CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter deals with background of research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, definition of key terms and organizing of paper.

1.1 Background of Research

We often view language simply as a tool or as a vehicle for idea rather than as a material entity which may in fact shape those ideas. It is because some texts produce messages which work on us in a way we are not necessarily aware. It is important to analyze texts carefully in term of the systematic language choices which have been made.

Language is clearly not simply a place where meanings are imposed, but rather a site where certain meanings are negotiated over, or struggled over. Language clearly changes and that change is often brought about through protest and complaint (Mills 1995: 62).

According to Fairclough (2001: 73), "language is a material form of ideology, and language is invested by ideology. Social language or discourse is not only representational, but also intervenes in social change because discourse contributes to the creation and recreation of the relations, subject and object, which populate the social world."

Literature as a discourse is the representation of institutionalized practices of a society, and cannot be taken as a piece of writing disassociated from the

culture or the society and its ideologies and norms, but is very much representative of the deeply imbedded social practices (Mills, 1997:25)

A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings as a literary work is an epic fantasy novel and is written by an American novelist and screenwriter George R. R. Martin. It is a medieval-inspired novel which being set in a patriarchal society and contains a diverse portrayal of women and men.

Exploring the consequences of the novels that being set in the patriarchal society, it provides a variety of female characters. Violence against women, sexuality and moral ambiguity frequently arise among a thousand named characters.

Patriarchal system is a rule based on father's descent or patrimony in patriarchal society. Patriarchal society, in general, is a society organized in such a way that it works to the benefit of men rather than women. In patriarchal culture, a woman is defined as the 'Other' (de Beauvoir 1978: xvi). A woman is a deviation from the norm, meaning that she is constantly compared and identified in terms of differences from a man which carries negative meanings such as inferior and unimportant. Within the feminist movement, the term is seen as a social construction as it is constructed by society, in particular by men in power who are responsible for her continued subordination or oppression. Consequently, women must obey their father's command and they must do everything without seeing the other conditions. Therefore,

> "A woman is dethroned by the advent of private property, and her lot through the centuries has been bound up with private property: her history in large part is involved with that of the patrimony" (Beauvoir, 1970:75).

Gender refers to the cultural differences between men and women, for example: the idea that women are more caring than men or men watch more sports than women. Gender is socially constructed. In other words, the ideas about gender are developed and transmitted through the various institutions of our society.

Gender construction is the process of creating the gender differences that exist in the society. It is the process of defining what is masculine and feminine that has occurred and is occurring in the society. It means the process of creating and changing a society's vision of what is meant to be a man or a woman. It leads to sexism and stereotypes.

Sexism is discriminatory forms of language stem from larger societal forces and wider institutionalized inequalities of power (Mills, 2008: 1). It is not only about statements which seem to excessively focus on gender when it is not relevant. A statement is sexist if it contributes to, encourages or causes or results in the oppression of women (Mills 1995: 62)

The way gender and sexuality presented in the novel catches the researcher's attention. Considering that the story takes place in the medieval-inspired society, it is often viewed as a misogynistic in the way that it is structured. The researcher's curiosity leads her to do a research on sexist language occurred in the novel using transitivity analysis.

The concept of transitivity stems from Michael Halliday's systemic functional linguistics (SFL). It is the overall grammatical resource for construing going on (Martin, Matthiessen, & Painter, 1997: 100 in Emilia, 2014: 149). SFL is a tool to discover meaning behind the text. According to Gerot and Wignell

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(1994) "language is a resource in making meaning". Functional grammar discusses how language functions to clarify meaning that language-users want to communicate. Functional grammar concerned not only with the structures but also with how those structures construct a meaning.

This research is aiming at the investigation of sexist statements in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings* using transitivity analysis. Besides, the research also aims to disclose the hidden meaning of it.

Studies of transitivity analysis have been conducted by scholars, one of which was done by Ferdiani (2009). Ferdiani (2009) investigated the representations of power and dominance relations by elites' groups or institution in the *Jakarta Post Headlines* during the presidential election. The study employs van Dijk's macrostructure analysis, superstructure analysis, and microstructure analysis. The analysis focuses on discourse analysis in terms of language use and linguistic features and their relation with ideology. The result of the research shows that a variety structure (macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure) and strategies (thematization, transitivity, and nominalization) may be used to express ideological and personal opinions concerning the presidential election.

Another study was conducted by Rudiyansyah (2011) who analyzed the relationship between language and ideology. He focuses the analysis on speech structures that were working apparatuses of ideology and stored meanings that were not always obvious for listeners and audiences. His analysis is based on CDA of Norman Fairclough and SFL of Eggins. He analyses Obama's speech mainly from the point of transitivity, nominalization and passivation, to find out how the issues are represented and what ideology is behind the speech. The result

of his analysis is that generally Obama used the systems of transitivity, nominalization, and passivation in order to shorten the distance between him and the audiences. So it could help him persuade the public to accept and support his policies.

Another study was conducted by Pramadya (2012) who investigated the textual dimension that represents the notion of power in the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr. The research elaborates how the phenomenon of language and power exists in Martin Luther King, Jr's speech on the base of linguistic mechanism to indicate power from the framework of Norman Fairclough's model. The main focus of the research is explored how ideological loading and socio-political relations of power have been manifested in discourse of Martin Luther King, Jr. The research resulted in the frequency of using 'I and we' pronoun, more religious statement, more persuasion, and longer turns in Martin Luther King, Jr's speech.

In doing this research, the researcher uses the theory of transitivity as a research tool. The concept of transitivity is associated with Michael Halliday's systemic functional linguistics (SFL). Transitivity is a system deals with the content of language including the doing, sensing, being, and saying activities. Transitivity focuses on the meanings constructed in wording through circumstances, processes, and participants (Emilia, 2014, Gerot&Wignell, 1995). In transitivity, different processes are distinguished according to whether they represent actions, speeches, states of mind, or states of being. Moreover, transitivity is constituted by (i) *processes* in verbal clauses; (ii) abstract human *participants* involved in the processes and realized by nominal groups of clauses;

and (iii) *circumstances* associated with the processes in adverbial groups or prepositional phrases (Halliday, 1985: 102-112). In this system, processes are categorized into actions that can be observed and which have consequences. Verbs are divided into categories, depending on the kind of activity they refer to, and the participants involved are identified by terms which indicate processes and whether they are doing it, or having it done to them. There are six categories of process types: material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioural, and existential. Those kinds of process types will further elaborated in chapter II.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, so the problem of this research is about investigating the process types occurred in the sexist statements and their meanings in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings.*

To clarify and to limit the problems, this research is conducted to answer these following questions:

1. What are the process types occurred in the sexist statements in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings*?

2. How is the meaning constructed in the sexist statements based on the occurrence of the process types in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings*?

1.3 Research Objectives

This research has something as purpose; it is to analyze the processes of transitivity and their meaning and to find the dominant process occurred in sexist

statements in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings*. Specifically, the research has three following objectives:

1. To uncover the process types occurred in the sexist statements in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings.*

2. To interpret the meaning constructed in the sexist statements in the novel *A Song of Ice and Fire: A Clash of Kings* based on the occurrence of the process types.

1.4 Research Significance

Academically, the intended research is expected to enrich the existing theories of language use in constructing gender. The use of transitivity in the present research hopefully can provide guideline for later research which uses the same analysis procedure.

Practically, the researcher intensely hopes this research can be a consideration to understand some novels more critical in interpreting, and to give the awareness to the society and to emancipate women.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Systemic Functional Linguistic:

> *Systemic Functional Linguistic* (*SFL*) is a theory of language which concerns with the function of linguistic structures in the text and how people choose those structures to make meaning in the given context of culture and situation (Halliday&Mathiessen 2004). SFL is a social

theory of language. SFL regards language a meaning-making resource through which people interact with each other in given situational and cultural context (Emilia, 2014: 63).

2. Transitivity:

The study of transitivity related to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) – a theory of language which concerns with the function of linguistic structures in the text and how people choose those structures to make meaning in the given context of culture and situation (Halliday&Mathiessen, 2004) – which is concerned with what kinds of actions appear in a text, how actions are represented, who does them (who is an agent) and to whom they are done (who is affected by the actions of others) (Halliday, 1985: 101).

Transitivity generally refers to how meaning is represented in clauses; transitivity patterns can reveal the certain worldview "framed by the authorial ideology" in a literary text (Fowler, 1986: 138).

3. Sexist statements:

Sexist statements, According to Mills (2008), related to sexism – "discriminatory forms of language stem from larger societal forces and wider institutionalized inequalities of power." A statement is sexist if it contributes

to, encourages or causes or results in the oppression of
women (Mills 1995: 62).

1.6 Organizing of Paper

This research contains of five chapters:

1. **Introduction**

   The first chapter deals with background of research, statement of
   problem, research questions, research objectives, research significance,
   definition of key terms and organizing of paper.

2. **Theoretical Review**

   In this part, the researcher makes explicit the theories dealing with the
   topic which is closely similar to the type of analysis in this research.
   The theories include sexist language and Halliday's transitivity system.

3. **Research Methodology**

   In this conducting research, it is important to scale the method utilized.
   Thus this chapter explains research design, sample of data, source of
   data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

4. **Data Analysis and Findings**

   This chapter is a step for the researcher to analyze and elaborate the
   topic through discussion. Thus it explores the analysis of transitivity
   on sexist statements in *A Clash of Kings* novel.

5. **Conclusions and Suggestions**

   This final chapter provides conclusions based on what is analyzed and
   suggestions for further understanding.