CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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

1.1. Background of the Research

The differences of status and position of men and women in society had been started since human begin to know a gender role in early human history. They start to classify the job based on gender; women stay at home and cook while men go outside hunting for food and also in charge of taking care their territorial tribe area. Harris (1977:86) argues that because most men are stronger than most women and survival in tribal groups required hand-to-hand combat, men became the warrior and women became the reward that enticed men to risk their lives in the battle.

Back then, women assumed to be associated with household thing and child care, while men took over the hunting and other tasks that required speed and longer absence from the camp. Men was the one who left the house to hunt, made contact and negotiate with other neighborhood tribes and did the trade with other groups. Men did a lot job and had a lot experiences in dealing society. As a result, it makes them become dominant. The domination of men both in public and private sphere later being called as patriarchy.

Walby (1990:20) defines patriarchy as a system of social structures in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women in many ways, for example, the discrimination in workplace where women get lower paid than men. It can be determined in other definition that patriarchy is an institutionalization of men
dominance over women in society. In patriarchy, men have the power in all every important institution in society. The patriarchal system owns the ideology that biological differences between men and women are the reason why men always have the dominant roles and women always have the subordinate ones. Freud (in Chodorow, 1994:6) argues that he merely sees women as their nature is determined by their sexual function. Women anatomy is destiny, he sees that normal human was male. It implies that women’s anatomy is the one that determined their psychology. Thus, women even have inferiority within their biological system.

Beauvoir (2010:23) also says that woman is a womb, an ovary; she is a female-this word is sufficient to define her. It can be assumed that women do not have the authority in other activity except pregnant and bore. In patriarchal system, women does not have an important position in society. The domination of man then emerge the movement among the women who realize and demand equality for both sexes called feminism.

Patriarchy then becomes a part of society and it becomes a problem since women which position is subordinate feel oppressed by the system. Truthfully, women issue or we called it feminism has been so much discussed and talked all the time, but the problem is keep growing in line with the development of human being and their society. Women issue can be found in every aspect of human life, even in literary work as it stated by Eagleton (1996:2) that the literary work was a vehicle for ideas, a reflection of social reality. It can be assumed that literary work is a tool of the author to reflect or present the reality. In this regard, George R.R Martin portrays the social reality concerning the domination of patriarchy through his book titled *A Game of Thrones*. 
*A Game of Thrones* is the first book from the high fantasy series by George R.R. Martin called *A Song of Ice and Fire*. It was published for the first time in 1996. Later, *A Game of Thrones* becomes a huge phenomenon among the high fantasy reader. According to Alexandra in New York Times magazine (2015) as of January 2015 it has been sold more than 60 million copies and translated into 47 languages that makes it reached the top of *The New York Times* Best Seller list. In 2011, *A Game of Thrones* was adopted into television series that aired in HBO with the same title as the book. It is still on going until it will reach the 8th season in 2019.

One of the major reasons that the series acknowledged is the complexity of the story. The world that Martin creates in *A Song of Ice and Fire* has European medieval background setting in a continent called Westeros in the west and Essos in the east. It is divided in to seven kingdoms that ruled by the kings from the most huge and powerful houses. The main focus of the story in the whole series is the battle of the big four houses in Westeros, Lannister, Stark, Baratheon and Targaryen to take over the throne and rule the realm. But the politic plays is not the only interesting topic in the novel, there are much women issue that Martin as the author brought to the story. The researcher then encounters five female characters that struggle the most in the world of patriarchy. They are Daenerys Targaryen, Catelyn Tully, Cersei Lannister, Sansa Stark and Arya Stark. They are not fight against patriarchy from the beginning, but as the story goes and as they grow up, all of them struggle with their own way to survive in a land of patriarchy.

The popularity and the uniqueness of the story line of *A Game of Thrones* then draws attention to some researcher to make contribution literature research field by choose it as the object of the research. Sandqvist (2012) in her essay analyzes the
novel *A Game of Thrones* from an intersectional perspective and focuses on women’s positions in hierarchy and how they use their sexuality to access the power. She uses Crenshaw’s intersectional theory to analyze the power structure in *A Game of Thrones* by studying the female characters from intersectional point of view. The intersectional theory presented in the research focuses on cultural and social categories, which include hierarchically ranked factors, such as gender, sexuality, and class. The result of this research is the intersectional model that was applied to the novel *A Game of Thrones* shows that the fixed power structure in the society of Westeros is gives more advantage for men rather than women. It is impossible for women to be regarded as powerful if they are acting on their own, without support from male characters.

The second study is conducted by Andarty (2016) which focuses on how the female characters in *A Game of Thrones* experienced sexism and how they empower themselves to survive through sexism. She uses Kate Millet’s theory about temperament, gender role and status to analyze the female characters. The result of this research is it shows the influence of sexism to the women character empowerment as a mother, a queen, a maid, and a knight.

The third study is an essay by Johannasdottir (2009), it examines the concept of patriarchy and its undeniable connection to the subordination of women from the radical feminist point of view. This essay focuses on women sexualization through pornography as the effect of male domination. The result of the research is a conclusion that patriarchy has the effect of forcing women to be one step behind men, patriarchy has the effect of control the view and idea of society through mass media such as advertisement, fashion industry and movies. Mass media has been
sexualized and objectified women, for instance in porn movies and advertisements, the camera is often only directed at one body part of woman instead of shows her as a whole human being.

Those previous studies gives contribution to this present research in giving the researcher inspiration doing the research, also it gives the researcher additional source of references. There are not much scholarly texts concerning *A Game of Thrones* as the object of the research in English Studies Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. In this regard, the researcher determined to chooses George R.R Martin’s *A Game of Thrones* as object of the research in order to improve the comprehension of literature research field in English Studies Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Furthermore, this research focuses on how is the domination of patriarchy depicted in *A Game of Thrones* universe and how every woman character struggle in that patriarchal world regarding with radical feminism theory.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Men with their superiority since the early human history becomes dominant in society and caused the subordinate situation for women. Patriarchy is always accompanied by cultural support design to justify male domination. The patriarchal system later forms the stereotype and gender role that becomes the standard of acceptance in society.

*A Game of Thrones* by George R.R Martin is basically a story about the struggle of the powerful houses, Stark, Baratheon, Lannister and Targaryen to get the throne and rule the Seven Kingdoms, but in its practice, *A Game of Thrones* also shows the reader the status of a woman in a kingdom which is adhere patriarchal system.
In accordance with the problem, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the domination of patriarchy depicted in *A Game of Thrones*?

2. How do the female characters struggle against patriarchy?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the research questions above, the research objective can be formulated as follows:

1. To reveal the domination of patriarchy in *A Game of Thrones*.

2. To reveal the effort of the female characters struggle against patriarchy.

1.4. Research Significance

This research is expected to provide a contribution to the development of literature in the field of language and literature department. Therefore, the significance of this research is divided into academically and practically. Academically, this research is intended for literature students to be used as analysis material and references and to improve the comprehension of literary studies. Practically, this research is intended for those who have interest in literature, especially in feminism research field.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

1. Patriarchy: The domination of man over woman in both private and public sphere.

2. Female Characters: A group of female who takes role in the novel.
3. Radical Feminism: A branch of feminism that sees patriarchy is the one that leads women to the oppression.

1.6. Organization of Writing

This present study consists of five chapters, they are:

Chapter 1, Introduction, this chapter consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

Chapter 2, Theoretical Framework, this chapter provides the theories that relevant to the research.

Chapter 3, Research Methodology, this chapter points out the research methodology and procedures used in this research.

Chapter 4, Findings and Discussions, this chapter contains the result of the research followed by the discussion of the data.

Chapter 5, Conclusion and Suggestions, this chapter provides the conclusion drawn by the researcher and also the suggestion that put forward as the finishing step.