

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Literature is a mirror of human life. It is a creative creation of human imaginations, wishes, though, feelings and all the reality of life. A literary work exists because of society. In other words, the existence of literary work is influenced by the condition and phenomenon in society either in politic, social, religion, economy, and culture. As Wellek (1987: 94) stated, literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society. Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life, and also contains the cultural and social background which indicates that literature and society is closely related because literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society.

One of literary works is novel. It is a mirror that is very suitable to decide all aspects of life and nature (Taime, 1972:21 in Saputra 2008). Here Taime clearly views that novel as one kind of literary work reflects the condition of one period. By reading a novel, the readers can read the reality or condition include social condition in when the literary works are created.

The brief explanation above clearly shows that there is a close and clear relationship between novels, as a literary work and society. Through novel the readersor researchers not only get the understanding about the condition and problems in one society based on the novel, but also the better views to face many

problems in life. Novel is created by an author who interacts to the society. Since every writer is a member of society, he can be studied as social being. It will be possible to accumulate information about the social provenance, the family background, the economic position of writers.

This study analyzes the gender language in two novels from different authors. They were written in the 18th centuries in the same country, England. They are *Pride and Prejudice*(1813) by Jane Austen and *Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818) by Mary Shelley. Both of the authors are the British novelists.

Pride and Prejudice is one of the greatest novels of the eighteenth century. The story's setting is uniquely turned of the late 18th century or the early 19th century . *Pride and prejudice* novel talks about the rank and status and the equality that was truly faced in the Regency England Era (1811-1820) when the novel was written. The Regency era in the United Kingdom is the period between 1811 — when King George III was deemed unfit to rule and his son, the Prince of Wales, ruled as his proxy as Prince Regent — and 1820, when the Prince Regent became George IV on the death of his father.

In this era the social status was determined by family connections and on a smaller scale, how one earned money. This situation clearly shows in this novel by the ambitions of parent (Mrs. Bennet) that want her five daughters (Lydia, Mary, Kitty, Jane and Elizabeth or Lizzy) to marry the rich men. Bennett's wife believes that her five daughters will have high social position when they get marriage with rich men. But one of her five daughters, Elizabeth never wants to

get marriage just because of social status. She just want to get the better education than her other sisters. Her other sisters just have domestic education but Elizabeth want to get more than that. She believes that her future will be better with education. She does not want to depend on social status of her husband. The intelligent headstrong Elizabeth Bennet and the authors favorite heroine and supercilious but romantic Mr. Darcy provides the conflict between “Pride” (Darcy) and “Prejudice” (Elizabeth), (Saputra, 2008: 10).

Bringing the same theme with different genre, Mary Shelley in *Frankenstein, or, the Modern Prometheus*, also explore the status of women and their role in society as well as in the family. It seems that the daughter of such distinct parents should follow in their footsteps or at least try to voice her mother’s beliefs in women’s rights to be treated as equals to men in society and their right to education. However in *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley chose to write from three different perspectives, using three narrators – all male. The women are represented, solely, through the male gaze and perception.

Women’s role and status in the contemporary society, or lack thereof, did not only affect women on a personal level, it restrained them from having a career other than that of a housewife as well. The female sex was believed to be weaker, less intelligent and inferior to the male sex, which had the natural consequence that women were thought less capable than men when it came to activities categorized as masculine, (Knutsen, 2012:18).

From the brief explanation above it can concluded that in eighteenth era, the women’s status is controlled by the society and the culture. It can be seen that

the life background of the writer have a big role in their literary work. Mostly, their life background influenced them in writing their literary work. It makes the literary works is interesting to be analyzed.

There are so many things in literary work, especially novel that can be analyzed. It could be the theme of the novel, the psychological approach, the biographical approach, and many things. This study analyzed gender language in two different novels in the same era as mentioned before. They are *Pride and Prejudice* novel by Jane Austen and *Frankenstein* Novel by Mary Shelley.

There are two reasons of choosing these two novels as the subject of this study. First, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels were written in the same period, namely in the eighteenth century. Second, they were written by two different authors but from the same country, England. Both of them were born and died in England. This study inspired by the previous studies of gender language. There are some studies of gender language that has analyzed gender language itself. They analyzed the differences of gender language in social network, daily interaction and television show. But, they only focused on one subject. So, this study tries to make a new study of gender language by comparing two literary works, novels.

B. The Problem of the Study

The problem of this study formulated as follow:

How are the differences and similarities of gender language expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels.

C. The Objective of the Study

In relation to the problem stated above the objective of this study is:

To describe how the similarities and differences of gender language are expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels.

D. The Scope of The Study

This study deals with gender language in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novel. This study is focused on the analysis of ten features of gender language as reflected in those novels.

E. The Significances of The Study

It is expected that the result or the finding of this study will be beneficial for theoretically, practically and academically in some aspects.

1. Theoretically, findings of this study will be expected to enrich the theories of sociolinguistics such as; gender language and also literature such as; biographical and historical, especially for students and lecturers who want to observe men's and women's language in novel.
2. Practically, findings will be expected to be useful for the researchers who are interested in analyzing the comparison of gender language in literary work, especially novel. In order to, other researchers are able to compare the gender language in other literary work, poetry, drama etc.