

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Theoretical Framework

To help the readers in understanding this research, the researcher wants to analyze the novel that related to this study by some theories. This analysis focuses on the character in the novel. The study of character and characterization is interrelated. In accordance with the problems the researcher uses feminist literary criticism, especially in woman character and her struggle for freedom. In the analysis, the researcher tries to explore feminism theory. Instead of using other branch theories of Feminism; this study employs Radical Feminism and Existentialist theory in order to accomplish it more deeply in its analysis. Those theories are explained as follows:

2.1.1. Character

Character is a doer in the literary work (novel, story, novelette, and also drama). Character in fiction is created by the creator, although could be described as human being in the real world. In the literary work it, should be lifelikeness (Sayuti 68).

Character obviously relevant to us and our experience if it is like ourselves or like others whom we know (kenney 27), character is the actor of the story. Character is

persons presented in work of narrative who convey their personal qualities through dialog and action by which the reader understand their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives. (Nurgiyantoro 165)

According to Jones (qtd. in Nurgiyantoro 165), character is the describing a real person that shows in the story. Perhaps the single most important aspect of a good novel is character. The reader must care about the characters in order to care about what happens to them.

Characters are divided into some categories. They are central and periveral character. There are some categories for central character in literary work especially in fiction. The first is the character is always involved in theme. The second one is the character is often related to other characters. The last one is the character needs much time to express (Sayuti, 2000)

Koesnobroto (qtd. in Widowati 21), says that we can distinguish two types of characters. They are minor and major characters. The former is the less important character while the latter is the most important character in a story. Koesnobroto also says that the chief character in a fiction or a play is called protagonist. The story portrays his or her struggle to achieve his or her goal. The opponent of this character is called the antagonist. The antagonist can be human or non human being, animate or inanimate things that hinder the protagonist in achieving his or her goal.

From the explanation above, we can find some elements in novels and those elements included characters. Characters are divided into two, these are, a major character and minor character. Major character is a person who is the key of all situations of conflict in novel or, while the minor character is a person who supports main character in the novel.

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of Linda Brent as the main character during her struggle the oppression and her freedom. Linda Brent is the protagonist of *Incident in the Life of Slave Girl*. When the novel begins, Linda is pertinent in struggling to get freedom. Although she is slave but she is struggling her freedom.

2.1.2. Characterization

Characterization means that writers present and reveal character, by direct description, by showing the character in action or by the presenting of the other character that help to define each other (“element of Fiction”).

Characterization refers to the way an author develops the fictional people who populate a novel. Characterization is how an author helps us get to know all of the character in a book. An author might develop a character through dialogue, and action. There are two ways an author can convey information about a character. Those are direct and indirect characterization. Using direct manner means that the author describes directly about the character. Otherwise, in indirect manner of

characterization the author does not merely tell the characters but showing them to the readers through how the character looks, what the character does, what the character says, what the character thinks, and how the character affects other characters. From these five things, the reader can understand and get a clear description of the character's personality (Hughes 3).

Holman state that there are three fundamental methods of characterization in fiction: (1) the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct exposition, either in an introductory block or more often piecemeal throughout the work, illustrated by action; (2) the presentation of the character in action, with little or no explicit comment by the author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actor from the actions; and (3) the representation from within a character, without comment on the character by the author, of the impact of action and emotions upon the character's inner self, with the expectation that reader will come to a clear understanding of the attributes of the character (76)

So characters and characterization are interrelated, also characters become an important point to analyze in this study. The writer tries to reveal Linda Brent's struggle for her freedom in slavery, the doing and the thought of characters involved.

2.1.3 Feminist Literary Criticism

In analyzing a literary work, we need to understand and to get better in literary work message; it needs to make analysis and research of the literary works. To do

that, the researcher needs to get better research. This research analyzes a woman character, Linda Brent. Talks about woman is not simple thing and become interesting object whereas in literary work. The researcher conduct the research to analyze Linda Brent, how the struggle and oppression to get freedom in slavery. The tool to analyze this woman character is Feminist Literary Criticism theory and theories that have related with existence of woman, oppression and struggle for freedom to be the point of this theory.

Generally, feminist literary criticism exists to counter, resist, and eventually eliminate the traditions and conventions of patriarchy the ideology of belief system which see as natural the dominance and superiority of men over women in both private and public context as it exist in literary, historical, and critical contexts. In practice, feminist literary criticism is not limited to text written and read by women, for its interest is not only how women have been treated in books, but how notions of gender and sexuality, generally, have determined or enforced an inferior place for many different voices of women, of racial, gay and lesbian writer and reader of literature.

Literary criticism which has focus on feminist perspective is one of the literary theories. It called feminist literary criticism. To investigate female characters in literary work is difficult, because feminist literary criticism as one of the literary theory has to be consistent to the previous theory of literature in order to prevent the contradiction among those theories. Thus, in further development, feminist literary

discourse at least has four focuses: first, to discover, examine and measure the women author in the past, patriarchy has been expressed clearly; second, to examine the literary work with the feminism approach; thirdly, to express the women and men ideology, how their view about themselves in the real life; and the last is to discover gynocritic aspects. It means to understand how creative process feminist in literary work (Endraswara 146-147).

Feminist criticism also is a type of literary criticism, which may study and advocate the rights of women. The following feminism development, women started had consciousness to make their rights in every aspects of life equal as men. Even feminist believed that sciences was also dominated by men and oppressed them. So, they tried to escape women from every kind of oppression and boundaries in science domain. One of the efforts was to create a special discourse of women; it is called gender studies or women studies (Djajanegara 18).

Women studies emphasizes the study in many topics about women. It includes literary criticism. According to Elaine Showalter (qtd. In Djajanegara 18) most of literary form have not been touching women's writer for many centuries in American literary history. Therefore, the first activity in doing feminist literary criticism is to dig, investigate, and evaluate women's literary work for long time.

In analyzing a literary work, the ways that often used are textual criticism and textual feminist criticism. The textual feminist criticism involves textual analyzing

and feminist analyzing. A feminist in literary works can be pluralistic person in method and theory which is used, because, in fact we can use any approach as long as it is appropriate with the purpose.

2.1.5 Radical Feminism

One of feminism branch is radical feminism. Hawthorn define that radical feminism is a branch of feminism that views women's oppression as the basic system of power upon which human relationships in society are arranged. It seeks to challenge this arrangement by rejecting standard gender roles and male oppression (70).

According to Madsen (qtd. In Mitchell 51) Radical feminism recognizes the oppression of women as a fundamental political oppression wherein women are categorized as an inferior class based on their sex. It is the aim of radical feminism to organize politically to destroy this sex-class system. As radical feminists we recognize that we are engaged in a power struggle with men, and that the agent of our oppression is man in so far as he identifies with and carries out the supremacy privileges of the male role.

Radical feminism posits that the root cause of all other inequalities and women oppression is sex or gender system. Some Radical feminists also acknowledge the simultaneity of different types of oppression which may include, but they are not limited to the following: Oppression based on gender identity, race, social class,

perceived attractiveness, sexuality, sexual orientation, ability see sex-positive feminism for a sex positive feminist critique, while still affirming the recognition of patriarchy (Tong 69). The oppression that women have lived in the struggle and oppression to get freedom to even is considered equal to men is more than evident in slavery, not only because they were thought of as lesser but in some ways many women actually believed it to be true.

According to Alison Jaggar Paula Rothenberg, The main conflict that becomes major problem for radical feminism is the system of sex or gender that becomes fundamental causes from women's oppression. This simple sentence can be interpreted as: First, historically women are the first group who are oppressed by men; second, there are women's oppression in every country. It becomes the culture, and it can be found in every society; third, women's oppression is become culture that is difficult to wiped I out and it can not be changed with other social revolution, for example wiping the social out; fourth, women's oppression causes deep suffering for women life, not only qualitatively but also quantitatively although women are unconscious when they get oppression; fifth, women's oppression can give other model of conceptual for understanding the other oppression (Tong 69),.

In this research of radical feminism focuses the oppression of Linda Brent has to fight lived in the struggle to get freedom. There is some oppression toward slave woman of Linda Brent, the oppression are radical discrimination, portrays of pain and suffering (physically and emotionally) by slave woman.

2.1.6 Existentialist Theory

After studying about feminist literary criticism and radical feminism theory, the researcher wants to accomplish the analysis about the existence female to get freedom with existentialist theory.

Existentialism is a philosophical movement that analyses the concept of human existence in the world taking into account the subjective states of a human, freedom and choice. The main problem is what the differences between human and things are, and the basic difference between human and thing is human realizes its existence in the world and always ask about the meaning of existence while thing does not. So, that is why only human who is able to show its existence and thing will has a meaning because of human's existence itself (MasjukurAnhari 150).

Existentialism tries to observe the concrete fact of human as the human itself exists in its world. Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855), a Danish philosopher and theologian, and also as a founder of existentialism (Alex Howard 334) says that existentialism as a compliance of each individual which is acquired from the freedom will (Suparlan Suhartono 67).

According to Kierkegaard, each person must have a certain involvement and commitment toward each event that he or she has experienced, so that person is not only as an objective observer, but also as an actor that play a part in it. This critics is based on his conviction that principally human is not a rational creature merely

without a wish and feeling. 'Ideal' and 'objective' assume human's ratio domination toward a free wish and human's affection. In fact, human's action is not based on the ratio merely, but also based on the free choice and spontaneous emotional (Zainal Abidin146).

Related to freedom is responsibility, both of them are inseparable each other. Unjustifiably that there is a man who admit free, but he or she does not want to responsible with its action. The main source problem of human's existence are freedom and responsibility. So, they are fundamental and crucial problems in human's life (ZainalAbidin 147). The freedom – the responsibility – that what everyone wants and fights is not a pleasant thing. Conversely, freedom often wreaks a new problem. Human is free to make everything from environment, but human is not free utterly to do everything that human wants toward the environment (Alex Howard456). Freedom seems paradox, it cannot be relied on as a sturdy basis for human's life. Freedom is very brittle and threatened. Even, it can cause a worried feeling when human determines thon's choice, there will be an unpleasant consequence or another dangerous one.

Equality of right and freedom between the sexes is desirable. However, if they are not forthcoming, prostitution can provide the woman with kind of liberty that is immediate, affirming and temporally rewarding. De Beauvoir appears to exalt all women as possessing the capacity to realize their innate power in the sense of the warrior spirit. In the existentialist view, the power of a competent woman over a man

is not an illusion. A man may think he is in charge of a situation by virtue of his power of competence spirit this power is not incontrovertible (Jaggar 191).

Therefore, it is indispensable a certain discreetness in order to reduce the undesirable risk. According to Kierkegaard, what one needs in this life are passion, enthusiasm, spirit, personal belief that based on free wish and emotion (Zainal Abidin 148). The using of existentialism theory is believable by the writer to help her in finding out the characteristic of the female characters' struggle in the story, in this study of Linda Brent have characteristic in their struggle.

So in existentialist the researcher will explain about women struggle for freedom from slavery. Linda Brent presents a protagonist enmeshed in family relationships who recounts her efforts to achieve freedom for herself and her children within the context of the struggle for freedom.

2.2 Review of Related Studies

To deepen this study the researcher takes several previous studies as a comparative study that have relevant point in order to get some important matters to help this study, those study are:

The first researcher is Ken Retno Yuniwati, the student of University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta (2008). Who wrote under the title *on Struggle for achieving happiness of Maggie Tulliver in George Eliot's The Mill on the Floss: An Individual Psychological Approach*. In her research she found that George Eliot has successfully

combined all the structural elements. Based on individual psychological analysis, in this novel reflects Maggie's coping behavior to minimize her inferiority feeling and to maximize her superiority in order to get her life goals.

The second researcher is Miftakhul Maarif the student of The State Islamic University of Malang (2010). His research is under the title *Women's Woman Struggle Againsts Gender Inequality in The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Anne Bronte*. He is focused in the main idea of gender inequality is a struggle to get an understanding of the position and the role of the woman characters in the novel. The position and the role of woman character became focus of analysis. Moreover the analysis is also aimed to explore the inequality culture which place woman as an inferior. In according with the problem the writers uses feminist literary criticism as the theory in analyzing the novel.

Based on the two previous studies, the researcher conducts another study using the different data source that is a novel entitled *Incident in the life of a slave girl* by Harriet Jacobs, and using feminism literary criticism approach with the attempt to reveal the struggle and oppressions of women to get freedom in slavery. In addition, all of those studies are different from this study although this is still in the scope and field of feminism. Thus, this study is very important to do to enrich knowledge, especially in the research field.