

## **CHAPTER II**

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

The quote below is very famous not only around feminist but also around the world. It is because Beyoncé has put that quote in her song with title “Flawless” that is released in 2013. Beyoncé is one of the most legendary singer in the world and she is really famous. It is not her first time to put the feminist vibe in her songs. She has released many songs about women – about how strong women are, women must support each other, strong for each other. Her song has inspired many young girls and she then automatically is seen as woman icon. Since then, many women become more aware of feminist.

“We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller. We say to girls, you can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful, but not too successful. Otherwise, you would threaten the man. Because I am female, I am expected to aspire to marriage. I am expected to make my life choices always keeping in mind that marriage is the most important. Now marriage can be a source of joy and love and mutual support but why do we teach girls to aspire to marriage and we don’t teach boys the same? We raise girls to see each other as competitors not for jobs or accomplishments, which I think can be a good thing, but for the attention of men. We teach girls that they cannot be sexual beings in the way that boys are.” (Adichie, 2014:12)

#### **2.1. Feminism**

Feminism is derived from word femme that means woman. So feminism means a woman who willing to fights for women rights in social class. So the purpose of feminism is for sexual equalization. In other words, feminism is a movement of women to refuse anything that tends to marginalize, subordinate,

and humiliate the woman by the domain – patriarchy (Ratna, 2015:186). The basic idea of literature study with feminism is the effort of understanding the position and role of women which reflects in literary works. First, the position and role of the female character in literary work show the domination of male. Therefore, the understanding of feminism is a must to be aware the inequality of gender in literary works, just like what can be seen in the daily life of society. Second, from the reader perspective, at glance, it can be seen that female character is a left behind (social life, education, occupation, and her role in society) compares to the male character.

Third, the existence of reader's perception that shows the relationship between male and female is simply because of the biologists and socio-economic. This perception or view is opposite with feminist's perception that believes to have equal rights and chance with the male. Female is able to join in any social activity that male can. Fourth, literature research has brought many changes in analysis and its methodology, and one of them is feminism. Literature research with the feminist approach is not much done yet, therefore it is decent to do this kind of research. Fifth, many readers think position and role of the female are lower than male like the most author does (can be seen from the person's literary works). Therefore, this approach is reasonable to do research from the feminist approach. (Sugihastuti & Suharto, 2015:15-16)

One of the issues of feminist is the subordination of woman. Subordination is "the act of giving someone or something less importance or power" (Cambridge Dictionary, 2017) In other words, the inequitable use of authority, law, or physical force to prevent others from being free or equal. Subordination is a type of

injustice. The verb subordinate can mean to place something or someone lower rank in the social sense such as an authoritarian in government.

Feminists fight against the oppression of women. Women have been unjustly held back from achieving full equality for much of human history in many societies around the world. Feminist theorists of the 1960s and 1970s looked for new ways to analyze this subordination and also the roots. Some of the theories identified as the root as biological, residing in women's supposedly lesser physical strength (Mill), or in the dependence supposedly resulting female incapacities related to childbearing (Firestone), or in men's supposed propensity to rape and women's to be raped (Brownmiller). Other argued that biological difference were salient only in certain social context and located the root of women's subordination in certain social structures or institutions: in class society (Engels), in male control of women's sexuality (Jaggar, 1993:114)

The writer is using Mill's theory from his book the subjection of woman. Mill lived in the era when women were subordinate to men by law and custom. Women were expected to marry, bear children, and devoted to their families. Most women could not get a formal education, own property, vote, practice profession or trade, even seek a divorce from an abusive husband.

Mill linked the position of women in society and their position in marital relationship to that of slaves subject to the will of their masters. In other words, he argues that being married is equivalent with of slavery. As quoted "the wife is the actual bond servant of her husband: no less so, as far as legal obligation goes than slaves commonly so called" (Mill, 2008:45). It is because wife's vow to obey her

husband at the altar when they get married, and this vow is carried by her through her life.

According to Mill (2008:45), Wife “...can do no act whatever but by his permission...she can acquire no property but for him” that description is like a slave that belongs to the master, owned by a master as his property and can be used to whatever his master’s wish. Mill then continue says that the condition of the wife in the common law of England is worse than slaves.

### **2.1.1. Woman Subordination in Elizabethan Age**

Elizabethan Age in England was ruled by Queen Elizabeth I and this era England become more powerful under her reign. Many history books describe her as strong as an iron image with feet of clay. Under her administration the English national life progressed by gigantic leaps rather than by slow historical process and English literature reached the very highest point of its development. There are several characteristics of Elizabethan Age based on Long (1945:99) such as religious toleration, social contentment, enthusiasm, and the drama.

Before her reign the whole kingdom divided against itself, the north was largely Catholic while the southern counties were protestant. The court made up both parties, witnessed the rival intrigues of those who sought to gain royal favor. However, “Elizabeth favored both parties, and presently the world saw amazement Catholics and Protestants acting together as trusted counselors of a great sovereign” (Long, 1945:100). For the first time toleration seems to be settled, and the mind of man, freed from religious fear and turn to the great creative impulse of other forms activity

It was also “an age of comparative social contentment...the rapid increase of manufacturing towns give employment to thousands that had been idle” (Long, 1945:100). Also increased trade brought enormous wealth to England, and this wealth was shared with the needy one. It’s the first time it was attempted. The increase of wealth, the improvement in living, the opportunities for labor, the new social content created social contentment

“It is an age for dreams, adventures, of unbound enthusiasm spring from the new lands of fabulous riches revealed by English explorer” (Long, 1945:100) like Drake, Cabot, Frobisher, Gilbert, Hawkins who sailed around the world. So dreams and deed increase side by side, and the dream is ever greater than the deed

Literature reached its peak under the reign of Elizabeth, especially drama. There are many playwrights and one of them was the famous William Shakespeare – Father of literature. Until these days his plays are still being played daily around the world and most of his plays have been adapted to movies.

Although there was a woman on the throne in Elizabethan England, the roles of women in the society were very limited. In general, men were expected to be the breadwinners and women to be the housewives and mothers. Elizabethan society was patriarchal which a system of society is or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is traced through the male line (Sharnette, 2017)

According to Long, (1945: 129) “In ... play female parts taken by boy actors, who evidently were more distressing than the crude scenery...” So, in the Elizabethan era, the female characters in the drama are played by boys which show the subordination of woman. Because, indirectly it tells that woman cannot

act on the stage. They are not allowed to be an actress. That is not the only one that shows subordination of woman in Elizabethan there are several of Elizabethan woman's characteristics that are classified into several parts such as standard living and economic status, education and vocations for women, single life, married life, and the early modern household, law, and property.

#### **2.1.1.1. Standard Living and Economic Status**

In this period, two per three of woman live in relative poverty which they barely holding on and many live in absolute poverty which they may get relief from charity, begging, stealing and trading in prostitution to clothe and feed themselves or their family. There's a number case of protest and women join this however they rather protest class issue instead of the gender issue. Women were consistently seen lower than a man of the similar class status as for the standard living. While there might be a great number of women that believe that they are inferior to men, but there's also some of the women think themselves as the exception like Elizabeth I (Kemp, 2009:30).

In addition to that period, women must always be to look after. If they were married, their husbands were expected to look after them. If they were single, then their father was expected to look after them or if their father already died then the eldest or male relative was expected to take care of them. Women are expected to obey men and there would be a punishment (usually whipping) to one that disobeys like Lady Jane, who was beheaded at the age of 17 for refusing to take the throne (Sharnette, 2017)

### **2.1.1.2. Education and Vocations for Women**

In that age, women from upper class were allowed to be educated at home by private tutors. However, they were still not allowed to go to public school. Women also were not allowed to have a profession like became doctor and lawyers. But they were allowed to work in domestic service fields such as cook, maids, and female painter (Alchin, 2017).

Lower class Elizabethan women would not have attended school or received any formal type of education. Elizabethan women would have had to learn how to govern a household and become skilled in all housewifely duties. Their education would have been pure of the domestic nature in preparation for the only real career option for a girl – marriage (Sharnette, 2017).

As mention that girl will have housewifery training, it is done either by them doing the tasks directly or overseeing the servants doing the work. Poor girls are expected to be sent as soon as possible while elite girls did not leave until preteens. Depending on the degree, elite women would be expected to learn manner, music, dancing, and good housewifery. Daughter from most elite families from the age of ten to fourteen years they will be sent to royal courts as attendants for the female member of royal family. (Kemp, 2009:35)

Women without male protector can be dangerous. For example, the girl in *The Witch of Edmonton* gets pregnant by her rich master, abandon by her murderous husband. It gives us insight into the danger of single women that work in a wealthy household. With her losing her reputation, a pregnant maidservant, humiliated, unemployment, the only for her to survive is a life of vagrancy and prostitution. It shows working might bring security, however, it also dangerous for

single women, they have to be careful with their master, male members of the household, including the male servant. (Kemp, 2009:35)

#### **2.1.1.3. Single Life, Married Life, and The Early Modern Household**

In Elizabethan Era in England, it seems foolish to say marry for love, although love might occur in marriage. However, it is rare to see successful love matches. With their parents' permission, 14 years old boy and 12 years old girl are legal to marry although it is not recommended to marry that early. It is recommended for a girl to marry before 18 and boy before 22. (Ros, 2008)

Marriages were arranged by the families of the man and woman, designed to benefit both sides with wealth. This gave Elizabethan Women very little choice in their husbands, and in most cases, they did not meet their spouses until their wedding day. Elizabethan women were expected to bring a dowry to the marriage. A dowry was an amount of money, goods, and property that the bride would bring to the marriage. After the couples were bonded by marriage, law gave the husband full rights over the wife and woman became the property of the man (Alchin, 2017)

The pressure of marriage was equally strong at the lower class, as they saw it as a poor relief. "...woman's creation as a helper of man, early modern notions of companionate marriage tended to focus predominantly on the duties of wives in relation to husbands...Although marriage was seen as companionate, it was nonetheless hierarchical, with husbands as dominant and wives as submissive." (Kemp, 2009:40) Before marriage woman was the property of her father, after



marriage, she becomes the property of her husband. In the married life, husband's position is higher than wife just like in hierarchy system.

The hierarchy system makes men in advantage position regarding the prestige and worth. "the penalties for murdering a husband were considerably different than those for murdering a wife." (Kemp, 2009:41) If a husband kills his wife, he will be judged for murder and usually, the penalty is death by hanging. However, when a wife kills his husband, it is a big treason; the penalty is death by burning which is the same penalty as a traitor or a servant who kills his or her own master.

#### **2.1.1.4. Law and Property**

As femme covert ("covered woman"), wives were prohibited from owning property or entering into legal agreements; with few exceptions, a married woman had no legal existence apart from her husband. Unless determined otherwise by premarital legal documents, a woman's personal property (her clothing, jewels, and so on) became her husband's property upon marriage. Including if women owned the land the use and profits of it came into the husband's control, although usually he could not sell or alienate its use without her consent (Kemp, 2009:42).

## **2.2. Review of Previous Study**

Previous study's purpose is to become an addition idea so the writer can do this research well. There five previous studies that are taken and the research has mentioned generally in the background and now the writer will mention it above.

The first study is by Lili Lu and Youbin Zhao (2015) who were studying at Jinan University in Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province, P.R. China. The title of their research is “A Feminist Analysis of Jane Eyre & Pride and Prejudice”. In this research they focus to compare the two big feminist authors who live in a different era – they are Jane Austen and Emily Bronte. Both of them are distinguished writers in the literary history, especially significant women writers in the 18th-19th century of England. Jane Austen who is the pioneer of English female literature, and Charlotte Bronte who further developed feminist thoughts. The journal compares these two women writers’ feminist thoughts and the female characters that found in their works such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre*. Both Elizabeth and Jane Eyre show Independent side by having self-respect, self-reliance. They scorn conventions made by the patriarchal society which is opposite with what was expected from the society that women must depend on men, then they also compare their love view and their thought of marriage and equality and mutual respect. The result of this research is Charlotte Bronte further developed Jane Austen’s feminist thoughts. However, Charlotte Bronte’s thought of feminist is bolder which can be seen from the character of Jane Eyre that is more vivid, more rebellious than the character Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*.

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 introverted personality which is an introverted attitude with the introverted thinking, introverted thinking, introverted feeling, introverted sensing and introverted intuiting functions.

The third research is about a victimized woman which is written by Mesut (2015) from one of William Shakespeare's masterpiece tragedy play Hamlet. It is a play that is written in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. This journal talks about Ophelia and Gertrude are being victimized by the male character. The setting of the play is a patriarchal society which makes both of Ophelia and Gertrude torn apart by orders and suggestions proposed by the male character as they need to obey men's order and suggestion. When these orders do not succeed or when these orders disappear they do not know what to do, and they are lost in the society. Ophelia goes mad and dies; Gertrude dies because of poison was given by a male. Going mad and death are the only way for them to rescue themselves from patriarchy. They are the victim of their society and male power politics, unfortunately. It is an egregious fact that many wives, daughters, and sisters are silenced or murdered in the play.

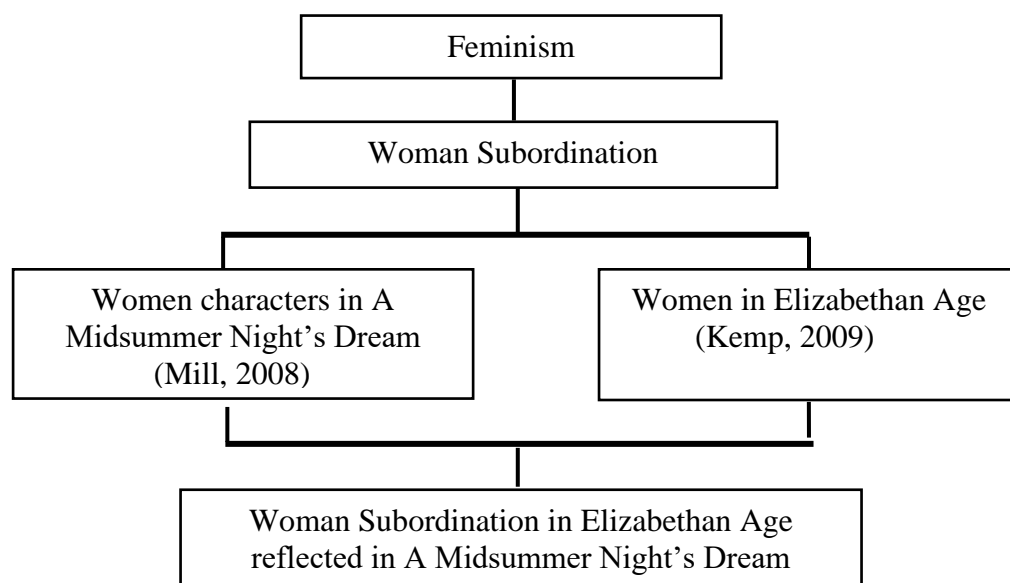
The fourth research discussed the image of woman's rights in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre. It is written by Princepal (2012), she uses Mary Wollstonecraft's theory of liberal feminism which talks about equal opportunities in education which means succeed in education is equal with a governess and a teacher, economic equality and social equality. The method of this research is qualitative. The written argue that Bronte has provided the reader about the struggle of woman as seen from the work in several points of woman's right such

as equalitarian in education, determine their choices in every aspect of life, have equality of in career and job and last determine their mate and the relationship.

The fifth research discussed the objection of woman that is reflected from one of the best-selling novels by EL James – Fifty Shades of Grey. The writer of this research is Permatasari (2015) Anastasia Steel is the female main character from the novel, and this discussed her experience of being objected or subordinated by a male character in the novel. The research uses feminist approach by Nussbaum with seven notions that indicate oppression of woman. The method that is used is library research. The result of the research is objection occurs in Steele and Grey's Dominant and Submissive sexual relationship which is portrayed from the novel. Steel is described as sexually interesting and submissive woman that shows the objection of women.

### 2.3. Theoretical Framework

The following is the theoretical framework of this research



**Figure 2. 1** *Theoretical Framework*

This research is taken from a feminist perspective that focuses on woman subordination. It happened when there is an unequal treatment of women. In this research, it compares the subordination of women characters in the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by using Mill's theory about women subordination and women subordination in Elizabethan Era by using Kemp's theory. This research aim to find out what are English woman subordination that is reflected in the