WOMEN'S OPPRESSIONS REFLECTED IN THOMAS HARDY'S "TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES" NOVEL: FEMINIST APPROACH

THESIS



By: AGNES NOVALIA 181210014

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY 2023

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of English Sarjana Sastra



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DECLARATION OF THE THESIS ORIGINALITY

I, Agnes Novalia with NPM 181210014, undersigned below

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The thesis has been approved to be examined on the date as indicated below

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ABSTRAK

Perempuan telah ditindas dan didiskriminasi oleh laki-laki dan masyarakat dianggap sebagai gender kedua yang kurang penting dengan nilai yang kurang untuk sejarah yang panjang. Feminisme dapat digunakan untuk menganalisis karya sastra guna memahami perjuangan yang dirasakan perempuan. Dengan menggunakan feminisme, penelitian ini dapat melihat karakter perempuan dan pengalamannya secara objektif berdasarkan peristiwa-peristiwa dalam novel untuk memahami karakter-karakter tersebut. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui penindasan dan perjuangan yang dialami oleh tokoh perempuan dalam novel tersebut. Hasil dari pertanyaan penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menyoroti penindasan dan perjuangan yang dialami oleh perempuan dan dapat digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi penindasan dan perjuangan dalam kehidupan nyata berdasarkan fenomena yang ditemukan dalam novel. Penelitian ini akan menerapkan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Young (1990) dalam menganalisis bentuk penindasan dan teori Beauvoir dalam Tong (2014) untuk menganalisis perjuangan yang dialami tokoh perempuan. Novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" karya Thomas Hardy akan digunakan sebagai sumber data penelitian ini. Penelitian ini akan dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dimana data akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan kata-kata dan kalimat. Penelitian ini akan menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan oleh Ratna (2004) untuk mengumpulkan data dari novel, yang dibagi berdasarkan sumber data primer dan sekunder. Selanjutnya data yang terkumpul akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif menurut Ratna (2004). Terakhir penelitian ini akan menggunakan metode strategi kualitatif oleh Creswell (2014). Merupakan cara menyajikan hasil analisis sebagai laporan dengan mengelaborasi data penelitian, secara naratif dengan menggunakan kata dan kalimat.

Kata kunci: eksistensialisme, feminisme, perjuangan

ABSTRACT

Women has been oppressed and discriminated by men and society taken as second less important gender with less value for a long history. Feminism can be used to analyze literary work in order to understand the struggles felt by women. Using feminism, the research can look at the characters of women and their experiences objectively based on the events in the novel in order to understand the characters. The aim of this research is to find out the oppression and struggles experienced by female character in the novel. The result of the research questions then is expected to highlight the oppressions and struggles experienced by women and would be used to identify the oppressions and struggles in real life based on the phenomena found in the novel. This research applies theory proposed by Young (1990) in analyzing the form of oppressions and theory by Beauvoir in Tong (2014) to analyze the struggles experienced by the female character. The novel of "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy is used as the data source of this research. This research is conducted by using the method of descriptive qualitative which the data is analyzed using words and sentences. This research is library research method by Ratna (2004) to collect the data from the novel, which are divided by primary and secondary data resources. Next, the collected data is analysed by applying descriptive analysis method by Ratna (2004). Lastly the research uses qualitative strategy method by Creswell (2014). It is a way of presenting the result of analysis as a report by elaborating from the research's data, narratively by using words and sentences.

Keyword: existentialism, feminism, struggles

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature has recorded the progress of human society as it progresses. How human society thrived and survived through all ages were all record within literature. Some of that records are shown through fiction works as how far human's mind can go. One for the most popular form of fiction is novel which is a narrative with certain length that carries a series of event.

The movement of empowering women in the act of pursuing gender equality has been going on from the 19th century up until today. Due to the oppression and discrimination experienced by women, they are taken as a second and less important gender in society. As the movement was popularized, there was an increase in literary works written by women for women. Many literary works was written with the purpose of highlighting the importance and the role of women in the society. As women's voice was starting to be heard, society started to pick up interest in literary works written by women such as fiction works, non-fiction works and many more.

Feminist is women who rebel against the rules of natural theory that are believed by society that women must show their female side as weak people who must submit to men are true women who oppose the oppression itself to escape from the rules that are believed (R. Tong, 2014). Feminism concerns with the idea of gender equality for women who has been oppressed and discriminated by men. In a similar opinion, women are able to break through oppression by trying to

improve themselves as a person despite the role society has put on women which limit women from doing as much as men. Beauvoir proposed her idea of existentialism feminism through her experience on the oppression as a woman herself. Beauvoir was aware of the society's point of view to women as being different from men physically which caused women to take the role of second sex to men and viewed as a weaker and passive. Despite the limitation, Beauvoir emphasized on the possibility for women to cease the second sex on which women must overcome the forces of circumstances in order to be at the standing as a man.

One of the novels with interesting feminism phenomena entitled "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" written by Thomas Hardy. The novel tells the story of Tess Durbeyfield who came from a poor family with a lazy father and ignorant mother. Tess' parents later sent her to a wealthy nearby family named d'Urbervilles where Tess was seduced by one of the sons named Alec d'Urbervilles and had a child who later died in infancy. Tess went on to work as a dairymaid and met a gentleman with the name of Angel Clare who rejected Tess after found out about her past on their wedding night. Struggling emotionally and financially, Tess almost gave in once again to d'Urbervilles but later killed Alec after Angel returned.

The novel was written by Thomas Hardy and published in the 1891. Hardy was a novelist and poet born in Dorset, England in 1840. Hardy's first poem collection was not published until the year of 1898 although he gained popularity over his novels, one of them was "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". His works carry the theme of tragic struggle due to passions and circumstances often set in the region of Wessex. Hardy died at the age of 87 on 11th of January, 1928 in Dorset, England.

In the novel, Tess was sent to the d'Urbervilles by her parents to work for the noble family. Seduced by Alec d'Urberville and eventually gave birth of a child which later died not long after. Tess then left d'Urberville and returned to her home before finding work at the dairy house. "Remember, my lady, I was your master once! I will be your master again. If you are any man's wife you are mine!" (Hardy, 1891, p. 485) In the following, Alec forced Tess to come back to him despite Tess had previously showed her refusal because of all the terrible things done to her by Alec. Not being able to accept that Tess has moved on, Alec went to find Tess and forced her to be his wife, leaving Tess helpless in a struggling position whether financially or emotionally. This refers to Young's five kinds of oppression, one of the oppressions is powerless which relates to Tess' being, which does not have the power compared to Alec and Tess is being dominated and oppressed by the status and power Alec has in order to make Tess come back to him.

In the novel, after the death of Sorrow who was Tess' child with Alec, Tess spent a year at home miserably because of what happened to her from being taken advantage of to the death of her child. Tess agreed to accept a job as a dairymaid in Talbothays Dairy upon receiving a letter from an acquaintance. This refers to Beauvoir's existentialist feminism where having work as a woman provides them with more opportunity to stand up for themselves. After struggling with the d'Urbervilles, Tess decided to accept the work in the dairy house as an escape for herself but at the same time to still provide herself and her family with financial support.

Beauvoir's existentialist feminism has been used in literary analysis in order to understand characters who struggle because of their gender and the effects gender inequality brings. In conduction of this research, the researcher took some previous researches as a comparison and reference. Bere and Arianto (2020) investigated about the affirmation found in women-existence from the novel titled "Lady of Scandal" written by Tina Gabrielle. The study found that there are two points which made women fighting against patriarchy. The first point is how women is seen as a second less important sex who are oppressed by men based on the patriarchal culture from the values or norms set in society. The second point is women's awareness of patriarchal society reflects on women's existence.

Next, Hidayat, Anoegrajekti, and Mariati (2013) described women's representation in the novel "Supernova-Petir" written by Dewi Lestari. The study used Beauvoir's existentialist feminism to analyze the female character in the novel. The study covers topics such as the power relations of men and women, the existence of female characters and their representation, women's figure who experienced gender injustice, and also women who take second position and satisfaction has always been the object of men.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is interested in conducting the research on the novel by using existentialist feminism approach by Simone de Beauvoir which takes the title as follows: "Women's Oppressions reflected in Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" Novel; Feminist Approach"

1.2 Identification of the Problem

- Social gap difference between men and women in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" novel by Thomas Hardy.
- Sexual assault done by the male character in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" novel by Thomas Hardy
- Double standard in job between men and women in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" novel by Thomas Hardy.
- Women oppressions reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.
- Struggles of women against oppression reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

- Women oppressions reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.
- Struggles of women against oppression reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

- 1. What are the women oppressions reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy?
- 2. What are the struggles of women against oppression reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy?

1.5 Objective of the Research

- To describe women oppressions reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.
- 2. To analyze the struggles of women against oppression reflected in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretically

This research has some purposes. First, this research is made to give information about oppressions against women. This research is dedicated as a reference for the development of literary studies in the study of feminism approach among the students of Putera Batam University.

2. Practically

This research may enhance knowledge about the feminism and oppression experienced by women. In other way, also helps the reader to discover about forms of oppressions and struggles experienced by women. This research is hoped to give insight from fictional characters regarding oppressions and struggles which might happen in reality to women in society.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Existentialism

: a philosophical movement that stresses the individual's unique position as a self-determining agent responsible for making meaningful, authentic

choices in a universe seen as purposeless or irrational.

Feminist Approach

: Range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes. Efforts to change that include fighting against gender stereotypes and establishing educational, professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes for women that are equal to those for men.

Struggles

professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes for women that are equal to those for men.

: a violent effort or exertion; an act of strongly motivated striving. To proceed with difficulty or with great effort and to experience difficulty and make a very great effort in order to do something. An energetic attempt to achieve something. Strenuous effort.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL

FRAMEWORK

This chapter includes the discussion of related literature and theoretical framework. Related literature in this chapter has the function as support in doing research as it acted as references. Moreover, there are previous researches which contributed to provide knowledge largely around the subject of approach. In this chapter, it contains the explanation of feminist approach, the theory of oppression includes the forms and women's way of achieving equality, and previous researches to provide insight.

2.1 Feminist Approach

Feminism represents movement done to aim and establish the equality between men and women, in term of political, economic, and social rights. It focused on gaining the equal opportunities for women, as women's rights are known nonexistent in public before the feminist movements were planned. As defined by Hooks (2000), feminism is the movements done to end the exploitation of sexist, sexism, and oppression. In which feminists stated that the different social values between men and women are just a culture, so it is possible to be changed and established towards the culture they expected and desired.

Feminism as one of literary studies' approaches, focused on reflecting the concern of women's marginalization in the culture of patriarchal, organized culture in favor for men (Guerin et al., 2005), which is to examine the women's movements as described in literary works. Literary criticism of feminism mostly developed

since the beginning of late-twentieth-century which involved literary texts from some authors that regarded them as the agents of power and models on female-self as constructed in literature.

The theory of Simone de Beauvoir will be used to find out and analyze regarding the existentialism of women. As explained by Tong and Botts (2017), de Beauvoir had observed that man regard as self, while woman as the other, which means if the other is a threat to self, then women are threat to men. It eventually leaded towards the oppression of men towards women, which happened based on two reasons. First is woman as a subordinate to a man, and women have applied the thought of being the inessential, while man is the essential. Thus, the theory will be used to find out the forms of oppression by male characters towards Tess, the female main character in the novel of "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy, and the way Tess struggled to break through the oppression she got.

2.1.1 Five Faces of Oppression

Society consists of justice, which is not only be distributed, but also necessary on development and practical capacities to communication towards some conditions. Under the justice's conception, injustice can be referred to two forms of constraints, they are oppression and domination (Young, 1990). The term of oppression mostly is not used to refer injustice in society, while the emancipatory social movements such as socialists, feminists, Indian activists, and so on had regarded oppression as the central of political discourse. As explained by Young (1990), oppression refers to the disadvantage and injustice received by some people who had suffered through the practices of liberal society. Oppression is pictured as

systemic constraints on groups that are structural caused by unquestioned norms, symbols, and habits in the assumptions of institutional rules. Iris had categorized five of oppressions which are believed as comprehensive distinctions.

2.1.1.1 Exploitation

The existence of exploitation is enforced through the society's distinctions of class, which can be referred also to capitalism of power and wealth. According to Young (1990), exploitation is the occurrence of making use of people's labours and efforts to make profit for the company while not providing compensation fairly. It means the efforts and works that had been done by the workers are paid however the wages and gains they made for company are not given to them. Exploitation happened when a capitalism society had created different classes of people, which are the wealthy and poor, and it created the system that eternalized the class differences, the rich became richer and the poor became poorer.

2.1.1.2 Marginalization

Marginalization is regarded as the most dangerous form of oppression. It indicated to marginal people that are refused to be used to do labours by the system in society (Young, 1990). Marginalization had considered only on racially marked groups, however in the United States, it was divided into a large proportion of marginal's population, they are people who had much age, unemployed, single mothers and children, and so on. A whole category of people that is marginal is expelled from the participation in being useful in social life by permanently confined as underclass people of living.

2.1.1.3 Powerlessness

As linked to Marxist idea of socialism, there are some people who have power and wealth while some who do not. Stated by Young (1990), those who are powerless and without wealth eventually are ruled by the ruling and higher class, and live by situating to receive orders and not given the right in society. Powerless is significant to lacking power of decision making, the hitch of developing capacities, and disclosure of disrespectful treatment due to lower status. Powerless is considered as strongest oppression because it increases people's ability to oppress themselves and others, which they would think little of themselves and having the mindsets that they are supposed to live the way they lived, by not realizing that something is wrong within society and they were treated unfairly.

2.1.1.4 Cultural Imperialism

This category of oppression indicated to the action done by the ruling class to normalize the culture they wanted and establish it into norm in society. Young (1990) explained that cultural imperialism is the act of establishing a dominant group's culture and experiences into the society as universal norm. This oppression happened on those who are marked by the stereotypes going on society and are made to be felt invisible.

2.1.1.5 Violence

One of the oppression forms that can be seen as an obvious and visible oppression in society is violence. Many groups suffered systematic

oppression of violence. As explained by Young (1990), people who had received such oppressions must live the knowledge of being feared in term of living life, unwillingly accept unprovoked attacks on them or their properties. Those attacks are done not with any motives, but are intended in destroying, damaging, and humiliating.

2.1.2 Women's Ways to Achieve Equality

Beauvoir had insisted that women can create their own identities by themselves because there is no essence for femininity to be prescribed eternally on them, even before feminist postmodernist stated it (R. Tong, 2014). There are not any easy ways for women to escape society's immanence regarding female, the definitions, limits, and the roles that men and society had imposed on them. Women have to overcome the circumstances in order to cease the fact of being the second sex in society. Four strategies had been given by Beauvoir for women to employ on the way to transcendence immanency.

2.1.2.1 Women Go to Work

Working in a capitalist patriarchy society can be exploitative and oppressive, which resulted on double work for women, first shift in the workplace and the second at home (R. Tong, 2014). In term of that, Beauvoir however insisted that no matter how tiring the works received by women, it is still possible for them to affirm their transcendence and status as a subject, who actively work for her destiny alongside men outside home.

2.1.2.2 Women Become Intellectuals

The activity that can be done by women as intellectuals is the one that required thinking, defining, and looking (R. Tong, 2014). They could be the one that are grouped and able to build the changes for women. Beauvoir had encouraged them to learn woman writers such as Virginia Woolf, Emily Bronte, and Katherine Mansfield, who had become the writers that explore on life, suffering, and death.

2.1.2.3 Women Work Towards Socialist Transformation of Society

Beauvoir had hoped to end the conflict of subject and object among humans generally and between both men and women (R. Tong, 2014). The struggle that caused between the conflicts is not psychologically, instead by the necessity of economic. Beauvoir had believed that the key of women's liberation is economic state, which she had emphasized of an independent woman. She also affirmed that women's circumstances will limit efforts to define themselves, so they have to help in creating the society that can provide material supports to surpass their limits.

2.1.2.4 Women Refuse to Internalize Otherness

Transcending their limits, women have the ability to refuse internalizing their otherness, which means to identify themselves in the dominant group by also accepting the role as an object (R. Tong, 2014). Woman's in-authentic self is the object-self seen in the male world. Meanwhile, woman's authentic self is the withdrawn invisible-self in their world.

2.2 Previous Research

Purnami and Pramono (2021) analyzed the types of women's marginalization and the model of women's resistance as the manifestation of existence. The research used Simone de Beauvoir's theory of existential feminism to analyze "Kitab Omong Kosong" written by Seno Gumira Ajidarma. The researchers found that in Ajidarma's novel, women were in a lower position and were considered subordinate which led to violence toward women. The resistance of female characters was also considered struggles for intellectuality.

Geleuk, Mulawarman, and Hanum (2017) described the factual structure and the struggle of female characters in "Tanah Tabu" novel written by Anindita S. Thayf. The previous research used Simone de Beauvoir's theory of existential feminism to understand the female characters that oppressed to fight in order to get out of the oppression. The result of the research showed that the female characters became working women, intellectual women, women of socialist transformation and women who follows the dominant group.

Purnomo (2017) analyzed women's resistance toward male domination in power in order to raise awareness. The novel "Perempuan di Titik Nol" written by Nawal el-Saadawi was used an object to highlight women's fight toward the unequal power difference between men and women. Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism was used to understand about female's struggle in a patriarchal society. The result of the research showed Firdaus as a character similar to existentialist feminism concept proposed by Beauvoir.

Pranowo (2013) described female identity in patriarchal society in the novel "Perempuan di Titik Nol" written by Nawal el a'adawi. Filled with portrayal of female oppression done by patriarchal society and culture, the previous research used Simone de Beauvoir's theory of existential feminism to understand to analyze the novel. The result of the researh showed that being free is not by separating women from their identity but rather to define the existence of women in their own body.

Hikmah (2013) analyzed female struggles in chasing their dreams because of gender injustice which women are unable to receive the same education as men. The previous research used the novel "9 Matahari" written by Adenita as an object of this research. Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism was used to understand about female's struggle in a patriarchal society. The result of the research showed that Matari was able to break free from her father's ego and poverty in order to achieve her dream to be a scholar. She was later able to show her existence by being an announcer which later gotten affirmation by people around her.

Yusuf and Susilo (2020) analyzed wome's struggle found in the novel "Cigarette girl" written by Ratih Kumala. The novel was analyzed by using Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism in order to describe the resistance of the female character toward gender injustice. he result of the research showed that women have the same capability to survive and strive in life as much as men do. Therefore, despite being the second sex in patriarchal society, women should not be viewed as a weak and more limited gender

Dominilla, Kuncara, and Valiantien (2020) described pression experienced by black female characters as maid. The novel "The Help" written by Kathryn Stockett was used as the object of the research. The researchers focused on the kinds of oppression happened through the postcolonial feminism perspective using Young's theory of forms of oppression. The result of the research showed that there are four kinds of oppression experienced by the female characters which are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, and cultural imperialism.

Previous researches share similarities and differences to present research. There is only one previous research found that used the same theory of oppression as present research, which is Young's theory of kinds of oppression, and the other six previous researches used Beauvoir's theory of existential feminism to analyze the struggles of women in the data source of the researches. Women struggles as described in the previous researches using the theory of Beauvoir mostly has the same purpose, which is to gain the justice of equality between men and women in term of intellectuality and capability of surviving in life. Women willingly faced the struggles in order to not receive the oppression done by men in patriarchal society. Moreover, the difference between previous researches and present research laid on the data source used to be analyzed. Present research will be using Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urberville" novel as the object of the research.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

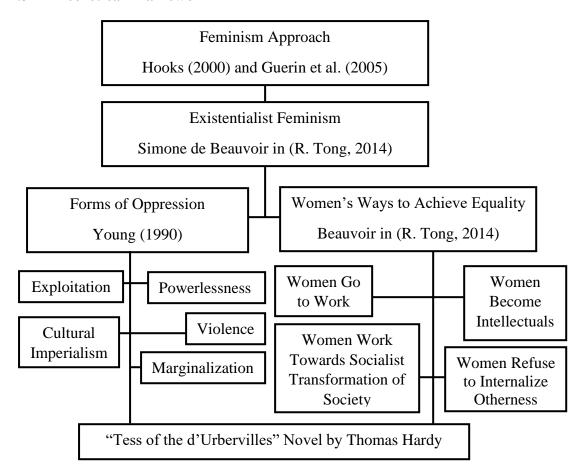


Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This research is qualitative research. As defined by Creswell (2013), this research focused in accumulating the data as a set of interpretive meanings through the act of describing and analysing in forms of words. The design of descriptive qualitative was used to conduct the research, which the data collected were delivered descriptively using words and sentences. The researcher applied the theory by Simone de Beauvoir regarding existentialist feminism. It was used to analyse the forms of female oppressions, in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy, and female struggles against oppressions.

3.2 Object of the Research

The novel entitled "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" was authored by Thomas Hardy in the year of 1891. It was first appeared in British illustrated newspaper, and then was published in a book form with three volumes in the same year, and a single volume in the next year. This novel that originally had 592 pages, received several mixed contrast reviews as it challenged on the moral of sexual regarding late Victorian England. This novel is adapted into several films and TV series. One of the film adaptions has the title "Tess", drama film directed by Roman Polanski in the year of 1979. Meanwhile, the story of Tess was made into series in television, one of them was adapted into three-hour television series with two episodes in the

year of 1998, and another was adapted into four-hour television series with four episodes in the year of 2008.

In researching on this novel as data source, there were two objects of the research. First research problem is the forms of female oppression in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" novel by Thomas Hardy which are analysed by using Young's five forms of oppression. Second research problem is the struggles of female against oppression in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" novel which used the theory by de Beauvoir regarding women's strategies to achieve equality.

3.3 Method of Collecting Data

Library research is the method used to collect the data of this research. According to Ratna (2004), the method of library research is used to explore the literature texts by presenting the use of primary and secondary data sources. This research's primary data source is the novel written by Thomas Hardy entitled "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", and the secondary data sources are all writings that were used as references in this research, they were printed and electronic books, journal articles, and websites that are related closely to the research, to support in analysing data.

In collecting the data, there are a few steps that follow, first step to collect the data was reading the novel of "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", followed by highlighted sentences which are the narratives and dialogues related to the object of the research. Last, the collected data was structured accordingly to each object of the research.

3.4 Method of Analysing Data

Descriptive analysis was used as the method to analyse the data collected in this research. Ratna (2004) had stated that the method of descriptive analysis is used to describe the validity of data in data source chosen and continue by analysing it through thorough explanation and interpretation.

In analysing the data, there are a few steps that follow, first step to analyse data was analysing the intrinsic elements of the novel, which included plot, characters, settings, theme, and point of view. Next is analysing extrinsic elements on the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by using the theory by Simone de Beauvoir regarding existentialist feminism along with the support from other analysis.

3.5 Method of Presenting Research Result

After analysing the data collected, next step will be presenting the result of the research. The method that will be used to present this research's result is using qualitative strategy method by Creswell (2014). It is a way of presenting the result of analysis as a report by elaborating from the research's data, narratively by using words and sentences in order for the readers to understand easily of the analysis results.