

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses subchapters, which consists of background of study, statements of problem, objective of study, significances of study, and scope and limitation of study.

1.1 Background of Study

Literary work is a creative and valuable language written as a with personal touch including idea, feeling, motivation and expression which captures the value of human experiences. This patriarchy is depicted in many forms of literary work, either in prose, drama, poetry or even in sacred text. Literature reflects the various experiences, ideas, passions, of human beings in their daily life that express on several forms and styles of literary works.

Since literature directly derives from human life, it can increase our knowledge and experiences about human problems including values, morals, cultures and human interest. Wellek and Warren (1956:15) say Literature is a creative activity and art without artistic values literature would be just another kind writing, along with scientific, works, reports, etc. Millar (1970:18) says it also increases human being's knowledge or insight, enrich their spirits and make them more civilized. It can help them comprehend other people's condition and qualities. Woman's life is an interesting to discuss about woman struggle.

Woman's life is an interesting topic to be discussed, because woman always struggles to get their right. In past time, woman just only stayed at home, protected their children and obeyed their husband's. Today, woman always try to defend themselves from justice. There is a chance to woman showing their existence and they are not always regarded inferior in their position. Woman can prove their ability to compete with men.

Plain Truth novel tells about a portrait of Amish life rarely witnessed by those outside the faith, dealing with a teenage pregnancy and the trial that follows the newborn's death. *Plain Truth* is a novel which gets some praises. This novel is written by Jodi Picoult, a novelist from America. *Plain Truth* is his first novel, which is published in 2000 by Jodi Picoult, an America publisher. This novel is chosen as source of data in this study and gives new information about some characters that are described by Jodi Picoult. I choose this novel because this novel is good from the story and I interested with the story, at first I read the synopsis, I was interested, finally I felt like knowing the story and finally I read fully from the novel *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. And then I choose this theory because this novel *Plain Truth* in the characters many character woman in the story, so that way I choose feminism theory.

Plain Truth has many chapters, which consist on main character that are Katie Fisher, and she is the daughter of Aaron Fisher and Sarah Fisher. He has a farm, found a dead baby on a farm that shook all Amish residents. Then the police investigate the death, they discover that the baby was not stillborn, but died after birth. Police find cloth fibers in the infant's mouth and throat, including bruises on

the mouth, which leads them to conclude that he was suffocated. An eighteen-year-old, unmarried Amish girl, Katie Fisher, is charged with murder of her newborn son, but denies ever being not pregnant.

From the previous explanation, Katie tries to be a strong woman to get social justice. She needs to create and explore what he wants, thinks and acts, for example he has to find some ideas that are equivalent to some male workers in his work and return his name that has been damaged or bad. Katie's struggle not only for himself but to the people beside her, he helps his parents so that his name is not contaminated or bad. Katie realized that she was only a woman, but she could prove with her struggle and she tried to struggle in difficult situations in her way. This study will analyze a woman's struggle for social justice, a baby and a justice for women in Jodi Picoult's *Plain Truth*.

Since this study focuses on Katie's struggle, this study used theory of feminism, by Mary Wollstonecraft, who is one of the feminist intellectuals and an author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. She is the first feminist when she publishes the book in which she advocated for the social and moral equality of sexes. In *Vindication* Mary Wollstonecraft says to let woman share the rights and she will emulate the virtues of man for she must grow more perfect when emancipated (2000:218).

The quotation means that Wollstonecraft gives large perception about woman. Woman must grow in her emancipated and must be given opportunity in her life to share about the woman right. This theory is chosen in this study, when some readers understand about feminism, it does not only tell about a week

woman who must change her life to be better, but she also explores some abilities and shows that a man and a woman support each other. Woman and man can make good relationship to increase their skills, there are no differences between them and they get same position in their activities.

1.2 Research Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, this study will analyze woman struggle for social justice in Jodi Picoult's *Plain Truth*. The statement of research problem can be formulated as follow:

1. What are the kinds of woman's struggle in the novel *Plain Truth*?
2. How does the main character struggle to get social justice in the novel *Plain Truth*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the Research Problems, the objectives of the study are:

1. To know the kinds of woman's struggle in the novel *Plain Truth*
2. To know the main character struggle to get social justice in the novel *Plain Truth*

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide some significance and contributions. Theoretically, this study is expected to give a significant contribution to the development of feminism theory by Mary Wollstonecraft. Practically this study

can support women's struggle activities to increase their skills and gives a better understanding of women's struggle to get their right.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this is using feminism theory which relates to women struggle for social justice. The limitations of this study are the words, the utterance of characters and the author narrations that relate to women struggle for social justice in Jodi Picoult's *Plain Truth*.