

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Feminist Approach

Feminist comes from Latin, femina or female. This term came into use in the 1890s, where the term was used to support theories about the equality of women and men in obtaining their rights. Feminist is a condition where someone opposes the existence of differences in rights between men and women. The conditions are considered unfair for women. In other words, feminist is a women's movement to reject everything that limits their rights as humans, and humiliate women. (Ratna, 2008)

Feminist has the aim to investigate problem in society view from woman point of view. It also has a purpose to remind the existence of woman of woman from political and social aspect. First, image of woman it describes about how female characters are presented in the story. The characters are extraordinary and struggle against the tradition and society. Second, woman oppression, it explains that female character gets the unfair treatment from the society because of her existence for being a woman. Third, male domination, it shows about the man character dominates the female which force the woman to make a movement. The last, register theory, it explains feminist aspect from political and social aspect toward the existence of woman emancipation, and other society problem link with sexual disorder.

One of the theorists that against the inequality of woman is Rosemarie Tong. Based on Rosemarie Tong, women are rational beings who are also equal to men, therefore women must be given rights and treated equally with men, including giving equal rights to education, and choices of opportunities to work or at home, as well as political rights that same with men. (Tong, 2009)

In analyze the research, the researcher uses Rosemarie Tong's theory from her book feminist thought. In her book, she divided feminist into 8 types:

2.1.1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism means that the root of women's oppression lies in the absence of equal rights, to advance themselves and equal cultural opportunities. Women get discrimination of their rights, opportunities, freedoms because they are women. To fight it he proposed equality between men and women. Liberal feminists reject patriarchal authority justified by religious dogma, rejecting the special treatment given to women. But it still recognizes the different functions of reproduction, however the reproductive function for women will affect social life.

Liberal feminism means talking about the inequality of opportunity between men and women. Liberal feminism celebrates the rationality and autonomy of women over their bodies. According to liberal feminism, women have the ability to determine their own destiny. However, this ability is often limited by the heresy that states that women are naturally or absolutely weaker and stupid, when compared to men. This assumption is what then encourages inequality of opportunity between men and women. Men are often associated with roles in the

public sphere, whereas women are often associated with roles in the private sphere.

The solution of this problem for liberal feminism is quite diverse. For Wellstone, women must seize public space from men, by pursuing careers like men, and proving that they can also do what men do. These efforts must of course be supported by the presence of policies that guarantee "equal opportunity for women". This policy guarantee must target several important points, ranging from equal access to education between men and women, equal rights to obtain employment, the right to obtain social welfare services for poor women, and the right to control over the female reproductive system such as the use of contraception to delay pregnancy, for the sake of pursuing a career in public space. In short, for liberal feminism, structural intervention through policy is the key to alleviating gender oppression.

Liberal feminism has several strengths in solving problems related to gender inequality. First, liberal feminism states that men and women have the same opportunities. Second, liberal feminism encourages respect for individual rights, and third, liberal feminism offers concrete solutions in overcoming gender inequality, namely structural intervention. But liberal feminism in practice also cannot be separated from criticism. The focus of liberal feminism on individual autonomy and structural intervention causes liberal feminism to neglect the cultural roots of the problems faced by women, namely patriarchal culture born from oppression that has occurred for hundreds of years. In addition, liberal feminism only encourages women to take their place in the public sphere, without

supporting the involvement of men in the private sphere, emphasizing that both men and women must learn to become androgynous; to adopt values from both genders; for the achievement of gender equality.

Liberal Feminism holds that equality and freedom are centered on the rationality and autonomy of each individual. Women are rational beings who should also equal to men. Therefore they also have the right to be treated equally with men to develop their moral capacity, such as providing equal access to education, and the choice of opportunities to work or stay at home, and the same political rights as men. (Tong, 2009)

According to Tong in her book "feminist thought" liberal feminist trying to free women from gender roles, namely from roles that are used as reasons to give a lower place, or not to provide a place at all for women, especially in equal education, equal liberty, equal right, and the suffrage.

a. Equal Education

Mary Wollstonecraft claimed that a woman should not be considered a "male toy." In other words, a woman is not created just for men's pleasure, but a woman has the right to self-determination. In his life women have the right to get an education equal to that of men. So that men should not regard women as meaningless. When the men are educated in courage, simplicity, justice and fortitude, while women are educated in virtues such as patience, obedience, good humor, polite, and flexibility. It shows that women are considered to have to take

refuge in men who are considered brave. And women must also obey male orders, and be able to be their entertainers. (Tong, 2009)

b. Equal Liberty

In this situation, equal economic, social and politic rights are the main topic in this era. Wollstonecraft said that if society wants to achieve sexual equality or gender justice then society must give women the same opportunities in economic, social and political rights as men.

Mill opposes assumptions in society about the tendency of women to prefer marriage and motherhood rather than career and work. He argues that women should not only look for opportunities to read books to express their inspiration. They must also look for opportunities to become male partners in social, economic and political aspects. According to him it is very important for women to work, it would be better if some of the income came from the income of the woman herself, even if the total amount of income was only slightly increased by the income of the woman, rather than women being required to depend entirely on men and make them life support the only one. That is, she hopes that women can become partners, and not become slaves to her husband. That is why women should be able to have income from work outside the home, whether they are married or not, women are expected to have an income.

Equal Liberty emphasizes that women must enjoy individual freedom in society, that is, they must live the way they want because naturally, men and women are created equal. In the economic aspect also women must have the same

opportunities as men in the economic field. The system that has been going on makes women not much able to participate in the economic field. The people's expectation of them being wife, mother and taking care of the household is the obstacle. As a result, more women live in poverty than men. Therefore, economic freedom is needed, where women are given the same opportunities as men to freely pursue a career. In the political aspects of a country must be able to ensure that the basic structure in a society is able to distribute both the benefits or burdens of social cooperation fairly, so that men and women can jointly bear it. The current system is considered unfair because it is still based on a patriarchal society. (Tong, 2009)

c. Equal Rights

In this explanation, Anthony emphasized that there are differences in whites and blacks that occur. As in the oppressive laws of the US state of black people and the existence of discrimination against blacks and discrimination against women is considered unfair to them. Whites consider blacks weak and have no right to live happily. (Tong, 2009)

d. The Suffrage

John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, affirm the existence of women's suffrage to be equal for men. Not only have the right to express their own political views but they also have the right to fight something that is considered to limit

their freedom in their lives, and they also have the right to abolish slavery. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.2. Radical Feminism

Based on Milleth, this feminism is a feminist perspective that removes all forms of male supremacy to make radical changes in society in the economic and social context. This feminism also wants to eliminate patriarchy by opposing the institutions and also the social norms that apply through the political process. Some examples are opposing traditional gender roles, resisting the sexual objectification of women, and raising public awareness about issues such as rape and violence against women. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.3. Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Marxist views about the problem of women in the framework of criticism of capitalism. In this assumption it is argued that the method of production and class exploitation are sources of oppression for women. Men control production, whereas women are considered to be part of property, or women are considered as workers.

Socialist feminism struggles to abolish the system of ownership. It assumed that where the Marriage Institutions that legalize men's ownership of property and ownership of husband over wives are abolished. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.4. Psychoanalytic Feminism

According to Freud, the children were left through various stages of psychosexual development, and their gender identity as an adult is a result of how good or bad they have gone through this process. In other words, virility and femininity are products of sexually mature. If boys develop "normally", they will end when men exhibit the expected masculine qualities; if women develop "normal," they will end up as women that exhibit the expected female nature. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.5. Care-Focused Feminism

Some of these explanations focus on the biology of separate men and women, others on male and female dives the path of psychosexual development, and others about the way people systematically shape different identities and behaviors of men and women. But whatever their explanation of contrasting male and female gender identities, care-focused feminists assume women's capacity for care as human strengths rather than human weaknesses. In addition, feminists who focus on care spend a lot of money energy to develop feminist care as a substitute and even as a compliment to traditional justice ethics. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.6. Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial Feminism

According to Arthur, multicultural, global, and postcolonial feminists encourage feminist thought in the direction of recognizing women's diversity and recognizing the challenges it presents. Not all women think and act the same, nor

do all women appreciate the same thing for the same purpose. In short, women are different from each other. For this reason, this feminists challenge the essentialism of women, the view that the notion of "women" exists as a kind of Platonic form that every woman must realize. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.7. Ecofeminism

Based on Rachel Carson, no matter the difference between social-constructionist and natural ecofeminism or between socialist and spiritual ecofeminists, all ecofeminists believe that humans are connected to one another and to non-human worlds such as animals and plants. Unfortunately, we do not always recognize our relationships and responsibilities with others, let alone the people we have with those who are not the human world. As a result, we commit violence with each other, whether it is against nature, or even congratulate ourselves. Meanwhile, every day, we commit suicide by killing our sisters and brothers and by putting garbage to the earth where we come from and where we will return. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.8. Postmodern and Third-Wave Feminism

According to Julia Kristeva, this feminism has thoughts for eliminate differences between feminine and masculine, woman and man, gender. They try to erase the concept of men that prevent women from following men's thoughts and position themselves with their own thoughts. (Tong, 2009)

2.1.9. The struggle

The struggle is a condition in which a person strives to defend and fight for their rights. In this case, women fight for what they think they deserve. The decision to fight for women's rights and interests in social, politics, or economics fields is quoted in Sugihastuti and Suharto theory. (Sugihastuti & Suharto, 2015: 123).

2.1.10. Main Character

Main character is a person who struggle to fight for their rights and oppose the injustices that occur between men and women. Usually in a story there are figures that are structural elements of fiction that give birth to events.(Sayuti, 2000) In terms of its involvement in the whole story, the characters are divided into two types:

a. Major Character

Major character is very important for the resolution of the conflicts and also for the development. In other hands, the plot and the resolution of conflict revolves around these characters. The main character usually is the major character. The major character is the important character in the story. In “Little Women” novel that written by Louisa May Alcott, one of the major characters is Jo March.

b. Minor Character

Minor characters serve to complement the main characters and help advance the plot of the events. The minor character usually is the character where their position as a helper character in the story. In the story, they are spoken rarely and sometimes they oppose the major character. Wolloch states that the minor character is the character that made to complete the story, and support the major character. It means that it has the unimportant role.

2.1.11. The Inequality

The inequality occurs because of differences between one another, where one of them occupies a higher position than the other. In daily life, inequalities between men and women often occur. In this case, men are considered to have a higher position in society than women. In this study, the main character who is a woman, opposes inequality that limits her freedom. One of them is injustice that can occur to women, both in family and society, where women will struggle to change these conditions. (Ilyas, 2005: 21).

2.1.12. Novel

Novel is one of the literary works in written form. It is a long story that is divided into several chapters. Sometimes novel is the result of essay from the author or even the true story of the author's life. Based on (Nurgiyantoro 2010: 4) suggests that the novel is a work of fiction offering a world that contains idealized life models, imaginative worlds which is built through various intrinsic elements

such as events, plots, characters and characterization, background, and perspective all of which are imaginative, though all what the author realized was deliberately analogous to the real world looks like really exists and is true, this is seen in its own coherent system.

2.2. Review Previous Study

The purposes of the previous study intend to be an addition idea for the researcher, so that this research can be done well. As long as the researcher knows, there are fifth previous studies that taken in this research and one of them has been explained general in the background and now the researcher will explain it below.

The first research was by Selvi Eka Putri and Yenni Rosana from Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu. Their research it's about liberal feminism in the "Little Women" novel by Louisa May Alcott. It's about the women struggle in little women that lead to women emancipation from the feminist perspective. The results of this research, female characters in this novel were classified into two themes. The first theme was leadership which includes being a leader and being an influential figure. The second theme was independence, which is also divided into independent and independent thinkers to support oneself and family. (Putri & Rosana, 2018)

The second research was by Ahmad Jasim Mohammad Alazzawi from Mosul University, Iraq. His research it's about a feminist perspective in Ngugi Wa Thiong's novel "Petal of Blood". In his research it's about the struggle of

Nyakinyua and Wanja who against the colonialism. They had a strong desire to rein in oppression and exploitation of Kenyan society. The result of his research that Nugui shows the nature of woman, he also throws the light on the positive and negative aspects of women in Kenyan society. (Alazzawi, 2018).

The third research was by Manish Kumar Gaurav & Sadaf Fatima from Amity University in India. Their research it's about the feminist characteristics in "Pride and Prejudice" novel and movie by Jane and Austen. It is about the realistic image of the society and appears as independent women like Elizabeth, where the feminist movement had just started. The result of this research that, Austen can be included in the category of gynocritics, i.e. women writing about women voicing their sense of good judgment and reason rather depicts them as gullible emotional beings. (Gaurav & Fatima, 2015).

The fourth research was by Hui-Chun CHANG from the Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her research it's about the impact of the feminist heroine: Elizabeth in "Pride and Prejudice". It is about the critically examines the feminist significant of Elizabeth Bennet to challenge gender inequality while the other women imposed gender norms of Regency England. The result in this research was the traditional Regency-era woman was typified through Caroline, Jane and Charlotte. They adhere to the societal norms, modifying themselves in order to secure a husband. (Chang, 2014).

The fifth research was by Dedi Rahman Nur from the Widya Gama Mahakam Samarinda University in East Kalimantan. It's about analysis of the feminist character in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening". This research concerns

with the analysis of feminist character in Kate Chopin's work. This research result showed that Edna Pontellier feminist characters have a contribution to the development of the plot of the stories. Her feminist characteristics and behavior affect to the plot. The feminist characters' thought and attitude play important in changing the mood of the characters' action so that making the plot developed attitude play important in changing the mood of the characters' action so that making the plot developed. (Rahman, 2017).

The sixth research was by Agustin Dwi Ratnaningrum from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Finding the effects of civil war on families on the novel "Little Women" was the aim of the research. The research was using sociological approach by Alan Swingewood. It used qualitative research methodology. The results of this research are, the family was in poor condition by the poverty caused by the civil war. Not only in the economic aspect, the civil war also caused an effect on the aspect of education described by one of the characters, Amy, who did not want to go to school. These effects can be studied in sociological terms which study human social life. (Ratnaningrum, 2009)

The seventh research was by Liana Yunike Manurung from University of North Sumatera that discussed about an analysis of feminism reflected in Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women". The research was using feminist approach. It used qualitative research methodology. The research result of her research was the struggle of the March women, especially Jo to find sustenance for their family and identities of their own in the culture of a masculine society. Women can also give

the right decision for her without any influence from people other. (Manurung, 2010)

The eighth research was conducted by Pristiana Ajeng Paundria from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Analyze the meaning of family and happiness in “Little Woman” novel by Louisa May Alcott was the aim of the study. The research was using feminist approach. It used qualitative research methodology. The research result of her research reflects about the condition that dealing in the women’s position, role, right, and participation. (Paundria, 2014)

In this research, the researcher tried to analyze the novel “Little Women” again, but in different perspective. The researcher want to analyze the struggle of the main character against the inequality reflected in Little Women novel by Louisa May Alcott. In this research, feminist approach was used by the researcher to analyze the novel.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

The following is the theoretical framework of this research

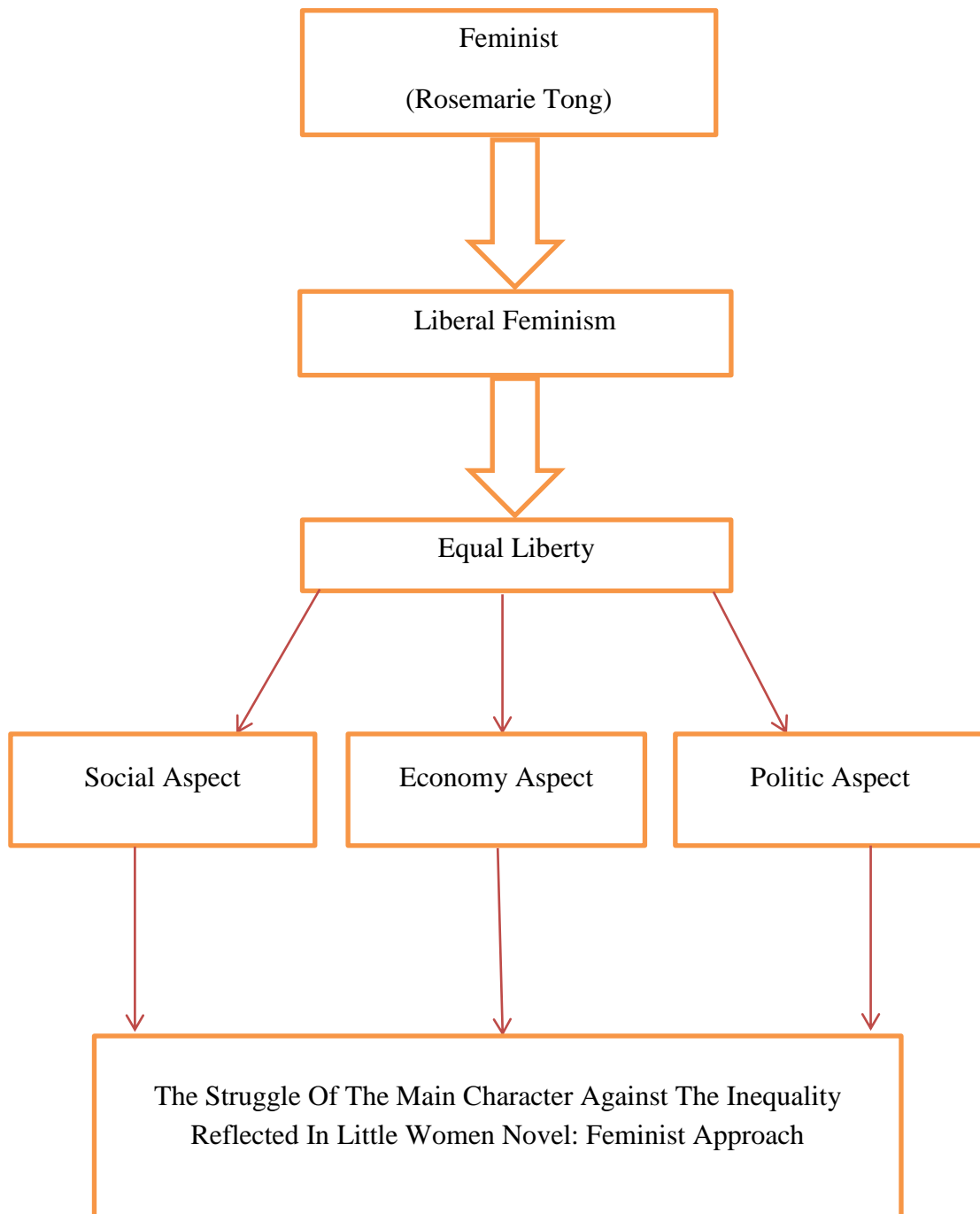


Figure2.3 Theoretical Framework

This research focused on the struggle of the main character in a feminist perspective. This research was using the Rosemarie Tong theory. In her theory, there were 8 types of feminist; liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist & socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, care-focused feminism, multicultural, global, and postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism, and the last was postmodern and third-wave feminism. But the researcher only focused on liberal feminism type in this research. The researcher intends to know about the struggle of the main character against the inequality in the novel.