

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes five prominent subchapters such as background of the study, research problem, objective of the research, significant, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Human life is always connected with literary work. Both of them cannot be separated because the issue of literary work is depicted from human's life. The issues of human's life can be reflected or documented through any kind of literary works, there are a poem, short story, drama, and novel. As Wellek & Warren (1956) states novel is a picture of real life manner (p.216). By seeing that statement, it is known that literary work is truly a representation of real life. One of the issue of a real life that often happen from the past until today is the gender and sex issues. In the television, there are a lot of issues that refers to women oppression. Gender and sex are set of the patriarchal system. Patriarchal itself is ideology work to keep women and men in traditional gender roles and thereby maintain male domination (Tyson, 2006:91). It means that the patriarchal system cannot be separated from "gender and sex". Through "gender and sex", patriarchy takes women as inferior and men as dominance.

In the 1960s and 1970s feminists who belonged to women's rights groups such as the National Organization for women believed they could achieve gender equality by reforming the system- by working to eliminate discriminatory educational, legal, and economic policies (Tong, 2009: 48). At that time, women struggle to make movement in order to get their equality toward men in some field

such as education and economics. But the discrimination of women does not stop there, women still get discrimination through their sexism. Sexism itself is discrimination based on sex or gender which is gotten by women. It makes women do not get the freedom to choose what they want. After that, there are groups from New York called The Redstoking groups who emerge them self as revolutionaries rather than reformers. They are unlike reformist feminist that wants in the ground of women's issue as a result of working for government agencies, being appointed to commissions on the status of women, or joining women's educational or professional groups (Tong, 2009: 48). Further, she argues that the revolutionaries want to improve women's condition emerged in the context of their participation in radical movement (p.48).

Radical feminism concerns to rebel the oppression of sexism toward the women that is usually done by men to limit the women in their social development as human beings. Dealing with sexism, radical feminism itself is divided into two categories, radical libertarian feminism, and radical cultural feminism. Both of them have a different view to fight the sexism. Radical libertarian feminists claim that an exclusively feminine gender identity is likely to limit women's development as full human person (p. 50). Libertarian feminists think that become feminine is not the best way to get their equality as human beings. Become androgynous person, means both masculine and feminine characteristic is the best way to get their equality. On the other hand, radical cultural feminist does not agree that women should be androgynous. As Encol in Tong's book states that:

“Radical cultural feminists expressed the view that it is better for women to be strictly female/feminine. Women, they said, should not try to be like men. On the contrary, they should try to be more like women, emphasizing the values and virtues culturally associated with women...”(Tong, 2009: 50)

Regarding the statement above, it can be said that the feminist, the person who supports equal rights for women especially radical cultural feminists have a different point of view to raise their equality. Femininity of the quality of being feminine is a better way than become the androgynous person to achieve their equality. Radical cultural feminists believe that they can achieve their equality without leaving the value and virtue as women.

Bella Forrest's novel entitled *The Gender Game* is seen to be interesting to be a part of this analysis. Due to some considerations which the writer intends to conduct this analysis is that the novel is published in 2016 and it suits perfectly to the theory of Tong's radical feminism. “*The Gender Game* novel has 7 series, such as *The gender Game*, *The Gender Secret*, *The Gender Lie*, *The Gender War*, *The Gender Fall*, *The Gender Plan*, the last is *The Gender End*”. Bella Forrest is the author who is from America, her novel gets a nomination in Amazon as top 10 bestsellers. Moreover, she is known as an elusive author, who has kept her private life utterly invisible (Webbiography, 2015).

The Gender Game novel tells about Violet, a young girl who has a power. Violet live in a city which is divided by gender and a toxic river. The city is divided into two lands, Patrus where the rules are led by Men, with females having about as many rights as a dog and Matrux where the women are responsible and weed out any males who show undesirable traits and then women

send them to work in the mines. Since the disappearance of her beloved younger brother, Tim, Violet's life is consumed by an anger that makes her mixed up with slaying. Now, she is sentenced to death for her crimes, but there is one decision that can save her life, enters the kingdom of Patrus, where the men rule and women rule are submitted. All about Patriarchy is dangerous for a rebellious girl like Violet. To enter the kingdom of Patrus she has to marry patrian men who are from Patrus. On the other hand, Violet as a matrian girl wants her life gets freedom, not under control by men's rule. That reason causes her does not want to marry. Someday, if she wants to have a child she does not need a partner because she can do it easily through an insemination center like her mother has done.

Regarding the explanation above, radical libertarian feminism is the most appropriate theory to be applied in this study to analyze *The Gender Game* novel through the main character, Violet Bates. This study will analyze the power of Violet to break the patriarchal system and the radical libertarian feminism which is carried out in *The Gender Game* through the main character.

1.2 Research Problems

Referring to the background of the study, the writer seeks to shed light on the following questions:

1. How does Violet Bates' power break the patriarchal system in Bella Forrest *The Gender Game*?

2. How is the characteristic of radical libertarian feminism carried out through Violet as the main character in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*?

1.3 Objective of The Research

Concerning with the preceding research problems, this study is attempt to:

1. Elaborate Violet Bates' power which breaks the patriarchal system in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*.
2. Describe the characteristic of radical libertarian feminism which is portrayed by Violet as the main character in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*.

1.4 Significance of The Research

These studies focus on two conspicuous objectives. The first objective is the theoretical objective and the second is a practical objective.

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to give significant distribution to the development of science especially in the literary research field. Through the analysis of radical libertarian feminism under the umbrella of radical feminism theory which is proposed by Rosemarie Tong, hopefully, this studies will give a valuable knowledge toward the development of feminism study in the future.
2. Practically, this study can extend and develop to the previous research and become the groundwork to the following researcher about libertarian radical feminism. Further, this study can give a better understanding to the readers and the other researchers especially, the students of English Study Program of Trunojoyo Madura who takes literature as their concentration.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is radical libertarian feminism which is portrayed by the main character, Violet Bates, in *The Gender Game* novel. In order to get a better focus, this study limits on the character's utterances and the narrator's narration which relates to the radical libertarian feminism which is elaborated and carried out in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*.