

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is an exciting topic to discuss. Because from literature, we can learn about life in the era before we lived and have additional information about the traditions and culture at that time by analyzing literary works, including prose, poetry, and novels which we can also experience and learn. Literature is human work that uses written or spoken text by using imagination. In a broader context, every literary work has a perspective and provides a different point of view to its readers. And literature is seen as a reflection of its people's social life, thus making it unique. Because the author's imagination combined with complex social life, literature is also considered an expression of the author.

The author's ideas about the world and reality influence their work (Samanik, 2018). Literary sociology is a literary theory that analyses a piece of literature based on social life in society. Faruk (2010) states, *"human actions cannot separate from social interaction and communication. Because the cultural system influences the human personality, the Author's social structure can affect the form of the literary work itself"*. Literary works are divided into three: drama, fiction, and poetry. From the division of literary works, the researcher will discuss fiction, fiction is part of the author's imagination, and most of it is in prose, especially in

novels. So from the previous explanation, the key elements of fiction are characters, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, and theme.

Fiction is always associated with novels. As part of literary works and cultural products, novels reflect a distinct culture in society. Wirawan and Samanik (2018) state that every literary work has its characteristics and uniqueness in describing certain societal phenomena. Novels as fiction in written form that has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. According to Al-ma'Ruf (2009), "*Fiction is a narrative story that does not reclaim historical truth or does not occur literally in the real world.*" It also revealed many things about the values of life, one of which is the aspect of educating humans. In the novel, the author tells the reality of human life in a language that allows the reader to feel and experience themselves as described by the author. Besides that, it can also be a means to change human behavior, convey noble values, and become a means of spreading customs and culture through the creative hands of an author. The author provides a big picture of life in the novel. In a book, there are compositions of authors such as people, plots, and places, both fiction and real life, that describe the lifestyle of the people around them. The writer develops ideas about the values of life, with verbal and physical strategies as the idea of writing conventions.

Writing a book will relate to the life of the author, such as culture, language, family, and so on. Culture is a broad expression that involves various aspects of social life, primarily the intangible. Culture is not inherited directly and cannot be by itself, but the community will have it. Culture is defined by Hofstede (1984) as

the collective conditioning of groups or categories of people between one group and another so that it is passed on to the next generation, evolving as each generation adds something new to the culture of the previous generation. Furthermore, according to sociologists, culture includes the values, beliefs, language, speech, and behavioral patterns people have and can use to characterize them as a group.

The details about culture and literature described above can conclude that culture and literature are interrelated. In the past, people expressed their opinion about what was happening around them through imaginative literature. Beyond that, literature is a reflection of culture and society itself. Their creativity and imagination describe in literary work. According to Hanauer (2001), literature is a source of cultural knowledge because they present itself. Therefore, the Writer concludes that literary works as education. By studying literature, readers and writers can gain insight and understanding. The literary work that the researcher wants to analyze is *P.S I Still Love You* by Jenny Han. She published another young adult novel in the trilogy *There Are To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2014), *P.S. I Still Love You* (2015), *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* (2016).

P.S I Still Love You author Jenny Han is an American writer of young adult fiction & children's fiction. She was born on September 3, 1980, in Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. Now she is 41 years old. She completed her high school studies at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned a master's degree in

creative writing at The New School. Jenny Han's ethnicity is Korean-American, and she has American citizenship. She started her career in college and her first book *Shug* in 2006. She has many nominations, such as the Goodreads Choice award for best young adult fiction and the short award for literature. Jenny Han has always worked in the book world; before becoming a published author, she worked as a bookseller and children's librarian. Jenny Han's parents' names and details regarding her family are unknown. She has a younger sister whose name is unknown. Jenny Han has never been married; she doesn't seem to be in a relationship now. She is one of the most successful writers in creating works, including the award-winning book *For All the Boys I've Loved Before*, which was made into a trilogy.

Jenny Han presents *P.S I Still Love You* as the second novel in the trilogy. This novel is so simple, light, and easy to understand by ordinary people. Talking about love in the relationship between Lara and Peter, on the other hand, she also has to continue her education, plus her father, who is about to remarry, makes this novel like a true story of someone who pours into writing. The Author describes Lara Jean as a person with a mixed culture, an American with Korean blood, and living in America. Therefore the Author wants to present the description of Lara Jean as a person with two cultures and how she maintains Korean Culture. This novel comes in 337 pages. The story of this novel is not complicated, but it can attract readers' attention and become a successful novel until it is made into a film. In this novel, the author takes place in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This research paper will focus on discussing Korean Culture. Korean popular culture, or Hallyu, is influenced by Confucian principles and encompasses everything, not only personal life but also business. The basic philosophy of confucianism includes transparent hierarchical relationships and obedience to authority; this philosophy is used in daily Korean life, such as customs, beliefs, morals, communication styles, social structures, and family systems. Korean culture or hallyu is a widespread phenomenon in K-pop, K-drama, and K-literature. According to Fithratullah (2021), K-pop, or the music industry as part of the 2.0 century, is a rapidly growing economic commodity. Currently, the Korean music industry is trending, one of which is a boy band or idol group named B.T.S.

While the drama industry is no less famous than the music industry, the characteristics of K-drama are affected by confucianism, family values, narratives, and public consumption as part of Korean Culture in 1.0. The K-drama of the century also has the potential to rival the American film industry; In addition, K-drama is a pioneer of Korean popular culture. The last one is K-literature; Korea is not only famous for music and drama but also has literary works such as novels, prose, poetry, and comics. The most famous literary works in Korea are comics, and they use a modern platform to read comics or Manhwa, an application called Webtoon. It is one of the most popular apps in Korea and the world.

The researcher chose the novel about someone who has Korean culture but lives in America. Korean Americans in American society are more comfortable and

closer to their tribe. According to Jackson (2006), Korean immigration to the U.S. began in 1903. Overall, Korean-Americans who entered the U.S. after 1965 were college-educated immigrants who migrated, hoping for more politics, social security, and better opportunities for their children's education. Korean-Americans live in big cities such as Los Angeles, NY, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Chicago, and Seattle. Korean Americans are a group-oriented ethnic minority whose moral and social principles are consistent with collectivism and confucianism. Confucianism reflects collectivism, which views the family as an extension of the self. In the early stages of acculturation, many young immigrants will adopt more American culture than their parents did because it helps them survive in their daily lives. During this period, families and parents greatly influence the development of their children's ethnic identity. Immigrant parents practice their cultural heritage at home and instill it in their children (Youngmin Seo, 2009). However, when the children grow up, the parents cannot maintain their cultural heritage because the environment and friends will influence the children. As a result, Korean-American immigrants develop a sense of self rather than belonging to the group, balancing the home culture and the host.

Koreans who migrated to America maintain their culture and everything related to their home country, called diaspora. The term diaspora refers to spreading belief groups or ethnic groups from their homeland, either by force or voluntarily. The word also refers to the distribution of people into groups, collectives, and communities. Diaspora requires community members to return home together in a short time, not long after leaving the village. People who practice diaspora have

the characteristics to maintain the culture, religion, and other customs in the new area. They usually live in groups and sometimes do not want to interact with residents. According to Nengah & Made (2016), "Diaspora" are nomads, namely people who leave their homeland to go to another region or country in search of a better life than their region or country.

Whereas in American society, the symbol of difference is in one container as the concept of the "salad bowl." Salad bowls are a cultural product of American culture, which holds diversity. The salad bowl explains the different metaphorical expressions in one container, namely the salad bowl. Concepts to describe differences use democratic values such as freedom, sharing, solidarity, and multicultural ideology. Tolerance for differences has resulted in the United States being a country full of mixed cultures without losing any of its former cultural traits. According to Purba & Kusmanto (2018), the reflection of the salad bowl echoes equality and justice according to the rules where every individual has the same rights and obligations even though they come from different cultures. Multicultural characteristics, which in this case are interpreted as salad bowls, are a strength to realize the characteristics of a cultured nation.

From the story in this novel, the topic in this research is important to discuss because it describes a person's culture through their daily life. Culture represents who you are in society and where you come from. The current generation is starting to forget their culture and follow the outside culture; the researchers chose the issue of culture. This novel tells the story of a person who has Korean culture

but lives in America, which will be the topic of discussion in this thesis. This thesis aims to show that culture as a representation reflects society.

1.2 Research Question

The writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

How is Korean Culture represented in American society as described in the novel *P.S I Still Love You* by Jenny Han?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of the research, according to the research questions, is:

To describe Korean culture in American society as described in the novel *P.S I Still Love You* by Jenny Han.

1.4 Uses of Study

This research will be beneficial for both future research and society. The use of this study is divided into two, as follows below:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

The cultural study in this paper is to fulfill the final project of writing a proposal. In addition, the readers can use this research as a source to assist their research in exploring and understanding the same subject, Korean Culture, in the novel *P.S I Still Love You* by Jenny Han (2015). Furthermore, the researcher did this research to describe culture as a reflection of society.

1.4.2 Practical Use

The author hopes that this research can help readers understand literary works, especially novels that explain and describe cultural studies, through the representation theory of Stuart Hall and the sociological approach of Alan Swingewood. In addition, this research provides motivation and further information on how culture reflects society.

1.5 Scope of Study

This study discussed the idea of Korean Culture in Jenny Han's 2015 novel *P.S I Still Love You*. The scope of analysis helps to avoid broad themes related to the topic. Authors should also limit the review; the highlight of this research is Korean Culture. This research uses Stuart Hall's representation theory and Alan Swingewood's sociological approach. In this study, the author delineated how culture describes through a character, Lara Jean, who has Korean culture but lives in America through the novel *P.S I Still Love You* by Jenny Han.

