

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human creature which represents some aspects of life, such as human problems, human experiences and human conducts. The objects of literature are obtained from the experience of life. In his book, An Introduction to the Study of Literature, William Henry Hudson says that literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1965:10). In other words, literature is the expression of life through the medium of language.

As one of literary works, fiction (from the Latin *fictio*, "a shaping, a counterfeiting") is a name for stories not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, imagined. In fiction, the "facts" may or may not be true. Because fiction is a created thing, it draws us, as human beings, by its human significance. The material, existing out in the world, does indeed have its human significance, but both the general fact of its being shaped and the particular way of the shaping have a significance perhaps even deeper. They represent the effort of a human mind to seize on the inner nature of experience (Brooks, 1975:5). The modern form of fiction in English has been dominated by two forms: the novel and the short story (Kennedy, 1983:4).

The writer of this thesis would like to take the short story as the object of the research.

The term "short story" is normally applied to works of fiction ranging in length from one thousand to fifteen thousand of words (Kenney, 1966:103). The short story grew out of the tale, developed during the nineteenth century. To see the differences between the short story and the tale, Edgar Allan Poe stated some principles of the short story:

A short story should create a single impression
 It must be capable of being read at one sitting
 Every word should contribute to the planned effect
 The effect should be created in the opening sentence
 and developed throughout the work
 The story should end at its climax
 Only such characters as are essential to the effect
 should appear (Little, 1966:109).

So, the main point of short story writing is the intense unity of effect. The effect centred around a theme, a character, an accident, a place, and a mood. It is more than just a sequence of happenings.

The story chosen is "The Yellow Wallpaper" written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. She is an American reformer and author, who was mainly identified with the labour and women's rights movements. Her most influential works, Women and Economics (1898); advocated economic independence for women, The Yellow Wallpaper (1899); a short story - is considered as her best piece of fiction (The Encyclopedia Americana, 1977:XII-750).

"The Yellow Wallpaper" would be analyzed as the organized whole - this perspective concentrate the analysis on the intrinsic elements.

Julia Baker stated that "The Yellow Wallpaper" represents woman as uprooted, manipulated, and constantly threatened by male callousness and tyranny (Erich, 1982:189). It seemed that woman is always under man's control.

For that reason the writer of this thesis would like to analyze "The Yellow Wallpaper", emphasizing on the woman's problems. In this story, the unnamed woman, the main character, has a problem in her life. She is a woman who cannot be herself in her marital life. She does whatever her husband tells her to do. She never could express her feeling and thinking.

John, the husband of the unnamed woman, arranges all her needs. He thinks that the best way for her. He orders her not to do anything except rest. Actually all his actions make her as if she lives in prison.

A woman's desperate need for freedom is presented by Charlotte Perkins Gilman in "The Yellow Wallpaper". This atmosphere of the idea of feminism interests the writer of this thesis not only because she is a woman, but also of the Gilman's way in presenting her idealism of the life of women of her period. Besides that she finds that in the male-oriented society the intellectual emancipation of the woman is needed, and it can be seen from the reality found in our life nowadays.

Based on that background, the writer of this thesis tries to see the idea of feminism in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's work "The Yellow Wallpaper".

1.2. Objective of the Study

The primary objective of this thesis is to know the meaning of the story "The Yellow Wallpaper" by focusing on the major character's thought and attitude.

The writer of this thesis tries to find out the idea of feminism of the story "The Yellow Wallpaper" through the intrinsic elements of the story, i.e. plot, characterization, and setting.

1.3. Significance of the Study

By analyzing Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", the writer of this thesis hopes to get the deep insight of the social problem during the nineteenth-century, especially the position of woman in society.

Also to know the meaning of Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" to contribute to the body of knowledge and contribute the understanding of literature in general, and American literature especially the nineteenth-century American women writers on particular. So it can be as a valuable introduction for further research on feminism idea.

This thesis is also hoped to give views of human life to the readers. So the readers will have a deeper insight into human problems and human characters, in this case is about woman's rights to be herself and her existence in society.

1.4. Theoretical Background

In analyzing "The Yellow Wallpaper", the writer of this thesis would like to use the objective theory.

The objective theory is used because the analysis of this thesis would be done through the internal structure of the story without pay attention to the external references.

Related to the theory, so the approach which is used here is the literary one. Literary approach is used because the analysis focused on the internal element of the story.

1.5. Method and Technique of Writing

The writing of this thesis is entirely done through the library research. The writer of this thesis collects the data from books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or some printed materials dealing with Charlotte Perkins Gilman's works, especially "The Yellow Wallpaper". Besides that also collects some critics about the story and the author's biography.

The writer of this thesis uses descriptive analysis. By collecting some words from the script as the datas. In analyzing those datas, the writer quotes them as it is, also describes them or symbols by paraphrasing and quoting. So that there are many quotations in order to support the analysis.

The interpretative analysis is used in this thesis in order to analyze the character's problem in "The Yellow Wallpaper". The interpretation of the writer of this thesis done by selecting and arranging some of the incidents and dialogues. It is a subjective one because it guided by her view of the story, and not contradict to the text.

1.6. Definition of Keyterm

In this part, the writer of this thesis would like to give the definition of the keyterm which is used in this research.

Feminism is the belief that women are entitled to the same social, political, and economics rights as men (The American People Encyclopedia,1962:VIII-385).

Idea is anything that is in the mind as an object of thought - a product of thinking (Webster's Students Dictionary,1959:403).

The Idea of Feminism is a design of thought that woman and man were created equal, they have the same rights in social, political, and economics also in family. And the woman's role has become more nearly equal to that of man.

Yellow is the prismatic color that lies between red and green in the color spectrum. The human eye is extremely sensitive to yellow (the peak of the color-sensitivity curve falls between yellow and green), and it is probably for this reason that yellow signs and markers are widely used to indicate caution or danger (The Encyclopedia Americana,1977:XXIX-660).

Wallpaper is the papers customarily applied on sidewalls. In decoration wallpapers are esteemed for their magical qualities of illusion; scenic designs will make small rooms appear larger; they can supply architectural designs and furnishings in a room with printed designs of furniture, windows, and shelves of books; they can widen a room with their designs arranged horizontally, or lift a low ceiling with stripes printed vertically; they can give a remodeled look with the various textures available; architectural irregularities can be accented of

minimized as desired with such designs as grilles, windows, and louver shutters; or they can contribute dramatic interest as decorative panels (the Encyclopedia Americana, 1977:XXVIII-291-293).

The Yellow Wallpaper is the title of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story. Related to the story itself, so the yellow wallpaper here is the papers on the sidewalls which is contribute dramatic interest to the main character and as the caution to the others of her condition. In other words, the main character is trapped in her room (the trap symbolized by the wallpaper), cannot do anything except rest, plays her dramatic interest on the wallpaper which is actually as the caution to her husband (the caution symbolized by the yellow color) that her mental condition is getting worse.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND OPERATION OF CONCEPT