

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

Essentially, men and women are created equally. The statement clearly tells that everyone has the same right in every aspect of life such as religion, politics, education, and so on. Gender equality awareness is marked by the absence of discrimination between men and women. Everyone has the opportunity and access to participate, control over development, and obtain benefits from the development that they manage equally and fairly.

The gender equality practice still cannot be fully implemented in our society. The relation between men and women is still dominated and influenced by gender ideology which creates patriarchy culture. This phenomenon placing men as the main power holders and dominating in political leadership role, moral authority, social rights and property ownership. It leads to the formation of gender inequalities that affect all fields and aspects of human activity. Therefore, the position and men's role in society appears to have a larger and dominant portion compared to the women's role.

We cannot avoid the fact that patriarchal culture is still inherent in today's society. In modern time like nowadays, there are still many women who are constrained by patriarchal culture and cannot fully get the rights they deserve. The women's role in public sphere is still very limited. Their participation in making

decision is often neglected. Meanwhile, men are placed in a central position which means they are the one who holds the main control. The society considers men to be at the top of the hierarchy. The impact of this situation is the influence of women's role in social aspects tend to be limited.

Patriarchal culture is not the only problem that Indonesia deals with. On the early 1900s, patriarchal culture has been embedded in French society. This problem can be found in various elements of society aspects, started from education, economics, social, and politics. Patriarchal culture forces women to depend on men for their lives, so they cannot freely develop their potential. Patriarchal culture also becomes an obstacle for women in accessing resources. Therefore, their personal proficiency becomes limited in certain fields which then causes many women trapped in poverty.

The resources referred are education and employment. In economic aspect, women often faced to the limited access for finding jobs and problems of wage discrimination. The traditional role of women in French society involves domestic duties such as housekeeping, preparation of meals in the customary fashion that involves a "succession of courses eaten one at a time". The work division based on gender causes women always associated with activities that are in the domestic sphere and men with the public sphere.

In education aspect, women are considered to not have a major contribution in this field. Many people think that education only belongs to men. Jean-Jacques in *Rousseau's Emile* cited that the development of rationality as the most important educational goal for boys, but not for girls (Tong, 2009). The limitation access in

education in France could be seen that the women at that time went to school like men did. But women were not expected to take the political responsibility. The education system the children could get depends on their gender. It could be seen that the boys were sent to the higher education level, perhaps a university, while the girls, if they were lucky enough to leave the house, they would be sent to board at a convent or finishing school.

Through this phenomenon, a feminist movement emerged against patriarchal culture. Feminism in France has its origins in the French Revolution. There are numbers of famous figures that had an important role in 19th century, including Louise Michel, Elisabeth Dmitriedd, and Nathalie Lemel. French feminism encompasses a branch of feminist theories that emerged in the 1970s and 1990s. One of Indonesian feminist, Ratna (2004), defines feminism as women's struggles to fight for their rights as a social class. It is mostly aimed at increasing women's awareness about their condition which suppressed by the patriarchy.

In order to build the spirit of feminism, there are countless feminist figures create their works into several creations. Most of them usually contain a content that tries to educate our society about feminism and also seeks to raise awareness about the current state of women and gender. One of their creation is in a form of novel. Novel is a long prose contains a series of someone's life story. It contains cultural values, social, moral, and other elements that related to our society. This is what makes the issue of feminism understandable by all people with enjoyment.

One of the novels that contains feminism content is "*The Nightingale*". It is a historical fiction novel by Kristin Hannah and published in 2015. This novel is

inspired by a Belgium woman named Andrée de Jongh. She was a member of the Belgian Resistance during the Second World War. She was also helped taken down allied pilot to escape from Nazi territory. Her action was described in and inspired several movies, television shows, and books.

*The Nightingale* itself were started when the World War II broke out. Every man in the age of eight-teen to thirty-five was obliged to join the war thus the women, children, and elderly stayed at their residence. Isabelle, a rebellious daughter of Julien, was told by her father to left Paris and go to Vianne, her sister's place in Carriveau. She hardly refused her father's wish and insisted to fight back the Germans. But in the end, she had no choice and obeyed her father's wish.

It did not take a long time for the Germans invaded France. The Germans even have arrived at Carriveau after a few days of Isabelle's arrival. They limited food supplies, taken various valuables, and even set the curfew for the French. Death penalty was applied if any French broke the rules. One day, she caught someone's attention when she streaked the Nazi's poster in the hidden alley. It turned out the secret rebellious group has watched her move. She was invited to become their member in order to liberate France by spread propaganda to the French. There were cons between the member in deciding whether Isabelle could join or no. It was because she was a woman and too young for the mission.

It was hard for her to do something that she wanted just because she is a woman. This condition is contrary with the Tong theory of liberal feminism. According to Tong (2009), liberal feminism is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything

that they want. Liberal feminism emphasizes the freedom that women can get. It means that women have the same opportunity to do what their life as well as men.

In the novel, It is seen that Isabelle wanted to break the negative assumption of women as it reflects when she decided to go off the war. As she stated in the novel that a woman can go to war these days. She did not care what anyone's thought (Kristin, 2015). This action surely reflects the liberal feminism values of equal liberty. Nobody could ever limit someone's liberty by seeing their gender. Every men and women could do whatever they want as long as it is not detrimental to many parties.

There were some research that had been analyzed regarding to the femisim liberal. The first research is done by Puspitasari (2016). object of the research was the liberal feminism values that is depicted in the female main character using Tong theory. The answer of the analysis showed that there are a few of liberal feminism values depicted through the character. Those are equality in economy and politics, equal liberty, and education.

The second research is done by Eidelweis (2018). This analysis is focus on Joy's struggle which reflects liberal feminist value. The result of the analysis showed that Joy is a liberal feminist as she reflects some points of liberal feminism such as equal liberty, gender justice, and mono-androgyny.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is interested to analyse the liberal feminism values in *The Nightingale* by using Tong (2009) theory which entitled the research is "Liberal Feminism Values Reflected on Isabelle's Character in *The Nightingale* Novel: A Feminist Approach."

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

1. Patriarchal culture that has been embedded in “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah.
2. The existence of feminism against the patriarchal culture in “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah
3. Education equality reflects in “The Nightingale”
4. Liberty equality reflects in “The Nightingale”
5. Rights equality reflects in “The Nightingale”

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

In this research, the writer will focus on analyzing liberal feminism values reflected by the women character in “The Nightingale” novel by Kristin Hannah

## **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

1. What are the education equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”?
2. What are the liberty equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”?
3. What are the rights equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”?

## **1.5 Objective of the Research**

1. To find out what are the education equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”
2. To find out what are the liberty equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”
3. To find out what are the rights equality values reflected in “The Nightingale”

## **1.6 Significance of the Research**

1. Theoretically

There are some purposes on the writing of this research. This research is expected to give more illustration about feminism and enrich knowledge, especially with feminist literary criticism. It is also hoped to realizing the values of feminism among the readers.

## 2. Practically

Practically, the researcher hopes that this research could be a consideration as well as scientific studies for students who want to analyze literary works based on feminist literary criticism. Besides that, this research will make men and women themselves aware that they have the same rights. Women could also defend their rights so they are not easily underestimated in the society. This research also expects that women could be shown as an independent human being.

### 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

**Feminism** : Critical social theory which included in social context, political, economic, and history that is facing by injustice people. It is a movement that is used for the purpose of getting things that were not obtained by women previously. (Ritzer, 2003).

**Liberal Feminism** : Liberal Feminism is the freedom that women can get. It emphasizes on women should be free from oppressive gender roles (Tong, 2014)

**Values** : Basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions. Its existence helps every community get

rights and carry out obligations in a fair and equitable manner (Mintz, 2018).