

Chapter 1: Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher will explain several sub-topics that help the researcher in compiling this research. The first is basic consideration, which shows the problem and the reason why the researcher wants to conduct this research. The second is research question, which show a question that obtained from basic considerations. The third is the objective of the study, which shows the purpose of the research.

Background of study

Feminism is an awareness of women who are under man's domination in many aspects and set of actions to resist it. Feminism is a theory that explains about women's emancipation in some aspects such as politics, economy, and other social aspects where women are not allowed to take part (Bhassin and Khan, 1995, p.5). Feminism is a movement that demands full equality of rights between women and men. Feminism exists to criticize patriarchal culture which places men as dominating individuals. The patriarchal culture that exists in society is very detrimental to women. Women are considered as second-class individuals who do not need to be highly educated, participate in politics, and participate in the economy. Then, talking about the patriarchal system, it is also talking about the privileges that men get from this system. Men are placed as superior who benefit from this system. In addition, with this patriarchal system, this has an effect on the thinking of society towards women. Society considers women as individuals who do not need to be highly educated, do not need to be heard from their opinions, and do not need to participate in politics.

This thought gave birth to the feminist movement which demands equal rights between women and men. Feminism sees that women and men are individuals who have the same rights, and have the same opportunities in the world of education, politics, and economics. The feminism movement itself is dominated by women. But apart from that, the feminism movement can also be adopted by men and this is commonly referred to as men in feminism. This is related to the theory of Kimmer and Mosmiller (1992) which is said that "Men have played a role in supporting western women's struggles for equality since the late 18th century". Related to the words of Kimmer and Mosmiller, Saider (1991) said that some men continue to support the women's liberation movement for example by providing creches at feminist events, campaigning on issues such as childcare and abortion rights, and setting up their own anti-sexist men's groups. From this explanation, we can see that men can also contribute to feminism.

If we bring this term into the literature field, we can find many literary works that talking about the involvement of men in feminism. One of them is a novel by Suzanne Collins "The Hunger Games". This novel is a series and trilogy of adventure novels written by Suzanne Collins from the United State. It was published on September 14, 2008, in the United State, Scholastic Press. This trilogy consists of *The Hunger Games* (2008), *Catching Fire* (2009), and *Mocking Jay* (2010). This novel focuses on the issue of feminism because the plot is dominated by female characters. The author describes the main characters of women in this novel as powerful and smart in making decisions. However, besides showing the feminism values that are applied by women, this novel also

showed the feminism values that are applied by men. It can be seen from the several characters of men in this novel which see women as an individual who has her own right. They are respectful to women and let them decide their own life. The behavior of men characters which support women stated in the data below.

“What do you want to do? I ask we can hunt, fish, or gather.”

“Let’s fish of the lake. We can leave our poles and gather in the wood.

Gets something nice for tonight”, he said.

(The Hunger Games, page 10)

The data above occurs when Gale, the man character in this novel, engaged Katniss who is the woman character to find some food before the voting day of The Hunger Games competition. He asked Katniss to go to the forest to hunt and fish. The act of Gale which asked Katniss to look for food showed that he believes that Katniss can hunt and fish. The behavior of Gale here showed that he has a feminist value on him especially in cooperative work. It can be seen from his action which sees Katniss as a partner in work. They both have the same skills which are hunting and fishing, which made them cooperative in work. If we connected this situation into feminism concept, we can see that here, the action of Gale very related to the feminism concept which sees women as an individual who has the same potential with men. In ideological patriarchy, which is contrast with feminism concept, a man is always the person who has the skill to look for food while a woman is supposed to be at home and cooks. This idea is strongly opposed by liberal feminists. This is in line with the theory of Naomi Wolv in

Mizan (1999), now women have strength in terms of education and income, and women must continue to demand equal rights, and now is the time for women to be free, and do what they want to do, without depending on men (p. 118).

So based on the explanation above, we can see that the feminism values are not only can be applied by women but they are also can be applied by men. Men can contribute to feminism by applying the values of feminism such as being involved in education, economics, and politic.

In addition, talking about this novel, there are some researchers who have conducted the research about *The Hunger Games* novel or film and feminism. The first is Finy S. Basrah (Universitas Mercu Buana, 2017) entitled “*Existentialist Feminism in the The Hunger Games Film*”. This research use theory of Semiotic by Roland Barthes. The second is Dini Zelviana (Universitas Padjadjaran, 2017) entitled “*The Representation of Feminism in The Huntsman Film*” this research use theory of Semiotic by Ferdinand de Saussure. The third Mir Atussholihah (Universitas Sunan Kalijaga, 2013) entitled “*Women’s Role in The Hunger Games Movie*” this research use theory of Marxist. From several previous research above, it can be seen that most of the researchers who did research in this novel, which is using feminism theory, took the female character as the object but none took the male character as the object. Whereas the male character can also represent the feminism values. So based on this, the researcher wants to conduct research that is focused on the feminism values that are applied by men characters in Suzanne Collins’ novel, *The Hunger Games*.

Research Question

Based on the problem above, the research question is formulated as follow:

How does feminism values on men characters in *The Hunger Games* novel by Suzanne Collins?

The Objective of Research

The aim of this research is to analyze the feminism values in men characters in *The Hunger Games* novel by Suzanne Collins.