

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction to the research. This chapter consists of five sections. The first section contains an explanation of the background of the research, previous research, and differences from previous research. The second section is the problem formulation, which includes the questions that underlie this research. The third section is the purpose of the research, which includes the main objectives of this research. The fourth section is the significance of the research, containing the benefits or advantages of this research. The last section is the definition of key terms, which contains the main keys in this research.

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Life and Literature cannot be separated. The two have a very close relationship. Literature is a work, result and feeling that emphasizes the beauty in it. Literature is also the result of creative artistic work whose object is humans and their lives using language as a medium. According to Wellek and Warren in (Fatrullah & Yahya, 2021:27) that literature is a creative activity that can produce works of art. This definition means that literature is an art.

Next, a literary work is also related to human life. Related to Plato's statement (In Nurholis, 2016, p.7) literature is the result of real life representation. Literature essentially cannot be separated from everyday human life because it is a reflection of real life. Plato (in Nurrachman, 2017) stated that the most important part in a work, especially when it comes to something that is young and gentle. Because that's when the character is being formed and the desired impression is easier to capture. Therefore, readers can learn many good values from a literary work.

According to genre, literary works can be divided into three, namely prose (fiction), poetry and drama. Fiction stories tell various life problems that people often face in everyday life. One of the most famous works of fictional literature in the form of prose and much loved by readers is the novel. The story in the novel

begins with the emergence of a problem experienced by the character and ends with the resolution of the problem.

Novels have elements of beauty so that people who read them can feel happy, sad, attract attention and refresh the audience. This agrees with Horace in (Wellek & Warren, 2013), who believes that the essence of art must be connected to two terms, namely utile and dulce which mean useful and beautiful. These two terms are related in understanding the meaning of literature as a whole.

To write a literary work in the form of a novel, it is not only limited by who the author is and what the author's life background is. Male and female writers have the same right to express their thoughts and ideas into a literary work. However, the two authors can clearly see the differences in the way they express their thoughts and ideas. One of the differences will become clear when they tell a story with the theme of a woman's life as the main character in the novel.

Talking about life, one of the views on life is women's problems which never stop being discussed. This problem arises because women are always looked down upon by men in all aspects of life. If we look back, the pity and injustice experienced by women still continues to this day. Women's rights are sometimes not recognized, simply because of the paradigm which assumes that women are weak, have limitations in expressing all opinions, what women feel and what is the benchmark for women's value which is always considered that women are lower in rank than men, regardless of patriarchy.

Judging from the nature of women who tend to be unique and considered attractive, most authors choose a woman's perspective in presenting women's works. One of the most hotly discussed issues to date is the issue of women, which is always considered trivial. Demands for women's rights are closely related, the more women remain silent, the fewer opportunities they have to demand their rights.

Developing women's abilities and skills through education, science, technology and skills so that they can play an active role in all fields is very necessary so that women are not always looked down upon by men. One of the ways women use to gain freedom or show themselves is through writing. Women

try to express what should be their rights. The so-called women's writings are gynocritics.

Gynocritics is a method first introduced by Elaine Showalter. This method is used to analyze literary works written by women. According to Showalter (2010:186-187), in gynocritic studies there are several aspects in women's writing which currently use four different models, including body, language, psyche and culture. Actually, these aspects are different between women and men. Biologically, women and men have different physical problems. Men always consider women as weaker because they don't have a penis (as a symbol of power). Psychologically the two are also different. Women who are oppressed by men will have different psychological conditions and this will have an impact on their lives. Apart from language and culture, women's language is also different from men's language. Women are oppressed by men and they have their own language, an oppressive language. Apart from that, women also have different life experiences and this will influence them culturally. Therefore, these aspects also influence their writing. This is the reason the author was interested in choosing this topic.

Researchers found the idea to conduct research on the novel by Rachael Lippincott, she is a New York Times best-selling American novelist. He is best known for writing the novel *Five Feet Apart* published on November 20, 2018, which became a major film directed by Justin Baldoni. This romantic genre novel became popular among teenagers, so the film also became popular. And the reason the author chose gynocritical analysis in this research is first, literary works produced by female authors are different from male authors, female authors are more open in depicting women because female authors experience direct involvement in the culture that surrounds them. Second, it is feared that assessing literary works based on men's experiences will not be able to present women's problems. It is necessary to use texts that relate to feminine values, including literary works produced by female writers.

In this research, the author analyzes *Five Feet Apart* (2018). This novel has a story centered on a female character which is also the work of a female writer, namely Rachael Lippincott. This novel tells many good things. One way is through

character. The female characters in *Five Feet Apart* are a presentation of strong women who are able to influence the main character through female actions and female affection. This novel also provides the values of women's independent lives that the author wants to convey to readers to support them in becoming strong women. Therefore, the author chose this novel because *Five Feet Apart* contains the spirit of how to encourage courage, convey optimistic and positive words, increase self-confidence. Spreading love and tenderness and respecting others through female characters. The novel *Five Feet Apart* also describes how women are free to express their rights with freedom that is not patriarchal.

The *five feet apart* novel tells the love story of a teenage couple, Stella Grant and Will Newman . Both suffer from a rare, life-threatening genetic disorder called cystic fibrosis, and he is waiting to get a lung transplant. Apart from that, Will suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and is also an experimental patient, using one of the drugs to cure his disease. That's where Will and Stella's relationship began. Slowly getting closer makes them fall in love with each other.

Stella Grant likes to be in control even though her completely out of control lungs have kept her in and out of the hospital most of her life. At this point, what Stella needs to control most is to distance herself from anyone or anything that could transmit infection and jeopardize the possibility of a lung transplant. Six feet apart. There are no exceptions. The only thing Will Newman wants to control is getting out of this hospital. He doesn't care about the treatments, or the clinical trials of fancy new drugs. Soon, he'll be eighteen and then he'll be able to unplug all these machines and actually go see the world, not just hospitals.

Will Newman suffers from Cystic Fibrosis but recently contracted B Cepacia, an infection that took him off the transplant list. He was tired of hospitals and medicine. He was the one Stella had to stay away from, but she realized that she couldn't. Something in Will makes Stella live life to the fullest for the first time, something Stella desperately needs to avoid. If he continues to ignore Stella, he could lose his place on the transplant list. One of them could die. The only way to stay alive is to stay apart. But suddenly six feet didn't feel safe. It felt like punishment.

Romantic scenes mixed with sad scenes of the love relationship of two young people suffering from dangerous illnesses make this novel very interesting to analyze. Similar to John Green's 'The Fault in Our Stars', Rachael Lippincott's *Five Feet Apart* is about two terminally ill teenagers who fall in love.

There are several previous researchers related to this research. The first research is entitled *The Image of Hyde in the Novel The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* by R. L Stevenson & Translation by Vindry Florentin He uses several theories: *Writing Themes about Literature* (1983) by Edgar V. Roberts, *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film* (1978) by Seymour Chatman, *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (2009) by Abrams & Harpham, *Theory of Literature* (1977) by Rene Wellek & Hustin Warren. He explained that the aim was to find out and analyze the imagery used to create Hyde's physical image in the target text, its changes, and its influence on Hyde's character. This research analyzes the source text and target text and finds that there are additions, deletions and the use of different diction in the target text. This scholar is related to this research because it discusses the representation of female characters in novels. Next, it is connected with characters and characterization by Abrams and *Themes in Writing about Literature* by Robert (1983).

The second research is entitled "*The Image of Female Characters in Fira Basuki's Novel Propertin and its Translation*" by Nisha Noor Fadhila. She focuses on the depiction of female characters from the source language and analyzes the changes after being translated into the target language by Norman Ince. There is a shift in the depiction of images shown as having a sense of self-confidence, freedom, courage, independence, physical beauty and desire, which either increases or decreases. Similar to student Nisha, this research also discusses the representation of female characters in the novel.

The third thesis is entitled *Grey's Struggle for a Life of Freedom as Seen in Agnes Grey: A Feminist Study* by Anne Bronte. Written by Iramaya Nainggolan, a literature researcher from Yogyakarta State University. Based on his research, women experience two problems; patriarchal power and the image of women. Under patriarchal rule, he found that women suffered from limitations in mobility,

freedom of opinion and career. In the image of women, women are not expected to have a career and are unable to do household work. In responding to this, he found four struggles; working outside the home, expressing opinions, showing independence, and demonstrating ability to work. After discovering Grey's problems and struggles, he concluded that women have the same career abilities as men.

The latest research is entitled *Woman's Writing Models In Kate Chopin's The Awakening* by Cucu Nurjamilah. In her research, she discusses women's writing styles and women's independence in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. She uses *Gynocritic Theory (2010)* by Elaine Showalter to explain how women write with four different models: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. He also uses qualitative descriptive methods and objective approaches. The results of the research are that *The Awakening* contains several models of women's writing such as Showalter's theory and several women's efforts to achieve independence in the novel *The Awakening*, such as neglecting children, ignoring marriage, earning money with their own hands, and moving around. far from her husband's house. This scholar is also related to this research because it discusses the model of women's writing in Showalter's *Gynocritics (2010)* but in a different novel.

This research deserves to be followed up because no one has ever researched it. Even though there have been many studies that have used the same research to analyze the object of the novel, it is still different from other studies in terms of title, author and content contained in *Five Feet Apart* by Rachael Lippincot. What differentiates this research from previous research is that this research applies Showalter's theory by describing every aspect of the object under study using *Gynocritics* to produce the meaning of female writers that the author wants to convey.

## **1.2. Statement of The Problem**

Based on the backround above, the writer focuses the problem that can be analyzed in *Five Feet Apart* (2018). It can be formulated into the two research questions as follow :

1. How is the female character presented in *five feet apart* through woman writer?
2. How is independent woman described in the novel *five feet apart* ?

### 1.3. Research Purposes

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To described how female character are presented in the novel *Five Feet Apart* through woman writer
2. To explore how described woman's independence in *Five Feet Apart*

### 1.4. Research Significances

The theoretical benefits of this research are: Increasing the number of qualitative research is expected to be useful as a basis for thinking in literature on female character. This research can be used as a reference for future research with a similar theme. The understanding in the scientific world is that novel as a literature medium can be understood differently according to each individual's point of view and cultural context.

The practical benefits of this research are: Can increase people's awareness in understanding the concept of female character and is development in this era of globalization. Provides an understanding of the representation of female character in the novel *five feet apart*.

### 1.5. Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms that should be understood related to the research in order to avoid any misunderstanding to the readers. The definition of these key terms are as follows:

**Gynocritics** : Study of women as writers and its subjects are the history, style themes, genre, and structure of writing by women; the psychodynamic of female

creativity; the trajectory is to construct a female literary tradition (Showalter,2010)

**Character and Characterization:** 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 person says and their distinctive ways of saying it in the dialogue and from what they do in the fiction.

Next, characterizing (characterizing is the person in a narrative: showing and telling. 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, see stream of consciousness. In telling, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (Abrams, 1999).

**Independent Woman's :** Aimed at women who have financial, emotional and personal independence. Women can also take control of the lives they are living, make their own decisions, and try to achieve their life goals without depending on other parties, especially men. "Independence is the ability to manage everything you own, know how to manage time, walk and think independently accompanied by the ability to take risks and solve problems". (Parker,2005)