

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

A team can work properly if they have someone lead them. The one who steps up to be one is called a leader. However, to be a leader is not as a simple matter. A leader must have a sense of leadership on hand to lead his or her team. Leadership is the accomplishment of a goal through the direction of human assistants; a leader is the one who successfully marches his or her human collaborators to achieve particular ends. (Prentice, 1961: 143). With that, there are different leadership on each people. Each leadership is considered with the virtue, vice, and uniqueness of each person to lead the group. The present writer takes an example from the rulers in one of the Chinese classic story “Romance of the Three Kingdoms” by Luo Guanzhong around 6 centuries ago. The classic story told about literally three kingdoms named Wei, Wu, and Shu, ended up with Jin Dynasty. Each leader of the kingdoms had their own style to lead the kingdoms to seize one area and conquer entire East China. At last, by the difference from motivation and ambition, the leaders tried conquering entire East China in their own way after the end of Han Dynasty era.

The novel is actually a trilogy and it is separated into three volumes. The first volume is the beginning of the Three Kingdoms Era, the second volume is the Three Kingdoms moments when they battled each other to conquer China, the final volume is about the end of Three Kingdoms era and the rise of Jin Dynasty. With this, the present writer will search and discover how each leader leads their kingdom

or troops. However, the present writer focus on two characters' leaderships that affecting the whole story. They are Liu Bei (the founder and also the first emperor of Shu) and Cao Cao (the founder of Wei).

The present writer is interested in the novel because "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" actually has characters that give us the moral and lesson that can be identified. It is not only moral lesson but also leadership of each leader gave the uniqueness point to the story. Furthermore, the story of "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" usually becomes one of a good lesson of leadership. Take an example in Japan. Japanese considered Cao Cao as a good type of a leader. They said that due to Hatoyama Yukio's (Japan's ex-Prime Minister from 2009 until 2010) incompetent leadership. He caused the fall of Japan's economy back then in 2009-2010. "Japan is lacking leadership and we need a strong man like Cao Cao". "Only people, like Cao Cao, can lead the Japanese economy out of the recession". All of the above mentioned are the reasons why people admire Cao Cao. This report was from Japan's Kyodo News report file. Another example is written by Carrie Gracie that said about Liu Bei's leadership which can teach people how to have good management. "It's very much just about warfare but also cunning strategy. There are wily generals who do very clever things," says Wood (in Gracie, 2010).

As for the romance in this novel, this is not about a love story. In fact, the definition of romance, that was taken in this novel, which is written in an article entitled "*Romance*", was about the involvement of a mysterious, adventurous, or spiritual storyline where the focus is on a quest that involves bravery and strong values. This novels consists all of the three, because the wars in the novel have

adventurous side, the Yellow Turban Rebellion has both mystic side and or spiritual side, and the deep Taoism concept that is written in the novel is related to the spiritual.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

1. What are the motives of warlords that are stated in the novel?
2. What are the leadership differences between Cao Cao and Liu Bei?
3. How does their leadership influence other people?

1.3 Purpose of The Study

1. To discover the motives for the warlords in the novel that can drive them to lead armies in the war.
2. To discover Cao Cao's and Liu Bei's leadership and decide which leadership style that fits with their way of leading, background, and motives on leading.
3. To discover the differences between Cao Cao's and Liu Bei's influence to the other people in positive and negative responses.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The writer of this *skripsi* does this research to understand about leadership. It starts from mindset, ambition, decision making, and relation with the surrounding, especially with the subordinate. This is portrayed in the novel by all the leaders, with Cao Cao and Liu Bei with no exception. In the future, the writer hopes that this study will help the people who want to adopt one of the leadership ways that

will be discussed in this study. It can be Cao Cao's version or Liu Bei's version. From the purpose of the study, it will help people who want to stand up as a leader, learn and implement how to hire trusted allies, have a negotiation, and of course the way how to put their positive persona and charisma. These four elements are few from the other elements that show how to be a top leader in a community or even larger like a leader of a constitution.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This novel discusses numbers of aspects, especially the first volume. Those aspects are, as examples, the relation of each character in the novel, the betrayals, the strategy of the wars and even the war analysis. However, the writer will focus on the leadership of the main characters in the novel. The writer also focuses on two characters that will be analyzed, that is Cao Cao and Liu Bei.

1.6 Status of The Study

The writer of this *skripsi* has checked that there is no student in Faculty of Letters in Christian University of Indonesia who has ever discussed the leadership in Luo Guanzhong's "Romance of the Three Kingdoms", but there is a recent study which has similar research that was made by Teerawat Wuttipattanon and Sombat Kusumavalee with the title "*Analysing Leadership of Leaders in the Literature Romance of the Three Kingdoms*" (<https://www.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/HRODJ/article/view/165348>), but the difference that they used transformational leadership theory to prove all the three main leaders using

transformational leadership in “Romance of the Three Kingdoms” and leadership code for their framework.

1.7 Organization of Study

The research consists of four sections. The first chapter of this *skripsi* is about background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study. The second chapter is a review of the selected literature which the writer will talk about the theories that are used in this *skripsi*. The third chapter is about the leadership in the novel “Romance of The Three Kingdoms” and also the comparison between Cao Cao’s leadership and Liu Bei’s leadership. The fourth chapter is the conclusion of the study about Cao Cao’s and Liu Bei’s leadership comparison in the novel “Romance of the Three Kingdoms” and suggestion.