

## CHAPTER II

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

Since the terms of literature come up in people's mind, many people prefer to make good literary works to express their feelings. For instance, the phenomenon of novels itself is growing faster in the world. Especially for female author who become the specific way to express their voice as a human. One of the famous female authors is Mary Wollstonecraft who wrote *A Vindication of the Right of Women* in 1792 and as declare that feminist era has begun. Feminism examines the way in which literature reinforces or undermines the political, social, economic and psychological oppression of women (Tyson, 83).

Feminism is main theory to be applied in this study focused on women's oppression in order to against the patriarchal systems which controlled by the society. Feminism is the struggle to end sexist oppression (Jenainati, 3). According to this sentence, feminism is an appropriate method to be applied in David Nicholls' novel *One Day* to show women's struggle for their equality. Moreover, the writer will analyze how feminism elaborates woman's character in *One Day's* novel to show gender inequality.

Since the aim of this study is about women's inequality position in modern era and how they could escape completely from patriarchal systems which considered as men's power, the writer applies Liberal feminism which focused on Mary Wollstonecraft's book entitled *A Vindication of the Right of*

*Women*, John Stuart Mill's book *Subjection of Women* and also Betty Friedan's theory *The Feminine Mystique* in order to analyze and explain about woman's struggle through the main character in this novel. Besides, this chapter also gives some related studies which have similar theory in order to supports this analysis.

## **2.2 Feminism**

Feminism divided into three waves and each wave has different goals to focus about. However, all of these three waves have the same purpose to be concern to fight women's oppression and gender inequality both in domestic or public areas, because the power of patriarchal system has many disadvantages things for women's life. According to Jenainati, patriarchal power rests on social given to biological differences (4). In the other word, patriarchal systems put a man as a superior person while a woman as an inferior person. Hence, many women try to gain the equal positions because they believe every human have the same opportunity and they try to break the traditional gender roles itself to open another perspective toward men's power that women should have the same position both domestic and public area.

Traditional gender roles described male as rational, strong, protective and decisive, while female described as irrational (emotional), weak, nurturing and submissive (Tyson, 85). These terms have been successfully proven almost all people's mind that women should be under men's rules. Therefore, this study focuses on the portrayal of modern women which positioning women in the second place or second sex after men and the way they change people's

perspective in order to gain the equal positions with men. Feminist also criticize the way author, especially male's author to describe female character. Based on male's perspective for describing women, it builds many stereotypes toward women, for instance women as sexual object for those men who wants to see it. According to Laughey, the matter of women as sexual objects actually have been discussed for a long time by feminist particularly radical feminists and it is in the second wave of feminism (47). This sentence shows that women wants to fight against the patriarchal society and change people's mind toward women's as an object of sexuality.

According to Groves and Jenainati, the second wave feminism identical with some activities that refers to women's right movement and women's liberation movement in order to end discrimination and sexist oppression (87). Liberal's movement itself especially in Europe, women have begun to show their ability in public areas as well as men. According to Susan Wendel cited in Tong's book:

The modern political goals most closely associated with liberal feminism are equality of opportunity, which would undoubtedly require and lead to both.”<sup>10</sup> Very few, if any, contemporary liberal feminists favor the elimination of government-funded safety nets for society's most vulnerable members. The overall goal of liberal feminism is the worthy one of creating “a just and compassionate society in which freedom flourishes.” Only in such a society can women and men thrive equally (12-13).

Gender equality is a tool to give a same position toward masculine and feminine in the society. Many of gender stereotypes describe that masculine is the first superior rather than feminine's aspect such as women as an object and depends on men's protective. As a result, feminist is an ideology for women's movement in order to gain the equal position and show that women are capable to live independent without men's domination beyond them. Moreover, feminism is the appropriate tool to analyze this study which focused on woman's struggle as the main character in this novel in order to gain her desires.

### **2.3 Liberal Feminism**

Liberal feminism is one of sub-parts from feminism movements which bring an ideology of the equality position towards women in public areas. Liberal feminism also believes that as long as women are able to give their contribution toward their decision, they will gain equal respect and liberty (Jenainati 28). One of the important things from liberal feminism is an equality which becomes the main purpose of issues behind women's movement. The right to vote, equal pay of job's opportunity, same education, access to contraception, and freedom to speech are the goals of liberal feminism. They believe that every human has capacity to explore their rational through education, elaborate their skills by the opportunity to gain outside jobs as well as men.

Moreover, liberal feminism identical with some of theories proposed by Marry Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill who describes their point of view toward women's life. Wollstonecraft explained that in the government of physical

world, it was observable that female, in general, is inferior to the male (36). In the other word, the social construction of female's behavior is close to the patriarchy and many stereotypes toward female's life couldn't be denied. Wollstonecraft believes that women have their own power to fight against the patriarchal systems itself and changes world's perspective toward women's attitude.

According to Rosemarie Tong in her book *Feminist Thought* there are three movements of Liberal Feminism:

1. Liberal feminist movement in 18<sup>th</sup> Century, which focused on equal education toward male and female. The aim of liberal feminism is the opportunity of women to explore their knowledge as well as men. Besides, well-educated women will gain their position in the society and there are no more sexist oppression and gender inequality. Wollstonecraft also gives her critical opinion toward Jean Jacques Rousseau's novel which describes obviously about gender inequality between male and female. For instance, male as superior should gain rational knowledge such as science, society and engineering. While female as inferior should gain irrational or emotional knowledge such as poetry, drama, and arts which build the conception of the way women should be nurturing and caring people as a mother. Based on these perspectives, liberal feminism gives their voice by gaining the same education with men to explore rational thinks toward women as independent person (13).
2. Liberal Feminist Movement in 19<sup>th</sup> Century which focused on equal liberty. Liberalism believes that education is not the only option to change

women's position. There are also some other movements such as women need to do more than read books, they also need to be a good partner with men. The opportunity to give their contribution toward liberties aspects, such as freedom to speech and to vote (18).

3. Liberal feminist movement in 20<sup>th</sup> century which focused on suffrage actions. This suffrage action considered with women's organization which came up to give their speech such as NOW (*National Organization of Women*). The aim of this organization is giving access for women to gain their equal educations, liberties and freedom's life as well as men (21).

Related to the explanation above, there are many aspects become the access for women gaining their opportunities, struggle for their position and fight against the patriarchal systems. The key of liberal feminism is equality process which becomes the goals of women's movement. Liberal feminism is not trying to fight with men's perspective; the purpose of its ideology is focused on women's equality. Thus, this study applies Liberal Feminism as the appropriate term to analyze women's character in the novel.

## **2.4 The Feminine Mystique**

The society learned that truly feminine women do not want careers, higher education, political rights- the independence and the opportunities that the-old fashioned feminists fought for (Friedan, 16). Since Friedan explains about her experiences as wife and mother, she starts to describe her position based on women's perspective which considered as victim. She also explains in her book

*The Feminine Mystique* in order to shows women's position in the society. Therefore, many women have the same goals by being married and rejecting their own dream in public area. Mostly women have already taught to receive their domestic jobs as their destiny since childhood. It shows that they aren't allowed to gain public jobs as well as men do.

Friedan challenges women to find and catch their dreams beside domestic things, because she believes that male and female have the same opportunity for exploring their skill both in domestic and public area. She wants to invites women to see themselves as individuals with many potential for achieving their dreams (Jenainati and Groves, 90). According to this sentence, she needs women to open their mind and fight for their goals, not only accepts the traditional gender roles and forget about their own skills. This reaction is not describes as a fight against men's power, but only focus on exploring women's ability to compete with men's domination, because she believes that every people has their own rights to expand their skill.

Furthermore, women's ability in public area becomes the main problem for many women who want to expand their goals. Unfortunately, patriarchal systems seems rejecting women's position in public area by giving them old-perspective, such as how to dress, to look, to cook, act more feminine and have a big desires toward marriage.

Their only dream was to be perfect wives and mother; their highest ambition to have five children and a beautiful house, they only fight to get and keep their husbands. They had no thought for the

unfeminine problems of the world outside the home; they wanted the men to make the major decisions (Friedan, 18)

Since, Friedan starts to invite many women for exploring their dreams, many of them realizes that they should gain the opportunity in public area. The problem has come when several of women still trapped by domestic jobs as their main duties. Friedan argues that women should involve their partner in terms of husband to change old-perspective about woman as inferior person. Friedan explains that after women have their own rights to vote, to gain better education and freedom to speech, they are not supposed to be hiding behind their husband. Therefore, she starts to open women's perspective by breaking traditional gender roles which described women should be stay at home and take care their children.

Friedan refuses this perspective because she claimed that in order to resolve their dilemma, the women's movement should be restarted and this time men should be involved in order to change public values, leadership styles, and institutional structures (Jenainati and Groves, 94).

Related to those explanations above, it can be seen that women should have their own priority instead of dreaming and waiting for their future husbands. Women should have power to gain their own goals without men's domination around her.

Friedan also describes about women's problem that has no name, in order to shows that many wives and mother couldn't identified themselves, because they only focus on domestic jobs and tired of all duties inside the home. Moreover, she also elaborates the answer of women's problems by inviting them

to explore their careers but not prioritize those careers over family. In the other hand, women have their own opportunity to explore their careers both in domestic and public jobs. Their husbands as partners should be involved in order to support and change world's perspective for women's ability in public area.

Hence, Friedan's theory is related to Emma's character in this novel, because she can maintain both domestic and public jobs in order to get her satisfied feeling for gaining her own goals. She still covers her careers and keeps her husband Dexter, who always supports and provides Emma's needs. She shows her successful condition as a modern woman who has double jobs.

## **2.5 Review of Related Studies**

There are some related studies that the writer found to support this study. First, thesis from an undergraduate student in Airlangga University written by Septiana Prasetyowati entitled *Lilo Topchev as A Symbol of Woman's Power in Philip K. Dick's The Zip Gun*. The main issues in her thesis have similar concept with this study, but she only focused on the woman's power through the main characters both male and female. She uses the same theory with this study and tries to elaborate the attitude toward the characters itself. Meanwhile, this study will focus on modern women represented by the main character who describes woman in public areas. Septiana's thesis will support this study to complete the analysis toward women's movement in modern era.

The second related study is journal from Susan de Young and F.G. Crane which tells about *Females' Attitudes toward the Portrayal Women in Advertising*.

In their journal, they show two tables of women in US and Canada. The first table shows women are more sensitive which means that women should stay at home, women as sex object, women do not do important thing and always dependent on men. The second table shows the percentage of agreeing of those statements above. Most of them, agree with the roles or the statement about the portrayal in women through advertising. My study will reject their analysis about women. This journal have the same issues from the meaning of portrayal in women's life, in the other hand, my study will be focused on women's ability and existence to compete with men's domination and reject their perspective.

Other related studies only previewing about Emma's character based on Nicholls' novel but they didn't explain more behind this character, such as an article from Claire Wolfe, she only tells about general characterization toward Emma's personality without feminism issues. There is another article by David Jenkins, entitled *Out meets the author and screenwriter of 'One Day'*; it's like general interview with David Nicholls perspective about his novel without giving any ideas or issue behind this novel. In the other word, the portrayal of modern women representation through Emma Morley's in David Nicholls' *One Day* is the first study that the writer will analyze.

The writer chose this topic because nowadays there are many independent women who successful both in domestic and public job but unconsciously they are still being trapped by traditional gender roles. This phenomenon give a small space in some women's thought, because many of them didn't know how to deal with their choice.