CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background, the statement of problem, research objective, research significance and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of The Research

Literary work is the result of human work that poured in the form of language. In literary works described imagination in expressing the realities of life experienced by the characters. Feminism as Goefe (in Sugihastuti and Suharto, 2002: 18) says “is a theory of rights issues between men and women in all fields. An activity organized for the rights and interests of women. this is because women have always suffered gender in equality over the years. Feminism seeks explore identity of the woman who covered patriarchal hegemony.”

In literary found a variety of social issues, for example the issue of women associated with feminism. Hawthorne (in Meiliana:3) says “Feminisme berasal dari kata latin femina yang berarti memiliki sifat keperempuanan. Feminisme dikaitkan dengan masalah politic, sementara femaleness dengan masalah biologis, dan feminity dikaitkan dengan budaya”.
Feminist literature runs gambit from women writers, women’s literature, getting minds and hearts of women. This explanation is consistent submitted by Strinati (1995:167),

“Women are either absent, or represented (and we have to remember that popular culture’s concern with women is often devoted entirely to their representation, how they look) by stereotypes based upon sexual attractiveness and the performance of domestic labour. In short, women are ‘symbolically annihilated’ by the media through being absent, condemned or trivialised.”

Elizabeth Gilbert’s Eat, Pray, Love 2010 is a novel which describes the personal life of the writer where she has everything related to her life such as having a modern home, successful career and beloved husband. She is actually an American modern woman, educated and ambitious eventually she feels unhappy and unsatisfied. In contrast, she becomes panic, sorrow and hesitates. She feels her divorcement, depression, failure of love and loss of handle life therefore she decides to look for the meaningful life. All of those problems put her life in terrible way. Then, she tries to recover all of problems by selling everything she has, leaving her occupation, her lovely people and visiting three different countries alone with the purpose of seeking harmony in her life.

Elizabeth Gilbert, a journalist and short story writer, had just turned thirty when she went through a very difficult divorce that led to a debilitating depression. When she began dating a new man, she thought her life was finally changing for the better. The man, however, proved to
be less than what Gilbert was looking for, and the experience sent her back into the throes of depression. Those life-changing events drained her of all energy and motivation, so she decided to make drastic changes to her lifestyle. Gilbert's recovery process is chronicled in her best-selling memoir, *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia*.

For her plan to return to mental and physical health, Gilbert divides the next year into three sections, each section four months long. For the first four months, she devotes herself to simple pleasures. This corresponds to the “Eat” portion of the memoir. She flies to Rome, where she surrenders to physical pleasures, such as tasting the great food and drink that only Italy can offer. She tries her hand at learning Italian and even flirts with some of the local men whose romantic language soothes her aching heart. But at the end of the fourth month, she finds that she is still haunted by depression. So she continues forward with her plan. Her next stop is a sacred ashram (or temple) in India, where, under the tutelage of a wise and aged guru, she explores her spiritual side. Gilbert spends long hours sitting in meditation, sometimes practicing strict silences and taking only short amounts of time to focus on her physical needs. For the third part of the story, the one that corresponds to “Love,” Gilbert travels to Bali, Indonesia. There she meets an Australian who will eventually become her husband.
Elizabeth Gilbert’s Eat, Pray, Love (2006) the first novel is a memoir about her emotional breakdown and subsequent healing process (she does not, however, divulge the real names of some of the people involved). She was a successful writer who enjoys, along with her husband, a New York lifestyle that many people dream of. But after many years of what her acquaintances consider a flourishing marriage, she finds herself wishing she were not married. She asks for a divorce, believing that her husband will agree to this and that they will part as friends. To her surprise, this does not happen. Her husband is against parting. Even when he admits that the divorce is inevitable, he insists on claiming almost all of their joint possessions and accumulations as well as money she might potentially make in the future. The divorce proceedings drag on and send Gilbert into a long bout of depression, which makes her question her self-worth.

1.2 Statements Of Problem

Referring to the background of the study, the writer will analyze the primary point,

1. How love represented in Eat, Pray, Love novel?

2. How does Elizabeth Gilbert build each love relationship with three men characters?
1.3 Research objective

1. To explain love that represented in Eat, Pray, Love novel.

2. To identify the stages of each relationship built by Elizabeth Gilbert and the three men characters i.e. Stephen, David and Felipe.

1.4 Significance of The Research

By conducting this analysis, it is expected can give some advantages;

1. Theoretical Benefits

The writer hopes this analysis will enrich the reader’s knowledge. Generally, related to literary work. Therefore, it will increase reader’s knowledge to comprehend about literature and become one of the references for the one who attract to analyze novel especially for Elizabeth Gilbert’s Eat, Pray, Love.

2. Practical Benefits

The writer expects that this analysis will give the useful thing toward someone where Eat, Pray, Love can describe something which can be found in someone life when he or she claims for responsible of their happiness and become the lesson for lots of people.
1.5 Scope of the Research

To make this analysis is not going to be wider therefore the writer restrict this research on the view of Elizabeth Gilbert’s life in Italy, India and Indonesia as reflected in her novel Eat, Pray, Love. For this reason, the writer focuses this analysis on seeking the view of love of Elizabeth Gilbert reflected in the novel.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

Feminists, however, at least according to popular discourse, are ready to both adopt a broad account of what justice for women would require and interpret everyday situations as unjust by the standards of that account. Those who explicitly cancel their commitment to feminism may then be happy to endorse some part of the view but are unwilling to endorse what they find to be a problematic package. By the view of the author, there is considered with Radway (1949: 207), say “Romance writers, in effect, supply a myth in the guise of the truly possible. It is pricely because the romance’s surrounding universe is always portrayed so convincingly that romance readers might well be persuaded but, like the already known ending, also inevitable”.

Finding the view of love means reconnecting with people. Then, reconnecting with people means making relationship therefore there is relationship among people. Most people need close connections with other people. By having connection with other people, you will have a good
feeling of being with someone who understands you and with whom you can share experiences and emotions.

1.7 Previous Study

Based on author searches in several universities, research with the object of study in the form of social aspects of the author in Eat, Pray, Love novel has never been done. The research that has been conducted by previous researchers that are relevant to the research to be carried out and relevant to the issues to be studied are as follows:

1. Luli Indriyani in a thesis entitled “Feminisme Dalam Novelet Di Atas Siang Di Bawah Malam Malam Karya Putu Ota Sukanta : Kajian Feminisme Sastra” at the Department of Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Faculty of Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University 2014. The novel Di Atas Siang Di Bawah Malam by Putu Oka Sukanta is a novelette that it tells the life of a prostitute in Batam.

2. Siti Masitoh (2002) in the title of the thesis ‘War and Love in Hemingway’s Soldier’s Home’. In the thesis there are three conclusions, the one is about correlation between War and Love, cannot be separable from each other. Both are processes. War is the process to reach the new kind of love. Love also the process to reach war. In other word, each is signifier for other.
3. Purwo Sasmito (2012) in ‘The Libertarian radical feminist characteristics of chen in the novel saving fish from drowning’. This objective of the study is to know more about the libertarian radical feminism characteristics of Bibi Chen in the novel “Saving Fish from Drowning” by Amy tan. This study applies the library research and the compiled data which be analyzed through the descriptive qualitative analysis method. To answer the research question and to make this research more complete, the writer finds the life of Bibi Chen’s family comparing to the libertarian radical feminism. Through the life of Bibi Chen’s family, it was known how her childhood full of patriarchal system which made her as a libertarian radical feminist. Bibi Chen was the woman ideal character. She was androgyny, who succeeded in combining between the soft of feminine and the strong of masculine in life. She was independent in economic and had special place in public world, two things that could not be reached by women in patriarchal system. Bibi Chen was able to take equality and erased the class differentiation based on sexes.

love. Here, he conceives love as God, and God as love. Meanwhile, concerning the human love concept, he kept the relationship between he and girl as a way to get the God’s favor, and the suffering as his slaving for God. Furthermore, he exposed the Christian values in his poems by symbols and metaphors.

1.8. Presentation

This paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter one introduces the framework of the whole paper. Chapter two talks about the point of view, the definition of relationship and the stages of love relationship. Chapter three contains an analysis of the development in the Elizabeth Gilbert’s Relationships with the three men characters depicted on the novel. Chapter four is the conclusion of the whole discussions.