

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

White Supremacy is the belief, theory, or doctrine that white people are inherently superior to people from all other racial groups, especially black people, and are therefore rightfully the dominant group in any society (dictionary.com). This belief/ideology also take an important role to the colonialism, as for “Colonialism is a form of domination by individuals or groups over the territory and/or behavior of other individuals or groups” (Horvath 2006:46). Through white supremacy idea, white people impose their culture, beliefs and their ideals upon others with force assimilation, demonization of indigenous belief, and other ways.

Colonialism takes an important role of European history from 15th century to the mid-20th century. First, Colonization was started not necessarily for expansion but rather for trade, to spread Christian, and also looking for a general better life when the population and unemployment were increasing in Britain. The idea of white supremacy awakens Europeans desire to control other territory and behavior of other individuals or groups.

Robinson Crusoe is a novel written by an English writer, Daniel Defoe, this novel published on 25 April 1719. Robinson Crusoe is an autobiography novel that tells a story of an Englishman named Robinson Crusoe, he is the only one who survived from a shipwrecked accident in an isolated island, and lives alone for about

28 years. He encounters indigenous people who are cannibals, captives, and mutineers. This novel also credited as the first realistic fiction genre of English literature, and also one of the most widely published books in history.

Robinson Crusoe is the novel that is chosen by the writer in conducting this research. Through this novel, the writer finds that this novel contains white supremacy discourse, and this discourse help and legitimize colonization. In this novel, Daniel Defoe describes Robinson Crusoe, the Englishman who is the main character of this novel as a person who can always dominate others and make others inferior upon him, especially colored people, as we can see from Xury, and Friday. In this novel Daniel Defoe also describes the other races except white in this novel as a cannibal, and savage.

...for who would have supposed we were sailed on to the southward to the truly Barbarian coast, where whole nation of negroes were sure to surround us with their canoes, and destroy us; where we could ne'er once go on shore but we should be devoured by savage beasts, or more merciless savages of human kind?(26).

Robinson Crusoe is the symbol of British Empire, and the true prototype of British colonization. *Robinson Crusoe* also reflect British society at that time, as we can see from the technology, and agriculture. Crusoe represents a civilized European people, while Friday is a barbaric and savage who can only change with Crusoe's way of life

Since novel is the most popular part of literature, it can be easily consumed in huge numbers rather than other kind of literature in society. As its position is very

strong in society, it can be a great thing to share some ideas or to create ideas itself. The author as the creator of the novel itself has a power to build an idea about something through his/her novel. Then the idea can be delivered freely to the readers, after the readers read the idea, consciously or unconsciously it will construct their mind. And it means that the author has a power to create an Idea and can freely deliver it to society.

Based on this, we can see that a writer, through the novel has a chance to share ideas or ideologies and deliver it to society, and we need to analyze the novel in order to seek the ideas or ideology that the writer want to deliver to the readers or society. Through this novel, Defoe tries to inject the ideology of white supremacy that create an unequal relationship between white and other races.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interested in analyzing about the ideology of white supremacy that is reflected in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and also how the ideology of white supremacy can help and legitimize colonialism in the novel *Robinson Crusoe*. In order to analyze this novel, the writer uses Discourse analysis to find out the hidden meaning of the novel.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Since the beginning of the novel *Robinson Crusoe*, the writer find that almost all of the story is about the adventure, and the art of survival of Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe describes Robinson Crusoe as a brilliant Englishman, and he can survive in an isolated island alone for about 28 years. He can maximalize the resources that remain from the wrecked ship in order to survive, he is also able to build a fortification by himself, and also he can beat savages by himself.

Even though this story mainly tells about the adventure and the art of survival of Robinson Crusoe, the writer also find that Daniel Defoe tries to inject white supremacy discourse in this novel to tell the reader that white people are inherently superior to people from all other racial groups, especially black People, so that he can use this novel as the justification of white colonialism.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

In conducting the research of the novel *Robinson Crusoe* the writer need to limit the research. This research focused on how the ideology of white supremacy reflected in this novel and also how this ideology can help the ideology of colonialism at that time based on the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by using Discourse analysis by Michael Foucault. The writer formulated several questions as follows:

1. How is white supremacy reflected in *Robinson Crusoe*?
2. How does white supremacy's discourse in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* help to legitimize colonialism?

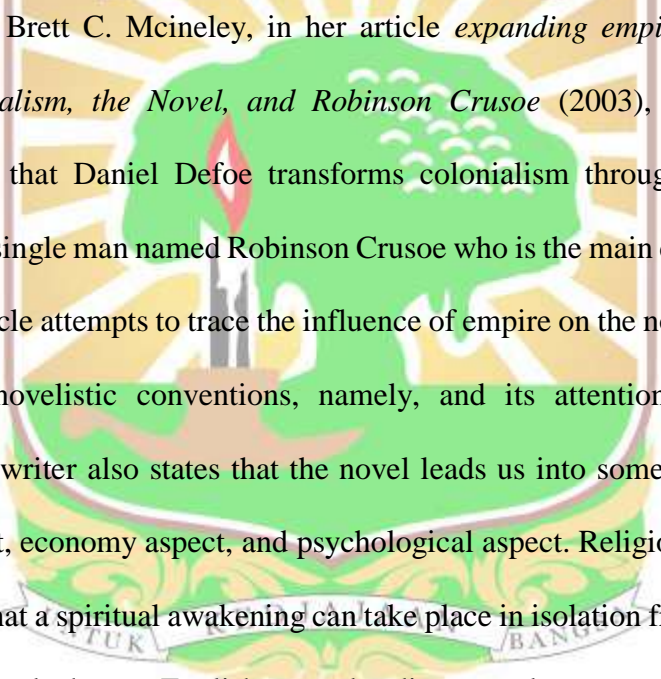
1.4 The Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to analyze how the ideology of white supremacy in this novel emphasis that white people are superior to any other races. Since the beginning of the novel Daniel Defoe represent white people as superior and educated, while the other races are inferior and uneducated. Through this thesis, the writer wants to show how the ideology of white supremacy reflected in the

novel, and how the discourse of white supremacy in the novel can help to legitimize colonialism.

1.5 Review of Related Studies

Before doing the analysis the writer has done library research in order to find out what other researchers have written about Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. The writer finds out the most debates about *Robinson Crusoe* are focuses on colonial, capitalism, and civilization mission.



First is Brett C. Mcineley, in her article *expanding empires, Expanding Selves: Colonialism, the Novel, and Robinson Crusoe* (2003), in this article, Mcineley says that Daniel Defoe transforms colonialism through the fictional adventure of a single man named Robinson Crusoe who is the main character in this novel. This article attempts to trace the influence of empire on the novel to the most elemental of novelistic conventions, namely, and its attention to individual character. The writer also states that the novel leads us into some aspect such as religious aspect, economy aspect, and psychological aspect. Religiously, the novel demonstrates that a spiritual awakening can take place in isolation from society and can be crystallized when an Englishman subordinates and converts a non-European other. Economically, Defoe's novel functions as an argument for the expansion of trade.

The second review is from Alshammari Ganim's master thesis entitled *Colonialism, Slavery and Religion in Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe* (2016). In his master thesis, Ganim analyzes the novel *Robinson Crusoe* in the development of colonization in 18th century. In his master thesis, Ghanim focusses on the

character Robinson Crusoe and Friday as the representation of British society and its capitalist and colonizing policy, where Robinson Crusoe represent as the master and Friday shown as a subaltern character who is fully controlled by the imperial power by Crusoe. Ghanim, in this master thesis tries to focus on how close and in how many ways Crusoe can be connected with the themes of colonial capitalism and protestant ethics, so that, in this master thesis, Ghanim makes it into three chapter, they are Economic and Social Background, Colonialism and Slavery, and the last is The Puritan Ethic in Robinson Crusoe. The writer finds out that this article is very helpful to this thesis, because, from this article the writer can find some issues that is related to this thesis, especially in economic and social background aspect.

The third is from Kenneth J. Stewart on his article entitled *Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe: Fictional Missionary in Britain's Pre-Missionary Age* (2002). In this article, the writer explains about Pre-missionary age that we can find in *Robinson Crusoe*. The writer uses two aspects to describe Crusoe's Missionary First is Crusoe is depicted as a Christian forced to ask fundamental questions about God and Humanity in his interaction with Aboriginal peoples, and the second Crusoe is depicted as missionary-Evangelist in his role with the Man, Friday.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

To gain the purposes of the analysis, the writer analyzes *Robinson Crusoe* using Discourse analysis. Discourse can be classified into Post structuralism. Post structuralism is an Umbrella for philosophies of language characterized with radical perspective on language and its meaning. In post structuralism, language never presents reality as it is, but language 'construct' reality instead.

Post structuralism come after structuralism that is found out by Ferdinand de Saussure to analyze the works. Different from Structuralism that argues that literary work is built by a structure and it has the dominant meaning, post structuralism believe that literary works is free from its creator. When literary work is handed to the reader, the writer no longer exist in his work, but it is the reader that has a power to seek the meaning of the literary work that he read. After the coming of these approaches, the era of structuralism fade out. There is no longer a dominant meaning in literary work. There are so many doors which need to be opened before we find what meaning itself.

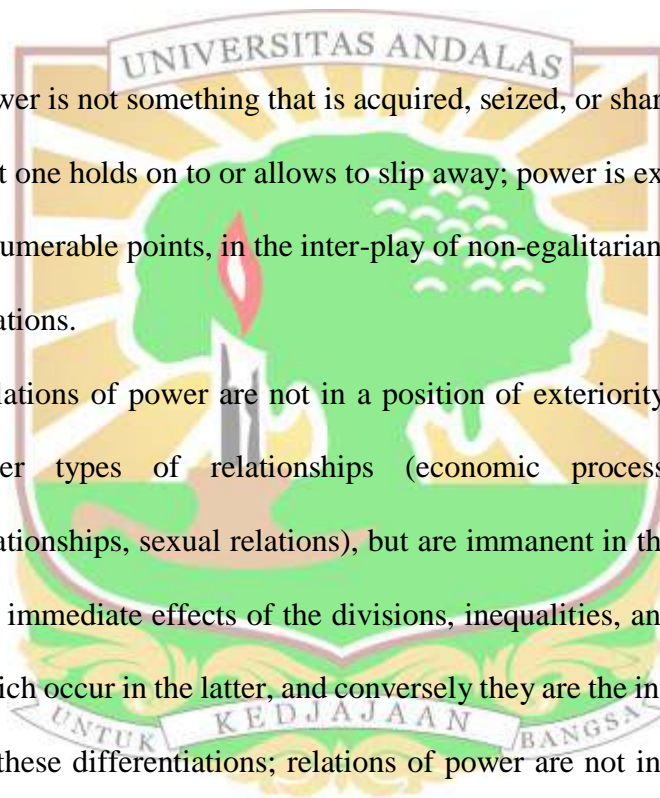
Michel Foucault in his several books, he argues a new idea of philosophy. The idea of discourse and power is the main point that makes him become one of post structuralism. After writing several books, in the first place he focuses on psychologies and social aspects, such as *Madness and Civilization*, and *The Birth of Clinic*, and then he starts to focus on discourse and power. Discourse can be defined by language practice but for Foucault, language practice is never just language practice. It is something that plays important role in disseminating and legitimizing power, in other word, we can say that it is the vehicle of power, Foucault also declares about how power is constructed by discourse and there always power behind the discourse.

In his book *A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism*, Keith Booker tells a short history about the development of Foucault's ideas. It shows how Foucault with all his educational background conducts a research through history, psychology, and archeology to figure out the ideas of truth, since all of philosophers develop the idea of truth.

Foucault's Characteristic practice involves an exploration of the historical development of ideas or concept that have come to be taken as common sense or absolute fact in which he demonstrates that these ideas or concepts in fact are in response to specific historical circumstances. (Booker 120)

By using discourse, people may dominate the other and get the power. In his book *The History of Sexuality*, Foucault shares several concepts about power, there are:

1. Power is not something that is acquired, seized, or shared, something that one holds on to or allows to slip away; power is exercised from innumerable points, in the inter-play of non-egalitarian and mobile relations.
2. Relations of power are not in a position of exteriority with respect to other types of relationships (economic processes, knowledge relationships, sexual relations), but are immanent in the latter; they are the immediate effects of the divisions, inequalities, and disequilibrium which occur in the latter, and conversely they are the internal conditions of these differentiations; relations of power are not in super structural positions, with merely a role of prohibition or accompaniment; they have a directly productive role, wherever they come into play.
3. Power comes from below; that is, there is no binary and all-encompassing opposition between rulers and ruled at the root of power relations.
4. There is no power that is exercised without a series of aims and objectives.



5. Where there is power, there is resistance, and yet, or rather consequently, this resistance is never in a position of exteriority in relation to power. Should it be said that one is always "inside" power, there is no "escaping" it. (Foucault 94)

In his book *Power/knowledge* Foucault also gives the ideas about power.

There are:

1. That power is coextensive with social institutions, no space at all in the crevices of its network.
2. That power relations are intertwined with other types of relationships.
3. This relation describes the relationship the general conditions of domination.
4. That there is no power relation without deterrence. Due to these constraints come with power, therefore, like power, obstacles many forms and can be integrated in global strategies (176-188)

1.7. The Method of the Research

Collecting the Data

In conducting this research, the writer uses a library research method to collect data in two kinds of data.

1. The primary data is the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
2. The secondary data is all information related to the topic

Analyzing the Data

Basically, this research is a qualitative research. In analyzing the data, the writer applies discourse theory. This theory is stated by Michel Foucault in his several books. The writer will describe about the representation of white supremacy idea in the novel *Robinson Crusoe* and then the analysis continues on how the white supremacy discourse help to legitimize the colonization.

Presenting the Result of Analysis

In presenting the result of analysis, the writer uses descriptive method. Qualitative research will be presented in descriptive ways. In first part, the writer will describe about the representation of White supremacy in the novel *Robinson Crusoe*. Then the writer continues with the explanation how the white supremacy discourse in the novel help to legitimize white colonization. It is about how the real ideas may hide deeply in the text. In this part, the writer gives explanations of how the novel representing the idea of white supremacy, and how the discourse of this idea of white supremacy help to legitimize white colonization. It shows how the hidden ideas may work, and the other is to create other perspective in the readers mind about things.

