

CHAPTER II

REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Feminist Approach

Feminism was derived from the word feminist femme (woman), means that women who aim to fight for the rights of women as a social class (Tong, 2013). The purpose is to balance feminist and gender interrelations. In a broader sense, the feminist movement of women is to reject everything that is marginalized, subordinated and demeaned by the dominant culture, both in politics and economics as well as social life. The main factor that causes movement feminism is the number of societies that underestimate women (Juliani, 2018). This underestimate can be seen from many unfair treatments between women and men. Men tend to look more fortunate due to the patriarchal construction that places men as superior and women are weak creatures and always need a place to depend. In the Feminism book, feminism can be defined as: a recognition of an imbalance of power between the sexes, with woman in a subordinate role to men, a belief that woman social condition is constructed and therefore can be changed an emphasis on female autonomy (Tong, 2013).

Feminism discusses the existence of women in gender equality. This causes feminism to examine various problems by using various theories that are suitable for dealing with feminism problems. With various kinds the struggle that was carried out eventually resulted in the feminist movement born to white women in Europe. Since that time feminism began to develop many of which emerged new feminism such as radical feminism, liberal feminism, social feminism, or Marxism.

Feminist theories are caused by the injustice that occurs in women in maintaining their existence. The issue that most often appears in feminist theory itself is about women struggle. Is that why the researcher choose the feminist approach in this study because the data source the researcher chose describes a woman as the main character and things experienced by the female character in the novel are in the theory of feminism itself. So, the writer decides that the right approach for the research data source that is the “Women Talking” novel is a feminist approach.

Feminist theory not only functions as a study in literary science but also as a battering ground for better change for the fate of women around the world. This theory is not just a theory, but also as a tool for feminists to defend all the rights that a woman must have. It is also a form of resistance from patriarchal opinions that frankly harm the existence of women in realizing their dreams or in obtaining rights. Women’s rights and gender equality will never be realized if only in writing, but also feminist experts must also present it in real life. That is why feminist theory is very important to remind humanity about women existence for maintaining gender equality itself.

2.1.1 Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism holds that equality and freedom are centered on the rationality and autonomy of each individual. Women are rational beings who should also equal to men. Therefore they also have the right to be treated equally with men to develop their moral capacity, such as providing equal access to education, and the choice of opportunities to work or stay at home, and the same political rights as men. In liberal feminism the thing adopted is the basis of liberalism, with an emphasis on the aspect of freedom. In liberal feminism a thought emerges which affirms that all human beings, both men and women are created equal, balanced, equal, and must not experience oppression.

According to Tong (2013) in her book "feminist thought" liberal feminist trying to free women from gender roles, namely from roles that are used as reasons to

give a lower place, or not to provide a place at all for women, especially in equal education, equal liberty, equal right, and the suffrage.

1. Equal Education

Mary Wollstonecraft as stated in the book "feminist thought" claimed that a woman should not be considered a "male toy." In other words, a woman is not created just for men's pleasure, but a woman has the right to self-determination. In his life women have the right to get an education equal to that of men. So that men should not regard women as meaningless. When the men are educated in courage, simplicity, justice and fortitude, women are educated in virtues such as patience, obedience, good humor, polite, and flexibility. It shows that women are considered to have to take refuge in men who are considered brave. And women must also obey male orders, and be able to be their entertainers (Tong, 2013).

2. Equal Liberty

Everyone has the right to be treated fairly. Everyone has the right to express their opinion or express their freedom in society. As long as the expression of that freedom is not detrimental to others and is not negative, anyone should have the right to voice their rights in equal freedom. In this situation, equal economic, social and politic rights are the main topic in this era. Wollstonecraft as cited in "feminist thought" book said that if society wants to achieve sexual equality or gender justice then society must give women the same opportunities in economic, social and political rights as men. (Tong, 2013)

3. Equal Rights

The equal education, liberty and rights are important things to human's life, especially for women. The equal rights for the women in the world need to be maintained. For nearly forty years after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, feminists went about their work relatively quietly in the United States. Then, around 1960, a rebellious generation of feminists loudly proclaimed as fact what the suffragists Stanton and Anthony had always suspected: In order to be fully liberated,

women need economic opportunities and sexual freedoms as well as civil liberties . John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill in the book “feminist thought’ affirmed the existence of women's suffrage to be equal for men. Not only have the right to express their own political views but they also have the right to fight something that is considered to limit their freedom in their lives, and they also have the right to abolish slavery (Tong, 2013).

2.1.2 Radical Feminism

Radical feminism is a feminist perspective that removes all forms of male supremacy to make radical changes in society in the economic and social context. This feminism also wants to eliminate patriarchy by opposing the institutions and also the social norms that apply through the political process. Radical feminism focuses on a set of ideas and thoughts about the struggle that separates women's rights and demands the equal position of women and men in the social order. Some examples are opposing traditional gender roles, resisting the sexual objectification of women, and raising public awareness about issues such as rape and violence against women. (Tong, 2013)

2.1.3 Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Marxist views about the problem of women in the framework of criticism of capitalism. In this assumption it is argued that the method of production and class exploitation are sources of oppression for women. marxist and socialist feminism views the existence of capitalism as an injustice for women, with various losses to be borne. In addition, there is an assumption that men will be dominant in controlling production implementation programs so that they will have a much higher position. Men control production, whereas women are considered to be part of property, or women are considered as workers.(Tong, 2013)

2.2 Women's oppressions

Oppression is the unjust utilize of specialist, law, or physical constrain to avoid others from being free or equal (Barret,2011). Oppression could be a sort of bad form. The verb oppress can cruel to keep somebody down in a social sense, such as an authoritarian government might do in an oppressive society. It can also mean to mentally burden someone, such as with the psychological weight of an oppressive idea. Women's oppression is directly attributable to the organization of specifically capitalist relations of production is apparently a strong one (Langan, 2002).The Marxist feminists who decided that women's sex class as well as economic class plays a role in women's oppression began to refer to themselves as socialist feminists or materialist feminists (Tong, 2013). One of the initial goals of this evolving group of feminist theorists was to develop a theory powerful enough to explain the complex ways in which capitalism and patriarchy allied to oppress women. The result of this effort were (1) two-system explanations of women's oppression and (2) interactive-system explanations of women's oppression.

1. Two-system explanations of women's oppression

Two-system explanations of women's oppression typically combine a Marxist feminist account of class power with a radical feminist account of sex power. These explanations claim that, at root, women have more to fear from capitalist forces than from patriarchal forces.

2. Interactive system explanations of women's oppression

This tended to identify either class or sex as the primary source of women's oppression, interactive-system explanations strove to present capitalism and patriarchy as two equal partners colluding in a variety of ways to oppress women.

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 oppression, often concluding that there were both overt and insidious forces in society that oppressed women. Nowadays, women's oppression increasingly

spread to various aspects of women's lives. Brenton (2016) stated male power and women's oppression are quite clearly related. The patriarchal construction considers men to be higher than women causing there is an authoritarian attitude that is done by men to women. Self-abuse is one of the causes for women to experience oppression. Power is used to render a person helpless and that feeling of helplessness will slowly oppress a person. Oppression leads to psychic instability. One of those instabilities is the person who is being oppressed has to deal with many struggles. Bland & Assault (2011) stated members of an oppressed group who are experiencing interpersonal injustice might be in on phase feel afraid to report the oppression they experience based on the reasons below:

1. Some members of oppressed groups may be reluctant to report violence because of their community's negative experience with police
2. People with immigrant status may avoid seeking help for fear of being deported, especially if they disclose illegal immigration status
3. Language barriers can increase isolation, making it more difficult to get help
4. Some victims of violence are reluctant to leave because of the disruption this would cause to family or community ties.

Of all the things related to women's oppression, it is clear that any form of expression, especially experienced by women, must be one of the thoughts of feminists in fighting for equal justice between men and women. All misconceptions about women and all unfair treatment from society, especially regarding oppression, should have been eradicated from a long time ago. Misconceptions about women, which come from the past, should be renewed and made clear about equal rights between men -men and women.

2.3 Women's Struggles

Struggles is social or professional position, condition, or standing to which varying degrees of responsibility, privilege, and esteem (Juliani, 2018). According to Wilany (2017) women struggled if they could not get their rights. The rights here are

rights that must be equal and get all kinds of men that society gives them, such as fair treatment, not belittling someone based on gender, etc. Unfortunately, of all the justice that women want, there are still many that have not been realized by society. Because there is no realization of this justice, women have to go through all kinds of struggles for justice for themselves. Women fight for their rights in society. This right is the effort mean as a woman in order to defend their rights and dignity of women who are oppressed due to arbitrary injustice of considerable cultural flourishing in society. They must have efforts in achieving a good thing as the key to success. Tong (2013) stated the following are some things that women do not get their rights associated with the life we live as follows:

- 1) A right to get the joy of life.
- 2) Struggle in their daily lives.
- 3) Rights to get family income from husband.
- 4) Rights to be loved and treated properly.
- 5) The last is a right to be protected.

Many things head to cause the women face many struggles, such as struggles to fight for equal rights or struggles to fight sexual harassment. Human's rights provide the groundwork for analyzing women's rights issues and a society's willingness to accept or reject them. It also evokes the question of how women as a disenfranchised group may organize themselves to fight for their rights (Asante,2006). Losing rights for women which results in them having to go through various struggles. Women who are seen as weak creatures are even required to always go through the struggles in their lives. Continuously developing from all of that, women who remain strong and brave creatures and still stand on their own feet in all their problems.

2.4 The Sexual Harassment

Under capitalism as it exists today, women experience patriarchy as unequal wages for equal work, uncompensated domestic work, even sexual harassment. Sponyono (2019) stated sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. De Beauvoir (2014) stated males and females are two types of individuals which are differentiated within species for the function of reproduction; they can be defined only correlatively but first it must be noted that even the division of species into two sexes is not always clear-cut. This form of obscurity is how female sexuality is forced and used as material to satisfy someone in a sexual desire. Forcing sexual desire by someone to women is one type of sexual harassment. Women do not have final or total say about when, where, how, or by whom their bodies will be used, because their bodies can be suddenly appropriated from them through acts ranging from the “male gaze” to sexual harassment to rape (Tong, 2013). In 1980, the EEOC (the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) issued a definition of sexual harassment. The EEOC’s definition is commonly accepted and appears in most state and local laws, court decisions, and employers’ sexual harassment policies: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, constitute sexual harassment when: submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment, submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment (Howard, 2008).

Howard (2008) stated sexual harassment always involves four elements. First, there must be an action, such as the actor putting his arms around the target. The action can be physical, verbal, or visual. Second, the action must be unwelcome or unwanted in the target’s view. Third, the action must be sexual or sex related and

based on the target's sex or gender. Fourth, there has to be a tangible economic impact on the target or a severely negative impact on the target's work performance or work environment. There are two types of sexual harassment, quid pro quo harassment and hostile environment harassment. Most people understand quid pro quo harassment as sex in direct exchange for employment benefits. The second type of sexual harassment, hostile environment harassment, raises more questions. Hostile environment harassment happens when the actor's unwelcome sexual behavior has one of two kinds of impact. It either interferes with the target's work performance or creates a hostile, offensive, or threatening work environment. The behavior alters the employee's experience of the workplace, causing the work environment to be a sexually charged, intimidating, or offensive place to be. The actor can be a supervisor or a coworker who makes persistent offensive comments or repeatedly has unnecessary physical contact of a sexual nature with the target(Howard, 2008).

Sexual harassment is despicable form of intimidation that should, when it occurs, be stopped swiftly. According to Gerdes (2009) sexual harassment is a result of unequal power relationships not gender in form of discrimination. Social and biological sex differences can cause the perception of sexual harassment. It was stated by Gerdes (2009) that relationships involve both men and women for whom physical and emotional intimacy often have different meanings because male and female nature are fundamentally different, particularly in the area surrounding sex, love, and intimacy. The scariest thing about the sexual harassment is perpetrated by individuals who are familiar to us and who have family lives similar to our own. Men who sexually harass have not been distinguishable from their colleagues who don't harass with respect to age, marital status, faculty rank, occupation, or academic discipline. Men who harass have a tendency to do this repeatedly to many women, and men who harass hold attitudes toward women that are traditional, not egalitarian.

2.5 Novel

Novel is one of the literary works in written form. It is a long story that is divided into several chapters. Sometimes novel is the result of essay from the author or even the true story of the author's life. Based on Nurgiyantoro (2010:4) suggested that the novel is a work of fiction offering a world that contains idealized life models, imaginative worlds which is built through various intrinsic elements such as events, plots, characters and characterization, background, and perspective all of which are imaginative, though all what the author realized was deliberately analogous to the real world looks like really exists and is true, this is seen in its own coherent system.

2.6 Previous Research

Based on the theory and explanation above, there are some researchers that has conducted this research also. The first research was from Sigal (2004) , he revealed e impact of sexual harassment on Hong Kong Chinese women in the workplace and in college. This research used feminist theory which the findings found were Sexual harassment of other female colleagues (i.e., measure of perceived prevalence) was reported more often than incidents happening to one self. The second research was done by Santi, Rahmi, Islam, & Imam (2013), they revealed the qualitatively the values of feminism brought by Jo, the main character in the Little Women novel written by Louisa May Alcott. Data in this study were collected using documentation techniques. The data is then analyzed using a feminist approach combined with content analysis techniques. The results showed that feminist values in the Little Women novel include equality, difference, choice, care, time and experience. One of Jo's struggles is in defending her rights as a woman for the sake of equality in terms of women's nature, women's achievements and equality of opportunity to obtain higher education.

The third research was done by Asri (2014).This study aimed to describe the struggle of women's characters toward gender unfair in domestic and public sector that reflected in Indonesian's novel. The root of the problem is patriarchy system that

operated through various media in all field of life in society. In order to achieve the aims of the study, a descriptive qualitative approach with feminism literature critic is used. There are thirteen novels that are used as the source of the data. Based on the data analysis there two findings are found. First, the women's struggle toward gender unfair in domestic sector is happen because the tradition of pingitan (seclude of marriageable girl) and force for marriage which restraint the women's freedom especially as daughter.

The fourth research was done by Wilany (2017). This study described about feminism, a woman struggle for their rights that found in the Novel. Firdaus had to crouch, because she killed a pimp who wanted to price her, before she was on gallows. She did not feel fear of die, whereas she felt that she became a free woman without man around. She struggles for her right as woman by defending to be passive for all that accused to her. He used Paludi theory to reveal the study.

The fifth research was done by Puspita (2018). She revealed an in-depth picture and understanding of the life struggle of female characters in the novels written by Abidah El Khalieqy. A qualitative descriptive research was used with a feminist approach. The data in this research was the result of a study of the novels "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban and GeniJora by Abidah El Khalieqy". The procedure used in analyzing research data was content analysis. The data validity analysis used the triangulation technique. Based on the results of research and discussion, it was found that the struggle to fight injustice was a struggle against 1) marginalization of women; and 2) subordination of women.

The sixth research was done by Indrapuri (2019), she revealed the dual role of women who must be smart at dividing time between family and work. This research used descriptive qualitative research. The findings of the research revealed that: 1. General description of the dual role in women, namely the role as a housewife. 2. The obstacles women feel in carrying out all their roles come from internal and external. 3. Impacts that occur in carrying out their dual roles have positive and negative

impacts. The positive impact can help families with the collaboration between mother and child in completing homework.

The seventh research was done by Bere & Arianto (2019), they discussed violence toward women and women's resistance toward the construction of patriarchal. The research used descriptive qualitative research combined with feminist theory. The findings of the research were Delia was able to resist her husband named Sykes. Delia sought her freedom by escaping the scandal the cruel treatment of her husband. Delia's action contradicted with patriarchal construction that women had to be submissive and respectful towards men due to the women basically were dependent on men.

From all the journals, there are similarities and differences between the present research and seventh journals. The first research has the similarity in approach which is feminist. The difference is in the data source and aim. The different from the second was the source of data which they analyzed gender and women's right in Islam. The third is the difference from the aim which is to reveal the qualitatively the values of feminism, the similarity is from the approach which feminist. The fourth is difference from the aim which analyzed the women struggle and marriage force, the difference was from the theory which he used Pauli's theory. The similarity from the fifth research is approach used which is feminist, the difference is from the aim which struggle to fight injustice. The seventh research is similar with the present research which is discussing about women violation. The difference is in the data source which the present research used novel and the seventh research used short story.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

In this part, the researcher will provide the theoretical framework that describe about the research outline. A theoretical framework is a collection of interrelated concepts, like a theory but not necessarily so well worked-out. A theoretical framework guides your research, determining what things you will measure, and what statistical relationships you

will look for. The theoretical framework helps the reader to read the whole research easily by seeing the picture. The below picture is the theoretical framework of this research.

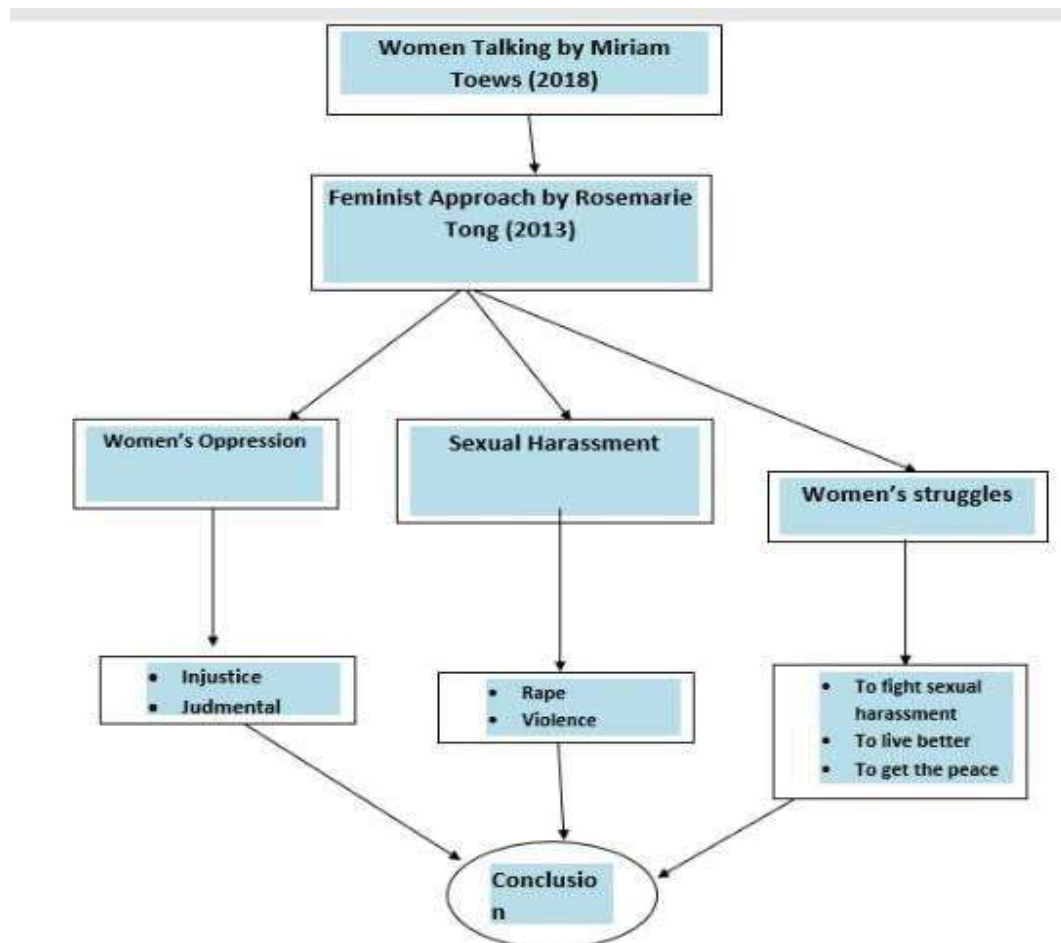


Image 2.6.1 The theoretical framework

The above framework concludes that this research used the “Women Talking” novel by Miriam Toews (2018) as the data source. This data then been analyzed by implying the theory of Rosemarie Tong (2013) about the feminist approach. In the novel, there were many conflicts that triggered the problem that had to be faced by the women characters in the novel. The main conflicts in the novel itself are women’s oppression, sexual harassment and women’s struggles. Women’s oppression that

experienced by the women in the novel encompasses how they lived in injustice or un-fair treatment done by the elderly and the Bishop in the colony. Additionally, they have to experience a kind of judgmental from the Bishop by judging them for no reason. This judgment made the women in the novel seemed as if they were wrong and they had to take full responsibility for all the bad things they experienced. Eventually, this judgment made the women in the women talking novel felt that they had lost trust in the men and bishops in their colony. The result of that distrust is that the women in the colony try to negotiate their own problems and try to make the best decisions about their own lives without the interference of the bishops and other men in the colony. The worst outcome of all this oppression was sexual harassment. They were raped secretly at night when they slept. Then rapists committed that kind of crimes against women by making them unconscious. Experiencing the oppression, the women in the colony had to deal with the sexual harassment case that made them had to pass through many struggles. The first struggle they had to face was how to fight the sexual harassment they experienced, how to live better and how to live with peace and happiness.