

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature cannot be separated from language. Literature is a form of human creativity in passing on information, opinions or ideas and also to express feeling and thought.

Prose is a part of literature. This literary work is divided into two kinds: old prose and new prose. Novel is one kind of new-prose that loved by many people. Novel is a long piece of fiction and to be much more complex in structure than short stories. Novel is an imaginary literary work that discusses about human life intricacies with their problems.

Novel is formed by two elements: intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements of a novel are the elements that are found in the framework of the novel. There are theme, characterization and character, setting plot, point of view, style and intention. Furthermore, the extrinsic elements of a novel are the writer's life history and the background of the story.

In a novel, that is always a main story that gives a whole structure. Then, from that main structure, it is explained another story that will support the main story in a novel. Plot, characterization, and theme can be

elaborated. A novel can emphasize the story on someone's character, plot or theme.

In analyzing a novel as literary work, literary criticism could facilitate this process. It could help the readers in appreciating and comprehending literary works. Literary criticism enables the readers to capture the meaning and value of the work. It could also avoid the misinterpretation toward the works due to different horizons and visions between reader's expectation and the author's and the ambiguity of language use. The reader will be able to comprehend the work beyond the work itself. In other word, literary criticism could become a bridge for the readers and the literary works.

One of the theoretical frameworks is feminist literary criticism. It is aimed at disclosing patriarchal oppressions in the texts as outside the texts, which may affect political and social situation.

The feminist literary criticism tries to reclaim the place for women writers. Feminist literary criticism politically aims to expose the patriarchal practice and attitudes which questions about the patriarchal universal definition of what constitutes knowledge in order to break social, political and cultural system. It focuses both in assessing women writers in the past that were hidden from history and also the development of new forms of literary works and critical studies.

Feminist literary criticism becomes a theoretical issue used in criticizing literary works, especially in women's writing. Initiated in 1960s,

feminist literary criticism is used as a tool to criticize many literary works. *The feminine mystique* (1963) written by Betty Friedan criticized the dominant cultural image of the successful and happy American woman as a housewife and mother. Friedan promotes women's ideal reality within the domestic realm; this mystique has reduced the identity of women sexual and social passivity. Feminist criticism becomes a challenge to the traditional norms of English studies in the 1970s. In addition, it became a part of women liberation movement.

Male domination was the issue that the feminists try to reconstruct. Male domination is the issue dealt with many women writers. The women inferiority over men is tried to be changed. The literary history women image of female fictional characters has brought the criticism among women writer such as Simone De Beauvoir, Kate Millet, and others. Woman writers in literary works, which were formerly dominated by men writers, presents women images in the men's point of view. Thus, the readers interpret the image of women in the novel from the men interpretation.

Women writers, in writing their work -creating their character- should be free from the patriarchal norms that can influence her works in creating the characters in her works. Women whose writing focused on women's characters try to find her own identity as a woman. Their works are categorized as woman writing. In women writing, women are created as a subject character, a center of the story not only a lover, a wife or a mother of

somebody. Women are created as a role model, a protagonist character that can create a good and independent image as a woman. Not only have they become a character with dependency over man, nor weak and irrational as men created them in their works.

Women images in the literary works should become a role model for the reader. A character created by women writers should be able to influence the reader. The representation of women characters in many works both of men's and women's writing is the object of the feminist literary criticism. Sara Mills is one of many feminists whose criticism focused on the representation of women images in literary works including novel text, poetry etc.

Based on the issue above, the writer tries to analyze a novel written by a woman writer. "Message from Nam "written by Danielle Steel is a suitable work to analyze by using the feminist perspective. Published in 1991, the novel becomes a best seller because Danielle Steel successfully created a powerful portrait of woman. She raised the issue of marriage, women inferiority over man, and women independence.

Steel works in delivering the woman figure of their inferiority position constructed by social, political and cultural system are full of the idea of woman struggle to break men superiority over women. This study is rolling to see the representation of women's reality experiences in women's works.

However, patriarchal system and women struggles over it become the main issue of the study.

1.2 Limitation of the Study

This research provides an analysis in light of feminist literary criticism -a relatively new tool to analyze any forms and description of injustices toward women and representation of male dominance in the society. However, the issues of feminism as so broad in dynamic in the sense that it continues to develop, thus the writer tries to limit the study.

What the writer tries to limit are:

1. The representation of woman image only through the character and characterization and the theme of the novel.
2. How ideological feminist critics view the representation by identifying characters and author's way in delivering story.

1.3 Research Questions

To specify the problem that will be investigated, the writer states the form of questions as follows:

1. What are the representation of woman image through the character and characterization and the theme of the novel?
2. How do ideological feminist critics view the representation?

1.4 Aims of the Study

Given the above research questions, this research is aimed at the following:

1. To draw representation of women image through the character and characterization and the theme of the novel
2. To know how ideological feminist critics view the representation

1.5 The Methodology

The study will be conducted in the perspective of feminist literary criticism. The novel will be analyzed by means of descriptive method and qualitative approach. According to Nazir (1983), descriptive method is a method used in the researches of an object, a set of condition, a system of thought and an event that take place in the present time. Therefore, the goal of descriptive research is to describe or illustrate the fact, characteristics, and relationship of the researcher element systematically, factually, and accurately. Meanwhile, a descriptive method is used in order to provide a systematic description of a situation or condition of a phenomenon as factual and accurate as possible.

The qualitative approach based on Morgan and Drury (2003) offers an interpretative flexibility that is both reflexive and reactive to the concepts and theories, which emerge from data. It is not focused on answering a hypothesis, but it is more emphasized on the research elements in order to

understand the problem that the writer will examine. The qualitative approach gave the writer some advantages. It provides a foundation for the production of data through a variety of sources and means.

1.6 Data Collection and Data Analysis

In collecting the data, the writer attempts to find relevant sources with regard to feminism as literary theory or criticism. First, the writer tries to search for the novel that will be viewed through the perspective of feminism. To further investigate the patriarchal ideology in terms of gender roles in the novel, feminist literary criticism is employed.

In terms of data analysis, as commonly feminist literary works display women as the main character, irrespective of whether they are acted as the main characters, the protagonist, or something, these characters are identified in relation to men's characters.

In identifying women's characters, the writer investigates women's role in society. And then, the writer identifies women's characteristics and behavior from the description given by the writer of the novel. Next, women's utterances and activities are taken into consideration. In this respect, the writer identifies women's sentences, dialogues, feelings, and action. This will help us know women's frame of thought as well as their characteristic. To assist us in gaining a complete portrait of women's

characters, the writer also investigates men's characteristics by identifying his sentences or speech and his action over women.

The last is observing the stance of novel toward the author's work. It is observed by analyzing the author's way in portraying the characters, presenting the nuances, the setting that influence the author during which the writer wrote, and finding her biography and the criticism on her literary works.

5. Organization of the Paper

The paper will be presented into:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION. This chapter deals with the presentation of the background of the study, the limitation of the study, research questions, aims of the study, methodology, data collection and data analysis, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK. This chapter deals with the discussions of the theory of novel and its intrinsic elements, feminism, and feminist literary criticism.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD. This chapter elaborates the way of conducting the study. It also deals with the method of the research, stages of the research, subject of the research, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis.

CHAPTER IV DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION. This chapter mainly deals with the data presentation in the form of textual evidences. This chapter will also discuss data findings. It presents the representation of woman image and the feminist view toward it. The discussion starts with the elements of the novel that focus on theme, and character and characterization, and then analyze it from the feminist perspectives to find the main issue of the novel.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION. This is the last chapter of the study, which consists of two parts. The first part puts forward conclusions from the result of the findings and discussions in the previous chapter. The second part puts forward the suggestions that are expected to give benefits and inputs for the readers who are interested in literature and need for improvement of English literature in university.

