CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to The Study

Human as social creature cannot be separated from culture. According to Spencer in Foundation of Modern Sociology (1982:57) “Culture is a way of life shared by a group, a system of ideas, values, beliefs, knowledge and customs transmitted from generation to generation. The culture is produced by society; in turn a society depends on culture.” Thus, it can be concluded that society produces culture and culture shapes society. Society and culture cannot be separated since both are related to each other and create values in their society.

The cross and clash culture occur because every country in this world have the different culture. If there are two cultures assimilated, cross and clash culture will happen. The issue also occurs in the novel entitled “A House for Mr. Biswas” by V.S Naipaul. It tells about the main character, Mohun Sirvastav Biswas or Mr. Biswas, who never has an opportunity to develop his social class. He believes that money and occupation can change his social class in the society. He is also trapped by the rigid class structure controlling his society, especially the caste system. Even though Mr. Biswas and his family live in Trinidad and Tobago, North America having Western and modern culture, they still hold tight their Indian culture. He tries to against the Indian rigid culture. On the other side, there also happens the assimilation between Indian culture and local culture in Trinidad and Tobago as the setting of the novel. Trinidad and Tobago is one of

colonized country that left colonial culture and power. This phenomenon is related by postcolonial so that we can analyze it by postcolonial theory.

There are two researches before from English Letters Department, Indonesia University of Computer that relate with postcolonial theory and clash and cross culture. The first, Nenden Rikma Dewi (2010), her Skripsi focuses on social, politics and culture using postcolonial theory in Stephen E Ambrose's Essay Undaunted Courage. The second Chandra Kelana (2010), his Skripsi focused on Clash and Cross Culture in the novel entitled Weep not Child by Ngugi Wa Thiongo used Joseph Roucek's theory of culture and John Howthorn's theory of Narratalogy. It is really different from this research because in this research the writer uses postcolonial theory to analyze the clash and cross culture that influences the main character.

1.2. Research Question

There are three research questions in the research namely:

1. How is the main character characterized?
2. How are clash and cross culture described in this novel?
3. What are the influences of cross and clash culture to the development of main character?

1.3. Objectives

According to the research questions there are three objectives in this research, as folows:

1. To find out how the main character is characterized

2. To identify the examples of clash and cross culture described in this novel
3. To identify the influence of cross and clash culture to the development of main character

1.4. Significance to Knowledge

The research entitled " The Influences of Cross and Clash Culture on The Character Developments of Main Character in V.S. Naipaul's " A House for Mr. Biswas" is focused on how the cross and clash culture influence the main character from post colonial theory point of view . The research may provide the knowledge about culture especially Indian culture and Trinidad and Tobago culture that may be useful for the other students learning the literary work especially about those culture.

This research is expected to increase the reader's knowledge about culture and as a reference for them whom studying culture.

1.5. The Framework Theory

This research will be analyzed using intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literature. Intrinsic elements used for the research focus on the character, and the extrinsic element focuses on the culture that influences the main character.

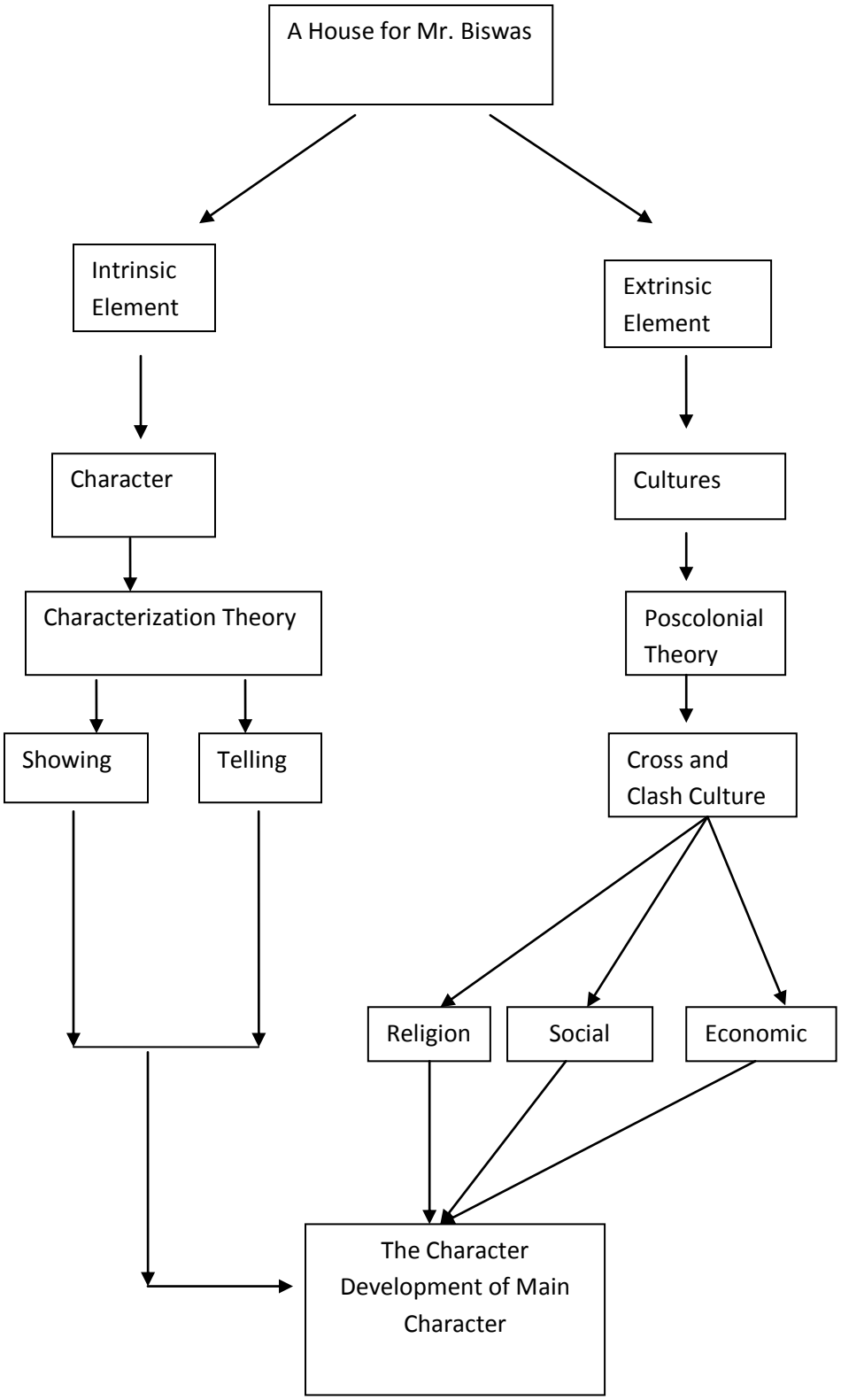
One of the intrinsic elements of literature is characterization. It is used to find out how the main character is presented. It is divided into two parts, showing and telling method. Showing method is used to analyze the characterization from the character's thought, speech and act, and telling method is used to examine

what the main character is described from the narration of other character in the story. Besides, characters will be analyzed whether they are flat and round character. Flat and round character will be used to analyze the development of main character in this novel.

This novel presents the main character influenced by culture. Due to this fact, the writer uses post colonial theory to analyze it. Regarding to Homi K Bhabha in The Postcolonial Studies Reader, in colonial dominance (1999: 207), there are clash and cross culture between colonizer and colonized. The clash culture happens when a foreign culture comes to one region. It has some differences between foreign culture and tradition culture that cannot be accepted by societies in that region. Whereas the cross culture happens when the foreign culture came in one region and the societies in that region are influenced by it. Thus, it assimilates with the traditional culture in that region and created the new culture.

However, the cross and clash culture can influence the character. The developments of the character that are affected by the cross and clash culture can be described using showing and telling method.

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A House for Mr. Biswas
Intrinsic Element
Extrinsic Element
Character
Cultures
Characterization Theory
Poscolonial Theory
Showing
Telling
Cross and Clash Culture
Religion
Social
Economic
The Character Development of Main Character