

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Feminist Approach

The feminist approach is one of several approaches used to analyze a literary work. Literary work is a place for feminists to carry out feminist literary criticism. In feminist criticism, literary works are used to explain and raise issues that are accepted by women. Novel is one of the literary works used in feminist criticism. One of the novels that contain feminist issues is *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood which the researcher uses in this research.

Feminist means a study that is used to analyze the existence of gender inequalities that are usually accepted by women. According to Purwanto (2009) in applying this approach it is used to state that both men and women have the same right to use their own decisions. The analysis that is studied in feminist is usually because women are treated differently from men. In feminist literary criticism, it is usually carried out to define, then build, and finally achieve gender equality in all fields, whether political, economic, personal, and social. According to Barry (2017) feminist is an approach that contains economic, political and social elements that can be used to explain the issues of feminism contained therein. To discuss feminist, Barry includes several books to support his opinion, they are Mary Wollstonecraft's

A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792), Olive Schreiner's *Women and Labor* (1911), Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (1949). In this research, the researcher used *The Second Sex* by Beauvoir theory to conduct this research.

2.2 Feminist Theory

According to Simone De Beauvoir (1949) men and women have differences so that they cannot be said to be the same. The difference according to Beauvoir, men are considered the default, while women are considered "the other". So it is said that humanity is a man, while women are a relative of men and not herself. Beauvoir reflected the relationship between ovum and sperm in living things (humans and animals), then she describes the subordination of women in terms of reproduction. The result shows that the value is not obtained from the results of comparisons biologically, but must be based on the ontological, economic, social, and physiological context.

Simone de Beauvoir(1949)said that women are "the other" her statement that "the other is special". Beauvoir stated that the "other" here is a privilege because it is "the way the One chooses to position himself". And writes that, "But the only earthly destiny reserved to the woman equal, child-woman, soul sister, woman-sex, and female animal is always man. In *The Second Sex* Beauvoir explains several feminist understandings to criticize feminist issues contained in literary works, there are existence, patriarchy and oppression. This understanding is used as the theory used to conduct this research.

2.2.1 Existence

Existence is taken from the word 'existere' which comes from two words, namely "ex" which means to come out and "stere" which means to appear. Broadly speaking existere means to appear, arise, exists, and has an actual existence. The definition of existence is divided into four meanings, first what is, second what has actuality, third everything that is experienced and emphasizes that something is there and last is perfection. In *The Second Sex*, Simon De Beauvoir explains that the existence of women is recognized as "the other". Biologically, women are likened to a uterus, an ovary, and she is female. Contrast to the "female" designation for women who are considered imprisoned in their gender, men feel proud to be dubbed a "male".

There are many things that make the existence of women seem different from men, who are often referred to as "the other". Simon De Beauvoir(1949)Beauvoir reveals in *The Second Sex* on the biology section that if the female is the carrier of the egg and the male is the carrier of the sperm, it is not something valid to prove the existence of living things. In addition, Beauvoir(1949)also explained that physically and biologically there are differences between men and women, differences in body shape, hair, skin texture. Men are considered more than women because women have less muscle strength than men, women have lower respiratory capacities, and women have smaller lungs and throats than men. Hemoglobin and blood in

women are also less so that women often experience anemia and lose strength by men.

Simon De Beauvoir(1949)revealed that connecting biological facts from various ontological, economic, social and psychological points of view. Basically, a species in achieving its state of existence is not only based on biological factors, but also through its transcendence to the world and to the future. So that there is no longer a difference in the name of "female" because it has limitations compared to male, because a woman's body is one of the important elements in her situation in the world. In the end, nothing valid was found in the biological facts explaining that women's existence was not recognized.

2.2.2 Patriarchy

Patriarchy is the origin word of patriarchy, which means in this case it is explained that the male role is the only one, central, and powerful ruler. Patriarchy is a social system in which a man has a leadership role and the main power holder and dominates politics, social rights, moral authority and property control. According to Simon De Beauvoir(1949), women began to be eliminated because of private ownership, which was caused by a history called Patrimoni (father line). The father is in control of the daughter. When patriarchy applies, men will forcibly take all women to own and get inheritance. When his daughter marries he will hand over her power to her

husband. His daughter who became a wife has become the property of her husband, so the wife deserves to be likened to a slave.

Simon De Beauvoir (1949) states if society rejects the existence of private ownership and rejects the existence of a family that has the integrity of patrimony in it, the role of women will be better and more developed. Many did not agree with this, because of the assumption that at that time women did not have sufficient education to create higher goals. However, according to Beauvoir (1949) patriarchal institutions can be destroyed through many feminist criticisms of the traditional nuclear family. She also supports a 'politics of equality' in which equality can only be achieved via an androgynous ideal (equal roles between masculine and feminine at the same time). So that there will be no more men and women, but only workers who are equal to each other. Finally, the principle of equality between women and men will get the same place because it has benefits from society.

2.2.3 Oppression

Oppression is a form of deviation that occurs in the social, political and economic environment. According to Cudd (2005) it means, which a person or group systematically and injustice exists or even restrictions are unfair, burdened, or reduced by one person or group of several power. Some of oppression that occurs around us can be seen or can still be felt. According to Simon De Beauvoir (1949), cases of oppression still occur in certain

categories that are able to dominate other categories. Simon also explained that inequality in numbers can also be a trigger for oppression between the majority against the minority. However, Simon mentioned that women in several countries such as Negroes, Americans and Jews are also a minority in that country.

In this case the ideas Simon De Beauvoir (1949) related to the existence of feminism, where women feel oppression that occurs due to differences between men and women. The forms of oppression felt by women today are not only in the form of violence but there is also oppression that is not visible, for example married women are not allowed to work, besides that there are also those who are not allowed to continue their education at a higher level. Some of it is the type of oppression that women still feel today.

2.2.4 Women Struggle

Women's struggle is one of the efforts made by women to achieve gender equality. Women struggle usually occurs because of unequal treatment between men and women such as oppression received by women by a man. According to Simone De Beauvoir (1949), oppression occurs because of differences between men and women based on biological factors. Beauvoir (1949) revealed that biological factors are not a valid basis for distinguishing between men and women. In the book *The Second Sex* Simon says that if there is an effort by women to do women struggle, one of them is stating the existence of women. Basically, a species in achieving its state of existence is

not only based on biological factors, but also through its transcendence to the world and to the future.

Previous research

Furthermore, after discussing the theory used by the researcher, the researcher added several previous studies to support this research. First, In a previous study “New Woman as Seen in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*” by Winandhini and Jatmiko (2020), this research is taken from the novel *Dracula* by Stoker (1986), which was published in the Victorian era. Around the 19th century there was a feminist movement in literary works so that feminists had aspirations to become the new women. In the novel *Dracula* the new women which is found from the characters Mina and Lucy their beauty and attractiveness is praised but on the other hand they have an "unfeminine" side such as their independence and intelligence which is considered a threat to men. Furthermore, in this research the method used includes close reading to analyze the character of the novel through the new perspective.

The next, in previous studies by Utomo and Supriyanto(2018), previous researchers examined the culture contained in the patriarchal *Suti* novel where there are oppression actions that are accepted by women, for a man and women are considered to have no value. From the previous research, the aim was to find out social strata, the style of language used, motives and forms and the oppression accepted by women in *Suti* novel by Sapardi Djoko

Damono. Which previously researchers also used the approach of literary sociology and feminist approaches. This research resulted in, among others, emphasizing the behavior and character of the characters through a study of the language style used in Javanese terms. Furthermore, the social strata are the aristocratic and ordinary classes, and in an effort to maintain social class.

The next, in previous studies is “The gender equality struggles in the novel of Perempuan Berkalung Sorban and Gadis Pantai” written by Muzakka and Suyanto (2020). This research uses a feminist approach and a sociological approach. This research explains about the existence of patriarchy which makes oppression accepted by women, this is carried out by men. The result of this research is the discovery of several oppressions contained in the novel, due to social conditions. Furthermore, due to the difficult social situation, women's struggles are difficult to do.

The next previous research is “The Feminist Voice in Chopin’s *The Awakening* and Atwood’s *The Edible Woman*” written by Ahmed (2020). This research paper uses a feminist approach. The data sources are taken from the novels *The Awakening* and *The Edible women*. These two novels were appointed because of the struggle of women in fighting for their freedom. The results of this study found that there was resistance by women in fighting for their freedom in a patriarchal social environment.

The last research is “Representation of Woman Existentialist Reflected from Archetypal Image Analysis in *The Chrysanthemums Story*” written by

Sirait and Arianto (2020). This research is taken from *The Chrysanthemums Story* by John Steinbeck in 1937. This research is a qualitative descriptive study, uses archetypal image approach by Jung (2013) and Beauvoir (1949). The result of this research is that through the archetypal images contained in *The Chrysanthemum Story*, it is found that there are 4 archetypal images, namely symbols, personas, anima and animus archetypes, and self-archetypes. From the four archetypes above are representations of women in *The Chrysanthemum Story*. So that from this research the reader can know and understand the representation of women which is reflected in the basic pattern in *The Chrysanthemum Story*.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

This research was conducted based on the feminist approach proposed by Guerin and Barry who explained that the feminism approach is an approach that contains political elements that can be used to explain the feminism issues contained in it. This is followed by Simon De Beauvoir who explains the differences that occur between men and women and the oppression received by women. The research begins with an explanation of feminism as the basis for the analysis of Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. The cause of this data is analyzed based on the differences in treatment between men and women and the oppression received by women. This research is divided into two forms, namely the difference between men and women and then there is the oppression that women get. The purpose of this

study was to determine the oppression faced by women. The theory used to analyze is Beauvoir (1949) in analyzing *The Handmaid's Tale*.

