is getting more complicated because Kamal Abboud is inconsistent, in one

side he tries to persuade and to impose Arabian values to Liyana, but conversely he also feels that he is an American, too.

B. Statement of the Problem

1. What are the factors shaping Liyana's identity?
2. How does Kamal Abboud help Liyana to establish her cultural identity?

C. Objective of the Study

By this research is expected that the reader learns:

1. To explore factors those shape Liyana's identity as an Arab – American?
2. To analyze the way of Kamal Abboud helps Liyana to establish her cultural identity.

D. Significance of the Study

The study has two significances. The first, it is expected that by analyzing *Habibi* in Naomi Shihab Nye's Novel, the reader will have a broader knowledge about immigrants Diaspora phenomenon. Moreover, the reader will comprehend the conflicts and problems that the immigrants dealing with in new home, particularly for the first and second generation immigrants. The second is to give inputs to the students of Airlangga University English Department, especially the students who

major in literature who is scrutinizing the same topic 'the immigrant's life experience'.

E. Scope and Limitation

For this research the writer limits the discussion only in two main characters, Liyana and her father. The point of this research is to discuss the life of Liyana when she moves from America to Palestine, and the conflicts that she feels and faces, which influence Liyana's identity as second generation immigrants. This research also scrutinizes the Abbouds' live in America until move to Palestine and Liyana's father role to mediate Liyana's conflict in Palestine. In this research Kamal Abboud is belonged to the first generation immigrants and Liyana as the second generation of immigrant.

F. Theoretical Background

To accomplish a research, an appropriate theory is needed to steer the writer and ease to understand the object of research itself. In addition, the function of applying any theory because a theory has significance points: to remind the reader that multiple viewpoints are important if the reader sees the whole picture, to grasp the very process of understanding that underlies human experience, and to thereby increase our ability to see both the value and the limitations of every method of viewing the world (Tyson 3). From this statement, because the point of study is about immigrant's identity, the writer chooses Diaspora's theory by Homi K. Bhaba from postcolonial

theory to analyze the study. Postcolonial theory tries to analyze the problem of cultural identity – specifically, its focus on the instability and dynamic of cultural identity as the effects of displacement (Tyson 426)

According to Sunil Bhatia, one of emphasis of postcolonial theory is understanding the construction of self and identity in terms of colonial histories and present day transnational migration, has tremendous relevance for understanding issues related to acculturation and immigrant identities in the field of human development (2). This theory is appropriate with Liyana's self identity process based on the novel. Based on Anjali Gera Roy in his journal, Diaspora encompasses any transnational population that lives in a land different from that of its origin and maintains links with the homeland (1). Additionally, immigrants who move from homeland to host land will get ambivalence identity whereas; immigrants have to compromise between previous identities and adjust with new identities in new home. Diaspora does not simply refer to geographical dispersal but also to the vexed questions of identity, memory, and home which such displacement produce (Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin 218)

G. Method of the Study

There are some steps to make a proper analysis. First step is collecting and gaining valid data from various sources. The method that is used by the writer in analyzing her analysis is library research, and the main source is the novel itself. This

research is done by collecting data from various books, articles, and journals from both internet and library sources which are needed to support the analysis.

After collecting the data, second step is classifying the data to answer the proposal problem. The technique is used to analyze the data are by using descriptive analysis, in which after reading the novel, the writer will describe the problems with the data related to analysis, accumulate the sources that support the analysis and analyze them by using the appropriate theories.

Afterward, third step is the writer will prove his problems of the statement by giving the data that have been discussed through the dialog, events, and action in the novel. The data that have been collected are analyzed using the theories. And from the analysis, the writer gives descriptive explanation so that it will be clear that the data are taken from the novel.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Diaspora : Peoples who move across the world into new land and attempt to maintain (real and/or imagined) connections and commitments to their homeland and recognize themselves and act as a collective community.

- Ambivalence** : the complex mix of attraction and repulsion that characterizes the relationship between colonizers and colonized
- Identity** : recognition of a thing as different from all other things and including in its unity all its inner changes and other diversities. Such a thing is said to remain the same or to have sameness.
- Unhomeliness** : A confusing condition of the immigrants due to the blurry borders between home and world.
- Hybridity** : A mixing culture and constructing new identity.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW