

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Everyone may ask about the definition of literature, then the answers are not both of right or wrong. Discussing on the description of literature, we will never find an absolute definition. World cultures develop by time to time as the description of literature which also has its progressive improvement. It happens to literary works as well that it is growing so quickly and being supported by the developing science and technology. Globalization era today makes easy to gain unlimited information from any place of the world as it is on our hand.

Contemporary works of literature emerge into modern literary works which are full of imaginations of science fiction. One of many post-modern authors is Dan Brown with his phenomenal novels. In this research, *Angels & Demons* is taken as object of analysis. It is released in 2000 as a presequel of the most controversial *Da Vinci Code*. It shares many similarities with The *Da Vinci Code*, such as secret societies, and a great deal of malice toward the Catholic Church.

Angels & Demons novel centres on fictional Harvard University symbologist Robert Langdon's search to unravel the mysteries of the Illuminati and prevent a threat to destroy Vatican City using antimatter. The novel notifies a theme of conflict between science and religion which are performed by Illuminati and Vatican.

Dominance of Vatican as the heart of Catholic religion became the environment of the novel. An effort comes out from Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca to run his evil scheme by using a name of ancient brotherhood Illuminati as incrimination object. Carlo had also murdered the Pope which gradually he knew that the Pope was actually his biological father. His scheme of making terror towards Vatican Government used antimatter which is recently invented by Leonardo Vetra and his daughter, Vittoria Vetra. As Brown noted on a single page that antimatter factually exist:

"Antimatter is identical to physical matter except that it is composed of particles whose electric charges are opposite to those found in normal matter...

Antimatter is the most powerful energy source known to man. It releases energy with 100 percent efficiency (nuclear fission is 1.5 percent efficient). Antimatter creates no pollution or radiation, and a droplet could power New York City for a full day...

Antimatter is highly unstable. It ignites when it comes in contact with absolutely anything... even air. A single gram of antimatter contains the energy of a 20-kiloton nuclear bomb-the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima." (Brown, 2000: 6)

Carlo realized that the invention of antimatter would make bad impact for Vatican indoctrination as the centre of Catholic religion. He thought that unification of science and religion should not happen.

Besides that narrative, the novel also elevated a secret brotherhood. Though Dan Brown does not try to expose further about what and how is Illuminati, through his novel, actually he has produced issue concerning with Illuminati which has very

big role for enlightenment movement in Europe, and to be ‘cemetery’ for church dominance in Europe (Nurhadi, 2009: 49).

According to Shea (2009), the *Angels & Demons* novel only purposes to mislead the reader’s faith by giving wrong information about Catholic Religion.

“Angels and Demons is just a novel, but it gives the impression that its contents are based on serious research. This is the first trick of the propaganda artist, and it usually works when the issue is anti-Catholic propaganda. The average person (i.e., someone who does not know much about the Bible, Christian history, or religious symbolism) might buy into the bizarre ideas in Angels and Demons because he or she does not have the background to separate the truth from the many falsehoods found in its pages.” (Shea, 2009: 3)

Anyway, the research with the subject of Illuminati which has been unprivileged and subsequently becomes privileged, it does not get serious interest from anyone yet. That is why the subject is analyzed in this research using deconstruction which functions to find marginalized things and perspectives for evaluating the deconstruction of religious aspects of Vatican Church which impacted to the existence of Illuminati. Finally, this research is entitled with *Deconstruction of Religious Aspects of Vatican Church Impacted to the Existence of Illuminati in Dan Brown’s ‘Angels & Demons’*.

1.2 Research Problem

According to the research background, the research problems are formulated in such questions: How does Dan Brown’s *Angels & Demons* reflects the

deconstruction of religious aspects of Vatican Church impacted to the existence of Illuminati?

1.3 Research Objective

The research objective is to explain the deconstruction of religious aspects of Vatican Church impacted to the existence of Illuminati in Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons* using the theory of deconstruction.

1.4 Research Significance

There are two significances of the research; they are explained theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this research is expected to give positive contribution towards the development of theory on literature, especially deconstruction theory. In addition this research can assist the readers to understand and apply the theory into an analysis.

Practically, this research is hoped to result new information and knowledge for readers concerning with relationship between Vatican Church and the existence of others cults in order to discover their conflict in the novel.

1.5 Research Limitation

This research is focused on examining the novel's deconstruction of religious aspects of Vatican Church impacted to the existence of Illuminati in Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons*.

1.6 Research Organization

This research is arranged into five chapters. The first chapter consist of background of choosing the subject, research problem, research objective, research significance, research limitation, and research organization.

The second chapter will be discussion of literary review consisting of previous researches as references, theoretical review which explains deconstruction, and conceptual framework in which gives details on Vatican, Illuminati, and *Angels & Demons* novel.

The third chapter will be methodology; that consists of research type, data and source of data, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and validity of data.

The fourth chapter will be the analysis of which covers deconstruction of Vatican Dominance towards existence of Illuminati in Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons*. The last chapter will be conclusion and suggestions.