

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The kinds in this chapter are divided into five subchapters related to research. Sub chapters in this study consisted of background of the study, research question, research objective, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study. This chapter explains general of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Adrienne Rich is a poet from United State of America, According to William (2011) he states in his book which is telling about Rich that Adrienne Rich reflects upon the momentum of the 1960s as releasing a revolutionary ambition. The revolutionary ambition which is releasing by Rich as the reason she writes about gender and poetic. William also used the quotation from Rich's book which explain about the reason of Rich used the momentum to make a revolutionary ambition that

The idea of freedom – so much invoked during World War II – had become pretty abstract politically in the fifties. Freedom – then as now – was supposed to be what Western democracies believe in, and the Iron Curtain Soviet bloc was deprived of. The Existentialist philosophers who were beginning to be read and discussed among young intellectuals spoke of freedom as something connected with revolt.

The 1970s were the year in which the Vietnam War took place involving several supporting countries in it. This war called as civil war between North Vietnam and South Vietnam and this incident happened as the continuation of the Communist Cold War and SEATO. According to Rich's in poetry foundation

poetry has maintained its overtly political, feminist edge throughout the decades since the Vietnam War and the social activism of the 1960s and 70s. Rich is known as a woman with political poetry that began to be involved since the Vietnam War which was full of opposition and turmoil. This accident makes her poetry has a lot of content of life that occurred in his time. Vietnam war involves America in its survival, it is because of after this war reached the midpoint of making Vietnam a communist country, many residents who disagreeing and choosing to leave Vietnam and move to America, but not all could survive until their destination because crossing the sea had a high risk, in addition to the large number of sexual harassment committed by pirates, there are also many human predators such as sharks, this makes the population of Vietnam who migrated to America decrease in number when they arrive at the land. In addition to having an impact on America, the formation of a communist country also had an impact on the emergence of communist seeds in neighboring countries, one of which was in Indonesia. This condition makes women at that time have experience a very heavy pressure. It is because of woman at that time must trough the struggle when they want to get a freedom.

At that time gender equality was still scarce, so there were several individuals who established movements to make gender between men and women alike. As Rich did, she cared so much for women from lesbians and sex. This also underlies Rich writing a poem called "Translation". Aside from being a reminder for women in the time when this poem was written, the description of this poem takes the background of Rich's past where she has elaborated the woman of her

time. She clearly portrayed through poetry in which women in rich adolescence are only depicted into three things namely loves baked, watched and worn. Loves baked is representing to the woman that loved by man but just using as the tool to help a man to meet his need. Watched is representing for woman that for a man woman must interesting to look or good looking for a man. Worn is representing that woman after do everything for her man she just being a useless thing for a man till she is looking worn.

“Translation” is a poem written by Adrienne Cecile Rich. This poem was published on 25 December 1972, in Rich’s poetry book entitled *Diving into the Wreck* (1973). There are twenty-six poems in the book that are divided into four chapters. Each poem has a different type and characteristic, based on the theme Rich uses to show the conditions behind the poem. Rich’s poetry is known as Contemporary poetry, this kind of literary known as the poetry written start from 1920s. William (2011) states that contemporary poets might involve in open preposition of free verse, he also states that it makes mistake to consider contemporary poetry as ‘formless’. According to Contemporary poetry also have a specific series of traits and literary tools like inconsistent meter, variations upon standard rhyme, abandonment of a classical – musical style, variation on the conventions of poetic lines, and inconsistent regard for standard poetic structure. Based on the previous statement, we can know that a contemporary poem written by Rich has free rhymes in form. That makes Rich poetry not binding with structural rules like general poetry.

The other concept about contemporary poems by Harits (2012), he explain that In Contemporary poems, there do not follow the rules of rhyme, style, symbolic, and meter like in traditional poems, but the most interesting notion in contemporary poems are interesting. This statement guides us to know that contemporary poem really different with traditional poems. The aspects that build them are different and both of them have different rules and also different function. Poem in generally can make people have feeling happy and also to represent their feel like sad or happy. In contemporary poem both of the feeling can get but also there is historical background behind the poem was written.

Poem which is written by Rich also make her gets many achievements related to contemporary poetry. Adrienne Rich is one of the most famous and influential women writers know as a poet of the second half of the 20th century and she has written poetry, essays, and also reviewed for magazines (Selvalakshmi.2013). That makes Rich's poetry have (compare) a different character from other poems that have been read by the author. Margaret (2000), state that Rich is an American poet, essayist, and critic. Rich is also a woman who has plans to make men have new perceptions about women in the world.

Rich is starting to write poem about woman after her husband died. She tries to make a federation for women to have freedom. It starts from woman gets their freedom and have the same gender with men in United States. Starting from her critic about the condition which is happen for women till she make a lot of literary work to show the women power. It will make the women build their perspective that they can do more than stay at home. They can do everything

without worry about punishment that will they get. It is because of, Rich wants the women at that time can move on and grow up to be the best women. A lot of literary work that have been she writes about woman one of them is “Translation” poem. This poem is also being the source of data in this research.

“Translation” poem had written on *Diving into the Wreck* book which published on 1973 and that’s book get an achievement on 1974. According to Wakoski (2001) *Diving into the Wreck*, received a National Book Award in 1974. The writer is more curious about the “Translation” of poetry because this poem tells about a woman's feelings in daily activities and natural character for women. The woman also said as a human who always helps men in daily activities, especially if the woman is the wife of the man. The writer is more curious to use the “Translation” of poetry because the writer of this poem is a woman who always shows the power of women in her literature.

The writer have been searching to find a previous study which is an analysis of poetry “Translation” by Adrienne Rich but she just finding one reference with the content about “Translation” of poetry which explains the meaning and also of critics in several articles, According to Ross in her article the title of article is *Countdown to Christmas : Adrienne Rich’s Translations*. It is not a formal journal that can be analyzed and used for data sources to find the scope and limitations of the research but it is only an article. This article usually only analyzes the general meaning of the poem, the main idea of the writer who wants to explain, but it cannot analyze because the article cannot be profitable.

The author is finding one study that reviews “Translations” of poetry. It was a journal titled *Power for Woman Poems of Adrienne Cecile Rich*. This research tells about Rich's background when she was able to become a poet and writer and told a little about the background in the “Translation and Song” of poetry written by her. This study will focus on deconstruction, it makes this research is different from previous research analyzes that tells about the general meaning of poetry “Translations” with a brief explanation. The writer feels this research is suitable to use deconstruction theory because the focus of this research is to find the character of a woman based on a poem which is a contemporary poem. Contemporary poetry itself is also a free poem because the writing is not bound but has meaning that has a connection with history that occurred at a time when the poem was written and prioritized other thoughts outside the text. It makes deconstruction is appropriating to examine the character of women in this study because this theory will lead the writer to study the events and characters of American women that existed in 1972, the year of the poem was written.

In literary criticism, the writer was learning more about the meaning of poetry using pre-existing theories and correlate with data sources. In Adrienne Rich's poetry, the context of poetry usually tells the story of the humanity of feminism, Marxism, the struggle of women, and also the dominance of men, based on what happens in that situation. Woman is the best object for doing research because there are a lot of thing that can be analyze from woman. The author was taking one way to find intended meaning to find out the female

characters in the “Translations” of poetry by using deconstruction by Jacques Derrida in this research.

1.2 Research Question

There is research question which the writer used to answer her analysis. The following of the research questions:

1. How is female characters deconstructed in Adrienne Rich’s “Translation”?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research questions above, this study has the objectives as follows:

1. To find out how female characters can be deconstructed in Adrienne Rich’s “Translation”.

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research has two functions for conducting research. This research is important to do the theoretically and practically from this study. This research, among others, explains the relationship of research to the theory and strength of research.

Theoretically, this term explains the connection between the expected finding of this research and the existing theory which is used as the theoretical framework. It used as the data for further of the study, the result of this study is supporting the existing theory based on literary studies. The theory is Deconstruction Theory by Jacques Derrida in the literary work of poem by Andrienne Rich with the title “Translations”. This is clearly displayed through binary opposition.

Practically, the benefit of this research is contributing an understanding to humans not only to deduce something from what they see in the text, but also to see other analyzes that were not written in the text or condition analysis at the time the text was written. As the writer's write in this study is having the aim of knowing more about the meaning which is in the poem. Additional information from this study, this study has results that can be used as reference for students who want to do new research like what the writer did. This study can be used to help students to find information and academic research in binary opposition using Jacques Derrida's theory. The writer hopes that the result of this study can be useful for everyone who reads and want to do the same research in future.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the knowledge of how female characters can be deconstructed in "Translation". We can look for the Rich with the deconstruction theory by Derrida. The writer lets the reader know the purpose of the focus in this study after the reader read this study. The deconstruction of the theory by Jacques Derrida which consists of two things is a marker and binary opposition of the text. This research just limit to analyze about the way to find the focus of study and to find deep meaning of poetry based on the text and the social issue which is being background the source of data was written which have been correlation with female character in this poem.