

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. The Background of the Research

Harry Potter is a novel written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling famously known as J.K. Rowling. The series which genre is children-teenager literature has become world best-sellers and gained huge popularity since the first book, *Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone* published in 1997, until the seventh book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallow* (2005), the series. It has been sold in 200 countries and has been translated into 64 languages all over the world.

The novel dominantly tells about the life of Harry Potter as an orphan wizard boy until he graduated from Hogwarts, covered in seven books. In his eleventh birthday, he gets a letter and through the letter he discovers that he is actually a wizard. The letter also invites him to study in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The seven books present his seven years journey in Hogwarts. In Hogwarts, he meets Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger and they become very best friends. His journey in Hogwarts, however, is not the same with other students; he has to face his parents' murderer and the most feared Wizard who will later also try to kill him and take control of the Magical World.

*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is the second book of the Harry Potter series. It was published in 1998, a year after the first book. This novel tells about the second year of Harry life journey in Hogwarts which facing the case of the Chamber of Secrets has been opened. Some of the students who are not categorized as pure-blood wizards have been

attacked and one of them is Hermione, best friend of Harry. Harry has to help his friends by discovering the Chamber of Secrets, which can only be opened by Slytherin's heir.

For many readers, the plot of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* may only be seen as a pure imaginative story about the school of wizards. However, some people believe that literature as an artwork cannot be separated from politics. It is even said that literary work can be considered as one of the political system. By claiming that they are interested more to art, people may believe that they are out of politics and social issue in general, but the reality shows that art also has politics behind it. As one of the literary works, the writer believes that *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, which classifies the Hogwarts students into different classes, represents certain political system.

Culture, society, and ideology are things that cannot be separated with each other. Jameson says (as quoted by Robert Adams in his book entitled *Fredric Jameson*) culture has important roles in ideology and ideology itself is the way people believe, how to act and to be from the society (37). In relation to *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, the writer believes that this novel unconsciously reveals an ideology of class system of the British society. There are hierarchical groups of people; they are classified based on the economic success, wealth, or in England, social class is also based on the consanguinity. This situation can be seen in classification of students in Hogwarts and the reason of the opening of the Chamber of Secrets, which is the main topic of this second novel of the series.

Based on the explanation above, the writer focuses to analyze the problem by applying Marxist perspective proposed by Fredric Jameson; the political unconscious. The writer argues that there is a political unconscious that appears in this novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. It is about the ideology of British's class society and the utopian impulse. Therefore, this research is entitled **"The Political Unconscious in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*: a Marxist Reading"**.

## 1.2. The Identification of the Problem

The second novel of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* shows the readers about the life in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It shows that students are classified into groups and placed into different dormitories. The writer believes this novel contains some social issues like the antagonism of social class structure by dormitory's classification in Hogwarts, the slavery in elf-house and the racism in terms of pure-blood and mud-blood. Additionally, it contains a utopian impulse as the political unconscious.

## 1.3. The Scope of the Research

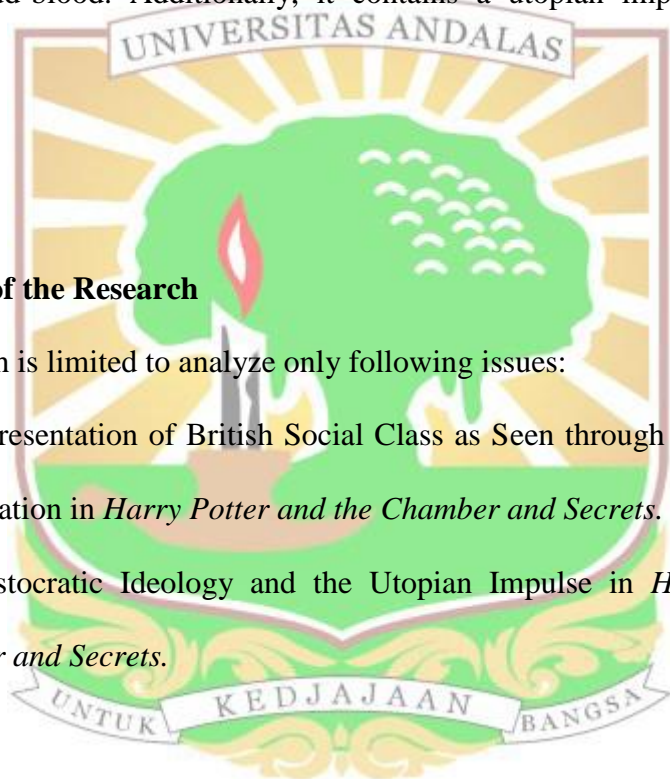
This research is limited to analyze only following issues:

- a. The Representation of British Social Class as Seen through Hogwarts Dormitory Classification in *Harry Potter and the Chamber and Secrets*.
- b. The Aristocratic Ideology and the Utopian Impulse in *Harry Potter and the Chamber and Secrets*.

## 1.4. The Objectives of the Research

The aim of this research is to describe the political unconscious behind the antagonism in social class structure as seen in Hogwarts dormitory, the aristocratic ideology, and the utopian impulse in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

## 1.5. The Review of Previous Studies



Before doing the analysis, the writer has done library research in order to find out what other researchers have written about Harry Potter series, especially *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. During library research, the writer did not find any undergraduate thesis taking *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* as the object of analysis. However, the writer has found a book entitled *The Rhetorical Power of Popular Culture: Considering Mediated Texts* written by Deanna D. Sellnow from University of Kentucky. Sellnow is analyzing rhetoric. In chapter V, she analyzes *Harry Potter and the Chamber and Secrets* as an example to show how a text can be so powerfully persuade the readers about what to believe and how to behave (2009).

Additionally, one of English Department Student, Faculty of Humanities of Andalas University named Harumi Parawita Sari (2010) has analyzed the Harry Potter series the seventh book. Her undergraduate thesis entitled “The Meaning of Archetypal Images as Represented by the Characters of J.K Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.” By focusing on several characters’ attitudes, she finds several archetypal images and identifies the meanings. She applies Jung’s theory of archetype about people’s collective unconsciousness. She discovers the meaning of several archetypal images that appear in the novel such as: 1) colors: green as the symbol of hope, black as the symbol of mystery, red and serpent as the symbol of violent passion and evil, 2) Molly Weasley as Great Mother, 3) Bellatrix Lestranger’s as Terrible Mother, and 4) Hermione Granger as Soul Mate, 5) Albus Dumbledore’s as the Wise Old Man, 6) Ron Weasley as the Trickster. Harumi Parawita Sari proves that in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* the personalities of the characters reflect archetypal images.

The next researcher, Rayes Mahendra, a student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities of Andalas University also analyzed the Harry Potter series by focusing on the character of Severus Snape. His undergraduate thesis is entitled “The Representation of



Antihero's Journey in J.K Rowling's Harry Potter Series: an Archetypal Criticism on the character of Severus Snape" (2012). By applying Jung's theory of hero's journey, he concludes that Snape is the antihero of the series. He also discovers although Snape is an antihero, Snape also actually follows the traditional hero patterns which contains of "Departure", "Initiation", and "Return". He states that Snape's motivation and result of journey makes him a different character in the end of his life.

The other thesis is entitled "Harry Potter and Quest of Values" (2010) by Anthony Lenard from Australian Catholic University. He discovers the importance of Harry Potter series especially in youth education. By seeing the characters' choices in Harry Potter series, the children will learn how to make a decision. Harry Potter series does not only give lesson for making a decision but also shows how to be responsible. It also gives a lesson about friendship. Lenard says it is important for young generation to learn something in their maturity process. So, they can be a better person in the future.

### **1.6. Theoretical Framework**

The base of this research is Marxist Literary theory that was invented originally by the thought of Karl Marx. This theory is applicable to analyze many social symptoms and covered many another disciplines. In general Marxism is social or precisely the philosophy thinking that has elementary purpose to contradict capitalism that ruled society in the eighteenth century as writer figured it out there has been happened the struggles between bourgeois and proletariats massively. Concerning the time has preceded a lot since the era of Karl Marx; meanwhile capitalist has also arranged a systematical system that is well known among the theorist as late capitalism, the writer then decided to apply one specific method from western Marxist theorist Fredric Jameson

Jameson is a theorist and prominent cultural critic of English studies and basically is a Marxist loyalist. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Jameson's works are really crucial nowadays due to he expands his interest into many field of studies such as movie, and architecture. *Political unconscious* (1981) is one of his works contains several concepts that are suitable as a theory to analyze this text. Jameson's ideas in proposing the Political Unconscious' concept are influenced by several Frankfurt School chief like Theodor Adorno, Lois Althusser, and also a Vulgar Marxist George Lukács. It can be seen when he applies several key terms or concepts in *Political Unconscious* which originally are referred to previous Marxist literary theorist like the totality, commodification, and reification. They are from Jameson's view both of neither reification nor commodification are much more threatening than before in this phase, late capitalism era.

The most prominent heir of Western Marxism is probably Fredric Jameson, who in the developed theories that focuses on Marx's notion of the commodity and on artistic perception as both an alternative to and an expression of commodity fetishism (Mikics 177).

Peter Barry explains in his book *Beginning Theory, an Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (1995) when literary critics analyze any kind text by applying the Marxism approach they are highly expected to be capable to identify which one the meaning that can be seen in the surface of the text while also good at tracking the repressed meaning(196).

Here the writer gives Adams Robert idea concerning the concise explanation of *Political Unconscious* concept based on the meaning's classification."The Political Unconscious is an attempt to redefine the grounds of criticism, And to suggest the ways a

critic needs to be like a Freudian analyst in looking Beyond the ‘surface’ or obvious elements of a book...”(Robert 96).

Stands of the description above *Political Unconscious* comprehension is can be understood as Marxism hermeneutic that applied as reading strategy to detect a hidden, latent or repressed of history in every literary works. In addition it is identified that Jameson believes Marxist is the only theory or concept that capable of covering all horizon of interpretations that linking the past and the presents where the others approaches failed to fulfill it “...only Marxism offers a philosophically coherent and ideologically compelling resolution to the dilemma of historicism...” (Jameson 3).

This history according to Jameson is very crucial and later will be explained as the ground of his political interpretation. Its basically and importantly always discuss one single shape of human history. This single form of history from the past until today continuously concerning the contradiction between two two sides, which also the only medium that linking us as the human being with our past time. As Jameson stated and proved the history of human is always about the struggling between two different interest which has characteristic one of the sides is more dominant and the other one try to contradict it.

Particularly this concept articulates the human history that is always shows the endless effort in contradicting or fight against the capitalism system. Capitalism always changes and tries to be more adaptive, it gradually follows the social economic improvement. Whatever the time, capitalism always exists to interrupt society’s life, as Jameson states in following quotation. It defines why writer stated the word of “contradiction” as the part of this thesis title. The writer wants to emphasise talking about capitalism is can be purely talking about the contradiction of two different interest, that could between two different classes or profit oriented interest with the worker. This thing until today is never stop contradicting each other even though through different ways.

the history of all hitherto existing in society is the history of class struggle: freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman in a word, oppressor and oppressed stood in constant opposition to one to another, carried on an interrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large or in the common ruin of the contending classes (Jameson 4).

More over according to Jameson in Milner the mysteries of the past can be connected with condition of the current time if we understand them in one single form of human efforts. They actually have the same purposes, even though those efforts are disguised or symbolized, but still the main idea of human is about reaching the freedom. It means all of the canonical literature from the previous great sequences of literary history, just like the interpretation of Macbeth play by William Shakespeare is considered contain the same burried of history with this novel.

This too Jameson recognizes: the mystery of the cultural past can re-enacted, he observes, “only if the human adventure is one”, that is, only if its apparently long dead issues can be “retold within the unity of a great collective story; only if, in however disguised and symbolic form, they are seen as sharing a single fundamental theme...the collective struggle to wrest a realm of Freedom from a realm of Necessity” (Milner 153).

In addition besides the repressed history of human, exactly the same phenomenon also happened to political dimension of the text. Jameson believes every text contains not only



surface political dimension but also contain implicit political dimension. Intrinsic elements like the narrative disguises this political dimension. For Jameson narrative in the novel has essential function. It always reflects the social economic condition in every time, instead of directly displayed, literary text shown it allegorical ways. He named it as Narrative as Socially Symbolic Act. The implied political dimension could be supporting, negating or even being the part of these two positions in analyzing capitalism to expand their domination in the time of late capitalism.

The most complex narrative can be only identified completely through novel. That is the reason behind Jameson preferred to employ novel in his *Political Unconscious* book. It will be the task of literary critics to deliver a sophisticated analysis to reveal this hidden political purposes in the text. "It is in detecting the traces of that uninterrupted narrative in restoring to the surface of the text the repressed and buried reality of this fundamental history that the doctrine of a political unconscious finds its function and necessity." (Jameson 4). The task of the literary critic is not to create this narrative but to find and prove it because it is already there. The artist are not capable to show it clearly on their literary works.

More over this concept crucially borrowed the term of unconscious by psychoanalysis founder theory Sigmund Freud in order to complement it. Freud himself insisted to reveal the unconscious motives to analyze someone's mentality condition in order to find what the hidden desire of a certain person is or a particular character in the literary text, meanwhile Jameson applied this concept to reveal the political dimension because it does not appear explicitly in the text. It means Jameson employed the concept of unconscious in a broader scope. When Freud used it to analyze a person's psychological side, Jameson applied it to the social issue. Furthermore when Freud identified somebody's mental disorder which the cause comes from himself like what exactly happened in his childhood in other hand Jameson believed that the problem is attacking somebody is a society creation.

The Political unconscious employs the concept of reification in a way that is more historical than metaphysical; Jameson's critique insists on the explanatory power of the Freudian hermeneutic even while positing reification as one of Freudianism's conditions of possibility (Floyd 21).

In order to trace all of those implicit matters Jameson in first chapter of Political Unconscious emphasizes the important of applying the hermeneutic so that we are able to sense those repressed human history and political dimension which located in the latent level of the text. Hermeneutic basically is the way to interpret the text. "Hermeneutics is the study of interpretation, thought of both as reading and as dialogue: the conversation that occurs between readers and texts" (Mikics 141). It is identified that Jameson's basis to emphasize hermeneutic came from Hegelian dialectic. Hegelian dialectic in general is the way to produce a thesis by contradicting it with the previous thesis.

Interpretation becomes an important matter here not to show which one better interpretation but to show the understanding from the wholeness or totality perspective which explains there is no single thing that is not connected with others especially at the time of late capitalism. "Fredric Jameson, who, like Lukács, reads narrative in the terms of an aspiration to totality." (Floyd 154). The totality means all of things are basically have political dimension, there is no single thing that remains clear from the sense of politics.

Jameson explains how to interpret a text based on political unconscious concept which he thinks that critics should encourage themselves to contradict the old well established interpretation from the previous theorist. "The enterprise of constructing a properly Marxist hermeneutic must necessarily confront the powerful objections to traditional model of interpretation raised by influential school..." (Jameson 7) Interpretation is always related with the master narrative of society which Jameson believe cannot be separated from

the human's effort in order to get freedom in the middle of economic system movement. And again writer strongly needs to stress out that the basis of Jameson Interpretation of the text is grounded with the single form of human history that the writer has explained above. History and Interpretation are two elements that cannot be separated and complemented each other.

“...as the properly Marxian method of interpretation. Jameson employs a Lukács-inspired historical narrative to tell how cultural texts contain a “political unconscious,” buried narratives and social experiences, which require sophisticated literary hermeneutics (Kelner 17)

Jameson as an American theorist in fact is a Marxist loyalist which is proven where Jameson always makes the concept of Base and Super Structure as the ground of his analysis. In general this concept explains where economic, that money in this novel is the most crucial matter and always consider as the base in society's life. Everything that is created on this base like politics, religion, law, and culture are only the creations of the capitalist to achieve remarkable income. All of those contained political purposes which supporting the existence of capitalism direct or indirect method. “For Marxism, texts belong to a superstructure determined by the economic base (the ‘real relations of production’ (Culler 129).

### 1.7. The Method of the Research

There are three steps in this research. They are collecting data, analyzing data and presenting the result of the analysis. In collecting the data, the writer uses library research method. There are two kinds of data in this research, the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data is *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by J.K. Rowling. The secondary data is all the information from other books, journal, articles, essays and theories which are related to the topic of political unconscious. In analyzing *Harry Potter and the*

*Chamber of Secrets* the writer applies Marxist criticism especially the theory of political unconscious that is proposed by Fredric Jameson. These theories helps the writer to analyze the political unconscious through the social class structure, the ideology and the utopian impulse as seen in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Thus, the result is presented descriptively by quoting from the novel to support this research.

