

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the introduction chapter. It consists of background of research, statement of problem, purpose of the research, significance of research, and definition of key terms. This chapter also explains the reason why the researcher conducts the research.

1.1 Background of Research

Marriage is the relationship between a husband and a wife through a legal process. Family is a group of people who are related to each other, especially parents and their children (Cobuild, 1995: 602). So, marriage is the process of making a relationship between a man and a woman. After a man and a woman are married, a man is called a husband, and a woman is called a wife. From the process of this marriage, the children are born. Then, they are called a family.

In an Islamic marriage, based on the rules which are written in excerpt of marriage certificate made by the religion department of Republic of Indonesia, there are four rules for the husbands toward the wives. If the husbands leave the wives for two years continuously, or the husbands do not fulfill the husbands' obligations to give what the wives need both physically and mentally, or the husbands hurt the wives physically and mentally, or the husbands let the wives for six months, afterward the wives report those violations to the court of religion because the wives do not accept all those violations, it means that the first divorce falls to the wives. So, based on the marriage rules above, the husbands must obey

all the rules of marriage if the marriage wants to continue. The husbands must also obey the marriage rules in order to make the family peacefully and full of blessings.

Almost every marriage starts out as a big celebration. Each couple is full of hopes and dreams for their future life together. But the road to a happy marriage is far from easy. Both husbands and wives should work together well on how to maintain the wheel of marriage (Michelin, 2001:45). So, the understanding between husbands and wives are really required to make good relationships. It means that the husbands should understand the wives characteristics, and vice versa. In a marriage, forgiveness, togetherness and communication are also absolutely needed. How busy the husbands are, the husbands have to manage the time for the family to make the harmonious relationship.

This problem of the marriage and family is often discussed both in the discussions or family talk which is frequently broadcasted on the television or the radio. Those programs usually discuss the woman's rights, the harassment, the radicalism, or the underestimation which always happen in the world. The problem in the family usually happens because of the family finance. The victim is always the wives (Mariam, 1987:14). So, the root of the problem that always happens to the wives is about the family needs. When the husbands cannot fulfill the family needs, the husbands leave the family or desert their wives.

In modern society, the women think that they are equal to the men. According to Lehman (1951:12), "the role and position of women have had a lot of changes due to the history of human. Later, modern society distinguishes

psychological inequality of men and women. Due to the modern society, the women think that they are equal to the men. They have both the same rights and the duties in their lives.” So, women and men have the same rights to experience the modern life. Women can develop their skills in their careers and they cannot stay at home to be only the housewives.

By constitution states that woman is predisposed to lead a life who is different from man. The sphere of activity to which women are predisposed by constitution is an affective activity. It precisely says that women’s roles are wives and mothers (Randal, 1922:264). So, women have two positions, those are as wives and as mothers. If their positions are as wives, they have to serve their husbands. If their positions are as the mothers for their children, they have to look after their children.

The understanding of position and role of women refer to theories become central to the history of development of position and role of women in society based on the context of where and when women live. The concept of all understanding positions and roles of women in marriage is inseparable from the sociology theories on women and marriage (Randal, 1992:271). Based on the explanation above, in the context of sociology, women play important roles, both in the society and the family as the married women.

Based on the Introduction to Sociology book William (2011:82) argues that, “marriage is seen as a legally recognized social contract between two people, traditionally based on sexual relationship and implies a permanence of the union. This social contract is not specified by reasons how man and woman are united.

This is why society identifies the types of marriage.” So, marriage is a way of uniting a man and a woman legally. It is intended to introduce the society that they are legally married.

The family conflict often happens in a family. It usually comes from the small things and turns into a big problem which makes the conflict getting worse. This condition is actually the education for them on how to find the solution. This is the best lesson for them to grow up their understanding about feeling from each other in order to not being an egoistic person and know the real meaning about the purpose of marriage. It will educate both the man and the woman who have been united in a marriage (Amargi, 1995:23). So, both husbands and wives are educated on how to be strong with the big wind that often blows their peace. Husbands and wives should hold together to keep on standing together to face it.

Every female human being is not necessarily a woman. According to Beauvoir (1949:3), “a woman is a womb that means the woman as one of the human species.” But it would appear, then that every female human being is not necessarily a woman. Therefore, she must share in that mysterious and threatened reality known as femininity. In other hand Showalter (1941:53) states, “divides the concept of feminine, feminist and female concept.” According to her, the first stage of woman is the feminine which is all the concept of human body based on their nature. So, it can be seen that the woman is just the species with uterus in their beautiful body. Physically, women are different from men because they are softer than men naturally and they cannot be equal to the men.

In *Marco's Convenient Wife* the position and role of women in marriage becomes bias since the man characters are engaged in marriage in unusual ways. They decided to marry each other because of different mutual needs. The woman whose name is Alice loves children and she has to be in a situation to express compassion to a little abandon girl related to Marco who actually really cares about the little girl whose name is Angelina, a daughter of Marco's late little brother who died of accident. The man needs someone to take care of the little girl. Alice, who is actually Angelina's sitter, needs to express her compassion on little girl. Therefore, marriage is a way out to make the needs meet.

Marco and Alice have strong ego to admit their feelings to each other. They decide to get married and they want to save Angelina. Instead of having a common marriage, they agree to be united in a contract marriage. After Marco gets married to Alice by contract, Angelina feels more comfortable with this condition. Angelina looks more cheerful and happy because Angelina has a family. Angelina has a father and a mother who can ask her to take a walk and have fun.

There are three previous research that support this research. First, it comes from John Moge (1957). In his journal entitled "*Sociology of Marriage and Family Behaviors*". This research tells that marriage and family are closely related in all the things. Marriage and Family form behaviors which occur in the society. Through this research, the researcher is able to know the causes of the behavior changes caused by the sociology of marriage. The result shows that the behaviors of the husbands and the wives in marriages really influence the condition of the

family. For example, the ways the husbands treat the wives in the family if the husbands treat well or not.

The second research comes from Spring (2009) entitled "*Sociology of Marriage and Family*". This research tells about the problems of sociology of marriage and family. The problem in the marriage is about the relationship between husbands and wives. The problem of the relationship between the husbands and the wives which is not harmonious becomes the conflict in the family. This conflict in the marriage relationship can create various problems that can make the broken home family. From this family relationship conflict can make the children become the victim of bad relationship between the husbands and the wives. The result shows that the harmonious relationship between the husbands and the wives can make the family condition peaceful. Moreover, the peaceful family condition can make the children happy and grow up well.

The last previous research is from Morgan Davello (1996) in his journal entitled "*Marriage and Family in Sociology*". The research explains that the sociology factors in the marriage and family are the description of the family condition on how to maintain the good communication between the husbands and the wives. Husbands and wives do not treat each other arrogantly that can make the discomfort of the family relationship condition. The result shows that the family relationship condition can make the marriage and the family comfortable if there is a good communication between the husbands and the wives. The good communication between the husbands and the wives can be one of the keys to make the marriage harmonious.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of problem can be formulated in the research question as follows:

1. How are the woman's roles of marriage by contract in *Marco's Convenient Wife* novel?
2. How are the theory of sociological women implemented in *Marco's Convenient Wife* novel?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

In accordance with the problem of the study above, the purposes of this research are as follows:

1. To find out how the woman's role of marriage contract is depicted in *Marco's Convenient Wife* novel.
2. To find out how the theory of sociological women is applied in *Marco's Convenient Wife* novel.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This research aims to find out aspects of defense and can further deepen the intimate social in a literature along enhance the quality. This analysis is represented from injustice toward role of woman in *Marco's Convenient Wife* novel by Penny. Reader is advised to use this research as a reference to understand and increase knowledge about the gender role. Then the researcher expected to use this research as a base or reference further studies with the development of problem form a different viewpoint.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Marriage by Contract

A contract between two people who are about to marry, or during the marriage, and which settles in whole or in part, and obligations as regards the marriage. Setting out the terms of possession of assets, treatment of future earnings, control of the property of each, and potential division if the marriage is later dissolved.

2. Role of gender

A set of societal norms dictating the types of behaviors which are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or sexuality. Gender roles are usually centered on conceptions of femininity and masculinity, although there are exceptions and variations. There is debate as to what extent gender roles and their variations are biologically determined, and to what extent they are socially constructed.