CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

Women Character in Literary Work and Art

In literary works women became an important thing to discuss, it was supported by M.S (1988, p. 13) who states “since ages the poets, novelist, painter, sculptors and musician take the personality of women as the main theme in their works with great care”. The conditions of women who are generally have the gentle nature, irrational, beautiful and elegant to be one of interest to portray women in literature. Because of the condition above, the portrayal of women in literature is a person who is weak and different from men who as someone with the power to protect the women.

In the 20th century, many literary works of men that portray women as object of sex. For example William Faulkner as American author, in his work entitled Sanctuary in 1931, describes women as whores and bitches. The theme of this novel is talk about rape. In the other work, Henry Miller in Tropic of Cancer 1934 and Tropic of Capricorn 1939, everything contains an overview that woman is vulva, sewer, slut and bitch. Basically women characters play small parts in fiction by men.

In women’s work, women are people who are beautiful, nature, gentle, and elegant. They are also as dependent people and weak people in the world. It was seen from novel Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen in 1813. This novel took the weak woman as the theme, where Elizabeth as the main character should attempted to fight traditional culture in the middle society where a woman had to find and marry with a
rich man to save her life although she did not love him. (Austen 1813, Pride and Prejudice)

By considering the explanation above, it concluded that women become an important thing in literary work because they have unique characteristic in playing role in their lifetime. The role born as a daughter, and then become a girl, a wife, a mother, a mother in law and a grandmother are the unique story to be discussed and to bring in literary work. But some author just describe about women’s weak without take women capacity. This condition makes women position in literary works more dominates by men. Men always portrayed women as a second sex ignorant that should have to serve their life. In woman’s work, women become a week people who should have loyalty on men.

American women

According to Madsen (2000, p. 2) “the position of women in Colonial American was determine by hierarchical worldview of the puritan colonist, as men deferred to God and His ministers, so women should defer to men”. That clearly illustrate how women’s oppression in Colonial America. They should be obedient to their husband, father and brother. Women should be entering to domestic life, taking their children, maintaining household and serving their husband.

The position of women in America marginally depends on men. They unable to vote and after marriage have no control of their property. Furthermore in 19th century, a group of women come to fight for their own freedom. That the
beginning of women competition in debating their equal right. This is start from Seneca Falls Convention following by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony’s in around 1848 Madsen (cited in Wiyatmi 2012, p. 14). They are claimed women liberty and equality. This convention took a long time until them successfully founding the National Women Suffrage Association. With this success, substantively American women have opportunity to achieve the same right like men in all aspect of life. But it is not happened in long time. In 1920-1930 decade, American women back to domestic life, they are more like to be mother and wife than enter the public sphere. This situation called “First Wave’ of feminism.

In around 1960 “second Wave” of feminism has begun. According to Tong and Humm (as cited in Wiyatmi 2012, p.16) “This group popular with women’s Liberation or women’s Liberation Movement (WLM) with a purpose to developed women’s aware about women’s oppression”. In this time, feminist successfully brought women position higher than ever before. Women who were only stay at home to handle all things about house works finally enter the labor force in a great number.

The second “Wave” of feminism has more influence in American women’s life. Many American women occupy important positions in various jobs. Until nowadays in 21th century American women has a big change for their life not only could enter the public sphere to get various job like men, in fact they could get their freedom more than before. They could do what they want. Feminist movement has a big influence for their life movement in all aspect such in social, economic, sexual,
and politic. This situation influence others women’s life in every state. This supported by Djajanegara (2008, p. 13) "90% of the States in the world today have established of women’s protection institutions”.

**Feminism**

Generally women same with men but there is special different between them, that called sex. Feminism was not attempting to deny that, because it was women nature that given from God. Feminism was purely fight for equality of gender. There are differences’ between sex and gender. Sex is used to analyze men and women based on biologic construction which men and women have when they are born such as their physic anatomy and system of reproduction. Meanwhile gender is used to analyze men and women based on social and culture. That supported by Oakley (as cited in Freedman 2012, p. 18) “Sex is a word that refers to the biological differences between male and female: the visible difference in genitalia, the related difference in procreative function. ‘Gender’, however, is a matter of culture: it refers to the social classification into ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’. Moreover, a woman is a woman herself. And for certain reasons, it is impossible to change into a man. She cannot transfigure herself in other process unless the process of herself.

The naturally sexual different between women and men have been created women as an inferior or secondary status in societies. This supported by Ortner (as cited in Freedman 2012, p. 10) “the secondary status of women in society can be explained by the fact that women are seen being ‘closer to nature’ in their physiology,
their social role and their physic and men ‘closer to culture’ more suited for public roles and political association”. This situation created women as a person just able to do everything in home rather than able to take the public position like men. But feminist rejected this idea, feminist argue women has different in sexual but they are has equal rights with men. They have same right in social position for example to take job like men in outside and doing everything like men do while they have responsibility in their home.

Feminist was a movement to refuse capitalism system in society. Capitalism itself has been placed women as second sex ignorant because they just do domestic work and did not get money of doing that. According to Hooks (2000, p. 2) “Feminism agree with the idea of gender equity in the workplace - equal pay for equal work.” It means there was no different between women and men in getting jobs or to be worker in public sphere. Women could get money for their family same as like men do. And they also could get salary like men, based on their work capacity. This also make they have more confident about their skill and ability and they no more depend on men or their husband.

The representation of women in gets equal rights with men, generally depend on their self. For example in getting jobs like men they should become smart and interesting women. This is why the feminist argue that women should take education in their life, because with take education, they can improve their ability. It supported by Donovan (2006, p. 27) “proper education could liberate women from subjugation to their conditioned role of serving men”.

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Furthermore, Women should have the same right in educational opportunities. By having freedom to get the equality and knowledge, women could improve their selves and enter the public sphere to work together with men.

According to Tong & Abrams (As cited in Wiyatmi 2012, p. 19) “women has equal rights in getting work, salary, and has same opportunity in education with men.” Feminism was a movement to fight for transformation of system and social structure to fairness of men’s and women’s rights in education.

Feminism was more focus on the struggle towards family institution and patriarchal system. According to Millet (as cited in Arivia 2006, p. 191) states “patriarchal is a system that identical with father symbols “father rule”,” it means in some family women should obedient to their husband and their father. For example in marriage tradition, where father had more authority to determine who will marry with his daughter and also when his daughter could marry. Feminism was rejecting this system because women have same right like men in drive their life.

According to Blackstone (as cited in Donovan 2006, p. 19) “By marriage, the husband and wife is one person in the law. The very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least is incorporated into that of her husband under whose wing and protection she performs everything”. When a woman chose to marry with a man, it means everything on her life depends on her husband role. For example she must changes her family name with her husband name, she should on the house to serve her husband, and she should give more space for her husband to enter the public to organize their marriage. Not only that, feminist also
had critique about the women rights in divorce. According to Freedom House (as cited in Smith 2006, p. 315) “Men are entitled to divorce without explanation simply by registering a statement to the court and repeating it three times”. This contrast, most women not only lack the right to divorce, but also, because their children legally belong to the father, to leave their husband means giving up their children. This situation also makes men lowering women position in marriage. They think they has right to leave their wife as long as they want.

According to Hooks (2000, p. 78-79) “feminist movement has critique marriage as yet another form of sexual slavery”. It means Feminist reject women’s oppression in marriage, where women should be obedient to their husband. But it not means they not listen to their husband at all because the realization of feminism is not always they should not obedient to their husband but when they has obedient to their husband, it could be description of feminism as long as they have opportunity to express their idea.

Women oppression in many aspects of life such as in marriage, public sphere, makes women hate on men. Some of them chose to have relationship with other women or being lesbian. According to Firestone (as cited in Freedman 2012, p. 21) “Lesbian is a life style that believe will absolve women from men oppresure toward women in sexual”. It means lesbian is a way for women to avoid women oppression. Lesbian is one of the feminist idea that to reject women oppression. According to Freedman (2012, p. 21) There are many feminist opinions about lesbianism, on the one hand feminist argument that in order to identify as a true feminist one must
practice some gender sex and in the other hand argue feminist identify is not contingent on same gender sex but does hinge on legal and social support of lesbian practice.

Universally, feminism was a concept in creating individual freedom. It was not aim to oppress, control or event to hate a man by avoiding a marriage. The realization of feminism was not always seen as women work in public life but when women did their domestic works, it could be description of feminism as long as they have willingness and opportunities to express their idea and to make a progressive movement in their life.

**Feminist Literary Criticism**

In Amerika 1960, many of literary works much dominate by men. This invites female literary critics. They dig up all the work of women and studying it. They are found there are many of men’s work just talk about women in men opinion. Such as women as object of sex, women as a week people that should be obedient to them and so on. And then many of women’s work lost. Many feminist have been success in claiming the lost literary women and in documenting the source.

Feminist literary criticism has related to the feminism theory, because without feminism theory, feminist literary criticism is not being present. According to Abrams (as cited in Wiyatmi 2012, p. 10-11) “feminist literary criticism includes the study about women author, how portrait of women in literary work, man’s perspective on women, how women with social and the last is the study to apply theory of feminism in woman studies”. That means feminist literary criticism is the
right approach for expressing the oppression of women in literary work. When feminist literary criticism was linked to the “feminism” movement, it was aimed to uncover appreciation of literary works which was generally considered by men’s perspective.

Therefore, feminist literary criticism is an analysis of women in literature, in terms women as a center. It will be focusing on women’s stereotype in all aspect of life including education, women interaction with others the response of readers about feminism or women movement that was pictured in literary work. Feminist literary criticism is a study about woman, their relationship with men and other women, their characterization, vision, behavior, and will explain the feminism or women movement in literary works and how the man’s point of view towards the women and how the women protect themselves.

Base on several experts’ theories above, the researcher used some of them to portrait women in the Jane Austen Book Club movie. They are Hooks, Donovan, Tong and Abrams and Firestone who are talk about equal rights of women in all aspect. For that the researcher formulated feminism is a study about women movement in struggle against theirs equal rights in all aspect of life such as equal rights to participate in public sphere in equal job, equal salary and the same rights in doing something that extreme like men, rejected the patriarchal system in family institution and also discussed about women rights in marriage.
Research on Woman in Literary Work

Some researches that have agreement with this research are *Woman’s Issues as Reflected in Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice 2010*, by Indah W. Saud in Gorontalo State University and the other is about *Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dalam Novel Kawin Kontrak* by Nurlaila Ali in Gorontalo State University 2010.

Indah W. Saud in her research *woman’s issues as reflected in Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice* is towards Pride and Prejudice novel which was written by Jane Austin, this research interpreting the feminism values and woman’s stereotype from the text of novel. This research use qualitative research. The second research is *Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dalam Novel Kawin Kontrak* by Nurlaila Ali. This research used descriptive analysis method. This research is identifying the violence of women with applying feminism theory. From analysis above, this study found two kinds violence of women; they are violence of women as a girl and violence of women as a wife.

Two studies above interpret woman’s character based on feminism theory. It is similarly to my research that is used feminism theory, but the significant difference with this study is the first study used theory feminism to interpret the value of feminism and analysis the culture and religion roles toward woman’s stereotype and the second study is used feminism theory to interpret violence of woman. This study used feminism theory to portray the woman in the Jane Austin Book Club Movie.