

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five subchapters. Those are background of the study, statements of the research question, objective of the study, significances of the study, and the last one is scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Woman is a special creature who is created by God. Woman is a creature who deserves to be loved and in honor. However, until now there are still many women who get discrimination by men. It is assumed that woman is under men's domination. Men underrate women's role in daily life. Some men begin to have an open minded way of thinking. It makes them no longer think that women are under men's domination. Actually, women and men, girls and boys have the same rights, they also have the same opportunities and protections in law and they will have treated exactly alike. Rosemarie Tong argues that:

“Thus, in the United states, for example, women are pushed into jobs like nursing, teaching, and childcare, while they are steered away from jobs in business, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition, legislation specifically barring women from such “masculine” jobs as mining and fire fighting or preventing women from making the night shift or overtime is not exactly a distant memory” (Tong, 2009:34)

The explanation above shows that the discriminations that occur in the United States over women in daily life. Rosemarie Tong argues that In the United states, American people limit women's freedom to choose any job and they are allowed to get a job only in several jobs.

Women struggle againsts the discrimination, their aims to fight for their rights to live free. Discrimination over women not only happens in a job but also in education. There are a lot of girls in school or in her environment get restrictions on freedom, a lack of opportunities in education, the teachers also tend to pay more attention to boys than girls by having more interactions and sometimes the girls compared to boys. It makes them feel that they get unequal treatment in school. Sometimes they also get bullied because they do not know how to write and read correctly.

One of the movements that refuse differences to the way people act and think that women and men are equal is the feminist movement. Feminism as a literary movement that advocates equal rights for all women regardless of their religion and races. The inequality treatment occur to woman has been happening for a very long time. Women get injustice, discrimination, they do not get freedom, cannot do what they want to do.

In this study, the writer analyzes a novel with the title *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. This novel describes about the struggle of woman in Nazi regime to gain justice, not to be despised and not to be discriminated against by society. The writer chose this novel because it got a lot of appreciation, awards and also this novel has many lessons that we can learn from the issues. The lesson that we can get from the novel such as how to survive in the environment that always

underestimates us, how to uphold justice. In this novel we can find out more about woman struggle include the discrimination using feminism study.

The situation also happens in Nazi regime and it describes by Markuz Zusak's novel, *The Book Thief*. The author describes this novel that set on 1934-1942 under Nazi rule the fictional town of Molching, Germany. This town is said to exist close to the real Munich, Germany. Most of the story takes place during the World War II. A nine-year-old girl named Liesel Meminger is the main character in this novel. Liesel used to have a family. She has father, mother and brother. She was very happy. Liesel's father, who was suspected of being a communist and her mother taken by Hitler. It makes Liesel and his brother had to be adopted by her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann. In the middle of the trip his brother was sick and died. Then, people buried him while in the cemetery, she steals a book belonging to *The Grave Digger's Handbook*. It is the beginning she started to be a book thief. Liesel goes on to steal more books, her second being from bonfire set in the honor of the Nazi regime. However, she becomes a book thief because she want to against the injustice spread around by Nazi regime.

This issue shows about the representation of woman's struggle of the main character named Liesel Meminger related with one the Theory of Literature and its called Feminism Theory. Feminism as we know that it is divided into three

waves. The writer use the second wave, because it aims for legal and professional equality.

In addition, the same source data of *The Book Thief* novel is used by some researchers who analyze with the different theory. The first undergraduate thesis is entitled “*The Main Character’s Loss Emptiness And Object of Desire in Markus Zusak’s The Book Thief*” using Psychoanalysis Theory by Jacques Lacan by Merdifa Rizka, Andalas University (2018). The Second is “*An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Markus Zusak’s novel The Book Thief*” using Figurative Language Theory by Ilma Wahyuni, University of North Sumatra (2017). The third is “*The Representations of Literacy As Power Markus Zusak’s The Book Thief*” using New Literacy Study by Nur Adyanti J, State University of Surabaya (2016). The last is “*Facing Death in The Book Thief: Confronting The Realife of The Holocaust and Mortality*” by Abigail Christine Finkel, North Dakota State University of Agriculture and applied Science (2018).

The differences between this study with the previous studies are in the theory. In the previous study is using theory such as New Literacy Study, Figurative Language, Psychological approach but this study discussed about woman struggle that occurred in novel *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak using feminism study by Bell Hooks.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, this study will analyze the woman struggle in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, the statements of research question can be formulated as below:

1. How is Liesel Meminger discriminated in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*?
2. How does Liesel Meminger struggle for her life in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the study are to elaborate how Liesel Meminger is discriminated and how Liesel Meminger's struggle for her rights in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.

1.4 Significances of The Study

This study is expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the results of the study are expected to give some information and understanding about Feminism especially about woman struggle in literary works. This study is also useful to be a reference on understanding and analyzing literary works using feminist theory, especially women's problem. Hopefully, after reading this study is expected to give more understanding about literature and

feminsm, particularly about women struggle in Nazi regime. In relation to the statements above, practically it can give more understanding how to analyze novel reffering to feminism approach and increase the knowledge of the readers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discussed women struggle by using feminsm approach which is experienced by the main character, Liesel Meminger in *The Book Thief Novel* by Markus Zusak. In addition, the data of this study is the author's narration and the character utterences in this novel which are related to the statement of reasearch problem. The writer discussed about Liesel Meminger's struggle against Nazi regime and discrimination that happens to her.