

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the reason for choosing the topic, the scope of the study, the research questions, the aim of the study, methodology, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

People create literature to share their thought about their real life, experience and imagination. They express the ideas which they think is appropriate to share with the readers in many sort of literary works (Canning 1987). In the part of the readers, people read literary works for pleasure. Most readers are interested in getting involved in the situation depicted in the story, for literature may introduce us to a new world of fantasy and experience.

Literature serves not only as an entertainment but also as a media to share ideas and ideology that can portray human life and values that exist in the society. Related to the issues in real life, in recent years the awareness of women issues has been increasing. Women start to question about their roles and positions in society as evidenced by the woman's writer writing about women. For instance the novel *Shanghai Baby* which is written by Zhou Wei Hui in 2002 reflects the women issues in China. It shows the experiences of a woman who lives in patriarchal society in China. In this novel the main woman character experiences many pressures from her society, as this novel depicts the practice of patriarchal

values in China. The novel is banned in China as this novel depicts issues that challenges and against traditional expectation to women in china. It may prove that women's struggle can be mediated through literary works. There are many kinds of woman issues raised in literary works, one of the issues is about freedom. The novel that the writer analyzed is a novel entitled *Veil of Roses* written by Laura Fitzgerald which was published in 2007. This novel exposes the issues about freedom; it tells about an Iranian woman's struggles who leaves her country and moves to America for her independence and better life.

The novel is written by a woman author and it might reflect the ideas and perspective of feminism. For this reason, the writer is interested in conducting a literary analysis based on Feminist Literary Criticism focusing on existentialist feminism. Existentialist feminism is a theory developed by French writer Simone de Beauvoir, with her book *The Second Sex* (1949). In her book she provides insights for women's liberation. The ideas are related to the story of *Veil of Roses* in which the author portrays the differences between a woman experiences in the two different countries, America and Iran. Fitzgerald also portrays the main woman character struggle for her independence. Hence Existentialist Feminism is suitable to apply as a framework in attempt to analyze the freedom issues in the novel because it provides program for women liberation.

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

The novel *Veil of Roses* provides opportunity to look at how the idea of freedom is contrasted in America and in Iran. It compares how women's life in

America and in Iran. The novel is about an Iranian woman who left her country and moved to America in order to get a new life and new freedom. In this text freedom seems to be constructed through the main woman's character experiences.

It is an issue of resistance against the patriarchal society in Iran displayed in the novel that makes the writer interested in doing an existentialist feminism analysis on the text. The comparison between two different freedoms that main woman character experienced creates the curiosity to see how the freedom is actually constructed.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to the analysis of freedom issues in the novel. It observes the issues of freedom which are experienced by the main woman character, framed by existentialist feminism theory. The analysis observed the issues of freedom as experienced by woman character in American and in Iran.

1.4 Research Question

This study is conducted to answer the following questions:

- How is freedom constructed in the novel?
- What meanings can be derived from these constructions using existentialist feminism principle?

1.5 Aims of the Study

The study endeavors to:

- Investigates how the freedom constructed in the novel.
- Captures meaning from the freedoms construction framed by Existentialist Feminism theory.

1.6 Research Procedure

This paper adopts qualitative approach which focuses on specific situation or people and it emphasizes on words rather than numbers (Maxwell,1996). It means that the data will presents as descriptive results. The writer employs a case study to gather enough information about a particular person, social setting, event, or group to permit the researcher to effectively understand how the subject operates or functions (Berg, 2007: 283). A case study selected to give an in-depth understanding of a particular phenomenon or event due to its focus on one single phenomenon or just a few phenomena. (Berg, 2007: 285).

This paper presents a textual analysis of the novel entitled *Veil of roses* with the use of existentialist feminism as the theoretical framework. The data collected and analysed are words, sentences and utterances of the main character in the novel which worth to elaborate in the view of existentialist feminism theory.

As the first step in conducting the analysis, close reading was applied in identifying the data/textual evidences (words, sentences and utterances) in the novel. Furthermore, the data collected from the novel was classified and presented

to reveal the conception of main woman character's freedom. Then, the data was analyzed by using existentialist feminism theory.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

- **Existentialist Feminism** is a theory developed by a French feminist Simone de Beauvoir who states that patriarchal system defines what it means to be women and put women in subordinate position and considered to be "the other" (Bressler, 1998).
- **Patriarchy:** Literally, patriarchy is a rule by father or male authority. In general, the word patriarchy is usually used to refer to the authority of men, the system of family-bond that puts the importance on the line generation of father (Sugihastuti and Suharto, 2002:65)
- **Freedom** is "the state of not being under control and being able to do whatever one wishes" (Password dictionary, 1999)

1.8 The Organization of the Paper

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter consists of background, reason for choosing the topic, scope of the study, research question, aims of the study, research procedure, clarification of terms and the organization of the paper.

Chapter 2: Theoretical Foundation

This chapter covers some theories about social construction, feminist literary criticism and existentialist feminism.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter deals with method of the research, research procedure, research context, and techniques of data collection and data analysis.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

This chapter consists of findings and discussion of the research.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Suggestion

This chapter covers conclusion and suggestion which are related to the research.

