

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, the scope of the study, research, questions, the aim of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1. Background of the Study

In general, men and women are usually treated differently because of their sex and gender difference. Sex is the difference of biological sexuality between men and women, while gender is a social construction. Here means that the different treatment between men and women is not only derived from biological difference but also from the socialization that is how men and women are expected to behave in society (Echols cited in Tong, 2004: 71).

The system of sex and gender is a set of arrangement by which a society transforms the biological sexuality (anatomy, hormone) in to products of human activity (Rubin cited in Tong, 2004: 72). For this reason, the patriarchal ideas use the biological sexuality between men and women as a basic to build series of identity of being masculine and feminine which provides power for men and oppress women.

The oppression of women is also triggered by a research toward biological sexuality which shows that men for most are bigger than women in terms of for

instance weight, height, brain volume and physical power. These differences are used by patriarchy to discriminate, marginalize, and subordinate women. For example, men have a bigger chance to study than women because men have bigger brain volume which enable to accept more information of knowledge well (the women's brain volume which is smaller is taken to be the reason of women's inferiority).

As have been mentioned, men and women are differentiated by the system of sex and gender. The difference of men and women according to sex is distinguished by the biological external difference of genital organ. The difference of sex is understood to represent the physical differentiation as male and female. While, men and women according to gender relates to gender role that is how male and female are expected to behave and treated in society. The term which is used is feminine and masculine. To be feminine and masculine are determined by the characterization of femininity and masculinity which is generally accepted by the society. There are stereotypes of feminine and masculine, for instance that men are logical, strong, unemotional, career oriented, aggressive and independent, while women are illogical, weak, emotional, family oriented and dependent (Cohen and Orbuch, 1998: 54).

Since those stereotypes and sex and gender matter are mostly in people's mind including in the writer's mind and happen in real life, the writer is interested in and challenged to know the finding about sex and gender matter issue. And one of the mediums to explore gender issue is novel. Klarer (1975: 10) stated that novel is the mouthpiece of relativism that is emerging in all aspects of cultural discourse. It means

that novel is one of the mediums to express, convey and explore ideas about particular issue in life. Novel also consists the main elements of plot, character, narrative perspective and setting which can be analyzed. And it employs those elements in a very deliberate manner (Klarer, 1975: 11). It means that novel is created purposefully. For this reason the writer chose novel as the object of analysis to find about sex and gender matter.

The novel which was the object of analysis is *Samira dan Samir* by Siba Shakib and the main character was the focus of analysis. This novel explored gender issue which was seen through the main character who experienced identity change from woman to man. The main character did not have the freedom to live and undergo her life as a woman. As a woman, she was constructed to be a man. This phenomenon of identity change is interesting to discuss because as a woman, the main character was acknowledged and treated in masculine manner. In this research, the writer focused the analysis on the main character particularly on what changes that happen to the main character and what makes the main character's identity change.

1.2. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The difference of gender identity is obtained when a baby boy or girl was born (Landis, 1989: 190). This gender identity is differentiated in terms of physical appearance and temperament. A baby boy or girl is considered a woman or a man because she or he is assumed to be so and then behave to do so. The baby is treated

one way if she is a woman and another way if he is a man and she or he turns out that way.

Thus, when a baby girl was born, she will be assumed and treated a girl's way. However, when a baby girl is assumed and treated a boy's way, she may experience an identity change. This identity change is known as trans men that is the one who was born as a woman but identified as a man (www.gires.org.uk/dysphoria.php).

This identity change was reflected in Shakib's *Samira dan Samir* and it was the focus to be discussed in the research because in this novel the main character faced identity change. The main character faced identity crisis when she was a child. She was confused about her identity, whether she was a girl or a boy. Then, she realized that she was a girl but her father treated, convinced and constructed her to be a man. Furthermore, the fact that family influenced the identity construction was reflected in this novel. Since the construction of her father, main character's identity as a woman was forgotten and changed to be a man. This identity change faced by the main character in the novel was the reason for the writer to choose *Samira dan Samir* as the object of the research.

1.3. The Scope of the Study

The main focus of this research was the identity change of the main character. It especially focused on what changes that happen to main character and what makes the main character's identity change. It also aimed to find the meaning which derived

from this identity change from the feminist perspective. The data were collected from the novel through: (1) action of the main character, (2) the appearance of the main character, (3) the speech of the character (what the main and other character speak).

1.4. Research Questions

The research was to find the answer to the following questions:

1. What changes that happen to the main character?
2. What makes the main character's identity change?
3. What meanings can be derived from this identity change from a feminist perspective?

1.5. The Aim of the Study

This study was aimed at:

1. Describing what changes that happen to the main character.
2. Finding out what makes the main character's identity change.
3. Finding out the meaning of identity change in the novel based on the feminist perspective.

1.6. Research Methodology

This research was conducted based on the qualitative method and analyzed by using descriptive study. Qualitative method is emphasized by means of description not numerical measures (Best, 2003). It means that the data are collected in non numerical forms and the discussions of data are in the form of explanation about the

findings. The research employed descriptive study of the identity change of the main character. Descriptive study is a research method which functions to describe the existing phenomenon either natural or fictional phenomenon. (Sukmadinata, 2007: 72). Text analysis was used to analyze the identity change of the main character. It was addressed to know and understand meaning, position and relation of the existing events in the text. This research was done by collecting, organizing, analyzing and interpreting the data. The data were collected by identifying the evidences related to identity change of the main character and discussed by using feminist perspective.

1.7. Clarification of Terms

1. Main character

Main character usually is a dynamic character that grows and changes during the story. (www.brainstorm-services.com/wcu-2005/fiction-craft-character.html). The point of the story might be to reveal this change. In this novel, Samira's character grew and changed during every sequence of events and her identity change and her existence dominated the story. Regarding with this research, the main character was Samira who experienced an identity change.

2. Identity change

Identity change is known as trans men or women (www.gires.org.uk/dysphoria.php). Trans men means those who were born with female characteristics but identifying as men, while trans women is those who were born with male characteristics but identifying as women. In this research, identity

change was trans men because the main character was born with female characteristics but she was identified and constructed to be a man.

1.8. Organization of Paper

The paper is presented into five chapters. Each chapter is divided into subtopics that elaborate the investigated issue.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, the scope of the study, research, questions, the aim of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms and organization of the paper.

Chapter II is theoretical foundation. It consists of novel, characters, synopsis, feminism and feminist literary criticism.

Chapter III is methodology. It discusses method of the research, stages of the research, subject of the research, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is findings and discussions. It explores the findings and the discussion of the data obtained from the novel.

Chapter V is conclusions and suggestions.

Reference ends the paper.