

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Basic Consideration

Woman issues are still the floor of research in many fields. This is because women's life is always considered as unique, and interesting. However for women themselves the uniqueness does not always mean so nice because in many ways they experience injustice. In many culture, women are still fall difficulties to find out their existence and freedom. This causes many people is believed patriarchal culture and put the women as the second class in the citizen.

Kolodny (1975) many problems of women's issues related to gender inequality issues while gains sympathy from public, because it is closely related to social justice issues in a broader sense. Various imbalances gender experienced of women was fighting in a movement called feminism movement. This movement tries to fight for women's freedom in the world. In general, feminism is an ideology of women's liberation. It causes that the women's problem came because the different biological between the men. Since the problem of women load in the world, many organization whose cares about women came in the world. Until in the literary work try to load the women's problem.

In respect with the rise of various phenomena that exist in society, came the literary work as a form of cultural representation that illustrates the values held by society, so often regarded as a literary portrait of the lives of people who are around the author, or even a social reality. Related the existence of literature as a socio-cultural product consumed and created in the background behind that is

universal, then the issues surrounding women is one of the issues that raised. The advent of talk about women in literature was driven by concerns about the reality of women's minor role in the socio-economic, especially in political when compared with the male position (Abrams, 1999).

Therefore, in the study of literature, the most important part in consideration of women equality is how female figure represented in a literary work, in which the form of the representation is strongly influenced by the author's sensitivity in capturing phenomena that exist in society and how he/she expresses what is seen, felt, thought and hoped that the culture associated with the binding society. In literary works often contain a complex phenomenon that often occurs among society especially about women (Kolodny: 1975).

Related with struggles to determine the form of the women representation in literature, this research focuses on the study of a novel written by Alice Walker in 1982 with the title is *The Color Purple (TCP)*. Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia, America at 9 February 1944. She is a young daughter from eight brothers of Willie Lee Walker and Minnie Tallulah Grant Walker who worked as sharecroppers. Walker's childhood was filled with violence and racism. This was giving much influence on her literary work. Moreover, novel *TCP* is considered important to study because of the problems discussed in it is a humanitarian issue that is universal and a reflection attitudes, views and ideals of a society. The values contained in it are closely relevance to contemporary life and deemed useful for structuring future better.

Related to the issue of women under *The Color Purple*, actually this novel load the problems of women who want to get freedom and equality position as humans who live side by side with another man (men). It is characterized by the going work done by women to achieve these desires, among others, by equip themselves with education, work, courage, and a good personality.

The problem of women in novel TCP described that women always got the oppression, sexual harassment and they are reputed as the second class in the society. This is described from Celie and Nettie.

In her life, Celie always get the oppression moreover her step father has been raped her until she got two children from him.

He never had a kine word to say to me. Just say you gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up giants my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grab hold my titties. The he push his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying you better shut up and git used to it. (Walker. 1)

He beat me today cause he say I winked at boy in church. (Walker. 5)
He beat me for dressing trampy he do it to me anyway. (Walker. 7)

Besides that, Celie did not get the happiness in her life after get marriage. Her husband did the same thing such as her step father. She always gets the oppression from her husband and he used the insulting language to talk with her.

What you setting here laughing like a fool fer? (Walker. 11)
He beat me like he beat the children. (Walker. 15)

He tell me, wash this. Iron that. Look for this. Look for that. Find this. Find that. He groan over holes in his sock. (Walker. 16)

He beat me when you not here, I say. (Walker. 41)

Most time I pretend I ain't there. He never know the difference. Never ast me how I felt, nothing. Just do his business, get off, go to sleep. (Walker. 42)

You'll be back, he say. Nothing up North for nobody like you. Shug got talent, he say. She can sing. She got spunk, he say. She can talk to anybody. Shug got looks, he say. She can stand up and be notice. But what you got? You ugly. You skinny. You shape funny. You too scared to open your mouth to people. All you fit to do in Memphis is Shug's maid. Take out her slop-jarand maybe cook her food. You not that good a cook either. And this house ain't been clean good since my first wife died. And nobody crazy or backward enough to want to marry you, neither. What you gon do? Hire yourself out of farm? He laugh. Maybe somebody let you work on they railroad. (Walker. 95)

Look at you. You black, you pore, sou ugly, you a woman. (Walker. 95)

Moreover, the Oppression in the family came because of the position of women just a wife or the daughter and it is was grounded that the wife or daughter must adhere to the father, husband or men.

“Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr.____ say, cause is my wife. Plus, she stubborn” (Walker. 15)

“She say, to tell the truth, you remind me of my mama. She under my daddy thumb. Naw, she under my daddy foot. Anything he say, goes. She never say nothing back. She never stand up for herself.” (Walker. 24)

Based on the fact of women position in the novel that women always got the prostitution and sexual harassment from the men because of the differences of sex and biology and it is supported by some theories, then the researcher was interested to analyze women struggle in *The Color Purple* novel.

Furthermore, this research has the different from the other research of feminism in the novel. The different is this research will analysis all of the women' character in the novel. So, this research will find and show all of the women issues in that novel.

Problem Statement

Related to the women's desire to demonstrate their existence, then the principal issues discussed in this research is:

How are the women' struggles in the novel *The Color Purple* to fight for their existence and freedom?

Objective of Research

Since this research will tell about a novel, especially the struggle of women in *The Color Purple*, the objective of this research referred to the struggle of the women seen in the novel *TCP* to manifest the existence itself through of a feminism approach, based on an idea the potential of the women in the novel *TCP*.

The Limitation of Research

The limitation of this research is the struggle of women in *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. To find out the women' struggle in the novel, the researcher used Radical feminist criticism approach. This causes that the women position in the novel has the differences with the men because of their sex and biological.

Significances of Research

The significances of this research are the first for the student of Letter and Culture Faculty, especially from English department student. This research can give some information about how to analyze the novel by using feminist literary criticism, this research will be the reference or guide for the students, because

from this research, they will get knowledge about how to analysis novel by using feminist literary criticism approach. In addition, as the students from English department who always learn about the language, this research also can give some information about how to appreciate a woman by using the language. Besides that, we can see the differences of language develop from year by year because *The Color Purple* novel is a novel written in 1984.

Second for the researcher, it would become an experience in doing a research of literary criticism. Realizing our position as a woman is important in our life, because by realizing our position, we could take ourselves in the right place.

Third to the reader or the citizen, This research will explain about the position of women in the world as the role played in this literary work. Besides, this research could provide more knowledge about the feminism through the struggle of women in the novel especially to the teenager and women. Moreover, this research will give some information about the place of women in the world. Furthermore, the researcher expected that this research can change the perception of the reader as the citizen that still considers the position of women only as a complement and did not have the excessive rights.