CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

3.1 Research Object

3.1.1 Data Source

A novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne entitled 'The Scarlet Letter' is used as the source of data in the research. The object of this research is women's rights in 'The Scarlet Letter'. The writer uses the theory of feminist radical focuses on the sexual politic by Kate Millett to support the data analysis in the study.

3.1.2 Synopsis

The scarlet letter is a novel set in puritan era. It tells about Hester Prynne who has to face the judgment because of adultery. She does the intercourse with the man which is not her husband then she gives a birth to a baby girl named Pearl. Ironically, the father of her child is her pastor named Arthur Dimmesdale. However, the people of puritan don't know who's the biological father of her child because Hester refuses to confess the truth. As the result, Hester should wear the scarlet letter 'A' embroidered on her breast for 7 years.

The scarlet letter gives the effect for her social life. The people around her treat her differently. She doesn't get paid for the needling work which she does to help the governor. She even doesn't get her right as mother because of the scarlet letter. However, the reverend decides to give Hester fully right of taking care her child since he feels guilty to see Hester get the punishment. Reverend

Dimmesdale finally confesses that he is the biological father of Pearl, however Dimmesdale doesn't get any punishment after the confession. In the end, they live together happily.

3.2 Research Method

The method used in this research is analytic descriptive method. Prof. Dr. T Fatimah Djajasudarma defines 'the analytic descriptive is the method which aims to make the description systematic, factual, and accurate related to the data, character and the phenomenon which are examined in the study'(1993:8). Based on the above method, the writer elaborates the data related to the issue of women's rights and analyzes it systematically and comprehensively.

3.3 Data Collection

According to the research object discussed earlier, the writer uses the novel 'The Scarlet Letter' as the data source. The Scarlet Letter is the novel written by Nathaniel Hawthorne was set in the puritan era. Before doing the research, the writer reads the whole novel 'The Scarlet Letter'. Then the writer collects the data related to the women's rights. The writer limits the problem of the women's oppression. Therefore, after collecting the data, the writer classifies the data relates to the women's oppression. The women's oppression is classified based on the radical feminism approach which then will be analyzed using the theory of sexual politic. In this study, the writer also uses various sources from books, e-book, journals, and articles from web to support the data which will be analyzed.

3.4 Data Analysis

After collecting and classifying the data, the writer then analyzes the data using one of radical feminism theory that is sexual politic by Kate Millett. Sexual politic also elaborates women's oppression from various aspects. There are Ideological, Biological, Sociological, Class, Economic and Educational, Force, Anthropological, and Psychological. The data found in the scarlet letter has four of those aspects such as biological, sociological, economic educational, and Anthropological. Those 4 aspects reflect the oppression of women that limits the puritan women's rights in the scarlet letter. Therefore the writer will just use that four aspects in sexual politic.