

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background, reason for choosing the topic, research question, aim of the study, research method, text analysis, classification of terms and organization of paper.

### 1.1 Background

Women are positioned as subject to men. They are also represented as sentimental and stupid. The most influential writer, a French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau cited in Schultheiss (2005) article, states that women were sentimental and frivolous. He also argues that women were naturally suited to be subordinate companions of men.

Subordination of women can be seen since along time ago in several countries in the world. Patriarchal or male-dominated society was where women had to live. In the second place was where women had to sit. This subordination could be seen in several aspects of life such as education, political and economics.

In America, subordination of women could be seen in the inequality in education, political and economy. Women had no same opportunities to get higher education as men did. Women also had no

same opportunities to sit in the government and vote for their own voice. In economy, they had no right to have their own property as men did. For women who were working they got less salary than men. The similar condition also happens in England.

In the past, Indonesia was not free from women's subordination. Women were not allowed to go to school to get higher education. Many parents thought that women did not need to go to school since eventually their role would end in the kitchen and took care of their husband and children. Subordination of women could also be seen in other countries such as Egypt, China and some other countries in Africa.

There are many experts' citations that show women inferiority and subordination, such as:

Women have been called queens for a long time, but the kingdom given them isn't worth ruling.

Louisa May Alcott (2005)

It is a man's place to rule, and a woman's to yield. He must be held up as the head of the house, and it is her duty to bend so uncomplainingly to his wishes, that the rest of the household will follow her example, and treat him with the due respect his sex demands.

Sarah Ann Sewell (2005)

Aristotle says that the female is female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities, and St Thomas Aquinas believed that woman is 'imperfect man'.

(Selden, 1993, p.203)

Society, being codified by man, decrees that woman is inferior; she can do away with this inferiority only by destroying the male's superiority.

Simone de Beauvoir (2005)

As Beauvoir says that she can do away with this inferiority only by destroying the male's superiority and feminism movement was a movement in destroying it. According to Ratna (2004, p.184) feminism is the women's movement to reject all kinds of subordination, marginalization and inferiority by the dominant culture in political, economy, and generally in society life.

Initially, women's movement had been started in the 18<sup>th</sup> century during a period of intense intellectual activity known as the Age of Enlightenment. Here political philosophers in Europe argued that all individuals were born with natural right that made them free and equal. Nevertheless, this initial movement did not take a great change into women's condition since their lower education.

However, women's movement that brought women into crucial changes occurred in two major waves. The first wave began around the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, women in the United States, England and in another place campaigned to gain suffrage -- the right to vote. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century women in many countries have been achieved their demand. Virginia Woolf and Simone De Beauvoir were the first wave feminists who gave a great contribution to women's movement through their writing. As explained by Selden (1993, p.207) Virginia Woolf with *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Three Guineas* (1938) and Simone De Beauvoir with *The Second Sex* (1949) both writings concerned with

women's disadvantages compared to men and men's discrimination against women. The struggle in the first wave was for the equality in politics, economy, social and education.

The second wave occurred during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, when the struggle by African Americans to achieve racial equality inspired women to re-establish their own struggle for equality. as explained by Selden (1993, p.211), the second wave feminism was also noticed by the publication of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). In the second wave feminism the area of asking for equality extended into sexual differences such as biology, experience, discourse, unconscious, and social and economic conditions.

Although feminism movement had been started since a long time ago but the echo could be heard until now. Feminism still becomes hot issue to be analyzed and criticized in many countries. Feminism movement had brought its influence in many aspects of life including literature.

Kenyon (1991, p.1) says that within patriarchal system, women had a different relationship to language than men and they had been marginalised or stereotyped in everyday language including in literature. Novel is one of the results of literary works; most of them are men's production in which women are stereotyped as mother, wife and

gentleness. One way to analyze women's representation in the novel is by using feminism criticism.

Ratna (2004, p.192) says that "literary feminism sociologically came from the understanding of women's inferiority". It influenced how women were represented in the novel. Women were portrayed as a gentle and weak creature while men as a smart and authoritative figure.

The novel *Aku Lupa Bahwa Aku Perempuan* and *Butterfly Dreams: Belenggu Itu Bernama Cinta*, written by male Egyptian writer Ihsan Abdul Qudus, tell about a woman as the main character. It is about the turbulence of women in finding the meaning of life, happiness, and freedom. It is about ambition, career, and love. Both novels tell about beautiful, independent and smart women who lived in the society which theoretically regards women and men equal. Thus, the novel then was analyzed through feminism criticism perspective how women were represented in the novels.

## **1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic**

Some people share their experience and feeling through writing. The results could be poem, novel etc. They wrote what they thought and saw in their surrounding, although not all of their works were the reflection from the society.

Literary works, carefully selected to meet their personal needs, invite them in not only as participants, but also as spectators, giving them the opportunity to watch themselves through others. Reading literary works thus constitute a psychological dialogue, to enhance understanding of life.

Alwasilah (2001, p. 31)

From the definition above, people could see the reflection of life in the society from literary works (in this respect is novel). According to Endraswara (2003, p.146) feminist literary criticism is a criticism which focuses on the role of women and how women are represented in the literary works (novel).

Seeing those considerations, this research paper attempts to analyze the novel *Aku Lupa Bahwa Aku Perempuan* and *Butterfly Dreams: Belunggu Itu Bernama Cinta*, by using feminist criticism, since both novels are told about the struggle of women as the main characters to find their freedom in choosing their own life. Further, it focused on the women characters in both novels.

### **1.3 Research Question**

This study is expected to answer the following:

How are women represented in the novels?

#### **1.4 Aim of Study**

The aim of study as the researcher intended was:

To investigate how women are represented in the novels.

#### **1.5 Research Method**

In this research, the researcher used a qualitative research and descriptive method by using feminist literary criticism perspective.

According to Ratna (2004, p.46) a qualitative research on the whole is a research that makes use interpretation ways in a descriptive method. Meanwhile, descriptive method is the method to find tendency, facts and situations accurately and systematically (Riyanto, 2001, p. 23).

The researcher used feminism literary analysis to criticize and investigate how women were represented in the novels.

To make this study more comprehensive and reliable, the researcher explored feminism, read and find out more feminism theory from related references such as books and articles.

## **1.6 Text Analysis**

The data were taken from the textual evidence such as explicit utterances, women's thought and action, other commentary towards women characters in the novel.

Furthermore, feminist literary criticism was used to analyze the data since the research focused on women characters regarding how women are represented in the novel. Later, other theoretical foundations related to feminism were employed in order to support the analysis.

## **1.7 Classification of Terms**

In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding some terms used in this paper are clarified as follows:

1. According to Oxford dictionary, representation is the action of representing somebody.
2. Women are adult female human being (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).
3. Feminism, according to Oxford dictionary, is a belief in the principle that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men.



## **1.8 Organization of The Paper**

### **Chapter I : Introduction**

In this section the researcher explained the background of the study. It includes background, reason for choosing the topic, research question, aim of study, research method, classification of terms, text analysis and organization of paper.

### **Chapter II : Theoretical Foundation**

This section explained the theoretical foundation related the study.

### **Chapter III : Data Presentation**

This chapter provided the research methodology including the research method, research procedure, subject of the research, and text analysis.

### **Chapter IV : Discussion**

In this chapter, the researcher presented, analyzed and discussed the data.

### **Chapter V : Conclusions and Suggestions**

In the last chapter, from the discussions in the previous chapter, the researcher drew some conclusions and some suggestions to further research.

