

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

In many works of literature, specifically those coming out of Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent, we meet characters who are struggling with their identities in the wake of colonization, or the establishment of colonies in another nation. In India, British had a colonial presence from the 1700s until finally India gained its independence in 1947. The people of India, as well as the characters in Indian novels, must deal with the economic, political, and emotional effect that the British brought and left behind. This is true for literature that comes out of any colonized nation. In many cases, the literature stemming from these events is both emotional and political.

Some literary works of India were inspired based on colonialism and the effect of colonialism experienced by India in many contexts that influence their daily life. One of the literary works is *The Home and The world* by Rabindranath Tagore who also known by the sobriquet Gurudev, he was a Bengali poet, Brahmo religionist, visual artist, playwright, novelist, and composer whose works reshaped Bengali literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He became Asia's first Nobel laureate when he won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Home and The world is one of Tagore's literary works that brought him won Nobel Prize in Literature. This novel adopted from colonialism by British that happened in early 19th century in India. This novel illustrates the battle Tagore had with himself, between the ideas of Western culture and revolution against the Western culture. The Home and The world set on Bengali in early 1900s century when British dominating India made unstable political dynamic of India and separated India into two geographical areas. The first area is for Moslem and the second area is for Hindus. In Hindus area because of the freedom struggle of people in that area, people create political movement called "Swadeshi Movement" used to wake up the spirit of freedom struggle of people in India to fight against British colonialism by boycotting British goods in India. But colonialism not only influences the economic and political dynamic in India. Indirectly, colonialism also influences India in the term of culture by mixing the cultures of India and British which can call as hybridity as stated by Bhabha: Hybridity is the process by which the colonial governing authority undertakes to translate the identity of the colonized within a singular universal framework, (Bhabha 1994; Bhabha 1996). In other words, hybrid identity is creating in the process of colonialism when colonizers undertakes the control of colonized society and introduce them with new cultures from colonizers.

Hybrid identity theory is developed by Homi K. Bhabha. He is one of significant post-colonial theorist. His book *The Location of Culture* (1994) has made prominent contributions in postcolonial criticism.

Bhabha sees hybridity as a problematic of colonial representation which reverses the effects of the colonialist disavowal (of difference), so that other 'denied' knowledges enter upon the dominant discourse and estrange the basis of its authority." [Selden. p. 228].

Based on the quotation, Bhabha emerges that his concept of Hybridity gained currency in defining the vision of postcolonial theory that all cultures are influenced in each other and it cannot be separated. This leads to the creation of hybrid identity as the effect of colonialism. Hybrid identity is an identity which is a cross or mixture of more than one identity (in Williams and Chrisman (ed.), 1994: 392-4).

Hybrid identity is present in one of the main characters in *The Home and The World* novel named, Nikhil. The writer describes hybrid identity in Nikhil's character by borrowing the proverb "*Black Skin White Mask*" from a psychiatrist and intellectual from Martinique, Frantz Fanon. In this novel, Nikhil is presented as an origin Indian man "*Black Skin*" that accepted and adopted the thought, lifestyle, and culture from British as the colonizer into his life who likens Nikhil wearing "*White Mask*" to look equal with colonizer. In addition, "*Black Skin White Mask*" is a proverb that describes Nikhil as someone who has adopted the thought, lifestyle, and culture from another country in colonialism and he implements it into his life as described in the novel, Nikhil is represented as an origin Indian who is educated. Nikhil gets education from British when India is colonized by British and he achieves higher education of M.A degree at the time when most of people in India still strange, ignoring, and have no idea about education. This is one of the examples in the novel that describes Nikhil as

a hybrid identity who form by the mixture between India and British culture in colonialism era.

The significant of this research is to answer the problem of hybrid identity process occurs in post-colonial societies as a result of the superimposing of the colonizer's culture through economic, education, political and cultural control, or if settler invaders force indigenous peoples to assimilate the culture to India society in colonialism era reflected in one of the main characters in *The Home and The world* novel named Nikhil by describing how Nikhil is presented in this novel and analyzing Nikhil's hybrid identity by using post-colonial approach and hybrid identity theory by Homi K. Bhabha. The writer hopes this research provides knowledge about the effects of colonialism as process of creating hybrid identity in the individuals that reflected through literary works especially for post-colonial literature that can be seen in Bengali, India. This leads to the writing of literary works that inspired by the effects of colonialism in the daily life. The writer also hopes that this research open the reader's mind toward hybrid identity process that can be happened in the real life since hybrid identity also occurs as a result of migration and globalization in the metropolitan communities, where complex cultural patterns form (Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin, Introduction137).

1.2 Research Question

The problem of the analysis in this thesis is:

1. How is hybrid Identity of Nikhil as the main character depicted in *The Home and The world*?

1.3 Research Objective

1. To describe hybrid identity of Nikhil as the main character depicted in The Home and The world?

1.4 Uses of the studies

Following the object of the study above, the writer divides the use of study into two parts; those are theoretical and practical uses as follow:

1.4.1 Theoretical uses

In theoretical uses, the writer wants to provide the knowledge about this analysis and of course this research able to give more information to the society about post-colonial and hybrid identity process that can be influenced because of colonialism.

1.4.2 Practical uses

1. For students, this study can be used as reference material for conducting research for researchers.
2. For the readers this research expected to increase knowledge about the problem in society and literature.
3. This research is to increase knowledge about the research literature that elevates social aspects in society

1.5 Scope of the problem

Scope of study is compulsory in the process of writing and analyzing to avoid the extensive of topic that discussed as the focus. The writer focuses to the descriptions of hybrid identity to be analyzed and limits the analysis by only analyzing hybrid

identity of one of the main characters named, Nikhil. The writer analyzes the descriptions of Nikhil's hybrid Identity within the context of colonized society and swadeshi movement in *The Home and The world's* novel.