

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Feminism and literature can't be separated due to its function as a media to express an idea. Women can spread the awareness and their idea through books, whether it is fiction or non-fiction. As stated by Barry the representation of women in literature, then, was felt to be one of the most important forms of 'socialization', since it provided the role models which indicated to women, and men what constituted acceptable versions of the feminine and legitimate feminine goals and aspirations (Barry, 2017). Many aspects were discussed through literature about feminism. One of the aspects is patriarchy which happens because of female being thought as a second sex. There are many feminists that show their ideas through book, one of them is Miller in her book entitled *Circe* the artwork that brings up about feminism issue.

The women's movement to get gender equality began in the 16th century. This struggle for equality has gained significant progress by gaining all feminist movements throughout the world. Although women movement has been done for a long time, patriarchal superiority still mutates with new forces in order to maintain its superiority. Walby underlined Patriarchy is a system of social structures and practices in which men dominates, oppress and exploit women (Walby, 1990). The perception of always being in a second position, invisible, and weak is the most common thing that happens to women. Back then there was almost impossible for a woman to have a better job and higher position in a

workplace. Almost never have an equal education because of the paradigm about woman will only get married, have kids, and spend the rest of her life in the house especially in the kitchen. From a woman is born until marriage they usually should follow what their fathers say. Because of that phenomena, many women are not required to go to school because they said women born only to make their husband happy. In patriarchy society where men dominate women is still common even though it is twenty-first century. The thought of being a powerful and a dominant human beings made men think that women can't have the same equality to live their life. As in the *Second Sex* book by Beauvoir a male student has said this "Every woman student who takes a position as a doctor or lawyer is stealing place from us" (De Beauvoir, 2010). This perspective made them want to humiliate women and can't accept women competition.

The thought of always in a second position makes women believe that they also can achieve what men achieve by doing rebellion. Many women finally can have their right as for example get the same education as men, can vote, and have a job as a career woman. Those equalities of life that women have makes men believe that women are in fact threatening their life. This is because of the paradigm that women can only have a second position or known as subordinate female. Although they can achieve what they deserve, there are still women who suffers from this patriarchy.

As a powerful human being, men tend to think that they have more room in society. By having this power, they can do whatever they want. Inness in her book states that women should be conquered in order to protect men's superiority.

Inness (2004) also divides it into three categories. Those are women stereotyping, submissive, and subordinate. The quotation can be seen as follows:

“Power in the past, killing has been defined as the ultimate power, a power generally attributed to men Men's efforts to build superiority over space against women by conquering women (Inness, 2004).”

On the other side, women make movement that makes men think women is a threat and can be dangerous for their social status in society Women in the concept of a new woman can be a threat because they tend to be more powerful than men. According to Inness (2004), new women, inner power of woman, and women ambition are considered as why a woman movement is feared by the patriarchal system. This movement is feared is stated as follows:

“A whole new tough aesthetic is emerging for women, one in which it is praiseworthy for them to be more muscular and aggressive than in the past” (Inness, 2004)

Talking about how woman fight for what they deserve and the phenomenon is feared by the patriachal system, the researcher wants to give an example of a well-known case which happened to Marsinah. One of the well-known phenomena about women existence and gender equality in Indonesia is “Marsinah”. Marsinah death associated with an active role in labor demonstrations of PT. CPS Porong on 3-4 May 1993, and was associated with the repression of the New Order government in achieving national stability in order to support economic development (Qurniasari & Krisnadi, 2014). She was a worker at a watch manufacture company called PT Catur Putra Surya. On 1993, governor of east java made a new law about salary. Government demanded every company to raise the salary for 20%. PT Catur Putra Surya was one of the companies that

refused this new law. The workers went on strike. One of the workers that went on strike is Marsinah. Marsinah visited the office of PT Catur Putra Surya alone in order to make a negotiation about the new law. Marsinah was raped before anyone found her death body several days later after she was reported missing.

From the phenomenon above it can be seen that women secretly has inner power and is feared. There are many feminist movements that have voiced women's rights until this century. One phenomenal writer who raises the issue of feminism is Miller. Madeline miller was the author of this novel. She was born on July 24, 1978. She was an American novelist. She enrolled in Brown University and get her PhD in University of Chicago's Committee for a year and following study in Yale School of Drama. The first novel she wrote was *The Song Of Achilles* which released in 2011. Following that, she then wrote her second novel entitled *Circe* that was released in 2018. As a teacher of Latin and Greek, she was able to write a fantasy novel about goddess and mythological features.

This research focuses on analyzing a miller's novel entitled "Circe" about a goddess of Greek. The novel by Madeline Miller entitled *Circe* was published in 2018 won as the number one International Bestseller-Shortlisted for women's prized for fiction in 2019 (Bloomsbury, 2019). This novel told the story of a woman named Circe that was born from parents that were powerful, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans. Her father who had a power and her mother that had a beauty that could make anyone falling in love. When her mother pregnant, her father told that she will be married to a prince due to her beauty. When she was born, she was born as a strange child that is powerless and didn't get her

mother's beauty. Since then, her father believed that no one would marry her because of her look and having no power at all. It turned out that she was the most powerful goddess and her power was past beyond any other god's power. It could be seen from the quotation:

“She defied my commands and contradicted my authority. She has turned her poisons against her own kind and committed other treacheries as well.” The white sear of his gaze landed on me. “She is a disgrace to our name. An ingrate to the care we have shown her. It is agreed with Zeus that for this she must be punished. **She is exiled to a deserted island where she can do no more harm. She leaves tomorrow.**” (Miller, 2018, p.124)

The quotation above clearly indicates the conquer concept in Inness theory. Innes stated (Inness, 2004) “True to gender stereotypes, woman is the emotionally sensitive character who has qualms about killing in cold blood, while man is the contained man of few words who exhorts her to “just do the job.” One of the characteristics of the patriarchal system to conquer women in order to build their superiority by making women submissive. The quotation above shows that the patriarchal system attempts to make women's space to be submissive by making women to be helpless or weak.

The second concept of Inness, the conquer of women is a representation of the fear of the rise of women as a threat to the patriarchal system itself. In addition to being conquered, women are also a feared threat by the awareness of the power they have. In Miller's novel the reflection that is used as a threat can be seen from the quotation that this novel really indicates a reflection of woman is feared to the patriarchal system of women's power.

“You should know I was the one who did it,” I said. “**The one who made Scylla what she is. That is why I am exiled,** and why my sister had you take this route.” (Miller, 2018, p.187)

Circe by Madeline Miller has been analyzed before. Although it has been analyzed before, the topic and the theory that have been discussed are different. One of the research was completed by (Kang, 2020). The aim of his research is to explore the Chrono-topes of the road, the idyll and the threshold in the novel, and how these intersect with its themes of gender and immortality. This research is using Bakhtin's concept theory of Chrono tope. The result of this is biographical times which focus on moment crisis and rebirth occurs in the novel circe and From the physical development of the unruly sailors, to the spiritual growth of Circe, to the improvement in her life instigated by the visit in Odysseus. In the end Circe remains a "rest on the path" rather than a traveler along the route, a position typically reserved for male protagonists, given her witchcraft and her freedom at least until the end of the book.

The next article that was entitled with "Character of Circe in Odissey"(D McClymont, 2008). He argues that Circe is portrayed as a danger in Odissey because of her magic as a witchcraft. The aim of this research is to find the character circe from odissey point of view. The method that was used is descriptive qualitative method. The result of this research is Circe is not a villain despite the danger implied in her magic, Circe does not conform to a stereotypical idea of the "wicked witch".

Though there are many feminists that are trying to get women's right, the equality is not easy to be achieved. The mindset of patriarchal society where men have a higher position than woman in fact still be happening until now. The novel "Circe" by Madeline Miller is serving some feminism phenomena. Although the

novel itself brings out the topic that happened a long time ago, but the novel still relevant to be used because the feminism still occur until nowadays. Those are for example how woman should follow the marriage arrangement from their parents, as long as being thought as having less power than man and so on. This patriarchal makes women want to fight for their right and trying to have an equal life. Though, men think that movement is a threat and women need to be conquered due to their power. From this identification of problem, researcher focused on the theme “The Double Construction of Women in Ancient Greek Society as Seen in Circe Novel by Madeline Miller: Feminism Approach” as the main objection of research. Limitation of the research are focused on women to be conquered and women are feared.

### **1.2. Identification of the problem.**

By looking through the background of the research. Researcher has found some identifications of the research. These identifications that found from the problem above related with the fact of feminism which appeared through deliberation of power between two genders, men and women. The identification of the problems is:

1. Women competition to have an equality life is feared in patriarchal society in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.
2. Women position as a second position in patriarchal society in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.
3. Patriarchal construction which builds the paradigm of women as a subordinate class in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.

4. Patriarchal system constructed the women to be conquered in Circe novel by Madeline Miller

### **1.3. Limitation of the problem**

After writing the identification of the problem, writer comes to conclusion that there are some limitations to the problem. Though there are many problems in identification because of the background, the writer decided to choose only several. Those limitations are:

1. Patriarchal system constructed women to be conquered in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.
2. Women competition to have an equality life is feared in patriarchal society in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.

### **1.4. Formulation of the problem**

From the identification that has a function to identify phenomenon in the background of the research until limitation that from the identification that has a function to identify phenomenon in the background of the research until limitation that is the limit of the thing that is already mention in the identification. In this part, the formulation is mainly about question that is involving in this research. The questions can be seen as follow:

1. What are the patriarchal systems construct the woman to be conquered?
2. What kind of competition conducted by the woman to have equality and is feared?

### **1.5 Objective of the research**



In this part of the research, it is talking about benefit that this paper may bring. Those benefits will be:

1. To find out about patriarchal system constructed the women to be conquered in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.
2. To find out about women competition to have an equality life is feared in patriarchal society in Circe novel by Madeline Miller.

### **1.6 The significant of the research**

In significant of research it divides into two. Those are theoretical significance and Practical significance.

1. Theoretical significant.

The purpose of this study is to be able to understand about patriarchal system especially in the novel Circe by Madeline Miller. This research relies on Sherrie A Inness theory entitled New Images As A tough Woman. This research also has a purpose to make the readers understand about the woman character that against patriarchal system that reflected in the novel Circe by Madeline Miller. The researcher hopes that this research can be a useful tool for education material and learning about feminism about women should be conquered and feared.

2. Practical significant.

This research is expected to be a useful especially to English Department students who want to explore about feminism. Hopefully this research put to good use for students who interested in learning about feminism especially New woman using Inness' theory.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

**Patriarchy** : Is a system of social structures and practices in which men dominates, oppress and exploit women (Walby, 1990)

**Conquered** : Women conquered in the concept of Inness as a patriarchal construction as a way to conquer women so that men's superiority can be maintained and legitimized continuously in society. (Inness, 2004)

**Feared** : Feared, in this case, refer to the reflection of the patriarchal fear of the emergence of the women's movement to resist the building of superiority construction that they do. This feared can be present in inner power, women struggle, women ambition. (Inness, 2004)