

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of several subchapters, those are background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

I. Background of the study

Some families have family tradition which is an obligation for the rest of the family member to follow it, even though there is no reason why the tradition exist and they should follow it. One of that tradition is related to a woman, and actually it should be faced by a woman. It also occurs in this *novel Like water for chocolate*, the novel which presents the Mexican belief about the last daughter who should take care her mother and can't be married until her mother die.

Therefore, the novel provides the magical realism characteristic and feminine element which portray the last daughter's fate. The researcher chooses the topic that focus on the last daughter's fate which is portrayed in *Like Water for Chocolate* novel as the main point which supports the whole story of the novel. The source of data is interesting to be analysed, because of the magical realism element and characteristic. Both of the term portrays the last daughter's fate. On the other hand, *Like water for chocolate* is the bestseller novel around the world which is published in 1989 by Mexican novelist and screenwriter Laura Esquivel.

Magical Realism is related to Postmodernism and Postcolonialism. However the researcher focus on magical realism as postmodernism. According to Faris

(2004) In addition, because of its discursive heterogeneity, magical realism has also contributed to the growth of a postmodern literary sensibility. Thus, it can be seen clearly the relation between postmodernism and magical realism. "The term "post-modern" situates the movement historically and philosophically against modernism. Thus understanding what the movement sees itself as rejecting and moving beyond will be helpful in formulating a definition of postmodernism. The modern world has existed for several centuries, and after several centuries we have good sense of what modernism is." (Hicks, 2011: 6-7). However the researcher use magical realism theory which is linked to postmodernism to analyze the source of data. That is feminism in post-modernism era. Why it should be feminism, because feminism is one of magical realism elements in Wendy B. Faris concept, especially feminism in post-modernism era because it describes all about a woman, her hobby, relationship with a man, feeling, thought, etc which shows a woman as new otherness that differs to a man because of her specialty. According to Luce Irigaray as feminist in postmodernism, "these empirical differences had to be respected, not everyone was the same, and it was important to pay a bit more attention to others and to their diversity". That theory support Wendy B. Faris theory of feminine in magical realism, "it does this by designating a new heterogeneity, a new otherness".

Furthermore, the researcher determines that feminism in post-modernism era is included in the source of data because of some facts of the novel. First, The author of the source of data is a woman, automatically it influences her writing style. "The answer to whether we can discern a feminine thread in magical realism as a whole, whether or not the author is a woman, is a qualified yes." (Faris, 2004: 170). How

her point of view as a woman decorate the whole story of her novel. Second, there are a lot of stories in the source of data which portray a feminine characteristic of feminist in post-modernism era, one of example is women in post-modernism era have a freedom to express herself as a woman. It means that she feels free to determine herself as a woman according to what she wants without forgetting her natural law as a woman.

The theory which will be used to analyze the novel *Like Water for Chocolate* is the five elements of magical realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept. The term "magical realism" was coined by art critic Franz Roh in 1925 to describe German post-expressionist painting. Magical Realism is a term introduced in the 1940s referring to narrative art that presents extraordinary occurrences as an ordinary part of everyday reality (Maggie Ann Bowers, 2004: 127). Narrative art itself is the the story that narrate visually, in order to make the power of the story can be deeply felt. Magical Realism is a combination between magical elements and reality.

The previous studies which use the same theory and source of data are *The Concept of Magical Realism in Laura Esquivel's Like Water for Chocolate* By Ms. K. Sindhu (2015). *The Concept of Magical Realism in Laura Esquivel's Like Water for Chocolate* By Ms. K. Sindhu (2015) as source of data. The used of magical in *Like Water for Chocolate* generally, and also used the general theory of magical realism without focus to one object just analysing the magical realism that exist in the novel. This source of data used Stephen Slemon theory which concern to the magical realism as postcolonialism. The used of the similar novel and theory can guide the author to develop this study. However, this study used *Like Water for*

Chocolate by Laura Esquivel as source of data which focuses on the last daughter's fate that occur in the source of data uses the feminine element of magical realism which refers to postmodernism and the five characteristics magical realism characteristic which refers to postmodernism by Wendy B. Faris.

1.1 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, this study will discuss according to the following research question:

1. How feminine element in magical realism is revealed the last daughter's fate in Laura Esquivel's *Like water for chocolate*?
2. What magical realism characteristics are applied in every fate of the last daughter in Laura Esquivel's *Like water for chocolate*?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the problems above, the objective of the study will to reveal:

1. How feminine element in magical realism is revealed the last daughter's fate as postmodernism characteristic in Laura Esquivel's *Like water for chocolate*.
2. What magical realism characteristics are applied in every fate of the last daughter in Laura Esquivel's *Like water for chocolate*.

1.3 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give the benefits in two aspects, theoretical and practical:

Theoretically, This study will enlarge our knowledge about the magical realism approach, especially about feminine element in magical realism in the society which create the new understanding of the woman around the society. This study also can help the next researcher who want to analyze another literary work uses magical realism approach.

Practically, This study makes the consciousness of the society, sometimes which is ignored and does not give an attention of the magical realism that is important for us to realize and understand that matter, to solve any problems which relate to magical realism.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is Magical realism study. To concentrate on the main point which is analysed, this study is limited on the author's narrations and character's utterances which are taken from *Like water for chocolate* novel which depict feminine element and characteristics of magical realism of the last daughter's fate in the novel.