

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, the research problem, the objective of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1. Background

Gender equality is an important point that needs to be widely discussed at this time, especially regarding the way how gender being described. It can be seen from the general public's perception of gender stereotypes as seen in literature, news, and even social media. Woman and man are frequently regarded as two distinct individuals with opposing characteristics. Feminine characteristics are assigned to women, while masculine characteristics are assigned to men. Women are often viewed as having a lower status than men due to their lack of male characteristics. However, since masculinity and femininity are social constructs, the appearance of masculinity characteristics in a female character is still probable.

When we think of a stereotype of men and women, we usually have a specific idea of how a typical man or woman has to be, behave and look like – in order to be perceived as a typical man or women. Such stereotypes are influenced by our society and its values. Once these ideas have been internalized in our population, they are extremely difficult to change. For example, women of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries were a rarity in the workplace and financially

dependent on their husbands, which lead to the traditional gender roles of the stay-at-home mother and the father as the “breadwinner” (Cott, 1994: 258).

This research directly addresses the issue of gender portrayals in literature especially young adult literature. In the course of analyzing of these stories, several gender aspects – including physical attributes and looks, psychological/character traits, emotions, roles and occupations, and hobbies/interests – of the protagonists and selected secondary characters will be regarded. *The Fault in Our Star* is chosen because the story is interesting to discuss. It is about the right of human being to love and to be loved no matter their circumstances are, in this book the main character in the book are portrayed as a dying character and how they fight for their love. It was published on 2012 written by John Green.

The writer is interested in analyzing how the gender roles like how women and women supposed to act being represented in the novel. To understand the shifting of a woman's position, one must first understand the origin definition of a woman's position. The researcher is specifically interested in how a woman alters the pattern that society has already assigned to her; women are assigned to femininity, so the researcher is attempting to question what has been accepted in society. The researcher is interested in learning more about masculinity in a woman's personality. Finally, the purpose of this analysis was to uncover the masculine characteristics of Hazel Lancaster, a female main character in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. This thesis is intended to provide a better understanding of masculinity traits of female character has in literary works. It is also hoped that the findings of

this study will be reflected not only in the literature, but also in real-world experience.

1.2. Research Questions

The research questions being formulated as follows:

1. What are the masculinity traits of female main character, Hazel Lancaster, in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green?
2. What are the femininity traits of female main character, Hazel Lancaster, in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green?

1.3. Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the study in this research shall be stated as follows:

1. To describe the masculinity traits of female main character, Hazel Lancaster, in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.
2. To describe the femininity traits of female main character, Hazel Lancaster, in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.

1.4. Scope and Limitation

In this study, the main theory being used is the sex-role inventory developed by Sandra Lipzits Bem (2017). BSRI is a sex-role inventory developed by Sandra Lipzits Bem. She published her theory in Journal of Consulting and

Clinical Psychology volume 42 entitled *The Measurement of Psychological Androgyny* in 1974. This sex-role inventory assesses the various aspects of psychological gender traits. Bem's theory was developed in contrast to other theories that classified men and women as only belonging to one of two sex-types: masculine or feminine. In order to reach the expected goals of the research, the writer focuses on analyzing gender roles as being shown by the female main characters *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. The writer limits her study by analysing the female main character, Hazel Lancaster, instead of analysing the whole intrinsic elements of the novel to get better understanding about gender roles being portrayed in literature as seen in Hazel Lancaster's utterances.

1.5. Significance of Study

Using the gender stereotypes especially about masculinity and femininity makes this study interesting to learn because society tend to differ the role between men and women. This study provides not only to be a helpful source of information about gender to the readers, but also helping the writer understand more about analysing literary work in the form of novel. The writer expects that this study might give several significant contributions to the reader so that the reader can gain more knowledge in the context of the meaning and purpose of the moral story of the novel as well as will be useful for English learners as well as anyone interested in literature and gender role topic.