

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of study

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. The word 'literature' is derived from the word 'littera' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. However now, the term 'literature' is more focused and restricted to merely imaginative works, which comes up from the imaginative mind of the story writers. Klarer (2004:1) says that "in most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression. Based on the statement, we can conclude that literature and expression are closely related, because literature can portray the the expression in words." Literature as a writing form differentiates its form from other art products, and its aesthetic or artistic values make it different from other writings.

Literature introduces the world in form of prose, poetry, drama, and particularly fiction novel that have been selected for literary quality, and for their place in the historical development of literature. Based on those kinds of works, novel is also categorized as reflection of written expression, because of novel offers infinite pages for the author to pour their ideas and expression upon social condition.

The world created in novel is inspired from idea of expression in society, so we can see and learn about life from a novel. Through novel, readers can get informations or issues within society such as hegemony. Generally, hegemony is a big word for a fairly simple idea that shows domination of group. In simpler words, when socially powerful people use their influence or control to convince less powerful people. Therefore, it makes people with less powerful do what is actually hegemony people interest in. Zeitoun and Warner (2006:438) emphasize that “hegemony attempt to explain how groups with power (hegemons) can maintain their pole position (control)”. The methods of hegemony employed depend on the capacity of hegemons to persuade subordinate actors to accept not just the hegemon’s authority, but to adopt and internalize its value and norms intended to impose solution over others. The hegemon defines “rule of the game”, in establishing what are issues and what are non-issues.

Hegemony comes from the Greek verb meaning ‘to lead’. From the statement, we can conclude that herguson and leadership are closely related, because hegemony can portray the leadership in society. People or group that has dominated take the lead rule of hegemony in society. Italian political writer Antonio Gramsci means intellectual and moral leadership through consent (Gramsci, 1971). Gramsci’s concept of hegemony related to the existence of a class and its members exercise the power of the classes by force. Hegemony is not a relationship of domination using power, but considering the relationship

agreement with the political and ideological leadership. Gramsci uses the word *direzione* (leadership, direction) alternately with *hegemonia* (hegemony) and opposite to *dominazione* (dominance). Hegemony built that states the importance of ideas and insufficient physical strength in social control politics.

“When one social class exerts power over others beyond that accounted for by coercion or law, it may be described as hegemonic...Thus the bourgeoisie was regarded as hegemonic within capitalist society by Gramsci, who believed their power depended on the permeation by bourgeois values of all organs of society” (McLean & McMillan, 2003: 239)

Hegemony can be accounted as the social class (hegemony) exerts their power (idea) to other by coercion or law related in maintaining and gaining power is depend on the spreading of values and norms of bourgeois class. Hegemony itself often appear in dystopian society where hegemony be a state's politic to control the society by consent and coercion, usually hegemony be main topic in literary work, related to dystopian society especially in fiction novel.

Dystopian is the opposite of Utopian. “Dystopian society is a futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, technological, moral, or totalitarian control.” (NCTE, 2006). From the definition can be concluded that dystopian society has purpose to get perfect society through all aspect in people life including political and influence. From the definition dystopian society portrayed a society that use control and Propaganda to control the citizen of society in order to make a

oppressive society control in purpose of a perfect society. People with power and control rule the balance of economic, politic and social action.

According to discussion above, actually there are some of interesting novel that can be analyzed related to the topic, but the writer chose Dashner's *The Death Cure* as the object of this research. The writer of novel, James Smith Dashner was born on November 26, 1972 in Georgia. He is an American writer of speculative fiction, primarily series for children or young adults, such as the young adult fantasy series 13th Reality. His 2008 novel *The Journal of Curious Letters*, first in the series, was one of the annual Borders Original Voices picks. He is a graduate of Duluth High School and Brigham Young University in Utah, where he received a master's degree in accounting.

*The Death cure* novel is trilogy of maze runner. In this novel the main character Thomas once again trapped in WICKED (World in Catastrophe: Killzone Experiment Department) laboratory. Dr. Jason tell him that all fase has done. What they need to do next are put back Thomas and friend's memory. Thomas doubts that because he thought weird thing is giong to happend. What they have done to Thomas make him think twice to believe WICKED. Dr. Jason tries to convince Thomas and other gladers that the Phase is almost over. The Phase three is the last phase by brain surgery with no more dangerous. Thomas met his friend Minho and Frypan after quarantine inside the grey room for about two weeks.

When the day of brain surgery came, Thomas, Newt and Mihno make a plan to escape from WICKED. They try to escape by attack the guards and Janson but they fail. Thomas is so surprise when he sees Brenda in the surgery room. He think that Brenda betrays him just like what Teresa does to him. He confuse whose to believe, what he only know that WICKED do this experiment to fine the cure of Flare virus that eat the human brain time to time no matter how many people need to be sacrificed. This novel shows physical violence and persuade among WICKED and Glader that become hegemony aspect in controlling society.

*The Death Cure* is one of trilogy of Dashner's novel that brings hegemony issue in which hegemony is one of issues close to society that related to social issue in dystopian society. *The Death Cure* creates about hegemony issue. The reason writer choose this novel, because the writer can learn about politic dan influence through social issue inside society. The reason this novel is chosen because by reading this novel, writer learns about power and society. Power is one of the most important things in our society now. Power and society, the two terms which relate each other especially in this modern era. As the social living, not only the writer but also the reader also can learn about the issue as our additional information in the world of politic and society.

## **1.2 Research Question**

From background of the study above, the writer will analyze how does Dashner portray the hegemony in *The Death Cruel* novel?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the problem which has been formulated above, the aim of this paper is to explain the hegemony portrayed in Dashner's *The Death Cruel* Novel.

### **1.4 Uses of the Study**

#### **1.4.1 Theoretical Uses**

Theoretically, this thesis is used to describe and implement field of literary study and this study is expected to contribute worth data in extending and generating the theory used in this study. The writer has some purposes, first this will be useful not only for the next researcher of literature but also for the leader who interest with the same topic. Beside that, it aims to give contribution to literary study especially in enriching knowledge about hegemony in Dystopian Society revealed in *The Death Cure* novel.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Uses**

Practically, this study is expected to be worth reference for those who conduct research in the field of sociology especially seen in *The Death Cure* Novel. Practically, this research will assist the readers to get more understanding and to get in touch with theories and analysis offered related to hegemony in dystopian society novels. Besides, it is compiled as reference for the next researcher who wants to do research about the same discussion in literary work later.

### **1.5 Scope of the study**

The scope of the study is intended to make the analysis not far-ranging. In order study enables to answer the formulated problems appropriately, the writer needs to emphasize its scope and limitation. In addition to make the object of analysis to be clearer. Therefore, the writer focuses on the discussion related to the portrayal of hegemony in dystopian society as seen in the novel, through narrations and dialogues inside Dashner's *The Death Cure* novel.