CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

According to Wellek and Warren (15) literature is the art of written works. Because literature uses typical language which is different with colloquial language or the language of science. Literature takes a role in human life as the reflection of time containing human activity, treatment, conflict, and many social phenomenon which still concern the social life. Consequently, literature is very important in our life because we can get moral value that useful for our life.

Literary work has several types: they are novel, drama and poetry (Borges : 21). Novel as a genre of fiction can be defined as: "a work of prose fiction, usually an extended narrative that tells a story or uses incidents to dramatize human experience and individual characters" (Grambs : 93) . Meanwhile, drama is a prose or verse composition, especially one telling a serious story, that is intended for representation by actors impersonating the characters and performing the dialogue and action (Mifflin : 101). Poetry is literary work in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm (Oxford University Press : 1) .

In this research, the researcher uses a novel as her material research. The researcher uses a novel *" The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc"* because this novel

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writes social issue about gender role and struggle of women. Gender role is a unique topic to discuss. Gender is a socio-cultural construct of female and female identity that shapes how individuals live and interpret the world around them (Student Research Series :1). Gender roles for men and women vary greatly from one culture to another, and from one social group to another within the same culture, race, class, economic circumstance, or age. All of these influence is considered appropriate for men and women.

According to Stoller, gender is the amount of masculinity or feminity found in person (10). According to the APA (American Psycological Association), gender role refers the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for boys and men or girls and women. These influence the ways people act, interact and feel about themselves (1) .

The novel *The Maid: A Novel of Joan Arc* was published in 2011. It tells about a girl who became the legend of France, the name is Jeanne or Joan. Joan was born in Domremy, France. The novel is adapted from real story from France and that story contains courage, faith, love and betrayal. Based on story, France has been in hundred years war with England since 1337. English knights and soldiers roam the country.

The author of *The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc* is Kimberly Cutter. She was the West Coast Editor for *W Magazine* for four years and has written for *W, Harper's Bazaar, Vanity Fair* and *Marie Claire*. She continued to search for a

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fictional subject like shares a silent film and novel that evoke the emotional life of her muse, *Joan of Arc.* She received her MFA from the University of Virginia. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. She is also an actress known for *I Heart Huckabees* on 2004. (www.bloomsbury.com/author/kimberly-cutter)

This is a little synopsis of novel *"The Maid: A Novel of Joan Arc".* When Jehanne or Joan is 13 in age, she develops into a religious young woman. She has her first vision about she must raise an army and drive the English from France. Then take the Dauphin to be crowned king at Reims and finds a sword. When coming home with it, she finds the English damage her home town. When she was teenagers, she knows her mission is to be ridding France of the English and so she go to meet Charles, the Dauphin. The Dauphin shall help and gives Joan a chance to prove her divine mission. Fortunately, Jehanne can prove her divine mission. France's soldier get a victory from the English but Joan was taken as prisoner by England with some accusation. In prison, Jehanne gets bad treatment from some noblemen. They try to blemish Joan when she is wearing dress. Moreover, they take off her dress and Jehanne was angry. She is very upset. Several days later, Joan is wearing a suit of soldier. She feels uncomfortable to wear a dress. Her dress makes a trouble. She is accused as *Pageboy* (cross-dressing from female to male). Actually, she wears suit of soldier because of the war. In the end of the story, Jehanne gets punishment and she died.

Joan does cross-dressing became male to prove her divine mission in the war. Cross-dressing is dressing as someone from a different gender category. It may be done by people from all genders and sexual orientation (gsanetwork.org).

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Based on the novel, cross-dressing is still strange in that era. People who do cross-dressing will receive a punishment by society. Fortunately, in modern era several women are doing cross-dressing because it is more comfortable in daily activities.

1.2 Statement of Problem

1. How is gender role in Joan's society portrayed within the novel?
2. How does Joan struggle to prove her divine mission?

1.3 Objective of Study

Related to statement of problem, the researcher has two purposes:

1. To explain about gender role in Joan's society portrayed within the novel *"The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc" (Medieval era).*
2. To explain Joan's struggle from first her vision until the end of her mission.

1.4 Significance of Study

Through this research, the researcher believes that this discussion can give the reader a worthy lesson from *"The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc"* especially about gender role and struggle of women. In this discussion, the reader will know that gender role in Joan's era (medieval era) was still influenced by Catholic's Church. Theoretically, this study uses Feminist literary criticism Therefore, It also

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can be used as reference and information for others English Literature student who use similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The novel *"The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc"* by Kimberly Cutter is a novel based on real story from France. This analysis is focused on struggle of Joan to prove her divine mission from God to ridding France to English. The researcher uses feminist literary criticism to analyze the subject but limited to concept of gender role and struggle of women.

1.6 Method of The Study

The researcher applied library research and descriptive qualitative research methods. Descriptive qualitative method has the meaning that the researcher will explain the result of analysis in the form of words and sentence since the result is not numeral data. The data was the gained from the personal document, a library research and internet research.

1. Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc* by Kimberly Cutter and the secondary data source is taken from books, journals and articles which are relevant and supporting the primary data.

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2. **Data Collection**

In presenting the analysis, the researcher follows the following steps:

1. Reading the novel to understand story.
2. Select the topic and theme to research.
3. Find the problem and focus of research.
4. Search theory that is suitable with the topic and theme.
5. Collecting the data and give mark in the data to remember.

3. . **Data Analysis**

Through the following steps:

1. Analyzing gender's role in Joan's society reflected in the novel
2. Analyzing Joan's struggle to prove her divine mission
3. Start to write the research and analysis.
4. The last make conclusion.

1.7 Key of Terms

1. Divine : to discern (a hidden or future reality) as though by supernatural power.
2. Mission : the procession of one person from another with reference to a new way of existing in an external term. (St. Aquinas : 2003)

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3. Struggle : An act of having to deal with difficult situation resolutely, especially with an adversary of superior power or to make violent efforts to escape from constraint.

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