

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

It cannot be denied that women have been historically discriminated for their biological nature – for being female. For the most culture in Indonesia such as Bataknese (Judika N Sianturi, 2017), Indonesia Chinese (Christiana & Veronica, 2013) and other culture, having one son is better than have daughters. Since the son will be the one who continues the legacy – they are the heir of the family. This is one of the discriminations that happened to women.

Women are taught to view themselves as objects. An object here means something that exists to fulfill someone else's desires. This internalized objectification can lead to low self-respect and body image issues. On social media, when woman posts a photo of her in sweatpants, people will comment if she just tried a little harder she'd be pretty and when she posts a pic of her in a bikini, people will comment she is a whore.

When women hear their own bodies and the bodies of female celebrities and public figures criticized, they learn to obsess over appearances and to tie their appearance to their worth. Telling women that they are too fat to go to the beach, too ugly to be on TV, or too old to be in politics teaches them that their looks are about more than just looks and should be viewed as a metric of how many good things they deserve. This is obviously not the case, how you look and what you deserve are two entirely unrelated things, but the lesson is taught by our culture time and time again.

In addition, Elizabethan society was patriarchal - that men were considered to be the leaders and women their inferiors although Elizabeth was the queen at that time. Women were seen as "the weaker sex", not just in terms of physical strength, but emotionally too. High-class women are not allowed to study at a formal school like the man. They are not allowed to enter any professions, they are only allowed to do the domestic job. It shows a great discrimination towards women.

The term feminism can be used to describe a political, cultural or economic movement aimed at establishing equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism involves political and sociological theories and philosophies concerned with issues of gender difference, as well as a movement that advocates gender equality for women and campaigns for women's rights and interests. (Sugihastuti & Suharto, 2015:3)

From the feminist point of view, it sees literary works are document from the collection of conscious of how the author creates the male character and female character. It portrays the condition of society and cultural around certain time which shows the role and position of women (Sugihastuti & Suharto, 2015) Literary works become one of the media for feminist to express their idea, to critic the unequal treatment to women. Like in Kartini's book, *Habis Gelap Terbitlah Terang* tells about how the position of woman in Indonesia which they have no freedom in having education and have no choice in marriage around that time.

Several studies have described Feminism. Lu and Zhao on their paper analyze the character traits of Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. Both the writer lived in a different era but both of

them advocated that women should have both physical and spiritual independence, not catering men's taste and severing as an appendage. They had a great appreciation for gender equality and mutual respect. They fought against the unfairness of society with great courage.(Lu & Zhao, 2015)

Woman's attraction is used in many fields - like performing artist, painter, sculptor, and also the literary artist (author). Many authors describe a woman as submissive like E.L James creates the character of Ana in Fifty Shades of Grey. However, there is the also authors like Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen who describe women as strong creature that women have the right equal opportunities as man; they have the right to determine their own choices.

A midsummer night's dream is a comedy written in 1595 or 1596. This drama has four storylines; Duke and Queen of the Amazon – Hippolyta, The complicated lovers – Hermia, Demetrius, Helena, and Lysander, a group of amateur actors, and also the fairies.

Related to a midsummer night's dream previous study, the second research is written by Sapitri (2012) that discussed the personality of Hermia from A Midsummer Night's Dream. The research is using Psychological Approach by Carl Jung to find out the type of personality. It uses qualitative research methodology. The result of this research is Hermia fall in introverted personality type. Hermia likes to seek self-knowledge, discovering stuff, self-contained, obsessive, detached, passionate, and visionary one. The conclusion of the research is that Hermia has an introverted personality which is the introverted attitude with introverted thinking, introverted thinking, introverted feeling, introverted sensing

and introverted intuiting functions. Below is the quotation which is taken from the drama script:

EGEUS. Full of vexation come I, with complaint...
 Consent to marry with Demetrius,
 I beg the ancient privilege of Athens;
 As she is mine, I may dispose of her;
 Which shall be either to this gentleman
 Or to the death, according to our law..."
 (*MND*. 1.1.22-45)

The example above shows how the situation on that time and the law that applied at that time about how the daughter is possession of father and must obey her father. Therefore, the daughter must be killed.

Hermia's father – Egeus is not allowing her to marry Lysander who love each other. Egeus insisted that Hermia must marry Demetrius who loves Hermia but is loved by Helena. Egeus asks the Duke - Theseus for the full penalty of law to fall on Hermia's head if she flouts her father's will. Hermia is being asked to choose to obey her father's wish or died. At the end, she and Lysander decide to run away and marry in the house of Lysander's aunt, some seven leagues distant from the city.

HELENA. Ay, in the temple, in the town, the field,
 You do me mischief. Fie, Demetrius,
 Your wrongs do set a scandal on my sex!
 We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
 We should be woo'd, and were not made to woo
 (*MND*. 2.1.227-30)

On the example above, Helena is the character that unloved. Nobody loves her. Both Demetrius and Lysander love Hermia. Helena suffers agonies of unrequited love for Demetrius. He once promised to marry her but now has fallen in love with Hermia instead. Being a woman, she should be pursued instead

pursuing the man. But in this play, Helena is the one that pursues her love – Demetrius. This play is written by William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was born, baptized and died in Stratford-upon-Avon. “He was an unknown country boy, poor and poorly educated according to the standards of his age then arrived in the great city of London and goes work to odd jobs in a theater” (Long, 1945:137) After a few years, he led many brilliant poets and dramatists who have given undying glory of the Age of Elizabeth. He has written a lot of plays such as Romeo and Juliet, Anthony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, The Tempest, A midsummer night’s dream, and many more

William Shakespeare is one of the most famous playwrights whose works are adopted into many movies. Many artists have been inspired to write songs with his play as the main theme. Drama or play is designed for performance in the theater, in which actors take the roles of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the written dialogue. “It is derived from the Greek “draein” which means to do or to act” (Klarer, 2004:43). It refers to a performance or representation by actors Drama is one of the major genres of literary works.

Drama, fiction, poetry, and film are part of major genres of literary works that divided by Klarer (2004:9). “Literature is the art that expresses life in words that appeal to our own sense of beautiful” stated Long (1945:3). In other words, Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written of written works of man’s spirit, of his thought, emotions, aspiration. It appeals to emotions and imagination rather than intellect.

Concerning with the phenomenon above, the writer would like to do a research in Shakespeare's "A midsummer night's dream" play from the feminist perspective.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

According to the background of the research, the writer describes several problems:

1. Women subordinations in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream
2. Women subordinations in Elizabethan age in England reflected in A Midsummer Night' Dream
3. Underestimating of female characters by male characters.
4. Disadvantages of woman because the patriarchy system

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Due to other questions will be answered along, the writer focuses on 2 problems and they are:

1. Women subordinations in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream
2. Women subordinations in Elizabethan Age in England reflected in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night' Dream

1.4. The Formulation of Problem

After limiting the problem of the research there some problem that can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the women subordinations that are found in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream?
2. What are the woman subordinations in the Elizabethan age in England that are reflected in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream?

1.5. Objective of the Research

In relation to the formulation above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the subordinations of women in a midsummer night's dream
2. To find out the subordinations of women in Elizabethan age that is reflected in A Midsummer Night' Dream

1.6. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of this research is to enhance the study of literature which is focused on the woman subordination from literary work and also used as reference for the readers especially the students at English Department of Putera Batam University who wants and interests to analyze feminism in play as their object in their thesis writing and enhance their knowledge.

2. Practical Significance

The practical significance of this research is to increase the reader's awareness of feminism especially the women subordination and for it to be used as an example how to conduct literary analysis from feminism point of view.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The key term exists in the research are:

Subordination: the act of giving someone or something less
importance or power

Elizabethan: relating to the period 1558-1603 when
Elizabeth I was queen of England

Feminism: the advocacy of women's rights on the basis
of the equality of the sexes.