

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 1.1 Theoretical Framework

This research tends to utilize some theories. The analysis focuses on the main characters in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. This research tries to reveal issues of women's figures as victim of Taliban laws in Afghanistan and their struggle to confront it, for this reason feminism theory is chosen. To support the analysis, this study will use new criticism focusing on character and characterization. Those theories are explained as follows:

##### 1.1.1 Feminism

In analyzing a literary work, it is necessary to utilize a tool. The tool needed in analyzing a literary work is a theory. Based on the history, women were not only low in education and financial, but they also had to struggle in against a male ideology condemning them to virtual silence and obedience (Habib 667). Men are superior to women, they always get the first priority and it is because of a reality that shows from the strength and power men more dominant than women. Meanwhile, women are placed in second range. The role of women is just to help and to support to men. Woman's social status and economic depend on the man, in most aspects of woman's life depend on his good will (Gorsky 2). It means that many people think the social status of women does not depend on how high their

education is, nor how smart they are. In contrast, it depends on their husband's social status and how he treats women itself.

Some years ago, most women were not educated. As the consequence, they were not well prepared for taking a job or a career because it was assumed that their future lay in family lives (Gorham 24). Some women think that they should be able to stay at home and raise their children only, they think that having some education to get job or to be a women career are not their necessary, they think that their life depends on their husband or family. The system like this is known as patriarchal system. Patriarchal system is a system where men are in authority over women in all aspects of society (<http://study.com/patriarchal-system>). In a patriarchal system, men make all decisions in both society and in their family unit, hold all positions of power and authority.

Patriarchal system is defined as a society that is organized and ran by men. Men make the rules and dominate in business and government. Men will consider their women as the accessories of the house that can be kept and who must work to serve the day and night (Goldberg 37). The patriarchal system is traditional thought of society and political issues happen there as causes of some oppression to women.

Nowadays, the condition starts to change. Women are struggling for their rights to get equal treatment in all fields. The women's movement begins in the early 1960s and 1970s in United States, it is recognized as the "second wave" of the larger feminist movement that touch on every aspect of women's right

including family, sexuality and work. While the first wave feminism of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries focused on women's legal rights like the right to vote ([www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)). Feminist movement does not agree that differences in appearance between men and women such as physical size, shape and body chemistry are considered as the factor that can make men naturally superior to women (Tyson 86). Feminist critics hold many different opinions on all of the issues of discipline they examine. It has the purpose to promote social change of traditional thought of women that distinguishes between women and men in many aspects of life, such as the equality to get education, get a job, etc. As a consequence of all the statements it is said that Feminism is one way to end the oppression and exploitation on women.

Feminism in general position, not necessarily confined to women, has to do with the advocacy and encouragement for equal rights and opportunities for women politically, socially, psychologically, personally and aesthetically (Holman 201). It means that feminism is a word that people usually associate with the effort to change women's life and to promote the equality of women and men in all fields of their life. Women should have similar equality of power and status with men. In the social aspect, feminism also attempts to be a new definition of women's sense of themselves to change their status from second class to achieve the equality, to desire recognition as independent people and to respect them being as women. Hence, feminism puts women equally as men. Their status is not inferior under men's power. Women can take part in public sphere freely as they

want and men cannot restrict them with their power because women have their right to do that.

In this case, victimization issues often happen to women as the easy prey because they are supposed as the weak figure and cannot fight back. As one of the examples is Taliban laws in Afghanistan. In *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel, women as the victim are exploiting them more and more. The existence of patriarchal ideology and the Taliban laws as the foundation of victimization toward women appears on this novel.

### 1.1.2 New Criticism

New criticism was a standard method of literary studies during 1940s until 1960s (Tyson 135). Tyson noted that, biographical historical criticism was popular among literary critics (136). Prior to the emergence of new criticism, people analyze a literary work based on the author's background. In the other words, people do not deal with the content of the literary text to get an understanding. Instead, they learnt the author's life and social background for they believed that the literary text is the portrayal of the author's life.

New criticism focuses its analysis on the literary text, instead of on the author's life and time (Tyson 136). Then readers' in using new criticism to criticize literary work personal life or background will affect their assumption about the literary text when they have emotional bond with the text, the clear structure will not make confuse the reader.

New criticism is theory which emphasize more of analysis of text meaning which supported by the evidence of language of the text itself, such as images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, etc (Tyson 137). It analysis that marked by concentration on the language, imagery, and emotional or intellectual tensions in literary works, also the formal elements such as rhyme, meter, characterization and plot are used to identify the theme of the text.

### **1.1.3 Character**

Character is important thing that should be included in a story. A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story. Character is the fictional people that become a part of the action of a literary work (Judith 39). Character is the important intrinsic element of fiction which takes most part in the story. In order to interest, characters need to be as real as possible. The author creates some kinds of characters with different personalities and name, it is to distinguish a character and the other character in a story. Through character's presence, the whole story can be easily understood by the readers.

A successful author recreates the actual life throughout that particular character itself which is enables the reader to see presentation, it is through the dialogue, action and interaction between each character in the story (Jacob 134-135). A character cannot stand on its own without presence of the other characters. A life story will show through some interactions of each character in it. Each character is created by the author with different names and personalities,

so readers can identify and judge the personalities of each character from their interaction implied in a dialogue, instead of, readers can know how the situation that happen in the story from conversation each character in a literary work.

Interpreting character's moral qualities can be performed through analyzing the characters' speaking, doing, and thinking. By exploring the characters, readers can get some moral lessons implemented in real life since character exactly possesses a strategic position to deliver messages, values and all things that author wants to give to the readers (Nurgiyantoro 167). Characters become the objects of the readers' curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, also admiration and condemnation. They are real enough to live in memories of readers until the story end. Through characters an author conveys a moral value in a story. So, character represent a person becomes interested in a story.

Characters in fiction can be conveniently classified as major and minor, static and dynamic. A major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action and theme. Major character also dominated the story, the character appears in the whole of a story, although main character not appears in all the plot in a story but indirectly it is related to or possibly related with the main character. Main character impressed as the dominate figure in a story. While minor characters are supporting major character, minor character appears only in some parts of a story and only to strengthen major character or when correlation with major character has (Diyanni 54). It means that, main characters of a story are the human personalities that become familiar to the reader and the minor characters as the supporting character to strengthen the main character in a story.

The function of character is divided in two, protagonist and antagonist. The major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict (54). In most of the literary works, the author placed major character as the protagonist. The protagonists always get sympathies of readers, while antagonist is the character which force or against the protagonist struggles. Character becomes a prominent thing in this research since it focuses on the female main characters named Mariam Jo and Laila. By analyzing their characters, the deeper knowledge of both of main characters will be achieved.

#### **1.1.4 Characterization**

Instead character, the other elements of literary work is characterization which cannot separate each others. Both of them have the relations that complete each other. From the different name, each character in a literary work is created by an author with different behavior and personalities to make readers easy to remember and understand the whole story.

Characterization is the presentation of the nature of people in a story. Action and dialogue are the main points in characterization just as it is only by means of their actions and words than one can observe the characters of other people in real life (Peikoff 7). Like in the daily life of human being, there are some stories that the plots are composed as real as the human being life. So that, after read a literary work sometimes we get inspiration and solution if we are in

the same problems and condition as same as in the story. Readers can gets moral value after read it.

The author uses two ways in characterizing the characters, they are direct and indirect characterization. Using direct manner means that the author describes directly about the character, author show the characterization directly with gives description of a character after said the character's name or their role in a story, also the author attributes the qualities characters in direct description. Otherwise, in indirect manner of characterization the author does not merely tell the characters but shows them to the readers through how the character looks, what the character does, what the character says, what character thinks and how the character affects other characters (Baldick 37). Some authors have different style to show the characterization, there are some authors that show the characterization as the description in the beginning of introduction of a character. Instead of, there are some authors that make implication of the character through how they did and spoken in the story. Sometimes, through the act or the dialogue in the story, readers can find out what the characterization each character is. So, if the reader want to make character analysis must be observe through dialogue in it.

So, instead of analyzing character, this research also analyze the characterization of two women as main characters who get oppressed by men figure and laws of Taliban that placed women in second range, it is through their speaking, their doing and their thought to shows their struggle confront of the oppression and discrimination to reach the happiness in their life.



## 1.2 Review of Related Study

There are a lot of studies that also concern about several significant issue or themes in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Those studies concern about themes or other aspects that Khaled Hossein creates in his novel. The first thesis entitles *Middle Eastern Women's issues an analysis of A Thousand Splendid Suns and The New York Times*” has been written by student of University of Florida named Lindsay B. Shapiro. Her thesis focuses on the change main characters' life style and deals with Eastern Women's issues. In her analysis, she uses theory of psychology.

The second thesis is written by Fajar Nur Indriyany the student of UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, entitle “*Mariam's search for Meaning Life in Khaled Hossein A Thousand Splendid Suns*” this research analyzed on the Mariam efforts find the meaning of her life. The study is identify the description Mariam character who tries to find her truth meaning life.

The difference of this research and the previous ones is this research analyzes about women an issue that is affected by patriarchal system and Taliban laws in Afghanistan. Moreover, this research analyze main characters struggle to confront the oppression and some kinds of discrimination. Because of the research analyze of women figure, thus it intends to use Feminism theory in this analysis.