

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the basic idea based on the research. It explains the background of the research, question of the research, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of The Research

Literature is a kind of imaginative work which is in form of written (Carter, 2006). Literature itself can be a reflection and condition of society that will continue to present the situation and circumstance. Therefore, literature is a tool for expressing what is felt, and telling others what issues are happening in our surrounding and it hopes that it is to prevent it from happening again. One of the issues raised in the literature is feminism. Feminism is concern on women problems in the society. (Hooks, *Feminism is for everybody : passionate politics.*, 2000) In her book “*Feminism for Everybody*” she stated that “feminism is a movement to end sexism and woman’s oppression not only by men but also from patriarchal society”.

The discrimination toward women still happens until now and women have to deal with it every day. Feminism happens because of “male supremacy”, since patriarchal society constructs the superior position for men that they are more superior to women. Women face every kind of discrimination and feel injustice to gain their rights in the society. It is supported by several data from (Ramadhani, 2018) for example in the divorce cases, mostly women get blamed by the society more than men. Society see that women are the causes of divorces even though mostly divorces case is because of abuse in their household. Men commit violence against women because they feel that they’re more superior and have dominance over women. Women always seen the weakest one even though when it comes to jobs, society thinks that women cannot do men’s jobs. The other women’s problems related to the way they dressed, behave as they wants they will get negative comments from society and also when women get rape by men, their surroundings always do victim-blaming which is blaming the women than men who did it (BBC News Uk, 2018).

It can be concluded that feminism is a women movement in order to gain women's rights in every aspects, end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression from their surroundings not only from men but society. Therefore, feminism happen based on the unfair treatment to women such as blatant misogyny and women as the weakest ones in society. This reality makes women makes feminism movement. Women who support feminism are referred as feminist. Women have their rights to be equal in society and breaks the society's thoughts that men are above everything than women because basically all human are the same.

Feminism becomes important issue in society and has attracted some literally writers. This is supported by the works of literature written by woman authors. From works itself the author wanted to tell the readers what happened in their surroundings and hope in the future it would not happen again. These works can be in form of poetry. This thesis takes Rupi Kaur's poems as the data source. Her poems mostly talk about her past as a woman who lives in the confinement of hereditary family traditions that men are more superior to women, women's problem and women's struggle.

As Indian-born Canadian who wrote poems about feminism. Rupi Kaur is a new generation of insta-poets, she has 3.6 million followers in instagram. Kaur begin her career by posting her work on social media. In her poetry, Kaur also add some illustrations related to her work. Kaur was known for the first time when she posted a picture of herself lying in bed with menstruations blood stains on her sweatpants and her sheets in order to criticize the menstrual taboo in society (Bakshi, 2017). Rupi Kaur writes about women's life and it consist of the story about love, sex, the struggle, and rejection of love beside of love story she also writes about darker material which is contains of beauty standard from society, abuse and also sexism (Kaur, 2017).

Rupi Kaur also feminist and her works consist of the struggle of women and feminism. Rupi Kaur is a one of New York bestselling author and illustrator of two collections of poetry "Milk and Honey" and "The Sun and Her Flower" which are became phenomenal poetry. Her work had been translated into many languages. Kaur also performed her work across the world and took place in every places. In her works, Kaur also add some drawing sketches to make easy for the reader in understanding her poetry.

In her web she explained when she started drawing, the first time she draw is when she is at the age of five when her mother handed her a paintbrush and said – draw your heart out (Kaur, 2017). For Kaur, her life as a part of her journey, an artistic journey to live. After completing her degree in rhetoric studies she published her first collection of poems *Milk and Honey* in 2014 and it became the most popular poetry at this time. Her first book have been sell 1.4 million and she was listed in the BBBC 100 women (BBC News, 2017).

Her poetry book entitled “Milk and Honey” has simple design, black for the cover and Kaur didn’t capitalized her name and the title because she wants the reader to focus on more the story of the poetry instead of herself. Therefore, Kaur also add some bees and flowers on it. In this poetry she tells a lots about her life and her surroundings. She clearly described in the back of the cover as follow: “This is the journey of surviving through poetry, this s the blood sweet tears of twenty one years, this is my heart in your hand, this is *the hurting, the loving, the breaking and the healing*” – rupi kaur (Kaur, milk and honey, 2015). Rupi Kaur influences and empowering her reader through her work.

In this poetry has four sections which are *the hurting, the loving, the breaking and the healing*. First *the hurting*, Rupi tells about the girl who had trauma in her childhood. The girl was told as someone who was helpless against people and culture around her, even when she was raped by one of her family members. Rupi described that the girl looks innocent and only accept injustice treatment that goes on the people around her, especially the mother (Kaur, 2017) .

Second, *the loving*, in this section Rupi described that the girl finally grew up to be a woman and began to recognize feelings of love. In here, the woman falling in love with a man and it is explained how’s their love, starting from the feeling of mutual love, feelings of mutual hatred, their quarrels, their sexual lives, the alleged infidelity of her man and the beginning of the separation of the two (Kaur, 2017).

Next is *the Breaking*, Rupi clearly explained how the woman felt after their separation. How her difficulty in order to forget the man especially with the various memories they had together (Kaur, 2017) .

Last section of this poetry is *the healing*, tells about the awareness of the woman about moving on and begin respect herself as a woman. This chapter explain about the recovery of the woman from her breaking heart that haunted her for a long time. This poems colored with feminism themes to encourage the readers to respect women, love themselves, moving on from heartache and others. In Kaur's poems, she also talked about the sexual reproduction of a woman which becomes the main issues which is still discussing by society (Kaur, 2017) .

Based on several problems above and the definition of feminism itself, this is the main reason why the researcher is interested in analyzing feminism in Rupi Kaur's poem entitled "*Milk and Honey*" which illustrates women's problems. These poems also tell a lot about Rupi Kaur and her surroundings, her stories how society around her treat her differently because she's a woman, how society seen the women's bodies and how it work and she also tells the reader especially "woman" to be more respectful of their self. Kaur also add some darker side to her poetry, for example the story of how she get abused and rape by men but she is just silent because her culture to do so. Thus, in the poems also tells how is the society perspective toward gender and there is still inequality about the gender. Female body and identity is both issues raised in this poem and it is led a woman to feminism in order to gain their rights on every aspects. In this research the researcher analyzes the representation of women and how are women seen from feminism perspective.

1.2 Statements of The Problem

Based on the background of study above, the problem of the study can be formulated as bellow:

1. How are the female body represented in Rupi Kaur's poem *milk and honey*?
2. How are the female identity represented in Rupi Kaur's poem *milk and honey*?
3. How are the representation of female body and identity seen from feminism perspective?

1.3 Objectives of The Research

Based on the background and research problem above, the researcher points some purpose that she wants to show to the reader. The purpose of the research is:

1. To illustrate the representation of female body in Rupi Kaur's poems *milk and honey*
2. To illustrate the representation of female identity in Rupi Kaur's poems *milk and honey*
3. To find out how the representation of female body and identity seen from feminism perspective

1.4 Significance of The Research

The result of this analysis has three significances. The first it can be used by the literature researcher as reading material to analyze feminism in the poetry of Rupi Kaur's *Milk and Honey*. The second, it can be used as references by literature teacher as learning material about feminism of all women problematic in this society expressed in the poem by Rupi Kaur "Milk and Honey". The third, by reading the works of Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey, the researcher expect that the readers will understand what is feminism about, why feminism happen and how women's struggle to gain their rights.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Research

The scope of this research is limited to discuss Rupi Kaur's poem entitled "*milk and honey*". The limitation of this research is researcher focused only on the poems which contain the female body and identity and how the perspective seen from feminism lens.

