

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters that are background of the study, statements of the research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In the past, the problem of gender seized people mind. People believe in patriarchy system. They believe that men are superior and women are inferior. The phenomenon can be seen in unbalanced condition that happened in household where a wife as a means only to serve and take care of family. The condition sets women only as the caregiver while men as the breadwinner. In other hand culture also gives influence to women roles in society, it causes of basically the task of women is to serve and nurture their family. Therefore women usually can not have other jobs after married because of the main tasks as wife will obstruction. Then, that is the reason of women roles are not quite enough to be admitted in the past such as in the world of politics, economy and so on.

By the time the roles of women increase and have an impact to the world. Their position arise and to be equal with men. The situation is supported by women movement called feminist. They struggle to make women position to be equal and admitted in the world. Men were dominant in the past and they have a big chance to do anything outside while women stay inside. At this time women position are developed and they have available space to compete each other. For the example, the increasing of women roles also happens in literature world where male writer dominate female writer in the past.

Most of the authors who wrote and produce a literary work were male writers. Meanwhile the roles of female writers decrease and have limit space to have a good career in

literature. The event of feminist movement increases female writer to be equal at this time. They do not need to hide their identity as female writer to get their works published (Rosalind Miles, 1990:xi). It means that feminist movement successfully reconstructs the paradigm of gender roles. Both of gender are the same and have a chance to compete in many sectors in the world, especially in literature. Therefore female writer is not underestimated by people in expressing their skill in writing and produce a literary work.

One of female writers who get a success of her career as the author is Margaret Dilloway. She is a novelist who creates her first own literary work entitled *How to Be an American Housewife* (2010). She was born in San Diego California and she is well known as a female novelist comes from California who wrote middle-grade and woman's fiction. In her first novel she writes a story based on her life story that inspired by her mother's life story. The whole story of the novel tells about the relationship of mother (Shoko) and daughter (Suiko). The novel that consists of 343 pages also tells about a pull of tradition in Japan.

Related to the explanation above this study is intended to analyze Margaret Dilloway's work as female writer. The analysis used the theory from feminist criticism in term of Gynocriticism to identify the specialty of women writing by Margaret Dilloway. The analysis based on three currents model in gynocriticism which are linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural. Then it also analyses how does Margaret Dilloway portrays women characters in the novel. The purpose of this study is to elaborate the specialty of women writing done by Margaret Dilloway as female writer and the women portrayal which created in the novel *How to Be an American Housewife* (2010).

The reason why is choosing the novel as the source of data is because of the novel has been as the finalist of John Gardner Fiction Awards in 2011. By the competition Margaret Dilloway as the writer got a chance to seize award in 2012 as the top of women's fiction. The

other reason is because of the way of the author and the process which influence her writing is available to be the object of the analysis in this study.

Feminist criticism is the outstanding theory in literature which discusses and focused on the problem that related to the class sex system, gender inequality and women oppression in reach a justice. The point of feminist criticism is also declared by Judith Lorber in his written that says:

“The main point feminists have stressed about gender inequality is that is not an individual matter, but is deeply ingrained in the structure of societies.” (Lorber, 1995:8)

Besides there are some branches in feminist criticism and one of them is gynocriticism which declared by Elaine Showalter. The theory is available to identify the specialty and to seek the differences that happened toward female and male writer’s work.

Gynocriticism or La gynocritique is declared by Elaine Showalter in 1969 – 1977. The theory is concerned to analyze woman writing or women’s work in literature. It is also an attention of feminist critic focused on female writer and the precise nature of woman history. Gynocritics is more self-contained and experimental for the feminist critic. There is a statement from Elaine Showalter about gynocriticism in her book entitled *Toward a Feminist Poetics* that says:

“The term ‘gynocriticism’ for scholarship concerned with woman as the producer of textual meaning; with the history, themes, genres, and structure of literature by women”. (Showalter, 1986:29)

It means that women or female writer as the expert who supports their own writing based on their style and also their life experiences.

In gynocriticism there are four currents model that existed and only three that used in this study to identify the specialty of women writing. The first is women’s writing and women’s language which discusses about the usage of language by female writer. The second

is women's writing and women's psyche which analyses the author's psyche toward their work and the last is women's writing and women's culture which is focused in the cultural existed toward women.

1.2 Statements of The Research Problem

Based on the background of the study related to the novel of *How to Be an American Housewife* by Margaret Dilloway, there are two questions that offered as the statements of the research problem:

1. How are three currents model in gynocriticism presented by Margaret Dilloway in the novel *How to Be an American Housewife*?
2. How does Margaret Dilloway portray the women characters of Shoko and Suiko?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

Based on the statements of the question above, this study is intended:

1. To elaborate three currents model which are presented by Margaret Dilloway through her novel entitled *How to Be an American Housewife*.
2. To elaborate women portrayal of Shoko and Suiko which are created by Margaret Dilloway in *How to Be an American Housewife*.

1.4 The Significances of the Study

This study expected to provides the theoretical and practical benefits. The theoretical is result of the study which contains of three currents model of gynocriticism presented by Margaret Dilloway through her novel entitled *How to Be an American Housewife* (2010). Moreover, this study provides the understanding of gynocriticism theory. The model which consists in this study are women's writing and

women's language, women's writing and women's psyche and the last is women's writing and women's culture.

For the practical benefit this study is intended to give an overview about women creativity, therefore it can be appreciated by others. Moreover, this study is expected to support and open women mind. Therefore they can increase their roles and to be brave in competing with men and others in many sector. This study shows the roles of women which can be imply and inspire women in the daily life.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is gynocriticism which is one of the terms in feminist criticism to analyze women's work in literature. The term is focused on the story of the novel entitled *How to Be an American Housewife* (2010) by Margaret Dilloway.

Meanwhile this study is limited to the specialty of the author's way in expressing her thought toward her own literary work through the three currents model in gynocriticism which are linguistic, psychoanalytic and cultural. The target of the analysis is the part of story written by Margaret Diolloway through her novel entitled *How to Be an American Housewife* (2010) as female writer. The data of this study is taken from the utterances, narration and the dialogues which are presented in the novel.