

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

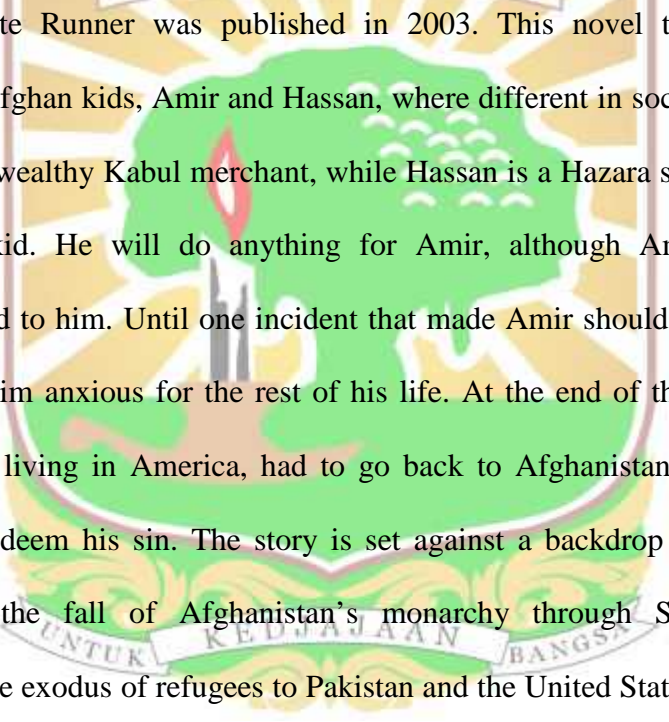
1.1. Background of the Research

The Taliban is an Islamic extremist group, which took control of Afghanistan government in 1996 and ruled until 2001. The Taliban was initially a mixture of Mujahideen who fought against the Soviet Union in the 1980s and a group of Pashtun which spent time in Pakistani religious school or madrassa. The name of Taliban itself is a plural form 'Taleeb' means seekers, generally associated with the knowledge of Religion. The students and Teachers of Islamic learning are always highly motivated and become the main source of providing specialists in religious matters. Most of the people who join in Taliban are the students from a various religious schools in Pakistan. (Bajoria, 2011).

Dailymail, United Kingdom mentioned that Afghanistan is the most dangerous country in the world. This is according to a new map designed to alert travelers to the level of risk they face when visiting destination worldwide. The depicted about Afghanistan itself is rarely described in the fiction. There are few of the authors that describe the social condition in Afghanistan; one of them is Khaled Hosseini. (Leach:2006)

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, March 4th, 1965. He is well-known as an author of Afghanistan's realities and experiences. When Hosseini was 11 years-old, his family moved to France. Four years later, he moved to The United States, where he later became a citizen. Hosseini graduated

from high school in 1984 and enrolled at Santa Clara University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. The following year, he entered the University of California, San Diego, school of Medicine, where he earned a medical degree in 1993. Hosseini did not return to Afghanistan until 2001 at the age of 38, where he felt like a tourist in his own country (Biography of Khaled Hosseini). In this research, the writer would like to analyze the two novels created by Khaled Hosseini; *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.



The Kite Runner was published in 2003. This novel tells about the friendship of Afghan kids, Amir and Hassan, where different in social class. Amir is the son of a wealthy Kabul merchant, while Hassan is a Hazara servant. Hassan is a faithful kid. He will do anything for Amir, although Amir cannot do something good to him. Until one incident that made Amir should betray Hassan and it makes him anxious for the rest of his life. At the end of the story, Amir, who had been living in America, had to go back to Afghanistan to release his anxious and redeem his sin. The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy through Soviet military intervention, the exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the rise of the Taliban regime.

In May 2007, Hosseini's second novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns* also published and debuted at number one on the New York Times bestseller list. It is remaining in that spot for fifteen weeks and nearly an entire year on the bestseller list. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* tell a story about the women abuse before the

Taliban regime and the bitterness of Afghanistan in the Taliban era through two women characters; Mariam and Laila.

Mariam is an illegitimate child and suffered from both the stigma surrounding her birth along with the abuse she faces throughout her marriage. Laila, born a generation later, is comparatively privileged during her youth until their life meets at one point. Laila is also forced to accept a marriage proposal from Rasheed, Mariam's husband. Mariam and Laila then have to face their struggle and deal with their cruel husband. At the end of the story, Rasheed was killed by Mariam and Mariam had to pay her sin by the Taliban

These two novels portray some realities in Afghanistan's society and especially have a strong connection with Taliban regime. The both novels mostly discussed Taliban, who ruled the important aspect of Afghanistan's planes life such as government, cultural and education. In the story of the novels, Taliban forced to change Afghanistan's principles by applying a strict rule which must be followed by the Afghan.

For instance, in *The Kite Runner*, Hosseini described some violence and discriminations that faced by the Hazara ethnic group. The Taliban believed that the Hazara is not the original ethnic group in Afghanistan, so they deserved to abuse, discriminate and eliminate them from the country.

The second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, illustrates the cultural and physical violence that must be faced by the women. This novel depicts two women which are not intimidated by the patriarchal law and society. This

discrimination came from Taliban's doctrines. Most of the stories tell about women's struggles and survivals against the legitimized violence of men.

Here, this research tries to analyze of the social condition of Afghanistan under Taliban occupation and its policies as seen in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. These two novels articulate the social condition in Afghanistan before the Taliban regime and after Taliban take over Afghanistan. The Taliban's rules will be examined for the social condition of Afghan through the author's perspective.

This research applies Sociological literary criticism as the approach to examine the social critics after Taliban ruling the country. It is used to reach the insight of the novel and to achieve the real message based on Hosseini's narration. Thus, the writer entitled this research "The depiction of the Taliban occupation and its impact on the social condition of Afghans seen in Khaled Hosseini's; *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*."

There are several reasons why the writer chooses these two novels created by An Afghan-American men, Khaled Hosseini. The first is, these two novels represent the history and the social condition in the Middle East especially in Afghanistan. And the second, the writer thinks these novels are the important novels that reveal about the conflict in the Middle East. The writer expects the reader can understand and took a note about the history, social condition and conflict that runs by the extreme regime like Taliban.

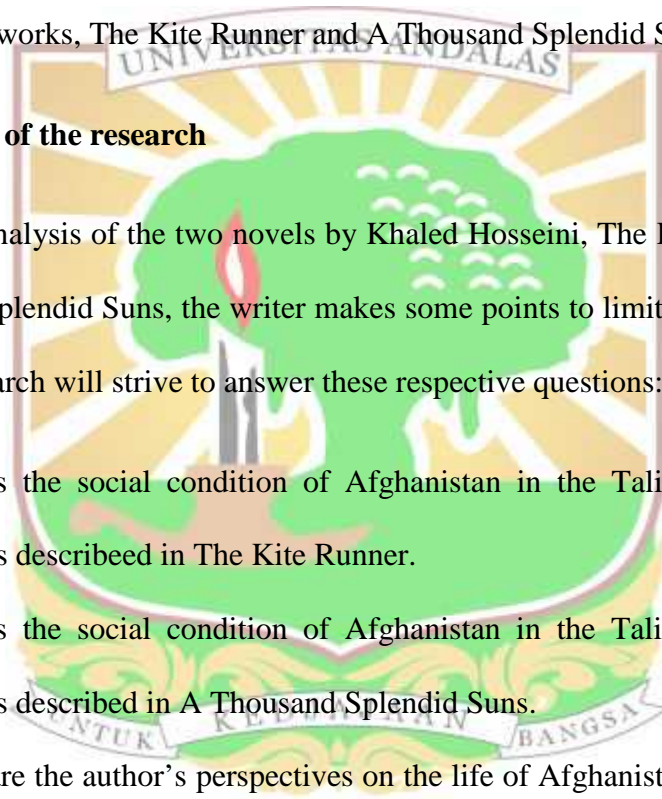
1.2 Identification of the Problems

This research focuses on the portrayal of the social condition of Afghanistan in the Taliban era and its rules for people in Afghanistan described in the novels to reach its main point. The writer assumes that the Taliban occupation in Afghanistan has made the life of people there suffer. At last, the writer wants to capture the hidden message by examining the Taliban's policies and rules voiced by Hosseini's works, *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

1.3 The scope of the research

In doing the analysis of the two novels by Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, the writer makes some points to limit the research. In short, the research will strive to answer these respective questions:

1. How is the social condition of Afghanistan in the Taliban era and its impacts described in *The Kite Runner*.
2. How is the social condition of Afghanistan in the Taliban era and its impacts described in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.
3. What are the author's perspectives on the life of Afghanistan people in the Taliban era as described in *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*?



1.4 The objective of the research

This research is aimed to discuss the Taliban policies in Afghanistan and its impact toward the social condition of Afghanistan as seen in the novel *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The writer will also explain how the social condition before the Taliban takes control all of the region in Afghanistan based on the novel, which is narrated by Khaled Hosseini as an Afghan-American author.

1.5 The Review of the Previous Studies

The writer did some library researches and writings. The writer found some writers or scholars who have analyzed and examined these two novels; *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The first is an article by a lecturer of Andalas University, Seswita S.S, M.Hum entitled “Ideology Misogyny Dalam Dua Novel Khaled Hosseini: *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*”.

She compares both of Khaled Hosseini's novels, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner* by applying a Feminist theory “Image of Women” and “Misogyny.” Her analysis is about the ideology misogyny as found in the author's ideology which is described through the female characters in both of the novels. The misogyny can be concluded as an ideology that gives hatred toward women, and the hatred toward women's character can be seen in the two novels, through the way Hosseini portrays the image of the women's character. All of the women's images in the novels are described as sinners who committed some crimes through the views of Moslem's teaching. Those crimes are committed to

suicide, committed adultery, and committed a murder (her own husband). The conclusion of the study is to reveal the Misogyny ideology in Hosseini's works, *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Although the writer reads them, the writer will not use any idea that written over in this thesis because the main idea is different. In Seswita's article, the main idea is discussed about the image of the women's character in Hosseini's works. Although similar talking about Hosseini's works; *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, but this thesis will not say about the image of the women, the writer focused on the Taliban rules in Afghanistan. This article helps the writer to know about the image of the women and guide the writer to understand more about the characters, especially in women's characters. (2015)

The other related research about the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a journal by Rebecca A. Stuhr entitled "A Thousand Splendid Suns: Sanctuary and Resistance." In her writing, Rebecca assumes that Khaled Hosseini gives an overview of the broken country which leads by the ideological leader and also the war in Afghanistan. Through the women characters; Mariam and Laila, Hosseini tries to describe the life of Afghan women who control by family and society. The result showed that Afghan women cannot decide their own future. Yet Mariam and Laila are described as neither passive nor hopeless. They make decisions and accept the consequences to affect desired ends, both hopeful and tragic. This article discusses a Hosseini's second novel as a novel of resistance for the tragic tragedy faced by the women in Afghanistan.

The journal entitled THE TALIBAN'S WAR ON WOMEN a Health and Human Rights Crisis in Afghanistan a report by Physician for Human Right has explained about the condition of Afghanistan people especially women. The Journal reports the documents and the results of a three-month study of women's health and human rights concerns and conditions in Afghanistan. Taliban policies of systematic discrimination against women seriously undermine the health and well-being of Afghan women. The people in Afghanistan had suffered extensive human rights violation in course of the past twenty years. In November 1994, a new group named Taliban emerged as a military and political force. Taliban, which means "students of Muslim religious studies," are poorly educated rural Pashtun youths mostly recruited from refugee camps and religious schools (Madrasas) in neighboring Pakistan. This movement, led by Mullah Mohammad Omar.

This journal said that the Taliban's abuses are by no means limited to women. It also said that thousands of men have been taken prisoners, arbitrarily detained, tortured, and many killed and disappeared. For nearly twenty years, the Afghan people have suffered the health consequences of armed conflict and human rights violations. This journal helps the writer to understand and know about the violation and the discrimination that face by the people in Afghanistan throughout the Taliban policies. This journal also mentioned the rules of the Taliban regime and its worth to the writer to analyze her data. (1998)

The last previous study is Tomi Wardana thesis entitled “The Impacts of Afghan Conflicts as Reflected in *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini”. He was interested in analyzing the impacts of the conflicts in Afghanistan by observing the description in the novel. To build the analysis of the impacts of Afghanistan conflicts, he applies Sociology of Literature theory by Alan Swingewood. As the result of the analysis, the writer found five impacts of Afghan conflicts; losing their family, living in poverty, getting trauma, cultural alteration, and escape. War is undoubtedly brought torture for the people in colonized country. His research gives some descriptions about how to analyze the novel by using sociological approach. It means it gives the advantages to the writer because we have the same approach in analyzing the novel. (2011)

The previous studies that are written above have similar in the works and concept of theory, the writer had a different focus of analysis by these researchers. Those researchers help the writer understand the ideology of the author, Khaled Hosseini and also his works. Within this research, the writer applies Sociology of Literature theory by Alan Swingewood especially the first perspective of his theory. Furthermore, the writer focuses the analysis of the impacts of Taliban rules toward the social condition of Afghan in *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

1.6 The Theoretical Framework

In conducting this research, the writer applies some theories that support each other. The theory is the most vital element that is used by the writer in order to run the research. Before explaining the theory, the writer doing this research by applying the mimetic approach.

In his Theory of Mimesis, Plato says that all art is mimetic by nature; art is an imitation of life. He believed that 'idea' is the ultimate reality. Art imitates idea and so it is an imitation of reality. Literary work such as the novel is also the imitation of our life. It describes the phenomenon what happened in reality.

As Abrams stated in his book *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. The mimetic orientation,

Mimetic criticism views the literary work as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the "truth" of its representation.... (51)

From the quotation above, we can conclude that Mimetic criticism sees the literary work as a reflection of the world, this reflection made from the imitation and composition of the author's imagination through the reality of their life, and the imagination is based on the experience of the author itself.

In order to build the analysis of the impacts of Taliban's rules toward the social condition of Afghan, the writer applies Sociology of Literature theory by

Alan Swingewood. He stated that there are three perspectives in the sociology of literature.

The first, “literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationships, class conflict, and possibly divorce trends and population composition.” (13). It means that literature is considered as a portrayal of social condition, which truly happens in the real life.

The second, “move away from the emphasis on the work of literature itself to the production side and especially to the social situation of the writer” (17). It means that the cost of production became the center of discussion on this perspective. There is a correlation between historical background and the development of literature constitute.

The third “attempts to trace the ways in which a work literature is actually received by a particular society at a specific historical moment” (21). It means that literature implies deep insights into human and the social condition on a specific historical moment.

In this case, the writer chooses the first perspective which is positioned literary work as a social documentation of social condition and situation when the literary work is written. As Laurensen and Swingewood stated “the most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literature arguing that it provides a mirror of the age.” (13). It means that researcher analysis is toward a literary work as a reflection of society and social life. Therefore, by using this perspective the writer can connect the story on the novel with the accurate events in the real life. It is also related to the literary work as a social documentation as well as a mirror

which reflects society. Related to the novel, the writer will analyze the impacts of Taliban's occupation toward the social condition of Afghan as reflected in *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The writer considers that the novels have some critical points about the situation of Afghan society during the Taliban occupation in Afghanistan.

1.7 The Method of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer applies several methods below.

1.7.1 Collecting the Data

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research to find the supporting data for the research. Then the data are divided into two: primary and secondary data. The primary data are the novel *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The secondary data is taken from some books and internet sources which support the writer's analysis that is related to this topic.

1.7.2 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer starts to analyze Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by reading and understanding it. Afterward, the data that have been taken from *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are used as primary data. The data are analyzed by using sociology of literature; theory by Alan Swingewood. The writer also finds the information about the social life of Afghan people in Taliban era. The data of the Afghan

social life will be taken from several sources such as the research report and books about Afghanistan.

1.7.3 Presenting the Data

Since this research is qualitative in nature, the result of the analysis is presented by using the descriptive method. Qualitative method will be clarified as descriptive. In another word, the data from *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are collected in the quotation form. Then, those quotations are interpreted by using the writer's own sentences and explaining. In presenting the result of this analysis, it will be described by taking some quotations from the novel and some experts' statements to help and support the analysis.

