

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of the Study

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. The word 'literature' derived from the word 'littera' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. However, now, the term 'literature' is more focused and restricted to merely imaginative works, which comes up from the imaginative mind of the story writers. According to Klarer, literature referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word . The definitions, therefore, usually include additional adjectives such as aesthetic or artistic to distinguish literary works from texts such as newspapers, scientific textbooks, magazines, legal documents, brochures, and so on. Literature then, can be said as a creative writing by an author with aesthetic values which makes literature regarded as an art. Literature as a writing form differentiates its form from other art products, and its aesthetic or artistic values make it different from other writings (1).

Edgar and Henry Jacob are written that Literature has three general genres, they are drama, poetry, and prose. Prose is divided become two things, those are fiction and nonfiction. Fiction, originally mean anything made up or shaped, is prose stories based on the author's creation and imagination. It includes myths, parables,

novels, romances, and short stories. In the other hand, nonfiction is a works which describe or interpret facts, present judgments, and opinions. It consists of news reports, essays, magazines, newspapers , broadcast media, films, letters, historical and biographical works and many other forms of communication (2).

Novel (from the Italian *novella*, Spanish *novela*, French *nouvelle* for "new", "news", or "short story of something new") today is a long narrative in literary prose. Novel is the further development of romance. A novel is defined as a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and usually presenting a sequential organization of action and scenes. According to Richard Taylor, novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct (46).

One of the interesting topics in novel is about the sexism because the main character gets many abuses like mental, physical and sexual that happens from a mens in her family. Collin writes The vast majority of African-American women were brought to the United States as slaves in a situation of oppression. Oppression described any unjust situation where, systematically and over a long period of time, one group denies another group access to the resources of society. Race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, age, and ethnicity among others constitute major forms of oppression in the United States (21).

Because at the time many black women gets oppression during they becomes as slave inferior white people and black mens.they also have no right to deliver their voices. Some of black women participated in struggle for racial equality and women's rights movement. Among them are Ana Cooper, Mary Church Terrel, Sojourner Truth, Amanda Berry Smith and others. As black feminists they broke through the long years of silence and began to articulate and record their experiences. Walker says " the term of black feminist comes because it is rooted in black culture whereas the word feminist isperceived as coming out of the white woman's culture.Walker prefers "womanist" to "feminist" on the grounds that itsounds stronger and more inclusive. In continuing her defence of the word she writes that it is "a word that said more than that they choose women over men. More than that they choose to live separate from men. Infact, to be consistent with black cultural values, it would have to be a word that affirmed connectedness to the entire community and the world, rather than separation,reqardless of who worked and slept with whom" (4).

Sojourner Truth was the most outspoken black women activists, she says " there is great stir about colored men getting their rights, but not a word about the colored woman and if colored men getting their rights, and not colored woman theirs, you see the colored men will be masters over the women and it will be just as bad as it was before" (7).

Taken together, the web of economy, politic, and ideology function as a highly effective system of social control designed to keep African-American women in an assigned, subordinate place. Denying African-American women the credentials to become literate certainly excluded most African American women from positions as scholars, teachers, authors, poets, and critics. (Collins 123).

One of the great writers who writes about African – American is Alice Walker. Alice Walker is one of the most important, successful and culturally influential women writers. She became the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for the novel *The Color Purple*(1982). She is a poet, novelist, short story writer, essayist, chronicler and film maker. She is also relied upon as a spoken woman for black women, and her sharp critical sense makes her a talented critic.

The topics of Walker's writings are always connected to her own experience as a colored women living in white patriarch society. The subjects of her writings include her heritage, her sufferings as victim of racism in her homeland Georgia, the violence practiced by men against their wives and struggle of women to overcome their submission and change their engendered roles in order to live a more dignified and fulfill life(8).

Walker says in an interview to John O'Brian in 1973 that “she is committed to exploring the oppressions, the in sanities and the triumphs of black women. Walker explains the violence, tragedies, abuse and pain in the lives of the majority of her own

character due to her personal experiences as a child growing up in segregated Georgia, where almost every week a man kills his wife and sometimes the children. These events have left a deep mark in Walker's mind and soul. Thus, through her writings the author is able to vent her dissatisfaction and to protest against all kinds of violence practiced against black women around the world".

The Color Purple talks about the condition of a young black woman that becomes a victim of rapes and beats of her step father. The main characteristic protagonist, Cellie, writes letters to God, Cellie's sister Nettie, writes to Cellie, and Cellie writes to Nettie. The letters reveal the injustices that women suffer from men in the United States of America and in Africa. Through the use of the epistolary form, Walker is able to express the effect of oppression on the spirits of the major characters as well as the growing inner strength and final victory of Cellie.

Cellie, a fourteen years old African-American girl is sexually abused by her presumed father. Cellie manages to save her younger sister Nettie from being abused like herself. Cellie's experience is so horrifying that she cannot tell it to anyone, including her sick mother. She can only write her sad experiences in letters to God because she feels ashamed to tell people about her misfortunes. Cellie conceives two children – out of her stepfather's constant rape – a girl and a boy, both presumed to be stolen and killed by her stepfather. Cellie's presumed father, (who would later turn to be her stepfather), Alphonso, takes advantage of her because of her mother's physical and mental illness. Her illness is the result of the murder of her first husband, Cellie's father. Cellie's mother dies and Alphonso soon remarries but his marriage does not

end Cellie's sexual abuse. Alphonso marries Cellie off to a cruel widower with four children, who initially wants to marry Cellie's younger sister Nettie but Alphonso offers Cellie instead. Cellie calls her husband " Mr.-" which reflects her silenced condition and his brutality.

Bambara argues that as a "womanist" writer, Walker, along with sexual issues, incorporates racial, cultural, national, economic, and political considerations into her philosophy. Protesting against sexism and the patriarchal power structure, Walker is unapologetically a propagandist. Her writing demands that the readers, whether the male oppressors or the female oppressed, be aware of the ideological issues in order that it may change their attitudes about patriarchy (108).

. The writer chooses this topic to be the object for this research because the writer interested with the content of *The Color Purple*. This novel talks about the condition of young black women that face discrimination in form of sexism and rape. And as same as a woman, the writer feels sad about what happened to her as black woman who get unfair treatment and doesn't have rights to express her voice and is just silence about oppression that happened to her. Therefore the writer uses feminist literary criticism in the concept of black feminist to analyse the topic in the novel "*The Color Purple*".

2. The writer is collecting the data to dealing with the problems previously stated.
3. Determine the appropriate theory to complete it.
4. The last is conducting the analysis

B. Steps to Analyze the data :

1. Analysis the data dealing with the problem the main character face related in novel *The Color Purple*..
2. Analyzing the data dealing with main character struggle to gain her rights and voices.