

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of this research, the formulation of problems found to be the main topic of this research, the objectives of the research, and the significance of the research. In this chapter there are also previous studies used as reference materials for this research.

1.1 Research Background

Humans are created differently so each one has different characteristics. There are the terms of sex and gender. Sex is absolute because it is a biological difference between men and women, while gender is not absolute because it is a behavioral characteristic formed based on culture and environment. Societal citizens determine what it means to be male or female, and males tend to characterize themselves as masculine, while females tend to define themselves as feminine (Stets & Burke, 2000:1). The existence of these gender expressions has caused various stereotypes in society, which we know as gender stereotypes. We should reflect on the social and cultural constructions that shape perceptions and expectations of women and men. This is what made the researcher interested in femininity, as the topic of this research.

Femininity is a part of culture, represented in the norms and expectations associated with women in society. Many stereotypes attached to women regarding these feminine traits. Femininity, according to Bem (1974:156) is a character trait that includes being affectionate, jovial, easily moved, sympathetic, and many more. These traits, which often appear in literature, have an important part in defining the portrayal and perception of female characters, contributing significantly to the richness and depth of literary storylines. Besides that, we need to know that Jeffreys (1996) in (Asmarani, 2022:343) says that femininity is a learned behavior also influenced through male or female interactions. This statement shows a man can have feminine traits or vice versa, a woman can have masculine traits.

There are journals that discuss gender character, one of them is a journal written by Sandra L. Bem in 1974 entitled *The Measurement of Psychological Androgyny*. There are three categorizes of gender attributes, including feminine, masculine, and neutral (Bem, 1974:156). Bem categorized at least 60 traits and divided them into the three gender attributes. This categorization is known as the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI). BSRI is a measurement tool used in psychology to measure how much a person exhibits traits that are considered “masculine” and “feminine” in a particular culture. BSRI has been used in various studies to understand gender roles in psychology, culture and society.

After reading BSRI and seeing the categorization of gender characters, researcher became interested in including masculinity as well as the topic of this research. Including masculinity as a topic in this study on femininity could be an interesting and holistic approach. The inclusion of both of these subjects, femininity and masculinity, will help to balance the research and avoid an assumption that gender is limited to feminine or female experiences. Furthermore, examining femininity and masculinity can provide an understanding of how these gender constructions influence each other. Another reason for choosing femininity and masculinity as the topic of this research is that comparing femininity and masculinity can bring contrasting perspectives that can clarify the differences, similarities and dynamics between the two concepts. This can provide a deeper insight into gender roles in society.

Deborah Kerfoot and David Knights (1996) in (Chafetz, 2006:190) define masculinity as the result of social perceptions of what it means to be a man and behave in a manly manner. This social construction does not only include physical or psychological characteristics, but also includes expectations and stereotypes regarding behaviors that are considered “masculine” in society. As listed by Bem (1974:156) in her journal, she mentions that masculine traits are described as acting as a leader, willing to take a risk, strong personality, and more. In this context, masculinity is not just an intrinsic quality inherent to individuals, but rather a gender

identity that is formed, debated and maintained through social and cultural interactions.

In this study, researcher chose to examine only feminine traits and masculine traits from the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI). This decision was based on the research focus of exploring the differences and interactions between femininity and masculinity. In addition, researcher chose not to include neutral traits because wanted to go deeper in analyzing how femininity and masculinity are reflected in the character and the development of the character in the story, without expanding the field too much that could obscure specific and in-depth findings related to gender in this context.

The cross cultural between men and women in terms of femininity and masculinity show variations in gender norms across cultures, such as the association of the feminine with traits like gentleness, while the masculine is often associated with toughness. Gender stereotypes also influence how individuals internalize and express gender identity according to cultural norms. For example, there are gender stereotypes in work environments that can lead to biases in leadership judgment and decision-making (Sczesny et al., 2004:644).

Femininity and masculinity are behaviors that are acquired from the culture surrounding individuals throughout their lives. This construction of gender identity is closely related to the norms, values, and social demands formed in the culture in which the individual is raised and lives. Literature, as a reflection of culture, also plays an important role in describing and examining the dynamics of femininity and masculinity through its characters. Through literature, writers can portray and criticize gender stereotypes, providing a deeper understanding of how gender identity is shaped and perceived. The portrayal of femininity and masculinity also helps readers to understand the complexity of gender identity, appreciate the different ways individuals express themselves, and recognize that feminine and masculine traits can be possessed by anyone, regardless of their sexuality.

Novels are one of the most extensive and profound forms of literary works in the world of literature. According to Nurgiyantoro (2002:10), a novel represents a fictional prose work, carefully written to be long enough to develop its narrative, yet concise enough to maintain interest. As a complex medium, novels are able to build storylines, characters, and narrative messages in a very long form so a literary work can be booked even with only one title. Novels are an alternative to expressing stories in more depth and exploring conflicts, feelings, and thoughts of characters in more detail. Novels also offer a variety of themes and concepts with a variety of writing styles. Writers can create many language styles through novel writing because novels are more flexible and broader in terms of range. Literary works in the form of novels have a unique appeal, as they take readers on an in-depth journey and allow them to dive into the world in different points of view. Therefore, the research and understanding of the literary work of the novel is an important aspect of the field of literature and provides the foundation for an in-depth exploration of human beings and the environment around us

In addition, one of the other forms of literary works is film. According to Eneste in Pratama (2023:7), film is a combination of various arts, music, visual art, dramatic art, literary art combined with elements of photography. Film is a form of literary work using audiovisual media so the audience can enjoy literary art with directly visualization and the message can be better understood than other literary works. Film is the result of collaboration between various literary elements, such as script, dialog, character, plot, theme, and language style, with other elements, such as cinematography, music, editing, and special effects. Film also has various genres like other literary works in general. Films can be considered as living literary works, as they can evoke emotion, imagination, and reflection in the viewer, as well as provide room for various interpretations and criticisms.

Many people prefer watching film to reading novels because the duration for watching film is less than reading novels. Watching a film usually only takes between one to three hours, while reading a novel can take days or even weeks for those who have a low interest in reading. Access to watching film is also easier by

streaming online, watching on television or in theaters. Sometimes it is very difficult to access old novels. Watching film is also more fun and more entertaining than reading novels. Film presents interesting audiovisuals with cinematography and sound effects that spoil the eyes and ears of the audience, making it easier to cause emotions, such as laughing, crying, fear, or anger, because the audience can see the expressions and gestures of the characters, while in novels there is little or no visualization at all so it seems boring for people who enjoy entertainment through audiovisual rather than textual. Film also provides a clearer picture of the story, characters, settings, and occur situations, without the need to imagine or interpret themselves like when we read novels. Film also easier to understand and remember, viewers can see the details in case they missed it when reading a novel.

Many novels are adapted into film to attract a wider audience, especially for people who prefer audiovisual art, or for novel lovers who don't have time to read or finish the novel. For example, the *Five Feet Apart* film has been the most talked-about film on social media. Researcher also became interested in watching the film because people said this film was exciting and full of emotion. *Five Feet Apart* film was released in March 2019. This film was produced by Justin Baldoni, Catchy Schulman and Christopher H. Warner, and directed by Justin Baldoni. This film is a drama and romance genre. The duration of the film is 1 hour and 56 minutes.

After watching this film, researcher found out that *Five Feet Apart* film is an adaptation of a novel with the same title. *Five Feet Apart* novel was written by Rachael Lippincot. The first print of *Five Feet Apart* novel was published on November 20, 2018 with 288 pages. *Five Feet Apart* novel was published by the publisher 'Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers'. It has been awarded the #1 New York Times bestselling novel and Goodreads Choice Winner. This novel is a romance genre and it is in high demand among teenagers. After knowing the existence of these two works, researcher became interested in choosing the novel and film *Five Feet Apart* as the object of this research to compare the characterization of the character named Stella Grant as the main character, and also

to compare the point of view of Stella Grant. Stella Grant is an interesting example to study in describing these feminine and masculine traits.

Novels and movies are two forms of literary works that have similarities in terms of storytelling techniques. Both also have similar intrinsic elements. To make the story more vivid, both in novels and films, it is necessary to pay attention to the intrinsic elements, such as an interesting theme, a good plot, characters who influencing the storyline, understandable characterization of characters, a well-defined setting, also understandable and clear point of view. The interesting intrinsic elements to study in this research are characterization and point of view, both of which are related to each other. Characterization can be influenced by point of view, which is the point of view used to tell a story.

Temmerman and Boas (2018:2-3) define characterization as a way of describing a character referring to psychological and social characteristics, as well as details about external appearance and physiology, habitual actions, circumstances and relationships. Characterization can help readers to understand the personality, motivation, conflict, and development of characters in literary works. Readers can figure out whether a character is a protagonist or antagonist based on the characterization described by the author. Characterization is a complex element, providing deeper insight into the complexity of a character's persona, highlighting their goals, desires, and inner conflicts. By exploring a character's thoughts and social interactions, characterization acts as a bridge that connects the reader to the fictional world, allowing for a deeper understanding of the complexity of the narrative and the flow of themes.

Through Stella's characterization, the writers and filmmakers managed to bring out the strong and complex feminine and masculine sides. Stella is not just a simple representation of stereotypical feminine traits, but a deeper and more realistic picture of a woman who shows strength, courage, and tenderness in the face of the difficult conditions she faces. Thus, Stella's characterization shows how the feminine attributes defined by Bem can be reflected in the way a writer or director builds a complex and strong female character. Characterization does not only

depend on the use of words or images used by the author or filmmaker, but it is also influenced by the use of point of view in the work.

Point of view is one of the literary devices that serves to determine how one tells the occur story. According to Abrams (1999:231), point of view signifies the way a story is told that is determined by an author by presenting how characters, dialog, actions, settings, and events in the form of narration, are shown in a work of fiction. Point of view affects how the characters in the story view themselves and the world around them. This research discusses the comparison of point of view found in the novel and film *Five Feet Apart*, namely the point of view of Stella Grant as the main character. This research also examines how point of view affects Stella Grant's characterization in the novel and film *Five Feet Apart*.

This research uses a comparative literature approach. Comparative literature can help researcher to find similarities and differences, continuity and change, and influence and contribution between different literary works. One of the literary works that can be studied using a comparative literature approach is the novel *Five Feet Apart* and the film *Five Feet Apart*. This novel and film are two different mediums, but they share the same story.

The comparison of characterization and point of view of Stella Grant in *Five Feet Apart* novel and film is very interesting to analyze because characterization and point of view play an important role in building the story, and *Five Feet Apart* is two works with different mediums but have the same title and not much different stories.

1.2 Statements of Problem

The relationship between characterization and point of view is significant. The perspective from which a story is told, whether it's first-person or otherwise, affects the way a character is portrayed. Point of view regulates the amount and type of information revealed about a character, affecting the reader's emotional connection and empathy towards the character. This is what makes researcher interested in

discussing the characterization and also the point of view of Stella Grant as the main character in *Five Feet Apart* novel and film.

Based on the explanation of background research, on the previous page concerning the usage of characterization and point of view as significant parts of literary works and as story developers, the statements of problem can be summarized as below:

1. How does Stella Grant's characterization in the novel and film *Five Feet Apart* portrays femininity and masculinity?
2. How does Stella Grant's point of view in the novel and film *Five Feet Apart* portrays femininity and masculinity?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To find out the femininity and masculinity portrayed in Stella Grant's characterization in *Five Feet Apart* novel and film.
2. To find out the femininity and masculinity portrayed in Stella Grant's point of view in *Five Feet Apart* novel and film.

1.4 Research Significances

Theoretically, this research can contribute to the development of literature, especially in the field of comparative literature. This research can also reveal the comparison between the novel and the film *Five Feet Apart* in terms of Stella Grant's characterization and Stella Grant's point of view that describe femininity and masculinity found in the novel and the film *Five Feet Apart*.

Academically, this research can be a reference and discussion material for those interested in the topic of characterization and point of view so people can gain knowledge about what characterization choices are found in the main character in a story, and how the use of point of view is both in the novel and in the film.

1.5 Previous Studies

In preparing this research, of course, it is necessary to have previous research related to both the object of research and the topic of this research. The existence of this previous research is very helpful for researcher in compiling this research and makes it easier to find relevant theories to use in this research. Some of the previous studies below have been summarized and the purpose of the research have been found, the theories and methods used, as well as the results of research that has been done by previous researchers.

1. *Stella Grant and Will Newman's Character Development throughout A Film Entitled Five Feet Apart* by Nana Murti Habriani, I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri, I Gede Nova Winarta

The journal article “Stella Grant and Will Newman’s Character Development throughout A Film Entitled Five Feet Apart” by (Habriani et al., 2022) was published in *ELYSIAN JOURNAL English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*. The purpose of this study is to identify how the main characters develop their character through their actions and dialogues. This study uses qualitative methods and uses the theory of the type of character by Kenney (1966). The result of this study is that it was found that the main characters, Stella Grant and Will Newman, experienced a change from flat/simple characters to round/complex characters as the story progressed which can obviously be seen from the characters’ actions and dialogues. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research.

2. *Character Analysis of Stella in Five Feet Apart Film* by Dini Noviani Ginting

The journal article *Character Analysis of Stella in Five Feet Apart Film* by (Ginting, 2022) was published in *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*. The purpose of this research is to analyze the character of Stella Grant as the main character in the film *Five Feet Apart*. This research uses descriptive qualitative method and uses Godwin’s theory of aspects of character and Parks-Leduc, Feldman, & Bardi’s theory of personality of human character. The results

of this study found that Stella deserves to be the protagonist because she has good characters such as loving, caring, friendly, disciplined, and so on. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research, and to find out Stella's character according to the views of other researchers.

3. *The External Conflict Faced by The Main Character in Five Feet Apart Film* by Ni Made Prana Diansari Artawan, Anak Agung Sagung Shanti Sari Dewi, and Putu Weddha Savitri

The journal article *The External Conflict Faced by The Main Character in Five Feet Apart Film* by (Diansari Artawan et al., 2020) was published in *Udayana Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (UJoSSH)*. This research aims to examine what are the external conflicts experienced by the main character in the film *Five Feet Apart*. This research uses qualitative methods and note-taking. This research relies on Kenney's theory of external conflict Bernhardt's theory of the psychological aspect of characters. The result of this research is that in the film *Five Feet Apart*, there is an external conflict faced by Stella Grant as the main character, which is always arguing with Will Newman. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research, and to find out Stella's character according to the views of other researchers.

4. *Conflicts of the Main Character in Rachael Lippincott's Five Feet Apart* by Adyaqsha, Tini Moge, and Delli Sabudu

The journal article "Conflicts of the Main Character in Rachael Lippincott's *Five Feet Apart*" by (Adyaqsha et al., 2022) was published in *JoTELL Journal of Teaching English, Linguistics, and Literature*. The purpose of this research is to reveal the conflict that occurs between the main characters in the novel *Five Feet Apart*. This research uses qualitative methods and uses the theory of conflict proposed by Gordon and Kuehner. The results of this study are that in the novel *Five Feet Apart* there are internal and external conflicts, both of which are related to the cystic fibrosis disease suffered by Stella Grant as the main character. The

contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research, and to find out Stella's character according to the views of other researchers.

5. *Representasi Maskulinitas dan Feminitas Pada Karakter Perempuan Kuat Dalam Serial Drama Korea* by Eko Rizal Saputra and Hapsari Dwiningtyas

The journal article *Representasi Maskulinitas dan Feminitas Pada Karakter Perempuan Kuat Dalam Serial Drama Korea* by (Saputra & Dwiningtyas, 2018) was published in *Interaksi Online*. The purpose of this study is to identify representation of masculinity and femininity displayed on a strong female character in the Korean television drama *Strong Woman Do Bong Soon* as an ideal concept for women. This study uses discourse analysis approach and uses the performance theory of Judith Butler. The result of this study found that the character of a woman reflects both masculine and feminine values on her. Through her physical appearance, the character demonstrated the feminine trait. The character in her part presented two aspects, namely masculinity and femininity. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research, and to know more about femininity and masculinity according to the views of other researchers.

6. *Representasi Femininitas dan Maskulinitas dalam Film "27 Steps of May"* by Rista Ihwanny and Muhammad Iqbal Qeis

The journal article *Representasi Femininitas dan Maskulinitas dalam Film "27 Steps of May"* by (Ihwanny & Qeis, 2022) was published in *Deiksis* journal. This study aims to analyze how femininity and masculinity are presented through the two characters. This study uses John Fiske's semiotic analysis method and uses Fiske's theory of semiotics. The result of this study shows that *27 Steps of May* film on the one hand still preserves the values of femininity and masculinity that occur in society. But on the other hand, the film also shows a shift from these status quo values. The filmmakers through their work have become agents of change by trying to break the traditional values of femininity and masculinity that are too entrenched

in society. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about femininity and masculinity.

7. *Keselarasan Femininitas dan Maskulinitas dalam Cerpen "The Other Two"*
Karya Edith Wharton by Ratna Asmarani

The journal article *Keselarasan Femininitas dan Maskulinitas dalam Cerpen "The Other Two"* Karya Edith Wharton by (Asmarani, 2022) was published in *DIGLOSIA* journal. This study aims to analyze how a harmony between femininity and masculinity is achieved in the short story *The Other Two* by Edith Wharton. This study uses close reading method and uses Stets and Burke's theory of femininity and masculinity. This study is found that Alice's femininity tends to be flexible, adaptive, and evolves so as to reduce the turmoil that arises in her third marriage with Waythorn. Alice's femininity is also able to break the rigid atmosphere between the three men in Alice's life with their respective masculinities. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about femininity and masculinity.

8. *Maskulinitas Dan Femininitas Dalam Anime Kimi No Na Wa: Kajian Respon Pemirsa* by Fajria Noviana and Retno Wulandari

The journal article *Maskulinitas Dan Femininitas Dalam Anime Kimi No Na Wa: Kajian Respon Pemirsa* by (Noviana & Wulandari, 2017) was published in *Kiryoku* journal. The purpose of this study is to find out the views of the younger generation regarding masculinity and femininity presented in the animation film *Kimi No Nawa*. This study uses descriptive and qualitative approach and uses gender expectation theory by Beal and Stemberg. The result of this study is that respondents think that sex and gender in this film are equal. It can be seen that the feminine is shown fully towards women, and the masculine is shown towards men. This film depictions of femininity and masculinity are suitable but not shown excessively as is the case with ideas about femininity and masculinity in the West. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about femininity and masculinity.

9. *Representation of Masculinity and Femininity Values on “Kucumbu Tubuh Indahku” by Garin Nugroho 2019* by Murniati, Putri Intan Nalumsari, and Khoirul Muslimin

The journal article *Representation of Masculinity and Femininity Values on “Kucumbu Tubuh Indahku” by Garin Nugroho 2019* written by (Murniati et al., 2023) was published in *IDENTITAET* journal. The purpose of this study is to find out the classification of masculinity and femininity, as well as to examine the portrayal of values in Juno's character from Bem's perspective. This study uses analysis of text, audio, and visual approach. This study uses Bem's BSRI theory and Pierce's theory of semiotics. This study found out that based on BSRI, Juno has 15 masculine and 17 feminine personalities out of 20 personalities. Juno represents both a masculine and feminine man, hence his masculinity and femininity values are represented with both positive and negative changes. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about BSRI.

10. *Maskulinitas Pada Tokoh “Marisa” Dalam Film “Kriegerin” Karya David Wnendt* by Rizka Maulidya Hurin Inn and Yunanfathur Rahman

The journal article *Maskulinitas Pada Tokoh “Marisa” Dalam Film “Kriegerin” Karya David Wnendt* by (Inn & Rahman, 2020) was published in *IDENTITAET* journal. This study aims to measure the indicators of masculinity found in the character Marisa in the movie *Kriegerin*. This study uses quantitative analysis approach and uses Sandra Bem's theory of Bem Sex Role Inventory. The result found that Marisa in the movie *Kriegerin* is 50% masculine and 25% feminine. Marisa's character has a tendency to be masculine. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about BSRI.

11. *Maskulinitas Karakter Utama Wanita Pada Film “I Care a Lot”* by I Wayan Juniarta, I G. B. Wahyu Nugraha Putra, and I Kadek Agus Indrawan

The journal article *Maskulinitas Karakter Utama Wanita Pada Film “I Care a Lot”* by (Juniarta et al., 2021) was published in *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Linguistik Dan Sastra (SEMNALISA)* journal. The purpose of this research is to determine the masculine characterization of the female main character in the film *I Care a Lot* and how this feature is conveyed through dialogue. This research uses observation method and uses Sandra Bem’s BSRI theory and Minderop’s theory of characterization. It is found that the dialogue in the film assisted in defining the female main character as masculine. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of used theories, also to increase the knowledge about BSRI.

12. *Analisis Struktur Femininitas Tokoh Ibu Dalam Film Manusia Setengah Salmon* by Hyacinta Laras Permata Siwi

The journal article “Analisis Struktur Femininitas Tokoh Ibu Dalam Film *Manusia Setengah Salmon*” by (Siwi, 2020) was published in *Kalatanda: Jurnal Desain Grafis dan Media Kreatif*. The purpose of this research is to analyze the femininity of character “Ibu” portrayed in *Manusia Setengah Salmon* film in terms of words, behavior, costumes and make-up showed. This research uses qualitative methods and uses the theory of feminism. The result of this research found that the form of feminism found in the character “Ibu” played by Dewi Irawan in this film is very good in its depiction. Everything seems to have been well thought out even from the smallest things, thus supporting the characterization of the role. Starting from speech, behavior, to the details of the property parts ranging from clothing, simple equipment that appears almost everything related to the mother's activities in each scene is a special concern. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research.

13. *Sudut Pandang Dalam Novel dan Film Fifty Shades of Grey* by Rizky Amalia Fauziah

The thesis “*Sudut Pandang Dalam Novel dan Film Fifty Shades of Grey*” by (Fauziah, 2016) aims to identify the use of point of view in *Fifty Shades of Grey* novels and movies. This research uses mimetic, pragmatic, expressive and objective approach. This study uses Abrams’ theory of point of view. The result of this study found that the usage of point of view in the two works are directed at distinct audiences. Novels are especially intended at a personal/individual audience, whereas films are aimed at a larger/massive scale. The contribution of this source is to consider the selection of theories that will be used in this research.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Comparative literature is a study that examines and connects works from many languages, cultures, and mediums. Comparative literature can assist researchers in identifying parallels and contrasts, continuity and change, and influence and contribution among different literary works.
2. Femininity is natural female trait found in women that is related with their sexual qualities. Femininity is a character trait includes being affectionate, cheerful, sympathetic, and more.
3. Masculinity is a natural male trait found in men that is related with their sexual qualities. Masculinity is a character trait includes being aggressive, dominant, ambitious, and more.
4. Novel is a fictional prose narrative that able to develop stories, characters, and narrative messages in a complex form. Novel offer a variety of themes and concepts with a variety of writing styles.
5. Film is a type of literary work that combines art, music, visual art, literary art, with elements of photography. Film uses audiovisual media so the audience can enjoy literary art with visualization directly.
6. Characterization is analysis of the character of someone or something as expressed in words includes psychological and social features, as well as

information on physical appearance and physiology, habitual actions, circumstances, and relationships.

7. Point of view is a literary device that determines how a story is told. Point of view influences how the characters in the story perceive themselves and the world around them.

