

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Undoubtedly, the influence of America has been spreading throughout the world since this so-called New World emerged as an independent country. No sooner had the America announced its declaration of independence than it already contributed something new to the world, a system of government, in Lincoln words, 'of the people, by the people, for the people' which was quite phenomenal at that time. The Americans may take great pride since over the past two centuries several nations have adopted the American democracy to base their forms of government (Stevenson, 1996: 37).

The special thing about the American democracy is that it was designed to fulfill the Americans' ideals; that life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are everyman's natural rights. The philosophy has inspired the world that freedom of individual is worth respecting. The idea has overturned the classic form of government which puts the People as the object. Instead, to protect their interests, the People now have an absolute right either to establish or to abolish the

government. The divine aim of the thought is greatly welcomed by other countries. On top of that, the principal of the American democracy has successfully urged the world to put ahead of the basic human rights as a global issue.

I am interested in observing the Americans' political attitude in relation to the American democracy. The reason why I choose to analyze All the King's Men and All the President's Men is simply that both novels answer my curiosity on the attitude. By relating the political attitude of the American society to the literary works, I expect to sharpen my analytical skill in examining the literary element of the novels.

I focus myself on the theme exploration owing to the fact that it helps me improve my knowledge in implementing the literary criticism to analyze the stories. In literary context, theme is a broad idea in a story or a message conveyed by a work (Wikipedia, 2006). Meanwhile, to reveal the themes, I use sociological criticism to provide me a greater understanding in the political context of the stories. Sociological criticism is defined as an approach to literature that examines social groups, relationships, and values as they are manifested in literature (Meyer Literature, 2003). My analysis will cover the relationship between the People and the two institutions—the mass media and the government—in supporting the American democracy. By concentrating on the basic knowledge of the political values of the American society as promoted in the novels, I expect it helps me

find out the theme. Moreover, through the social study concerning the values of the American democracy, I hope I can discover the versatility of the philosophy.

Statement of the Problems

1. What are the themes of All the King's Men and All the President's Men?
2. How do major characters help to reveal the themes?
3. How does the relationship of the three institutions —the People, the government, and the mass media— in the American democracy help to reveal the themes?

Purpose of the Study

1. To present the themes of All the King's Men and All the President's Men
2. To show how the major characters help to reveal the themes
3. To show how the relationship of the three institutions —the People, the government, and the mass media— in the American democracy helps to reveal the themes

Method of Research

I choose the sociological approach as the method to analyze the two novels. I use the approach to help me reveal the themes of the novels. I require many sources related to the American politics to understand certain political values which are promoted by the novels. Among the values, it is the knowledge of the relationship between the People, the mass media, and the government in the American democracy that gives me a broad insight to explore the theme.

Meanwhile, the type of research I use in writing the thesis is the library research. I started the research by reading All the King's Men and All the President's Men as the primary texts. Afterward, I broaden my knowledge by seeking for secondary texts to support the thesis. As a result, I collect, select, and classify the data from some text books and the internet to endorse my analysis to draw the conclusion.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of five chapters as a whole. Chapter One is the Introduction which covers the Background of the Study, Statements of the

Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two presents theoretical framework which explains the sociological approach I use in the thesis. Chapter Three provides the discussion on how public unawareness of dirty politics would construct positive public sentiment in the novel All the King's Men. Whereas Chapter Four contains the discussion of how public awareness of dirty politics would construct negative public sentiment in the novel All the President's Men. Having done the analysis, I would draw the Conclusion which is put in Chapter Five. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the Synopsis of both novels and the Biographies of the Authors.