

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a result of a person's thoughts or expressions to deliver a message to the readers. According to Gillespie (85-87) literature is an art form that can experience the atmosphere that led to dramatizing moral dilemmas. One function of literature is to convey a moral message contained in that work so that the reader should understand the contents of the literary work as a whole. According to Charless (71) Moral knowledge in literature usually comes as the primary issue or theme. Moral values in literature have several important values such as; legal values, social values, religious values, economic values, politic values, educational values and so on.

In this study, the researcher analyses religious value reflected in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children*, especially about the characters' about rejection towards Islamic Sharia. The researcher chooses rejection as the topic because in this novel there are many attitudes of the characters who disagree with statue of God. The other reason of choosing this novel because the writer thinks that any moslem readers who read the novel will get the message on how a person's life will be if he lives in rejection towards Islamic Sharia.

Salman Rushdie himself is an author who was born in Bombay, India, and came from a middle-class Muslim family. When he was 14 years old, Rushdie was send to England to study there. Since lived in England Rushdie wrote some of literary works. Salman Rushdie is the famous writer who is

famous with religious values. One of the works of Rushdie that causes condemnation is *The Satanic Verses*. Then, after his work was rejected, Rushdie back to writing again which is still associated with the religious values, that is the novel *Midnight Children*. In *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie is considered able to improve his images, this novel is regarded as the best work of Rushdie's novel and won a prestigious award of England Booker Prize in 1993.

Novel *Midnight's Children* talks about the life of a child who was born at midnight in Saleem Sinai with conflict and the failure of the dream of independence of India. The life stories of Saleem Sinai started from the journey of his grandparents Dr Aziz and Naseem. They are Muslims but because of an incident that led to Dr Aziz, suffered injuries on his nose, Dr Aziz became a Kafir, a person who would not worship to his God. It makes Naseem who is also the grandmother of Saleem Sinai became a women who never did her obligations to God. It causes all descendants Aziz and Naseem susceptible to religion, women, all the events of the history of India and many more things deviated from the Islamic Sharia. According to the book *Midnight's Children* (1991) in the chapter introduction to author like the most of other works of Salman Rushdie in this story, he is incorporating elements of history, mythology, religion, political and classic text.

In conducting this study on this novel, the researcher uses a new criticism theory because the researcher only examines the literature works based on intrinsic elements, which includes character and characterization. Through the analysis of the intrinsic elements, the researcher wants to convey the rejection towards Islamic Sharia which is reflected in the behaviour of the

main character of this novel *Midnight's Children*. Therefore, the researcher uses the title "A Rejection of Saleem Sinai and his family to Islamic Sharia as reflected in *Midnight's Children*: New Criticism Studies"

1.2 Statement of Problem

According to the background of study above, I formulate the statement of problem as follow:

1. What are the attitudes of Saleem Sinai and his family that reflect rejection towards Islamic Sharia?

2. How are Saleem Sinai and his family's life before and after committing the rejection towards Islamic Sharia in *Midnight's Children*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem stated above, this study has two objectives that can be stated as follows:

1. To get a description of Saleem Sinai and his family in the novel family that reflect rejection towards Islamic Sharia in *Midnight's Children*

2. To find out the effect from the action of Saleem Sinai and his family before and after committing the rejection towards Islamic Sharia in *Midnight's Children*

1.4 Scope and limitation

In order not to make too broad discussion, the researcher feels the need to impose limits in this study. The researcher only focuses on the description of the Saleem Sinai and his family in *Midnight's Children* dealing

with their rejection towards Islamic Sharia. Therefore, the researcher also will also focus on the analysis of Islamic *Sharia* that is reflected in the novel based on the teachings in Al - Qur'an and Hadith.

1.5 Significances of the study

This study is significant as to affirm that Islam is the right belief. Because Qur'an says to human that they should obey Allah's instructions and avoid everything that He forbids to get happiness in the world and here after. This study is also significant to be conducted due to academically and practical functions. Academically, the researcher also hopes this study can make a positive contribution in development of knowledge in the literary study, which is related to Islamic Sharia. For the readers, especially for students of English department this study is expected to contribute ideas and analysis, especially in *Midnight's Children* as the reflection of human life. The researcher also hopes that this research can be helpful references for those are interested in analysing the same topic.

1.6 Method of the study

The study is library based. Therefore, the researcher uses several books, including the novel itself as the primary data source. The researcher also reads information from internet sources and other sources such as journal and articles that support this research to increase the knowledge. In the present

