

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters of introduction. They are background of the study, research question, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is an art. Wellek and Werren (1948:3) states, "Literature is creative activity and art". Literature is related to art because the author uses poetic language and their imagination in process of writing literary work. Literary work is created by the authors' imagination based on personal experience, others' experience or what they have seen which come from the existing phenomena in the real life. Then, it is applied in the form of writing. It is supported by Eagleton's statement (2003:3) "Literature is highly valued kind of writing is an illuminating one."

According to Klarer (2004:9), literary works are divided into many genres. They are poetry, drama and epic or prose. Culler (2000:73) states, "The novel is a modern upstart, too close to biography or chronicle to be genuinely literary, a popular form that could not aspire to the high callings of lyric and epic poetry." Klarer (11) states, "The modern novel distinguishes itself by grounding the plot in a distinct historical and geographical reality." Novel is long narrative which describes the stories of characters, events, or conflict continuity. It means that novel is able to bring the reader to a

particular situation. Through the series of the appearance of story and conflict which are experienced by the character. The character's life in the novel can influence the reader to feel that story.

Nowadays, most of women are able to do various things that men also do. They are able to have a career as bright as men. Having some achievements in education or other activities related to man works. There are media that show the power of women who want to be equal with man. One of them is in writing. There are many authors who comes from women's community. They convey their ideas about women in every aspect. In the past, most of women could not be free to show what they want. They have to follow restrictive patriarchal rules.

Patriarchy encourages traditional gender roles which cast men as rational, strong, protective, and decisive. Women are emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing, and submissive.

(Tyson 2006:85).

Women are able to get what they want including having activities outside home, obtaining a good education and others. Besides, women are portrayed as weak. Women barely do everything to face the problem of life. Weakness is commonly associated with their silence. The fact is the women's silence is the weapon. The weapon makes them to be independent, strong and brave.

The Silent Wife is a psychology thriller novel by A.S.A Harrison which published in 2013. *The Silent Wife* narrates about disintegration of a relationship and woman's effort to fight for her dignity. Jodi Brett as a main

character of the novel is portrayed as a strong woman who faces her life with many problems. The power of silence in her is a weapon. Jodi and Todd—a couple with no string attached—live together for about twenty years. Their relationship is fine until Jodi knows everything has been changed. The realities that make her has to fight for her dignity. Regarding to Goodreads, *The Silent Wife* novel awarded Goodreads Choice Award Nominee (2013) and become *New York Times Bestseller*. (Bosman, 2013)

The reason why the writer is interested in *The Silent Wife* as a source of data to be analyzed due to there are some issues which relate to a woman who fights for her dignity. The issues stand for marriage, betrayal, woman as victims to woman power.

Other reason is that the novel is written by a woman. The author expresses woman's voice by lifting a real life which occurs in a marriage. She portrayed the main character as a strong character who fights for her dignity. Thus, the writer decides to choose *The Silent wife* as a source of the data.

Related to this study, The writer analyzes how Jodi's struggles to fight for her dignity reflected in Jodi's character by employing Naomi's Power Feminism theory *Fire with Fire : The New Female Power and How It Will Change the 21st Century*.

Power Feminism is a perspective aspiring to ensure that woman can have unlimited space in all opinions and actions. Hence, they can declare their minds openly. She continues that the principle of power feminism is everything related to women, both self-determinations, and the truth. Women deserve to be respected because both women and men have great meaning in people's lives.(Wolf 1993:138)

Naomi Wolf is the author of seven books, including the New York Times bestsellers. *The Beauty Myth*, *The end of America* and *Give me Liberty*. She becomes speaker in her world touring of all walks of life about gender equality, and social justice.

Furthermore, the writer employed power feminism theory as an approach to analyze the source of data because it is appropriate to discuss about woman's struggle. The woman's struggle which is presented in *The Silent Wife* is able to be disclosed by using this theory which has correlation with the woman's struggle itself.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background study above, the research question of this study formulate as follow:

1. What are Jodi's struggles to fight for her dignity in Harrison's *The Silent Wife*?
2. How is woman's existence revealed in Harrison's *The Silent Wife*?

1.3 Objectives of study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study as follow:

1. To elaborate Jodi's struggles to fight for her dignity in Harrison's *The Silent Wife*
2. To reveal woman's existence in Harrison's *The Silent Wife*

1.4 Significance of the study

Theoretically, this study explores woman's struggle to fight for her dignity in power feminism. Then, the readers are able to understand about power feminism that woman is able to create her decision to express her opinion and right action in her society freely.

Practically, the writer believes women are able to propose themselves to obtain their rights in society. Likewise, this study also is expected to motivate the women in order to brave and to stand for their rights.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

As the scope of the study, this study uses power feminism proposed by Naomi Wolf as the approach of the analysis. The theory is used to discuss about Jodi's struggle to fight for her dignity.

The writer gives limitations to focus on Jodi's struggle to fight for her dignity by using power feminism through author's narration and characters' utterances in Harrison's *The Silent Wife* novel.