

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

In the Victorian era, women have lower position in the 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 moves 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 an estate 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).