

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This writing consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, conceptual framework and organization of writing.

1.1 Background

Nowadays the role of women has become an important issue in this world. In the literary world there are many works that discuss issues related to women. No matter the author is a man or a woman. In literary works, the ones that have been written by male authors are often found female figures created by the author; of course, they see the problems which are faced by women of their view as men. Meanwhile, some women authors create female characters in their literary works from their perspective as a woman, and a few other women authors still wear men's views on women in depicting female figures.

During the Victorian Era, women struggled to attain gender equality by challenging the traditional roles that defined them. These women no longer wanted to remain passive and obey the demands of their husbands nor be domestic and the caretakers of their children. They strived to attain the role of a 'New Woman', an intelligent, liberated individual who was able to openly express her ideas.

Talking about the role of woman and gender equality is closely related to feminism that has been regarded as revolutionary gender equality. Feminism is an understanding that arises when women demanded for getting the equal rights with men. The core feminism purpose is to improve the position and degree of women to get equality or parallel to the notch and degrees of men. The efforts to achieve the goals of this feminism cover a variety of ways. This statement is

in line with Djajanegara, 2000: 4, “One way is to acquire the same rights and opportunities to those of men.” While Muchtar in his article entitled “*Can a Woman be a feminist?*” defines that feminism as a movement based on an awareness of the oppression of women were then followed up by any action to overcome the oppression (Women's Journal, Issue XII / November-December 1999: 5).

According to Mary Wollstonecraft in her work entitled “*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)*” argues that, “Women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack education”. Furthermore Showalter argues that, “as long as women remain silent, they will enter history subdued and alienated, it is a history logically speaking, they speech should disrupt”. The researcher employs these perspectives in order to get full understanding of women role in *Dracula* novel.

In this case, *Dracula* is the most famous mystery novel in the world. This novel was published in England and affected public perceptions about the image of the vampire western. The novel tells the story of Count Dracula, a noble who was cursed into a vampire. He lived in rural Transylvania and tried to move to the UK. The novel is written in epistolary style, a set series of correspondence and diaries. Mulyana (2005: 5) states that epistolary style commonly used in correspondence. In general, the shape and the particular system that has become a habit or rule. Overall, part of this style is initiated by the opening paragraph, followed part of the contents, and a concluding paragraph ends. It means the narrator is the protagonist and sometimes gives readers of newspaper clippings related to the story. This is a unique style that is rarely used in many literary works.

Dracula entered western culture as the first and only historically grounded literary vampire within decades and shaped the image and identity of vampire species for the whole century (Warchol, 2003:7). Additionally, this novel became a center for the author of gothic novels about vampires. Diphilipantonio (2011:1) says that Bram Stoker's classic horror novel, *Dracula* (1897), is the strongest influence in the vampire.

The focus of this research is on the characters of women in mission of destroying vampire in *Dracula*. *Dracula* is a classical novel that has a genre horror gothic. This novel tells about the trip of Jonathan Harker. He is a newly qualified lawyer who is sent to Transylvania by his firm to facilitate Count Dracula's purchase of real estate in London. Dracula is a vampire that described as a monster. He is a blood-sucking creature that has a big ambition. He is a nobleman and he is stronger than twenty men.

In this novel very clearly seen that Lucy and Mina are represent as the Victorian's women. They are important characters woman in this novel that cannot separated with Count Dracula. Both of them are the victim of Vampire. The two women characters that mentioned above is the object in this research.

The novel represents women in the Victorian era. Lucy and Mina characteristics are representing certain issue of related to their attitude in Victoria society. According to Reinhard in his thesis entitled "*Characterizations of Mina Murray and Lucy Westenra as the representation of Victorian Women in Bram Stoker's Dracula*" the issue that related to women in Victorian Era such as; firstly a woman working hard to study and learn many things, just to ensnare men and do not to prepare themselves for work, secondly women getting married to get a status in the society, thirdly women should give a birth and become a mother, fourth a women has to wear a

dress which covers her skin because their body belongs to their husband so they have to keep their body pure, fifth women should have a good manner and watch their language when they talks with other so they do not hurt somebody's feeling, and sixth women supposed to have more deep sense of humanity then men.

The researcher will analyze about two women characters in the mission of destroying vampire, although their attitude represents women in the Victoria era, but their behavior and their main set are work out in the women in that era. Especially Mina Murray, she is an unusual character woman in the novel. Besides she has a good attitude, behavior and main set, she also has a "man's brain" but she can be a good wife for Jonathan Harker and she is a good friend for Van Helsing and others. So the researcher chooses the object "*The Role of women characters in the mission of destroying vampire in Bram Stoker's Dracula*".

Similar study had been endorsed by Reinhard (2009) who presented *Characterization of Mina Murray and Lucy Westenra as The representation of Victorian Woman in Bram Stoker's Dracula*. While in 2013, Azie did the similar study to Reinhard which had difference in the field of the research. He presented *The Allegory on Dracula Character in the Novel "Dracula" By Bram Stoker*.

Meanwhile, the researcher intends to use Elaine Showalter theory to get full understanding of the role of women in the mission of destroying Vampire in *Dracula* novel.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background, this research mainly has ground matter on two women characters in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The researcher finds that *Dracula* represent the strong

characters of two women who have managed their own problem on the mission of destroying Vampire. So, this study is intended to answer the following research question:

1. How is the description of two women characters in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*?
2. How is the role of two women characters in the mission of destroying Vampire in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*?

1.3 Research Objectives

The purposes of this research are mentioned as follows:

1. To know the description of two women characters in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.
2. To know how is the role of two women characters in the mission of destroying vampire in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research is divided into two kinds, there are;

1. Personally, this research is expected to improve the knowledge of researcher about the feminism as reflected in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.
2. Academically, this research gives the knowledge about feminism as reflected in Bram stoker's *Dracula* for reader to the beneficial reference for the next researchers who wants to analyze same aspect or the same novel.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

- Mission

Mission is a task or job that someone is given to do. According to Oxford dictionary, mission is an important assignment, typically involving travel abroad.

- Vampire

Vampire is a corpse supposed to leave its grave at night to drink the blood of the living by biting their necks with long pointed canine teeth. According to Oxford dictionary, vampire is a small bat that feeds on blood by piercing the skin with its incisor teeth, found mainly in tropical America.

- Character

Character is a person in narrative work of arts, such as a novel, drama or film. We can say that character is an imaginary person represented in a work of fiction.

- Feminism

Feminism is a woman's movement that supports equal right for women. This movement triggered by realization that that right of women equal to men. In relation to the literature, the relevant fields of study, including: female literary tradition, women authors and women reader, language characteristics of women, women figures and so on.

- Feminism as Literary Criticism

Feminism as literary criticism is one of variety criticism that utilizes in the framework of feminism theory to interpret and give an evaluation of literary works. Wellek (1978) argues that literary criticism is a concrete study of literature with an emphasis on assessment. While Abram (1981) defines that literary criticism is a study either regards to restrictions, grading, analyzing, and assessment of literary criticism. Pradopo (1994) states that literary criticism is literary

science literature science to "judge" literature; to provide assessment, and provide decision quality or not in a literary work that is being faced by critics.

1.6 Organization of the Paper

The researcher dealt with five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, conceptual framework and organization of writing.

Chapter II describes the theoretical bases of Elaine Showalter. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including; Definition of Character, Feminism, Feminism as literary criticism, and Feminism of Elaine Showalter.

Chapter III focuses on the methodology used in research consists of research procedure, source of data, technique of collecting data and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV explains the analysis of the data previously collected in which the analysis is guided by the theories provided in Chapter II. This chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Showalter feminist. The explanation is based on the problem statements and theories.

The last chapter deals with the conclusion and suggestion. The fifth chapter offers the conclusion of the research and the suggestion which can make the research more valuable.



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