

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

During the last thirty years, social science has paid attention to women confining its exploration of humanity to the male. Research has generally reinforced by the sex image of popular mythology that women are essentially nurturing, expressive and passive; meanwhile, men are instrumental, active and aggressive, (Bennett & Cohen, 1959).

These stereotypes are controlled through the socialization process. Women are raised to want to fill the social roles in which society needs them; they are trained to model themselves after the accepted image and to meet as individual expectations that are held for women as a group (McClelland, 1965).

Meanwhile, in terms of women role in society, in the early days, women were seen as wives who were intended to cook, clean, and take care of the kids. They were not allowed to vote while men took care of having jobs and paying any bills that have to be paid (Bennett & Cohen, 1959). However, talking about women role in this century, woman is supposed to be able to have all an education, a successful career, fulfilling relationships, and children. As explained by Willkinson (2002), it seems that although there is a huge amount of pressure for women to succeed in all aspects

of their lives, most fail to live up to expectations that they have of themselves and which society seems to demand, such as fulfilling relationship with man. This kind of fulfillment could be gained by an institution such Marriage. Westermarck (1921:101) defines marriage as "a more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation till after the birth of the offspring".

In line with the idea above, Beauvoir (1989:427) states that "for woman, marriage is her only means of support and sole justification of her existence". However, nowadays marriage is no longer promising happiness since polygamy has always been more or less openly tolerated today; 'man may bed with *slaves, concubines, mistress, prostitutes*, yet he is required to respect certain privileges of his legitimate wife' (Beauvoir, 1989)

Concern to what is directly stated by Beauvoir above, mistress is one of woman who existed as threat on a marriage. Mistress is 'a man's long-term female lover and companion who are not married to him, especially used when the man is married to another woman' (Cronin, 1974).

Historically, a phenomenon such mistress or a kept woman has existed since in 18th century. The historically best known and most researched mistresses are the royal mistresses of European Monarchs, the keeping of a mistress in Europe was not confirmed to royalty and nobility but down through the social ranks. Anyone who could afford a mistress could have one (or more), regardless of social position, (Vincent, 1974).

In nowadays phenomena, many men including business tycoons, party and government officials are engaging to "keeping mistress", which has led to the split-up of many families. Of course, the men who are engaged to 'mistress phenomenon' are mostly rich, since providing financial support for the mistress is the key to the concept of "Mistress Phenomenon". During the 20th century, as many women became well-educated and more able to support themselves, fewer women found satisfaction in the position of being a mistress and were more likely to pursue relationships with unmarried men (Nancy, 1954). Since divorce became more socially acceptable, it was now easier for men to divorce their wives and marry the women who, in earlier eras, would have been their mistresses. However, the practice of having a mistress still existed among some married men, especially the wealthy.

This kind of phenomena has been proven by men who married their mistresses. Such as the late *Sir James Goldsmith*, on marrying his mistress, *Lady Annabel Birley*, or the latest phenomenon which exist in Indonesian society portrayed by celebrities such as *Raul Lemos* leaved his wife for his mistress *Krisdayanti*, *Julianda Barus* and *Elma Theana*, *Mayang sari* and *Bambang Triatmodjo*, and so on.

According to Spicer (2008), there are some intentions why some women are willing to be a mistress. Firstly, they intent for a money, that is why they are usually looking for a rich guy. Secondly, they are desperate in relationship, so they do not looking for commitment in relationship. The last, they want to be carefree since they think that affair is just for fun, entertaining and satisfying.

However, the existence of mistress usually triggers conflict in marriage since most of them seducing the man to leave his wife. It is presented by Govan (2010) that such conflict happened in Chile, where the wife fight with the mistress who her husband had been kept for so long. The conflict caused pain for the wife, the family and also the children.

Such conflict has also portrayed in the work of literature, since literary text (novel/short stories) can give readers not only understanding of the inner life and experience of the fictional characters, but other major themes such as social conflict, harassment in society, corruption practices, mother's love, sacrifices, love affair and so on, (Luxemburg, 1987). Conflict in literature is a part of the plot that develops contradiction or opposition which becomes a point of interest and it usually struggles between two forces; it can be internal (feelings) or external (physical) (Penn, 1999).

To reveal such conflict, one of literary works that becomes the subject of this research is chick-lit novel. Novel is a part of literature that can be classified into fiction. Genz and Brabon (2009:89) provide brief definition of chick-lit as "a female-oriented fiction and a highly successful and commercial phenomenon". Some elements such as characters, characterization, and conflicts are used to analyze the portrayal of main woman characters. Supported by Baribin (1985) who states that characterization could present the character through either physical or personal images.

Therefore, in the relation to the idea above, this research tends to investigate the portrayal of main women characters based on conflict revealed in the novel. The

writer will use a novel by Jane Fallon which is *Getting Rid of Matthew* since it can be considered as literary works which dominated by female characters who have same issue presented above. The analysis will focus on the characterization of main woman characters and conflict and then relating the two to reveal the portrayal of main woman characters in the novel and mistress woman social position in society.

To elaborate the issue, Feminist literary criticism is considered as the most appropriate means to frame work such portrayal of woman. As evoked by Smith (1990) who defines feminism theory as a way of analyzing the position of women in society. Therefore, Feminist Literary Criticism that will be used to analyze the subject of research is Existentialist feminism. It looks at the issue of females face daily as a result of being born as women. Beauvoir (1989) examined women's status in society and subordination to men. But she sought a deeper answer for the question of why men named man *the self* and women *the other*.

Woman is determined with reference to man, and not to reference to her. Woman is the unessential when she is opposed to the essential, namely, man. She states that the position of women as the other triggered by the conception of women as merely the complement of others; woman's existence is only meaningful when she is with man or in the relation to men. Woman cannot define herself. She is defined with relation to man (Beauvoir, 1989).

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons for choosing the topic. Firstly, it is because the subject of the study is a chick-lit literature which portrays a female-oriented fiction that celebrates the pleasures of feminine adornment and heterosexual romance, (Genz and Brabon, 2009). The portrayal of main woman characters is one of the subject matter that is often portrayed in this literary genre. Therefore, it is interesting to study a novel *getting rid of Matthew* by Jane Fallon as one of the chicks-lit novels with an issue about woman characters as a mistress and considered the story is related to the phenomena which rose in this research that is the portrayal of mistress woman.

Secondly, this novel offers an interesting subject to be analyzed of how the woman is portrayed based on conflict, in terms of her role as mistress woman and see their social position based on perspective of existentialist feminist. Along with this idea, it is interesting to conduct a study of this novel which tries to reveal the portrayal of main woman characters based on conflict in the novel.

1.3 Scope of the study

The study is limited around the analysis of portrayal main woman character based on conflicts reveal in the novel *Getting Rid of Matthew* by Jane Fallon. This research limits the analysis using Existentialist feminist issue which focuses on the conflict faced by the main woman characters and relates the conflict with the

characterization due to reveal the portrayal of main woman characters, as evidenced in the novel

1.4 Research question

This research attempts to analyze the novel by using Existentialist Feminist. To guide the study into more detailed explanation, the writer bases the research questions as follows:

1. How does the author portray main woman characters in the novel in relation to the conflict?
 - What conflicts are faced by the woman characters?
2. How the portrayal is seen from Existentialist Feminist point of view?

1.5 Aims of the study

1. Identifying the portrayal of main woman characters presented in the novel in relation to the conflict
 - Identifying the conflicts faced by the main woman characters
2. Investigating the portrayal of main woman characters based on Existentialist Feminism point of view

1.6 Research Method

According to Hatch and Farhady (1982:1) Research is “a systematic approach to finding answer of questions, while method is the way of doing something”. Thus, research method is the way to find answer of a question made in a systematic approach. The method applied for this research was a qualitative method. Qualitative data usually form of words rather than numbers.

Supported by Miles and Humberman (1987:15) that:

Qualitative data is in the form of words rather than numbers; they are attractive and source of well-grounded, rich descriptions and explanations of processes occurring in local contexts. With qualitative data one can preserve chronological flow, assess local causality, and derive fruitful explanations.

Based on assumption above, the researcher believes that it is the most appropriate method to be used in this study about portrayal of woman, since qualitative data is able to describe the data about portrayal of woman based on conflict in the novel in more detail because of its capability in obtaining rich explanations.

A descriptive method is also used to apply in this study since it is useful in describing the facts and phenomenon, Creswell (1994). Therefore, descriptive method is used to describe the existing phenomenon in the text.

1.7 Research Procedures

There are several steps to conduct this research: First, reading woman characters, characterization, and conflict in the novel entitled *Getting Rid of Matthew* by Jane Fallon. Second, the textual evidence which found in the novel is in written in the table of content analysis. The aim of making this table analysis is to analyze and give textual evidences which are needed for the research. Thus, analyzing the textual evidence and presenting the data of analysis framed by the related theories to answer the research question. Lastly, discussing the findings and drawing conclusion

1.8 Clarification of the key terms

Some terms are clarified to prevent misunderstanding. The terms are:

- **Portrayal** : Refers to the act of showing or describing somebody or something in a picture (Hornby, 2000).
- **Conflict** : a process in which two or more parties attempt to frustrate the other's goal attainment, the factors underlying conflict are thee hold interdependence, difference in goals, and difference in perception (Wall, 1985)
- **Existentialist Feminism**: Is a theory proposed by Simone de Beauvoir (1989) who looks at the issues that females face daily as a result of their being born as woman.

1.9 Organization of the paper

The paper of the study will be organized into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter contains the background of the study, research question, aims of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, the object of the study research methodology, clarification of the key terms, and also organization of the paper.

Chapter II: Theoretical Foundation

This chapter contains literature review which provides information to investigate research problems. It provides description of the literature and theories related to the analysis of the portrayal of woman characters based on conflict revealed on the novel

Chapter III: Research Methodology

This chapter contains the research method of the study and description of procedures used in investigating the problem of the research, including object of the research, research design, the data collection and data analysis. The approach will be the qualitative and descriptive methods.

Chapter IV: Finding and Discussion

This chapter contains the result of the study after conducting the research and obtaining the necessary data that was depicted including the analysis of the data using the theoretical framework.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion

This chapter contains the researcher interpretation of the research finding in a form of conclusions and suggestions.

