

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significances of research, clarification of key term, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Novel is one form of literature that presents a fictional story in writing or words, which have intrinsic and extrinsic elements. A novel usually tells the story of human life various problems with the environment and each other. An author makes every effort to direct the reader to the images of the reality of life through stories that exist in the novel. Novel as one of the literary products plays an important role in providing a view to addressing the artistically imaginative life. This is possible because of the problems discussed in the novel is the question of Human Beings and humanity. The novel is a kind of literary prose that reveals something widely. An author may make every effort to direct the reader to the images of the reality of life through stories that exist in the novel.

An author makes every effort to direct reader to the descriptions of reality that is life through stories in the novel. Like the story of the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007) by Khaled Hosseini. Khaled creates a story in the novel is seen alive. The story describes the state of the environment or situation that occurred at that time. The novel tells the fact that there is describes in people's

lives. Gender perspectives become an interesting problem the authors expressed through the characters and the events recounted. The Novel tells about the struggle of women under patriarchy system in Afghanistan, the main character in this novel is women.

When we look at the issues concerning women, so many topics about a woman raised in the news, literature and research. Talking about women is endless because it is considered interesting to be discussed. As a man who has the problem of its own-problems, women also have problems an even more complex than men. The role of women, especially in Afghanistan, is important to meet the needs everyday of life. In life, women are part of society and the nation, which contribute to nation building which is realized through the education of their children and the environment. In addition, he must solve the problems that arise (Natsir, 1993: 39).

Women struggle vehemently only to get a confession from men and show the world that they can proof their existence in society. Feminist literary criticism used as material movement and freedom of women in disseminating feminist ideas as contained in the following quotation.

Because of its origin in the women's liberation movement, feminist criticism values literature that is of some use to the movement. Prescriptive criticism, then, is best defined in terms of the ways in which literature can serve the cause of liberation. To earn feminist approval, literature must perform one or more of the following function; (1) serve as a forum for women; (2) help to achieve cultural androgyny; (3) provide role-models; (4) promote sisterhood; and (5) augment consciousness-raising. (Adib Sofia, 2009: 19)

A Thousand Splendid Suns is the second work of Khled Hosseini. It tells about two women which is experience sad story in Afghanistan. Two woman's characters couldn't decision their life, because everything in man hand. Because of that woman is struggling to get their independent status.

1.2 Statement of Problems

In the novel there are problems of woman which is caused by the sacrifice of hardness. Woman cannot get their freedom as they want, especially in marriage system and social condition. Based on the problem can be formulated into the two research questions, below:

1. What are the factors which cause the two women characters in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* struggle to get their independent status?
2. What are the efforts of the two women characters to get their independent status?

1.3 Purpose and Significance of Research

In analyzing of this research, feminism term as the theory, the researcher considers aspects of the novel as the object. The selected subject of this research, of course, hopefully can represent the researcher's purpose and for others in appreciating literary works in daily life. Both of purpose and the significance will be displayed in the following below:

1.3.1 Purpose of Research

1. To describe the factors which cause the two women characters in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* struggle to get their independent status
2. To find out the efforts of the two women characters to get their independent status.

1.3.2 Significance of Research

Theoretically, this writing is benefit for the writer in literary theory, especially feminist literary theory in English Department, the faculty of Adab and Humanities. In practice, the student of Islamic state university, especially in English Department, the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, should mastering the literary theory, one of them are feminist literary criticism, to analyze the works of literature. Therefore, to accomplish the ability in understanding more about literary theory, especially feminist literary theory, this writing are hoped can help and add the knowledge about literary theory.

For the researcher, this research gives information that actually women are interesting topic in a literature, especially in novel and women image is influenced by patriarchy system in society. Beside that for the researcher this research is significant to improving the literary comprehension especially in its relation with social discourse.

1.4 Clarification of Key Term

Struggle, according to Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, is a hard fight in which people try to obtain or achieve something, especially something that somebody else does not want them to have. In this paper, women struggle for freedom or independent. Beauvoir stated that woman must face difficult choice whether she wants to be the object or make her to be subject; "*woman is shown to us enticed by two modes of alienation. Evidently to play at being a man will be for her a source of frustration; but to play at being a woman is also delusion: to be a woman would mean to be the object, the other and the other nevertheless remain subject there flights from reality and seek self fulfillment in transcendence*"(1970:70)

Independent status, in this paper means that the women get freedom; women could not decide their own life, because everything in man hand status is the social or professional position of somebody or something in relation to others (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, 2000:1320). Women are only asking to be given equal status with men, because women are part of society and the nation, which contribute to nation building which is realized through the education of their children and the environment.

1.5 Organization of Writing

Chapter 1 is introduction. In this chapter there are background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes and significances of research, clarification of key term, and organization of writing.

Chapter II is theoretical related. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) history of feminism, b) literature and feminist theory, c) Simone de Beauvoir's feminist criticism, d) biographical sketch of Khaled Hosseini, and e) synopsis of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

Chapter III is method of research. This chapter elaborates methodology of this research, it is begun by the method of research, the data, sources of data, and the technique of collecting data and ended with the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is Analysis. This chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Simone de Beauvoir's theory of the second sex and feminist theory. The explanation is based on the problem statements and theories. There are factors of two women characters struggle and efforts of two women characters struggle to get their independent.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. This is the final chapter that provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.

