

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Feminism

The movement to uphold justice and equal rights between men and women is a part of social problem that is interesting to be discussed. The reason why it is interesting because in almost every social interaction that is built in the society, there is still a pattern of oppressive relationships to women. The description of the oppression experienced by women has prompted the birth of various social movements to fight justice and liberate women from oppression. This movement is known as the feminist movement.

Feminism emerged along with the rising awareness that as human beings, women should also have the same rights as men. Women used to be considered as the individual whose position is below men. Women are culturally bound to a patriarchal system which means that women could not do the exact thing that common men do. This condition is a result of gender inequality in our society. It is contrary with Madsen (2000) statement which individuals have rights to choose their life, or how they will live their life.

Freedman (2001) stated that feminism concerns about the inferior position of women in society, that women are discriminated because of their sex. Gender inequality that embedded in women for years create the ideology of feminism so that

women demand equality of rights, status, and position between men and women in the domestic and public sectors. This movement made people aware of the inferior position of women. In its development, feminism is also known as the notion of gender equality because its main goal is to fight for men and women equality.

It is known that the feminist movement has made the first appearance since the ancient Greece and Rome, but not too straight-out. For instance, Plato wrote in his book entitled *Republik* that women and men differ in strength and virtue. However, he believed that women's rationality can match men's if they got an education. He also believed that women could fully participate as citizen.

Despite of Plato's thought of women's empowerment, the understanding of equality that he believed was still flawed. Plato was not that radical in putting his idea into practical. Instead, Plato condescending women. This is proven by *A Study on Plato's Attitude Towards Women* by Sena Iskigil. One of the example shown is in Plato's *Republik*, he argued that women can get the equal education in order to become the protectors of the state. Women as a protector role which means that women became a joint property by men. A property which at that time could be used for anything, including matters of sex.

The understanding of women's empowerment keep evolving throughout the years. In France, feminist movement was first noticed in 1405. Feminism emerged in France as a part of the great demand for social and political reform. Women demand equality with men and then turn to demand to end male domination. A French philosopher named Christine de Pizan wrote a book called *The Book of the City of Ladies*. This book described a utopian society that put women as liberate as

men. Christine de Pizan was writer to live off her pen, challenging misogyny in her works. Modern feminist believed that she was the founder of feminism (proto-feminism).

And then, this movement continued in 1622. Marie de Gournay demanded for better access to education for women in her book *Equality of Women and Men*. It is said that the inferior position of women is not because of its nature, but the limited access for the education itself. It is the starting point for thinking about equal rights through this book. This book has become the starting point for thinking about equal rights eventually.

Due to the emergence of feminist movements in that century, a lot of people became aware of this issue. Not only the women, the men were also voicing for equality in other fields. In 1673, François Poullain de la Barre opposed the subordination of women. He believed the Cartesian method which proved that mind is sexless. Women are as capable as men in thinking, reasoning, and acting for themselves and in their society. He demanded for equal education and career opportunities for women.

Long ago before these French philosopher's came up with this idea, the fate of French women was not as good as it is nowadays. The French women were hard to get the equality they deserved because French had subordinated women in all fields. Women were often placed at home while men were at the forefront. This situation was not only happened in France. Women in several European countries also experienced a similar situation. European society at that time had a strong belief that women were lower than men.

Ever since then, the feminist movement slowly spread throughout the Europe. In 1792, the awareness about feminism appeared for the first time in England. Mary Wollstonescraft published a book entitled *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* after the French revolution broke out. During that time, she observed that there was an imbalance in political participation between men and women. In Wollstonescraft's point of view, the dethronement of an absolute monarchy should be a momentum for women to act.

It took thousands of years to realize that women are at a disadvantage situation. In feminism movement journey, philosophy's view of this inequality is the result of the patriarchal culture. A culture that places men as the center of everything. Thus, a figure like Wollstonescraft becomes one of many women who have this awareness. They see how the world works unfairly. For instance when women were not allowed to go to school, they were not allowed to receive the same wages as men, they were not allowed to determine their own destiny, and many more.

Feminism has grown become an organized insurrectionary movement. They pushed the policies that were unfair become fair. As a result, a number of regulations that curb women's freedom were gradually abolished. As time goes by, feminism has many stream. Rosemarie Tong, an American feminist philosopher, in her book entitled *Feminist Thought* has her own opinion on feminist. She has divided feminism into liberal feminism, radical feminism, marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, care-focused feminism, multicultural, global, and postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism, and last but not least postmodern and third-wave feminism.

2.1.1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism movement has existed since the middle 19th century. This movement was delivered by many figures such as Rosemarie Tong, Abigail Adams, Mary Wollstonecraft, and many more. They were influenced by social contract theory that had existed since the American revolution era. One of those figures, Rosemarie Tong, has divided feminism movements into several types. One of them is liberal feminism. Liberal feminism is mainly about the freedom that women can get, it focuses on the freedom of the individual in which women can do what they want. Individual rights for liberals should take priority over “goods”. It means that each individual is given the freedom to choose what is good for themselves as long as it does not harm others. Liberalism also emphasizes on a society that allows each individual to practice their autonomy in meeting their needs.

In her book, Tong argues that liberal feminism itself is divided into two parts. They are classical liberal and welfare liberal. Classical liberal emphasizes individual civil rights such as women’s suffrage, land ownership rights, and freedom of expression. The state is expected to protect civil rights and provide everyone the equal opportunity to accumulate profits in the free market. Classical liberal is expected to not interfering with the free market. Otherwise, welfare liberals believe the state role should focused on economic justice. Welfare liberals also expects the stated to focuses on women’s opportunities to be equal and fair in accessing resources. Therefore, welfare liberals call for government interventions in the economy such as legal services, school loans, food stamps, low-cost housing, and any other economic fields.

Based on the explanation above, Tong emphasizes three values of liberal feminism that must be fulfilled in order to achieve this movement. They are equal education, equal liberty, and equal rights.

2.1.1.1. Equal Education

Education is one of the main factors in the development of a nation. The attempt that can be done in order to achieve this goal is educational equity. Educational equity is a strategy in order to get fairness, justice, and impartiality in education. This strategy covers two important aspects, they are equality of opportunity to obtain education and justice in obtaining the same higher education in society. It is important to change the traditional patterns into modern patterns that are more capable of prospering the wider community. This movement is expected to become a support for nation development and create human resources with a good quality.

Unfortunately, there are still many who think that women do not deserve the same education as men. This patriarchal mindset is one of the causes of educational inequality. Patriarchal culture affects women's opportunity to get equal education, especially higher education. Parents will prioritize their sons to pursue higher education than their daughters.

This stereotype must be removed because it is not in accordance with the feminism values of equal education. Basically, women have an important role in the aspect of education, In fact, the first education that every child could receive is from their mother. There is a proverb that a smart mother will give birth to a smart

children too. Thus, women should receive an equal education with men because women's intelligence will affect the nation's future successors.

“Ibrahim Baskoro, Papa, first met Mama at the Indonesian Embassy in London, 33 years ago. Papa, the junior diplomat, who had just been on duty for a year, was still an onion, while Mama had arrived in London at that time for postgraduate study, scholarship.” (Purwarno et al., 2021)

The statement above is showing that “*Mama*” has received a higher education by looking at her educational background. It was quite explained that she is an educated woman. Tong (2009) stated that the truly educated woman will be a major contributor to society's welfare.

2.1.1.2. Equal Liberty

According to this principle, men and women have rights to be treated fairly to all existing systems of liberties and in accordance with those liberties. Equal liberty includes freedom to participate in the political system, freedom of speech, liberty, freedom to be independent and the right to defend private property. Mill believed that if women were given the same liberties men enjoy, and if women were taught to value the good of the whole, then women would develop genuine unselfishness (Tong, 2009).

Liberty equality is a demand in almost all countries. In fact, it is not easy to achieve it. Biologically, men and women are different. The cause of inhibition of equal liberty is the cultural construct of society regarding patriarchal culture which distinguishes the roles of men and women. Women's role has always been more dominant in domestic work. Domestic roles describe jobs or activities related to the household. These activities include washing clothes, cooking, sweeping the house, washing dishes, ironing, or similar activities including caring for children. This is

normal thing if there is indeed an agreed division of tasks. However, in practical, many women are required to work to increase their husband's income while bearing the burden of housework.

Doing household chores or what is commonly called domestic work is often still attached as the realm of women. In fact, there are still many who perpetuate the stereotype that domestic work is entirely the responsibility of women. Domestic role is not the only an obligation or necessity for women. It can also be performed by men. Domestic work is a task that can be done by anyone, regardless of gender.

This cultural construct has been passed down from generation and will be difficult to change. It takes a very long process to change this culture. Even though it takes difficulties to change it, there is still a slight of hope for realizing gender equality through liberty equality, involving men and women in participating in the same activities, getting benefits that are fair between men and women.

He claims, "I ask marry you to marry me because I want to make a household with you, not make a restaurant, Nya."(Purwarno et al., 2021).

In the most common community in society, the domestic work is usually done by women. But in the statement above, it supported the liberty that a man gives to a woman. It described that he did not mind that Anya could not cook. He understands that cooking is not a gender role but it is a basic skill that either men or women can do.

2.1.1.3. Equal Rights

In order to emerge justice and balance between men and women, an understanding of gender equality through equal rights is very important. Equal rights is the concept that every person is treated equally by the law. This concept

include the right to live free without any violence threat and discrimination. In order to be fully liberated, women need economic opportunities and sexual freedom as well as civil liberties (Tong, 2009).

Men and women are considered to have the same nature and the equivalent degree which means no gender is considered superior. A comprehension of gender equality is a form of effort and respects for human rights. Gender equality provides equal rights and obligations for both men and women. Through the rights equality, people can see gender differences objectively.

People often misunderstand the concept of gender equality through rights equality. People think that gender equality can be achieved when everything what men do, it must also be done by women as well. Some of them think that when men are beaten, women can also be beaten. That comparison is not apple to apple. This perception is a totally mistake. Equality does not examine the same rights and obligation. But it is examine the rights and obligation as equal. Equal means that men and women have their respective parts, but in the differences parts, each gender has the same and balanced degree and position.

“Shut up!” She turned from him, but he smashed her head into the headboard. Then he grabbed her by the hair and dragged her into their daughters’ bedroom. “Stop, please! The girls-“ “What’s the matter? You don’t want them to see? Maybe it’s time they see what it means to be a woman.” (Wulandari et al., 2019)

In the statement above, it describes the women’s situation in Arab. It is a common thing in Arab that women get a bad treatment. Certainly, it is contrary with the values of equal rights. It is a wrong thing if a woman just keeps silent when they got a violence by their surroundings. Therefore, the presence of feminist movement is important to help women live freely without any dangerous threat.

2.3 Previous Research

Agustina (2018) examine Emma Watson's speech of women's right. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Rosemarie Tong's theory. The statement of this research shown that women's right that must be balance as the men are equal rights of social, work, politics, and education aspect.

Sari (2018) conducted the liberal feminism values in the film entitled "*Battle of the Sexes* " as the primary data source. This research used Tong (2009) theory to analyzed the liberal feminism values shown in the character. The method of research used is descriptive qualitative analysis. The result revealed there are three values that are reflected in Jean Character, they are equal opportunity in economy, equal liberty, and equal education.

Safitri (2018) discovered the liberal feminism values found in drama script entitled "*He and She*" by Rachel Crothers as the primary data source. The researcher also used other source which related to the research problems. The researcher also used Tong (2009) theory to analyzed the feminism. The result shown that there are two values that the two most dominant values appear, they are equal liberty, and equal right.

Ramadani (2019) analyzed the liberal feminism values in Emily Dickinson's selected poems as the data source. In this research, the researcher used the kind of feminism by Abbott & Wallace as major theories and Rosemarie Tong's theories as supporting theories to answer research problems. The result shown in this research is there are five kinds of feminism values contained in Emily Dickinson's

chosen poetry, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, marxist feminism, materialist feminism, and dual-system feminism.

Sihotang & Pasaribu (2020) studied the feminism values in Toba Batak Song Lyrics. This research was analyzed by using Rosemarie Tong's theory of feminism to find out the meaning founded in selected Toba Batak Song Lyrics. The most dominant type of feminism in selected Toba Batak song lyrics is Liberal Feminism because almost all sentence it can be show how a mother in Toba Batak tribe love and care every minute of her life

Sundari et al., (2020) discovered the feminism in the film entitled "*Erin Brockovich*". This study aims at identifying what the type and the principles of the feminism found in the film. The researchers used Rosemarie Tong's theory of feminism to seek the feminism values. The results of this research show that there are thirty dialogues and scenes it refers to Liberal Feminism.

Rahmawati, (2020) analyzed liberal feminism in the movie entitled "*Die Gottliche Ordnung*" by Petra B. Volpe. The research aims to make readers know the images of liberal feminism through the main character in the movie. The theory used is Rosemarie Tong's theory of various types of women's rights championed through liberal feminism. The answer of the analysis is there are six images of liberal feminism based on dialogue and events related to the main character of the movie.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

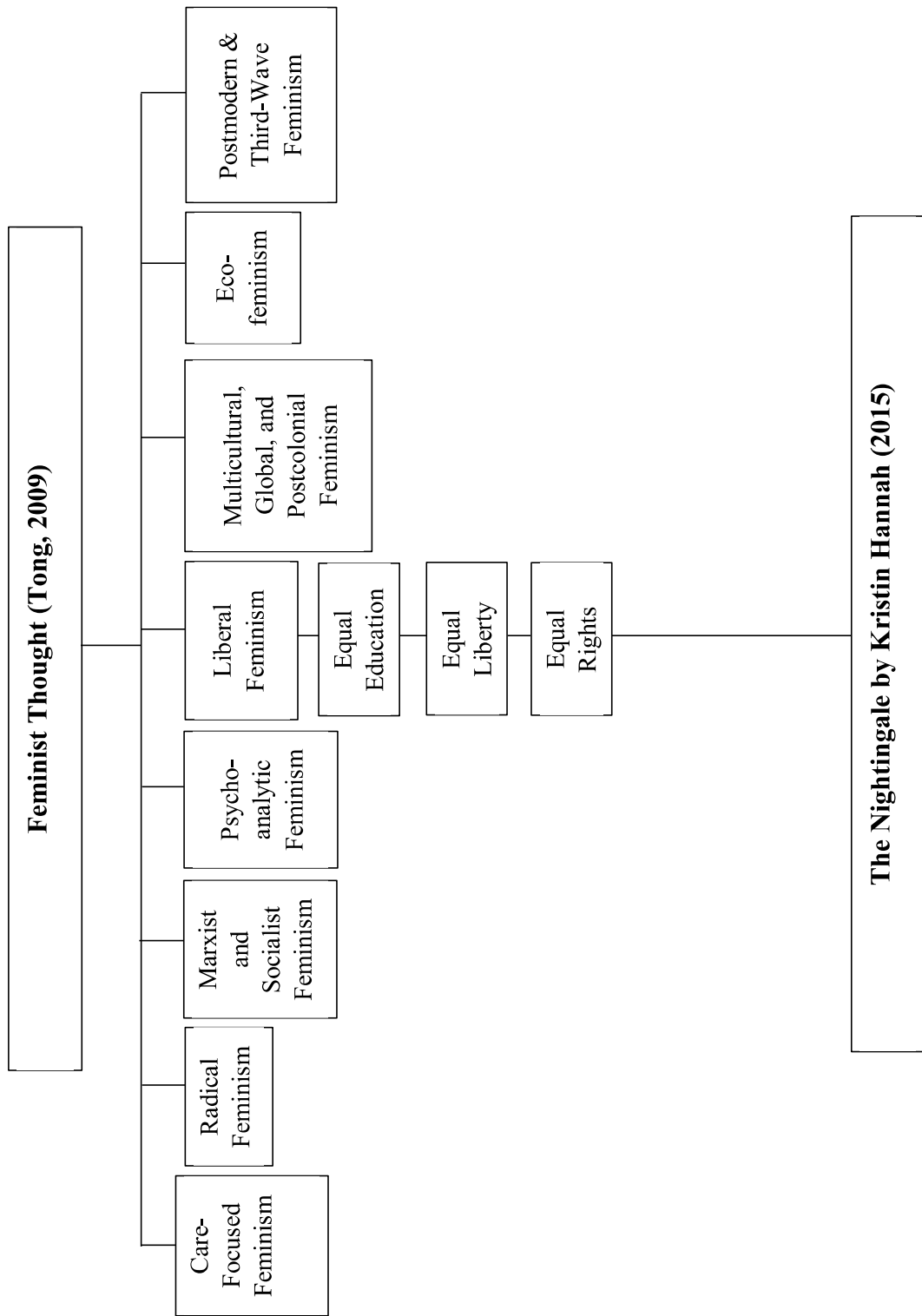


Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework