

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents several sub chapters, they are: (1) background of the study; (2) statements of the research problem; (3) objectives of the study; (4) significances of the study, and (5) scope and limitation of the study. These sub chapters are required to inform this scientific study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a creative result of human imaginations. Literature is the imaginations that image the social life that enjoyable, understandable, and usable by the society. Through their imaginations, they create different kind of literary works. The social background of the writer extremely influences the literary works they made. Literary works are used to deliver the writers' opinion to the readers through the reality around the writer.

Mayhead (1965: 9) in *Understanding Literature* stated that "Literature can take us out of the track of weary routine, by leading us to understand something of that whole vast body of human living in which our day-to-day concern have their place". The quotation implies that literature is the reflection or portrait of human life in real world. They create literary works based on what the situations around them. Literature and life are connected and impossible to be separated.

In this study, the writer takes Kristin Hannah as the author. She is famous with a lot of works such as novels entitled *Firefly lane* which makes her as *New*

York Times bestselling author. The writer wants to analyze on of her work entitled *Between Sisters* which had published on 2009. This novel was chosen due to this novel gets many positives critics such as stated by *People*, “Bestselling author Kristin Hannah writes witty dialogue: bringing snap and a lot of warmth to a familiar lesson: that contentment comes from accepting each other’s flaws.” (People, 2017)

The writer finds interesting thing about this novel which tells about an unusual family conditions. This novel expose about the life of two sisters who have to be separated because their mother left them for her own reason as an actress in Hollywood. Further, Claire leaved Meghan to live with her biological father, Sam Cavanaugh. Meghan found herself motherless and sisterless at the same time. Then, Meghan decides to declare her time to focus on her study and career. While, her sister, Claire live together with her father and her five years old daughter happily.

The writer finds that there are some feminist elements in the novel, such as liberal feminism and the struggle of women characters that against traditional gender role. Feminism appears on the novel *Between Sisters* by the characteristics of feminist of the main characters. Hirschberg (2003:1038) stated that, “Feminist critics examines the representations of women in literature by both sexes, in order to understand the underlying power relationship, and to critique the way women are depicted as inferior, as the “other” and as part of nature.” This statement implies that, women has been portrayed by something else in the society. Something else means that woman have seen as the object rather than a person in the society.

Further, some authors created literary works in order to appoint the issues and to critique how the way women are revealed in society.

Therefore, this study uses feminist criticism especially liberal feminism and the characters' struggle to against the traditional gender role. The liberal feminism observes on how Meghan and Claire mainly achieving personal authority as women to be equal in the eyes of laws, society and work place. Further, the way Meghan stands on decisive woman to decide things that she wants to do. She has a voice and right to choose her subsequent life personally.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

In line with the background of the study, this study focuses on two questions related with the theme of feminist criticism. Those are states as follows:

- 1) What are the feminist characteristics portrayed by Meghan Dontess and Claire Cavanaugh in the novel?
- 2) How are the liberal feminist values depicted in the novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study are formulated as below:

- 1) To elaborate the feminist characteristics portrayed by Meghan Dontess and Claire Cavanaugh in the novel.
- 2) To explore the liberal feminist values depicted in the novel.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study gives further understanding about literary theories, especially feminist criticism. Besides, this study hopefully gives the contribution for upcoming study. Furthermore, the writer hopes that this thesis can be consideration for the lectures, especially in literature in teaching their lesson for English Department students of Trunojoyo University who takes literature as their concentration. Meanwhile, practically, this study hopes to give additional information about feminist for the readers especially students of English Study Program of University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is feminist criticism. This study discusses the feminist characters and liberal feminism which shown in Kristin Hannah's *Between Sisters* that published in New York, 2009. The limitations of this study are the author's narrations and the characters' utterances in *Between Sisters* by Kristin Hannah which are related to the research questions.