CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher presents the background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitations, and definitions of the key terms.

A. Background of the Research

Discourse is a language level that has a broader scope containing a collection of interconnected sentences, a collection of propositions and becomes complex information. Discourse is also a collection of sentences that have a unity of communicative and informative information. Discourse can be a context, either verbally or in writing, that aims to provide information, knowledge, entertain, invite and influence others (Djajasudarma, 2010:1). This statement is in line with Cavallaro's opinion in Silaswati (2018:1) where a discourse is seen as a text containing objects and data that provide openness regarding different interpretations from each reader.

The text can be accepted by the audience who reads it according to where the text is produced and used. So this discourse text depends on the interpretations that be given by each individual or group, so that a discourse can be accepted or rejected by the audience. In line with Sumarlam's opinion in Mukhlis et al., (2020: 75) that in understanding discourse as a whole, text and context are needed. Context is used to find out about the relationship of text with phenomena outside of language such as social and cultural phenomena. That way, the information obtained can be known as a whole.

Discourse analysis or discourse theory is a method of language study. Discourse analysis is used to investigate and conduct in-depth studies of a discourse. One of the discourse approaches that is often used is the microstructural and macrostructural approaches. The microstructure of discourse is the internal context of language that relates to elements in the language itself. While the macrostructure of discourse is the external context outside of language but has an influence on discourse. This aspect is often referred to as the socio-cultural context in discourse. Sumarlam (2003: 47) calls the linguistic context or language context the "internal discourse context", while the situational or cultural context is called the "external discourse context".

Djajasudarma (2010: 3) explains that discourse can be a complete composition containing a message in it such as articles, short stories, essays, and novels. Novels are a form of fictional written discourse that contains the author's imagination, becomes a reflection of the author's knowledge and at the same time describes a socio-cultural condition in a place within a certain time span through a point of view built by the author through a fictional character. Novels are often the object of study or research with various approaches, such as literary sociology, psychological analysis, and discourse analysis. The advantage of the discourse analysis method compared to other methods is that this study examines various elements in the discourse, starting from the language itself, the socio-cultural context, and the author's context, so that researchers can interpret a discourse without eliminating one element in the discourse because each element in the discourse is interconnected and forms a complete meaning of the discourse.

Novels are one of the most common literary works in the form of fictional prose. According to Scholes (Junus, 1984:121), a novel is a story related to real or fictional events imagined by the author through his observations of reality. Novels touch on real and fictional dimensions, describing the author's thoughts and feelings about an event that occurs in his social environment. Including how the author's personal views on norms, values, customs, and culture are reflected in their surroundings. In the process of creation, an author is faced with the reality that exists in society, "objective reality" in the form of events, norms or values, outlook on life, and other aspects of society (Esten, 1984:9).

According to Plato (Faruk, 2012: 47) the world in literary works is an imitation of the real world which is also a world of ideas. Literary works are also often considered as a form of art that has aesthetic beauty and strong cultural influence. Through the style of language, storytelling, characters, and themes developed in literary works, the author creates a unique and profound experience for his readers. Literary works contain the results of imagination inspired by human life. So that its contents can describe personal, social, and conditions in their environment. In society, novels as a form of literary work are often seen as a reflection of the culture and thinking of an era. Novels are considered to record the values, beliefs, and conflicts that exist in society according to the setting of the place and time the work was created. Therefore, novels are often the object of study and research in the fields of linguistics, literature, or others humanities research.

The author chose this research because the author is interested in socialist realism novels from Indonesia such as the works of Pramoedya Ananta Toer. According to the author, it is

interesting to read stories about ordinary people from the past, especially because we can learn and understand the socio-cultural conditions in the past and how life problems in a society that lived in a certain period of time. For example, in the novel Bumi Manusia by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, it tells the story of how an intellectual struggle to mobilize society to fight for independence through journalism. On the one hand, the novel also tells the story of the character "Nyai Ontosoroh" who received a stigma related to the identity of the nyai she carried. Nyai Ontosoroh was labeled as an immoral woman who became the mistress of a Dutch man.[1]

Okky Madasari is one of the Indonesian female novelists who actively publishes fictional works that use a humanist approach, including how minority people in society are ostracized and discriminated against because of their inherent identity. Interestingly, Okky often raises the difficulties of life for people with negative stigmas without showing any bias towards a particular group's ideology. For example, in the novel "The Outcast" (2013), Okky raises the life of an Ahmadiyah follower who is ostracized from society, even expelled from his own homeland. In the novel, Okky can describe the difficulties of life experienced by the character without discussing or showing any bias towards the ideology or beliefs of the character, but rather focuses more on the injustice that the character must experience because of the negative stigma shecarries.

The Years of The Voiceless is the English version of Okky's first novel published in 2010 "Entrok". This novel tells the story of

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[1] Rini, Peni Candra. Interpretasi Feminisme Tokoh Nyai Ontosoroh Dalam Novel Bumi Manusia Tulisan Pramoedya Ananta Toer Pada Komposisi Musik Ontosoroh Karya Peni Candra Rini. GELAR: Jurnal Seni Budaya 16, 01 (2019)

the life of Rahayu and Marni, a mother and daughter who live in the New Order era. Presenting two first-person perspectives, conflicting views and mother- daughter conflict are the main highlights of the story. Marni is described as a Javanese woman who is persistent and still bound by rituals and customs. Meanwhile, Rahayu is a woman who lives in a more advanced, religious environment, and has left behind old rituals. In addition to telling about the generation gap, "The Years of The Voiceless" also tells about various socio-cultural dynamics that occurred at that time. The social issues raised in this novel are also quite diverse, ranging from humanity, stigmatization, gender inequality, injustice, and discrimination. A novel can be considered good if it tends to focus on the emergence of complexity, namely the ability to convey complex problems in their entirety, to create a world (Sayuti, 2000:10).

One of the most striking issues in this novel is the stigmatization of its characters. Stigma is a complex problem related to negative evaluations of other people's identities that result in bad reactions from other people or the majority in a community group (Green et al, 2005). Stigma, according to Erving Goffman, is a mark or an attribute that makes a person different from the majority of people in a particular social group, making that person considered weak, bad, or dangerous. While stigmatization refers to behavior or the process of labeling someone.

The author chose stigma as the main topic of the study because stigma is one of the most common social phenomena in society. The existence of stigma can cause someone with a certain identity to be treated differently, marginalized, and discriminated against by society in their social environment. Stigma causes people who are stigmatized to experience injustice that should never happen in society. For example, the

stigma given to people with mental illness makes someone considered different, inferior, and less desirable. As a result, people who are stigmatized will be isolated and marginalized because they are considered bad in social relationships.[2] Therefore, it is hoped that studies on stigma will be able to educate about how bad the injustice is that occurs to those who are labeled with stigma.

The novel The Years of The Voiceless has been used as an object of study in many previous studies, whether in literature studies, linguistics, or studies that combine language studies and their application as learning materials in schools. Some of these studies are a thesis entitled "The Struggle of Women in the Novel The Years of the Voiceless by Okky Madasari" by Muhammad Nailul Falah (2020), a journal entitled "Social Conflicts in the Years of the Voiceless Novel by Okky Madasari" by Kirana, K. S. (2022) and a thesis entitled "Analysis of the Language Style of Okky Madasari's Novel Entrok and Its Utilization as Teaching Material in High School" by Lely Leviana Latifah (2023). The novelty in this study is that there has been no research related to stigmatization in the novel, which is one of the major themes in the novel The Years of the Voiceless.

This study examined the forms of stigma and their impact on the the main character's life in the novel The Years of The Voiceless by Okky Madasari using a macrostructural discourse analysis approach, entitle *"Stigmatization of the Main Character in the Novel The Years of the Voiceless by Okky Madasari".*

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[2] Pingani, L., Catellani, S., Del Vecchio, V. et al. Stigma in the context of schools: analysis of the phenomenon of stigma in a population of university students. BMC Psychiatry 16, 29 (2016).

B. Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the research question can be formulated as follows;

1. What are the forms of stigma against the main character depicted in the novel *The Years of The Voiceless* by Okky Madasari?
2. How does stigmatization impact the main character in the novel *The Years of The Voiceless* by Okky Madasari?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the problems of the research, the objectives of the research are presented below:

1. To describe the forms of stigma against the main character in the novel *The Years of The Voiceless* by Okky Madasari.
2. To analyze the impact of stigma on the life of the main character in the novel.

D. Significances of the Research

Good writing can certainly contribute benefits to the development of science for the general public. The researcher hopes this research can benefit. These benefits include:

1. This research will be used as a comparison for further research in conducting research related to stigma theory or discourse analysis in the Okky Madasary's works, especially novel The Years of The Voiceless.

2. This research is expected to expand the science, especially on the interdisciplinary research that combines stigma theory and macrostructural approaches of discourse analysis in novel research.

3. This research is expected to be used as a reference in developing thinking skills for students or readers,

especially about discourse analysis theory and
stigmatization.

E. Scope and Limitations

The author believes that there are many important aspects in
the novel that can be discussed. But in this study, the author
focused on the scope and limitations of the analysis of the novel
"The Years of The Voiceless" by Okky Madasari. This analysis
focus on finding the form of stigmatization of the main
character in this novel using a discourse analysis approach. The
researcher limited the study to the form of stigmatization and its
impact on the life of the main character in the novel.

F. Definition of The Key Terms

1. Stigma is a negative label attached to someone with a
   certain identity, gender, ethnicity, or race that comes from a
   wrong perception that can influence collective thought
   patterns and actions.
2. Stigmatization is a complex process or behavior related to
   negative evaluations and reactions to someone who carries a
   stigma that can have a negative impact on her/his life.
3. Discourse is the highest and most complete unit in the
   linguistic hierarchy that is manifested in the form of a
   complete composition in terms of meaning, for example
   news, encyclopedias, and novels.
4. Discourse Analysis is a study related to linguistics, either
   spoken or written language, and how it is used in social
   contexts such as interactions between individuals.