

## CHAPTER II

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### A. Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, some theories related to the research focus will be presented. The theories include feminist Literary Criticism presented to be used as a tool to conduct this research. Thus, there is some information in the form of points in this chapter.

##### 2.1.1 Feminism Literary Criticism

Feminism enters the world of Literature can be seen from many feminist theories put by many literary experts. As the writer Mary Wollstonecraft argued about the importance of equality between women and men in the society. She also says that women should be aware that women are considered as an inferior to men in the society's perspective, she argued that females are in all the most important aspects the same as male, possessing the same soul, the same mental capacities, and the same human rights". This statement creates a new thought, primarily the importance of equality in all social institution for women ( 1 ). Mellor writes that the social sector that is presented by Wollstonecraft is an equality in education and ownership of household resources, including children ( 3 ).



Echol explains that feminist movement have campaigned and continue to campaign for woman's right, including the right to vote, to hold public office, to fair equal pay, to own property ,to education, to enter contacts, to have equal rights within marriage and to have maternity leave. Feminist also worked to promote bodily autonomy and integrity and to protect woman and girls from rape and domestic violence. (30)

Feminism in general examines the roles of women in society and advocates for women's rights and opportunities. Over the past four decades, this movement has had a significant effect on many fields, including literary criticism. The main practice of feminist criticism has been to study how literary texts present or ignore women, reinforcing biases or challenging them. The goal is to promote equality by ensuring the fair representation. As Judith Fetterley puts it in her book *The Resisting Reader*, "Feminist criticism is a political act whose aim is not simply to interpret the world but to change it, by changing the consciousness of those who read and their relation to what they read" (115 ).

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### 2.1.2 Black Feminism

According to Collin, Black feminism is a thought which argues that sexism, class oppression, gender identity and racism are inextricably bound together. Black feminism became popular in the 1960, in response to the sexism of the civil rights movement and racism of the feminist movement. From the 1970 to 1980, black feminist formed various groups which addressed the role of black woman (20).

The black feminist movement was formed to address the ways sexism, racism, and classism influence the lives of black women whose needs were ignored by the black men of the Black Liberation Movement and white women in the Women's Movement. The movement has spawned several important organizations which are committed to the struggle against all forms of oppression. They have created a unique model for cross-class organization in which the needs of the poor are not usurped by the needs of the middle-class and the wealthy.

Using the term Black Feminism, position African American woman examine how the particular constellation of issues affecting black woman in United States are part of issues women's emancipation struggles globally. In a *Black Thought and Beyond*, James writes, in the context of feminism as a global political movement for women's rights and emancipation, the patterns of feminist knowledge and politics that African American women encounter in the United States represent but a narrow segment refracted through the racial politics of white supremacy in the United States. Because the media portrays feminism as a for whites only movement, and because many white women have accepted this view of American apartheid that



structures, feudal, slavebased, communal, etc.; the third is her backwardness (neo-colonialism);the fourth is man; the fifth is her color, her race; and the sixth is herself.We shall attempt to discuss these in their cultural significance ( 110 ). According the novel *The Color purple* there are some oppression that include above, those are the oppression because of man ( sexism ), and gender stereotypes. In several times 'the family' is essential to the solution of some of the analytic and practical problems encountered so far. In one sense it is ironic that this should be the case, since it is precisely in terms of 'the family' that women have always apparently been located.

Michele Barret writes 'says if popular ideology and in a vast amount of historical and intellectual work, is posed as self evidently the same whether they speak of it in feudal, slave or capitalist societies, in the West, in the Soviet Union, in Cuba. Even to conceptualize 'the family' is to concede the existence of an institution that, in whatever historical context it is found, is essentially and naturally there. The difficulties in context of 'family history' itself are spelled out very clearly (105).

Sulamith description family' embodies the central feature of contemporary ideology of the family unit and women are defined in terms of their anatomy and assumed to be 'naturally' dependent upon men. however, the family does not exist other than as an ideological construct, since the structure of the household, , and the ideology of 'the family' itself, have all varied enormously in different types society (111).

## A. Sexism

Sexism is both discrimination based on gender and the attitudes, stereotypes, and the cultural elements that promote this discrimination. The preeminence of this means of classification is evidence by the fact that people find it very difficult to interact with someone when they are unsure of that person's sex. Whereas social relation are not necessarily hindered due to ignorance of another's age or racial background.

Unger and Sandra argues that sexism and delineate how it may occur at individuals social, institutional and cultural levels. Individual sexism entails negative cognitive biases against woman in the form of in group or out group categorization, biases in evaluation attributions, and stereotypes (7). This particular feature of gender stereotypes may contribute to women's chronic disadvantage in the workplace by restricting the work roles that are appropriate for women. Social sexism refers to interaction between individuals that involve negative behaviours directed at targets as a result of their gender.

In a article of sexism, Bell Hooks argued that woman in lower class and poor groups. Particularly, whose are non white, would not have defined women's liberation as woman gaining social equality with men since they are continually reminded in their everyday lives that all women don't share a common social status.

According to novel *Ain't I a Woman* Bell hook says that in American history,





individual variations and exceptions and come to believe that the behavior is inevitably associated with one gender but not their. Therefore, gender roles furnish the material for gender stereotypes. Therefore, the history, structure and function of stereotypes are important topics in understanding the impact of gender on people's life. In the book entitled *Gender stereotypes: Masculiniy and Feminity*, Lewin says"

“Before 19<sup>th</sup> century, most people lived and worked on farms where men and women worked together. The industrial revolution changed the lives majority of people in Europe and North America by moving men outside the home to earn money and leaving women at home to manage household and children” (161).

This separation was unprecedented in history, forcing men and women to adapt to different environments and roles. The women and men have their separate areas influence. For women, the areas influence are home and children and mens areas includes work at the outside.

Joseph writes, “The 19<sup>th</sup> century idealization of women also had implication for men, who are seen as the opposite of woman in under of ways. Women were passive, dependent, pure, refined and delicate. Men were active, independent, coarse and strong (162).

#### 2.1.4 Previous of Studies

The writer found some researcher who analysed this novel but with different topic and theory.

The first researcher is Lya Zulfa Hanum from Diponegoro University, in her thesis she analyses about *Aspect Lesbian* in main character Cellie in novel *The Color Purple* and uses new criticism for analyse character and intrinsic, extrinsic elements. In her thesis, she analysed about the relationship between Cellie and Shug as lesbian aspect, but in my thesis I am analysed that the relationship between Cellie and Shug are closed friends.

The second researcher is Maria Berg Jorgensen from Tromso University. In her thesis she analyses about *Women, Letter and The Empire ( the role of epistolary narrative )* in *The color Purple* and uses post colonialism theory. Maria is analysed the role of Cellie in novel as the main character and narrator in that story of novel and I am analysed in the side of oppression and her struggles.

The third researcher is Goda Baltrusaityte from Amsterdam University. In his thesis he analyses about *Breaking The Boundaries of Masculine* in novel *The Color Purple* and uses methodological theory.

Goda is analysed the character of Shug that has masculine side as strong woman and can saving by herself. It's different with my thesis, because I am focus on main character, Cellie.