

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Feminist Approach

Feminism upholds equality between two genders, and this it really against a contradictory, anti, and free form of oppression, domination, hegemony, injustice and violence (Collins, 1991). It was started by the group of women who wanted an equal right in expressing their thought and what they want. This gender equality term was firstly pioneered by white women who wanted freedom in choosing work, opinion, and others. So far, even now women are still considered as the second gender, grouped as weak and not so important. But unfortunately, Feminism which should include all women ends up by only representing the majority race.

Feminism comes from the word "femme" which means woman (Collins Dictionary, 2010). As mentioned before, the word "Woman" means to represent all women without exception. Black feminism is one of the branches of feminism. The term black feminism become a hope for the Colored Women in achieving a major change in social justice based on historical and struggle against race and gender oppression experienced by black African-American women. However, in the post-colonial era, the practice of feminism only represented the majority which back then this term only work and refer to the Whites, and this also can still be found even

today. As we know, the oppression they experienced not only came from home, it reaches a wider scope of the environment, such as the working place, their communities, even in the whole society. We can conclude that this movement has not been fully implemented well. This is what made Patricia Hill Collins issue a theory we know as "Black Feminist Thought". This theory encourages equality in women which should be even without differentiating any race and ethnicity.

2.1.1. Black Feminist Thought

The theory of black feminism was developed to revise a wrong concept and point of view in the previous feminism theory and movement. Collins (1991) argues that feminism has generally been interpreted as a movement for Whites and only applies to the Whites. The theory of feminism that we know should represent "All Women" does not apply to Black Women, they don't get the same privileges where they actually should. The previous Feminism Movement still carried racism and became a tool used by Whites Women to get rid of Black African-American Women from this change. This is why it is important for them to raise The Opinion of Feminism from the view of Black Women.

Black feminism is a movement for African-American women to be able to see and understand that their identity makes them vulnerable to various types of oppression. Black feminism argues that sexism, class oppression, and racism are the pressures they can get and that they get together. The White Women who dominated the Feminism movement did not realize the difference they and African-American women experienced. Indirectly, white women fail to make the feminist movement

that they pioneered in claiming that all women must get the same equality. In other words, what they claim is not properly applied because gender discrimination itself contains racial discrimination.

2.1.1.1. Black Women Oppression

Patricia Hill Collins developed her idea in *Black Feminist Thought* to spread the image of Black Women being victims of oppression. After being suppressed by white ideology, they were also ignored by Feminists who were initially pioneered by whites. The race became another problem for black women after getting pressured in terms of gender. All forms of oppression that occurred in the US mostly came from white people who consider themselves as upper-class people. They held the principle that some people from the upper classes had the right to oppress black people who were categorized as lower-class people. This white ideology places black people inferior, especially black women. Black women have experienced much manipulation, oppression, and deception by the dual power of patriarchy and racism. Inequality and disrespect are the pressures that black women have endured until now. This challenged Black Women to spread awareness to all people so that they can end the cycle that they always go through. It became a duty for every Black Woman that they need to build greater awareness in the hope that they can walk in the same path with men and also with other racial women.

2.1.1.1.1. Matrix of Domination

The matrix of domination or matrix of oppression is a sociological concept that shows the problems of oppression which deal with race, class, and gender, that are

linked, even though it is classified as separate social classifications. The theory also refers to other forms of classification, like sexual identity, religion, or age (Collins, 1991). As stated before, it is possible for someone with different characteristics to experienced domination. The characteristic that can affect individuals mainly refers to race, age, and gender. The Matrix of Domination conceptualizes the truth that oppression is created by privilege and indirectly we are all classified into a number of privileged statuses, no matter if we are oppressed (Collins, 1991). The result of the privilege that refers to oppression makes us think more critically in examining the role played by individuals in creating oppression and taking advantage of it. One example we can take from slavery, economically the advantage of forced labor is certainly their master. Thus it is important for them to maintain the slavery system in order to benefit from it.

2.1.1.1.2. Controlling Images

Controlling images is negative stereotypical representation and image of black women (Collins, 1991). Patricia Hill Collins wanted to show how society portrays Black women with negative traits when others identify themselves to be superior. Black women are linked with certain stereotypes that make them always get any forms of oppression. These stereotypes form of Controlling Images make injustices in social relations look normal and natural, and cannot be avoided as a “part” of black women’s life. Black women are always positioned and categorized in something lower when it is being compared with the Privilege who consider themselves as Superior.

2.1.1.2. Black Women Resistance

Because of the many forms of oppression obtained by Black Women, it provoked them to put up a resistance. Various forms of pressure and negative stereotypes, of course make them tired of facing bad treatment during their lives. The form of resistance that they do is certainly based on the desire for change and the desire to obtain the same rights and equality in life. Not only that, this form of resistance is certainly a form of self-appreciation, which in other words is a form of knowing how valuable you are as a human being. This is also reflected in one of the concepts put forward by Collins known as Self-definition. Collins (1991) said that self-definition is "the power to name one's own reality". For her, the articulation of the resistance of Black Women to the bad stereotypes that portrayed Black Women is an important step in practicing self-definition. It's important for Black Women to know the value of themselves.

The rejection of the dominant definition of black women groups and the action of black women to impose their own self-definitions shows the "collective awareness of black women", it is quoted by Collins (1991) from Maria Stewart's 1831 speech. Expressions of awareness and the establishment of black women are an integral part of the development of Black Feminist Thought. Collins notes that a safe space for black women is one thing that is also important for them to have. Self-definition should not be hindered by silence or objectification. Another important part that Collins finds important to self-definition is Affirmation, and this can be found in the friendships and family relationships of black women. "The process of self-definition

as “a journey of internalized forms of expression to 'free mind'” said Collins (1991) in order to emphasize its significance in the formation of the collective consciousness of black women.

2.1.1.2.1. Women’s Consciousness

Awareness of change push people to change their living conditions (Collins, 1991). Resistance motivates Black Women to have the same rights and opportunities as White Women, especially to be seen as "Women" without differences because of their skin color. US Black Women experts have discussed and explored this in person, as some have experienced it for a long time. As mentioned by Collins (1991), The results of these ideas helped black women overcome many cases, transcending the limits of oppression that intersected between race, class, sex and sexuality. Many Black Women have full awareness to want change to voice what they are experiencing, this is not because they feel they are victims, but they feel they are strong, they are survivors. Their actions and thoughts show that it is not only important for their point of view and self-definition, but also it is important for the represent of them in society.

2.1.1.2.2. Standpoint

Resistance is not only influenced by the awakening of consciousness that they get, it is also based on the strength of their standpoint. The similarity of opinions and experiences experienced by the Black Women gave strength to be confident with their opinions and gave courage to them to take the fight. The importance of this Black Woman Standpoint is as a reference that will be used by agents of change for

Black Women to ensure their future. They are for sure wanted to be seen as a legitimate US citizen and also as someone who has a stronger position to be able to involve more in the country they are now living. In this regard, Collins (1991) agreed by saying that this approach emphasizes the importance of black women's ideas and actions in using this point of view to meet current political, economic and social challenges.

2.2. Previous Research

This proposal is not the first to discuss about Black Feminist Thought, oppression, and resistance. Before this, there were some studies that also discussed about the related feminism. The discussion of feminism comes from various sources which are not the same as the novels that researchers use, but the topics discussed are still the same and related. The purpose of this is to find out the differences between what the researcher will write with other research that has been done. There are several previous studies that are talked about different kinds of approaches related to the topic that the researchers discuss with different points of view. In essence, the researcher concludes the opinions of another researcher who observes Black Feminist Thought, oppression, and resistance in many different kinds of literature for comparison of this research.

The first journal to use feminism approach was written by Laily Rosdiana, Imam Basuki, and Erna Cahyawati (2014). In their research, they discussed about the rebellion of black women against the patriarchal system, racism, and class conversion

as social norms of society. The researcher uses a qualitative method from which data from Sula's novels is written by Tony Morrison. The results from Rosdiana et al., (2014) showed that black women faced two oppressions such as the patriarchal system and racism. Therefore, it is hoped that this review of the journal will be useful for the struggle of black women who struggle against a system of patriarchy and racism.

The second journal was written by Tiara Amalia. In this study Amalia (2019) analyzed the Black Feminism Thought reflected on Maya Angelou's work in the poetry *Still I Rise*, *Phenomenal Woman*, and *Equality*. This study aims to find Black Feminist Thought which is also the theory from Collins in three poems by Maya Angelou through figurative language and imagery. Researchers use descriptive methods in analyzing data. This research focuses on analyzing figurative language, types of imagery, and black feminism in Maya Angelou's poetry. What the writer can conclude after analyzing is that the black woman in the poems is described as independent, strong, confident, brave, and outspoken (Amalia, 2019).

The third journal brought the Feminist approach as their focus of study on analyzing the struggle of an African-American woman in dealing with discriminatory treatment. This was written Tiara Febrianti, Agnes Setyowati H, and Ni Made Widisanti S (2012). The main character in the novel *Hidden Figures* is the subject of their research. Research uses qualitative methods to obtain data on matters that refer to feminism related to racial discrimination. The results of the discrimination encourage the main character to prove her quality that always considered underrate.

The fourth journal is taken from Jane Eyre's novel by Charlotte Brontë. The researcher of this journal is Tirza Patoding. The purpose of this journal itself is to investigate the emancipation of women in "Jane Eyre" novel by Charlotte Brontë. This research focuses on how the situation and action of women in a community in real life. The author uses the theory of feminism from Betty Friedan in *The Feminine Mystique* and uses descriptive methods. The results obtained by Patoding, (2013) reflected a women's emancipation through the female characters in the novel. Therefore, the woman in the novel called Jane Eyre gets her rights and known as an independent woman.

The fifth journal found using the Black Feminist Thought approach was written by Ratna Asmarani. Journal entitled "The Embodiment of The Black Feminist Spirit in Iola Leroy, The Female Mulatto Protagonist, in Frances Harper's Iola Leroy" aims to analyze the female protagonist character in the novel Iola Leroy. The novel reflects the spirit form of the characters associated with black feminism. In the study, researchers used criticism from feminist literature as an analytical framework related to Gynocriticism. As the result, Asmarani (2015) shows that the female mulatto protagonist who does not know that she has Black blood had to experience the oppression like slavery.

The sixth journal deals with the form of resistance. Researchers of this journal are La Bania and Milawaty (2019). The data were analyzed with Representation Theory by Stuart Hall and Social Class Theory by Karl Marx. The purpose of this study was to reveal the values built in the Kancil stories through the social class approach in

Indonesia. The researchers used descriptive-qualitative methods to process and obtain results from the data in this story. The results from La Bania & Milawaty (2019) showed that the Kancil story contains a representation of the class structure that occurs in social relations. These stories contain conflicts between social classes caused by inequality in ownership of power, where there are opposing parties acting as owners of power, while Kancil as class representation without power.

The seventh journal analyzes Balinese women in the field of Earth Dance. The study that led to this feminism approach was written by Luh Eka Margarita Setianingtyas, Rita Sutjiati Djohan, and Sugeng Trijanto. The method used by the author is a qualitative descriptive method, which is by reading and collecting the related information. This novel illustrates gender inequality experienced by Balinese women and the types of resistance of Balinese women against gender inequality with a feminist approach. The purpose of this study that the researchers (Eka Margarita Setianingtyas et al., 1983) wanted to describe the types of gender inequality faced by Balinese women and to describe the types of Balinese women's resistance to gender inequality in the novel Earth Dance by Oka Rusmini. The results of the research are finding forms of violence, infidelity, and bad stereotypes of Balinese women, and therefore they fight.

The eighth journal that uses Walters' feminist theory is analyzed by Tomi Arianto and Ambalegin. This research was conducted by connecting the concept of the scope of women developed by Barbara Welter with the data taken from "The Lowland" novel. Arianto & Ambalegin (2018) stated the concept from the theory refers to

women's space for movement tends to be limited by the existence of construction and indoctrination is one form of limiting women's movement without anyone realizing it. This study aims to reveal the form of indoctrination in the novel. As the results, there are reflected four forms of indoctrination contestation, (piety, purity, submission and household) in the novel "The Lowland" which is not only experienced by Gauri as a woman in the conventions of patriarchal society but also experienced by many women in India (Arianto & Ambalegin, 2018).

The ninth journal entitled "Women's Oppression on Characters of Women in Mars Need Mom Movie" was clearly using the feminism approach. In the study, the researchers Azizatur Rahma, Surya Sili, and Erna Wati analyzed the expressions from women characters. Researchers limited the characters in to two women characters to be analyzed, they are Milo's mom and Gribble's mom, who got oppressed by Supervisor who is also woman. The researchers (Rahma et al., 2017) wanted to show that oppression, can also occur from woman to woman. The aim that the researchers wanted to show from this journal is to show the forms of oppression that occur in female characters in the film "Mars Need Mom". The results of this study are, Mrs. Milo and Mrs. Gribble get several forms of oppression from the Supervisor, namely marginalization, powerlessness, exploitation and violence.

The tenth journal written by Taufik & Hasniar (2016) was using the racism approach. This journal discussed about racial injustice reflected in the movie "12 Years a Slave". This study aims to find out the type and impact of the 12 year racial injustice of being a slave toward the slaves. In doing the research, researchers used

descriptive qualitative to analyze the types of racial injustice and the effects of racial injustice. In this study, the researchers (Taufik & Hasniar, 2016) found that racial injustice violence can be found in this film. From the findings, the authors conclude that racial injustice by The Whites threatens physical and mental well-being is related to acts of oppression.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

In conducting this research, the researcher used the theory of Black Feminist Thought by Patricia Hill Collins as a guide in analyzing this study. This theory was developed by Collins as a representative for all Black Women who were oppressed, in terms of gender, race, sexuality, and others. In this analysis, the researchers find that the research can be linked to the theory put forward by Collins. The researcher draws the conclusion where the concept of Black Feminist Thought theory related to the research can be described like this.

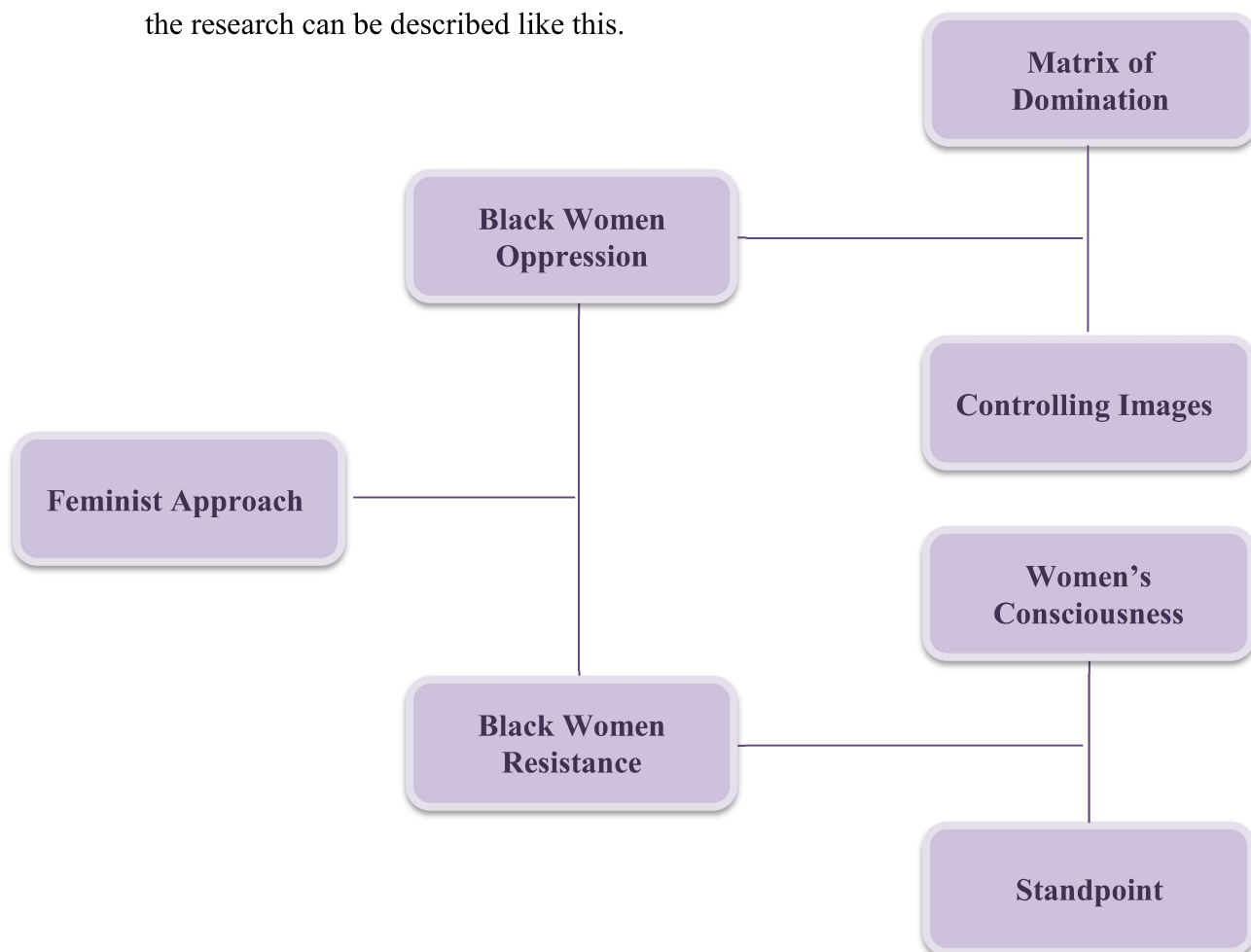


Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework