

**WOMAN'S SELF EXISTENCE AGAINST  
SUBORDINATION IN THE NOVEL PRIDE AND  
PREJUDICE: BEAUVOIR'S EXISTENTIALIST  
FEMINISM**

**THESIS**



**By:  
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND HUMANITIES  
PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY  
2018 YEAR**

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



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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
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2018 YEAR**

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I, Fitria Wulandari, NPM No.141210118

Hereby declare that the thesis entitled:

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Is the real work of myself and I realize that thesis has never been published in other media before, partially or entirely, in the name of mine or others.

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

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## **ABSTRAK**

*Era Victoria merupakan tonggak berdirinya peranan feminisme dalam menyetarakan derajat wanita dengan laki-laki. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan self-existence pada karakter Elizabeth di novel *Pride and Prejudice* yang memperjuangkan kesetaraan hak-hak kaum wanita dengan menggunakan teori Simone de Beauvoir yang mengkalsifikasikan existensialism menjadi tiga bagian yaitu: subordinasi, psikologi, malafid. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini adalah membaca novel, mendaftarkan dan mengumpulkan kata-kata yang menunjukkan adanya gerakan existensialisme yang ditemukan dalam novel. Kemudian hasilnya dijelaskan dan dijabarkan melalui analisis. Dalam penyajian data peneliti menggunakan metode informal karena hanya menggunakan kata-kata dalam mendeskripsikan hasil penelitian. Dari proses analisis data dapat ditemukan bahwa Elizabeth bisa mendapatkan pasangan hidupnya sendiri. Dia juga bisa membuktikan kepada keluarganya bahwa keputusannya untuk menolak perjodohan itu adalah keputusan yang tepat. Dari proses analisis data maka dapat di temukan bahwa perempuan berhak mendapatkan hak yang sama dengan laki-laki. Sedangkan jenis kelamin seharusnya tidak menjadi patokan untuk menentukan hak seseorang.*

***Kata Kunci: Feminisme eksistensialis, subordinasi, hak-hak perempuan.***

## **ABSTRACT**

The Vitorian era is a milestone in the role of feminism in equalizing women to men. The purpose of this study was to find self-existence in the Elizabethan character of the *Pride and Prejudice* novel which fight for women's rights equality by using the Simone de Beauvoir theory that classifies existentialism into three parts: subordination, psychology, mala fide. This research uses qualitative descriptive method. Data collection techniques in this study are to read the novels, register and collect words that show the existence of existentialism movement found in the novel. Then the results are explained and elaborated through analysis. In the data presentation, researcher uses the informal method because it only uses words in describing the results of research. From the process of data analysis can be found that Elizabeth can get her life partner by herself. He can also prove to his family that his decision to deny the match is the right decision. From the process of data analysis, it can be found that women deserve to have the same rights as men. While gender should not be a benchmark in determining a person's rights.

**Keywords:** Feminism Existentialist, Subordination, Women's rights.

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

### **MOTTO**

*“Believe it that there is nothing more beautiful than the plan of Allah SWT”*

*“Success is when you can make your parents happy”*

### **Dedications:**

I dedicated that this thesis to:

My family and all my friends who have supported and given me spirit in doing this research and also for the next researchers who is going to continue this research.



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Fitria Wulandari

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

In the Victorian era, women have a lower position in society. It can be seen from the men's point of view who only considered the presence of women as powerless people, in which their roles are not even considered more important than men's role. Men are entitled to determine all the choices that exist in their lives, whether it is the right of proper education, the right to have a decent work, and the right to have a high position in society. Instead, these are rights that women will never get, as illustrated in Elizabeth Bennet character in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* novel. Women cannot get the same rights as men. They also cannot get an inheritance, freedom to choose their spouse, and choose the job they want. The injustices then make Elizabeth Bennet move to voice her rights to stop the injustices that happened in her life, a British woman of that era who believes that she deserves to have the same rights as men.

As found in the novel "*Pride and Prejudices*" that has written by Jane Austen, she illustrates how is the life of society in the 19th century. Especially, at that time the women rights are discriminated in the society because of the male was dominant. The woman self-existence that reflected in character Elizabeth Bennet and other women characters in *Pride and Prejudice* novel are the women who discriminated in society; the one who can not get the inheritance, the rights to speak up, the right to express their thought, the rights to choose, and the rights to

have the same position as men in society. In this novel, Elizabeth fought for her rights by rejecting an arranged marriage which has been approved by her parent to marry Mr. Collins who proposed her. She wants to show that she can find her life partner by her own way without having an arranged marriage. She believes with her intelligent, brave, and independent, she dares to turn the society's image for women' role in a family, and she can change the view of marriage under capitalism family in "Pride and Prejudice" period. She proves tha she can live happily without married to Mr. Collins who will be the heir to his father's property.

In addition, this novel was clearly illustrated how women completely dependent on men; first to their father, second to their husband. Because at that time woman is still regarded as the weak figure who can not do anything without the man existence. Elizabeth wants to show that perception about women can not do the same thing as men is a wrong perception. Elizabeth tries to fight for self-existence against discriminations that happened to her at that time. Thus, the most important thing that a woman at certain class should do at that time is to choose the right man and marry well.

This research comes from a phenomenon, where men position are more powerful than women in society. It occurs because of the gender differences between men and women. Therefore, the researcher realizes that the phenomenon of this women movement should be analyzed more deeply so that the self-existence issues in women movement are proven changing the injustices against the subordination and other discrimination. As supported by Ritonga (2016:317)

that stated, the existence of the self is not innate, but is built from a personal consciousness that is influenced by the social environment. So women can get the same rights as men.

This research analyzes regarding to Elizabeth Bennet's efforts in woman movement who had stopped injustices in woman's self-existence issues against the subordination in the novel of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen deeply. This research is analyzed by using Beauvoir's existentialism theories. Beauvoir, as the most influential figure in feminism, argues in *The Second Sex* to show women and their social condition in a patriarchal society, being defined as 'other' relative to men. The patriarchal society is constructed in such a way to maintain women in their inferior and ignore their will. She repeatedly emphasizes that women is categorized as the second sex, as the other, mostly for the biological differences between man and women and notes that biology is one of the most important factors for society to determine women's subordination. The researcher uses Beauvoir theory about the feminist self-existence that was created to fight the discriminations which are: subordination, psychology and malafide.

According to Beauvoir, he divided the 3 types of woman self-existence, they are subordination, psychology and malafide. Subordination is the woman discrimination by men due to women's physical appearance. In psychology, Beauvoir argues that women are only regarded as objects by men. Meanwhile, in mala fide are the women competes to improve their performance in order to prevent themselves being discriminated in society.

Look at this conversation below:

**“Mr. Bennet’s property consisted almost entirely in a state of two thousand a year, which, unfortunately for his daughters, was entailed, in default of heirs male, on a distant relation; and their mother’s fortune, though ample for her situation in life, could but ill supply the deficiency of his”** (p.34)

The quotation illustrated that women can not get inheritance even though the wealth belongs to their own parents. It is clearly illustrated the distinction between men and women rights in society.

From the phenomenon above, the researcher’s curiosity arises to analyse about the self existence against subordination in the novel pride and prejudice. The aim of the research is to enrich the knowledge both the researcher and the reader about the application of Beauvoir existentialism’s theory in the phenomena that occurs around us especially in literary works as novels.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the research, there are some problems related to the types of woman self existence that can be analyzed, they are:

1. The woman subordination which reflects to the main character found in “Pride and Prejudice” novel.
2. The woman psychology which reflects to the main character found in “Pride and Prejudice” novel.
3. The woman malafide which reflects to the main character found in “Pride and Prejudice” novel.



### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

In this research the researcher does not make the limitation of the identification of the problems from the woman self-existence, so all the problems will be analyzed.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Related to these discussions above, the study will be focus on analyzing self existence on “Pride and Prejudice” novel, they are:

1. What are the types of woman self-existence reflected to the main character found in “Pride and Prejudice” novel?
2. How is the woman self-existence of the main character against the subordination in the “Pride and Prejudice” novel?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

In relation to the problems of the study, the researcher attempts to answer these two problems which stated above. In other words, this study is aimed to:

1. To find out the types of woman self-existence reflected to the main character found in “Pride and Prejudice” novel.
2. To analyze woman self-existence in the main character of Elizabeth Bennet against the subordination that show in “Pride and Prejudice” novel.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

The researcher hopes this study will give the readers better understanding about feminist. There are many aims in this research as the researcher expects. Theoretically, this research will useful for reader to give them understanding about

how to analyze a novel with similar problems, using Simone De Beauvoir. In this part also is expected to enhance the knowledge, experience, and insight of the reader and even the researcher itself.

Besides having beneficial as additional information, the research practically can help the readers especially, the novel lovers more understand the feminism that reflected in the novel.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

- Self-existence : Existing and independently by itself without external cause (Lars Hormander,1973).
- Subordination : Subordination can be understood adequately as the condition of being subordinated, or made dependent, secondary, or subservient. (dictionary.com).
- Feminist Existentialist : Feminists' arguments: very often their attempt to polemicize robs them of all value. If the "question of women" is so trivial, it is because masculine arrogance turned it into a "quarrel"; when people quarrel, they no longer reason well. (Beauvoir,1949).

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Feminism**

Feminism is a movement motivated by the assumption that women are discriminated and they must stop such discrimination by fighting for their rights. According to the history of its development, the flow of feminism is divided into the first wave, the second wave, and the third wave.

First wave feminism emerged around the 18th - 20th century. The first wave of feminism consisted of liberal feminism, which emphasized radical feminism, and Marxist and socialist feminism. Liberal feminism, emphasising on rights and justices on each of individual, as (Plain & Sellers,2007), much of the advance in the position of women in the West had rested on liberal humanist discourses of sameness and human rights. Furthermore, in radical feminism, the focus is on the problem of oppression in women dominated by men. Whereas in Marxist and Socialist feminism, the difference is socialist in the oppression of gender and class, Marxist supports class problem as the cause of difference of function and status of woman.

The second wave of feminism came after the second world war in the late 1940s. In the second wave, there is excessive feminism and gynocentric feminism. Humans who exist are human beings who continue to seek the mean in life. Because speaking of meaning, existentialism does not only apply to the individual

as a conception, but appreciating individual subjectivity far beyond its objectivity. Existentialism sees the oppression of women from the burden of reproduction borne by women, thus having no bargaining position with men.

Beauvoir is cited on the theory of existentialism from Jean-Paul Sartre. In her book *The Second Sex*, Beauvoir describes the biological, psychoanalytic, and Marxist views of the female other. But according to the three views, it is not sufficient to explain why people choose women to run the role of other. For example, according to Beauvoir et al., n.d. opposed Engels' argument by insisting that the change from capitalism to socialism would not automatically change the relations of women and men. This is because the oppression of women is more than just an economic factor, but more important is the ontological factor.

According to Beauvoir, men can use women by creating a myth that women who are adored men are women who are willing to sacrifice herself for men. Therefore, being a wife and a mother are two feminine roles that limit women's freedom. She also stated that marriage can damage the couple's relationship. Marriage transforms feelings that were once sincerely given, into obligations and rights acquired in a painful way. Furthermore, it can set apart women from themselves. And finally, the child can be a tyrant who demanded his mother and made his mother as an object.

Beauvoir also saw women workers become other because everywhere they are required to be and behave as femininity. But according to Beauvoir, three types of women who play the role of women to the top is a prostitute, narcissistic, and mystical women. Beauvoir's analysis of prostitutes is complex. On the one

hand, she views the prostitute as other, the object, which is exploited. On the other hand, prostitutes can become Self, Subject, who exploit. Beauvoir looked at the calling woman (hetaira) has more power, at least she uses her Liyanan for her own sake.

Next is the feminism of the third wave. This third wave of feminism is widely used as a reference for modern feminism. Yet many feminist figures assume that this third wave of feminism differs from the first and second waves. In the third wave, sex differences must be accepted and interconnected with each other. The absence of difference due to the diversity of both skin color, social status, and low education. There is no such thing as oppression by men or women themselves. So that can be realized welfare in equating rights between men and women.

## **2.2 Existentialism**

Existentialism is a philosophical theory that emphasize on the existence of human being. According to Beauvoir, "Human existence is ambiguous because human beings are both free and unfree, separate and connected to each other, a subject for ourselves and an object for others, consciousness and body, alive yet born to die.in Sartre's terms, human or the consciousness is not alone in the world that comes out of the brutal and contingent being-in-itself; he exists as a part of human society, an intersubjective community.(Coskuner, 2015:74). Sartre was a french philosopherwhowas also Beauvoir's teacher. Sartre is the one who give the impact to Beauvoir in presenting her view regarding existentialism. They were also on and off lovers for many years. Beauvoir views Sartre as a genius

suggestive and that she says she is not a genius person like Sartre and she regards herself as a student of him by relying on his thoughts has led to the development of this bias, (Coskuner, 2015:73). Beauvoir was someone who believed woman's identity as the other is derived partly from her biology, especially her reproductive capacity and partly from her socially imposed child rearing responsibilities, (Tong, 2012:244). Beauvoir focused on the ideas of subject/object. In women's oppression the two words are by being man's other. Where the subject man needs object woman.

As the two had mentioned about human existence above, in addition, Sartre also stated when you are living in Bad Faith, then you are not being authentic. When your not being authentic, you are just being what others are telling you to be. When you want to be authentic you have to realize that a lot of the ways you think and do are because other people think and do the same as you. As he stated in (Paper & Rahmah, 2006), he explained in the *Being and Nothingness* that *Being* consisted of:

1. Being in itself: exist in oneself, the unconscious existing; it is there by itself, the whole existing.
2. Being for itself: exist for oneself, the conscious existing; the consciousness which can be criticized. Exist on human who have thought and able to do so, since because of the criticism humans are face into the choices of the consequences of their freedom curse.
3. Being for others: exist for others, the existing with other people, the fully conflict of subject relationship.

Meanwhile, a French feminist Simone de Beauvoir who is well known for her book *The Second Sex*, is someone who believed the existence of women being subjects. In this book we will notice how she views both men and women, and how we are minimized and seen as objects throughout many instances.

At times I believe as a woman, it is hard to try and move away from the things that really do objectify us. For instance, the clothes we wear, the makeup we put on, how we wear our hair, the ways we present ourselves. We want to look great, but who are we doing it for? For ourselves, or for others? It is okay to feel you have to question your motives and intentions. We live in Bad Faith all the time, however with a little of authenticity each day is a progress to changing our ways of thinking from always thinking we are objects and moving to subject.

Patriarchal ways have been around for so long, that even women think they have to live their lives a certain way. Once you realize you can be authentic, then you are on your way to living your life the way you intend it to be. I am still learning to be authentic, but it is a journey I am willing to take.

According to Beauvoir (1956), self-existentialism is divided into three types, mentioned as follow:

### **2.2.1 Subordination**

*The Second Sex* argues against the either/or frame of the woman question (either women and men are equal or they are different). It argues for women's equality, while insisting on the reality of the sexual difference. Beauvoir finds it unjust and immoral to use the sexual differences as an argument for women's subordination. She finds it un-phenomenological, however, to ignore it. As a

phenomenologist she is obliged to examine uniqueness experiences of the women's bodies and to determine how these experiences are co-determined by what phenomenology calls the everyday attitude (the common-sense assumptions that we unreflectively bring to our experience). As a feminist phenomenologist assessing the meanings of the lived female body, Beauvoir explores the ways that cultural assumptions frame women's experience of their bodies and alienate them from their body's possibilities.

### **2.2.2 Psychology**

Beauvoir also relates the biological facts that form a woman's psychological process which, among others, is caused by her emotions thus creating many assumptions that women have psychological problems. Beauvoir, however, rejected the assumptions that led to the concept of women being made as a product of mechanical personality.

Beauvoir said that "The enslavement of females to species and the limitations of their diverse powers is a very important fact; the female body is one of the essential elements in its situation in the world. But the body not only defines women; there is no real reality of life except that manifested by the individual, who is conscious through the activities and what is in the community. Biology is not enough to answer the question that confronts us why women are other".

"When Beauvoir looked for answers outside of biology and psychology, especially psychoanalysis, to get a better explanation of the woman's wonders, Beauvoir was disappointed. According to Beauvoir, the traditional Freudian



basically tells the same thing about women: That women are beings who must overcome their sexual inclinations and "feminine" tendencies, first expressed through clitoral erotism, the second through vaginal eroticism. To win this fight - to be normal-women must overcome their sexual inclinations and move their desires from woman to man.

### **2.2.3 Mala fide**

Mala fide is a form of the defeat of women in maintaining its existence. Mala fide is a form of hypocritical humans who prefer to be organized, prefer to be outlined their way of life, they do not want to receive freedom. As we know that man is born free and has the right to determine the direction of his life. Likewise, their women are also entitled to freedom. According to Beauvoir women should be given the same freedom with the freedom that men have to define their own life.

According Beauvoir there are three characteristics of women including mala fide such as:

1. The Prostitute, where they are always willing to be an object for men, especially they are willing to be colonized from the corner of the body and sex.
2. The Narcistic, Many women become aware of their appearance so they try to improve their appearance which is really a way to make women beautiful to be seen by men. In other words, men will be more satisfied to make women as the object.

3. The Mystic, Women who consider themselves better than other women because they are obedient to the teachings of norms and values prevailing in society, they are required to become ideal women.

Simone de Beauvoir reveals that women who are conscious of their freedom will be able to freely determine the course of their lives, so according to Beauvoir women can go to work and self-actualize maximally, women can become intellectuals and do not have to worry about their ability when seen from its biological limitations. And most importantly women should be able to refuse to be an object by men.

### **1.3 Previous Research**

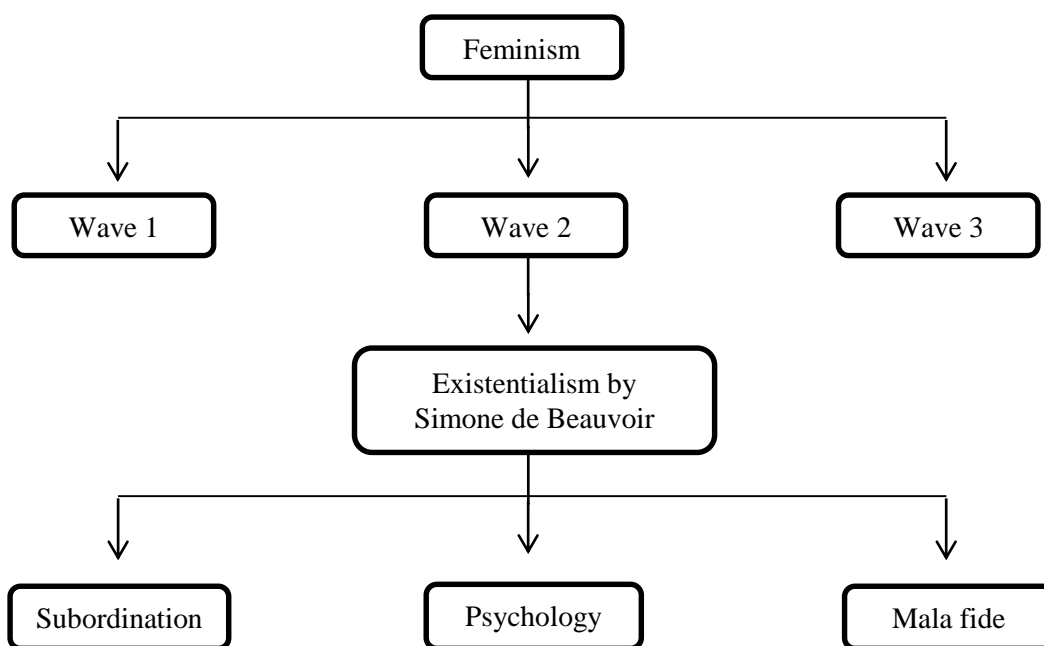
The feminism or women movements have been conducted by several previous researches. The first research is conducted by Jayanti (2013) with the title “An analysis of feminism portrayed in the main character, Elizabeth Bennet, in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*” is presented to State Islamic College of Tulungagung in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan Islam In E in her thesis that analysing about the power of woman who opposed the marriage culture which depends on the wealth. As a main character, Elizabeth faces many problems in her life. With all of her ability she can solve it and gain her happiness. Elizabeth reflected the Marxist feminism, which this type of feminism shows the woman’s problems within the framework of capitalism. From her intelligent, brave and independent she dares to turn society’s image for woman’s role in a family and she can change the view for marriage under capitalism in *Pride and Prejudice* period.

The Second research is conducted by Chamberlain (2003) in International Journal the feminist fourth wave. In this research, Chamberlain suggests that feminism also requires a more malleable and mutable approach to chronology. Rejecting the concept of linear progress, it is possible to think of every wave of feminism as a converging of temporalities: unfolding in the present, but heavily reliant on the activities of the past, as well as optimism for the future. Through maintaining these three tenses simultaneously, each wave takes on an intensity that allows for affects to create cohesion amongst activists.

However, the present research differs from the two previous research. This research is analyzed more deeply regarding to Elizabeth Bennet's efforts in woman movement who had stopped injustices in woman's self-existence issues against the subordination in the novel of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. This research will be conducted by applying Beauvoir's existentialism theories.

## 2.4 Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework of this research is illustrated below:



**Figure 2.1. Theoretical Framework adopted from**

This part presents the theoretical framework underlying this research. Existentialism is categorized into three namely subordination, psychology, and mala fide. In relation into this research, the researcher analyzed about the woman existentialism discrimination against that found in the novel.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In this chapter, the researcher reveals the way of conducting study such as research design, object of the research, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and method of presenting research result.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This Research is qualitative descriptive because in analyzing it uses word and sentences. According to Creswell (2014), a qualitative research is research that exploring and understanding social or human problem. This research moved from the phenomena in the “Pride and Prejudice” novel. The researcher, then, takes the documentation method through literature view along with Simone de Beauvoir’s The second sex theory, through several books, journal, and internet. Researcher also asks for opinions and advices from her lecturers and experts. Next is the researcher determines the formulation of the problem and researcher methods; they are method of collecting the data, method of analyzing data, and method of presenting data. Researcher then, analyzes the data, presents the research result in qualitative descriptive method, and finally makes the conclusion of her research in the last chapter.

#### **3.2 Object of the Research**

The object of the research is the women self-existence subordination show in “Pride and Prejudice” novel. The primary data is from the novel “Pride and

prejudice” by Jane Austen, while the secondary data is taken from internet sources which support this study.

### **3.3 Method of Collecting Data**

In the method of collecting data, the researcher uses document study. Document study is the method of collecting data through the activity of collecting the writing works, pictures, and soon (Sugiyono, 2009:240). The aim of the activity is collecting the scientific data and information such as theories, methods, or approaches from books, journals, and other documents. It means that this method focuses on the interpretation of the written materials based on the context (Sugiarto, 2015:12). So, document study is a kind of the method of collecting data based on the text to analyse the context. The steps that are used to collect the data are as follow:

1. Reading “Pride and Prejudice” novel, trying to understand it thoroughly, finding any important details that supported this research and then looking for all of utterances.
2. Observing dialogue from “Pride and Prejudice” novel script.
3. Selecting the feminism which is found on “Pride and Prejudice” novel script.
4. Collecting the feminism which are found on “Pride and Prejudice” novel script.
5. Collecting some references.

### **3.4 Method of Analyzing Data**

After the data was collected, then, the researcher used the qualitative research method with analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements consist of plot, character, theme, setting, and point of view. Then, extrinsic elements can be found from author's life, historical background, cultural background, and social background. The researcher makes the categorization of characters from all the data that have been analyzed Elizabeth existentialist feminism from "Pride and Prejudice" novel.

The techniques of analyzing data in this research are:

1. Collecting the data from "Pride and Prejudice" novel.
2. Setting the data that related to existentialist feminism in the "Pride and Prejudice" novel.
3. Categorizing the data with self-existence against subordination in the "Pride and Prejudice" novel based on Beauvoir's theory.
4. Analyzing the subordination, psychology, and mala fide that have been found in the "Pride and Prejudice" novel.

### **3.5 Method of Presenting Research Result**

In the research result there are two ways that can be used there are formal and informal. In this research, the researcher used informal presentation method. In this method, the researcher presented the result of data analysis by verbal description or explains by word. The researcher presented the result of data analysis base on the purpose of the research.