CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

In this Chapter, I elaborate how the research object and method analyzed.

3.1. Research Object

The research object is the women limitation towards women's character in Wilkie Collin's "The Woman in White". In nineteenth century, the novel *The Woman in White* was first published in serial form in *All the Year Round* magazines from 1859 to 1860 and there are 40 parts which formed the novel. The novel was one of the sensational novels because it retells a real complicated story in that time. Since the novel was published, Collins's became the most popular author and many people are interested to read his masterpiece.

In this subject, I focus on women limitation in which the data to be analyzed using Marxist Feminism. This novel was a sensational novel either a detective novel or romantic novel. It is a popular genre at that time, and the content has been more complicated and made the reader be interested to involve than look on it. In this novel women are described that they have had oppression in their environment. In this case, the novel had been involved to the history the Victorian age itself and the experience of the author.

Here is the synopsis of Wilkie Collin's The Woman in White:

Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White* tells about the story of a young man who could mastering draw, Walter Hatright, that recommended by professor Pesca to teach two young girls at Limmeridge house. Due to his family's needs, he was approved the offering from the Professor. Next day, when Walter Hatright would be heading to Limmeridge house, he met a mysterious woman dressed in white. At first, the woman in white just asked how long road to Cumberland, London, then asked him asking where did Walter Hatright go. Walter replied that he wanted to Limmeridge house. After hearing that, the woman in white warned him not to go to Limmeridge house. When Walter asked why he should not go to Limmeridge House, the women run away fastly. After short meeting with the woman in white then he met a patrol police officers who were on duty and asked did Walter meet with the women who dressed in white. Walter did not respond because he knew it personally. After that, the police explained that the woman dressed in white was the fugitive from Asylum.

Then Walter arrived at Limmeridge house. In the house, he met two girls were named Laura Fairlie and Marian Halcombe. Walter was very surprised to see the difference between both these girls where Laura was pretty and white, meanwhile Marian black and look like a man. Laura's beauty reminded Walter Hatright about the women dressed in white as he would travel before heading to Limmeridge house. After long time he tought, Walter eventually fell in love with Laura. It was known by Marian, directly Marian advised Walter not to teach again and not to love Laura because Laura already engaged to Sir Percival Glyde (which

has already been chosen by her father; Mr. Fairlie, before he died). At the moment nearly Laura and Sir Percival Gylde getting married, Laura got a letter from a woman dressed in white. Her name was Anne Catherick, the contents of the letter was warned Laura that her husband was an evil. Then the letter was revealed by Marian.

Marian also found out what was happening and outrageously she found that Sir Percival Gylde was a Poor man who wanted to bully Laura by the marriage settlement. Fortunately his bad intention did not happen because Laura did not sign in the letter of marriage settlement. In addition, the bad intentions of Sir Percival Gylde were supported by Count Fosco whom friend's Sir Percival Gylde.

Meanwhile Marian started to investigate; she got typhus, so that Marian looked forward and asked Walter Hatright to continue the investigation about Sir Percival Gylde and Count Fosco. Walter finally found another evidence of Sir Percival Gylde, that Sir Percival Gylde married to the mother of Anne Catherick. All of those made Walter learned that Anne Catherick is the son of his father whose Laura's husband. Anne Catherick was born out of wedlock and the born of certificate was destroyed by her father. For the sake of Walter to Laura, he began to trace all the evidence by asking many witnesses ins and outs of related about family Fairlie and Glyde.

Futhermore, Walter Hatright asked to Professor pesca about Sir Percival Glyde and Count Fosco. And finally, Professor told that Count Fosco was one member of a society that had a special mission to find money for the sake of her life. Count Fosco met Sir Percival Glyde in a national gathering secret society whose the members were very secret. From that story, now Walter had a specific reason to destroy Sir Percival Glyde's and Count Fosco's bad intention. After all, Walter Hatright saved Laura's life. Finally, Laura married to Walter Hatright and happy ever after.

3.2. Research Method

The research uses descriptive method to give a description and to analyze the data. According to Soegoto (2009: 56) the descriptive analysis is described by the existing data to give an overview or the variables which focused on the analysis study.

In order to support the analysis of this skripsi, the writer uses library research to find any related data including the ideal Victorian women, feminist criticism theories. Furthermore, I use a literary tool that is characterization, in order to have a better understanding of the main female character.

3.2.1. Data Collection

I collect some data to find out the women limitation as the main focus in the novel. Here are the steps of my collection:

- Reading the novel "The Woman in White"

I read the whole parts of the novel to make intimate and to find the problem. Then, I read all the entire book sources about Victorian era to have better understanding in which support to the novel.

- Selecting the data

  After reading the novel, I select the data that can be analyzed.

- Classifying the data

  I classify the data that can be analyzed.

- Finding information

  I find the theories or quotation in which it supports the analysis. The writer uses Internet, Books, and Magazine as the supporting media to find further information.

- Analyzing Data

  Finally I analyze the selecting data and use the theory that has been found in the previous process.

3.2.2. Data Analysis

In this data analysis, the writer will be analyzing the limitation of the women character. The character will be divided into two, Single women and Married women.

First data is Single Women.

> *In the evening she went to the piano, choosing new music of the dexterous, tuneless, florid kind. (Collin, 1991: 156)*

The data shows that woman playing music (piano, violin etc.) is showing the construction of a woman should be. In this novel, it is reflected by Laura Fairlie.

In line with Djajanegara, Deidre David "Intellectual women and Victorian Partriarchy" says that *"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 data above describe the characteristic of Victorian fine ladies. Women in Victorian era, they are ill trained to manage a household. They only know how to do trivial things like music, drawing and beautifying their selves.

All of the reason why they should know all those things above is to raise her value in the marriage market. Marriage market is the only means for women to get a future as a wife of an eligible bachelor rich and a high status.

In the explanation above, the writer finds out the limitation that women make them have to stay at home only. They cannot do like men who worked at public sphere. All of women's activity is a trivial things, such as playing music, drawing etc.

Second is Marriage Women

> *'I can never claim my release from my engagement,' she went on. 'whatever way it ends it must end wretchedly for me. All i can do, Marian, is not to add the remembrance that i have broken my promise and forgotten my father's dying words, to make that wretchedness worse.' (Collin, 1991: 154)*

This conversation is taken which conversation between Laura and Marian when talk about Laura engagement. Laura doesn't have any chances to break the engagement because she doesn't want to disappoint her father's last wish.

This indicates that if women, in that age, break the engagement will cause negative effect for family's name. They should keep respectable for their family's sake. We can see above that women have no authority of their own future. They followed her father's and husband's authority. All of those make a restriction for women in Victorian Era.