

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

I.1 Background of the Study

Literature is so close to people. It develops together with the development of human civilization. Literature of a people is the principal elements of its culture since it contains their values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts, or in short, their whole way of life. (Graham 1966, 1) It also means the way of an author to express his or her feeling, attitude, idea or thought about life. (Rees 1973, 6) One of the works of literature is novel.

Novel is a fictional prose narrative in which the representation of character occurs either in static condition or in the process of development as the result of events or actions. (Holman 1986, 335) In this study the writer will analyze a novel entitled Memoirs of A Woman Doctor.

Memoirs of A Woman Doctor is the translation of its Arabic original Mudzakkiraat At-Thobibah written by Nawal el-Saadawi. Saadawi wrote this novel when she was a young woman in her twenties after having graduated from the School of Medicine in Cairo. It expresses her feelings and experiences as a woman who is a doctor at work but still performs the roles of a wife and a mother at home

(Chatherine Chobam via Saadawi, 1982 : 7). She has to serve patients, husband and children altogether.

Memoirs of A Woman Doctor is a novel talking about the struggle of a woman in finding her identity, the identity of a woman. It describes the life of a woman from the very beginning as a little child till her adulthood as a doctor with her very complicated confusing ways in human life.

This novel mostly talks about the rather strange characteristics and behaviours of the major character, the woman doctor who is told as the first person "I". She hates the femininity of woman since the childhood. The first menstruation is the very serious attack for her even she protests God for having created girls including she herself in such condition. She envies her brother very much who has more freedom than her in many things. Her own mother is one of whom she also strongly hates because of her different treatments for her (as a woman) and her brother (as a man). Besides, she does hate God who has created girl and boy differently. She seems to hope the complete equality between these two naturally different creatures.

There are more things which are not less interesting in accordance to the life of the major character. As a doctor, she is so close to the human body, both of man or woman, both the living and the dead one. Examining the

bodies of man and woman she finds almost no difference between them except in only some parts. Thus she exaggeratedly praises science for it has abolished the differences between them even regards it as god, "and the god of science is almighty ..." (Saadawi 1988, 34) Nevertheless, shortly she changes her mind because of certain experience that god of science knows no mercy and no shame even is very harsh. She does not praise it so exaggeratedly anymore. Moreover, being a doctor who is capable of treating men (certainly the ill ones) freely, she comes to a conclusion that men are not stronger than women so that she does not want to be managed by them, she must be superior. In her mind women can not rely on men and must be self-standing individuals. She refuses some male friends of hers willing to take her hand, and consequently she has to live alone, without a husband loving her. Indeed, she finds this very unpleasant. She has deceived herself. Marriage for her seems to be the solution. Fortunately, in an occasion she meets an engineer, and in short they become a couple of a wife and husband but finally a divorce is the only result. She is trapped in a very serious frustration and promises herself not to get married again. However, she at last finds her own loved chosen man. Till this part, the author does not tell the readers whether the woman doctor is then happy and lives harmoniously with her new chosen partner.

Those are parts of the novel which make it interesting and call the writer to study it more deeply. He wants to look into the attitudes and behaviours of the major character, the woman doctor, which according to him are rather extraordinary, and to describe her hard struggle to get her own self-identity. In addition, reading the work critically and completely the writer finds some improper steps in the human life that the major character chooses.

I.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background mentioned previously, the writer finds some interesting problems which arise in relation to the novel which will be analyzed. Those are:

1. What psychological conflicts which make the major character become an extraordinary woman?
2. How is her struggle to find her identity as a woman?
3. How is the responds of the writer (as a member of society) towards the concept of finding self-identity which is experinced by the major character?

I.3 Objective of the Study

This study is expected to :

1. reveal the psychological conflicts the major character is facing so that she becomes rather different from other women, an extraordinary woman.

2. describe the hard struggle of the major character in finding her identity as a woman.
3. express the responds of the writer (as a member of society) towards the concept of finding self-identity which is experienced by the major charactor.

I.4 Significance of the Study

By this study, the writer wants to enrich his understanding on literature. Besides, he intends to give the readers, especially the students of the English Department of Airlangga University knowledge of how to understand literature.

In addition, this study is meant to describe the struggle of a woman with some rather different things, especially the behavioral ones, in comparison to other women. Hopefully, it may be taken as a useful teaching for everybody concerning such kind of problem.

I.5 Scope and Limitation

This study will focus on the analysis on the one of the intrinsic elements of fiction, the character. More specifically, the writer will limit the study only on the psychological or internal conflicts of the major character. However, to support the analysis and to make the description of the major character clearer and more understandable, the writer will also give some

description of some minor characters.

Analyzing this element, the character, the writer finds it adequate to get understanding of the psychological conflicts which are faced by the major character. The novel being analyzed is almost completely dominated by the appearance and performance of this major character.

I.6 Theoretical Background

In analyzing this literary work, the novel, the writer employs the theory of *deconstruction* because the aims of the study is to reveal the complicated mysteries of the major character and afterwards to give contributions to the readers in viewing the life of a human being reflected in the life of the major character, which is rather controversial.

Deconstruction is a term invented as a reaction against structuralist criticism, intended to emphasize that reading is not wholly a process of synthesis and submission to a text. (Quinn 1992, 255) Intending to support the analysis, the writer will also make use the psychological approach since the conflicts which are going to be analyzed are mostly psychological. In addition, the writer uses a structural approach in this study. This is because he realizes that all of the events and happenings which are going to be analyzed are

literary, meaning that they are parts of a literary work, they are not the real ones. Structural approach views a literary work intrinsically. In other words, it views a literary work from its intrinsic elements such as setting, plot, character, theme and so on. The writer, as firstly stated, will limit the discussion on the character of the work. Thus the using of this approach is appropriate.

I.7 Method of the Study

In doing the analysis the writer will step on some stages. First of all, he reads deeply and critically the material which is going to be studied. After getting the mutual understanding of what he has just read, he describes the problem being dealt with so that he may give explanations to the readers about the work or parts of the work such as the quotation of the author's expression. Furthermore, he gives his analysis on those cases. Therefore he, in this study, is using the descriptive - analytic method. After analyzing and describing the cases he will give his own assumptions and conceptions in connection to what he finds in the text. He does not merely follow the text but also wants to give something which is not available in the text. Then, he also employs the deconstructive method. This method is based on assumption that it was no longer possible to

regard the classic realist text as a reflection of the world. As an alternative it was possible to recognize it as a *construct* and so to treat it as available for *deconstruction*, that is, the analysis of the process and conditions of its construction out of the available discourses (Belsey 1992, 104). The realist text is a determinate representation, an intelligible structure which claims to convey intelligible relationships between its elements. (Belsey, 1992, 107)

I.8 Definition of Key Terms

Psychological conflict: a struggle between desires within a person. For example, the feelings of guilt, anger, hatred, frustration, doubt, fear, and so on (Shaw 1972, 92)

Femininity: quality of being feminine (having the qualities or appearance considered characteristic of women) (Hornby 1989, 47).

Extraordinary : beyond what is ordinary, very unusual, remarkable (Hornby 1989, 427)

Behaviour : way of treating others (Hornby 1989, 96)

Attitude : way of thinking or behaving (Hornby 1989, 65).

Self : the irreducible unit out of which the coherence and stability of a personality emerge (Zimbardo, 1992 ; G-12).

Identity : the distinguishing character of the individual, who each of us is, what are our roles and what we are capable of (Feldman 1994,, G-9)

self-identity : One's distinguishing character through which his or her coherence and stability emerge.

The author : the author of the novel (Nawal El-Saadawi).

The writer : the writer of the thesis (Syaiful Arifin).

I.9 Organization of the Paper

The writer divides the thesis into four chapters. Chapter one is introduction which contains background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, and definition of key terms.

Chapter two is theoretical framework containing the explanation of the theories and method which are used in the analysis.

Chapter three is analysis which may be called the core of this study. In this chapter, the writer is exploring all of his capabilities to make this study better. Through this part, the writer is trying to reveal different things very closely connected to the intrinsic elements of the work. Firstly, he explains the intrinsic aspect of the work, the character. Further, he analyzes the main problem of the study. It is the psychological

in the analysis.

Chapter three is analysis which may be called the core of this study. In this chapter, the writer is exploring all of his capabilities to make this study better. Through this part, the writer is trying to reveal different things very closely connected to the intrinsic elements of the work. Firstly, he explains the intrinsic aspect of the work, the character. Further, he analyzes the main problem of the study. It is the psychological conflicts of the major character of the work.

The last chapter, chapter four is the conclusion which is more or less the summary of the analysis.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK