

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter attempts to highlight the background of research, concerning with the feminism in *A Is For Alibi* written by Sue Grafton. This chapter also presents the research question, the objective of research, the scope, and delimitation of the study, the research and the research significances in terms of theoretical and practical contribution.

Basic Consideration

Women are living creature that are gifted with various strengths. In general, the nature of women is beauty, tenderness, humility, and nurturing. On the other hand, women are gentle and full of love. Thus the image of women that is often heard.

Along with the existence of women actually gets less attention in the family and environment. According to Kuumar (2015) claimed, "The men are stronger based on body strength and power, people always assume that women are inherently weak and sexual object". This triggers the emergence of the stereotypes that women are representative as weak creatures incapable of performing men's tasks. In order to be equal with men, women place the same standard of physical strength as men. So that, women have the strength to overcome the obstacle in their life. Furthermore, women are always used as sexual objects. There are even some people who always blame women because of their body shape, appearance and clothes. This culture tends to place women in a lower social position than men. In the end, society tends to justify the behavior of harassment against women in the slightest form. As time goes by, women began to clean up and

improve the quality of themselves. Today, women do not need to doubt their special skills. It is no wonder that women can hold the highest positions in a company. The number of career women is certainly a positive change that women can empower their potential.

Women need to develop themselves as career women. But, today women's thought has become modern. On the other hand, there are women who are entangled in domestic area. Women are always defined as housewives and considered unable to contribute outside world. It is because of the marriage bond. This culture is known as patriarchy and continues to exist in all aspects. As a result, women experiences underdevelopment in social life. This is evidence by the number of women who are considered responsible and have a role in domestic, while men are doing jobs in a public area or make money. The activity that is included in domestic fields such as cooking, washing, cleaning the house, take care of the child, etc.

Basically, the domestic field can be done by anyone. But stereotypes have attached to women and make the women do household chores. Being a housewife means having to work twenty-four hours, no leave, and there is time to rest. Meanwhile, the housewife can be trapped in their daily routine and women cannot have time to explore the outside world. This position is difficult to develop as human resources. Moreover, the sensitivity of women used an excuse to put women in a marginal position and an object sexual. Likewise, doing this job does not make money. While women have other need, in the end women depend on

men. Thus it will arise the idea that money is a measure of strength, so that a man can treat a woman as he wants, for example as a sexual object.

Women's participation in various aspects is still underrepresented such as in politics, occupations, education, etc. Whereas, it is a basic human right. Most of the women's jobs only revolve around appearance and service, such as model, sales promotion girl (SPG), public relation, house cleaner, etc. Women are used as objects for profit. Indeed, this behavior has denied value and limits to women. Allowing this is to happen continuously only makes future generations are destroyed. On the other hand, Plato said, "women in terms of physical and spiritual strength, women are mentally weaker than men, but these differences do not cause any difference in talent." Women have started to become aware of the exploitation and develop their potential and skill. Therefore, women break through patriarchy and voice their existence (Ling & Ding, 2019:2)

However, over time by carrying out the concept of gender equality, women are no longer the world in the domestic area but also begun to enter the public. Women are move to access various aspects of life which is the right of every person. The presence of gender equality is not merely to take the rights of men, but women want to get the same rights as men. It will not essentially powerless without inequality and doubt. The position of women in everywhere considered lower than men and it becomes one of the rules of life e.g. this is already commonplace, there is a gender wage gap between men and women. Women do the same job but the income is different. In this circumstance, the

women are harmed because of this inequality. This requires changes by the rules for women to get equality (Ihromi, 2000:66)

The condition of women who are inequality against socially, culturally, economically and politically makes them have minimal access to knowledge and education. Meanwhile, a patriarchal culture that requires women to submit to men, makes women have to rack their brains. This makes women disadvantaged in all fields and is not a priority. So that this situation is used as the root of the problem for all of the women receive.

As we have known that women struggle for getting their rights to gender equality. Women fought to overcome various problems of women such as politics, education, right, etc. Women are also important human resources in this whole universe. According to Kaya (2015) "to recover and honor to specify of women experience, and cultural significance by making women's voices and stories heard". Women began to raise awareness of gender equality and become voice for the voiceless for other women who cannot speak for themselves. Meanwhile, women can voice various facts experienced by women from their point of view, such as gender injustice manifested in stereotypes, subordination, marginalization, violence, and workload.

The reality of oppression voiced by women through gender injustice can only be eliminated by realizing anticipation and resistance. This means that the importance of women's voices is very influential in society. Besides that, women's voice and feminism coexistence because their goals are the same. The goal is still to fight for equality and justice for women.

The existence of discriminations received by women, it causes women to want to eliminate it and get a position with men. So that radical thinking emerged. This situation is reflected in the literary works that the researcher chooses which tells about detectives. This literary work was also chosen because it has a female detective character. This novel was also published in the year where women began to dominate the jobs that men usually do.

Radical feminism is the point of view about feminism to remove all forms of patriarchal. On the other hand, according to Tong (2009:68) "radical feminism issues such as body and reproductive rights, sexuality (including lesbianism), sexism and power relation men and women. In addition, this flow found women's oppression in biological and psychological causes by male control. For example, is about pregnancy and motherhood that are always played by women. Therefore, radical feminism attacks family institutions and considers the patriarchal system as the source of oppression. These institutions give rise to a system of male dominations, so that, women are oppressed.

Feminism development occurs in all aspects of life. In the world of literature, feminism is not a new consciousness because it existed for centuries and it has been exposed until now. Many readers are interested in women's issues in literary works. Then, authors use literary works as media to voice her or his opinion, such as; a novel, short stories, drama, etc. Additionally, it depends on the writers how they are the way to convey their ideas. Because what is conveyed by the writers can affect the viewpoint of each reader.

Every single author has his or her own interest in writing. The authors write novel by a certain theme, because they want to expose something interesting related to the theme. Sue Grafton is one of the writers who do that. She wants to expose a woman life and issue through her novel and wrapped perfectly with genre of detective fiction. Therefore, that, in 1982, Sue Grafton published one of the novels in the series of Alphabet Mysteries, United States; the title of that novel is A is for Alibi. The novel attracted attention the readers to read completely. The researcher decides to divide the characters of the story. The story talks about a woman who called Kinsey Millhone. The main characters that live alone to solve the case and maintain professionalism, while taking care of the complicated love life.

A is for Alibi tells about one of social issue, feminism. Sue Grafton holds a feminist view and uses novels to show that women can have jobs like men and face all the dangers alone. The character, plot, setting and dialogue in her novel considered are carefully. Her works are meaningful and enrich the readers. After reading the novel, the readers will understand how women struggle with their happiness and equality. In this case, the main character is highly influential in a story. A character is one of the elements make the story more attractive to the readers and interest to be analyzed it. In addition, the all characters behavior and action can be depicted the readers to recognize what the character doing in the story.

Moreover, the main character in this novel is a woman. Sue Grafton on gender equality includes "A is for Alibi". Like the other women writers, Sue

Grafton was not able to separate her-life and the role as a woman when she is writing. With the special sight, Grafton shows a rich, colorful and successful. In this universe, woman reputedly underestimates, lonely, and suffering all kinds of miseries. They are isolated and victimized by dominated men, but this novel tells the opposite of all negative perspectives of women. However, the interesting behavior of the character, in the story such as; the theme of that novel is independent woman, mattered proves that Kinsey Millhone can live without self-help from a man. The protagonist character is very strong, she fought for her freedom, and she is a woman. Next, the main character is a woman facing many problems in her life, which works hard the case and finds out who the suspect is. Based on Djajanegara (2000, p.51) argues that, if literary work includes a woman character, it can be analyzed by feministic side. Therefore, Kinsey Millhone in the story talks about the stronger woman to struggle for her better life. Even she did not stay with the family, but she can show how try to struggle for life without family. She is independent woman; it can be proven by fighting her problems for happy life.

In addition, "A is for Alibi" is the best novel that related to the women issue. Because the main character's representation is how women do her-self without helping the men. Also, Kinsey job as a private detective where this job is usually done by a man and she choose not to marry. In this story, Kinsey lives happy without man. So that, the researcher concluded this story could be analyzing with radical feminism.

Furthermore, radical feminism is a feminist perspective that wants to make radical changes in society by eliminating all forms of male supremacy in a social and economic context. According to Madsen (2000, p.152) state that "Radical feminism analyses the relationship between social inequality and sexual difference". The starting point of radical feminism is sexual discrimination by men against women based on biological nature. Based on Mitchell (1971) in Madsen (2000) says as radical feminism recognize that engaged in a power struggle with man that, the agent of woman oppression is man in so far as he identifies with the carries out the supremacy privileges of the main role. Thus, male dominance over women based on gender is a major problem in the patriarchal culture .

Gender different will not be a problem as long as it does not occur inequalities. It purpose make women here is the condition want to set themselves free from the power of men, they want to be independent which without any male intervention. Injustice here is not only about power, but also about education, opinion, rights etc. Then with this emerged of self-reliance in women, Galtung et al (1980) Self-reliance is considered not "merely a necessity but a matter of survival". Women must have the belief that self-reliance is an element within them. So, that they are not easily suppressed by men (Fonchingong , 2003)

The main focus of this study is to describe the radical of feminism reflected by the main character in novel entitled *A is for Alibi*. In this regards, there are several similar previous studies in field of feminism. The first journal Harry Potter through the Focus of Feminist Literary Theory: Examples of (Un) Founded

Criticism by Krusnov Mikulan in 2009. This research goal is to detect that Harry Potter through the focus of feminist literary theory. These researches clarify completely one of the main female characters in Harry Potter, Hermione Granger. Also, in this journal picked to piece in different opinion and expert. The first one is according to Heilman (2003:222) cited in Mikulan (2009) express that her disappointed with Hermione because many examples of inappropriate depict in the novel. In addition, Hermione often point out the fear in several situations. While, in a different position and insist on Harry Potter novels are natural feminist (Dressang, 2002). Hermione is whine girl but the other side Hermione has an incomparable power for beat her enemy. At the end, the scholar concludes this studies clearly complete of the female character reflecting feminist criticism. Even though have many disadvantages, overall the gender equality particularly feminist criticism too contributes in this previous study.

The second research by Kristi Loobeek, the scholar discusses "A feminist analysis of *The Hunger Games*". These researches explore that, as we are literally known feminism split three waves and Kristi linked with the main character of *Hunger Games*, Everdeen. The aim of this research is to look Everdeen belong to what part of wave feminism. In addition, to know portrayed the character of Everdeen as a woman. The result showed that Everdeen is the example of second-wave feminism. This wave beginning early 1960's until 1980's. It is discusses various issues such as inequality, sexuality, work etc. In this research prove that Everdeen act strongest woman and can lead the community.

The third previous study entitled *The Search For Self-Reliance: Women, Education, Theatre and Development*. It was conducted by Tanyi-Tang Anne in 2017. The aim of this study is to find out, in Mundemba city noticing several girls problem that dropped out from primary and secondary schools even they had special skills. Some girls choose another path to survive by establishing a place of prostitution. Nevertheless, in early 1950 the parents on Mundemba city aware the importance of education for their daughters. In this study, also explore a struggle lowly educated woman who married with the rich man, but in the other position she did not live happily. Her name is Emilie, the women dropped out from school. Her husband have another woman, he always lives his family to gain satisfaction. Emilie realize her position prevent her from getting the brighter future like her dreams. Therefore, her studied hard and built a training center for women to increase. Because of Emilie can make money by herself. Finally, she can show to everybody her achievements even though without help of men. This study prove that Emilie struggle her life. She can improve her life better than before. From the girl who dropped out become a woman with the higher education.

Research Question

Based on the basic consideration above and will be formulated on the main character.

How is Kinsey's characteristics reflect the ideas of radical feminism in Sue Grafton's novel "*A is for Alibi*"?

Research Objective

This paper fitted to solve the research question and make it clear.

To reveal how the ideas of radical feminism are reflected through Kinsey's characteristics in Sue Grafton's novel "*A is for Alibi*".

Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this research, the scope of the research is limit to the analysis of the novel written by Sue Grafton entitles *A is for Alibi* The focuses of this study are analyzing the character of the main character and analyzing feminism portrayed in the main character.

Significances

This study goal to notice one of the literary criticisms in literatures is feminist criticism examined woman's characteristic in a literary works. The study intended this research can help the students and will assist the students in understanding and discussing about literature more, especially feminist criticism.

Then for teacher, the study expected the result of this research would be useful for teaching literature. In additionally, this research becomes resource to learn of feminist criticism in classroom such as the definition, part with feminist criticism etc. Moreover, the last one is for the next scholar, the study supposed that this research could make as a reference for the future scholar and make easy to find out the research of feminist criticism.

In addition, this research will open minded of men that women are not as weak as they thought. Realizing of existence of woman is crucial in our life and aware that a person rights are not based on their gender and every person has their own freedom. The finally yet importantly, the men are must be respectful to women as well. The situation to have well affects for the standard of women and can change a turn of mind every single person to appreciate the existence of women.