

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters which are important to be informed in this research. It covers background of the study, statements of research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, the last is scope and limitation of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

Literary works are the product of art in the form of text. There are so many kinds of literary works, such as prose, novel and short story. All of them are reflection of life. It cannot be denied that the devotee of literature is developed well, which is proven by the increasing of the number of youth writer in some writing competitions. However, people interpret the meaning of literature differently, it will depend on their background and also how do they apply the literary theory. Literary theory is terms of principles and concepts, strategies and tactics needed to guide critical practices (Castle, 2007:02).

Gregory Castle states in *Literary Theory* (2007:05) that Literary interpretation, like any other mode of intellectual inquiry, is subject to the more or less intangible influences of political outlook, gender, social class, race and ethnicity, religious belief, and a host of other social and cultural determinants.

In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing short story. The theme of short story that is used by several writers are different each other. Every writer must have their own theme in writing literary work.

The amazing and famous author in the world who only writes short story is Alice Munro. She is an American author and the receiver of nobel prize in 2013. She is mentioned as the writer who never finished her novel (Thacker, n.d). Briefly, she only writes short stories even her short stories which mostly are about social life categorized as novella.

Alice Munro was born in Wingham, Ontario, Canada. She got many awards such as the Nobel Prize in 2013, Man Booker International Prize; Rea Award for short for Short Story; Lannan Literary Award for Fiction; Governor General's Award for English Language Fiction and National Book Critics Circle Award from America. This American author has published about several books which consists the anthology of her short stories such as *Dance of a Happy Shades (1968)*, *Lives of Girls and Women (1971)*, *Something I've been Meaning to tell you (1974)*, *The Beggar Maid (1978)*, *The Moon of Jupiter (1982)*, *The Progress of Love (1986)*, *Friend of My Youth (1990)*, *Open Secrets (1994)*, *Runaway (2004)*, *The Love of a Good Women (1998)*, and also *Dear Life (2012)*.

Alice Munro's *Family Furnishing* is one of her famous short story which tells about women in the family. This story happened after World War I. The story is began by the flashback memory of "I" character who talks about Alfrida and her father. The characters that is very interesting to be discussed are Alfrida and

the Narrator. Alfrida is described as the charismatic woman who can bring a good atmosphere to all of people around her. She is intelligent as well as the father of the main character. Alfrida and the father of the Narrator are first cousins. In the end of the story, Alfrida is told as woman who must be suffering because of her sickness.

In this study, the writer is interested in using Feminism theory, especially liberal feminism and traditional gender role, because the characters in this story are feminist, and they break traditional gender role. This story tells about women specifically Alfrida and the Narrator as women at that time who have different characterization with other women. It means the way of thinking of Alfrida and the Narrator are not conservative. Even this story is not talking about the struggle of women who want to have the equal right to men, but it can be concluded that this story talks about the gender equality.

In addition, this analysis focuses on the two characters, Alfrida and the Narrator. It will be analyzed from the lens of feminism about women who break traditional gender role. Munro's *Family Furnishings* has been analyzed in 2001 by other writers, she is Natalia Rodríguez Nieto for her article entitled "*Bring What you Know of Life to Life*": *Alice Munro's Storytelling*" from Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia.

1.2. Research Questions

1. How are women portrayed as women who break traditional gender role?

1.3.Objectives of Study

1.To described the women who break traditional gender role.

1.4. Significances of Study

Theoretically, this study will give a better understanding about the analysis of feminist in Munro's *Family Furnishings*. This study also will give knowledge and more information to the readers about feminism particularly traditional gender role. Meanwhile practically, it is expected to inspire the other writers to write about liberal feminism and traditional gender role by using other forms of source of data and add the knowledge of the reader especially to the students of English Study Program of Trunojoyo University. To the society, it is expected that after read this study, hopefully they would learn to respect to human rights especially in women right.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This study uses feminism theory especially traditional gender role. The writing limits the analysis on women character utterances in the story. It aims to find out the representation of women who breaks traditional gender role. The story is taken from a short story by Alice Munro entitled *Family Furnishing*. The limitation of this study is to analyze the women characters of the story through the Narrator's explanation and characters' utterances which answer the research questions.