CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

In literature, society has the important aspect in inspiring a literary work. Literature cannot be separated from the society because it is a reflection of the human life. According to Wellek and Warren, literature is a representation of life. It reflects the life itself, or, in other words, it is life, which literature imitates or mirrors; and it can say that the subject matter of literature is the manifold experiences of human beings and society (89). Moreover, literature is concerned with social life and circumstance. Thus, the depiction of social life can be seen from literary work itself. As Wellek and Warren states that literature is regarded as the expression or representation of human life through the medium of social creation viz language (94). So, the literary work itself is a representation of human action and life through language.

On the one hand, the human life and condition can develop within the changing of time as same as literature. The literary work itself has its own characteristics depend on the age or era. Indeed, the social situation now has changed, it has been remarked that now is postmodern era. Here, postmodernism can be implied or indicated as a new era and a reaction against modernism after the Second World War. Lemert notes, it hardly need to be said that postmodernism has something to do with
what is allegedly happening to modernism. So, if modernism is a culture of modern age (or modernity), then postmodernism has something to do with the breaking apart of modernism (27). It is same with Fredric Jameson, he claims that the origins of postmodernism are found in the confrontation of “The formerly oppositional modern movement as a set of dead classics (4). Postmodernism believes in the new style and assume an earlier era, modernism, as an old era. So, postmodernism rejects the modern movement which reflects the old belief.

However, in order to comprehend the whole understanding of the concept of postmodernism, people have to understand everything from its history as well. As according to Roberts in his book Fredric Jameson, Jameson believes it is history that provides the basis of judging interpretation (50). Therefore, people will be aware of what is dominating in today’s culture, then they need to have a deep sense of past, by meant from the history. In the postmodern era, the historical past is represented, not through its content but through glossy stylistic means, conveying ‘pastness’ by the glossy qualities of the image (Jameson 75). Briefly, the past could be the benchmark of the emergence of a new style in the present.

Together with postmodernism, postmodern literature also rejects the idea of modern literature. Postmodern literature concerns on new concept of thought in reflection from its literary work based on nowadays social life and condition. Postmodernism aims to deconstruct or rewrite modernism in order to open its closed systems (Foster ix). It means what modernist has created or believed including
universal truth or common experience are rejected by postmodern author. Despite the ideas of postmodern literature is quite different from modern literature, both of them are having same focus. As in journal titled *Common Themes and Techniques of Postmodern Literature of Shakespeare* by Sharma and Chaudhary, both modern and postmodern literature explore fragmentariness in narrative and character construction (190). Both of them focus on the text or narrative and how the character is constructed.

One of the literary works in postmodern era is Kiera Cass’ *The Selection*. Kiera Cass becomes a number one of *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Selection* (as cited from Amazon.com). The novel sets in the futuristic world soon after World War IV happened. The country is named *Ilea* where the world is divided up into eight castes based on one's social and economic status. Whereas a number represents their level of caste, *One, Two, Three, and Four* as the four highest levels of caste for the royal family, bourgeoisie people who own the factory, etc., and the *Five, Six, Seven,* and *Eight* as the four lowest or bottom levels of caste represent the working class based on their job or profession such entertainer, labour class, etc. This novel tells about America Singer as main character who enters the Selection to become a Prince Maxon’s bride. Nevertheless, she already has her prohibited love with Aspen, a man whose the caste is lower than her. Maxon represents an opportunity for America to improve the financial and social position of her family (Seifert 58). So, she enters the Selection in order to earn money, provide her family and increase her social caste.
In addition, *The Selection* combines many genres, from young-adult genre, romance, and also dystopian genre. Meanwhile, one of the genres in this novel is dystopia. Dystopia means anything which is bad, it is the depiction of messy world included the society. As in Julia Gerhard thesis, Walsh stated that if utopia is social planning that produces good results, dystopia is most often social planning that backfires and slides into nightmare (14). It is same with the explanation of dystopia in Wilson’s book, it describes that dystopia involves utopia’s opposite: a nightmare, the ultimate flawed world, or “a society worse than the existing one,” such as Brave New World and 1984 (1). Dystopia is the opposite of utopia where new world is created in bad condition or even the society is frightening. Furthermore, it reflects to the social background in Kiera Cass’ *The Selection* that the country uses the system of monarchy where the king is the most powerful one in the country while some people there are dehumanized.

This research focuses on the narrative of the novel. According to Fisher, narratives are fundamental to communication and provide structure for human experience and influence people to share common explanations and understandings (58). So, narrative focuses on story of what author created to understand about the human experience. From the narrative of the novel, the point of view of this novel is from a *Five* caste girl, America Singer, who participates the competition to become wife of Maxon as the Prince of Ilea. Whereas America Singer is not interested with it, she just gets pressure from her mother to join the competition. Even though she does
not want to marry Prince Maxon, but she participates it only for her family. Then, she makes a deal with the Prince of Maxon to let her stay in Palace, because her families need to be provided with money.

From the story of *The Selection* (2012), it tends to be similar to the previous work in nineteenth century, *Cinderella* (1812). Hence, this research will use postmodern pastiche because pastiche is still connected with the postmodern literature. Another characteristic of postmodern literature is the questioning of distinctions between high and low culture through the use of pastiche, the combination of subject and genre is not previously deemed fit for literature (Jameson, 112). So, pastiche presents the combination of previous work, or an imitation also.

Jameson stated that pastiche involves the imitation or the mimicry of other styles and particularly of the mannerisms and stylistic twitches of other styles. Pastiche is, like parody, the imitation of a peculiar or unique style, the wearing of a stylistic mask, speech in a dead language: but it is a neutral practice of such mimicry, without parody's ulterior motive, without the satirical impulse, without laughter (5). Jameson believes that pastiche is like a parody. In this case, parody tends to be more playful satire or irony.

According to prominent theorist of postmodern parody, Hutcheon, claims that postmodern parody is both deconstructively critical and constructively creative, paradoxically making aware of both the limits and the powers of representation—in any medium (228). So, postmodern parody rewrites previous works and gives a
critique of them whether by irony or satire, whereas pastiche emphasizes distance and difference between work in past with the present whereas pastiche imitates a work in order to make use of its original style. According to Nicol, favors bricolage or pastiche to original production, the mixing of styles and genres, and the juxtaposition of ‘low’ with high culture. Where modernism is sincere or earnest, postmodernism is playful and ironic (2). As the characteristic of pastiche, that it is a kind of combining work in past with the present style, and not only to combine, it also means to imitate. Jameson notes, whereby instead of creating our own unique styles it looks to the past and imitate old, dead styles through pastiche (74). Pastiche refers to imitating from multiple elements of the previous literary work and make it into new style. In this case, same with Sharma and Chaudhary stated, pastiche can be a compositional techniques in mixing multiple genres to create a unique narrative or to comment the condition in postmodernity (194). It means postmodern pastiche still include the literary work in past, that works of literature still refer to each other.

Since The Selection offers a postmodern pastiche, researcher wants to show that a text may be related with other past text, especially in nowadays literature which deals with ideas in past. Besides, this research is interested to compare The Selection with the famous work in past, Cinderella. Cinderella tells about the unfortunate girl who has stepmother and two stepsisters who have bad attitudes, they also treat Cinderella badly. One day, there is an invitation from the Kingdom about a ball that will be attended by many eligible maiden, so that Prince can find a bride from that
events. Unfortunately, Cinderella does not have any chance because her stepmother forbids her to attend the party. Then, something magical happens, Cinderella turns into a pretty girl with nice dress and shoes. She can go to the kingdom, and the Prince chooses her to become his wife.

Based on the previous explanation, it can be suggested that The Selection can be studied through Jameson’s postmodern pastiche. This research will determine to what extent The Selection imitates Cinderella in order to make a new style. Thus, this research will focus on the narrative of the novel of Kierra Cass’ The Selection, and also use Grimm’s Fairy Tale Cinderella as a benchmark in comparing and understanding the people’s common experience in seeking both stories.

1.2. Statement of Problem

From the background, this research is conducted to answer some problems formulated as following questions:

1. To what extent does The Selection comply with pastiche theory of postmodernism by Fredric Jameson?

2. How does the The Selection deviate from the previous work, The Cinderella?

1.3. Objective of Study

Based on the previous research problems, this research is aimed:

1. To give a theoretical outline of pastiche theory of postmodernism by Fredric
Jameson.

2. To examine the story of *The Selection* novel which is portrayed as a representation to the older work, *Cinderella* in Grimm’s Fairy Tale.

1.4. **Significance of Study**

   The significance of this study are, firstly, this research, hopefully gives a significant knowledge about postmodernism, especially pastiche theory of postmodernism by Fredric Jameson. Secondly, this research is hoped to all readers to understand how the ideas of *The Selection* novel by Kiera Cass is imitated from *Cinderella* as older or the previous work. Thus, this research is conducted to show that a text may be related with other past text, especially in nowadays literature which deals with ideas in past. Thirdly, this research is conducted to show that man’s idea is probably derived from history or past. So, history or past itself greatly affects us in discovery the ideas. The last, this research may use as reference to the next researcher who will conduct the similar research in the future by using different object.

1.5. **Scope and Limitation**

   This research will deal with pastiche theory of postmodernism by Fredric Jameson which will be applied to the novel of *The Selection* by Kiera Cass. This research tends to focus on the novel, *The Selection*, and its narrative. It can be analyzed from the character of America Singer as the main character in *The Selection*.
that represent new mode or style of Cinderella as main character in *Cinderella* or it can be analyzed from other aspects as long as how the work of *The Selection* imitates the original work of *Cinderella* in order to show the idea which is portrayed in the novel reflects to the original work.

Therefore, the research restricts to the interest of getting understanding from pastiche theory of postmodernism by Fredric Jameson by using Kiera Cass’ *The Selection* and Grimm’s Fairy Tale of *Cinderella* as new style of writing and as the previous writing.

1.6. Method of The Study

1. Data Source

This research will use two sources of data: primary and secondary sources. The primary sources as the ordinary source are two novels. As according to Pugh, the primary source comprises the artistic works that serve as the subject of one’s research (263). The research will use secondary source to help researcher in order to support the data. The secondary source is one that was created from primary source, other secondary source or some combination of primary and secondary sources (Johnson 475). The secondary source is including critical commentary on primary source for this project (Pugh 263). So, the primary source still becomes a key for secondary data.
The primary data will be taken from Kiera Cass novel, *The Selection* and *Cinderella*. Whereas the secondary data will be contained from the text of certain web, article, e-book, paperback or another sources which relate to the topic the researcher will deliver.

2. Type of Research

This research will use library-based. Books, journals, thesis, magazines, online resources are needed by researcher in collecting data. This research will use qualitative method which according to Maxwel, it is the activity of collecting and analyzing data, developing and modifying theory, elaborating or refocusing the research questions, and identifying and addressing validity threats are usually all going on more or less simultaneously, each influencing all of the others (2). This research will describe for the analysis because it will use descriptive analysis also.

3. Data Collection

The data will be collected through following steps:

1) Reading the primary sources (Kiera Cass’ *The Selection* (2012) and Grimm’s *Cinderella* (1812)) of the research.

2) Collecting the quotes from primary source which prove that *The Selection* is a postmodern literature and the imitation of previous writing, *Cinderella*, and also include the element of deviation, and then taking a note in order to increase the understanding from both novels.

3) Reading the secondary source, the additional information, and also the theory
which relates to the researcher purpose of analysis.

4. Data Analysis

The data of the research will be analyzed through literary research. Data collected from the text of Kiera Cass’ *The Selection (2012)* and Grimm’s *Cinderella (1812)* as the primary sources or other sources which relate to the novel as the secondary source that will be determined as the main purpose of the analysis. Then, the data of the novels will be analyzed from the perspective of Jameson in postmodern pastiche. The last, conclusion of the research will be arranged after applying the theory and data which get from the data sources.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

This research will examine some related clues to help the readers to understand the topic and problem discussed in this thesis. The clues are formulated in the form of key term that will be defined clearly. Those related key terms would be in the following below.

1. Cinderella : a folk tale embodying a myth-element of unjust oppression or triumphant reward (Zipes 444). In the Cinderella tale, the mother is the only parent, the father always being "away," absent. No distinct male figure appears in the tale at all until the prince turns up hunting the glass slipper's owner. The
mother figure dominates the story until that time (Ulanov 40).

2. **Narrative**: a fundamental to communication and provide structure for human experience and influence people to share common explanations and understandings (Walter 58).

3. **Dystopia**: it presents human life in terms of large, unrelieved bondage. In our day, the chief form of this phase is the nightmare of social tyranny (Frye 238).