

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

As supporting for researching the problems, the writer notes some theories that are relevant to analyze the feminism especially liberal feminism in this novel. This chapter includes some theories of literature, novel, character, characterization, feminism, and liberal feminism.

2.1 Literature

M.H Abrams states literature is applied to a number of works in drama and prose fiction which have in common the sense that the human condition is essentially absurd, and that this condition can be adequately represented only in works of literature that are themselves absurd (1999:1). Some examples works of literature in drama, prose fiction are result of human imagination that represents human feeling in order to transform human feeling as an art through written language. So, literature here is one way to express human feeling through prose, poetry and drama.

All of the product of literature like prose, poetry, poems and drama are written through thoughts, ideas, and imaginations of the writer. They are represents the realization of ideas or message that the writer writes in their literary works. All those literary works are written in explicitly or implicitly tell the issue that the author wants to share such as issue feminism in Sylvia Plath's novel *The Bell Jar*.

Literature is something that interprets about human and humanity. It may explain that in understanding the literature is one way to understanding the human's life and the human feeling in life itself. The relationship of literature and the human's life only see through the literal meaning into the deeper meaning of each literary works. So, it means if we enjoy the literature from the literal meaning into the deeper meaning through the issue and the meaning that the author wants to share of each literary works itself.

2.1.1 Novel

Abrams states that the term "novel" is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose (1999:190). It can interpret that all the things are written in the form of prose which has narration and dialogs, those is novel. Abrams adds that the term for the novel in most European languages is roman, which is derived from the medieval term, the *romance*. The English name for the form, on the other hand, is derived from the Italian novella (literally, "a little new thing"), which was a short tale in prose (1999:190).

In literature, novel is a kind of prose. This means that novel is a literary work in the form of a story. The story in the novel is usually served with long narrative and dialogue. It can be seen from the conflict of the novel that tells in long story. Novel has several conflicts than short story. Besides that the narration is different between drama and novel. The narration in drama includes some commands are had to be done by the

character, but novel it hasn't. Novel also has long page. The pages sometimes are more than fifty pages or more.

2.2 Character

The word character refers to the people, animals, or objects that a story is about (Bacon, March, 12th 2014). Bennet and Royle state that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation (2004:60). From the statement above, it can be said that the character was the object of a literary work. It is the object of a depiction of a story. The object has an important role in determining the way the story goes in a literary work.

According to Abrams that characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue— and from what they do—the action (1999:32). Character is an object that presented in a literary work whose the identity can be known by the reader through the nature, moral and intellectual which described by the author. This shows that the character is an important element of a work of literature that has become self-identity and object of the depiction of a literary work.

Character also divided into two protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist is a term that refers to the main character in the story. The protagonist is the person that the reader cares most about and is the “good guy” in the story. Often in stories the protagonist is in conflict with another

character. The character that is against the protagonist and causes problems for him/her is known as the antagonist. The antagonist might be considered to be the “bad guy” in the story (March, 12th 2014).

2.2.1 Characterization

Characterization is the way of the author tells the characters of each person of the story through the narration and dialogs directly or indirectly. This term is same with characterizing; it is the process of the author describes the character in the story indirectly. Abrams states that characterizing (i.e., establishing the distinctive characters of) the persons in a narrative: showing and telling (1999:33-34). It can conclude that characterization is the method of the author tells the character by showing the action and telling the character’s attitude direct or indirectly.

Bacon in his article *Literary Elements Characterization* adds characterization is a name for the methods a writer uses to reveal a character’s values, feelings, goals, etc. to readers (March, 12th 2014). From the character say, think and do, the reader can read the description of the character. Characterization, leads the reader to know about the character’ values, feelings, and goals. From the characterization, the reader can conclude the attitude of the characters.

As it has explained above, there are two ways to characterizing the characters of the story. Bacon explains in his article *Literary Elements Characterization* the various ways of characterization. First is direct characterization is when a writer conveys information about a character by telling the information directly to the reader. This is done through

narration when the author comes right out and tells the reader things about the character. Second is indirect characterization occurs when the author shows the character in action, and lets the reader interpret what these actions reveal about the character (March, 12th 2014).

In addition, there are two the other ways to characterizing the characters of the story. First is by showing, the characters will be shown clearly through the narration and the dialog by the author. According to Abrams, in showing (also called "the dramatic method"), the author simply presents the characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind what they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events; for a highly developed mode of such inner showing. Abrams adds that, the second way is telling. In telling the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (1999:33-34).

2.3 Feminism

Feminist criticism is one of the branches of literary criticism which interprets the meaning beyond the literary work itself. Feminist criticism seeks on the one hand to investigate and analyze the differing representations of women and men in literary texts and, on the other hand, to rethink literary history by exploring an often marginalized tradition of women's writing. Feminist criticism is concerned to question and challenge conventional

notions of masculinity and femininity; to explore ways in which such conventions are inscribed in a largely patriarchal canon; and to consider the extent to which writing, language and even literary form itself are themselves bound up with issues of gender difference (Bennett and Royle, 2004:291).

Feminism has become the biggest issue since nineteenth century. This is because feminism concerns about the issue of gender equality, especially women. In this case the women are trying to fight for their rights in society. They wanted to have a place in the political, social, educational, work, and so on. Feminism is thus a term that emerged long after women started questioning their inferior status and demanding an amelioration in their social position (Freedman, 2001:3). Freedman adds any attempt to provide a baseline definition of a common basis of all feminisms may start with the assertion that feminisms concern themselves with women's inferior position in society and with discrimination encountered by women because of their sex (2001:4).

According to Freedman, thus 'firstwave' feminism is used to refer to the late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century feminist movements that were concerned (although not exclusively) with gaining equal rights for women, particularly the right of suffrage. 'Second-wave' feminism refers to the resurgence of feminist activity in the late 1960s and 1970s, when protest again centered around women's inequality, although this time not only in terms of women's lack of equal political rights but in the areas of family, sexuality and work (2001:4).

Freedman adds, the nature of this work means that there will not be space in the book to treat all the issues on which feminists have written (ranging from politics, to science, to literature and art and beyond), nor to represent all the multiple feminist voice which have spoken on each issue – to do so would be a mammoth undertaking well beyond the scope of a book such as this (2001:6).

2.3.1 Liberal Feminism

According to Lewis in his blog based on the Jaggar's book *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*, liberal feminism is liberal feminism is theory and work that focuses more on issues like equality in the workplace, in education, in political rights. Where liberal feminism looks at issues in the private sphere, it tends to be in terms of equality: how does that private life impede or enhance public equality (March, 12th 2014). It means that liberal feminism not only happen in society but also in a private sphere. Woman has had their rights in education, politic and social.

Liberal feminism also includes in political, social, and legal. In political, liberal feminists demand the liberal in voting, liberal to join in parliament and give their sound for their country. Social liberal includes in social relationship between man and woman in partner in work. It is liberal feminism social that prevail in public sphere. Besides that liberal feminism in social prevail in private sphere such as in relationship, in family, and in marriage. Then for legal, liberal feminist demand their liberal feminism in rights which is written in code of law.

Liberal feminist arise because of patriarchy cultures in patriarchal society when a man had absolute power to limit the woman action. Patriarchy culture usually unseen in a society, but it will be seen clearly in marriage. According Napikoski in her article *Patriarchal Society* states that patriarchal society consists of a male-dominated power structure throughout organized society and in individual relationships (May, 14th 2014). Tong adds Patriarchal ideology exaggerates biological differences between men and women, making certain that men always have the dominant, or masculine, roles and women always have the subordinate, or feminine, ones (2009:52).

Liberal feminists create and support acts of legislation that remove the barriers for women. These acts of legislation demand equal opportunities and rights for women, including equal access to jobs and equal pay. Liberal feminists believe that removing these barriers directly challenges the ideologies of patriarchy, as well as liberates women (Friedan, February, 4th 2014). All women that had been struggle for their rights and equality is based on the feminism ideology and it is one of the effects of patriarchy that limited had been limited their action.

Liberal feminist see marriage as the source of patriarchy culture. It is because see marriage in patriarchy limit the woman's action to work outside mainly for woman who marry a wealthy man. According to Tong states married to relatively wealthy professional and entrepreneurial men, these women had no incentive to work outside the home or, if they had several servants, even inside it (2009:13). Liberal feminist in marriage is

how to share all the woman duties with their husband, in housework or rearing children. According to Lewis liberal feminists also tend to support marriage as an equal partnership, and more male involvement in child care (March, 12th 2014). So, the entire woman duties do not self impose in woman as a mother and a housewife itself.

Freedman adds that liberal feminists include all those who campaign for equal rights for women within the framework of the liberal state, arguing that the theoretical basis on which this state is built is sound but that the rights and privileges it confers must be extended to women to give them equal citizenship with men (2001 :5).

2.4 Review of the Previous of the Study

There are a lot of journals about Sylvia Plath's novel *The Bell Jar*. Most of them discussed about the physochology of the main character of that novel Esther Greenwood. First is Diane S. Bonds's paper *The Seperative Self in the Sylvia Plath's novel "The Bell Jar"*. In this paper is tells about how the main character Esther Greenwood separate herself from her friends and her family. Then, she tells about how Esther's feel about conflict that happened in her life. She also explained that how Esther thought about her problem, and how Esther will solve all her problems out of the woman rule in 1950s.

Second is the paper of Stephanie Tsank *The Bell Jar: A Psychological Case Study*. In her paper, she discussed about the meaning of 'The Bell Jar' as a symbol which uses as a title of this novel. She started to explain the concept and the form of a bell jar. Here, she gave a description that 'The Bell Jar' itself as an isolated object is simple enough to characterize – a

smothering, stiff, unbreakable case, the captive helplessly enclosed within its glass walls (Tsank, p.1). Then, she makes a connection between the bell jar as a symbol to description the conflict of Esther as the major character in the novel. She is also explained the several caused that made Esther down as the effect of her bad experiences.

Third is the paper that has titled "*Just Like the Sort of Drug a Man Would Invent*": *The Bell Jar and the Feminist Critique of Women's Health Care* by Luke Ferretter. He says that the women's health movement is important for successful accomplishments of second-wave feminism". He supports his statement with several opinions from several people. The opinions here serves as the factors that affect to the woman's health mental. He explains all the factors based on the problem that faces by the main character Esther Greenwood.

The fourth is the paper from Jeanmne Johnson, in an essay for *Novels for Students*, Gale 1997 that has title *Plath's The Bell Jar as Female Bildungsroman*. In her paper, she explained the features which indicate that this paper includes as female bildungsroman. She explains from the character of the features which based on the novel *The Bell Jar*. Not only the feature of the character, has she also explained about the feature conflict that had to face by the main character. Here, she explained how the main character has problem with Doreen Esther's best friend in New York. She completes her paper with the supporting data of the novel.

The last is the paper from Linda W. Wagner, "Plath's *The Bell Jar* as Female Bildungsroman," in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*,

Waiting for the Voice to Crack. In this paper, she explains the history of Sylvia Plath and her novel *The Bell Jar*. She describes the issue in the year when the novel is written. She also explained Plath's effort to publish her novel. Here, it means in her paper tells all about Plath's life and the issue in publishing her novel

There are several things that make my thesis different with all the papers that explained above. First, it is because my thesis talks about character and characterization of the main character Esther Greenwood. Then, this thesis is analyzed the feminism aspect especially liberal feminism that has been the great issue in that year. This thesis also completes with cause and effect of the event that happen to the main character, but it is still based on feminism.