

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the introduction of research. It consists of the background of the research, the statement of the problem, the objective of research, the significance of research, and the organization of writing.

1.1 Background of the Research

People use their mind to create something, like literature which is born from the people thoughts. According to Wolfrey J. R., (2006, p. 62) said “literature has been used to designate any ‘imaginative’, ‘creative’ of ‘fictional’ writing”. One of the results from creative, imaginative and fictional writing which is created by the people is Novel and it is included in the genre of literature, namely prose.

The prose is the expression to describe the consideration and feel which does not have rhyme and rhythm. According to Abrams M. H. (1999, p. 246), the meaning of prose often signified as a daily language which to describe a fact or idea because it can use for magazine, newspaper, and novel.

The novel is one of prose. According to Abrams M. H. (1999, p. 190), the term of Novel is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. In the intrinsic element of the novel, we recognize, there are theme, character, setting, etc. The researcher will focus on characters as the object in this research. Definition of characters according to Abrams M. H. (1999, p. 32);

“Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it (the dialogue) and from what they do (the action)”.

From that citation, the writer recognizes that characters have each personality which impacts to the story. Characters also represent something, like this research, the researcher will take feminism in character in this story. In the literary works, the writer can change the life of the character which the writer wants. If he/she changes the character, the identity of the character will change too. Sometimes the change of character can result to bad and good; If bad then the feminism from the character will experience the crisis.

One of the novels which have icon feminism is *Eat Pray Love*, and then the researcher takes this novel. *Eat Pray Love's* novel for the first time was published on February 2006, becomes a New York times' best seller for over 200 weeks, American Booksellers Association Acclaimed Best Seller, the first on the Book Sense Paperback Nonfiction List for over a year. This novel is included into popular fiction that makes readers want to see a well-defined and interesting plot, with plenty of complications and conflicts to keep them entertained. The conflicts might be physical between characters or might involve problems that characters must solve. Characters in these types of works might be embroiled in verbal fights with one another or might have a murder mystery that they must solve. The same point I have found in this novel.

In the novel *Eat Pray Love*, there is a character named Elizabeth Gilbert who has the character of feminist. Elizabeth Gilbert is very curious about her life, she was always happy and the type of person that is perfect, because it has all the desirable modern woman, intelligent, ambitious, that is a husband, house, and a brilliant career.

But instead of feeling happy and satisfied, that she felt panic, sad and disappointed. She felt the divorce, depression, failure in love and lost the handle will be the direction of her life. To restore it all Liz took a radical step that is searching for his true identity again by means of travel around the world by herself in three countries that are Italy, India, and Indonesia. Liz including women who are strong, independent and well educated. Said Gilbert (2006, p. 90);

“To my eye, there was nothing this woman could not do on her own.”
It means that the woman can do anything without needing help to others.

Feminism is all about embracing the natural qualities of a woman. The quality of the natural mean female must have a good way, humble, adult, mother, and lover. Feminism is to focus on proving that there are similarities between men and women, and then comes from the literature that is based on the principles of feminism and refers to literary works centered on the struggle for women's equality and accepted as a human being.

Women will be able to change the world and will reconstruct the back view of society about women. Women should place herself into the text and write for herself as well as for other women to provide insights to other women about their bodies and about their advantages that they did not realize. According to Cixous (Nurrachman, 2015, p. 270), a woman must write herself, a woman must put herself into the text as into the world and into history by her own movement. Then that citation talks the woman has power on the text and be shown to herself.

The researcher has found that the main character of this novel has a problem with her character. It becomes a new topic which is interesting for the researcher to analyze. The concept is an internal model which comprises assessments. Features

assessed include but are not limited to personality, skills and abilities, occupation and hobbies, etc. The concept is not restricted to the present. It includes past selves and future selves. Future or possible selves represent individual ideas of what they might become what they would like to become, or what they are afraid of becoming. They correspond to hopes, fears, standards, goals, and threats. It may function as incentives for future behavior and they also provide an evaluative and interpretive context for the current view of self. The researcher is interested in this story because normally women are passive who always entrust to the condition. They are waiting for their future will come to their life. They do not try to find it by themselves but in this story the character of Liz Gilbert is different. She is an active woman and struggles to find her own life.

1.2 Previous Studies

There are some previous studies about the same object of this thesis, those are, Cause and Impact Analysis on The Main Character's suffering in Elizabeth Gilbert: *Eat Pray Love* by Fredy Yunanto (2011) this thesis about dominant by the cause and impact sourced from the main character's suffering life. It displays through some confession from the main character and the paragraph that supports the main character felt unhappy from her problems. The second previous studies found by the researcher is the thesis by Ardi Wirdiansyah (2011) which Thesis's entitled The Life of Elizabeth Gilbert as Reflected in Her Novel *Eat, Pray, Love*, the thesis talks about how is the harmony concept from sociological approach applied. The third previous studies found by researcher is the thesis by Bert Olivier (2012) this entitled The Pleasure of Food, and the Spiritual: *Eat, Pray, Love* and *Babette's Feast*, the thesis

talk about the implications of the enjoyment of mundane pleasures and the allegory that enables the viewer to grasp the possibility of significant culinary enjoyment on the part of an otherwise excessively spiritually oriented group of people. The last previous studies found by the researcher is the journal by Colton Lovelace (2014) entitled *Love the Lace; Field work journal: Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat Pray Love*, it is about the personal thought of the writer. This journal talks about how Elizabeth Gilbert makes the reader understand through the paragraph by using hyperbole. Related to the previous study above then the researcher uses the feminist approach in this thesis, relates how feminism stated by one of the well-known experts of feminist Helene Cixous applied in this novel.

1.3 Statement of Problems

From the background above in this research, the researcher will analyze feminism of the main character Liz in the Novel *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. This research formulates the following of two questions to analyze:

- 2.1 How does the feminism of the main character constructed to be Independent Woman in *Eat Pray Love*?
- 2.2 How does the feminism pursuit Liz's happiness in *Eat Pray Love*?

1.4 Objectives of Research

From the questions above, the researcher takes a purpose of objectives of the research, two objectives as following:

1. To know the feminism of main character Liz constructed to be independent woman in *Eat Pray Love*.

2. To know how does the feminism pursuit Liz's happiness in *Eat Pray Love*.

1.5 Significance of Research

The Significances of this research:

- 4.1 Academically this research gives the knowledge about feminism character on popular fiction, especially in *Eat Pray Love* novel.
- 4.2 Practically,
 - 4.2.1 To give some references to other researchers that want to write a thesis, paper, journals, etc.
 - 4.2.2 To give knowledge about the characteristic of the main character to the student, especially English Literature.
 - 4.2.3 This research is expected to improve the knowledge of feminism through the character of Liz as American modern woman in *Eat Pray Love*.
- 4.3 For the reader, this research is expected to be a helpful source in comprehending about feminism in popular literature.

1.6 Organization of Writing

This paper is divided into five chapters to analyze the Feminism of the main character in Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat Pray Love*.

Chapter I, Introduction, consist of the background of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of research, the significance of research, and organization of writing.

Chapter II, Theoretical foundation, feminism, character, feminist theory (Helene Cixous), the feminism of character in Novel.

Chapter III, methodology of the research, consist of the method of research, source of data, the technique of collecting data, the data and ends with the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV, finding and discussion consist of an analysis of what is characteristic Liz and how the feminism of Liz described in *Eat Pray Love*.

Chapter V, conclusion and recommendation.

