

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter belongs to introduction chapter. It consists of background of problem, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, and clarification of term.

1.1 Background of Research

Ortner in Childs and Fowler (2006: 96) suggested that gender is to culture as sex is to nature, and that gender is the social expression of, and the roles assigned to, gendered dichotomies of men and women. Thus, it could now be appreciated that the nineteenth-century doctrine of separate spheres for men and women, for instance, was built on constructs of gendered identity rather than any inherent predisposition on the basis of anatomy and capacity for childbearing”. Furthermore, as Guerin et al (2005: 237) said that gender, not sex, makes an older man open the door for a young woman, and gender makes her expect it, resent it, or experience mixed feelings.”

In literature, gender un-equivalence is very popular because through its many people make literary works. For instance, the literary works that talking about gender, Nawal El Saadawi had written a novel *Women at Point Zero*, *Memoirs of A Geisha* by Arthur Golden and others.

Guerin et al (2005: 236) explained that gender studies examines how gender is less determined by nature than it is by culture, and as we noted with

Showalter's cultural model, such a cultural analysis is at the center of the most complex and vital critical enterprises at the present time. Rivkin and Ryan name their introduction to their essays on gender studies "Contingencies of Gender," which aptly suggests the fluid nature of all gender categories.

Gender studies relates to feminist ideology because both of them is the form of literary work research that has function to identify and to understand the role division between men and women in society.

Feminism has often focused upon what is absent rather than what is present, reflecting concern with the silencing and marginalization of women in a patriarchal culture, a culture organized in the favor of men (Guerin et al, 2005: 222).

As Guerin et al (2005: 223) said that notwithstanding the contributions of revolutionary nineteenth and early twentieth century authors such as Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter Mary Shelley, George Eliot, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Virginia Woolf, feminist literary criticism developed mostly since the beginning of the late twentieth century women's movement. That movement included the writings of Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett, and Betty Friedan, who examined a female "self" constructed in literature by male authors to embody various male fears and anxieties.

The feminist criticism spread their concept through many ways for instance, in sociology, philosophy, literature and the others. In this research, feminist criticism present in literature area. The literary work researched in this research is lyrics.

Dealing with the explanation above, the researcher likes to explain *I Am Sasha Fierce* album by Beyonce Knowles and *Stripped* album by Christina Aguilera. Both of the albums are written by many song writers. Not only Knowles and Aguilera wrote the lyrics but also other of songwriters had written the lyrics for these singers. The researcher chose those albums because those albums contents of many lyrics that talked about position of women in family and society. So, the researcher assumes that gender un-equivalence through feminist criticism exists in kind of literary works, especially in a lyric that is include in poem. “Poem is the most condensed and concentrated form of literature” (Perrine in Siswantoro, 2010: 23). Talking about poem, there is other things that similar to poem, that is song lyric. Based on Cuddon in *A Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Song is many poems, even if not set to music, may be called songs, but the term, in its literary sense, usually denotes a poem and its musical accompaniment. Music and words may be composed together; or the music may be fitted to the words and vice versa. (Cuddon, 1999: 839). The Greeks defined a lyric as a song to be sung to the accompaniment of lyre (lyra). A song still called a lyric (the songs in a musical are known as lyrics) but we also use the term loosely to describe a particular kind of poem in order to distinguish it from narrative or dramatic verse of any kinds (Cuddon, 1999: 481).

Furthermore, poetry is closely related to the term “lyric,” which derives etymologically from the Greek musical instrument “lyra” (“lyre” or “harp”) and points to an origin in the sphere of music. In classical antiquity as well as in the

Middle Ages, minstrels recited poetry, accompanied by the lyre or other musical instruments (Klarer, 2004:28)

One of poems in *I Am Sasha Fierce* album that containing the feminism struggle is *If I Were A Boy* lyric expressed by Knowles. It is Knowles' lyric that told about the women who imagine become a man because the women feel hurt when a man do bad act to her life.

Beyonce Knowles was born in Texas, America in 1981, she is the first of African American women that success became Songwriter of the Year in 2001. Knowles include into the success singer and song writer. One of her creation is *I Am Sasha Fierce* album. This album talk about argues of women in their culture.

One of poems in *Stripped* album that containing the feminism struggle is *Can't Hold Us Down* lyrics declared by Aguilera through her song. It is the Aguilera's lyrics that told about the woman who can't say her opinion because the man's authority. Furthermore, the man neglects her opinions. In the finally, she is in subordination area.

Christina Maria Aguilera was born in Staten, New York, USA, in 1980; she is the American singer and songwriter. She is known by her single. Not only Beyonce but also Christina Aguilera include to the success singer and songwriter. One of her creations is *Stripped* album. Many of songs in this album talk about argue of women in their culture.

This research focuses on two albums of Knowles' *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera's *Stripped* because there are some lyrics that have connection with gender un-equivalence. The cases of gender un-equivalence usually occurred in

social culture. Through feminist criticism, the researcher has great attention to explain gender un-equivalence in lyrics. Finally, for that reason the researcher proposed the paper entitled “Gender Un-equivalence of Knowles’ *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera’s *Stripped*: A Feminist Criticism”.

1.2 Statement of Problem

There are feminism struggle which describe through some of Knowles’s lyrics and Aguilera’s lyrics. This research is about the struggle of women to get gender equivalence and all the feminist aspect that is presented by the lyrics. Thus, the whole narrative aspects of the lyrics are going to be used in analysis follow.

In short, this research focuses on:

1. What is the form of gender un-equivalence in Knowles’ *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera’s *Stripped* album?
2. How did the “I” apply feminism struggle as portrayed in Knowles’ *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera’s *Stripped* album?

1.3 Purpose and Significance Research

The purposes of this research are:

1. To know the form of gender un-equivalence in Knowles' *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera's *Stripped* album.
2. To know the "I" apply feminism struggle as portrayed in Knowles' *I Am Sasha Fierce* and Aguilera's *Stripped* album.

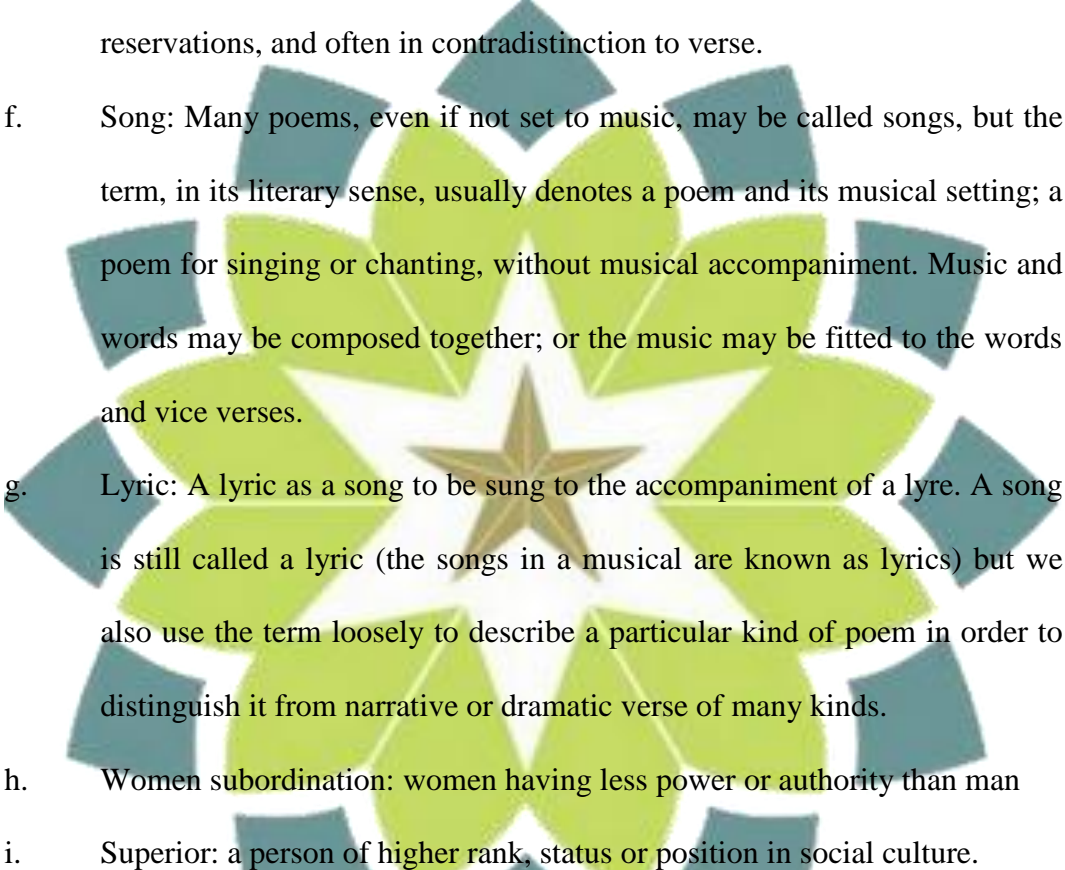
The significances of the research are:

1. For the writer, it is being a new challenge in exploring and improving the comprehension of literary studies, especially about gender and feminist criticism.
2. For the reader, perhaps can be such a literary supplement consume. Especially, the research is provided to students whose study in English Literature Department to be reference about research in the same problem.
3. For many people, who concerns on gender and feminist studies.

1.4 Clarification of Terms

Some of terms that relate with this research:

- a. Gender: one concept to know the differences man and women from the social culture.
- b. Gender un-equivalence: same meaning with gender inequities.
- c. Feminist Criticism: a writing against women's subordinate.

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- d. Poem: A composition, a work verse, which may be in rhyme or may be blank verse or a combination of the two. On the other hand, it may depend on having a fixed number of syllables.
 - e. Poetry: it is a comprehensive term, which can be taken to cover any kind of metrical composition. However, it is usually employed with reservations, and often in contradistinction to verse.
 - f. Song: Many poems, even if not set to music, may be called songs, but the term, in its literary sense, usually denotes a poem and its musical setting; a poem for singing or chanting, without musical accompaniment. Music and words may be composed together; or the music may be fitted to the words and vice verses.
 - g. Lyric: A lyric as a song to be sung to the accompaniment of a lyre. A song is still called a lyric (the songs in a musical are known as lyrics) but we also use the term loosely to describe a particular kind of poem in order to distinguish it from narrative or dramatic verse of many kinds.
 - h. Women subordination: women having less power or authority than man
 - i. Superior: a person of higher rank, status or position in social culture.

1.5 Organization of Research

In writing the thesis, the writer will make it in five chapters, are follow:

- Chapter I : Introduction consists of background of research, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, clarification of terms, and organization of research.

Chapter II : Theoretical Review, this chapter describes the referential theories used to analyze the data.

Chapter III : Methodology of Research, this chapter describes research design, data resource, technique of collecting data, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV : Analysis and Discussion, this chapter contains the process of analyzing the data, then combining with the theories to get the analysis result for answering the research problems or questions.

Chapter V : Conclusion and Suggestion, this last chapter contains the conclusion or the result of analysis and the suggestion for further research.

