

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Literary work is a manifestation or a result of a person's imagination. Authors are poured in writing based on personal experience or by looking at the life of the surrounding environment. There are three major genre of literary work: poetry, fiction, and drama. Among this novel is mostly demanded by the public. That matter evidenced by the current rapid development of novels.

The novel contains the problems faced by humans in interacting with the community or the environment. One of them is a problem related to women. Many novels appear themes or contents which are related to women or women's image, which is often considered lower. Based on these problems the image of women is considered lower. Women are considered weaker than men and men are considered stronger than women. Such an assumption is what happens in today's society and still survives from time to time even from time to time.

Based on this, the movement of feminist literary criticism appears. Moeliono & Goefe in (Sugihastuti., 2000) stated in the lexical, feminist sense is a women's movement that demands equal rights between men and women. Feminism is the theory of equality between men and women in the political, economic and social fields; or organized fraternity fight for women's rights and interests.

Feminism refers to the belief and claim that women should have the same rights, powers and opportunities as men. Feminist approach argues that women suffer more than men, are more poor than men and are discriminated in all welfare policies. Feminist approach argue that women are the symbols of oppression being forced to fulfill the demands of their oppressors. These are the women who have experienced the oppression on their own psyche and bodies and are in better position to describe how exploitation and oppression would feel to the victims (Lenon, 1994).

Feminist is the extension of feminism into theoretical, fictional, or philosophical discourse. It aims to understand the nature of gender inequality. It examines women's and men's social roles, experience, interests, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, such as anthropology and sociology, communication, media studies, psychoanalysis, home economics, literature, education, and philosophy (Wikipedia, 2017b).

One of the novels that raised the problem of woman image is *Gone with the Wind* novel by Margaret Mitchell. *Gone with the Wind* is a novel written from women's point of view and portrays lives of women focusing on white women from the rich planter class. The author also expresses criticism of the patriarchal society of the Antebellum South and shows how a historical event affects women's lives and how women perceive it. It is indisputable that any war brings drastic changes in a society, for both men and women of all social positions.

The issue of women has always been an interesting thing to study. By stereotyped, women are judged to inherit feminine traits, such as emotional,

passive, inferior, gentle, and its role is limited to the family field. The way of the American Civil War changed the patriarchal society of the Antebellum South, Mitchell paying attention to white women in high society, because the women characters in Margaret Mitchell's novel are (Mitchell, 1984).

In the novel "*Gone with the Wind*", Mitchell provides the reader with a sharp-eyed depiction of the everyday realities of the Civil War. The reader learns about the habitual activities the civilians attend to and how they deal with the hardships of the War, how they obtained the basic necessities at the time when their ports were blocked by the enemy's forces. The image of the reality of the war seems to be logically planned. Everything the ideological background, the course and the effects of the war, the everyday life of the Southerners, the traditions, the industrial changes introduced in the South during and after the war and the collapse of the social hierarchy during the war years (Jarosz, 2017) is can be seen in the quotation below:

The hospitals were filled with dirty, bewhiskered, verminous men who smelled terribly and bore on their bodies wounds hideous enough to turn a Christian's stomach. The hospitals stank of gangrene, the odour assaulting her nostrils long before the doors were reached, a sickish sweet smell that clung to her hands and hair and haunted her in her dreams.(Margaret Mitchell, 1999)

While Mitchell provides the reader with the complex ideological background of the American Civil War, the novel brings it down to the slavery issue. Also the moods and the social relations between the Northerners and the Southerners are simplified. The Southern gentlemen are divided into patriots, blindly believing in the inevitable victory of the Confederacy and who are looking forward to beating the Yankees, and Rhett Butler, who turns out to be the only

objective and reasonable concluder, aware of the military weakness of the South. Interestingly enough, Mitchell states very clearly that she herself is aware of the military weakness of the South: before the war there had been few cotton factories, woolen mills, arsenals and machine shops. The South produced statesmen and soldiers, planters and doctors, lawyers and poets, but certainly not engineers or mechanics” (Mitchell, 1984)

The researcher is interested to analyze this novel is because of the main character itself is very interesting to analyze. The main character in this novel is very different with other character, when the other such like protagonist one always introduce be a beautiful, nice life and kind person, but in this novel is different. In this novel the author introduce the main character is not beautiful but she has a persona can make a man fall in love with her. That is why make this novel is very interesting.

This research will be analyzing about the novel “*Gone with the Wind*” by Margaret Mitchell based on William L O’Neill feminism theory. According to William L. O’Neill (2017), in analyze of right movement, feminist interprets and illumines is not only the history of feminism, but aspects of feminism. The researcher decided to apply the theory of O Neill’s feminism in analyzing the novel because of the theory is connected with the main character who try to keep her right as a man. In purpose of this research is to excepted to improve knowledge about feminist in literature which in this case is about image of the women.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background that has been described the identification of problems in this study are as follows:

1. The Image of the women in 1930s in America.
2. The main character of Scarlet reveal feminist idea.
3. The society condition in the novel.
4. The portrait of white rich planter women.
5. The criticism to the patriarchal society.
6. The historical event affected women's life and women perception on it.
7. Everyday realities of the Civil War.
8. Complex ideological background of the American Civil War it down to the slavery issue.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of problem that has been stated above the limitation of the problem as follows:

1. The image of women in 1930s in America describe in novel *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell.
2. The main character of Scarlet reveal feminism in the novel *Gone with the Wind*.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of problem that has been stated above, there are some formulations of problem as follows:

1. How is the image of women in 1930s in America described in novel *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell?
2. How does Scarlet reflect feminist idea in the novel *Gone with the Wind*?

1.5. Objective of the Research

The objectives of the research as follows:

1. To find the women's image in 1930's found in the novel *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell.
2. To find out how the society in 1930s toward women in America.

1.6. Significance of the Research

The study is expected to have significance in the following areas:

1. Theoretical Significance

This theoretical significance of this research is to enrich the study of knowledge and understanding of literary work in feminist point of view.

2. Practical Significance

This research is to be able to show the next researcher to insight and knowledge the way of applying feminist approach in a literary.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

1. Feminism : Feminism is a range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality of sexes. This includes seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to such opportunities for men.(Wikipedia, 2017a)
2. Character : the combination of traits and qualities distinguishing the individual nature of a person or thing. (Collins, 2014)
- 3 Society A large group of people who live together in an organized way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing the work that needs to be done.(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012)