

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Traditionally, women and men accepted the fact the men have good rights in public or political life and women do not. Many stereotypes about women's nature and roles hold that women have been viewed, to some degree as inferior. Women have been labeled physically weaker than men, more emotional, less reasonable, and less able to learn and independent (Harton and Hunt, 1996: 157).

As a result of tradition, women have inequality of their status with the men. This problem causes women to struggle to achieve the equality of their rights with men, as stated by Mossman in Mendel, as illustrated below:

Women's struggle to achieve legal recognition for their fundamental claims to participate in public life. Women's legal claims defined women's equality entirely in terms of men's existing rights responsibilities and asserted women's rights to participate in public life (Mandell, 1995: XVI).

Hopefully, women exclusion from public would give a sphere of independence in which they might a new degree of initiative and leadership in their society.

However, men still dominate in every aspects of life including in religious life. In patriarchal culture where men control the official religious positions, ritual roles are allocated differently to women and men. Men tend to monopolize roles

within religious organization. And women may occupy subsidiary position and perform adjunctive or supportive function.

In Christian doctrine, visions of women as inherently evil associated with the sin of Eve. As punishment of Eve's sin of disobedience to God, she (and there-after all women) must obey her husband. As stated in the verse of New Testament in Bonvillain:

“I will increase your labor and your pain, and in labor you shall bear children. You shall be eager for your husband, and he shall be your master.” (Gen, 3: 16).

“Wives, be subject to your husbands as the Lord; for the men is the head of the women, just as Christ also is the head of Church....but just the Church is subject of Christ, so must women be to their husband in everything.” (Ephesians, 5: 22-24).

Somewhat balancing the image of Eve is the Christian figure of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Whereas Eve is selfish and uncontrolled, Mary is benevolent and nurturing. Although on the surface Mary may symbolize positive attributes of women and thus balance negative attributes of Eve, Mary is an unattainable ideal (Bonvillain, 1995: 213).

In western societies, some women are currently attempting to be accepted as religious practitioners within the organized structure of their religion. Protestant and Jewish women have made small inroad into once exclusively male domains of ministers or rabbis. Women have been ordained in a few Protestant denominations since the middle of nineteenth century (Bonvillain, 1995: 221).

As a matter of fact, the doctrine of equality or natural rights philosophy included in the democratic values seems to raise women's awareness to fight

against the subordinate role of females. In this case, women's struggle appears as the social phenomena that occur in the society.

Literature as a work of art, as well as a documentary record of human life, tries to reveal social phenomena. Novel as one kind of literary works has been admitted more capable to depict human life with all human behaviors. The author images new circumstances of life as normally experienced by the reader and also show another style of life. The author may have purposes to give new ideas and force the reader to react against the realities that happen in novel.

One of the great British novelists is George Eliot (Mary Ann Evan). She lived in Victorian Age, when the discrimination of women in England influenced her career as a writer. At that period, women writers were unacceptable by the society. She used the pen-name as men from Mary Ann Evan to be George Eliot when she began to write fiction. Eliot's first novel is *Scenes of clerical life* (1858), and followed by other Eliot's novel, such as: *Adam Bede* (1859), *Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861) until her last novel *Daniel Deronda* (1876).

Adam Bede was published in 1859. This novel consists of 6 books, 55 chapters, 569 pages, and epilogue. This novel contains incidents of life, love, despaired, and rich humor of human condition. Adam Bede novel become very popular when it was appeared. The public was enthusiastic with this novel because describes the social-condition of nineteenth century village life in England.

Adam Bede novel tells about the love story of Adam Bede, the young carpenter who loves Hetty Sorrel. But he must accept that Hetty Sorrel makes the love affairs with the young gentleman, Arthur Donnithorne. Hetty accepts Arthur's love because she has the desire to increase her social position if she has married with Arthur. The conflicts began when Arthur leaves Hetty because he thinks their social position is so different to live in marriage. In her desperate, Hetty accepts Adam's invitation to marry her. But Hetty decides to run away to find Arthur because she is pregnant Arthur's baby. In her journey, Hetty leaves her baby in the wood and she becomes a prisoner because she is accused of killing her baby.

Beside the sad story of Hetty Sorrel, this novel also tells about the parishioner's life that represents the characters of the Rector of Broxton, Mr. Irwine and a women preacher, Dinah Morris. Dinah Morris is Methodist preacher who always preaches about religious and morality value to others people. She preaches what she believes and she practices what she preaches. She always helps and comforts all people around her. When Adam's father died, she visits Adam's mother and gives support to her. She also gives support and prays for Hetty in the prison. But she also has contradiction from other people who put her preacher in doubt. Dinah Morris is an excellent figure of women in this novel.

Dinah Morris character makes the researcher interested in analyzing *Adam Bede*, because Dinah's character represents a new image of women. Dinah Morris is a Methodist preacher who helps and comforts all those around her. Through

long experience she has discovered how to comfort people and bring them to God. She struggles to be a woman preacher that makes the people realize about the new images on women. To analyze this work, the researcher uses feminist approach, especially liberal feminist.

B. Literature Review

The study of George Eliot's *Adam Bede*, has not been already conducted yet both in UMS and UNS. It is the first study that has ever been conducted around Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

The main problem of the study is how Dinah's struggle to be a woman preacher is reflected in George Eliot's *Adam Bede*.

D. Limitation of the Study

To make it easier to conduct the study, the researcher gives limitation of the problem on the character of Dinah Morris who attempts in her struggle to be a woman preacher. The study uses feminist approach particularly liberal feminist.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Analyzing the structural elements of the novel *Adam Bede*.

2. Analyzing the novel based on the feminist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

In studying the research paper, the benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically, the result of the study contributes to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on George Eliot's *Adam Bede*.

2. Practical Benefit

Practically, it may give deeper understanding for the writer herself about the novel based on feminist approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This study belongs to qualitative research, which refers to the research based on the qualitative data taken from the novel *Adam Bede* written by George Eliot.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two resources of this study, those are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is taken from the novel of George Eliot's *Adam Bede*.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are taken from several references such as essay, the author's biography, and other literary works which are related to this study.

3. Technique of the Data Collecting

The method of data collecting in this study is library research and documentation. The researcher uses some steps to analyze data, as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Identifying a particular part that is important and relevant for the analysis.
- c. Taking the note both primarily and secondary data.
- d. Arranging, research and developing the selected material into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In the technique of data analysis, the researcher employs descriptive analysis. It means, the analysis is started from the author and his work and content related to the analysis of the major character.

H. Research Paper Organization

The study is divided into six chapters. Chapter one is introduction. This chapter involves the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, and limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research methods, and paper organization. Chapter two,

deals with the underlying theory. It covers with the notion of feminism, liberal feminist, the major principles of liberal feminists, and theoretical application. Chapter three deals with social-historical backgrounds of *Adam Bede* novel. It covers the condition of women based on the aspects of social, economic, politic, culture, religious, sciences and technology; according the socio-condition of the novel. Chapter four, deals with the analysis *Adam Bede* novel based the structural elements. It consists of character and characterization, setting, plot, style, point view, and the theme of *Adam Bede* novel. Chapter five deals with the analysis the character of Dinah Morris by using feminist approach, especially liberal feminist. The last chapter, chapter six deals with the conclusions and suggestions of this research.