CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND

1. 1 Background to the Study

Culture and society are related each other due to culture is formed by society, and it becomes the identity of society itself. However, the culture of one population may be changed by other population which is then known as colonialism practice. According to Ashcroft (2000: 40), colonialism is the specific form of cultural exploitation that developed with the expansion of Europe over the last 400 years. Colonialism is occurred by the existence of European's perspective that considers White men are more superior than the Colored. Such thought leads to an ideology named Eurocentrism.

Eurocentrism is the European's thought that their own culture is more superior than any other cultures. As the result, during 16th and early 17th centuries European, especially British Empire and other Europe nations such as Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, and Portugal, made expansion to other nations to establish trading post to control economics and politics of the colonial areas.

The Chinua Achebe's *Things fall Apart* (1958) is a historical novel which portrays the life and culture of Igbo people of Umuofia in Southern Nigeria. Achebe wrote this novel to show the world the Igbo culture which was subjugated by British colonizer in 1980s. In order him to do so, he needs to use a language that can be comprehended by other people. In the English version, Achebe makes

some adjustment with the term Igbo that undergoes phonological translation into *Ibo* in its English version. This novel depicts the life of Okonkwo, the central character of the novel who was respected by other local people by his strength. Written from the point of view of the native African, this novel describes the various aspects of way of life of the Igbo people in a culture and tradition. Through this novel, Achebe implicitly describes the life of the Igbo people before and after British colonialism on the Igbo people during the late nineteenth century.

There are three researches from English Department, Indonesian University of Computer who made research related to post-colonialism and cultural domination caused by colonization. The first, Nenden Rikma Dewi (2010), her research focuses on social, politics and cultural change in Stephen E Ambrose's Essay Undaunted Courage. The second is Chandra Kelana (2010), his research focuses on Clash and Cross Culture in the novel entitled Weep not Child by Ngugi Wa Thiongo which used John Howthorn's theory of Narratalogy. The third is Erna Susilawati (2011) with research entitled The influences of Cross and Clash Culture towards The Main Character's Development in V.S. Naipaul's A House for Mr. Biswas.

However, the previous researchers elevate different theories and issues as their focus. In this research, I focus on motive and strategy of British missionary that slowly change the beliefs of Igbo people in Umuofia because it is interesting to know the history of British imperium which shaped the world and its impact that can be traced until now.

Regarding on that, the research is conducted to analyze the motive and strategy the missionary uses to convert the people of Umuofia into Christian because religion is an essential part of a society. Thus, this *skripsi* is entitled "Converting The Native's belief: Strategy and Motive of Colonization in Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe".

1.2. Research Question

Based on background and identification of problem of the study above, the research problems are as follow:

1. What is the motive of missionary in Umuofia?
2. What is the strategy that the missionary uses to converts the people of Umuofia's belief?

1.3. Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

1. Describing the motive of missionary in Umuofia
2. Describing the strategy that the missionary uses to convert the people of Umuofia's belief

1.4. Significance to Knowledge

There are two expectations from this research. First, this research is expected to become a guideline for the English Department students who want to make critical analysis of a novel concerning post-colonialism. Second, it is expected to enrich my knowledge on colonialism issue.

1.5. The Framework of Theory

In analyzing the motive and strategy of the British missionaries who came to Umuofia, I use two post-colonial theories. There are two theories of post-colonialism which are applied to analyze this novel. First, theory of Eurocentrism which was proposed by Samir Amin is used to analyze the motive of colonizer to convert the people of Umuofia in this novel. Amin (2009:162) states:

> *Eurocentrism rests upon teleology: namely, that the entire history of Europe necessarily led to the blossoming of capitalism to the extent that Christianity, regarded as a European religion, was more favorable than other religions to the flourishing of the individual and the exercise of his or her capacity to dominate nature.*

Eurocentrism is European's perspective which considers the superiority of their own culture and the inferiority of the conquered ones. They thought of themselves as civilized, even advanced. Therefore, during British imperium, the British colonizer made expansion to conquer the other population. Using religion as an excuse, they conquer other population with various religions other than their religion to spread the Christianity through evangelization. In this novel, the

practice of Eurocentrism can be seen from the British missionary's opinion about the Umuofia people's way of life which will be discussed in the chapter four.

Second, since this novel is written by native Nigerian who experienced British catholic missionary teaching, and the name of main character of this novel is based on Achebe's grandfather. It can be assumed that Achebe intended to describe the life of Ibo people in Umuofia. Ibo is a tribe in Southern Nigeria that was colonized by British missionary during British Imperium. Therefore, it can be concluded that cultural domination is a part of this novel, it is described when the colonizers try to control Umuofia people by converting them into Christian. Hence, I assume that colonizers use education to convert the native, so I use re-education theory which was proposed by Scott Nesbit in his essay entitled "Myth of The Native".

> *During re-education, natives are inundated with negative images of themselves and their culture, as well as idyllic, nearly perfect images of the colonizer (Nesbit, 2001:1)*

From the theory above, it can be assumed that education is one of strategies of colonizer to deconstruct the colonized belief. Morphologically, the term Re-education means that to give new education to someone by replacing the previous education. In other words, changing what someone has learned. It includes the way of life, the faith, etc. When the colonized have lost their faith to what they believe, they will slowly accept the new faith. In short, the scheme of theories can be seen below.

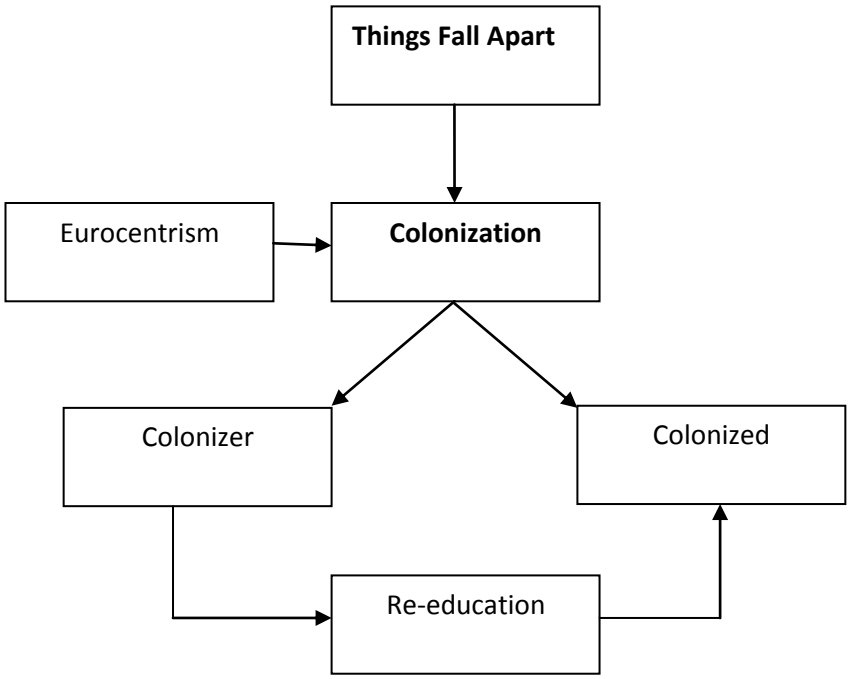


Figure 1. framework of theory

From the figure above, it can be seen that Eurocentric thought of European is the cause of European's expansion to Africa, Asia, and America that leada to colonization. The colonization itself cannot be separated from the colonizer and colonized, the colonizer plays the role as the subject, while the colonized as the object. The colonizer always oppresses the colonized in any ways to control them, one of ways which is used by colonizer is re-education. Re-education is a colonizer's strategy to control the native people or the colonized by teaching the new beliefs to dominate the culture and custom of the colonized.

The British colonizer's arrival to Nigeria in nineteenth century is one of the examples of cultural domination between two sides which is caused by colonization using education. The colonizer teaches the native with new religion, Christian.