

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Every human being has his or her own problems in life. The problems may vary among them. They also have their own attitudes and ways in solving the problems they encounter. Some may solve their problems they encounter and some may escape from it as their ways to solve them.

Problems are not to be avoided, but to be faced and solved. If an individual tries to escape from the problems and avoided to solve it, the problems are getting more complicated, which in turn may arise conflict and frustration. People, however have different standpoints concerning the way to solve the problems depends on their own ability and their perspective and their equality of the problems themselves.

Independence is an ability to stand on one's own foot in taking care of one's own self within all aspect of life. It becomes a very important factor for all human being in this age, men and women are necessarily to be independent in order they can survive in this cruel world.

Basically, women have same ability to solve their problems on their own, equal to men. But in fact, women, for centuries, have no equal rights as their male counterparts. They have no right to own properties and they have no right to

decide themselves. They were only little women who can stand on their own feet economically.

For centuries women had worked but their performance were valued for their sex and for their work. But recently, women's consciousness emerges and they can decide themselves about what they want to be. From now on, many women enter new areas of life. They now enjoy education and their own business. They are more realistic, independent, serious, and free and get more confident. Thus they no longer depend on men, both economically and psychologically. Their role are now expanded and altered. This alteration and movement are known as feminism.

For example in Defoe's *Roxana or The Fortunate Mistress*, in this novel he tries to explain the struggle of a woman named Roxana to get independent. Roxana is a very beautiful girl and very wealth, and then she marries with an eminent brewer. Next, because of her husband foolishness, they become bankrupt and her husband leaves her, abandons his wife and his five children. In order to continue her life, she tries to leave her five children in front if the door of the relation, then starting to become a whore. The interesting things in this novel that when she starts to become a whore she doesn't have anything, but after the mistress of her landlord, she becomes a mistress from one man to another.

Daniel Defoe was born in 1660. Honestly, his real name as Daniel Foe (why Daniel added the "De" to his surname is subject of speculation). Jame Foe, his father, a butcher by trade, was a sober, deeply pious Presbyterian of Flemish Descent. Defoe's education began in Rev. James Fisher School in dorking, and

later, at about the age of fourteen, he was enrolled in the Dissenting academy in Newington Green. Newington's headmaster, Rev. Charles Morton, a plain-spoken puritan, was progressive educator. He gave his students a thorough grounding in English as well as the customary Greek and Latin. Morton is seen as major influence on Defoe's writing style; the other influence was the bible. ([www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com))

At the age of fifty-nine he wrote *Robinson Crusoe*, A work which has since been translated into every known language and never been out of print. The last decade of his life saw a range and diversity of publication that would dignity which proved highly influential for the development of English prose, notably *Moll Flanders* (1772), *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *A Journal Of The Plague Year* (1772), *Colonel Jack* (1772), *Roxana, or The Fortunate Mistress* (1724), *A Tour Trough The Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724-7), and *The Complete English Tradesman* (1729).

In the eighteen century, there was a lot of changing in every aspect of life because of the emerged of enlightenment. Enlightenment was a period when society replaced the superstitious thinking with rational; make sense, and "scientific way". The effect of this period was, for example, the limitation the power of the king. Indeed, the king must share his power with parliament.

Honestly, the appearance of this novel is a sign of growing power of middle class attitudes to money and morals, and the writer's need to provide salacious thrills and morals correctness through the conflicting demands of commerce and moral respectability.

In this research, the researcher analyzes Daniel Defoe's novel entitled Roxana or *The Fortunate Mistress* using Feminists Approach. The researcher is really interested in analyzing women's independence as a reflected in Daniel Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress*.

### **B. Problem Statement**

The main problem of this study is how is the women's independence reflected in Daniel Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress*?

### **C. Literature Review**

Based on the researcher's observation in central Java and Yogyakarta the researcher found that no one has conducted a research on this novel.

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. to analyze the novel based on it's structural element
2. to analyze the novel based on the feminist perspective

### **E. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are stated as the following:

1. The study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge the literary studies on Daniel Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress*

2. The study is expected to enrich the writer's knowledge and experience either dealing with literary research, feminism on Daniel Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress*.

## **F. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the study**

Based on the problem statement and the discussion, the study can be classified as descriptive study that is to describe the women's independence reflected in the novel through feminist perspective.

### **2. Type of Data and the Data Sources**

#### **a. Type of data**

The data in the research can be divided into two kinds of data; they are primary and secondary data. Primary data is the main data consisting dialogue, action, and the description about the character of the novel. Secondary data is supporting data. In this case, the secondary data is data concerning feminist perspective.

#### **b. Data Source**

##### **1). Primary Data**

Primary data in the research consist of data collected from the novel of Daniel Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress*. The data are taken from the dialogue. Character's description, plot, and all the statement related to the problems.

##### **2). Secondary Data**

Secondary data is collected from other literatures discussing about structuralism, women's psychology. Feminist perspective and other related sources.

### **3). Technique of the Data Collection**

Data collecting method in the research is literary research. The writer studies the literatures related to the problems and selects the data and collects then.

### **4). Technique of the Data Analysis**

Data analyzing in the research using descriptive technique, which is consist of three steps, classifying the data, verifying the data, based on underlying theories into conclusion.

## **G. Research Organization**

Paper organization in the research will be as follows:

Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research organization. Chapter II is underlying theory, which consists of feminist perspective. Chapter III coves social context and background of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Chapter IV is analysis, consisting of the analysis based on structural elements. Chapter V consists of analysis based on feminist perspective. Chapter VI is the conclusion and recommendation.