

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents review of related literature which contains some theories that are related to the research. The understanding of literary elements can be very helpful in analyzing literary work. The theories therefore are expected to help the writer in analyzing and answering the problem stated in Chapter I they are gender inequality conflict and female characters struggle to gain equality.

A. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Theory of Conflict

Conflict is one of very important element in a story which makes the story interesting to read. Conflict is an important events and essential element in developing plot in literary work. The plot depends on the conflict to hold the reader interest. In this part the researcher would like to state the experts' explanation about conflict. Conflict means something horrible that is happened inside the story either in the main character or the major character. It is state of discord caused by the actual or perceived opposition of needs, values or interest (Singleton, 1966:261). Perrine (1959:83) says that "Conflict is a class of action ideas, desire, or wills". Conflict means a struggle between two opposing forces (Stanford, 1999:40). From above statements we can conclude that conflict is one of the very importance elements in all literary works.

Conflict appears when there are two opposing forces upon characters. They are usually the protagonist and the antagonist ones. According to Robert and Jacob (1989:49)

"Conflict raises the extremes of human energy, causing characters to engage in decisions, actions, responses, and interactions that make up most of the stories in their most basic form, conflict is the contradiction of two characters, their conflict can take forms such as; hatred of envy, anger, argument, avoidance, gossip, lies, fights, and many other forms and actions" (Robert, 1989:49).

Based on the statements above, the writer can conclude that conflict is the most significance element of plot. It is something that is dramatic between

characters in the story which leads the main character in the story achieving their ending. Conflict should involve at least two people, who have different ideas, desires, opinions and arguments in communication struggling to express their idea. Conflict is very much important in the story.

1.1. Types of Conflict

Jones (1968:30) writes “Conflict is what gets the reader involved emotionally in what happening”. Furthermore Perrine (1959:59) states that “generally, conflict in literature are divided into two types, they are internal conflict and external conflict”. Internal conflict happens when the character is involved in struggle with his-own desire. Singleton, (1966:298) differs conflict into two types they are first, internal conflict (covert) it is a kind of conflict that is happened inside the self of each character. It cannot be seen by other characters. Second, external conflict (overt) this kind of conflict is happened between protagonist and antagonist character. Every character in the story can see this conflict because this conflict is revealed in real life.

In literary, conflict includes internal conflict it is called man vs. man conflict, and external conflict which includes man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. Society and man vs. fate. Man vs. man: this internal conflict exists from protagonist’s inner struggles. This could be a struggle with morality, destiny, desire and trust. This conflict is central to the character and must be solved by the character alone (Stanford, 1999:40).

There are four types of internal conflicts they are man vs. man: this form of external conflict occurs when a character struggles against another character. It is a conflict between the protagonist and antagonist. Man vs. Nature: This form of external conflict occurs when a character or characters find themselves at odds with force of nature. For example, a character struck by lightning. Man vs. Society: this external conflict exists when characters struggles against the moral of their culture and government. Man vs. Fate: this form of external conflict situation is caused by protagonist who works against what has been foreseen for the character. This conflict is more prominent in the story where God can control the destiny (Stanford, 1999:41).

2. Gender Inequality

Many people define gender and sex as identical. However, both gender and sex are so much different. According to Butler (in Ratna, 2004:224) who states that “gender is culturally psychologies as a distinction between masculine and feminine, While, sex is natural physiology to make a distinction between male-female”. Those statements can be concluded that both gender and sex has difference in definition. Gender is a matter that can be created or conditioned based on cultural sychologic. Meanwhile, sex is a natural distinction that has been created by God.

Dated back to 19th century, gender issues were out of talk from detailed discussion in classical theory because it was reflection of the inequality woman faced at that time. Studies of gender inequality were based on males’ norms and experience and then used to interpret those for woman. Long ago, women were seen as the source of problem, the solution for them was to become more like men (Gardiner, 2004:35).

Gender inequality happens as the cause of the different treatment based on gender which applied by the society. The gender inequality is not only affect women but also men. It means the gender inequality occur because of the different treatment of their gender, not because of the different in sex. Andrey Shastri (2014:1) claims that

“Women are discriminated in this male dominating society. Gender discrimination is the harmful treatment of an individual or group due to gender. Generally, gender inequality or discrimination word used for ‘women’, because they considered being most inferior and weaker section in our society” (Shastri, 2014:1).

This different treatment creates distinction on the roles and social position between women and men. This makes women suffer a lot of social restrictions on their private life and social life.

According to McClain and Grossman (2009:4) “Gender inequality stands in basic institution of civil society, such as the family, the work place, educational entities, and public institution, such as elected office”. This statement clarifies that there are some kinds of inequality in social field that force women lost their equal

right. Cecilia (2011:127) explains that “Gender inequality is unequal idea in material resources and power about who man and woman are and how they are in their society”. It clarifies that there are differences between men and women in their society.

3. Traditional Gender Role

Most men thought that women are only being a household and work in home and do not have to know the out world. This opinion appeared because men thought that women are weak. Besides, there is opinion that women as a wife should be at home and served their husband. That is the main role of women. Lois Tyson in *Critical Theory Today* (2006:85) writes “traditional gender roles cast men as rational, strong, protective and decisive; they cast women as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing, and submissive” (Tyson, 2006:85). These traditional gender roles make women experience unequal treatment in their society such as women are prohibited to get equal access to leadership and decision-making position and paying men higher than women for doing the same job and women also experience racism and sexism. Patel and Parmentier (2005:33) argued about this. They argued that traditionally women’s work has been linked with the household word, protecting their children, and reproduction. This is the proved that roles of women in traditionally are only at home, served their husband and reproduction. It is the reason why the men are always thinking that women have weakness and their emotion makes them as a weak creature.

Since the subject of this study is gender Inequality, the theory of traditional gender role become essential in working this thesis. These theories will be used to support reading the issue of gender inequality faced by the main female characters. By understanding the theory, the readers might get the clear understanding about the gender inequality conflict.

4. Gender Struggle for Equality

Equality means treating people both men and women, in individual or groups to be equal. “Equality can be defined in terms of both individuals and a wide variety of groups, it can relate to many different dimensions of people’s lives and it can refer to many different types of relationship, all of these differences

having some kind of basis in the idea of treating people as equals” (Baker, at all, 2004;22). Stated in United Nation Human Right 2014

“Inherent to the principle of equality between men and women, or gender equality, is the concept that all human beings, regardless of sex, are free to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles and prejudice” (United Nation Human Right, 2014:35).

The above statement explained that, there are no distinction between men and women to be equal. Both men and women have the same opportunity to develop their potential in their live without any distinctions between them.

Struggle means the fight to achieve what want to be achieved. In this case is the fight of women for gaining their equality. This study is only focused on social equality where women are often discriminated in this field. McClain and Grossman (2009:4) stated that “Gender inequality persists in basic institutions of civil society, such as the family, the workplace, educational entities, and public institutions, such as elected office”. The statement referred that there are some kinds of inequality in social field that makes women fight to reform their position in society to be equal with men.

5. Feminism

Generally, feminism means the theory to define woman for gaining their political, economic, personal and social right. It is supported by Hooks (2010) in his book *Feminism is for Everybody* he says “Feminism is a bunch of angry women who want to be like men”. In more complex definition Hooks (2000:1) writes “Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression”. It is clearly stated that the movement is not about being anti-male, but it is clear that the problem is sexism. It can be said that feminism has two goals; creating a social group to reject the unfair social systems, and to gain a freedom for every people to determine themselves.

Another expert, potter (1999:27) defines “feminism as perspective that seek to eliminate the subordination, oppression, inequalities, and the injustice because woman suffer from sexual discrimination. This perspective is also called as the

woman struggle”. Feminism can be defined as a perspective to respond the unfair treatment toward woman in social life. Another expert, wood (2014 par.7) explains that “feminism is a perspective to create a radical social change for woman in order to get equal opportunities in life, equal access to resources and power, and equally save and secure from harm”. From these perspectives, it can be said that, feminism is not only dealing with movement and perspectives but also woman’s spirit to gain equality in social construction.

From above definitions, feminism focuses on women who have a social connection on sexism, then set women as the second class of civilization. Then, feminism becomes a tool to make woman sensitive toward the false system in order to get them out from gender inequality. This research uses feminism approach because, the data has strong idea about woman movement.

This study is bringing to the feminism because the goal of feminism is to end sexism. It is expected that women will get the same right as men. Since the objects of this thesis are short stories about women in their family and society and also written by a female author, Zora Neale Hurston, the theory of feminism becomes essential to this thesis. By studying the feminism theory, we can learn how women struggle against issue of sexism. Women are involved in the struggle to fight against gender oppression, regardless of age, or sexual orientation. They fight for independence and refuse the stereotypes that used by society to judge them. They fight to get their right to speak and voice their opinion. Further, this theory is very important in analyzing the struggles of women character in this study.

6. Feminist Literary Criticism

Feminism get into the world of Literature can be seen from many expert theories. At first a feminine book by Mary Wollstonecraft entitled *A Vindication of the Right of Woman*. In her book, she writes about how importance the equality between men and women is in society. She also argues that women should be aware that women in the community’s perspective are considered inferior to men. Mellor (2002:par.1) in her analysis of the book says that “Wollstonecraft argued that female are in all the most important aspect the same as male, possessing the

same soul, the same mental capacities, and the same human right”. This argument creates a new thought, primarily the importance of equality in all social institution for women. Furthermore, Mellor (2002:part.3) writes that “the social sector that is presented by Wollstonecraft is an equality in education and ownership of household resources, including children”.

Then Virginia Wolf becomes an important figure of the new thinking about feminist literary criticism. She creates two important works for new thinking in literary criticism; *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Three Guineas* (1938). In *A Room of One's Own* she explains that women are the victim of the social system. The system makes unequal treatment for women in the society. In *Three Guineas* she explains that the patriarchal system is a source of women inequality in all sectors. According to Selden and Widdowson (1993:207), wolf's contribution in the development of feminism by both works is “gender identity is socially constructed and can be challenged and transformed ... women had always faced social and economic obstacles to their literary ambition”. In other word, women struggle are not going to end for achieving the equality.

By the development of the feminism theory that is linked with literature, the core of the development shows the movement of women has long been happening. The developments could also mean that women demand to change and the new thinking in order to transform their destiny. Although their struggles are limited in social systems that do not benefit women, women's thoughts of not accepting stereotypes are still growing.

In conclusion, the objective of feminist literary criticism is to examine the values of women that are exposed in literary works. It also benefits to create literary works which presents women's thought as a form of struggle against male domination. Moreover, feminist literary criticism will encourage women to be active in creating literary works.

This study is bringing to the feminist literary criticism. Feminist is one of literary school which is talking about the female and male characters. In this study the researcher uses it in Zora Neale Hurston's selected short stories *Sweat* and *The Gilded Six-Bits*. These short stories talk about female as the main character which is oppressed by the male character and the female character struggles to get

out from the oppression. Freedman (2001:12) states that “Women were judge to be less reasonable than men, more ruled by emotions”. It clarifies that men are stronger than women because women are using their emotion. The argument explains image of female character in short story against the male. That is the reason why this study brings it into feminist.

B. PREVIOUS STUDY

The researcher writes this study based on the previous study as consideration of this study entitled Gender Inequality Conflic In Zora Neale Hurston’s *Sweat* And *The Gilded Six-Bits*. There have been previous studies that researchers have found to be related; based on similarities in the theory used and similarities in the object of research.

The first study is *A Study of Gender Inequality in India*. This study is written by Priti and Nagar (2015). From The International Journal of Indian Psychology, this study focuses on the gender inequality that exists among every region, social class and prevents the growth of Indian economy from improving the lives of Indian people. This paper highlights the multi-dimensional context of gender inequalities prevalent in India. The sameness that is found in this study is by using the same theory that is gender inequality. The difference between this study and previous study is that the previous study is using India as the object of the study. Meanwhile in this study, the researcher tends to find out the gender inequality conflict in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Sweat* and *The Gilded Six-Bits* as the object of the study.

The second related study is *Extolling Equality: Construction of Justice in “The Gilded Six Bits” by Zora Neal Hurston*. This study is written by Babamiri (2017) from Bhattar College Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies. This article, regarding the short story, tries to estimate the symbolic boundaries in which black women live in a society that they suffer from sexism, racism, and material disinheritance and, at the same time, it contributes to black women’s attempt to develop the process of liberation. The sameness of these two researches is that by using the same short story, *The Gilded Six Bits by Zora Neale Hurston*. The difference between the previous study and the researcher is that in this study

Babamiri analyses the symbolic boundaries in which black women live in a society. Meanwhile the researcher focuses on the gender inequality conflict faced by the main female character *The Gilded Six Bits* by Zora Neale Hurston. The writer uses a descriptive qualitative research to applied the data in the short story.

The third study is *Familial Characterization in Zora Neale Hurston's Spunk*. This article is written by Fatemeh and Nasser (2011) from International Conference on Languages, Literature and Linguistics. This Study attempts to examine familiar characterization. The stories selected for study here are from the book entitled *Spunk*. They are *Spunk*, *Isis*, *Muttsy*, *Sweat*, and *The Gilded Six Bits*. The differences can be seen that Fatemeh and Nasser study focuses on Familial Characterization in Zora Neale Hurston's *Spunk*. Meanwhile the researcher focuses on the gender inequality conflict in Zora Neale Hurston's *Sweat* and *The Gilded Six Bits*. The similarity of these two researches is that by using the same short stories by Zora Neale Hurston. Fatemeh and Nasser analyze the book entitled *Spunk* which include short stories *Sweat* and *The Gilded Six-Bits* (1933).

The fourth study is about conflict is a thesis entitled *An Analysis of the Main Characters' Conflicts in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel "The Secret Letter"* written by Hermina Napitupulu from Faculty of Letters English Literature Department, University of North Sumatera in 2009. In her thesis she analyzes the main characters' inner conflicts and outer conflicts in the novel *The Secret Letter*. The similarity of these theses is both of these studies observe the main character conflicts but using difference object of the study. The differences of both studies are; Napitupulu analyzes the conflict inner and outer of the main characters in the novel, she is not focused on female characters in his study. Besides, this study is focused on the gender inequality conflict of the main female character in short stories.