

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature as a media that can help inform people to understand feminist thinking and feminist politics that written in range of style and formats (Hooks, 2015). Literature has a function to designate fictional or imaginative writings (Abrams, 2012). As fictional writing, literature can be found in literary work, such as novel. Woman struggle has been widely discussed lately, based on data in scholar.google.com, there are about 44 research discussed about woman struggle in 2019-2020 which is wrapped in many interesting literary works in the world. As examples, in 2019 the research about woman struggle discussed with title *The Struggle of Woman Reflected in Cigarette Girl Novel by Ratih Kumala Mary* written by M Susilo, and then in 2020, there are *Woman Struggle Experienced by Patty Day In Gillian Flynn's "Dark Places" (2009): A Marxist Feminist Theory* written by AW Rustamaji and Y Prastiwi, also *Woman social struggle in Ella Wheeler Wilcox's 'Solitude'* written by MR Nata.

Wollstone (2004) in her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* believes that women should be given equal rights and status as they are not only a commodity that is to be traded in the marriage instead a very important part of the society. Women's struggle is carried out as a form of emancipation, where the emancipation as a process contains ongoing criticism of existing injustices because social claims develop in response to changes in social conditions. The idea of emancipation could also be modified during the process of its enforcement

under the influence of changing social contexts (Uhde, 2016). In this situation, women's emancipation is influenced by the conditions experienced by them, namely gender and social injustice, which are the history or background of economic and cultural inequality in a region.

Related to woman's struggle in patriarchal society where system of society or government controlled by men, Millet (2016) said that women have a situation where they shape their awareness as women both in the community and at home, to demand their equality with men. The resistance is the emancipation of women in voicing their rights and trying to get what they are aiming for. So, feminism is an awareness of women who are under man's domination in many aspects and a set of actions to resist it (Bhasin and Khan, 1995). In this case, feminism includes resistance, struggle, and emancipation. Woman's struggle leads to several theories of feminism that we can find the story through literary works in novels, prose, and drama. As a part of feminism, woman's struggle also is seen as the real action of woman who wants equality in their lives and to achieve their dreams as real woman.

Many stories of woman's struggles that we can read from different novel. The obstacles that woman go through to fight for their rights are often interesting things to discuss. Women in the world began to demand emancipation in the 18th century. *The Spy* is a novel written by Paulo Coelho in 2016. Paulo Coelho's novel is written with a background story in the First World War. Mata Hari as the main character in this novel gives its impression, where it is in the position of woman who asserts her rights in the era of the First World War. Desires of Mata Hari is an ambition related to the actions she takes next in the novel. The link between

ambition and the struggle undertaken by Mata Hari for her life will be explained below.

Quaglia & Cobb (1996) said that ambitions represent the perception that an activity is important as a means to future goals. It reflects that ambition illustrated as a desire that can make people do important think for a purpose. As the foregoing references suggest, ambition is often if not generally viewed negatively, though it remains unclear whether it is a virtue or a vice (Pettigrove, 2007). From the explanation above that someone's ambition affects her to take action in the future. This is what drives Mata Hari as an ambitious woman to realize her dreams. The struggle she did became one of the interests in this novel *The Spy*. In this case, Mata Hari is inseparable from some needs as a human being, which motivates her to achieve equality in her environment. The struggle can be used as a form of ambition itself. Human needs are constructed in a hierarchy known as theory of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow. It presents the stages of needs in a structured pyramid. The pyramid consists of five stages containing physiological, safety, love or belonging, esteem and self-actualization needs.

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested to analyze this topic. The first, in the previous study titled *Women's Oppression Reflected In Paulo Coelho's "The Spy" Novel (2016): A Feminist Perspective* by Dyan Nur Ayni in 2018, she suggested to reader in the future research to analyze Mata Hari's desire in her dreams. In her research, she only discussed oppression that reflected in the main character with theory feminist perspective. The second reason, this novel is told using the first-person perspective and also the novel tells about woman who is free, broad-minded and trying to fight for her dreams. The action

of Mata Hari in facing any pressure in her life inspired researchers as fellow woman to elevate the struggle of woman that should be valued. The rise of cases of oppression of woman lately brought me to inspire readers for the struggle and courage of Mata Hari in an era that is still difficult to speak out. While Mata Hari at that time was brave enough to fight for her role as a woman.

So, in this section researcher analyze the kinds of Mata Hari's struggles, discuss the way Mata Hari as the main character struggles to fulfilling her needs and the reason Mata Hari struggle for it using theory of Human Needs.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

1. What kinds of Mata Hari's struggles are found in Novel *The Spy*?
2. How does Mata Hari struggle to fulfilling her needs?
3. Why does Mata Hari struggle in the way she do?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the kinds of Mata Hari's struggle in Novel *The Spy*.
2. To elaborate on the ways Mata Hari struggle to fulfilling her needs.
3. To give the reason why Mata Hari struggle in the way she did.

### **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

This research is limited to only discussing the kinds of Mata Hari's struggle in terms of woman, how she struggle to fulfilling her needs, and the reason why she struggle in the way she did.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

In this study will give benefit two aspects, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research used to develop and enrich literature study, especially in feminism. This study can be used as a reference for readers who want to study literature. In practically, this research expected to help students and readers who want to comprehend feminism, women's struggles, and also the novel. So they can do some study in the future with other novels and explore more Novel *The Spy*.

