Chapter II
Theoretical Bases

Feminist Literary Criticism

Beauvoir as cited in Goel (2010), also states that the focus of the feminist literary criticism is the respect of the social composition of sexual role and the intimidating class of the sexual role subjective. It convinced that feminist literary criticism also discuss how the social valuation to the men and women, included how their confront the intimidating by some classes of the social around them.

Then other expert namely, Kolodny as cited in Goel (2010) states that:

“What unites and repeatedly invigorates feminist literary criticism…is neither dogma nor method but an acute and impassioned attentiveness to the ways in which primarily male structures of power are inscribed (or encoded) within our literary inheritance: the consequences of that encoding for women – as characters, as readers, and as writers; and, with that, a shared analytic concern for the implications of that encoding not only for a better understanding of the past but also for an improved reordering of the present and future”.

It clarifies that the men have power in literature because mostly women only become a reader in men’s work. It is also because women only be an actresses in the men’s work.

On the other argument, Donovan as cited in Newton (n.d) which is talked about feminist criticism, he stated that feminist criticism is basis in central a priori perception that women are base of awareness: are egos, not other (p. 264). Donovan argues that feminist talk about the ego of women; the women wishes to get the freedom.

In other side, the feminism is growing up to change the sexual stereotypes. It is alike Segal as cited in Freedman (2001, p. 9), states that: “There has always been a danger that in re-valuing
our notions of the female and appealing to the experience of women, we are reinforcing the ideas of sexual polarity which feminism originally aimed to challenge”.

The women have been given a secondary status in society, and think that the women are closer to nature whereas men are closer to culture, as Ortner (1998, p.21) as cited in Freedman (2001, p.9) claim that:

“The secondary status of woman in society is one of the true universals, a pan-cultural fact, and the secondary status of women can be explained by the fact that within the multiplicity of cultural conception and symbolizations of women that exist and that have existed in different societies, there is constant in that women are seen as being ‘closer to nature’ in their physiology, their social role and their psyche’”.

Based on Wolfreys, Robbins, and Wonack in Key Concept in Literary Theory (2002, p.125) assumed that feminist criticism has focused into relation of gender to all matter of class and race. It clarify that feminist critics also discuss about the class and race in society.

Other argumentation about feminist critic as showed by Lenz et.al as cited in Culler in On Destruction: Theory and Criticism after Structuralism (1986, p.46) stated, “feminist critic is drawing attention instead to complexity of women characters and their place in order of male values represented in the plays”. It convinced that feminist always to the women characters and men values when women characters in the story. It also gives respect how the women positions are portrayed in the story.

**Definition of Feminism**

Feminist has been described as a different from traditional as literary critic. The expert, Goel states, “Feminism is derived from French term “feminist” which on the idea of the equality
of the sexes”. (2010, p.403) The meaning of this statement is the feminism begins in French with the other name, and then it developed to the feminism.

Based on, Elaine as cited in Goel, (2010) states that feminists’ goal is to finish totally the kinds of exploitation and injustice against the women. It can define that, the women who feel bound on the men rules then can have the own free, beside men rules.

Whereas, Freedman (2001) states that “feminisms concern themselves with women’s inferior position in society and with discrimination encountered by women because of their sex”. It means, feminism is concentrate to the women place in the society who gets discrimination.

Based on Freedman (2001) feminism which was thought that the main thoughts of feminism are differences between men and women. (pg. 10) It explicitly emphasize that every differences of men and women are the main thought of expert to develop their study about feminism.

In other hand, feminism also discussed about the dissimilarity between men and women. It clarifies by freedman (2001), where in society the idea of dissimilarity between men and women still happening. (p. 10) It means that even though women had more powerful in society the difference between both of them had difficult to escape.

However, Rupp and Taylor in Forging Identity in an International Movement: A Collective Identity Approach to Twentieth-Century Feminism stated that, “Feminism is more than gender ideology: it is collective identity”. Rupp and Taylor are talked us that feminism is not only about the gender but also the part which is discussed about the women like their place in society and freedom in work. It means, the women also had free to act in the society and the relationship with male.
Based on Purwanto (2011, p.27), he stated that feminism as the women movement to be able in every side then it proves that women cannot be defeated by men. It emphasizes that feminism can verify the women also have convincing to get great place over men.

The theory above clarified that the feminism which is explained that women who get injustice among men. In conclusion, all of theories above is described the feminism is the one of literary which is a woman as the main study and talk more about the place of the women in the social even in the family and social, also the relationship to each other.

Lorber in The Variety Of Feminism And Their Contribution To Gender Equality(1978) divide feminism based on wave feminism. In second wave feminism is around 1960’s – 1970’s. They are liberal feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, and development feminism.

1. Liberal feminism
   Liberal feminism emphases on gender diversity are not related to biology, and hence that women and men are not different. The aim of liberal feminism is to view how many contemporary societies discriminate against women. (p. 9-10)

2. Marxist and socialist feminism
   Marxist analyze the social structure of capitalism was supposed to apply to people of any social characteristics. Whereas, Marxist and socialist feminism focused criticize family as a basis of women’s domination and exploitation. (p. 11)

3. Development feminism
   Development feminism creates an important theoretical impact in associating women’s status with control of economic resources. (p. 14)
Radical feminism emphasizes that most men have the potential to use physical violence against women, including rape and murder. (p. 17)

5. Psychoanalytic feminism

Psychoanalytic feminism emphasizes that the source of men’s control of women is men’s unaware two-sided need for women’s emotionality and rejection. (p. 19)

Lorber divide it into parts in order that people can know that feminism not only talk about women in gender but also feminism talk about aspects of women including women in politics and relation with men.

Character and Women Characters

Character is the one important in the short story which builds the conflict inside. Based on Abrams (1999, p. 224) there are two characters, the main character in a plot and be the one which is interested become hero or heroine. It is called protagonist. Whereas, the opposite of protagonist is called antagonist.

Peter Barry states as cited in Wilcox Feminist Literary Criticism and Lysistra (n.d)(p.1), “female character created male literature is important because it provides “role models which indicated to women, and men, what constituted acceptable version of the ‘feminin’ and legitimate feminine goals and aspirations”. Barry clarifies that to analyze the women character need to aware the men place and role in the story.

Based on Wilcox in Feminist Literary Criticism and Lysistra (n.d) (p.1), she states that “when make the analysis of women; it can see of the kind of personal character the author related to the women and also the kinds of role between women and men which had relation each other”. It is explained that when make the analysis of women, the step is to recognize the women and men character, and however it also recognizes the role between them.
Kolodny in *Feminist Literary Criticism* (1975, p.79) stated about the woman writer through female character which determines the women character. She claimed that,

> “Contemporary women writers repeatedly invest their female characters with “reflexive perception,” a habit of mind that, itself, becomes a repeated stylistic device, as character after character is depicted discovering herself or finding some part of herself in activities she has not planned or in situations she cannot fully comprehend”.

It clarifies that women writer created female character based on the real life of the writer.

Women writers express their self into the story and put it into female character.

**Women Roles**

1. Women Traditional Roles

The fact, most men thought that women only are being a household and work in home and do not have to know the out world. This opinion appeared because men thought that women are weak. Besides, there is opinion that women as a wife should be at home and served their husband. That is the main work of a woman. Patel and Parmentier in *Traditional Gender Roles and Female Engineers* argued about this. They argued that in traditionally women work has been associated with domestic world of home, protecting their children, and reproduction. (2005, pg 33). This is the proved that roles of women in traditionally only at home, served their husband and reproduction. It is a reason why are the men always thinking that women have weakness and just do with their emotion as a soft creature.

It is different with Case who makes some parts of women roles in traditional. Case divides it into positive roles and misogynistic roles. According to Case as cited in Wilcox (*Feminist Literary Criticism and Lysistra*), he states that:

> “Reflect the perspective of the playwright or of the theatrical tradition on women” (132). There are (1) “positive roles, which depict women as independent, intelligent and even heroic and (2) a surplus of misogynistic roles
commonly identified as the Bitch, the Witch, the Vamp or the Virgin/Goddess”
(p.3)

It is explained that women in traditionally have two kinds of roles; they are positive and misogynistic roles. In positive it is part into depict woman like independent and intelligent. Based on Moody (2013) to be an independent woman, she would be able to pay for her life and men cannot stability her confidence (p. 44). It claims that an independent woman have more powerful to survival by herself without dependent into other although to her husband and the closest person of her.

Based on Gudwin in Legg and Hutter (2006, p.7) he claimed that the intelligent was expected to work well in many different environment. It would give them the probability of successful even though the environment was not available. It was not separated into concentration situation included the goal. It claims that, an intelligent have more knowledge than the other to keep the goal and share with the environment to reach it. And the third of the positive role is heroic. Peter and Fowler (2006) argued that hero is placed human who had superhuman power; the human conversed with God. It emphases that hero can keep live, survival, and have more powerful than the other also can be useful for other people. That is someone who can help other without payment.

Besides, misogynist Stalker (2001) argued that woman expressed in acts, of “denigration and intimidation” (pg. 291). This emphasis that misogynistic is view that misogynistic can be continuum the suspicion of violence against women. In other opinion, there is fundamental argument about this where Laws in Stalker (2001) misogynist view women in “misogyny of either how they desire women to be or how they fear women to be”. It means, misogyny is look women how they get their justice in choose want to be. Besides, there are two basic characteristic of misogyny; they are virgin and bitch. The woman who is a virgin knowing
as woman who is not get married and keep her own faith with other person around her. While, bitch knows as woman who repulsive and attractive. Besides when slavery happened, the women forced to work hard and serve the house holder of her. Not only become the attendant in the householder but also become an exploitation of sexual use of the body. It explicitly state by Allain and Bales, (2012) they stated:

“The primary indicator of slavery is that of control; control that diminishes the agency of the slave, normally demonstrated by the physical control of the slave that prevents their escape from enslavement and forces them to work. The primacy of control is often additionally demonstrated by the sexual use of the body of the slave by the slaveholder in addition to other forms of exploitation”. (p. 4)

It claims that, slave have to submissive to slaveholder. It was intimidating the slave to serve and work for the slaveholder. In other part, the person who might be a slave had a reason for do that. The nature case of the slave, be a person who under of control by herself and sphere around her.

This is the condition where women in traditional role being a woman who was being a worker in home and other side. Besides there are women who being an intelligent but the woman movement in this side is definite. They cannot work in the office, government, and in the council. This is the times for women to move. Another argument by Lorber (1978, p. 17), be supportive, occupy where woman only thought and act, when women want to reach for nonhierarchical. It clarifies that men dominate in this case and give limitation where women should be. The feminist finally make an association to fight their right.

2. Women Modern Roles

A modern role of women is started when the new era of women movement. The potential of human to more know about the world and behavior of human was given optimism by
the other philosopher. Then, it stated to appears of opinion that everyone needed freedom of speech and religious believe not only it but also there are argument that individuals also needed a voice in politic in fact women could reshape the political order. It also gives attention to human nature and the ability.

This is the one of masculinity and femininity well into the 19th century. It began with the women expressed their alternative on marriage, education, and politics. It is the first movement of woman. The other argument from De Gouges (1791) in The Beginnings of Modern Feminism, argued that women should to join with conciliatory role in the assembly and that this would be good for nation. (pg. 12) It explained that beside is a household and marriage woman, women also can be the part of the council and do the men work because the ability.

In Wollstonecraft’s book, A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792) in The Beginnings of Modern Feminism, she viewed that women needed education to develop their character and to able to shaping the new social order (pg. 12). Wollstonecraft emphases that women also need an education which and give them the braveness to face new world.

Look: [catalogue.pearsoned.co.uk/.../Feminism_M02_H... Modern feminism cited in 131109](1-3)

The development in the early 19th century, women become busy to have their rights. Women become with the anti-slavery campaign. Women have to get the emancipation. They want to free from all inequalities include sex inequalities and changing the placed of women in social.

Finally, it works. Women had rights to work in every broad, like in council of town, office, lawyers, and doctor in many countries. In fact, women can express their ability in many broad, not only as motherhood but also has improved legal status. The other women right is they
get the emancipation to do work as sane as men in social. Till now in 20th century women get many alterations. There are many educated women was born on this era.

**Relevance of Study**

This is drawing how female character in other study. One of study which is discussing the female character in short story is Kay (1984) in her thesis “*A Study of D.H Lawrence Treatment of Women in the Short Story*”. In her thesis she was trying to analyze the theme, characterization, and the plot, in Lawrence portrayal the women in his short story. In her work, she mentions that Lawrence the female to dramatize the queasier shapes of obliteration. Then, Lawrence female character failed to convince the reader as their reality because their motives are lack of consistency (p.11). The conclusion is Kay found that there is dissatisfied woman character in Lawrence short story.

The similarity of this thesis is both of this study wanted to observe the female character in the story but using different method. The differences of both studies are Kay analyzed the theme, characterization, and plot in Lawrence portrayal women in his short story. Besides, it is not use the approach to analyze. Whereas, this study is focused on the role of female character and used feminist approach.

The other study which discussed about the women is Carolyn T. Brown’s in her journal “*Woman as Trope: Gender and Power in Lu Xun’s ‘Soap’*”. (1988). It discussed the Chinese live in the era which portrayal in the Lu Xun story. This journal is also discussing about the women in Lu Xun’s story. Unfortunately, Lu Xun did not write many essays about the women. In other way, Lu Xun put many female characters depends on the varied backgrounds.
Brown makes it is not focusing in the female character but the generally women in the “Soap” story. Brown writes that this journal is seeing the ways configuring women, addresses explicitly and implicitly the Chinese construction of female behavior as the measure of social morality (p. 58). Brown also writes that “the trope is presented or modified, treating woman as the symbol of moral and practical alternatives for China’s future, means treating her as ideological construct” (p.61). It also uses the feminist literary critics as the comparator with the Western Feminist Critics. In conclusion, Brown comparing the West Feminist Critics and the Chinese Feminist Critics through the Lu Xun’s story.

The similarity of both is discussing the woman in short story and use feminist literary critics. Whereas, the differences are Brown not focus in female characters in Lu Xun’s short story also Brown take his analysis in Chinese short story. While, this study is focused in female character and take Kate Chopin’s short stories.

**Kate Chopin and Her Works**

Kate Chopin was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1850 from Eliza and Thomas O’Flaherty. She is the third of five children, but her sister died in infancy and her brothers (from her father’s first marriage) in their early twenties. Then, in 1855 on May and a half, she had a study in The Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic boarding school in St. Louis. Then, after the graduation, she was a popular. She wrote in her diary advice on flirting, “just keep asking ‘What do you think?’”. In 1893 she wrote short story “Desiree’s Baby”. This is tale miscegenation before the war. This story is talking about the baby who has dark-skin and it can’t receive by the father, although mother patiently to keep her baby. Then, she wrote “A Respectable Woman” as another story. It is the story which is talking about women who provoked by the other man who loved
her to love him, unfortunately she has husband. Other story is “Beyond the Bayou” which is
talking about the woman who lived with the physical disorder in her life. But, faces with the
patiently Then she wrote again, “the Kiss” this is about the woman who being marriage,
although she have to meet with other man and talked to her that he was sent to kiss her, but she
keep in her conviction. The last story is “Ma’ame Pelagie” about the woman who lived with her
relative in home. She is the woman who unmarried and has a dream to rebuild the old home.

The characteristics of Kate Chopin in these short stories Kate Chopin bring it into sudden
moment in these five stories. Besides, Kate portrayed the women live in before the Civil war in
United States.

Kate becomes a great writer who is talking about the women as a character over the men
and she was popular as feminist writer. Then, in 1904 dies from cerebral hemorrhage on August
22, after collapsing at the World's Fair, two days before.