

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A country's low income, such as Indonesia, prevents the country from adequately accessing education, health, and nutrition facilities. Therefore, this causes a decline in the quality of human resources in terms of intellectual aspects and a decline in productivity. Indirectly, the country allows the problem of economic inequality to worsen. Not infrequently, this hurts social conditions in Indonesia.

One form of literary work is a short story. Literary work has an important role in various aspects of life, both in education and other areas of life. The writer analyzes a lot by reading literary works. The writer sees that literary works are a depiction of society that is intended to be conveyed, namely literary works as a reflection of society at the time the literary work was created.

Literary works have become history. Most of the stories in literary works come from fiction and contain elements of life supported by culture and values of beauty that make life more meaningful and civilized. A short story is a literary work in written form that contains a series of short life stories. According to Kosasih 2004, a short story is a short composition in prose. In short stories, the story is the characters' life, a whole of conflict and touching or joyful events, and contains impressions that the reader does not easily forget.

Indonesian becomes main language used in Indonesian prose. However, some famous Indonesian novels or short stories are usually translated into English. For example, the writer found three short stories from the book "*Antologi Lontar Cerita Pendek Indonesia*" volume 1, the English edition since the pre-independence period in 1965.

The writer is interested in understanding the short stories from the book, including *Black Semarang* by Soemantri, *The Decline of Local Prayer House* by A.A. Navis, and *Miracle at Senen Market* by Misbach Yusa Biran. In each short

story, the writer finds a picture of social conditions after independence, different character reactions from each story, and messages about social conditions after independence. These short stories provide a picture of social conditions in Indonesia after independence. How did these social conditions arise, and how did the characters react? In addition, the writer also found many messages that can be conveyed to readers to reflect on. Some stories from this book will also provide a broader picture of poverty and social problems.

The first story the writer chose was a short story by Soemantri (aka Synthema) entitled *Black Semarang*, which describes the injustice experienced by the lower class of Indonesian society, who live in poverty, and the existence of crime affects social justice. This story also highlights the daily difficulties the lower-class faces, including poverty, food shortages, and poor environmental conditions. In addition, it reflects most people's harsh social conditions, especially when living under severe economic pressure.

The writer chose the second short story, *The Decline of Local Prayer House*, by A. A Navis tells of a house of worship as a symbol that was once the center of spiritual activities that is starting to be abandoned by society. This condition reflects social transformations, conflicts to maintain religion, and shifts in traditional values. With a simple but meaningful narrative style, this story conveys the importance of preserving traditional values amidst the emergence of modernization.

The last short story, *The Miracle at Senen Market* by Misbach Yusa Biran, tells of daily life in the limitations of the Senen market environment and raises the issue of miracles and hopes amidst life's difficulties. This story presents a picture of Pasar Senen as a thick background with the nuances of the daily lives of the lower class. With flowing and emotional narratives, there is a message about facing life's trials.

The writer is currently very interested in choosing the three short stories as material for literary studies. Some people must have briefly known that after independence, they felt proud and accessible from a situation that had been

colonized for a long time. However, this short story provides a different face of social conditions and gives readers a broader view of Indonesia.

There are three problems that the writer finds interesting. The writer of the three short stories can describe the face of Indonesia's social conditions after independence with different situations. Then, each short story is specifically able to represent characters that reflect Indonesian society, which gives rise to various reactions from the characters in the short story. Furthermore, each short story is a literary work that provides many messages about the social conditions after independence. Therefore, the writer finds a picture of Indonesia's social conditions after independence, the different reactions of the characters, and the message of the social conditions that occurred after independence.

The writer randomly selected the three short stories. In each story, the writer finds the social conditions of poverty in Indonesian society. The writer's work also provides an alternative understanding of Indonesian history, culture, and society. From these short stories, this literary work indirectly allows the writer to explore the trajectory of Indonesian society through literary works.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What social conditions and struggles of the Indonesian people are presented in each selected short story?
2. How do the characters react with the social condition that they face?
3. What message does the selected short stories convey regarding the social conditions presented?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

This Research Proposal tries to answer the following questions:

1. To find out social conditions and struggles of Indonesia is presented in each of the selected short stories.
2. To show how the characters react in the stories cope with the social condition that they face.

3. To find out what message the selected short stories have regarding the social condition presented.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer conducted this research to gain an understanding of the social conditions of poverty in Indonesian society. The writer also hopes that after reading this research, readers can better understand and realize that the social conditions of poverty in Indonesia still need many of help and overcome poverty in Indonesia for the better.

1.5 Methodology

The writer uses a qualitative research approach in this study, emphasizing analysis or description. In this study, the writer uses a qualitative research approach emphasizing understanding how a community or individuals accept specific issues. Then, if seen from the type of research, this *skripsi* uses library research whose object of study uses library data in the form of books as its data source. Library research uses library materials (libraries) such as books, notes, or research reports from previous studies.

There are several stages in analyzing short stories from The Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories Volume 1. The first is the preparation stage, during which the writer reads the short stories and collects data that can be linked according to the theme of Indonesia's social conditions after independence. The second stage is the analysis of characterization, characters, and reactions when they experience them.

This data research is based on accurate, reliable data, which the author can account for through words, sentences, and delivery in each selected short story. In this study, the writer analyzes literary works using intrinsic elements of literature and the socio-cultural condition approach, ensuring the reliability and trustworthiness of the study.

1.6 Scope of Limitations

In this study, the writer took a short story about the social conditions of poverty in Indonesia as the object of research. The writer will choose the material to analyze in accordance with the understanding of the chosen topics. The writer only focuses on three short stories from the book Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories, Volume 1. The short stories selected include Black Semarang by Soemantri (aka Synthema), The Decline of Local Prayer House by A.A. Navis, Miracle at Senen Market by Misbach Yusa Biran.

1.7. The Status of the Study

The writer analyzes three randomly selected stories, which become an exciting theme for discussion in this *skripsi* after researching them. Selected stories from the book Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories, Volume 1.

This story is from the pre-independence era in 1965, namely *Black Semarang* by Soemantri, *The Decline of Local Prayer House* by A.A. Navis and *Miracle at Senen Market* by Misbach Yusa Biran.

The story that the writer research has never been research in *Fakultas Sastra dan Bahasa, Universitas Kristen Indonesia*. Students have never raised and conducted this research, especially regarding the social conditions of poverty. The writer wants to use this theme so that the readers of this *skripsi* can have an interesting discussion to discuss & become reflection material.

1.8. Organization of the Study

This research proposal will be a *skripsi* containing four chapters. Each chapter makes appropriate points that help clarify the purpose of this writing.

Chapter 1 in introduction. This chapter consists of the background of the study, the problem statements, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, methodology of study, scope and limitation, status of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter II is a review of selected literature. This chapter will focus on the literature review that provides information to analyze the research problems.

Chapter III is Indonesia's Social Condition as Portrayed in Selected Short Stories. Conditions and social conflicts in Indonesia in handling the characters in the story to overcome the conflicts and situations that presented in selected short stories.

Chapter IV is Conclusions and Suggestions. The last chapter contains the conclusions of the research.

