

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Human are social creatures who need each other, and are more inclined to live life together with other people. The position of women in the social system is an interesting topic to discuss, because in addition to observing women in the reality of social life, women have also to carry out the rules that have been made by society. Tong (2017) stated that unlike emotional and dependent women, who routinely shirk domestic duties and indulge their worldly desires, rational and independent women tend to be "observant daughters," "affectionate sisters," "affectionate wives." faithful", and "reasonable mother". Women who are truly educated will be the main contributors to the welfare of society.

According to de Beauvoir (1989) in the book entitle the second sex is the representation of women in the patriarchal tradition of maintaining the chastity of women; more or less openly recognized men's right to sexual freedom, while women were prohibited from marrying. Sexuality, if it is not sanctified by a code, a sacrament, it is a fault, a fall, a failure, a weakness; woman must defend her virtue and honor; if the woman falls then will be ridiculed. The oppression of women and nature, according to ecofeminists (Nayar, 2009), is a direct effect of patriarchal society's ideals and beliefs. It disregards women's knowledge, expertise, and "situatedness" (her close proximity to the natural world, where she has a much closer interaction with it than a male does).

According to Wright (2006) the early feminism movements in 1550-1700 in England were attempts to deal with patriarchy. The focus of the struggle for early feminism was against the patriarchal view of the subordinate position of women because they were often seen as weaker, irrational and more emotional beings. This thinking is made possible because of the development of enlightenment in Indonesia which influences the thinking of women as part of society that plays a role in the development of society.

Early feminism struggles in three ways. first, through an attempt to revise the essential subordination of women in church teachings. Second, opposition to various guidebooks tended to restrain women at that time. Third, by building solidarity among female writers. Which aims to build confidence and financial support among women writers. Intellectual education given to girls in families influenced by enlightenment, in turn, inspired the importance of women's education to become the basis for a more political movement in feminism (Ross, 2009).

Women's oppression will be difficult to eradicate if feminism only addresses the injustice of oppression of women and ignores capitalism. The strategy that has the greatest potential for exposing the exploitation and oppression of the vast majority of women around the world is socialist feminism (Tong, 2017). There are several forms of women's injustice in Tong's (2017) book entitled feminist though such as stereotypes, subordination, marginalization, violence, burden. Stereotype refers to assigning a person or group a standard representation, label, or stamp based on an incorrect or erroneous assumption. Subordination is a number of social and legal barriers that prevent women from accessing and succeeding in the public

sphere. Marginalization is being barred from effective social interaction, including meaningful job. Violence is an act of rudeness done by someone to another person. Then, burden is work that one gender receives more than the other gender.

An example of the phenomenon of social injustice toward women that occurred in Indonesia, especially in the Aceh area on *Kompas.com*. A woman named RJ who had a husband and wife relationship (adultery) with a man with the initials TS who was a former head of the East Aceh fisheries and marine service. The case started when RJ's husband was not at home. The two of them (RJ&TS) allegedly made out until they were arrested by residents. As a result, the woman was brought to a public place, and she was punished with 100 lashes. Meanwhile, TS who was also brought to a public place only received 15 lashes. This includes the contextualization of Simon de Beauvoir's injustice by getting treatment and violence experienced by women. This is included in the form of injustice in Rosemary Tong book by placing women in a position below men who receive more severe punishment. Woman feels this contradiction in her wounded flesh; she is too afraid for open rebellion against masculine bad faith; he considers himself a victim of an injustice that made him a criminal against his will, and at the same time he feels dirty and humiliated.

Feminism is a political philosophy and ideology that emphasizes gender as a topic of study when examining cultural norms and as a basis for asking for justice, equity and equal opportunity. The fundamental premise of feminism is that gender roles are defined and that women are taught to conform to them. That is, roles such as "daughter" or "mother" are social constructs rather than natural ones because

they require women to be taught how to think, speak, and behave in a certain way. Feminist theory argues that real social conditions in which women have no power, are seen as sex objects or reproductive machines, lack political and economic rights, and are harassed make women weak, submissive, innocent, seductive, or sentimental and irrational. Feminism is thus a way of thinking that refuses to separate art from current social norms and practices. Cultural texts normalize the defense of women by stereotyping women as weak/vulnerable, seducers, hindrances, sex objects, or means of reproduction (Nayar, 2009).

One of the literary works that illustrate a social injustice toward women entitled *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. American author Nathaniel was a master of the allegorical and symbolic tale. He wrote both novels and short stories. In addition, he is also a greatest fiction writer in American literature was born July 4, 1804. Salem, Massachusetts, U.S. The reason why Nathaniel is called a master, because the decisions and struggles of Hawthorne's characters reflect broader generalizations about the issues facing people today. In *The Scarlet Letter*, his use of symbolism is particularly successful, and the scarlet letter itself assumes a wider significance and application that is completely out of proportion to its literal existence as a shred of fabric. Hawthorne disapproved of the Transcendentalists' apparent overconfidence in the goodness of human nature. Instead, he took a closer, possibly sincere look at life. His writings don't offer a romantic escape; instead, they offer a strong and unwavering examination of the psychological and moral realities of the human predicament.

Scarlet Letter first edition was published by Ticknor, Reed and Fields (Boston United State) in 1850. On page 21, the primary first edition marking reads "reduplicate" rather than "repudiate." Prior to the free end paper, there are four pages of publisher advertisements at the front dated March 1, 1850. Furthermore, this Scarlet novel has been adopted into a film on October 13, 1995 with a duration of 135 minutes. The film received nominations at the 1996 MTV Movie + TV Awards as Nominee Most Desirable Female, then Political Film Society, USA 1996 nominee human rights, and Razzie Awards (1996) nominee Worst Screen Couple, Worst Director, Worst Screenplay but also won the Razzie Awards Remake or Sequel, Worst Picture, Worst Actress, Worst Supporting Actor.

. This classic novel tells the story of a woman who becomes a victim of cruel social sanctions in the puritanical and hypocritical structure of society. Hester Prynne, the wife of a prominent family, leaves Europe to sail to a new world, America. She went first, her husband followed later. After two years living alone in Boston, Hester's husband never came. There was a tragedy that Hester found her true love, and gave birth to Pearl, a baby from her affair with a priest Arthur Dimmesdale. For keeping their mouth shut about Pearl's father, society imposed a social sanction in the form of "scarlet letters" a sign for adulterers. However, other, more severe punishments threaten him such as marginalization, stereotypes and even violence given by puritans.

Social injustice against women is very clearly illustrated by the novel Scarlet Letter through a character named Hester. Hester is the main character as a woman who gets bad treatment from puritan society. During his sentence Hester

was always insulted by the local community. One of the narratives that show social injustice to women faced by Hester can be seen from the quote below:

As the two wayfarers came within the precincts of the town, the children of the Puritans looked up from their play, what passed for play with those sombre little urchins—and spoke gravely one to another. **“Behold, verily, there is the woman of the scarlet letter: and of a truth, moreover, there is the likeness of the scarlet letter running along by her side! Come, therefore, and let us fling mud at them!”** (Hawthorne, 1850,pg153)

The description in the passage quoted shows that Hester has experienced some kind of social injustice. When purists refer to Hester's sign on her chest while she and her child are out on a walk, they are demonstrating stereotyped behaviour. Pioneer Tong defines stereotyping as the application of standardized representations, labels, or stamps to individuals or groups based on beliefs that are untrue or false.

In developing the ideas in this research, there are several journals that are used by the author as a reference for developing this research. The first journal was written by Mardiyani & Tawami (2022) with the title Gender Inequality And Feminism in Arundhati Roy's The God Of Small Things. In general, this research explains that feminism focuses on feminism which is called gender inequality. The results of this study show how women get gender inequality and women's injustice such as subordination, social marginalization, discrimination and patriarchal systems that exist in society and cannot claim their rights and experience violence. The similarity of this research is the same as examining the existence of social injustice experienced by women. This study is of course different from the study in research using gender inequality feminist theory, while in this study the researcher uses a feminist theory about social injustice in women by Rosemary Tong.

The second journal was written by Nurrahmah & Wahyuningtyas (2019) entitled Gender Injustice Toward Women In Oka Rusmini's Tempur Novel: The Approach Feminism Literature. The object of this research is social injustice in the feminist approach. The results of this study indicate that there are several elements of injustice that occur to women such as subordination, stereotypes, marginalization, violence and workload as well as the responses shown by women to injustice such as choosing to be silent, fighting and being independent women. This research is related to research, namely the object in the form of social injustice and the women's response to social injustice.

The phenomenon of social injustice against women as reflected in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne is the problem discussed in this study. Researchers use different theories from the journals above, but researchers find comfort in the element of injustice that occurs in the two journals. Tong's (2017) theory of social injustice is used to analyze the forms of social injustice that the main character in *Scarlet Letter* responds to.

Based on the explanation above, there are two variables discussed in this study. First, all forms of social injustice against women faced by the main character. Second, the response by women to the social injustice experienced by the main character in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *Scarlet Letter*. The first and second variables are answered using the theory Tong(2017).

The researcher chose this study to be analyzed because based on the explanation in the research above, there is a concern for feminism, because the researcher found a phenomenon containing feminism which refers to the struggles

of women in the story. Researchers became interested in examining patriarchal culture about how society treats social injustice against women and found that there are ways for women to respond to social injustice which makes this research different from previous research. The author uses the theory Tong (2017) which explains that there is social injustice in various forms such as stereotypes, subordination, marginalization, violation and burden.

1.2 Identification of the problem

Based on the background of the research above the researcher identified the problems as follows:

1. The forms of social injustice toward women as the main character in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
2. The response of Hester Prynne as the main character to social injustice in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
3. The negative consequences of Hester Prynne as main character to social injustice

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on identification of problems the researcher limit the problem consist of:

1. The forms of social injustice toward women as the main character in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
2. The response of Hester Prynne as main character to social injustice in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Dealing with limitation of the problem, the researcher would like to formulate the follows:

1. What are the forms of social injustice toward women as the main character in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne?
2. What is the response of Hester Prynne as the main character to social injustice in the Novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research could be formulated follow:

1. To find out the forms of social injustice toward women as the main character in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
2. To find out the response of Hester Prynne as the main character to social injustice in the Novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this first research is intended to be able to understand how the forms of social injustice that occur in women in society are described in Nathaniel Hawthorne's work in accordance with Rosemary Tong's theory: Stereotypes, Marginalization, Subordination, Violence, Workload. Second, the researcher expects the reader to understand how the response of women is described in the novel *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne which consists of: being silent, struggling and being independent. Furthermore, the researcher also hopes that this

research can be useful as a source of learning and teaching of feminist approaches, especially the feminist movement against injustice against women.

2. Practically

It is hoped that this research will be more useful for readers, especially for English Literature students who are interested in analyzing the women's feminist movement against injustice. Hopefully this research will be useful for students as a reference for analyzing feminist theory. Finally, researchers can provide information to future researchers who are interested in conducting research using feminist theory.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Feminist : Feminism is thus a way of thinking that refuses to separate art from current social norms and practices. Cultural texts normalize the defense of women by stereotyping women as weak/vulnerable, seducers, hindrances, sex objects, or means of reproduction (Nayar, 2009).

Social injustice :Oppression of women around the world such as stereotype, subordination, marginalization, violence, and (Tong, 2017)

Patriarchy : Defined as a device of sexual power in which men have superior energy and monetary privileges. Patriarchy is a male hierarchical order in society Eisenstein(1979).