CHAPTER II

THEORITICAL REVIEW

In this chapter, I focus on the explanation of two important parts in creating the novel; narrative aspect and social aspect. Narrative aspect of the novel is used to analyze the limitation faced by women characters presented in the novel. The social aspect of the novel is used to analyze the society that focused on the Victorian era, especially about women in Victoria era.

2.1. Narrative aspect of the novel

The novel, derived from Italian "Novella", means new, news, or short story. Novel, a long narrative book, is one of literary works showing the phenomena that happened in the real life. In addition, the story of novel may influence the feelings and role behaviour of not only the author of the novel, but also the readers. Further, both feelings and role behaviour can be analysed by examining narrative aspect. According to Bal (1997:5), he states that a narrative text is a text in which an agent relates ('tells') a story in a particular medium, such as language, imagery, sound, buildings, or a combination thereof. Thus, it can be concluded that narrative aspect is conducted by analysing the role of character (agent) and any aspects which is related on the story such as language, imagery, sound, buildings, or a combination thereof. Moreover, the aspects of narrative can be divided into many parts, such as characterization, point of view, storyline, opening, closure conflict etc. As the character and characterization is the main

point of the analysis, I elaborate it the following sub chapter. Point of view is also an important part to be discussed in order to have better understanding of the story.

2.1.1. Character

Character is an important role to drive the story. Character is person or human being that is one of the vital parts that made up the story in the novel. In addition, according to Orson (1988:4), character can be analysed by seeing what the character does including the motive, the past, reputation, stereotypes, networks, habit and patterns, talents and abilities, tastes and preferences and body of the character.

Characters are divided into two parts, major and minor character. According to Orson (1988:61-65), major character is the one who really matters, the ones the story is, to one degree or another. Meanwhile minor character is the one who plays no role in shaping its ongoing flow of the story. In the novel, the major character refers to Laura Fairlie and Marian Halcombe meanwhile, the minor one refers to other women characters, in which those women characters will be analyzed as the research object of this *skripsi*.

2.1.2. Characterization

Each character indeed has its own characteristic known as characterization. Characterization itself can be analyzed by examining the appearance, action and peculiar feature that make characters become more alive.

As Michael Chekhov (2002:83) said that "A characterization or peculiar feature can be anything indigenous to the character: a typical movement, a characteristic manner of speech, a recurrent habit, a certain of way of holding the hands, or a singular inclination of the head, and so forth. Since this *Skripsi* focuses on the limitation of the Women, thus, the characters of women in the Wilkie Collin's The Woman in White analyze by examining what the women characters did through their action, kind of manner and perception of other about those characters.

2.1.3. Point of View

Besides the character, point of view also becomes an important thing in fiction. Point of view is signifying the way a story get told – the mode or perspective established by an author by means of whom the reader is presented the characters, actions, setting and events which constitute the narrative in a work of fiction (Abraham, 1981:142).

In addition, point of view itself is divided into four parts as first person's point of view, omniscient point of view, limited point of view and multiple point of view.

The first person point of view is in which the narrator as the first person tells the whole story only based on his own opinion. Commonly, first person's point of view is often marked by the word "I". However, in this type of point of view, the narrator can only recognize about what the characters do but not what the characters think.

The omniscient point of view is in which the narrator knows about all the thing that characters have, do, and think. The narrator is able to tell about the all characters' life both in past and present. Further, the narrator can be a part of the characters, thus he may access the character's thoughts, feeling, and motives as well as himself.

The limited point of view is in which the narrator as the third person tells the whole story based on the point of view, feeling and emotions of one single character. In the novel, the third person is often marked by personal pronoun as He, She, They and proper name as the characters.

The objective point of view, is in which the narrator can record only what is seen and heard. He could not comment, interpreted or entered a character's mind. The last, multiple point of view is in which the description of the story is being described and explained through the several characters.

In The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins is not only use first person point of view but he is also use multiple narrator-the story told from first person perspective but through several characters.

2.2. Social aspect of the novel

Besides the narrative aspect, the social aspect of the novel has an important role to draw the social condition and the real circumstances which are grown up at that time when the novel was written. The focus of the analysis is the limitation faced by women characters. Thus, knowing the social life in the Victorian era especially on women condition is important.

2.2.1. Victorian Era

According to Quirk in Bayu (2011:20) Victorian era is one of the eras with the reign by the woman named Alexandrina Victoria. Her personality made her became queen with strict morality in that era during 1830 until 1901. In her period, she made United Kingdom of Great Britain colonized India, Canada, Australia and some of African parts. No wonder that it was the victorious times where there were many great literature and art of work. Victorian literature is also known for the emergence its attempts to combine the imagination and emotion with the real of Victorian History. The images of Queen Victoria by a strong sense of morality and mannerly are followed by many women at that time. The characterization of Victorian mindset tended in a high value on such qualities as an honour, duty, moral seriousness and sexual propriety.

In the Victorian era, women were seen as pure and clean as an angel because women are considered as gentle human beings. The appearances of women were one of the important values during the Victorian era. In that age, the paradigm of women are described as Deidre David in "Intellectual women and Victorian Patriarchy *"These fine ladies were useless creatures, ill-trained to manage a household, ignorant of anything except trivial achievement in music and drawing, and primping before the mirror"*. (1987: 23). The quotation explained that the characterization of women at that time was useless creatures. They must raise their value that focused on trivial skill. Single women should have her beauty appearance and increase her ability in playing music and drawing. All of those things make women have more value in marriage market in which the

value will be paid with their husband to be. According to Ferrante (2011:321), marriage market associated with private households, men offer women security, because they dominate the important, high-paying positions. At the same time, women try to act as sexually inaccessible as possible, because they offer sexual access to men in exchange for economic security. The marriage market is due to how much value of women or men have. In Victorian era, men and women are divided into domestic and public spheres.

Women's works are restricted in domestic sphere meanwhile men's are free to get work in public sphere. As Ellis (2005: 19) said women's roles as a private, in the home, where they serve and nurture their husband, sons, fathers and brothers who go out into public lives in commerce, the church and politics. The distinction between private and public sphere made women dependent on men economically.

In addition, Allen (2002:103) said that Aristotle seems to suggest, however, that all women are virtuous through true opinion because of the less perfect formation of their reason, their weaker nature, and the natural lack of authority of their deliberative faculty over their irrational soul. This is why Aristotle suggests that a wise woman should obey a wise man. It concluded that women must be obeying to the men.

Further, According to Martin (2006:113), women, on the other hand, do not do much of anything for their husbands except obey and fear them. Likewise next with relationship of children to parents. Children are told simply to obey and honour their parents, but fathers are to nourish, educate and admonish their

children. The quotation above assumed that single women have to obey their fathers as their protector. On other hand, married women, have to obey their husband.

The rule of English law in nineteenth century also made the women should be law-abiding to men's order. According to Norton (1855:8), that there are eleven property rights of women in nineteenth century:

1. A married woman has no legal existence whether or not she is living with her husband.
2. Her property is his property;
3. She cannot make a will, the law gives what she has to her husband despite her wishes or his behavior;
4. She may not keep her earnings;
5. He may sue for restitution of conjugal rights and thus force her, as if a slave to return to his home;
6. She is not allowed to defend herself in divorce;
7. She cannot divorce her husband since the House of Lords in effect will not grant a divorce to her;
8. She cannot sue for libel;
9. She cannot sign a lease or transact business;
10. She cannot claim support from her husband, his only obligation is to make sure she doesn't land in the parish poorhouse if he has means;
11. She cannot bind her husband to any agreement.

This shows that women's position is subjugated to men. Women also do not have a right as a citizen. After getting married, their identity will be seen as one who is represented by their husband. Thus, they do not have right to own property.

2.2.2. Marxist Feminism

Marxism criticizies the economic system that treated human as a property. The society is divided into have and have not. Those who have means of production will rule the society and those who do not will be ruled. According to Churchich (1994:133), that Marx criticies these economist for regarding money as the 'truly creative power' and for failing to see that money, though a physical object with distinct properties, represents a social relation of production.

Feminism is a movement which aim to demand freedom for women's rights at that time, various backgrounds or status of women have no rights at all, for example the right to get education, employment and others. According Paletschek (2004:5), feminism is also a term that had been in use since the beginning of the nineteenth century, she decided as the term of women's emancipation movement. Women's emancipation is understood to mean the fight for self-determination and improvements in the legal, social, cultural, and political positions of women.

Marxist Feminism emphasizes the problem of class as the cause of differences in women's function and status. Men are considered to have power because they have the means of production or capital. Meanwhile women must

follow the rules given by those who have capital-men. Men have means of production because men work in public spaces while women stay at home. The problem is caused by the economic structures that divide domestic and public space. Since women's place is at home, she cannot work. Thus women dependent to the men economically.

Furthermore, women considered as men's property only. This is seen as stated by Engels (1884:6) as follows:

> *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.*

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 have to follow the rules. It causes men to be regarded to own means of production; it makes them to have an authority, more than women. Moreover women become dependent on men economically. Besides, he claims that women subordination is made by the social relation and the institution of family.

Moreover Wormer (2007:41) stated that Marxist feminism emphasizes women's oppression as a part of structural inequality within a class-based social system. All oppression are seen as interconnected and stemming from the same source.

In line with the explanation above, Chopra (2005:202) mentioned that women's oppression originated with the development of private property and of regulated family and marital relationship. Men's control of economic resources

develops with settled society and the development of separate spheres which segregate men and women into the domestic and public sphere. As a result, women do not have power since they are dependent economically.