

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study presents an analysis of characters' representation of male and female in *Cerita Pendek tentang Cerita Cinta Pendek*. The theory of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Fairclough (1989) and Transitivity theory proposed by Halliday (2004) are the framework of the study. This chapter provides the background of the study, the research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the clarification of key terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of Study

The issue about language and gender in literary texts has been discussed by many linguists before (Holmes & Meyerhoff, 2003). This is because the different use of language between male and female in “real world” extends to “fictional world” as well. Linguists think that the differences in grammatical aspects may affect the characterization and the interpretation of meanings (Megheirbi, 2010). For example, in Nguyen's study (2012), he found that the linguistic features used in a novel *Heroic Mother* influence the interpretation and identification of the main characters' characteristic. This result is similar with another study conducted by Halliday (1971). He states that understanding grammar helps interpreting the meanings in literary texts. Since there are many kinds of literary texts in the world, there are still many other studies that are similar with the studies above.

Several scholars who analyze literary texts state that the language associated with male and female characters is different (e.g. Amerian and Esmaili (2014) and Rasman (2014)). Most of these studies focus on analyzing the words that are used to describe male and female characters in literary texts. One of the studies found a gender stereotype in narrative stories (Rasman, 2014). He also found that male characters' language is more dominant than female characters. However, this may be because the main characters are mostly male. On the other hand, Amerian and Esmaili (2014) state that there is sexism in the literary texts they studied. They found that female characters are still seen as less powerful than male characters. Even though the two studies did not investigate particular gender-biased literary texts, it still indicates that male and female language differences in literary texts show the dominance of male.

In Indonesia, there are literary texts that tell stories about inequality between male and female. These works usually describe sexuality issues between male and female (Ikhsano & Inkiriwang, 2015). One of Indonesian authors who writes this kind of literary texts is Djenar Maesa Ayu. Her works are considered as a display of female's resistance in gaining equal rights (Ikhsano & Inkiriwang, 2015). Furthermore, she portrays the sexuality issues in her works with unusual aesthetic which make her seen as improper, vulgar, and unpleasant in public opinion (Muhammad, 2010). Chasanah (2006) analyzes Ayu's four literary texts entitled *Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!*, *Jangan Main-Main (dengan Kelaminmu)*, and *Nayla*. She found that while it is true that Ayu describes female characters as victims of male characters, the male characters are also described as disrespectful individuals. Ikhsano and Inkiriwang (2015) along with Zulfardi (2017) also investigate Ayu's short stories and state that even though there is inequality between male and female characters in the stories, the author tries to break patriarchal systems in Indonesia. One of the patriarchal systems is that sexuality issues are a taboo issue.

Those previous studies use literary theories as a mean to analyze Djenar Maesa Ayu's works while the linguistic aspects have not yet been explored. To contribute to other previous studies, this study attempts to analyze the representations of male and female characters in one of Djenar Maesa Ayu's works entitled *Cerita Pendek tentang Cerita Cinta Pendek*. The social inequality aspect of the story can be analyzed by using critical discourse analysis (CDA). CDA is used because it can reveal power and ideologies (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). Power relates with social status since people who have high social status also have high power. One of the social statuses is being a male or a female. Thus, males and females hold different power depending on how they use their language. Furthermore, the term discourse in CDA can be defined as a semiotic way to construct the aspect of the world which can be identified generally by different positions or point of views of different people (Fairclough, as cited in Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

One of CDA's frameworks which is commonly used is Fairclough's three-dimensional concept. It deals with three stages of analysis; description stage, interpretation stage, and explanation stage (Fairclough, 1989). The description stage analyzes the linguistic features of texts; hence, Halliday's transitivity theory (2004) can be used as a tool to uncover these features. Transitivity theory is chosen because it can reveal the relation between meanings and wordings (Halliday, 1971); hence, it can also show the

meanings behind the representation of the characters in literary texts. It focuses on the context of situations and realizes ideational meanings of experiences, processes, and actions (Halliday, 2004). The experiences and actions are represented by types of process; material processes, mental processes, behavioural processes, verbal processes, relational processes, existential processes, and meteorological processes (Gerot & Wignell, 1995).

By using Fairclough's three-dimensional approach and Halliday's transitivity theory, it is expected that this study show how the stories represent male and female characters. Furthermore, there are some hidden meanings which can be revealed through that representation. Choosing one of Djenar Maesa Ayu's books is based on consideration that her writing style of explicitly using taboo expressions can be analyzed by using the theory mentioned above.

1.2 Research Questions

The present study addresses the following questions:

- 1) What process types are used to represent male and female characters in the short stories?
- 2) What does the choice of the process types mean?

1.3 Aims of the Study

In line with the research questions above, this present study is aimed at:

- 1) identifying the transitivity process types that are used to represent male and female characters in the short stories,
- 2) interpreting the meanings of the process types used in representing male and female characters in the short stories.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is focused on analyzing the clauses used to represent male and female characters in the three short stories of *Cerita Pendek tentang Cerita Cinta Pendek*. The analysis is focused on three parts. First, this study classifies the types of process used to represent male and female characters by using Halliday's transitivity (2004). Second, the data found in the first step are accumulated according to its process types to find a pattern. Third, the data are interpreted in three stages by using Fairclough's framework of CDA (1989).

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to offer theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, it enriches the literature on Systemic Functional Grammar in analyzing Bahasa Indonesia's writing and the field of critical discourse analysis. Practically, this present study is expected to give some insights:

- 1) to authors of literary texts, it can give them insights to be more aware of gender issue because their writing can influence their reader.
- 2) to the readers of literary texts, it can make them more aware of gender issue in literary texts.
- 3) to other researchers, it provides evidences to conduct further research with Bahasa Indonesia's literary texts as the object of the study.

1.6 Clarification of Key Terms

Based on research problems above, there are five particular terms which are needed to be clarified further. The terms are as follow:

Gender: Gender refers to an identity which is constructed by social background of someone while sex refers to biological condition based on a reproductive organ (Arvidsson, 2009). Sex is something that is given since birth while gender is something that can change throughout someone life.

SFG: SFG or Systemic Functional Grammar deals with the structures of language and how they construct meaning (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). There are several terms which refer to different concepts but have similar name with semantics, for example, *verbal* in semantics and systemic functional grammar refer to the slightly different concept. Apart from it, there are also several terms which are different but referring to an identical concept, for example, *verb* is replaced by the term *process*.

Discourse: Foucault (as cited in Wodak & Meyer, 2009) states that discourse is a kind of device that is used to do something because it has power in it. On the other hand, Van dijk (as cited in Wodak & Meyer, 2009) describes discourse as a social phenomenon which includes linguistics, social interactions, social practices etc. The definition of discourse used in this study is that of Fairclough.

Sexuality: Sexuality has different meanings depending on its aspects (Jones, 2011). For example, in biological aspect, it is about anatomical structures, hormones etc. In this study, the sexuality's meaning is taken from its social aspect. It is about gender identity of individuals that is learned through various sources such as family, friends, media, society etc. (Jones, 2011).

1.7 Organization of the Paper

The organization of this paper is divided into five chapters. The first one is *Chapter I (Introduction)*; it provides general information of the study which consists of background of the study, the research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the clarification of key terms, and the organization of the paper. The second one is *Chapter II (Theoretical Framework)*; it presents the explanation of theoretical frameworks used in the study. The third one is *Chapter III (Research Methodology)*; it describes the method of this study which contains research design, data collection, and data analysis. The fourth one is *Chapter IV (Finding and Discussion)*; it provides the result of the study. The last is *Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions)*; it presents the conclusion based on the findings and suggestions.