

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **A. The Background of the Study**

Literature portrays and displays different features of life. As stated by Wellek and Warren (1956) the literature manifests the society. It indicates that the literature occurs because of the circumstances or incidents in the human life. By way of literature, the author produces a work of literature to convey his/her ideas to reader. Then, literature can be said as a creative writing made by an author with aesthetic values and thoughts that makes literature as an art. Roberts and Jacobs (1989) classify literature into three classes which are prose, poetry, and drama. Prose is oral language that is professionally turned into paragraphs of text with proper arrangements and patterns. Prose cuts into two parts which are fiction part such as short story, historical fiction, and short story, and for the second part is nonfiction such as essay, article, journal, and speech.

Short story is one kind of literary work and the simplest work than the others. According to Kenny (1966) short story is a fiction work in prose that is brief enough for someone to understand the story within in single session owing to the range in length from 1,000 to 15,000 words. Since short story refers to a kind of a work of literature of literary work and the events in the short story is addressed in such a way that they reflect life's realities (Kennedy, 1983). Furthermore, we can find the issue of gender that have been attracted many authors to create literary works that contain the issue of gender.

Talking about gender, in today's world, gender significantly influences who one is and how one develops. This statement is in line with the explanation that stated by Shastri (2014) that gender is the characteristics of men and women which are constructed by society. The social construction of men and women creates differences in the characteristics, activities, and roles that are considered suitable for each gender. The social construction of men and women include: men are deemed being a strong, logical, masculine and dominant on the other hand women are considered as vulnerable, sentimental, nurturing, and caretaking. For that reason, gender can be referred as a society system that separates the duties that are assigned to men and women. The distinctions between men and women in duties have nothing to do with the two biological or natural differences, instead centered to their individual positions, duties, and responsibilities in several aspect of life (Handayani, 2006).

Gender as a social construction often causes gender inequality. As stated by Ponthieux & Meurs (2015) stated that gender inequality indicates the type of unequal actions between men and women such as namely the restriction on freedom and rights in several aspects. According to Fakhri (2013) gender inequality will not occur if there is equality in the relationship between men and women in social interaction spaces that respect each other and promote mutual understanding. However, in reality, the construction of gender types creates various inequalities, especially for women. Women have the lower position than men and have always been the secondary status in the society so that women are

treated differently compared to men, experiencing differential rights and liberties in public and private or domestic life.

As a result, the concept of understanding gender is heavily debated in society since many people believe that there is gender that is still treated unfairly, giving rise to the concept of gender inequality. An imbalance in the rights granted to one gender is referred to as gender inequality. As Fakhri (2008) gender inequality towards women can be seen from some types such as marginalization of women, subordination of women, stereotypes of women, violence of women, and workload of women.

Due to the existence of gender inequality against women, nowadays, everybody in the world discusses on how to take action against it. People have a courage to struggle for equality. The action to stop the gender inequality towards women called feminism movement. According to Pilcher and Whelehan (2004), feminism is a struggle who is done by women to seek the equalization between men and women in various aspect like economic, politic and social life. This movement emerged because women were always considered the second sex and faced inequality in social situations. One of the feminism movements that upholds the rights of women to equality is liberal feminism. Humm (2002) argued that liberal feminism is every women's effort to obtain the right to freedom in society. Liberal feminism highlights the value of individualism, freedom, especially freedom of choice. This movement promotes gender equality so that women have

equal opportunity in all areas of life, including the private and public sectors (Ritzer, 2004).

Creative writers are often using short story as a part of literary work to share their ideas on particular topic. An Indonesian writer, Tenni Purwanti, as one of them. She shares her ideas about gender inequality issues and the women's struggle to resist the inequality in her collection of short stories entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* which first published in 2020. The story in this book that collection of short stories highlights the issue of how women were treated in this era. Langermann and Brantley (as cited in Ritzer, 2004) stated that women are subjected to unequal treatment in society, the women also structural oppression and gender differences as well as gender inequality and oppression. Due to the issues of gender inequality, she is also introduced the feminist movement to her idea. Thus, this collection of short stories closely related to feminism, how women maintain their rights to be equal in society. Tenni's work of the forthright and raised the gender inequality issues can be considered as exclusive and unique literary work when talking about the relationship of women and men in the society.

The existence of gender inequality issues can be seen in the collection of short stories *Sambal dan Ranjang* by Tenni Purwanti. In one of the short stories in the novel entitled 'Surat untuk Anak Perempuan', Tenni tells about the struggle of woman who was born in a patriarchal family. In the short story, there is a 29-year-old woman that will soon give birth to her first daughter without her husband presence in California, United States. While waiting for her childbirth, she writes

a letter for her daughter. This letter that she writes would be a note to her daughter if later she will not get a chance to see her daughter after giving a birth. She will give the letter to her mother who alone accompanies her at the hospital. In her letter, this woman said that she was born and raised in a patriarchal family. Her father is a person who dominating everything that happened in the house. Because of the patriarchy that occurred in her family, she experienced subordination.

**‘Dalam hal pendidikan, mereka, anak-anak laki-laki didahulukan sebab mereka harus menjadi “orang” di masa depan dan akan menafkahi istri serta anak-anak, sementara aku harus fokus mengurus dapur dan sumur, sebelum nanti melayani suamiku di kasur.’** (Surat untuk Anak Perempuanku, hal.20).

**‘In education, they, the son comes first because they have to be “successful people” in the future and will provide for their wife and children, while me as a daughter on the other hand have to focus on taking care of the kitchen and well, before later serving my husband in bed.’**(Surat Untuk Anak Perempuanku, p.20)

The quotation above is a form of gender inequality, namely subordination. Only sons will get the chance to get higher education because the sons are preferred from daughter. Daughter is in an unimportant position and is seen as not needing a higher education because girls only work in the kitchen and wells and serve their husbands on the bed. This causes inequality for woman. Like the idea

of subordination that women do not need to access higher education because they will only work at home as housewives.

The existence of gender injustice experienced by women does not make her remain silent, she has the awareness that she suffers wrong and needs to fight the gender inequality. With the gender inequality experienced by this woman, she wants to fight for her right to get higher education. That is why she started a feminism movement.

**‘Aku kabur dari rumah setelah menamatkan SMA. Tepatnya mendapat beasiswa untuk kuliah di luar negeri. Aku katakan kabur karena ayahku tidak setuju aku keluar negeri untuk sekolah, padahal ia tak perlu repot-repot membiayaiku.’** (Surat untuk Anak Perempuanku, hal.20)

**‘I ran away from home after finishing my high school. Precisely got a scholarship to study abroad. I said running away because my father didn't agree with me going abroad to study, even though he didn't have to bother paying for me.’** (Surat Untuk Anak Perempuanku, p.20)

The quotation above is a form of women's struggle in facing gender inequality, namely by not giving up on the situation and struggling to pursue higher education even though it is not paid for by her father. She has a right and freedom to pursue the higher education. By taking a higher education, she will get a high job and not be looked down upon by men. She will not only work in the kitchen and well and serve her husband, but she will also get a position in society

as a working woman. This woman struggle against gender injustice in this short story can be categorized as liberal feminism. Where liberal feminism according to Langermann and Brantley as cited in Ritzer and Goodman (2004) is a response to gender inequality which creates gender equality. They said that men and women are supposed to be equal. Men and women are created to pursuit of life, liberty, and the happiness. The ideas of autonomy, choice, freedom, and equality of opportunity between men and women are what make liberal feminism appeal.

The existance of gender inequality and women's struggle to fight it as one of topic of feminism will be an interesting topic to study. This topic interested to be analyzed because the researcher wants to show the depiction of gender inequality especially towards women in each short story. There are many women in the world still trapped in the inequality and treated unfairly in many aspects of life. Nowadays, the issue of gender inequality become the worldwide issue and everybody in the world has a courage and commitment to against it. This study also expected to show the women's struggles and the reason why the author conveys the gender inequality and women's struggle through her collection of short stories. The existence of feminist movement in women's struggles needs to be analyzed so that women are aware the importance of feminist movement and believe in their ability to get their rights equal like men. To make this study more interesting, a book as collection of short stories entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* has been chosen as the data to investigate. The researcher chosen this collection of short stories because this novel contained the gender inequality issues and women's struggles to fight the inequality. The other reason is because this book as

a collection of short stories has never been studied before with the theory of gender inequality and feminism.

The collection of short stories by Tenni Purwanti entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* presents women's stories in a collection of short stories. The women in this collection of short stories suffer several of gender inequality issues and try to fight for the equality. Tenni's work of the forthright and raised the gender inequality issues can be considered as exclusive and unique literary work when talking about the relationship of women and men in the family and society.

From the explanation above, it is concluded that this current study is analyzed gender inequality and women's struggle from the feminist study that found in the collection of short stories entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* by Tenni Purwanti. The researcher found some gender inequality issues that appeared in the collection of short stories and also described how the women's struggle to fight and resist the gender inequality issues and the reason why the author of this collection of short stories conveyed the gender inequality and women's struggle through her collection of short stories. In analyzing data, researcher will use Mansour Fakhri (2008) theory that have classified the gender inequality issue into 5 types which are marginalized, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and workload (job burden). For the women's struggle the researcher used feminism theory by Rosemarie Tong (2013) to determine the type of feminism in the women's struggle to stop the inequality and for the reason why the author of this



collection of short stories conveys the gender inequality and women's struggle, the researcher used Wellek and Warren (1990).

### **B. The Problems of The Study**

Based on the background information of the study provided above, the problems of this research were addressed as follows:

1. What the types of gender inequality condition against women are found in selected short stories in the collection of short stories entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* by Tenni Purwanti?
2. How are the women's struggles realized to fight the gender inequality in the selected short stories seen from feminist study?
3. Why does the author convey the gender inequality and women's struggles through her collection of short stories?

### **C. The Objectives of The Study**

Based on the problem study above, here are the objectives of this study:

1. To analyze the types gender inequality condition against women in selected short stories entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* by Tenni Purwanti.
2. To elucidate the women's struggle to fight the gender inequality seen from feminist study in selected short entitled *Sambal dan Ranjang* by Tenni Purwanti.
3. To give reasons why the author conveys the gender inequality and women's struggle through her collection of short stories.

#### **D. The Scope of The Study**

This study is about analysis of gender inequality against women in the collection of short stories *Sambal dan Ranjang* and women's struggle against the gender inequality. This collection of short stories written by Tenni Purwanti and published in 2020. This study focuses on the types of gender inequality condition against women in the selected short stories which are Surat untuk Anak Perempuan, Sambal di Ranjang, Perempuan dalam Pelukan, Candid, Sally Sendiri, and Sepasang Kekasih yang Bercinta di Luar Angkasa, how the women's struggle to fight the gender inequality and the reason why the author of this collection of short stories convey the gender inequality and women's struggle. To identify the types of gender inequality in the selected short stories, the researcher used the theory of Mansour Fakhri (2008) and to identify the types of feminism in women's struggle and for the question why the author of this collection of short stories conveys the gender inequality and women's struggle, the researcher used Wellek and Warren (1990).

#### **E. The Significances of The Study**

It is expected that study findings will offer both theoretical and practical significances as follow:

1. Theoretical significance

This study's findings are expected to be one of the sources of information and alternative knowledge about the development of literary studies, particularly

in the feminist study approach and also give a good contribution to that relevant approach.

## 2. Practical significance

The findings of this study are expected to encourage the reader and provide resources for doing gender and feminist analysis in any form of literary work.

This research can also provide new information in feminist study for those who major in linguistics and literature, particularly in gender and feminist studies. Besides that, this study can make interested in reading and appreciating literature more.

