

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

In a society, the term “gender” becomes a fundamental issue which has often been discussed by many people in many ways. Gender is a social construction of men and women. It is totally different from sex, because sex is about the biological construction of men and women. Gender is associated with physical, mental and also behavioral characteristics to indicate a person as feminine or masculine. According to Beasley, “Gender” refers to the social process and practices of dividing people based on their *sexed identities* (20). Gender also refers to the social programming in the society. In this case, society gives a construction that should be obeyed if someone wants to be considered as man or a woman.

In the traditional gender roles, patriarchal system asserts that women should be engaged with traditional roles in society. Patriarchy is a term which refers to the power of men to dominate women. Based on Jenainati and Groves, Patriarchy refers to power in which women’s interests are subordinated to the interests of men (4). It is usually associated with male domination. In patriarchal system, society believes that women are always dominated by men (Lindsey 117). Women are supposed to be inferior to men because men are constructed to be the leader. Men have influential positions to dominate women. Women should obey

what men said. Women become very powerless because they can do nothing and it makes them restricted to express their expression and they only have a little space to move. For example, in the West long time ago, women were not allowed to be writers because only men were believed to do it well. Women cannot express their feelings because most people think that women are not appropriate to do that.

In patriarchal system, women are commonly treated as inferior, subordinated and oppressed by men. Women were judged to be powerless than men, but all judgments about women's position in patriarchal society were not absolutely accepted by women. In this condition, women did not only keep silent and accept their roles in patriarchal system. Patriarchal system gave such terrible impacts to women. Due to the impacts, women tried to struggle for their rights. Together, women started a movement called feminism to end up their oppression.

Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression in women's life (Hooks 5). The movement in feminism is divided into 3 waves. The first wave began around the 19th to 20th century. This movement is better known as early movement of women. This movement challenged women's lack of access to education, unequal employment opportunities and unjust marriage laws (Jenainati and Groves 20). The next phase of feminism is called second wave of feminism. The second wave of feminism began in the early 1960's and extended through the late 1980's. Whereas the first wave of feminism concerned about the issues of inequalities between genders, second wave feminism more focused on the inequality in many aspects, such as family, workplace, sexuality and etc. The

dominant issue in this phase was sexuality. Second wave feminism broadened all the issues in the first wave feminism. Briefly, there are two political movements that shaped the second wave: The Women's Rights Movement (WRM) and The Women's Liberation Movement (WML) (Jenainati and Groves 86). Those political movements are the examples of feminism in the second wave. And the last phase is the third wave which began in the early 1990's and still continuing today. It is a movement as the reaction of the failure of the second wave. This movement's success lies in its declaration which states that women cannot only stand equal to man but they can dominate men's position, as well.

The third wave of feminism challenges the patriarchy and attempts to empower women. As Baumgardner and Richards says in *Manifesta: Young Woman, Feminism, and the Future* that The Third Wave is espoused by the confidence of having more opportunities and less sexism (83). Here, women are trusted to be powerful to gain more equality and opportunity because in this phase, sexist issues no longer exist in society. Along with the third wave, there is radical feminism which is intended to challenge and overthrow the patriarchy by opposing the standard of traditional gender roles. Actually, radical feminism began developing in the era of second wave of feminism but then it further evolved in the third wave of feminism. Radical feminism is not just equality for women, it is more than that. Based on Jenainati and Groves, radical feminism is a revolutionary of women (101). Because radical feminism believes that women's emancipation is not enough, its followers believe that they should oppose the patriarchal system. Other than patriarchy, radical feminism also challenges

androcentrism (man-centered views). It is such a “phenomenon” which believes that man always becomes benchmarks and dominates other genders. In this case, women are treated to be more powerful.

Women who believe in radical feminism should be strong, independent, and powerful. Briefly, it tries to change the phenomenon of androcentrism into gynocentrism. Gynocentric feminism was declared by Elaine Showalter (Jenainati and Groves 125). Previously, men were the benchmark in the society, but then it was changed by women. In this case, women become empowered. So, gynocentrism is also called woman-centered ideology. Gynocentrism emerged in 1970s. In this decade, women should be active in social and political life. It was far different from women’s position a long time ago. At that time, women were considered as inferior in many cases. For example, in the late 1960s, the struggle for women's equality finally emerged in literary studies. It was caused by the stereotype of the male point of view which argued that men were considered superior.

In literary canon, the standard of universality is based on the (white) male point of view (Tyson 84). In addition, regarding gynocentrism, feminist academics became actively engaged in challenging the Western literary canon (Jenainati and Groves 124). In Showalter’s essay, *Toward a Feminist Poetic*, it is argued that not only male models and theories are adapted into feminist theory, but female framework must be constructed in it to analyze women’s literature to develop a new model based on the female experience (Bressler 176). She names that process gynocriticism.

In this study, the writer chose Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* as the object of the study. This play was written in 1982. The setting of this play is around 20th century. Tom Stoppard is a British modern playwright. Stoppard's literary works focused on human rights issues. According to Opitz, Since 1977 Stoppard has become concerned with a number of human rights issues and he has been active in Amnesty International. He wrote many literary works and received many awards for his works. He was one of the famous playwrights in 20th century. He is not only a playwright, but also a novelist. One of the plays that he wrote is *The Real Thing*. This play is a famous play. It won many awards such as an Evening Standard Award for best play (1982), Drama Desk Award for outstanding new play (1984), New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play (1984), Tony Award for best play (1984), Drama Desk Award for outstanding revival of a play (2000), and Tony Award for best revival of a play (2000).

This play raises an interesting issue concerning an independent woman who is depicted as a powerful woman who shows her power through her character. Annie as the female character in this play is depicted as an independent woman and also has an ability to challenge and overthrow the patriarchal system in her family. Stoppard portrays the character, Annie, as a woman who can exist in many fields and beyond the standard of woman in traditional gender roles. She is an actress and also a political activist. This play is about marriage, emotional fidelity and intellectual fidelity, love, art and pop culture. This study analyzes the character, Annie, has a power to challenge the traditional role as a woman. She breaks the role of traditional woman's identity. In the beginning, Annie is an

actress who is married to Max. But then, she has an affair with another man, named Henry. Henry is Max's boss. This story depicts the character, Annie, as strong, abusive and also rule breaker because she leaves her husband and has an affair with another man. Her way of speaking to the male characters is abusive. It shows that not only man can dominate woman, but woman also can do so.

This thesis analyzes the portrayal of Annie in challenging women's stereotypical identity with her power in her daily life in *The Real Thing*. The writer of this study is interested in the character, Annie, because she breaks the opinion which says that women are always inferior to men and she shows that woman can be standing equally to men or even more than that. Annie is depicted as a brave and strong woman. It can be seen from her ways of speaking and making a decision. She is depicted as an empowered woman who breaks women's stereotype. She has an affair with another man and she does not show weakness or submissiveness at all. In order to know the portrayal of Annie, the writer will use radical feminist criticism in analyzing the story. This theory is suitable to analyze the story because the characteristics of the female character in this story are radically strong, a phenomenon which can usually be found in gynocentrism. This argument is also supported by Young in *Humanism, Gynocentrism, and Feminist Politics*. In his article, he explains that radical feminist is one of the parts of gynocentric because in mid to late '70s, people who believed in radical feminism, were increasingly moving to be more gynocentric feminism (26).

Actually, this thesis also tries to identify the socio-cultural background of the period. This is important as Stoppard always includes the socio-cultural

background of the period in his works as a major issue that influences the portrayal of the characters. As the writer has cited in Gabriela Malaníková's *Writing Politics in Tom Stoppard's Plays: An Analysis of Three Plays*, there are many literary critics which explain that Tom Stoppard's works are influenced by the political issues as crucial features in his play (5). Thus, identifying the socio-cultural background will help the writer reveal the portrayal of Annie. It also helps the writer to prove that Annie is a woman who has women-centered perspective because she is no longer fastened by the patriarchal system.

According to the writer, it is important to identify the socio-cultural background of the period because most of the awards winning literary works are influenced by the background of the time. In the analysis, the writer will elaborate two periods that influence the portrayal of Annie based on the setting of the play, namely Cold War and Sexual Revolution. Actually, this thesis is aimed to examine the issue of gynocentrism in the portrayal of Annie and to show that the portrayal of female characters, especially Annie, is influenced by the socio-cultural background of the period. Therefore, the writer will analyze the portrayal of Annie as the manifestation of gynocentrism, and then identify the socio-cultural background of the period which also influences the portrayal of the female characters, especially Annie.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the problem will be discussed is:

- How is Annie, the main character in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, portrayed?
- How is the socio-cultural background of the period described in the work related to the portrayal of Annie?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the aim of writing this thesis, the objective of this study is:

- To find out the portrayal of gynocentrism through the character, Annie, in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*.
- To identify the socio-cultural background of the period described in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* which is related to the portrayal of Annie.

1.4. Scope and Limitation

There are many issues that can be found in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. However, the writer of this study will focus only on the gynocentrism which is portrayed in the female main character, Annie. This study will explain more about radical feminism which supported by the phenomena of gynocentrism through the character of Annie. The writer tries to identify the character from the action of Annie who uses her power to oppose the sexism and challenge the women's stereotypical identity in her family. Another important thing in this play which is also related to the character, Annie, is the socio-cultural background of the period. In addition, there are two periods which is influenced the portrayal of female characters, such as Cold War and Sexual Revolution. At last, the study will focus on the data taken from the play and also other sources that can support the arguments in the analysis.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this study gives deeper knowledge about the phenomenon of gynocentrism. This study will analyze the gynocentrism which is performed by Annie as one of the female main characters. The portrayal of Annie shows that dominance is not only depicted in man, but also in woman in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. Actually, Annie tries to challenge women's stereotypical identity and then become women-centered which is called gynocentrism. The result of the analysis is used to enrich the reader's knowledge and also gain the reader's knowledge about English literary works, especially gynocentrism in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. At last, the writer hopes this study will become a worthy addition to all the studies about Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, especially for students of English Department the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga.

1.6. Theoretical Background

Feminism is a women's movement which argues that there are inequalities between genders. Feminism believes that women also have the power to fight for their equality. In patriarchal society, most people assume that women should be inferior to men. Women are stereotyped as weak because their position is always under men's position. According to Jenainati and Groves, the inferiority of women is based on biological differences between sexes (5). It shows that sexism also influences the concept of patriarchy. Sexism believes that physical

appearances are based on their size, shape and also body chemistry between men and women which prove that both of them are different.

Feminism emerged in English around 1890s. The aim of feminism is to end the oppression, sexism and also exploitation of women. Based on the concept of feminist movements which has been explained above, feminist movements aim to challenge the inequality of women. Feminism itself is such an umbrella for women to gain their equality. It protects and also struggles for women's right. Women can stand under feminism to vote for their rights to promote women's equality.

Radical feminism is one of women's movements in feminism which declares that women should struggle for their equality and abolish the existence of the patriarchal system in the society. Women emancipation is not enough for this movement. Radical feminism believes that women's oppression stems from male domination (Lindsey 12). Patriarchal system is the main rival for women in this perspective. Storkey argues that women in radical feminism are labeled as aggressive women, the ones who are always inciting other women to demonstrate their power and also the ones who undermine the position of any women who chooses to be 'just a housewife' (90). In this case, women try to oppose the patriarchal system which attempts to make women marginalized in society. Because of that reason, women who believe in this view try to challenge the men-centered perspective to women-centered perspective or often called as gynocentrism. In addition, the benchmark is not only men, women also have the right to be a benchmark.

Based on the explanation of the feminism theory, this theory is applicable to analyze this study. This theory will help the writer analyze the text. In this study, the writer uses radical feminism as a branch of feminist theory. Radical feminism is a type of feminism which argues that women have their power to integrate in social sphere, including political. It is proved by Echols. She says that in the fall of 1967, women's liberation groups who join the radical movement were dominated by *politicos* (17). In this era, women should oppose their subordination then recast their positions in the society. In the analysis, the writer will focus on the phenomenon of gynocentrism to depict how women use their power in radical ways. The analysis of this study is based on the character and the socio-cultural background of the period which is related to the portrayal of the character. This theory analyzes that the text reinforces the gynocentrism through Annie who tries to break the patriarchy and challenge women's stereotypical identity.

1.7. Method of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the writer uses the play of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* to be the primary object of analysis. The secondary sources consist of feminist theory books. The methods that are used in analyzing the play consist of data collection and data analysis. Before collecting the data, the first step is close reading. In close reading, the writer has to understand the primary object. The aim of close reading is to find the major issue based on the text. Therefore, this step helps the writer to find the main issue based on primary

text namely the phenomena of gynocentrism in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. Besides, it helps the writer to find the evidence to prove an existing argument.

After close reading, in data collection, the writer tries to search and select the suitable data related to the object of the analysis, such as feminist books, articles, journals and also internet sources to gain more information and enrich the writer's knowledge. In addition, the writer also searches the information on the background of the author to help the writer to identify the socio-cultural background of the period.

The data collected are then selected. The selected data contain the data which corresponds to the content of analysis. The next step is data analysis. In data analysis, the writer will try to identify how the character, Annie, is portrayed in the play. Then the writer will define the socio-cultural background which influences the character and is related to the portrayal of female character. In this step, the writer focuses on phenomenon of gynocentrism portrayed by Annie. Finally, to conclude this study, the writer will propose the response of the gynocentrism of female character and the socio-cultural background which is related to the portrayal of Annie in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

The writer uses several terms that are needed to be defined for the limitation of the study. This part would provide the definition and the description of the key terms which are used in this analysis. The definition may be important

to explain what this thesis is about so that the readers will have an idea about the theory in this analysis:

- Gender : A social construction between men and women, not biologically determined (Beasley 20).
- Patriarchy : A term which allows men to dominate women; social construction believes that men are superior and women are inferior; a highly values dedicated to men to control women in the society (Bressler 354).
- Radical feminism : One type of feminist movements which wants to oppose patriarchy; have an aim to improve the status of women by challenging and throwing the traditional gender roles (Atkinson 5).
- Gynocentrism : Women-centered perspective. Women become benchmarks in the society by challenging the patriarchal system (Jenainati and Groves 101).