CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Women's rights in 'The Scarlet Letter' relates to the radical feminist issue. Therefore, in this research, the writer uses a grand theory of sexual politics by Kate Millet. The theory will support the phenomenon of women's rights examined in the novel.

2.1 Feminism

As part of human being, women have the same ability to think as men. The false thought which assumes 'men are more capable intellectually and physically than women tends to make the discrimination towards women in the academy, forum and the market place' (Tong, 2009:15). Women subordination tends to make the disadvantages to women. It causes the injustice to the women in their daily activity. For example, in a family, a father as the leader of family is the one who should provide the financial needs and a mother raise the children and cook for whole family. As the result, the mother can't provide herself in financial needs because economically she depends on her husband. This false understanding of the role of women in family gives bad impact to the society for women such as low paid for women in labor. Whereas, women have capability to work as men do. The passage above is just one of the example of the false belief which brings the movement to get the equality between men and women. Women should make a chance to reach the equal rights to men. Thus, feminism occurs as the movement of women demanding the equality between women and men.

Through the feminism it is expected women can get the same role in society with men. In the journal entitled 'Defining feminism: a Comparative Historical Approach' by Karen Offen, it is argued that 'Feminism emerges as a concept that can encompass both an ideology and a movement for sociopolitical change based on a critical analysis of male privilege and women's subordination within any given society.' (1988: 151).

2.2 Radical Feminism

Many feminists discuss the issue of equal right but the main focus in this study is radical feminism. Before the radical feminism appears, the woman's movement begins with liberal feminism. Radical Feminism is the development of liberal feminism and considered as the second wave of feminism. Radical feminism is derived from Radix defined as root. It's related to the background of radical feminism focuses on the root of women's inferiority. Although both of them criticize the system based on the male authority, radical feminism sees it from sex and gender system explaining the oppression directed to the woman's body. According to Tong:

> 'Empowered by the realization that women's fates were profoundly linked, radical feminists proclaimed that "the personal is political" and that all women are "sisters." They insisted that men's control of both women's sexual and reproductive lives and women's self-identity, self-respect, and self-esteem is the most fundamental of all the oppressions human being visit on each other.' (2009:49).

In the statement above, it can be assumed that the difference of biological form between men and women tends to cause the inferiority of women because

reproductive organs are considered as the weakness of women. Thus, when the status of women lower than men it gives the thought that women seem have lower ability than men.

One of the well-known authors of radical feminist is Kate Millett. Kate Millett in her book 'sexual politic' defines the inferiority of women. The writer will use this book as the grand theory in order to support the analysis. In sexual politic, Millett first gives the brief explanation based on three passages. Those three passages represent the background of sexual politic. Millett sees that the passages bring the indication of patriarchy system based on the biological form of woman. Patriarchy system gives the men more power to control over women and it can be influenced by the culture. The culture means the society develops the false belief that men are superior than women. She states 'sexual dominion obtains nevertheless as perhaps the most pervasive ideology of our culture and provides its most fundamental concept of power.' (1970:25)

Patriarchy is a system where man has the strongest power to control over the rule. In 'Sexual Politic' Millett defines two principles of patriarchy, it's male who dominated female and the age which elder male dominated the younger. Therefore, Millett comprises patriarchy seen from many aspects.

2.2.1 Biological

Patriarchy does grow in human civilization.In a community which uses patriarchal system, women's body consider to have many lacks and it decreases the productivity. Millett argues that 'there are some evidences that fertility cults in ancient society at some points took a turn toward patriarchy, displacing and downgrading female function in procreation and attributing the power of life to the phallus alone' (1970:28). This quotation explains that the biological form causes the women subordination and tends to give fewer roles of women in society. Thus, the patriarchy based on the biological shows the men dominates women because of their biological form.

2.2.2 Sociological

The patriarchal system stem mainly from the family. Millett states 'the family not only encourages its own members to adjust and conform, but acts as a unit in the government of the patriarchal state which rules its citizens through its family heads' (1970:33). Family as the unit of patriarchal system puts father as a leader in family.

As the leader, father has more authority to educate the children. It influences the social life. In addition, women's role in a family is just seen as a reproductive machine. Women give a birth to the children, and they do things in kitchen like cooking. They don't earn money for living. It makes women live dependent on men. As Millett argues in her book 'women tend to transcend the usual class stratifications in patriarchy, for whatever the class of her birth and

education, the female has fewer permanent class association than does the male' (1970:38). However, even a woman in family takes an important role by taking care of the house keeping and educating the children but still the one who has more authority is a man.

2.2.3 Economic and Educational

Economic and education are still related to the form of patriarchy which we have been discussed in the previous, sociological. Here, women are seen as the human who has restrictions in work. Financially, woman couldn't earn much money because of their natural body. If a woman gets married and gives a birth, she has no time to work and earns money for living because she needs to take care the children and the house. Millett argues that

> 'Since woman's independence in economic life is viewed with distrust, prescriptive agencies of all kinds (religion, psychology, advertising, etc.) continuously admonish or even inveigh against the employment of middle-class women, particularly mothers. The toil of working-class women is more readily accepted as "need" if not always by the working-class itself, at least by middle class. (1970: 39)

Therefore, economically, women can't be self-sufficient, especially for those who already get married because they're dependent on their husband although it's all because the restriction of woman in work. The restriction emerges because the lack of education in women. Millett defines patriarchy permitted occasional minimal literacy to women while higher education was closed to them (1970: 42). Thus, the higher education of women can minimalize the patriarchy.

2.2.4 Anthropological: Myth and Religion

Patriarchal system can occur in a society with myth and religion around them. The culture with the myth and religion as the basic belief is actually male design. Millett assumes that 'as both the primitive and the civilized worlds are make world, the ideas, which shaped culture in regard to the female, were also of male design.' (1970: 46). This system actually tends to give disadvantages to women.

Millett gives an example here to make the brief explanation of how patriarchy with myth and religion. For example the myth of Adam and Eve which is also used in this study related to the Puritan belief. Eve is considered as the sinful creature because she tempts Adam to eat forbidden fruit. Thus, the Puritan believes women as the source of sin and Puritan makes the rule which cause the oppression to women. Millett states that 'patriarchal circumstances and beliefs seem to have the effect of poisoning the female's own sense of physical self until it often truly becomes the burden it is said to be. (1970: 47). It means that the patriarchal system in society and the belief tends to make women as the marginal creature.

2.3 Puritanism

Puritan era was started in the end of 16th century and in the beginning of 17th century. As stated by Andrea Mingiuc (2010) puritan itself is the nickname which is given for the strict follower of the Lutheran Principle, because in that era, the

Christian is divided into many sects. Puritan has three groups when they enter New England. First is the largest one under the authority of commonwealth, Oliver Cromwell, second which may call as the separatist, smaller group than the other, and they refer to the first Christian communities, the third one is the immigrant from Massachusetts colony bay.

As its name which means 'pure', puritan wants to purify his followers from sin. Therefore puritan is really faithful to the religion and has a strong fear to their God. Sinful person in puritan may get severe punishment. Puritan may give the burn or even death penalty to the sinful person.

They also believe to the story of Adam and Eve. Andrea Mingiuc (2010) states in her essay ‘As a consequence of Adam and Eve’s fall, everyone was essentially marked by corruption and perversity.’ At this point, puritan believes that human is like the source of sin. It is told that Eve asks Adam to eat the forbidden fruit. They know it is a sin and God forbid the act. However, Adam still ate the fruit. Puritan believes Adam is persuaded by Eve. The belief brings the thought that women are very sinful creature. It is also stated by Sandra F. VanBurkleo in her essay ‘Instrument of Seduction’ cites ‘On one side, women were potential Saints equal to men in God’s eyes; on the other side, they were Eve-like temptresses, peculiarly susceptible to satanic temptation’(1995:1). According to this statement, women in Puritan were seen as the sinful creature. This belief brings the disadvantage to the women.Thus, women in puritan don’t take big role in society. It can be seen that there are some rules in puritan which limit woman’s act.

For example,women in Puritan are not allowed to speak in public. They may be allowed to lead the community which members are all women but when they are in public area such as in a court, they will not be allowed to give comments or anything else. It can also be seen in the case of Anne Hutchinson. Hutchinson speaks against John Winthrop because she disagrees of his political ambition and because of that Hutchinson and her followers walk out the church. These women should face the trial because of they act. As stated by Sandra F. Vanburkleo'they had qualms about female voices in public spaces'(1995:2).This problem shows us that Puritan makes a strait rule as women has no right to speak in public. The state above tends to make the women inferior under men. They get the oppression as the effect of puritan rules system and it gives lot of disadvantage to women.

2.3.1 Doctrine of Predestination

Doctrine of predestination is the belief which is kept by the puritan. Lorraine Boettner in his book entitled 'Reformed Doctrine of Predestination' stated 'the scriptures are to be accepted as the sole authority in matters of doctrine the Calvinistic system will stand as the only one which adequately treats of God, man, and redemption.' (1932:42). Puritan which comes from the follower of Calvinism believe that they live to serve their life to God. They may not born in sin, but human does the sin. Therefore, every person who does the sin deserves the punishment. It can be seen in Hester Prynne's case in the Scarlet Letter.

2.4 Character

Character is part of literary element and can't be separated in the novel. Minderop quoted from Hornby that:

> *'karakter atau dalam bahasa Inggris, character berarti watak, peran, huruf (Echols dan Shadily). Karakter (character) bisa berarti orang, masyarakat, ras, sikap mental dan moral, kualitas nalar, orang terkenal dalam karya sastra, reputasi dan tenda atau huruf (2005:2)*

Whereas, characterization as stated by Minderop is '*pemeranan, pelukisan watak*.' (2005:2). Method of characterization in literary work is the method to describe the character in a fiction work.

In determining the character, usually the author uses two methods in his work. There are two methods in characterization by Minderop, telling method and showing method.

2.4.1 Telling Method

Method of telling focuses on describing the exposition and the direct comment of the author toward the character.

> *'Metode ini mencakup karakterisasi melalui penggunaan nama tokoh, karakterisasi melalui penampilan tokoh, dan karakterisasi melalui tuturan pengarang' (2005:8)*

According to the quotation above, telling method includes the characterization using the name of the character, characterization through the performance of the character, and characterization based on the speech act of the author. Telling method is usually used by the author in the earlier era to describe the character.

2.4.2 Showing Method

Showing method is usually called as the indirect method in characterization. Minderop quotes from Pickering and Hoeper:

> *'metode showing (tidak langsung) memperlihatkan pengarang menempatkan diri di luar kisahan dengan memberikan kesempatan kepada para tokoh untuk menampilan perwatakan mereka melalui dialog dan action. (2005:6)*

According to the quotation above, showing method shows the author outside the story by giving the opportunity to the figure in literary work to show their character through the act or dialogue. It is possible to the author to use both of method, telling and showing.