

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the background of the study is initially described. This chapter also presents the statements of research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Women's struggle in realizing equal rights at all the realm of life has paid off. Today, women can access education equivalent to men, she can take part in the public realm, have voting rights, and can become leaders. In fact, in the domestic realm, women obtain easy in carrying out its role as a housewife, that is with the services of domestic servants, babysitters and daycares (Tyson, 2006: 110).

Tyson (2006) stated that the struggle of woman has not succesfull eliminating the negative constructions of the community related tothe role of women. In the public sphere and in the domestic realm, construction of society about the behaviour and nature should be owned by women and men known as femininity and masculinity. Tyson stated that "The American gender system is referred to as a binary system because it consist of two genders, masculine and feminine, that are based on two sexes, male and female,... " (Tyson, 2006: 110).

In women's lives, their role and nature in society are important because they affect their life experiences. In the domestic realm, women who act as housewives, as a wife, and as a mother are required to do all the homework despite having hired a housekeeper and a babysitter, even though it sometimes creates stress, but domestic helpers or babysitters are sometimes seen as women who are less responsible to do all the homework, while their husbands are busy with working to fulfill all household needs. According to Tyson (2006), "women are still much more involved in childcare than men, and women who take care of children report that they experience both a great deal of pleasure and a great deal of irritation in caring for them" (Tyson, 2006: 110).

The emergence of the construction of masculinity can not be separated from the discussion of gender. "Our gender strongly influences how we are treated by others and by society as a whole as it is embodied in such institutions as the medical profession, the law, the education system, and our culture's hiring and employment practices" (Tyson, 2006: 108). Gender roles consist of activities that men and women engage in with different ways. Gender roles deal with the behavior. Gender typically refers to the social process of dividing up people and social practices along the line of sex identities. The discourse of equality of men and women (gender) in the ideology of the current women's movement focuses much on equality of rights, women's participation in work, education, sexual freedom as well as reproductive rights. The social system and the culture that develop in the society must be in determination so

that in their resistance they will not let a man oppresses the female position. Men must be breached by their authority, because most of men are enslaving woman in every important position in the social structure.

Those situations are also portrayed in a novel written by Bella Forrest entitled *The Gender Game*. The woman character in this novel is ever been forced by the society to maintain the construction of masculinity. This novel was published on 2016. This novel is interesting because it is related to the feminist movement in the modern era. Based on the issue which has been detailed previously this novel written by Bella Forrest entitled *The Gender Game* is really sufficient to be analyze using masculinity. Because this novel tells about the differcity of gender perspectives both man and women, the oppression between one gender to another, and superior and inverior actions by the characters, this thesis will analyze the construction of maculinity in the novel *The Gender Game* by Bella Forrest.

This novel tells about a girl named Violet who live in the lands of Patrus and Matrus. A toxic river divides nineteen-year-old Violet Bates's world by gender. Women rule the East and men rule the West. Ever since the disappearance of her beloved younger brother, Violet's life has been consumed by an anger she struggles to control. Already a prisoner to her own nation, now she has been sentenced to death for her crimes. But one decision could save her life to enter the kingdom of Patrus, where men rule and women submit. Everything about patriarchy is dangerous for girl like Violet. She cannot break the rules if she wishes to stay alive. But abiding by rules

has never been Violet's strong suit and she's tired of playing a game she didn't agree to. Now thrust into more danger than she could have ever predicted, Violet is forced to sacrifice everything in forbidden kingdom including forbidden love.

Moreover, Bella Forrest is the fantasy American author who become one of the authors whose the novel choosen as top ten bestseller in Amazon. Through the novel entitled *The Gender Game* she can capture the attention of a target audience. Bella Forrest is an elusive writer who has kept her privat life almost go down to the earth. In the lates of three years she become the dominate author of vampire romance, paranormal and fantasy genres (Bella Forrest: www.webbiography.com)

This study discusses the construction of woman masculinity which is portrayed in this novel. Due to the oppression, it makes her become a strong woman in the society. This study will analyze the kind of construction of masculinity of woman and the respond of other character to the changes that is portrayed in this novel. The woman character in this novel is the main character.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

Based on the background which has been displayed previously, the writer seeks to address the following questions:

1. How does the construction of masculinity portrayed in the main character of Violet Bates in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game* ?

2. How does the hybridity of masculinity portrayed in the character of Violet Bates in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game* ?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Based on the statements of research problem, there are two primary aims of this study:

1. To elaborate the construction of masculinity in the main character of Violet in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*.
2. To identify the author portray the hybridity of masculinity in Violet Bates character in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*.

1.4 Significances of The Study

This study is expected to be able to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the result of the study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge dealing with the issue of feminism study especially about masculinity and femininity. Practically, it is expected that after reading this study, hopefully the society especially women will be surer to be what they want and the society learns to respect other person's choices.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study will discuss the issue of feminism which is portrayed by the female character in Bella Forrest's *The Gender Game*. The scope of the study is the femininity and masculinity. This study is limited on author narrations and the character's utterances in this novel which are related to the statement of the research problems.