

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

The issues of woman as a second sex from time to time constructed the patriarchal system. Patriarchal construction becomes one of the interesting issues to discuss because women get the different treated more than men. Construction of patriarchal system means that men are more superior than women. Superiorities have been formed by society since the past. Intan (2014) stated that from historical perspectives, women are group of people who are oppressed by men. They do not have power and effort to get out of bondage. Men are more respected than women especially in the sexuality and the economic productivity. Ironically, this oppression was happened to women in the household treated by people around them such as their fathers or husbands.

Patriarchy was formed by the social system that placed the men as the dominance and rulers in politics, social activity, traditions, economy and other fields. In the family rules, father or husband is as a decision maker. They have a men-power over the women and children. The construction of patriarchal system showed the position of women as complement which can be oppressed by men.

One of the patriarchal construction system often faced by women is related to the marriage tradition. In the past, the preparation of marriage of the daughters was controlled by a father as the head of family. Father determined the groom to

the bride even though the bride did not know the groom. Besides, the presence of matchmaker often occurred as the problem of marriage that placed women as subordination. Matchmaker was the decision maker to whom the women marry.

Tradition made the way of marriage becoming a must for women. One of the famous stories about matchmaking tradition in our country is Siti Nurbaya (Kompasiana, 2012). She had to marry Datuk Maringgih matched by her father. On the other hand, Sity Nurbaya reflected a struggle of woman against the patriarchal construction under the tradition. Related to the article A-Ma'ruf (2003), he argued that the image of woman consists of four parts; to overhaul the system of relations between men and women so that they are harmonious and free in determining choice, to protest against gender injustice and demanding freedom in carrying out activities in society, the sound of gender injustice in local culture, and finally the voice of women that deconstructs then reconstructs the values of the traditions of the world of women.

Patriarchal construction tends to the phenomenon that occurred to women lives in the period of Victorian era in nineteenth century. Heryanto (2014) explained that Victorian era was under the head by the reign of Queen Victoria in England. One of the most problems faced by women in Victorian era was patriarchal system. It showed the dominant of men in many fields. The system in this period saw clearly that the gap between men and women specifically and generally limited. Women would be forced to engage by the man as the head of family.

The tradition of hereditary in Victorian era made a woman as a victim during the marriage. Prasad (2016) argued that many women in Victorian era had independent thought and they trusted, but some believed and obeyed the tradition that women had to be at home. Parents made their daughters to be able to match and marry. Women in the Victorian era were considered weak and helpless. They are expected to be good calm women and bargained as an object because they were not considered intellectually competent. They were not competent in making decisions. In the real situations, many women have competent intellectually to make decision to solve the problem in the tradition of marriage based on their consciousness to get their existence as women.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher applied the theory of women existence proposed by Beauvoir (2016). The first, problem in this analysis Beauvoir offered the concept of existentialism to describe the phenomenon of the patriarchal construction toward woman. In her book entitled *Second Sex*, Beauvoir (2016) described the problem toward woman under the patriarchal construction into four concept: submissive, matchmaking, mala-fide, and domesticity. Submissive is the act accepted by someone without doing the resistance. Matchmaking is a form of coercion toward the desire of women to do the marriage because of the system patriarchal itself. Mala fide is a form of specious man that is like to be regulated and determined women's life by men. Women did not want to accept the responsibility to get their freedom. Domesticity is the division of gender roles which are attached to the differences between men

and women. Gender roles are applied into values and norms seen from the placement of men and women as specific and general position.

Beauvoir (2016) did not only describe how the woman was under the patriarchal construction but also described how the struggles of woman against the patriarchal construction to get her existence as a human being, known as women existence. In this analysis, the researcher answered the problem of the woman struggles against patriarchal construction based on Beauvoir (2016) concept theory of women existence. She divided theory of women existence into three points: women's intellectual, to be herself, and the freedom of women to actualize themselves. She stated that the intellectual is an ability possessed by women as human being that aware of the ability to determine what they want to do. To be herself is the women who are able to determine what they want to do based on their desire to be themselves and believe in what they do without having to be someone else. Women to actualize themselves is the action taken by women of their independent way based on the concrete experience that has been done by them to get self-freedom.

One of the literary works reflected to the feminism phenomenon that happened between women and men is "Lady of Scandal" novel by Tina Gabrielle. This novel was published 2009. Tina's novels have been Barnes & Noble's best choice. Her first novel "Lady of Scandal" was also nominated as the first best historical romance by romantic times book review. Her novel is the one of best seller novels in Amazon. Besides she is a lawyer and engineer. Gabrielle (2009) has described the main character of Victoria Aston in the story as an anonymous

woman who worked in a business trader in London Stock Market. She was an independent woman who had stronger intelligence and ambition than the other women who were oriented towards marriage at that time. Victoria Aston's father did not know the secreted life of her as an anonymous trader business. In addition, her dream became an independent woman collapsed when her father gave herself to man as extended her father's business debt to Blake Malloreay as a second man who matched with Victoria without married legacy.

The phenomena of patriarchal construction clearly happened in "Lady of Scandal" novel by Tina Gabrielle (2009). It told Victoria Aston who opposed the marriage match by her father named Charles Aston. The first man who would be matched with Aston was Jacob Hobbs. Victoria became an object used to bring business profits for her father like a goal to launch his business with Jacob Hobbs. Victoria did not want to do this match because she did not love Jacob. Her father's decision was supported by her mother Marry Aston and her brother, Spencer Aston. Victoria considered this matchmaking as a kind of distinct that would bring advantages for her father to maintain her business. Victoria has differentiated opinions from society in that era that oriented to determine women's lives depending on men as the head of the family. They had to obey the men. One of narration that occurred in Victoria's life can be seen from the quotation below:

Mary looked first at Spencer, then at Victoria, a frown marring her features. "You know better than to question your father's request. You're a constant worry to him...**near twenty and no closer to being married. You have done yourself and this family harm by refusing every decent proposal of marriage. You have earned your reputation as difficult. No man will risk rejection by offering for you now. You should be thankful that your father has your best interests at heart.**" Victoria sat on the edge of the bed. "I hardly call Jacob Hobbs in my best

**interest. Such a match would benefit only Father by keeping the business profits in the family.”**

(Gabrielle, 2009, p. 17)

From the quotation above, implicitly the character of Victoria described the phenomenon reflected the situation of women in the Victorian era. The quotation above also clearly showed the presence of Aston's mother, named Marry who accepted the same thing to be obedient to the men as husband and the head of the family. Victoria got unfair treatment because she was forced to marry a man she did not love. This was a certain goal for her father to get the advantages. This phenomenon occurred because of the history of destiny influenced by male domination based on hereditary from society who believed the values and norms that made women had to be submissive.

Based on the Beauvoir's theory (2016) in her book the second sex, she claimed that submissive in women came from the destiny of history such as a hereditary by tradition of society that treated the position of women as an interior in the family such as to take care her husband and children. Victoria's life had oppressed by her father who believed the patriarchal system being discredit women as the weak personal.

The problem described the oppression faced by women such as the basic reason for women to make a movement to break down the construction of patriarchy itself. The women's movement that breaks down the construction of patriarchy is called the feminist movement. Feminism is a form of movement to refuse and break down the constructions of patriarchy itself toward the women. This is supported by the opinion of Vukoicic (2013). He stated that feminism is a

movement system supporting a group of women to refuse the patriarchal construction system. Therefore, the researcher saw the relationship between the phenomena of feminism and Victoria struggles with her ambitious, independent and intellectual qualities to get the freedom for actualizing herself a human to get her existence.

“Lady of Scandal” novel has never been analyzed yet. This research applied theory of feminism by Simone Beauvoir in this novel. Changfoot (2015) used Beauvoir's theory in his research entitled “Equality and Difference Feminism and Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex*”. This research discussed equality and differences feminism. Based on her thought, equality and difference feminism were limited by the dominant culture. The result of this analysis was to understand the feminist dependence between equality and difference which did not necessarily need to be correctly understood in its placement but instead, that limitations and differences between men and women had these same good potentials to be produced.

The last article that contributed developing ideas in this research used Beauvoir theory was written by Mardani, Suprasti & Aratika (2017) entitled “Woman Issues in Two Short Story by Ratna Indraswari Ibrahim: A study of Comparative Literature toward Two Short Story; “*Rambutnya Juminten*” and “*Baju*”. They used feminism theory by Beauvoir to analyze two short stories *Rambutnya Juminten* and *Baju*. The result of this research was to raise various women's issues in understanding patriarchy and gender construction. The ideas or thoughts of the female in this short story were ignored because of the society’s

assumption that women were irrational and emotional who could not take care of themselves and they were prohibited to propose their idea to speak in front of the public.

This research discussed the struggles of the woman against patriarchal construction that happened in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle. Even though the researcher used the same theory as the two studies above, the researcher found different problems and concepts that happened in this analysis. The concept of patriarchal construction namely submissive, matchmaking, mala fide and domesticity became the main point in these phenomena. All of the problems brought the reaction of the main character to fight the construction to get her existentialism. From the explanation above, there were two variables discussed in this research. First, the patriarchal construction brought the factors of the main character against it. Second, the main character, representation of women in the Victorian era, struggles against this patriarchal construction in the novel of Lady of Scandal by Tina Gabrielle. Two variables were answered by using the concept of women existentialist by Simone (Beauvoir, 2016).

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based to the background of the research above the researcher found a few problems, they are:

1. Marriage women under the patriarchal constructions toward women from time to time.

2. The phenomenon of patriarchal constructions in Victorian era that reflected in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.
3. The patriarchal constructions toward women in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.
4. The main character struggles against the patriarchal constructions in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Having had identified the problem, the researcher limited into two main problems as follows:

1. The patriarchal constructions toward woman in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.
2. The main character struggles against the patriarchal constructions in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

The researcher formulated the problem which was investigated, as follows:

1. What are the patriarchal constructions toward woman in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle?
2. How does the main character struggle against the patriarchal constructions in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Related to the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the patriarchal constructions toward woman in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.
2. To find out the main character struggles against patriarchal constructions reflected in “Lady of Scandal” novel by Tina Gabrielle.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

This research had two practical and theoretical significances as follows.

#### **1. Theoretical Significance**

First, this research is intended to be able to understand the patriarchal constructions toward woman in the theory by Simone Beauvoir namely submissive, matchmaking, mala fide and domesticity. Second, it is hoped that the readers are able to understand the main character against patriarchal construction reflected in the novel Lady of Scandal by Tina Gabrielle consisting of three points; women’s intellectual, to be herself and freedom of women to actualize themselves. It hopes to enrich the readers’ view from the factors that women against patriarchy. The researcher expected to be more useful as a source of teaching and learning feminist approach especially the factors of women against patriarchy in submissive, matchmaking, mala fide and domesticity.

## 2. Practical Significance

This research is expected to be more useful to readers especially for English department students who are interested in analyzing the feminist movement woman against patriarchy. Hopefully, this research gives a benefit to the students as a reference to analyze of feminism theory by Beauvoir especially women existence. Finally, this research could give more information to the future researchers who are interested in analyzing feminism theory especially women existence used by Simone Beauvoir.

### 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

- Patriarchy** : a doctrine and norms that believes in society life that men were superiority who oppressed women as their object (Beauvoir, 2016)
- Feminism** : a women's movement to reject all forms of marginalization, subordinated by dominant culture in the social, political, economic, cultural and educational fields (Tong, 2009)
- Women existence** : a stream that emphasizes on humans, where she is seen as a creature that exists, examines the way human are in the world with consciousness (Beauvoir, 2016)