

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Russia, or officially known as The Russian Federation is a country that stretches over a vast expanse of Eastern Europe and northern Asia (Britannica 1). With very great size of territory at 17.075.400 square kilometres, Russia by far is the largest country in the world. The territory is nearly twice the territory of Canada, the second largest country. The same as its territory, Russia also occupy the rank as the ninth country in the world that had most population with 143.819.000 people in year 2014.

Even though Russia has great scale in territory, this country did not get its glory easily. Before it becomes a Union Republic, Russia was part of The Soviet Union. The Russian republic was established after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and became a union republic in 1922. After dissolve itself from The Soviet Union, Russian was experienced political and economy changes. They had to endure a generally weak in economy, high inflation, and a complex of social ills that served to lower life expectancy significantly (Britannica 1).

Russia has experienced some revolutions. Revolution is a complex series of events by any product of interaction (Strauss 1). On the other hand, Laura Neitzel on her journal *What Is Revolution* states that as a historical process, “revolution” refers to a movement, often violent, to overthrow an old regime and effect complete change in the fundamental institutions of society (Neitzel 1). Different from Neitzel and Strauss’ definition, Hannah Arendt, a Germanic political theorist





The description of The Russian Revolution can be found in a literary work entitled *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. *Animal Farm* is a political fable set in a farmyard but based on Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution. Orwell is well known as critical and straightforward author. While other intellectuals and journalist were struggling to make excuses for the Soviet system, Orwell risked his reputation to expose its many evils (Shelden 56).

According to Professor Michael Shelden in his book "*The World of George Orwell*", Eric Arthur Blair was George Orwell's real name. He was born in Bengal, India on June 25, 1903. Blair is the son of Richard Blair, a civil servant at the lower rungs of the British Empire. A year after Eric born, Ida Blair, his mother, did what many colonial wives did in India. She left the hot climate and settled in England with her children, bringing them up alone while she waited for her husband to serve out the remaining years of his work (9).

Orwell was educated in England. He already shows his interest in writer's world since he is eleven. He receives good education and military training in his school. And after he leaves Eton, his previous school, Orwell joined the Indian Imperial Police in Burma and a British colony after that. He resigned in 1927 and decided to become a writer. In 1928, he moved to Paris where lack of success as a writer, and forced himself to get other jobs. He described his experiences in his first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, published in 1933. He took the name George Orwell, shortly before the publication of the book.

Different from *Down and Out in Paris and London*, Orwell got rejected many times when he wanted to publish *Animal Farm*. The reason of that rejection

was because this book was too controversial. This book was published in 1945, but it was successful in the late 1950s. Even though the publication of this book was delayed, but the book became a great success after its publication.

Unfortunately, Orwell's health was deteriorating and he died at young age because of tuberculosis on January 21, 1950. So that he cannot celebrate his novel success.

*Animal Farm* is one of Orwell's popular novels. The other one is *Nineteen Eighty Four*. These two novels have been translated into sixty languages and have sold more than thirty million copies (6). He wrote *Animal Farm* between November 1943 and February 1944.

*Animal Farm* itself is a kind of modern fable. This novel talks about a group of animals which did rebel and oust the humans from the farm where they live. The animals run the farm themselves, and rename the farm from Manor Farm into Animal Farm. The pigs are chosen to manage the farm by other animals because they are smarter than others. Beyond expectation, Animal Farm begins well than people expected. Snowball, one of the three cleverest pigs teaches the other animals how to read and write, though few animals besides the pigs learn to read well. Food is plentiful due to a good harvest, and the entire farm is organized and running smoothly. The animals live and work happily, because they think that they're works for themselves, not for human that they hate. But, in the end of the story, Animal Farm was being the same with The Manor Farm. Manor Farm was the name of the farm when owned by Mr. Jones, the human. Even it becomes worse because Napoleon, the only Berkshire pig on the farm runs Animal farm tyrannically.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses *Animal Farm* by George Orwell as her thesis research. First of all, the writer finds out some articles on internet which explain that *Animal Farm* by George Orwell have some relation with The Russian Revolution. But the information is so vague, and there is no specific thesis or books which explained more about that. The second, the writer is interested in characters of the novel, and wants to explore more about how Orwell characterize the people in The Russian Revolution into his novel's characters. The third, the writer wants to know the reason and the goal that Orwell wants to achieve by writing this novel. The last, the writer is interested in the class arranging between the animals and the political view that involved in the novel. At the beginning of twentieth century, classes is still exists in Russia. The people there split into four groups: urban, peasants, clergy, and noble.

In this study, the writer will try to prove that this novel is the reflection of The Russian Revolution. The analysis in this paper will include about the history of Russian Revolution, the main characters in The Russian Revolution, the events that happened at that time and how they influence the event in the novel.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

The statement of problem of this study is: how does *Animal Farm* reflects The Russian Revolution in 1917?

### 1.3. Objective of the Study

This study concern of presenting a brief account for the readers about the problems stated previously. Through this study, the writer tries to explain about how *Animal Farm* reflects The Russian Revolution in 1917.

### 1.4. Significance of the Study

By writing this thesis, the writer tries to explore about the reflection of The Russian Revolution in 1917 in novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The writer hopes that this research gives some benefits for the readers, especially for the students of English Letter Department in exploring about the sociology of literature theory that rarely used to analyze a literary work.

The writer also hopes that this study can be useful contribution in literary studies, especially about history in literature.

### 1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of the study is focused on the sociology of literature theory. Sociology of literature is taken as the theory to analyze *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, because George Orwell who wrote this novel used to write about his own experience, what event that happened around him, or as a critical.

This study focused on the reflection of The Russian Revolution in 1917 as seen in novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and to explain about it.

## 1.6. Method of Study

This is a library based study. It means that the writer will make use references such as books, article, journal, and magazines either from hard copy or online ones. The primary data of this study is the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. In presenting the analysis, the writer mainly uses qualitative method. The data analysis follows the following steps.

1. Making use the sociology of literature approach to analyze the novel to see its relationship with The Russian Revolution in 1917.
2. Providing historical facts of The Russian Revolution in 1917. It is including the cause, how the event happens, who the main character is, and what the effect of the revolution is.
3. Finding out in what way the chosen novel reflects The Russian Revolution in 1917.
4. Making conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

## 1.7. Organization of Study

The thesis writer divides this thesis into five chapters. The first chapter of the thesis is the introduction which consists of the background of study, the statement of problem, the objective of study, the significance of study, the scope and limitation, the method of study, the theoretical framework and the organization of the study. The second chapter is the theoretical framework which consists of the sociology of literature and new historicism theory. The third chapter is about the brief history of Russian Revolution. The



