

## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to be more technical or scientific works. Literature refers to compose stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, analyze and advocate ideas (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995). The literary work that we usually found such as poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction, consist of those writings which interpret the meaning of nature and life, in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest. As statement above, we know that there are a lot of literary works that it can be discussed by us. In literary work, it can be influenced by the social condition or even the experiences of the author itself.

Since a long time, the term of orientalism is used to describe about the occidental artistic and literary current, prominently featured within French and English culture during the nineteenth century. Edward Said is the father of Orientalism; Edward Wadie Said was born in Jerusalem, Palestine on November 1 in 1935. He was a professor at Columbia University, and he published a book entitled *Orientalism: a western conception of the Orient* in 1978. According to him, Orientalism is that the way of people in western cultures imagine and interpret the differences between western people and eastern people with their own cultures, and he said it embarks on describing a long European tradition of coming to terms with the Orient that is based on the orients special place in European western experience. Orientalism derives from a Latin word *Oriens* means East or the rising sun, while *ism* is study. In the other hand, Orientalism is the study to learn

about the eastern culture, social, language or even their literary work based on western people point of view toward the Eastern economics, culture, and social condition, itself. The understanding of the Orient has continually shifted east as western explorers traveled deeper through Asia. Orientalism deals with the western perspective about Eastern countries and it can be seen from the social condition, culture and economy in one country. In orientalism, western countries are countries were colonizing Eastern countries in the first and Second World War; Portuguese, Dutch, Spain, England, and Japan are examples of western countries. There are many examples of orientalism that appear in the works of European culture, scholars, poets, philosopher political, historians, travel writer and others. Said believes, it is part of an integrated discourse, an accepted grid for filtering the orient into the western consciousness and an integral part of European material civilization and culture. From the explanation, the writer found orientalism view between western people toward India and Indonesia culture that can be seen in *Eat Pray Love* novel.

In this research paper, the writer uses *Eat Pray Love* novel by Elizabeth Gilbert. The concern of this analysis is about the orientalism of western people toward Eastern Culture: India and Indonesia culture inside of the novel. This is important to literature study, because readers will understand how western's view or western's perception toward eastern countries which is seen from eastern social condition, culture, economic, and religion. The readers should understand orientalism view that seen in *Eat Pray Love* novel and to give contribution for the development of literary study in orientalism view. *Eat Pray Love* novel published in 2010, this novel becomes one of best seller novels because of the story is taken

in some countries like Napoli (Italy), Pataudi (India) and Bali (Indonesia). The story tells about woman namely Liz Gilbert who already marriage with Stephen and has a married life which is not in a good term. Character Liz, in the beginning of Eat Pray Love story, Liz doesn't know who she was or what she wanted, after years of marriage with Stephen, Stephen was divorced by her, and left her country to visit 3 other countries for one year, which were; Italy, India, and Indonesia. The purpose she went traveling in those 3 countries were she would to find what life that she wanted in life. She went traveling, met with new people, cultures, experiences and new cuisines from those 3 countries just want to find something missing in her life; were to pursue her pleasure, to pursue the devotion of her life, and to pursue balancing between pleasures, spiritual, and love. The writer see how western's mindset seeing eastern countries that portrayed in main character in *Eat Pray Love* novel.

From the explanation the writer decides to analyze the orientalism that we can find in the novel entitled *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert literary work. The writer is interested to analyze the issues about Western people view toward Eastern social condition that can be seen from Eastern culture, spiritual/religion, and social condition in East countries. For examples are western people seeing that the religions are the crucial part for eastern, that bind them toward the spirituality like magic in Balinese culture. Another example from traditional clothes, eastern people think it shows identity of their own culture, while western people think such an old fashion of eastern cultures. These views make a mindset about eastern countries that Eastern countries is an inferior countries. This becomes the reason why the writer decides to analyze the orientalism the western view toward Eastern

people in this novel. Therefore, the purpose of this research is the writer will get more understanding towards the orientalism which is described in those countries: western people toward eastern social condition that appears in the story.

### **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the background of study, the writer formulates the research question which is: how is western's orientalism view toward Eastern social condition seen in the *Eat Pray Love*?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Related to the research question, the writer wants to disclose how is the western's orientalism view toward eastern social condition is seen in the *Eat Pray Love*.

### **1.4 Uses of the study**

#### **1.4.1 Theoretical uses**

The writer hopes this analysis will enrich the readers knowledge. Generally, related to literary work. Therefore, it will increase reader's knowledge to comprehend about literature and become one of the references for the one who attracts to analyze the similar research, with the same discussion, the same theory and writer can portray the orientalism of western view toward eastern social condition as the main focus of the study.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Uses**

Practically, writer can help the other writers especially students of Art and Education of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia who wants to conduct the analysis

of orientalism theory by Edward Said. Moreover, the aims of this research will be useful and can be used for the other writer.

### **1.5 Scope of Study**

In order to limit the discussion of the analysis, the writer only focus on Orientalism view as seen in *Eat Pray Love* novel written by Elizabeth Gilbert. Regarding to the focus of the research, the scope of research is limited to analyze orientalism view that can be seen from social condition aspect; religion and cultures in India and Indonesia in *Eat Pray Love* novel based on the dialogues or narrative of woman main character with other characters.