CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

During the reign of Queen Victoria, women's place is at home. Domesticity and motherhood are considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfillment for females. Queen Victoria becomes an icon because she is a role model of women's femininity. Since that, women who lived in Victorian age have been influenced by the queen. *Djajanegara* also pointed out the same lines (2000:5), in the book *Kritik Sastra Feminis* that is according to Queen Victoria that the women have to be gentle, loveable, intuitive, sensitive, empathy and not egoist. All those social construction above makes a limitation to women.

Furthermore, Shanley (1944:25) stated that women are basically men's property. It derives from traditional patriarchal families. Thus their activities are restricted by their father until they get married. After marriage, they are under their husband authority. It indicates that social status of women is lower than men.

This phenomenon is also represented in Wilkie Collin's "The Woman in White". In the novel, women social status is under the men; as the property. Man has authority, while woman was endorsed by the man authority. The main character, Laura Fairlie is under her father's authority. After her father is deceased, she is under her uncle protection. Both make her accept Sir Percival Glyde as her husband. In her marriage life, she has to follow all her husband's order. The description above shows clearly women are restricted and must follow

men's order. They also can be exchanged from one owner into the other just like property.

The phenomenon above makes the writer is interested to analyze it. Thus the *skripsi* is entitled **Women Limitation in Wilkie Collin's *The Woman in White*.**

1.2. Research question

There are two research questions that appear during the research:

1. How does the novel portray women as social beings?
2. How does the social construction make limitation to women in the novel?

1.3. Objectives

According to research question, there are two objectives in this research:

1. To find how the novel portray women as social being.
2. To describe how the social construction make a limitation to women in the novel.

1.4. Significance to knowledge

The research is expected to give a contribution to the development of literature in Faculty of Letters in UNIKOM. Furthermore, it will be useful for students who want to learn about feminism concerning on the women limitation in Victorian era novels. Besides, it will give knowledge particularly to the writer about Marxist feminism.

1.5. Framework of the Theories

In this research I analyze the limitation towards women characters in the novel. Since the analysis focuses on women's limitation, the analysis uses Marxist feminism as a tool to dissect the research object.

Marxist is appointed of economic where there is mapping between social classes; Bourgeois and Proletariat. Bourgeois are the people who have power because they have the means of production while the proletariat is the one who must follow the rules given by those who have capital. Meanwhile Feminism is a movement mainly focused on women and gender inequality faced by women because of patriarchy system.

Marxist Feminism postulates that there is inequality in gender roles between men and women. The inequality is caused by the economic structures; men have means of production because men work in public spaces while women stay at home. Thus women depend on men economically. Furthermore, women are considered as men's property only. As stated by Engels (1884:6):

> *That the transition to monogamy, where the woman belonged to one man exclusively, involved a violation of a primitive religious law (that is, actually a violation of the traditional right of the other men to this woman), and that in order to expiate this violation or to purchase indulgence for it the woman had to surrender herself for a limited period.*

The quotation above shows that monogamy is a bond of women to men. When they get married, men become the person who have rules while women are followed the rules. It is caused that men are regarded to own means of production;

it makes them to have an authority, more than women. Moreover women become dependent economically to men. The rule of English law in nineteenth century also made the women should be law-abiding to men's order. In victorian era their characters are constructed to be like an angel, when they against to the men's order,they will be seen as insurgent and have a bad attitude by the environment at the time. Therefore, in order not to make it happen, they should follow the rules.

Besides, the writer also uses an intrinsic element as a literary approach that is characterization. According to House as quoted in Roberts (1983: 68), there are two methods of exploring Characterization. First is to examine characters traits by what a character says about himself, by what other character say about him, and by what he does. Second, more subtle, method is to note the development of a character as the plot progresses. All of those methods will lead the writer in order to have a better understanding to analyze women character in the novel.

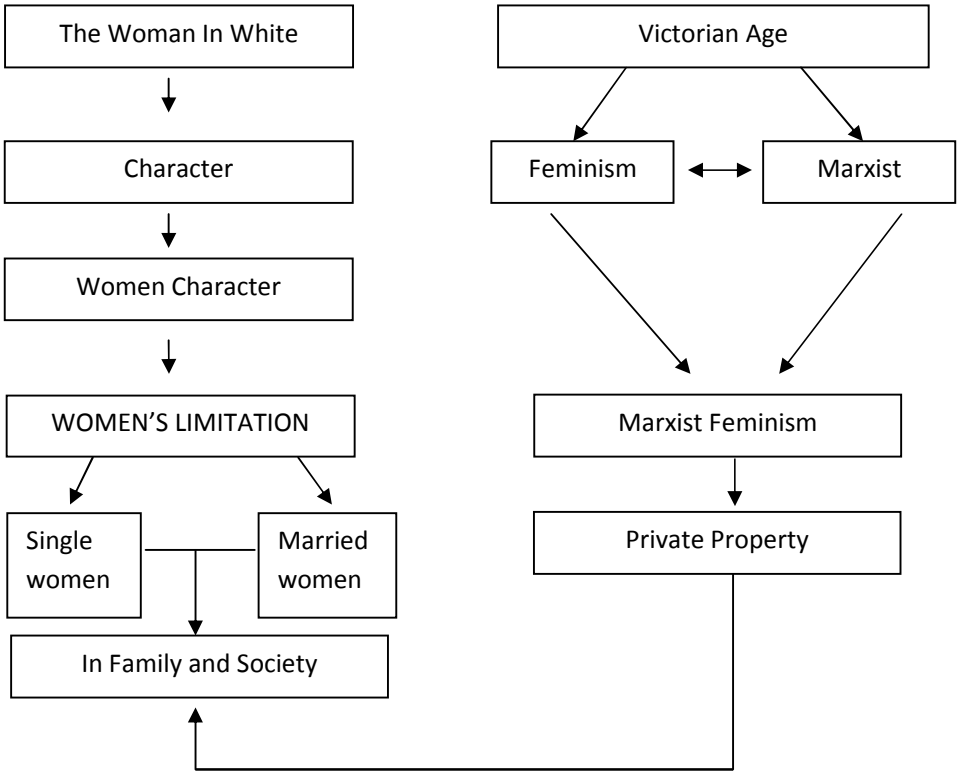


Figure 1: Framework of the theories