

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents several sub chapters, background of the study, statements of the research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1Background of the Study

Manifestation of the spirit of feminism means the manifestation of feminism by the actions taken, where the manifestation itself is an action that clearly shows or manifests something. As stated by Davis that the word ‘manifestation’ means to create something or turn something from an idea into a reality. Manifestation generally means using our feelings, thoughts, and beliefs to bring something to our physical reality (Davis, 2021). One of the spirit of feminism is the spirit to gain equality with men. In addition, with the spirit of feminism, women want to gain freedom from the oppressions that men do against women. So, the manifestation of the spirit of feminism shows the manifestation of the spirit to obtain women’s rights, freedoms, and to obtain equality between men and women. The manifestation of the spirit of feminism is not only found in real life, but also can be found in literature.

The purpose of literature is not only providing entertainment for the reader but also giving lesson for the reader. As stated by Jonathan Culler (1997: 35) that in nineteenth-century England, literature emerged as an extremely important idea, a special kind of writing charged with several function. The quotation implies that

literature contains important ideas that are used for a variety of purpose. Literature can provide knowledge or educate readers through the values contained in literary work. Literature also can be used to respond social conditions in society. An example of social issues or ideas which are found in a literary work is feminist movement.

The feminist movement is a movement to reform issues such as violence against women, women suffrage, reproductive rights, and others. According to Ferree and Hess (2000: 56) women's movement is a collection of formal organizations, occupational caucuses, friendship circles collective, and interest groups. It is possible to identify historical moments when important elements in this mix emerged as self-con-scious units, committed to social change on behalf of women. So, the feminism movement can bring about social change if these important elements can unite on behalf of women. The quote shows that in order to obtain women's rights, it is necessary to have a formal organization to obtain equality in the political sphere. In addition, a circle of friendship or sisterhood is needed to fight for feminist goals outside of politics.

The source of data that is used in this study is literary work in the form of a novel entitled *The Girl with the Louding Voice*. This novel was chosen as a source of data because there are feminism values in the novel. The women in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* manifest the spirit of feminism. The novel shows the struggle of women to gain equality with men.

The author of *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is Abi Dare. Abi Dare is a female author. Many women produce beautiful literary works, whether in the form of poetry, novels, or other literary works. Abi Dare draws her ideas into critical and beautiful literary work. Her novel, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* became a New York Times Bestseller. She was also ever included in list of 10 best debut novelists of 2020 in the Guardian.

The Girl with the Louding Voice novel tells that Adunni, a fourteen years old Nigerian girl who wants to be heard. Adunni realized that she could achieve her dreams with good education. Unfortunately, early marriage prevents her to reach her dreams. She forced to marry by her father to an old man who already has two wives. She forced to marry and her bride price will be used to pay the community rent by her father. Adunni found a lot of oppression and gender inequality in her life. Even after she left the village where she lived, she still experienced many difficulties. However, Adunni is still passionate about pursuing her dream even though she experiences many difficulties in her life. Besides showing Adunni's enthusiasm in reaching her dreams, this novel also shows several characters who have the spirit to become great women.

From the explanation above, the author of the novel appoints the issues how the way women revealed in society. Women are often perceived as weaker than men. Based on [m.guardian.ng](https://www.theguardian.com), the protocol of The Guardian's International Women's Day Summit said in her speech that in Nigeria there is a family would make the choice to marry off a fifteen-year-old daughter so that she could afford to pay for her brother's educations. This situation is similar to that experienced by

Adunni, one of the women in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* novel. She was forced to marry by her father in order to pay the community rent. Adunni was forced to not continue her study. This is also related to the report by m.guardian.ng, there are 10.5 million children out of school in Nigeria and 60 percent of them are girls. Women in Nigeria suffer from various forms of discrimination. They are also excluded from key decision-making positions. To respond this situation, women strive for equality with men, equal in every sector. Women can do anything they want.

It was known that there are some interesting and critical things. The novel also tells about women oppression that interesting and important to study. Oppression is the case that can happen everywhere. Oppression can even occur around us and can be done by those closest to us, including family, friend, or neighbors. There are several kinds of oppression, for example in the form violence. York (2011: 2) said that violence against women can become manifest in a variety of ways including physical, emotional and psychological assault, homicide, and sexual assault.

Although we have often encountered the emancipation of women, there are still many women who face cases of oppression and gender stereotypes. There are many women around us who only stay at home and become housewives. Many women that still having less power. They also having less voice in society, such as in economic activities, political activities or participation, education, etc.

There are some studies that used feminist theory to analyze the different novel. First, a study was done by Umami(2018) entitled “Women’s Struggle Against Oppression as Viewed by Transformative Ecofeminism in Han Kang’s *The Vegetarian*”, from Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang. In her study, Umami used ecofeminism theory. She analyzed kind of oppression suffered by main character and factors that influence main character’s actions in struggling against oppression. Second, another study was done by Anggawasita(2010) entitled “An Analysis of the Main Character through Feminism Approach in The Novel *Lucia, Lucia* by Andriana Trigiani”, from Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. In her study, she analyzed main female character and feminism value reflected in the main character. Third, a study was done by Robbani(2014) entitled “Elizabeth Queen’s Feminism and Femininity in Tasha Alexander’s *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*” from Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang. In his study, he analyzed feminism and femininity aspect reflected in Elizabeth Queen in Tasha Alexander’s *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. Fourth, a study was done by Sudarni (2017) entitled “Struggle of Woman in the Novel *Sing Me to Sleep* by Angela Morrison (The Analysis of Feminism)” from Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar. In her study, she analyzed kinds of women’s struggle in the novel and the main character struggle to get her love.

The writer is interested in analyzing *The Girl with the Louding Voice* novel by Abi Dare because the writer found in the novel there are several women characters who manifest the spirit of feminism. The writer of the study found the

women struggle for equality in the novel. Feminism appears in the novel by the struggle of the women.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the problem to be solved in this study is:

1. Why do women struggle for equality in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare?
2. How do women struggle for equality in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research question, the objective of this study is formulated as follows:

1. To discover the reason and purpose of women struggle in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare.
2. To describe women's struggle for equality in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected can provide theoretical and practical advantages.

- a. Theoretically, this study is expected to give advantages in literary research field. Hopefully, this study also can contribute in strengthening

the account of literary theory, especially feminism theory. It also can be used as references in literary or other study in terms of feminism.

- b. Practically, this study is expected to make the readers interested to think critically about feminism. The writer hopes that this study can make the readers understand and aware about oppression and gender equality in every sector. Sometimes, people do not care about oppression and gender inequality cases. So, it is important to understand and aware about this case. Besides, this study is also expected to give support and additional information to the other researchers who are interested in doing similar or relevant study especially for student of English Study Program in University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is using feminist criticism to analyze the women's struggle. Theory of feminism can help people to be able to understand oppression, women emancipation, gender equality, etc. This study focuses on describing the struggle of women in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* to gain equality.

In this study, the limitation is important to make the analysis focus to the topic and what is being discussed. This study is limited on the narrations of the author and the characters' utterances in *The Girl with The Louding Voice* by Abi Dareto seek the reasons & the purposes of women struggle and the way women struggle in the novel.