

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Research

Literature and society are interconnected in human life. There is a strong bond between them that is interconnected. Many people do not realize that literature is a custom in the form of an attitude that once existed. To this day, much literature still examines the lives of people who still care about the values present in ancient literature. Many literary works are still enjoyed by the public, such as poem, poetry, short stories, dramas, and novels. One of the most enjoyed literary stories by the community is the novel.

A novel is a form of literary work written in prose and usually contains intrinsic elements such as plot, characters, setting, and theme. It is a complex and diverse narrative that can be hundreds to thousands of pages long and often contains complex plots, complex characters, and deep themes and messages. Novel is an important part of literature and can provide insight into the human experience, as well as offer learning, teaching, and reflection on society and culture.

Many famous novels especially raise the issue of feminism, one of which is the work of Charlotte Brontë with the title of Jane Eyre (1847). There Novel was published on October, 1847 in London, England. Charlotte Brontë was one best known written in England with her works genre feminism romantic and little bit different in other genre romantic. There novel had mated because in accordance

with her real life of romance by becoming the main character herself by changing her name to Jane Eyre.

Charlotte Brontë was an English writer who was born on April 21, 1816 and died on March 31, 1855. She is best known for her works in 19th century English literature. Some of her famous works include "Jane Eyre" (1847), "Shirley" (1849) and "Villette" (1853). Charlotte Brontë's career in writing began alongside her siblings. She along with her sisters, Emily and Anne, published their poetry under the joint pseudonym "Bell Brothers." Unfortunately, her career came to a tragic halt when she died at a relatively young age, only 38 years old, due to complications associated with pregnancy. Charlotte Brontë is known for her ability to portray human characters and feelings as well as delving into social and moral issues in her work.

In this novel, the plot is the occurrence of freedom to choose a life path or the main character, Jane Eyre. Thus, this raises the issue of feminist approach by Rosemarie Tong's theory. In literature, the feminist approach seeks to elevate women's voices and experiences, discuss gender stereotypes, and highlight inequalities and discrimination that occur. This approach includes various schools, such as liberal feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism, and others, each of which has a different focus and approach to gender issues.

Jane Eyre, a novel by Charlotte Bronte, is considered a liberal feminist work because of its portrayal of a strong and independent female protagonist who challenges patriarchal norms and expectations depicting the existence of women

in Victorian society and their struggle to assert themselves as equal to men. The protagonist, Jane Eyre, defies society's norms and expectations of women in the Victorian era by pursuing her own goals and desires, such as seeking education and employment, and rejecting marriage proposals that do not match her values. In addition, Jane's rejection of marriage proposals from men who did not respect her is an example of her efforts to achieve equality. She also demands respect and autonomy in her relationships with men, such as when she confronts Mr. Rochester who tries to control her.

Furthermore, to describe the feminist issues contained in this novel research, the researcher also uses several phenomena related to the existence of feminist issues in this novel, the first is:

“John Reed’s violent tyrannies, all his sisters’ proud indifference, all his mother’s aversion, all the servants’ partiality, turned up in my disturbed mind like a dark deposit in a turbid well. Why was I always suffering, always browbeaten, always accused, for ever condemned? Why could I never please?” (Bronte, 1847, p. 16)

This sentence can be found in Chapter II, when Jane Eyre gets violence and the difference between her and John Reed who is the son of his biological aunt Mrs. Reeds. Jane is treated like a slave by her children and the people who work at Mrs. Reeds. Without any resistance, Jane accepted all forms of humiliation and violence just to be able to stay at Mrs. Reeds. This is in accordance with the theory Tong, (2008) stated where in these patriarchal actions, women received different treatment from men at that time.

The second phenomena:

”A note was accordingly addressed to that lady, who returned for answer, that “*I might do as I pleased: she had long relinquished all*

interference in my affairs.” This note went the round of the committee, and at last, after what appeared to me most tedious delay, formal leave was given me to better my condition if I could; and an assurance added, that as I had always conducted myself well, both as teacher and pupil, at Lowood, a testimonial of character and capacity, signed by the inspectors of that institution, should forthwith be furnished me”. (Bronte, 1847, p. 90)

In the sentence above is taken in Chapter X, In this paragraph, Jane receives a letter stating that her aunt Mrs. Reed has released Jane from any decisions in her life. This decision was no longer interfered with by her aunt since Jane left Gateshead Hill and she was free to do whatever she wanted in her life without any restrictions from anyone.

The novel “Jane Eyre” has been used in many journals as material for appreciation and comparison. The first journal to discuss this novel is "Social Class in the Victorian Era as Reflected in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre" written by Avriyanti (2014). The researcher used a qualitative method, which used data analysis and collected data that could be found in the novel. The research discusses the differences in life in social classes classified as lower class, middle class and upper class and the purpose of previous research is a reflection of social class in Victorian England.

There was reflection about social class these accepted by Jane Eyre for her life in Gateshead Hill with used theory by Karl Max. Also, there are researcher other discussed their before with theory different, among others are on article’s Chiachen & Wang, (2020). The similarity are used novel same “Jane Eyre” about social class, but both of them used theory was different. Who Chiachen & Wang,

(2020) used theory by Sally Mitchell meanwhile Avriyanti, (2014) used theory by Karl Max.

Based on the phenomena that have been explained in the background, the researcher is interested in conducting research related to the feminist proposed by Rosemarie Tong's theory. Thus, the researcher conducted this research with the title "Liberal Feminism Portrayed In *Jane Eyre* Novel By Charlotte Brontë: A Feminist Approach"

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher concludes that there are identification of several problems related to the issue of feminism, namely:

1. Types of Liberal Feminism of 19th century Britain portrayed in *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.
2. Patriarchy in 19th century Britain portrayed in *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
3. Women oppression found in 19th century Britain portrayed in *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.
4. The struggles of women to get equality in 19th century Britain portrayed in *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

There are several issues of the problems listed in the problem identification. Therefore, it is necessary to focus the analysis. This limitation consists of two topics, they are:

1. The women oppression found in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.
2. The struggles of women to get equality in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

From the limitations that have been explained in the background to answer as stated in the ask-questions below:

1. What are women oppression found in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë?
2. What are the struggles of women to get equality in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë?

1.5. Objective of the Research

The research objectives are:

1. To find out are women oppression found in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.

2. To find out the struggles women to get equality in 19th century Britain portrayed in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.

1.6. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical significance

Theoretically, researcher have some hope that will be given to be better in the future, especially in the field of literature research. Research can provide a value for the code of ethics that women receive when they feel oppressed and cannot open their voices to appreciate what they want. Researcher also examined the act of self-assertion in women who want to have a better life. In addition, Researcher hope that there research can be use for future trials in the future.

2. Practical significance

Practically, researcher hope to understand the theories used. The researcher hopes that their research will be useful for the readers. Researcher hope that social interactions between people, culture, social status, gender can coexist without any social impact that affects the existence of feminism in everyday life.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

Feminist Approach : A feminist approach is one that aims to understand the nature of gender inequality by examining the social roles and lived experiences of women. It is the extension of feminism into theoretical, fictional, or philosophical discourse. Feminist theory often

focuses on analyzing gender inequality and themes often explored in feminist theory include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotypes, art history and contemporary art, and aesthetics.

Liberal Feminism : Liberal feminism is a school within the feminist movement that promotes the achievement of gender equality through changes in the existing social and legal framework. It emphasizes the principles of civil rights, political rights, and equal participation in society, with a focus on eliminating laws or regulations that discriminate based on gender, as well as increasing women's access to education, employment, and political participation. Liberal feminists strive to create conditions that allow women to have the same rights and opportunities as men in various aspects of life, in an effort to achieve gender equality in society.

Patriarchy : Patriarchy refers to a social, cultural and political system in which men dominate and have greater control in various aspects of life, including in political, economic, educational and domestic

decisions. Patriarchy in the liberal feminist perspective is seen as the root of gender inequality and discrimination against women. It seeks to abolish patriarchal structures by fighting for legal reforms and social changes that end gender discrimination and give women equal rights. In the view of liberal feminism, the patriarchal system creates gender inequality that harms both men and women, and gender equality must be achieved through reform efforts that support equal civil, political and economic rights for all individuals regardless of gender.