CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

3.1 Research Object

The object in this research is the masculinity and femininity through Dorian Gray character. This research attempts to investigate the masculinity and femininity of Dorian's Gray character and to examine the influence to Dorian character towards the other character. The data is taken from the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. The writer chooses this novel because gender issue is interesting in the novel.

The novel tells about inexperience young man in very young age named Dorian Gray. His father was killed in duel at Spa a few months after the marriage and his mother died too within a year after Dorian born. Because his parents die, he lives alone without anyone teach him. Then, his life changes when he comes to London. He met Basil Hallward, a London painter at ball. They are acquainted and become close friend until Basil makes the picture of Dorian Gray. When Basil finishes the picture, Lord Henry, a nobleman and friend of Basil is accompanying Basil with sitting and praise the beauty of Dorian. Lord Henry says that the picture is the most magnificent picture and suggests to exhibit the picture, but Basil refuse. Basil does not want to exhibit the painting anywhere. Then, Basil changes the conversation and tells to Lord Henry that the young man in the painting is Dorian Gray. Basil tells his first meeting with Dorian Gray at ball in

Lady Brandon house, a woman of high society who hosted the party where Basil and Dorian met. On the first time, Basil stares Dorian Gray; he is fascinated with the beauty of face and body of Dorian Gray like Late Greek sculpture. Basil also says since he met with Dorian Gray that he seems happy to make a painting.

Hearing the story about Dorian Gray from Basil, Lord Henry becomes interesting to meet with Dorian Gray and he asks to meet him with Dorian. When Lord Henry asks, Basil hesitates and does not want to introduce Lord Henry with Dorian because he is afraid if Lord Henry will influence Dorian with his hedonist life. On the other hand, suddenly, Dorian comes to Basil studio and Basil cannot refuse to introduce Lord Henry to Dorian. However, before Basil introduces Lord Henry to Dorian Basil reminds Lord Henry not to influence Dorian with his hedonist life.

Nonetheless, as strong as Basil asks Lord Henry not to influence Dorian, Lord Henry keep influences Dorian with his through about youth, beautiful, pleasure, and woman. At the beginning, Dorian does not accept Lord Henry thought, but slowly Dorian starts to accept it. Dorian starts to fascinates with Lord Henry and learns everything that Lord Henry tells. Lord Henry tells about Dorian has a beauty and youthfulness and Dorian should keep the beauty and youthfulness because the beauty and youth is wonder of wonder. Then, Dorian realizes his beauty and youth through the picture. He captivated with his own beauty and youth. Then he says someday he will old and wrinkle but the picture would stay young forever and he would barter his soul to for his youthfulness and beauty.

When Basil hears Dorian said about that, Basil blames Lord Henry giving influence to Dorian. Basil wants to rip the picture but Dorian prevents Basil to do it and Dorian says that the picture now becomes part of his soul.

As the next impact from Lord Henry thought, Lord Henry and Dorian Gray friendship are closer. They hang out together like going to club, dinner; going to ball, watching an opera and hunting. When Dorian comes to Lord Henry house, Dorian tells to Lord Henry that he fall in love with street actress named Sybil Vane. Dorian tells that Sybil was so beautiful, pretty and talented. Hearing that, Lord Henry gives an influence to Dorian. Lord Henry seems unhappy with the relationship between Dorian and Sybil. He tells not to be serious with woman because only few woman worth to be noticed, but Dorian still loves Sybil Vane. Then, Dorian invites Basil and Lord Henry to see Sybil performance in the next night. When they are seeing Sybil performance, they are not seeing like the beautiful performance as Dorian said. They see bad performance that Sybil shows. Dorian feels upset because Sybil gives a bad performance and it makes him feel ashamed among his friends. Then, Dorian rejects Sybil after the performance and leaves the theater.

After, the tragedy of Sybil Vane Dorian comes back to his house after dawn. He enters to his house and sitting in his bedroom, then his sight directed to his painting. He walks closer to the painting and examines the painting. Dorian surprises to see his painting has changes become ugly and his face has never been change. Dorian thinks so hard, with why the picture is changed. Then he remembers with his utterance. Dorian realizes that he said he would give

everything to stay young and he would barter his soul with the beauty and youth. The changing of his painting makes him remember with his rejection to Sybil Vane. He is afraid with his beauty and youth that will be old and wrinkle. He remembers with what he did to Sybil that reflected through the painting. So he decides to ask forgiveness from Sybil Vane because his action last night.

Then, Dorian writes a letter to Sybil Vane about his rejection last night. When Dorian writes a letter, Lord Henry comes to Dorian house and he would like to cheer up Dorian because the bad performance of Sybil Vane last night. Dorian tells Lord Henry, he writes a letter to Sybil to ask forgiveness. In fact, before Dorian sends the letter Lord Henry says that Sybil Vane was death. Lord Henry asks Dorian that did he read the letter from him, but Dorian does not yet read the letter. Lord Henry says he wrote a letter about Sybil Vane suicide, she drank poison last night. Dorian surprises to hear the news about Sybil Vane suicide. Dorian is very upset with that and regret with his action.

However, Lord Henry does not feel regret with Dorian's action. He suggests to forget it with come with him to watch the opera and meet with his cousin. At first, Dorian does not want to go, but Lord Henry persuades Dorian to come and forget it. Finally, Dorian gives way to Lord Henry and he goes out with Lord Henry to watch the opera and meet with Lord Henry's cousin.

Years passed, Dorian become a man and he keeps his secret about Sybil Vane death that makes Dorian keep pretending as a good man. His regret appears and realizes that his kindness just a selfish actions to fix his soul. When Dorian walks in street of London, he meets with Basil. Basil decides to go to Paris for

exhibiting his painting. Basil surprises with Dorian beauty and youth that has never been change. Dorian is only smile and invites Basil for come to his house. Then, Basil come and follows Dorian to his house.

When Dorian was sitting, Basil asks about his life and about the news of Dorian scandal. Dorian is not interest with the rumor about him, but Basil keeps asking to him. It makes Dorian hysterics and angry to Basil. Then, Dorian decides to show him the secret about his soul that the thing makes him haunted by his guilty. Dorian shows the painting to Basil that makes him haunted by his guilty. Basil shocks see the painting change into an ugly man. At first, Basil does not believe with the change of this painting; he thinks that it is not his painting made by him. However, Dorian explains because the painting that has destroyed his soul. Dorian blames Basil that everything happen because the painting. Basil asks Dorian to ask forgiveness to God, it is never too late to ask. On the other hand, Dorian uncontrolled feeling mad to Basil and he sees a knife on the table, then Dorian take a knife and stab him at backside repeatedly. He does not regret with his actions.

After that, Dorian was still haunting by his sinful to Sybil and Basil death. When he is alone at his house, he stares at his picture. He looks round and sees the knife stabbed to Basil. He cleans the knife and stabs his picture with it. There was a cry heard and shout out from the Dorian house.

Dorian housekeeper woke up cause their hearing of terrible sound. Two men passed in Dorian house call the police and say the voice comes from Dorian house. The housekeeper cannot open Dorian’s bedroom door because Dorian

locked it, so they climb through the roof. They found dead man in the evening dress and the knife in his heart. He is withered, wrinkled and old. They know that he is Dorian Gray.

3.2 Research Method

The research uses qualitative method. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Meleong (2004: 3) *"Metodologi kualitatif sebagai prosedur penelitian yang menghasilkan data deskriptif berupa kata-kata tertulis atau lisan dari orang-orang dan perilaku yang dapat diamati."* The qualitative describes and explains data toward the phenomena that happen.

The Descriptive method is also used to describe the data clearly based on the facts and examine the problem based on Gender Theory by Judith Butler. According to Koentjaraningrat (1976: 30) *"Penelitian yang bersifat deskriptif yaitu yang memberikan gambaran yang secermat mungkin mengenai individu, keadaan, gejala atau kelompok tertentu."* Thus, by using descriptive method the writer can explain the phenomenon of masculinity and femininity in a more comprehensive way.

3.2.1 Data Collection

The writer uses the library research to collect the data. The writer uses several steps as follow:

1. The writer reads this novel in every sentence to get the data from this novel.

2. After reading the novel, the writer chooses the data that related with the masculinity and femininity. The indicator of masculinity and femininity found in this novel is body, behaviour, and social norms. It will be analyzed based on the gender theory.
3. The writer classifies the data based on the gender that contains with the masculinity and femininity. The writer classify the data that can be analyzed and fnd the theories that support the analysis. The last the writer analyze the data that has been classify use the gender theory by Judith Butler that has been found.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

In data analysis, the writer describes the characterization of Dorian Gray using characterization theory through showing and telling methods. By using the showing and telling method, the writer interprets Dorian characterization from beginning until the end of story. Then, the writer examines Dorian interpretation on femininity and masculinity using Gender Theory by Judith Butler. Here is the sample of data analysis:

Dorian Gray, the main character in this novel, is characterized as a good-looking young man. As seen in the description of his picture in the following *"stood the full-length portrait of a young man of extraordinary personal beauty." (Wilde, 1992: 5).* However, he is an inexperience young man. As described by Lord Henry, one of the character that later becomes his friend, below:

> *"I feel quite sure of that. He is some brainless, beautiful creature, who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence." (Wilde, 1992: 6)*

The data above describes Dorian characterization through the telling method that is from Lord Henry character. It shows that Dorian is "*...He is some brainless, beautiful creature," (Wilde, 1992: 6.)*. It shows that Dorian brainless. His brainless shows his femininity traits. Although Dorian was man, he also has a feminine side. His feminine side describes by Lord Henry "*who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence*." *(Wilde, 1992:6).* It is describe that Lord Henry imagines Dorian was a woman brainless and beautiful stay in home. His brainless and beautiful is more feminine fit with woman. It indicates that he is inexperience.