

# BAB I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the research. It consists of five component such as background of the research, statement of problem, research purposes, research significances, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

### 1.1 Research Background

Feminism is an awareness of the oppression and exploitation of women that occurs both in the family, at work, and in society and there is conscious action of men and women to change the situation lexically (Sai'dah, 2003). Feminism is a movement that demands full equality of rights between women and men. The definition of feminism can change due to the understanding or views of feminists which are based on historical and cultural realities, as well as the level of awareness of perceptions and behavior. It is important to note that the term "feminism" did not appear during the time when Mary Wollstonecraft wrote this book. However, this research provides evidence that *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* belongs to the realm of liberal feminism, advocating for gender equality.

Liberal feminism was first born in the 18th century, formulated by Mary Wollstonecraft in her writing *A Vindication of the Right of Women* (1759-1799) and in the 19th century by John Stuart Mill in his book *Subjection of Women* and Harriet Taylor Mills in her book *Enfranchisement of Women*. Then in the 20th century, Betty Friedan in *The Feminine Mystique* and *The Second Stage*. This Liberal Feminist bases her thoughts on the liberal concept which emphasizes that women and men are created equal and have the same rights and should also have the same opportunities.

Liberal feminists want women to be free from oppressive gender roles. They argue that in a patriarchal society suitable jobs for women are associated with feminine traits such as teacher, nurse, secretary, cashier at a bank etc. The challenge

to these stereotypes must be through androgynous education -which has male and female dimensions- both at school and at home. Androgyny has helped them in achieving freedom, equality and justice.

The state is also responsible for ensuring that there is no discrimination against women, either sexual or income, and guaranteeing that women are free from sexual harassment, rape and violence. Liberal feminists are very important in the feminist movement with their struggle for women in the west to achieve equal rights, eliminate discrimination in the workplace and change laws that are more favorable to women. This is what made the researcher interested in researching liberal feminism in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman*.

Mary Wollstonecraft, in her book *A Vindication of the Right of Women* describes a European society that is experiencing a decline where women are confined at home and are not given the opportunity to enter the labor market and do household chores. While men are given the freedom to develop themselves as optimally as possible. Whereas if women are given the same opportunity, they can develop themselves optimally, as long as women are also given the same education as men.

Wollstonecraft also criticized *Emile*, a novel by Jean Jacques Rousseau which differentiated male and female education. Education for men places more emphasis on rationality – studying natural sciences, social sciences and humanities - because later they will be responsible as the head of the family while education for women places more emphasis on emotional - learning poetry, art-because women will become wives who are understanding, responsive, caring and motherly. The solution offered by Wollstonecraft is to educate women the same as educating men by teaching women also rationality so that women are able to be "self" and not become "man's toys".

Mary Wollstonecraft, married name Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (born April 27, 1759, London, England-died September 10, 1797, London), English writer and passionate advocate of educational and social equality for women. *A Vindication of The Right of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft can be said as a non-fiction genre of literature because based on facts, real events, and accurate information. Also, the

writer focuses on real-life events and conducts careful research to gather accurate and reliable information.

The research on this book has been examined by some researchers. First, research by Nareswari (2019) *Liberal Feminism Seen Through the Main Female Character in Educating Rita Movie*. Her research used Library Research method. *Educating Rita* is the primary source of this research. The secondary sources of this research are several books, journals, and some internet sites related to this research. In order to find the answer for two objectives, the researcher uses character and characterization theory and feminism approach, particularly the liberal feminism theory. This research has similarities topic, which is about the liberal feminism, but with differences object.

Second, research by Maulana (2021) *Liberal Feminism: from Biblical Tradition to the Emergence of CEDAW*. This research looked at the connection between Biblical culture dominating women's positions in Western civilization and the advent of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This research has similarities topic, which is about Liberal Feminism, but with differences object.

Third, research by Benladghem (2018) *Mary Wollstonecraft's Rebellion in a Patriarchal Society Through A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Her main arguments through this paper is attempt to investigate Mary Wollstonecraft's views and achievements, documented in the first female rhetorical book entitled *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. This research has similarities object, which is *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, but with differences topic.

Fourth, research by Frazer (2020) *Mary Wollstonecraft's Political Political Theory*. Her research separates Wollstonecraft's critical concept of "Machiavellian" power and the capacity for domination. This research has similarities object, which is takes at its word the title of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, but with differences topic.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the statement above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is liberal feminism described in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft?
2. How is the effect of liberal feminism in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft?

## 1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the research questions above, the purpose the study is to:

1. To identify the liberal feminism in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft.
2. To analyze the effects of liberal feminism in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft.

## 1.4 Research Significances

In this research, the researcher wishes can be reference for the other researcher expected that this research can give a new knowledge for the readers in understanding how liberal feminism describing and liberal feminism Effects from the books. There are some significances that are expected by conducting this research. The significances of this research.

Theoretically, this research is expected to be used as a source of knowledge, especially to the literary studies on *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* book by Mary Wollstonecraft. This research wants to tell about liberal feminism on *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* book by Mary Wollstonecraft.

Practically, this research will help the researcher to enrich her knowledge. The research also will give deeper understanding in literary fields as the reference to another researcher with a different perspective and more evolve than the research did.

## 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this research there are some words turned up as the key term of the research. They are as follows:

1. **Non-Fiction** is a genre of literature or media that presents factual information and events rather than fictional or imaginary content. It consists of narratives, essays, reports, biographies, memoirs, documentaries, and other forms of storytelling that aim to convey truths, real-life experiences, and knowledge about the world. Non-fiction works are based on real people, events, or subjects and are grounded in research, observation, and documentation of actual occurrences.
2. **Feminism** is a social and political movement that advocates for the equal rights, opportunities, and treatment of all genders. It seeks to challenge and dismantle systemic inequalities, discrimination, and oppression based on gender. At its core, feminism promotes the belief in gender equality, recognizing that women and marginalized genders have historically been disadvantaged and marginalized in various aspects of society, including but not limited to politics, economics, education, and social dynamics.
3. **Liberal Feminism** is a branch of feminism that focuses on achieving gender equality through reform within existing social and political systems. It emphasizes individual rights, equal opportunities, and legal protections for women. Liberal feminists believe that gender inequalities are primarily rooted in discriminatory laws, practices, and social norms, and they strive to eliminate these barriers in order to create a more equitable society.
4. **Gender Equality** is refers to the principle and goal of equal rights, opportunities, and treatment for individuals of all genders. It entails the absence of discrimination or bias based on gender, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to resources, privileges, and opportunities regardless of their gender identity or expression.
5. **A Vindication of The Rights of Woman** is a seminal feminist work written by Mary Wollstonecraft in 1792. It is considered one of the earliest and most

influential texts in the field of feminism. The book argues for the equal education and rights of women, challenging the prevailing societal norms and expectations of women's roles during that time.

## 1.6 Organization of Writing

Chapter I Introduction: This chapter presents a general description of the research. It consists of five component such as background of the research, statement of problem, research purposes, research significances, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

Chapter II Literature Review: This chapter consists of some theories that which are related to the research. It starts with the explanation of *Non-Fiction* as a literature genre of the research object, introduction to *Feminism*, *Liberal Feminism* as the main topics, *gender equality* as the effects of liberal feminism, Biography of Marry Wollstonecraft, general review of *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman*.

Chapter III Research Method: This chapter consists of some theories that which are related to the research. It starts with the explanation of *Non-Fiction* as a literature genre of the research object, introduction to *Feminism*, *Liberal Feminism* as the main topics, *gender equality* as the effects of liberal feminism, Biography of Marry Wollstonecraft, general review of *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman*.

Chapter IV Research Findings and Discussions: This chapter elaborates the analysis related to the topic and its object, namely liberal feminism in *A Vindication of The Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792).

Chapter V Conclusions: This chapter concludes the whole research and the suggestions for further research.