

CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE
AND RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents Theoretical Framework, Previous Studies and Research Method. Theoretical Framework covers important subjects correlated with the object of this study. Furthermore, Previous Studies consist of two studies relating with this study, and Research Method explains four steps used in this study.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The approach and theory used in this study is presented in this section. The choice of approaches and theories in a scientific study are fully determined by the object and the purpose of the study that is conducted. In this analytic process of examining a novel entitled *Coolie*, Postcolonial approach and the theory of Class Distinction are chosen to analyze deeply the exploitation and discrimination of a working class in India presented in the novel *Coolie* by Mulk Raj Anand.

2.1.1 Postcolonial Approach

According to Young (2001) postcolonial approach develops through the critical writing of Edward Said, Homi K. Bhabha and Spivak. They proposed the critical analysis towards the colonialist power in the Third World countries in a form of a colonial discourse. The explanation about the term of postcolonialism according to Ashcroft *et al.* (2007, p.186) is:

Post-colonialism (or often postcolonialism) deals with the effect of colonization on cultures and societies. As originally used by historian after the Second World War in terms such as the post-colonial state, 'post-colonial' had a clearly chronological meaning, designating the post-independence period. However, from the late 1970s the term has been used by literary critics to discuss the various cultural effects of colonization.

Based on that explanation, postcolonialism is not only dealing with the situation presented in a colonized country after its independence, but also can be used to understand and analyze the influence of colonizer and its effect in the colonized country before and after the colonization ended.

In the field of Literature, postcolonialism can be used to analyze the colonialism depicted in a literary work such as poem, drama, and novel which depicts the story about colonialism and its impact in the colonized country. In this case, the novel *Coolie* can be analyzed with the postcolonial approach because it is written by an Indian writer, and set in India during the colonization era. *Coolie* also can be categorized as "Third World Literature", literary works came and written by the people from the colonized countries such as Africa, Australia and Asia. It can be examined with postcolonial approach by focusing on the depiction of its character's life, Munoo, as a part of lower class people in India during British colonization era.

2.1.2 Character

Character in a story is like a bridge built by the writer. It is built with the chosen traits with the purpose of relaying a certain message to the readers. The context of character in a literary work shows the process of communication through a literary work. According to Bakhtin (as cited in Wall, 1984, p. 46) "the expression

and product of the social interaction of three participant: the speaker (author), the listener (reader), and the topic (the who or what) of speech (the hero).” It explains that, there is a unidirectional communication happened through a literary work. A character with its story becomes the medium in a ‘writer and readers’ communication.

A literary work is commonly contained with seven intrinsic elements such as, character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, tone and style. In this case, character becomes the main center of a story while the other elements are presented to strengthen the characteristics of that character in its story. A certain character with its unique traits can completely affecting the reader opinion about the story presented. Human or animal, animate or inanimate object, woman or man, young or old, educated or uneducated, higher class or lower class, all of the traits which attached to the character determine the significance of that character. Mulk Raj Anand as the writer of *Coolie*, creates the main character as a young orphan boy named Munoo, whom belongs to the lower class in India. These traits formed an exact character that the writer wants. It shows Mulk Raj Anand’s opinion about the indirect impacts of British capitalistic system and its cause in India.

2.1.3 Capitalistic System of *British Raj*

India has been colonized by British from the mid of 18th century until the mid of 20th century. More than a hundred years India was colonized by the British, there were many aspects in Indian society that were changed for the profit of the colonizer. At that time, the British had a full control over the economy sectors in India. They became the strongest shareholder and were classified as the superior in the society.

That advantaging conditions gave them the right to change and to apply a new provision in Indian social and economy systems. They also became the possessor of Indian trading activities and ruined many small businesses in India especially the one in villages.

Rose (2015, para. 2) explained that “India, as a nation, was not ready to compete with British traders, and because of this, wealth began to flow out of Indian pockets and into the British wallets.” This was a very profitable conditions created by the British, where many people especially the villagers went into bankruptcy. The villagers had to move to the city to find a new job. In the city, those villagers only got the chance to work on menial jobs. They were discriminated and exploited as they were differentiated economically and socially in India.

2.1.4 Class Distinction

One of the capitalistic system that was applied in India presented in the novel *Coolie* is the concept of class distinction. Loomba (2005, p.110) stated that “in colonial situations the state and its various institutions (such as educational establishments) are especially crucial in maintaining these racial and class distinctions and ideologies necessary for capitalism.” The colonizer as the dominant group tried to distinct the society into a different group of people based on a certain characteristic. During British colonization in India, the class distinction was based on the economic and social status of its people. This concept was applied to give many advantages for the colonizer.

Loomba (2005) also believed that the distinction based on class was applied in the colonized countries to make the cheap labor available for the colonizer. Those

villagers in big cities, were hired for many menial jobs and were paid with a very low wages. In this case, the caste system in India has been changed into a new social strata that differentiated people based on their economy and relation with the British. On the other hand, the upper class in India was drawn into the a-whole-new concepts brought by the British, they tried to mimic the life of the British in India, this caused a change on people's attitude towards each other in their every day. Because of the shifting on the Indian social classes, coolie, as part of the lower class in India, were started to be discriminated and exploited in the society they lived in because they were economically poor at that time.

2.1.5 Coolie

The word coolie highlighted by Mulk Raj Anand as the title of his novel, has a significant meaning used to point out the whole concept of that novel. Coolie is an English word referred to laborer in Asia. According to *The World Book Dictionary:A-K* (1995) there are two definitions of coolie; "(1) An unskilled laborer in India or China, (2) A laborer who does hard work for very little pay." The word coolie is considered as an offensive word. It comes from Hindi word, *quli* and firstly used in 1622.

The concept of coolie was socially constructed during British colonization in India. Most of the people whom categorized as coolie in the cities, were actually lived in the village before. The changes on the economy system made them lose their livelihood in the village. They decided to move to big cities to find a new job. This migration increased the total number of manpower or labor in many cities, some of them worked for the British and some others for the Indian upper class.

They worked as a servant, driver, porter in a market or station, and as a factory worker. Unfortunately, the payments they had were certainly very low. The acquisitive purpose of colonizer to obtain a very high profit led them to take as much as they could but give as little as they could to the workers. The workers couldn't fulfill their daily needs. Accordingly, they are known as coolie, one of the lower classes of Indian society who were uneducated and economically poor.

2.2 Previous Studies

There are two previous studies had a certain similarities with this study. The first study is an undergraduate thesis by Fitriani Firstkasari Putri (2016) from Department of English Language and Literature, Universitas Brawijaya, entitled "Alteration of Race and Racism between the Whites and the Blacks in Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*". That study used the approach and theory of racism, to conduct its study on racism based on color presented in a novel entitled *Noughts and Crosses*. The second study is a scientific journal by Sikhamoni Gogol (2014) entitled "Looking at 'Modern India' IN Mark Tully's *NO FULL STOPS IN INDIA* and *NON-STOP INDIA*". The main point of that study is to analyze the image of India as an independent country presented in two non-fiction books written by Mark Tully. Those books are about India that was not ready with the whole transformation from its old system to the new system brought by the British during the colonization era.

The objects of the first and second studies are related with the impact of colonization in a certain region. Those two previous studies are quite comparable as they have the same aim with this study. The aim is to examine the bad impacts

of European colonization in a certain society presented in literary works. Despite the similarities, there are several differences between the three of them. Each study has a different object. The first study focused on the racism based on color presented in a novel *Noughts and Crosses*. The second study used non-fiction and focused on the changes of Indian ideology as the impact of British colonization in India, while this study focuses on the impacts of British colonization in India experienced by the unskilled workers presented in the novel *Coolie*.

2.3 Research Method

This section presents four main steps taken in conducting the study. They are: Deciding the Object of the Study, Collecting the Data, Analyzing and Interpreting the Data, and Drawing Conclusion.

2.3.1 Deciding the Object of the Study

The informative representation of exploited labor in India presented in the novel *Coolie* became the main reason why the novel *Coolie* is chosen as the material object of this study. The change of social strata during the era of colonization can be seen on how Indians act in their daily life. People especially in a big city tended to differentiate people based on their economic status and position related with the British. The distinction between people led the exploitation and discrimination performed by the higher class to the lower class in India.

2.3.2 Collecting and Validating the Data

The data is collected through the process of comprehensive reading on the main object of this study. Several dialogues and narrations in the novel *Coolie* are

selected based on its context related with labor exploitation. The retroactive reading is also used to validate the data.

2.3.3 Analyzing and Interpreting the Data

Postcolonial approach and the theory of class distinction are used in analyzing and interpreting the data of this study. The analysis of labors' condition during British colonization in India is based on the depiction of labors life in *Coolie*. The postcolonial approach is used in handling the object of this study; *Coolie*, a novel categorized as fiction. The work of fiction such as novel has a high possibility to be a representation of a society by considering its main character and the history of a society presented in that novel. The theory of class distinction in correlation with the context of colonization is used to explain the cause of labor discrimination and exploitation happened during British colonization era in India.

2.3.4 Drawing Conclusion

Conclusion of this study is drawn based on the result from the whole process of analyzing and interpreting the data, and presented in chapter III.