CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Barrett (1997: 239) quotes Gramsci who mentions hegemony as cooperation ensured by force that combines social and political control, coercion, and agreements. It means hegemony is applied using social and political control to monitor and force the subjects—society. It indicates that hegemony action may need violence in order to make the subjects obey the regulation or those with power. Those threeaspects—agreement, control, regulation—become an inseparable unit in practicing hegemony and can be noticed or not noticed by the subjects.Hegemony is one of the ways to dominate.Not only state, institution, and/or government, a person also can do a domination.

As occurred in "The Hunger Games" trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins, a presidentnamed Snow holds authority over rights and obligations of the subjects in a state named Panem. The state has one capital citycalled as Capitol and thirteen districts called as their number. Snow has the highest authority even each district is led by a major and guarded by police and military called Peacekeepers.Snow's authority leads to certain actions and policies in order to maintain the subjects' welfare through regulations as camouflage, because he

abuses his position for his own interest such as domination on natural and human resources. He also treats some districts differently according to their value of manufacture of consent. The more expensive its price, the better life quality they get. The problem arises because the welfare is not evenly distributed. The Capitol subjects and some wealthier districts such as District 1, 2, and 4 are living in pleasure and welfarewhile the poorer districts subjects are experiencing misery and injustice. Their life's quality differences occur due to a consideration of social class separation—owner of the means and the labourer—which is similar to capitalist society concept.

Ritzer (2012: 92-93) quotes Marx which states that capitalist societyhas two class systems. First, the capitalist hirelabourers. The labourersinevitably sell their time for working to the capitalist in order to continue living. Second, the capitalist has production tools whether with make it by themselves, buy it, or they just already have it such as tools and materials, which in the endall of the commoditywill be the capitalists' property.

Related to the issue, there are several preliminary researches such as, first, Bland and Strotmann (2014) entitled "The Hunger Games: An Ecocritical Reading" which is focused on eco critical analysis of "The Hunger Games"trilogy novel by mentioning classical literary tropes of apocalypse, pastoral and wilderness, and reflect on the trilogy's multilayered approach towards relationship between human and non-human. They found that in the trilogy, there are critical issues such as consumer manipulation, and media and celebrity culture. Second, Karina Puspitasari (2014) with

"*HegemonisasiTokohMasyarakatdalamPembebasanLahan*" which is focused on how public figure hegemonize subjects in a region named Tamba'an. There are five public figures which come from different social form which success in take Tamba'an terrestrial from the subjects who make illegal housing. Third, DikiMiharja (2014) entitled "*Pengaruh*Superstructure*dan*Base*TerhadapTokohUtamadalam Novel* 'The Street Lawyer'" which is focused on authorizer's exploitation on authorized, property—the aurhorizer's tools to get profit that are commodity such as goods and/or service. Those researches have similarities in discussingcommodity, social class form, subject, authorizer, and authorized. Yet, there are alsodifferences, especially on discussion about authorizer's hegemony tools and the subjects' reaction towards the hegemony.

Those issues of hegemony actions emerge in "The Hunger Games"trilogy novel; the wealthier subjects that are living in the capital have close relation with thepresident, a better place to stay, and a better security. In contrary, the districts subjects are living only depend on their limited natural resources and experiencing misery. These issues indicate that Snow, as the authorizer of Panem, is practicing hegemony in order to maintain his power, not for his subject's welfare. One of hisways to hegemonize his subjects is bycontinuingan annual death match event called Hunger Games and broadcasting iton television as a live program. The Hunger Games is created as a penance of district subjects' uprising that is occurred in the past. The former Panem's authorizer make a pact namedTreaty of Treasonthat regulates twenty-four district subjects' kids to be gathered in one

arena to kill each other until one winner remains. Snow is continuing thisregulation, thus, the current districts subjects have no other choice but to agree to the treaty.

Snow's hegemony on his subjects is interesting to be discussed because not all of his subjects accept his hegemony. This research focuses on Snow's used tools to hegemonizehis subjects and the subjects'reaction toward the hegemony.The data are taken from "The Hunger Games" trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins. Antonio Gramsci's (1999) concept of hegemony is used to analyze the conflict in the trilogy and MiekeBal's (1997) focalization is used to analyze the data from Katniss's point of view. Hence, this study entitled **Hegemony in "The Hunger Games" Trilogy Novel through Katniss's Focalization**.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the issues above, research questions to frame this study are formulated as follows:

1. What tools used by President Snow to hegemonizethe subjects in the trilogy?
2. How the subjects in the trilogy react to the hegemony?

1.3 Objectives

Based on the research questions above, objectives to frame this study are formulated as follows:

1. To recognize tools used by President Snow to hegemonize the subjects in the trilogy.
2. To identify how the subjects in the trilogy react to the hegemony.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

Theoretically, this study is hoped able to enrich and broaden knowledge in Marxism especially in hegemony by Anthony Gramsci, and MiekeBal's focalization in exploring and describing the issue of hegemony in the novel of The Hunger Games Trilogy. Practically, this studyhelps to develop knowledge about the hegemony theory, to identify particular issue whichis related with hegemony in outside of literary universe.

1.5 Framework of the Theory

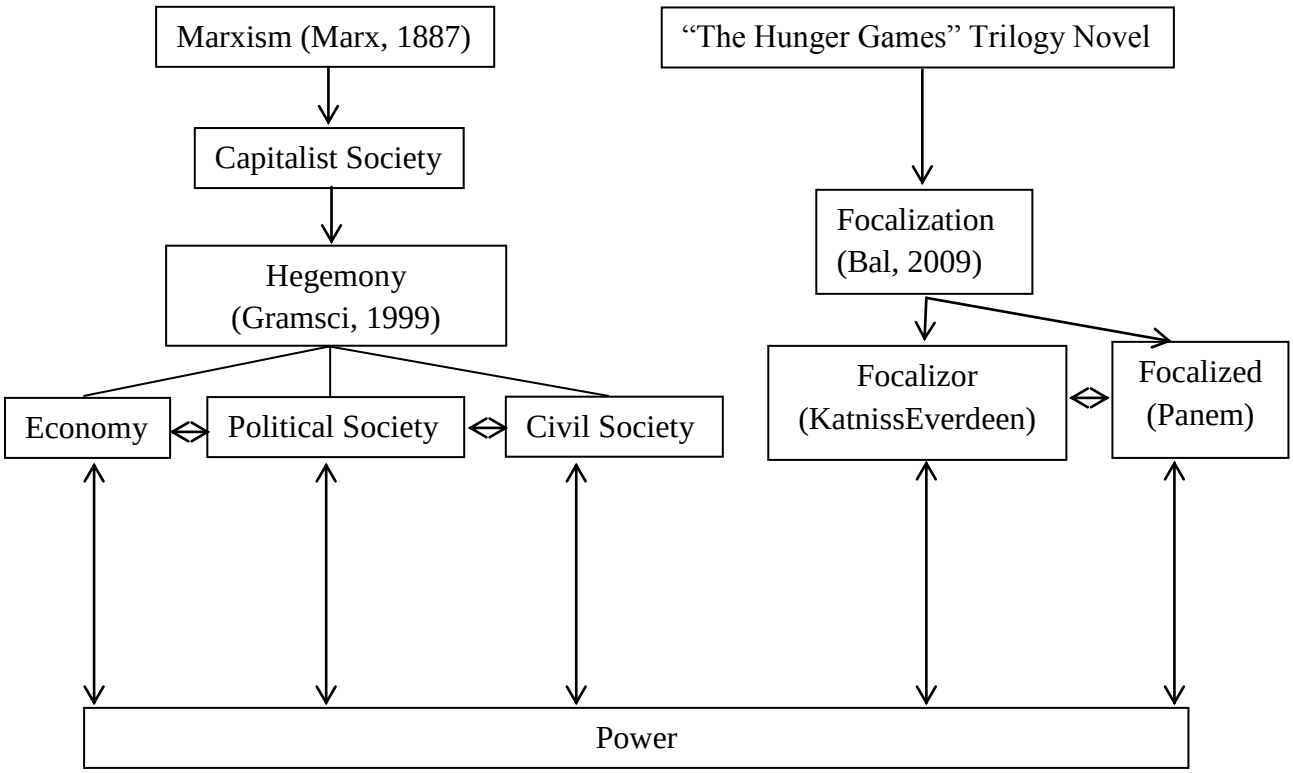


Table 1.Framework of the Theory Table

This studyis conducted by applying Gramsci's theory of hegemony and those who correspond on his ideas such as Michele Barrett (1997), GeorgeRitzer (2012), and Robert Bocock (2007).

Ritzer (2012: 476) is quoted Gramsci that states hegemony isa cultural leadership which isimplemented by the ruling class—authorizer, thus, italso has relation with Marx's capitalist society, because according to Gramsci (1999: 89),

> …capitalism has determined not only the formation of broad proletarian strata, but also and as a consequence has created the

> higher stratum, the labour aristocracy with its appendages of trade-union bureaucracy and the social-democratic groups.

The quotation means capitalism can be identified through trade-union bureaucracy and social democracy groups. Those emergeasconsequence of the higher strataactions in maintaining their powerover the lower strata—the working class,labourers, or authorized.It means the ruling class is same with authorizer or capitalist society, because all of them are maintaining their power over the labourers.

According to Bocock (2007: 34-35), Gramsci states that there are three interconnected fundamental terms in social formation which form basisof hegemony conceptualization:economy, state, and civil society. Those three are also emerged in "The Hunger Games" trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins.

The hegemony issuesin the trilogy are identifiedthrough KatnissEverdeen's focalization.According to Bal (2009: 142), focalization is"the relation between the vision and that which is 'seen' perceived". Thus, focalizationis related to what is destined and what is implied. The destined things are written manuscripts or spoken utterances, meanwhile the implied things are hidden or beyond meanings which is perceived as the real meaning of the destined things.

The issues in the trilogy emerge through President Snow's hegemony actions as the highest authorizer of Panem, the future state of North America, and Katniss'sand Panem subjects' reactions toward his actions and policies. Snow's hegemony actions are his act to maintain and preserve his power on Panem's subjects.Katnissas focalizoris influencing perceptions of Panem subjects—focalized—on Snow's hegemony.It occurs because Katnissis identified to have a

tendencyin fighting Snow's power.Katniss's actions make Snow as the representative of capitalist society in Panem realizes that his power is threatened. Katniss is also aware on such conditions and feels threatened as well. In order to regain Snow's power and control the subjects, some regulations are made. At first, Katniss becomes afraid of Snow's old and new regulations, but then she becomes dauntless to resist them.Such action, therefore, becomes the early action of subject's uprising on Snow's power.