

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

American Individualism as one of the American Values cannot be separated from American. American Individualism is one of the aspects that construct the American life as an individual and society. This chapter explains more about the one of the American values which is American Individualism, and Character as a representation of American Society in the television serial entitled *Glee*. There is also the review of the related studies.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Television serial in America takes the condition of American society as the main theme. It makes television serial as the development of drama has some aspects that construct the storyline in each episode. Television serial also contain extrinsic element inside the story or script as well as another literary work. American value in the society is one social phenomenon that becomes the extrinsic element of *Glee* television serial.

2.1.1 Television Serial

Television is one of the most popular mass media in America besides radio. In their book, Datesman, Crandall and Kearney (2005) explained that television has strong effect on the activity level in many. Some of them spend their leisure time by watching television program such as news, movies, and also television serial. In order to entertain the audiences, some programs or shows in America are

produced to resemble the social circumstance. *Glee* as one of American television serial that shows High School life in America has some aspects that most American have. Each character in *Glee* represents different part in the American society and most of them believe in the values of American.

Society takes a big part in the existence of the values of American. As a member of society, American people hold and share those certain values together as their identity. Therefore, an appropriate approach used to analyze *Glee* serial as the representation of American society is Sociological Approach.

2.1.2 Sociological Approach

Mankind cannot live alone in this world. People need each other to fulfill their requirements. People are called as social creature and live in a certain society. According to Henslin, "Society is a group of people who share culture and territory" (2008, p.19). As a group, the member of society creates certain culture. Culture in this case refers to "languages, beliefs, values, norm, and material objects that are passed from one generation to the next." (2008, p.28).

The society has important part to provide the values as a part of culture. "The scientific study that focused on human behavior in the society is called Sociology," (Rowell, 2006, p.20). Human behavior in this case is a behavior which has been influenced by an ideology, value, or the way of thinking from a certain society. In brief, Sociology is a study that discusses about human nature and its relationship in the society, including its beliefs and values.

Values in a society sometimes are reflected in a literary work based on writer or director's view. A writer or director from a society with a certain value put

their experience in society into literary work such as novel, film, or television serial. For the example American writers put their experience based on their society in America into their work including the value of American. In literary criticism, Sociological approach is a research approach used to analyze the literary work as a social reflection. Laureson and Swingewood explained that sociological approach considers a literary work as social documentation of social event in which the literary work made (1972). Sociological approach is the right approach to conduct this study because society has important role to shape Rachel Berry's attitude as the main character of *Glee* in order to gain her dream.

2.1.2 American Society in the Television Serial

The television serials in America mostly tell about the daily life in American Society. American Society itself in general refers to the people who were born, raised or lives in America. The member of the society holds some certain values and ideas that they share and accept together. American who is the part of society shares his values and ideas in some ways such as novel, community, film, songs, and television serial.

Television as one of the mass media in America has important part to share certain values in the society. Althen stated (2003, p.130), "many movies and television stories mirror the values and assumptions of most Americans." A director, who is an American, put their daily experience in a script and turns them into a television serial. *Glee* is one of the examples of American television serials that represent the High school experience of American teenagers.

2.1.3 American Individualism

In their life, Americans are conducted by their values and assumptions.

Values and assumptions shape the way of American run their life. “Values is ideas about what is right and wrong, desirable and undesirable, normal and abnormal, proper and improper”, (Althen, 2003, p.3). Values guides a society or a group of

people to do something in their life. As a group of people who grow up in particular culture, American share certain values and assumptions which learned

from their families and other relatives. As one of the American values,

Individualism in America becomes one of the roots in American life. According

to Encyclopedia Americana (1989), Individualism is a social ideology and takes a

particular kind of society to develop. Generally, individualism itself has two

meanings. First, individualism is a belief or an action that makes people happy to

do something by their own way without thinking about other’s people feeling.

Second, individualism as an ideology talks about the freedom of individuals in

every action and believes. Datesman, Crandall and Kearney (2005, p.29)

explained that the meaning of freedom itself is the right of all individuals in

America to control their own destiny without any outside interference.

The development of individualism in America has an important effect because

Americans believe that individualism appeared in America since the colonial era.

This statement is supported by Datesman, Crandall and Kearney (2005, p.29) as

follow “in 1776, the British colonial in America declared their independence from

England and established a new nation called United States.” After that, they

started to run their own nation and made new decision for their nation. That

decision had big effect on shaping the character of American society. Written in their *Declaration of Independence*, they wanted to emphasize their pursuit to be a free nation. This background becomes the root of American Individualism as one of the traditional values of American until now.

There are several aspects of Individualism according to some researcher. In Althen's book, in general Individualism has two main aspects. The first one is *self-reliance*. *Self-reliance* deals with an individual action that followed by high responsibility. Americans are trained from very early in their lives to consider themselves as separate individuals who are responsible for their own situations in life and their own destinies (Althen, 2003). Althen also said that American considers the ideal person to be an individualistic, self-reliant and independent person. They will consciously and carefully choose, and being responsible to everything they do even when they fail. American individualism teaches that someone has to believe in his self and has to know what is the best for him. By dealing with every consequence of their actions, individualist believes that every single people have to be responsible in their daily activity to fulfill their needs.

Emerson, an American essayist, wrote an essay entitled *Self-Reliance*. In his essay, Emerson said that, "A man is relieved and gay when he has put his heart into his work and done his best" (1841, par.2). Emerson tries to say that an individual has to work with passion and try his best. An individual has to do everything he can in the best way to gain his goal or dream. In that way, an individualist can get satisfied. He also said that an individual does not have to do a lot of things if he or she has their own belief and consistency. In *Glee* serial,

Rachel Berry character is the only character that is really responsible for her future. She also believes that someday she will be a successful Broadway star.

Believing in his self is also a part of *Self-Reliance*. As stated in Emerson's essay, "To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men" (1841, para.1). Emerson tries to say that an individualist has to believe in whatever decision he makes. Believing in himself means that he does not have to consider other people think as far as his belief is good for him.

Emerson believes that what is true based on society is not really true for an individual.

The second one is *Self-confidence*. An individualist who has *self-confidence* will bravely state his or her idea. It is because idea acts as individual and there is nobody that can make a decision for other people. By having *self-confidence* in themselves, individualist will proudly state what they want to achieve and what they want to be in the future. Explained by Althen in his book, Individualist likes to be proud of their accomplishment and expect the other members of the society to feel proud of him. He also said that Individualists naturally see themselves as being in competition with other member in the society in order to achieve their personal best. As the basic value of American, Individualism makes American believe that every day is a competition with other. They sometimes assume that it is a must to make up their minds or their achievements in their life. As Emerson said in his essay,

"Every true man is a cause, a country, and an age; requires infinite spaces and numbers and time fully to accomplish his design" (1841, para. 18)

Emerson believes that an individual has to be great at something in his life. It shows that an individual has to be confident to become a successful person. If an individual does not have confidence about his ability, then he will not see their own potential. In *Glee* serial, Rachel Berry is a person that will proudly state her idea in front of her friends. She also feels confidence about her talent. In her way to gain her dream, she likes to compete with her best friends in *Glee* and they like to have some challenges in their weekly meeting.

Although individualism deals with bravery, freedom, and independency that an individualist believe in herself to have what is best for her, an individualist is still a part of society. Individualist needs a society to compete and cooperate with.

Emerson in his essay stated:

If you are noble, I will love you; if you are not, I will not hurt you and myself by hypocritical attentions. If you are true, but not in the same truth with me, cleave to your companions; I will seek my own. I do this not selfishly, but humbly and truly. (1841, par. 30)

Non Self-Egoism is a feeling of not being egoist in society because individualism is different with egoism. By having *non self-egoism*, an individualist can live and work with other people with the same idea. It makes the perception of individualist cannot cooperate in the society is wrong. Without society, there will be no competition. Emerson tries to say that an individual still can cooperate with other people in a group that can help them to achieve their goal. It also means that an individual still respect the society as far as it respects him. As an Individualist, Rachel Berry still needs her friends to work with. She needs *Glee* club to challenge her talent and make her way to gain her dream

easier. She needs her friends in Glee as her singer partner in the stage. She needs her friend who has the same goal and idea as her.

2.1.4 Character

Character is the most important part of a play. According to Abrams, character is a person or people in a narrative work or a drama, which is interpreted by readers as having moral qualities and some tendencies that is expressed in utterance and done in action (2009, p.42). Writers or directors create character in a play as a represent of their daily life or what they know. They try to describe their experience in their society into a story and a character in a play.

In a play or drama, not all the characters have the equal number of the role.

Character generally is divided into two parts, Major and Minor Character. A character that has more parts in a play is called as Major Character. Lertbridge and Mildorf (2004) stated that major character has a lot of dialogs to say and appears frequently throughout the play. Major character has important part in the play, more than the minor character. As a drama or a play, *Glee* has several characters including major and minor characters. Rachel Berry character as the material object of the study is the major character of *Glee* television serial because she has more part in the storyline than the other. It appears from the first episode in the first *season* until the last episode in the last *season*.

2.2 Previous Study

In conducting this study, there are two previous studies related. The first study is a thesis by Riandji (2011), an undergraduated student of Universitas Brawijaya, entitled *The Hunger Games: Katniss Everdeen's Effort To Gain*

American Pragmatism Goals In Terms Of American Values. In this thesis, Riandji used American Pragmatism to analyze the struggle of the character. The second one is a study entitled *The American Individualism Reflected in Chris Gardner a Character in The Pursuit of Happiness Movie* by Oktavia Pratomo Putri (2011), an undergraduated student of Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang. She used American Individualism as the American value to analyze the struggle of Chris Gardner, the main character of *Pursuit of Happiness* movie.

This study has some similarities with Putri's and Riandji's. The first similarity of Riandji's and Putri's with this study is both of them focus on one of American Values as the problem of the study. Putri focuses on American individualism while Riandji focuses on American pragmatism. Putri's study also uses the theory of American values and sociological approach to analyze the character of *Chris Gardner*. Both of Putri's and this study analyze the major character as the object of the study. Putri also analyzes American Individualism in the character as the way to gain the American Dream.

Different from both of the studies mentioned before, this study analyzed television serial entitled *Glee*. This study analyzes the influence of American Individualism in Rachel Berry, the main character of *Glee* television serial. This study combines Althen's idea of American individualism (2003) and Emerson's essay (1841) as the theory, while Putri uses only Emerson's essay to analyze the data

2.3 Research Method

The research is conducted in two steps. The first step is deciding the object of the study and the second is interpreting and analyzing the data.

2.3.1 Deciding the Object of the Study

An American television serial entitled *Glee* is chosen as the material object of the study. Rachel's obsession to be a Broadway star made her become the most ambitious and individual person in *Glee*. It is one of American value to be responsible to get a better future. Hence, Rachel Berry's individual behavior in order to gain her dream becomes the formal object of the study.

2.3.2 Interpreting and Analyzing the Data

After deciding the material object of the study, the researcher analyzed Rachel Berry character by done some steps. Those are:

1. Collecting the data

In collecting the data, *Glee* television serial *Season 1-3* is watched several times to observe the behavior of Rachel Berry character in the society and the way she gains her dream by applying the values of American individualism.

The researcher takes some pictures and notes of dialogs of Rachel Berry in her society as the data to be analyzed.

2. Interpreting the data

In this step, the researcher interprets more about the data. Since the goal of this study is to analyze the American individualism in Rachel Berry's behavior, Sociological approach is used as a tool to explain Rachel Berry's behavior

when the researcher analyzes the part of Rachel's society in shaping Rachel's individualism. The interpretation of Rachel Berry's behavior is analyzed by using the theory of American individualism. Then the result of the analysis is categorized into the three aspects of American individualism to proof Rachel's individualism in her society. They are *Self-Reliance*, *Self-Confidence* and *Non-Self-Egoism*.

3. Drawing a conclusion

The researcher draws a conclusion based on the results of the study which is understandable for the reader.

