

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates eight sections: background, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, aims of the study, research procedures, data collection, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

The issue on women oppression has often become an interesting theme of discussion. The discussion explicitly reveals about unequal treatments over women that actually have become a habit in a society. Parwieningrum (2001) in her article entitled *Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan*, states that in Indonesia the issue on women oppression has become a serious problem. This women oppression happens for many years in various environments, such as family, place of works, society and state.

Women oppression is the excess of gender ideology strengthening in a society that is legitimated by custom and tradition, system of authority, and religion. This gender ideology lameness is inherited from one generation to the next by patriarchal culture (Murniati, 2004). Thus, it can be said that patriarchal gender ideology has created unstable relation, namely gender inequality and especially women oppression.

Patriarchy, according to Millet (unknown year), exaggerates biological differentiation between men and women, and determinates that men have dominant and masculine role. On the contrary, women have subordinate and feminine role

(Tong, 1998). This condition creates a situation where women are potential to be subordinated, marginalized, exploited, and oppressed.

One of the institutions where patriarchy system practiced is family. In this case, men have more power and authority than women. As stated by Parwieningrum (2001), after women get married, they are owned by their husband. As wives, they must do their roles, which deal with domestic duties, such as keeping the household and taking care of children and husband.

The issue which puts women in subordinate position that causes gender inequality and women oppression also often becomes the theme in literary works such as novel. Based on Sardjono's exploration (1992) about Javanese individual and society on Indonesian modern novels written by Javanese authors, she claims that most of Javanese men have the same opinion about the main roles of a wife. They often portray Javanese wife as subordinate creature with whom they can get services and pleasures. Moreover, a wife in a *Priyayi*'s family should always please her husband. She should be patient, loyal, obedient, and able to control herself from negative emotion.

Meanwhile, Kartodirdjo et. al. (1993) points out that a status as a *Priyayi*'s wife automatically gives subordinate role over women. On the contrary, the position and role of men are dominant. Moreover, this domination often completely puts women as a sexual object. According to Parwieningrum (2001), this is a form of women exploitation and oppression.

Considering some cases mentioned above, the writer is interested in conducting a research on how a *Priyayi*'s wife is portrayed in the novel of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Gadis Pantai*. The investigation will focus on what characteristics of *Gadis Pantai* are portrayed in the novel before and after she gets married and what factors causing the change of *Gadis Pantai*'s characteristics.

1. 2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Pramoedya Ananta Toer is a writer whose works are very famous and read by many people from foreign countries. Meanwhile, in our country itself, many of his works were banned, so they were very difficult to be found, and even to be read. It causes the emergence of negative image to Pramoedya, without seeing his works which many of them documented about Indonesia.

Gadis Pantai is one of Pramoedya's works which was banned when it was first published in 1987. In this novel, Pramoedya depicts the life of a girl who has become a victim of Javanese patriarchy system. She is married to a Javanese man with aristocrat background. However, in her marriage she just becomes a sex slave of her husband until her husband decides to marry another woman who comes from the same social status as he is. Through *Gadis Pantai* character, Pramoedya tries to deliver a message about gender inequalities and juxtaposes the lower class, represented by *Gadis Pantai* with higher class, represented by *Bendoro*.

In the present study, Marxist feminism is applied to disclose the portrayal of a *Priyayi*'s wife as portrayed in the novel. The reason for choosing this theory is

because Marxist feminism is one of the approaches in analyzing literary works which contain gender inequalities. Therefore, by adopting this theory, the result of this study is expected to reconstruct the portrayal of a *Priyayi*'s wife in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Gadis Pantai*.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, this study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What characteristics of *Gadis Pantai* are portrayed in the novel before she gets married?
2. What characteristics of *Gadis Pantai* are portrayed in the novel after she gets married?
3. What factors cause the change of *Gadis Pantai*'s characteristics?

1.4 Aims of the Study

Regarding to the research questions above, the results of this study are formatted in the following:

1. To identify the characteristics of *Gadis Pantai* as portrayed in the novel before she gets married.
2. To identify the characteristics of *Gadis Pantai* as portrayed in the novel after she gets married.

3. To find the factors causing the change of *Gadis Pantai*'s characteristics.

1.5 Research Procedures

In conducting this research, the writer employs a qualitative descriptive method to achieve the aims of the study. This method is appropriate because it can describe phenomena related to woman's characteristics as evidenced in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Gadis Pantai*. Qualitative method produces descriptive data in forms of written or oral, which is gained from investigated character (Bogdan and Taylor, unknown year, as cited in Moleong, 1990). The aim of this method is describing social phenomena in order to understand the investigated phenomena. The writer analyzes the resources and presents the result of analysis in a thick description in the form of narration (Mustafa in Alwasilah, 2003).

The source of data is Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Gadis Pantai*. This research is started by observing the source text by using textual analysis. Close reading strategies is employed in which the novel read thoroughly and carefully. This reading process aims to gain more comprehension of the text.

The next research process is noting down some textual evidences which are relevant to answer research questions. Afterwards, the research is continued by classifying the data in accordance with the issue of the research. Finally, the data is analyzed and investigated by applying the theories presented in chapter two.

1.6 Data Collection

The data are collected from Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Gadis Pantai*. These data are derived from some utterances, expressions, attitudes, thoughts, etc that can answer the research questions. It is also supported by other resources, such as articles, internet, books, and other sources that related to answer research questions.

1.7 Clarification of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer clarifies the main terms used in this research as follows:

- **Marxist Feminism** is a theory which is centered on material aspect and class relation in a society. This theory believes that capitalism is the root of oppression (Tong, 1998).
- **Portrayal** refers to the act of showing or describing somebody or something in a picture (Hornby, 2000).
- **Priyayi** is one belonging to higher classes (Echols, John M and Hasan Sadili, 1994).
- **Patriarchy** is a social system in which men hold all the power and use it only for their own advantage (Longman Dictionary, 1987).

I.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper will be organized into five chapters and formulated as follows:

Chapter I. Introduction

This chapter consists of background, reason for choosing the topics, research questions, aim of the study, limitation of the study, research procedures, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II. Theoretical Foundation

This chapter consists of review of related literature, which is served as a basis for investigating research problem.

Chapter III. Research Procedures and Data Presentation

This chapter discusses the research method, data analysis, and data presentation.

Chapter IV. Data Analysis and Discussion

This chapter deals with the data analysis and the discussion of the research.

Chapter V. Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter covers the conclusions and suggestions which related to the research.