

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Rebellion is an act of rebelling. It derives from the word rebel, which means person who fights against the government or opposes authority (Hornby, 1985:344). Life is an amazing journey. Everyone has their own stories. They could be sad or happy. People always make plan to arrange them succesfully, but deep down beyond the expectation, God disposes it. Every second our life can change dramatically. Every individual has the way to resist their fate. Basically, based on their gender, whether it is male or female. Male has superior position than female. It implies stronger condition than female, either in himself personally or socially. Otherwise, female is subordinate than male. She can not be stronger than him.

Definitely, they have different political, economic, and social rights and opportunities. Its concepts overlap with those of women's rights. For instance the social construction of sex and gender in reproductive rights, the rights of protection in domestic violence, sexual harrasment, and sexual assault and also the rights in the workplace, includes equal pay, opportunities for careers and to start businesses. Women have the same rights to defeat social structure in our society and inequality gender problem, one of them was legitimated by the religion belief that gender was biased. Sometimes, women face a problem that was related with social, economic, political commitment to eradicating race, class and sexual domination and reorganization society so that individual self-development takes precedence over imperialism, economic expansion and material desires" (Hook in Mandell, 1995:124). Actually, The implementation of the phenomenon is the women react with it, they rebel with their own way as the autonomous being, that is

free from any kinds of boundaries in life. We call it as Feminist. Feminist as a word gained widespread usage in the Western world in the 1890s. It emerged at this time as a way to “identify individuals who supported not merely an increased public role for women but also women's right to define themselves as autonomous beings” (Mandell, 1995:4). Feminists do not fight against men but against social structure and law that consider women as the subordinate group to the other group (Tong in Fakih, 2004:78). The way of women react with the condition is called feminism. And the person who deal with it is a feminists In the real life, society knows that this one is really exist.

It can also be found in the world of fiction. A novel about life that people live in the real world is classified as realistic fiction and belongs to realism genre. Oppression and violence against women often become main themes of novel. Both male and female authors write the novels in which the women characters are oppressed by men characters. Therefore women became the objects of violence.

There is a famous American Author, his name is Sidney Sheldon, eventhough he is a man, he really has a great concern about women. All of his novel take a woman as the central subject of his story. Sidney Sheldon’s mother and also his beloved wife are the best woman that influences his writing. He thinks that women are the precious one. They can strive with their effort though they just a woman.

Sidney Sheldon is one of the best authors of novel who always presents a thriller for the reader. Most of Sheldon’s novel have unfinished catastrophe that makes the reader felt amusing whether the ending of the novel is happy or sad. Sheldon was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1917. Most of Sheldon’s novels have become major feature Sidney Sheldon is the author of *The Naked Face* (1969), *Bloodline* (1977), *Master Game* (1982), *The Sands of Time* (1988), *Memories of Midnight* (1990), *The Stars Shine Down* (1992), *Nothing Last Forever* (1994), *Morning, Noon, and Night* (1995), *Tell Me Your Dreams*

(1998), *The Sky is Falling* (2000), etc . All have been number-one International bestsellers. The New York Times acclaimed Sheldon's novel, *The Naked Face* as "*The Best First Mystery of the Year*". And there are 100 million copies of his books in print throughout the world (www.nndb.com/people/413/000032317/).

One of his novel is *If Tomorrow Comes*, which is published in 1985 by Warner Book and it, has 408 pages. In *If Tomorrow Comes*, Sidney Sheldon's performs Tracy Whitney as a major character. Sheldon explores what happen if a woman is being intimated and suffered by the man.

Sheldon's describes in *If Tomorrow Comes*, that Tracy Whitney, the protagonist of the story, is a young, beautiful, and intelligent woman working as a computer operator for a bank in Philadelphia. The story begins with a phone conversation between Tracy and her mother Doris Whitney, who lives in New Orleans and takes care of the business set up by her deceased husband. Tracey tells her mother about her planned marriage with a businessman, Charles Stanhope III. Doris commits suicide after the conversation and Tracy is notified about it by a Lieutenant of the New Orleans police department. Upon arriving at New Orleans, Tracey becomes aware of the circumstances that led to her mother's suicide. She learns that Joe Romano, the main assistant of New Orleans' mafia leader Anthony Orsatti, had framed her mother into a legal case relating to fraud, Doris didn't have the money to fight the case and decided to commit suicide.

Tracey is filled with hatred for Romano, and naively decides to bring her mother's name in the clear by making Romano confess his misdeed. She purchases a gun, which she only intends to use to threaten Romano, and reaches Romano's house. Romano lets her in and offers her a drink, while she asks him to write out a confession letter. Romano refuses, snatches the gun and tries to rape Tracey. She grabs the gun during the

struggle and accidentally fires a shot at Romano. She is horrified, as she never intended to kill Romano. She calls for medical aid and then flees to the airport where she is arrested by two policemen.

She learns that Romano was alive, only wounded by the shot. The plaintiff accuses her of attempted murder and stealing a costly painting from Romano's house. She is assigned an attorney named Perry Pope who, to her ignorance, works for the mafia. Pope convinces her to plead guilty in court before Judge Lawrence (who is also secretly a mafia man) and promises that she'll be given only a three month prison sentence. She follows his advice, and realizes in court that it was all a setup by Orsatti and Romano to destroy her, Lawrence sentences her 15 years of incarceration in Southern Louisiana Penitentiary for Women. Charles doesn't give her a chance to let her explain her version of the incident, and leaves her at her fate with his unborn child in her womb. Tracy enters a life of hardship, sexual harassment and violence at the penitentiary and vows revenge against all those who harmed her and her mother. The title of the novel itself is from a melodramatic quote in the novel, where Tracy vows to take her revenge tomorrow, if tomorrow comes. Eventually, she becomes the nanny for the prison warden's young daughter, a job that leads to her release from jail. After coming out, she cunningly sets up distrust among Romano, Perry Pope and Orsatti, and frames Judge Lawrence in Russia over spying charges, thus ruining Anthony Orsatti's empire.

Desperate, unable to find a job as an ex-convict, she turns to a well-known New York City jewelry store owner who helps her make some fast money in a jewel heist. Escaping with the goods, Tracy has an encounter with Jeff Stevens, a master con man. Stevens steals the jewels from Tracy, who realizes she's been had. She then cons Jeff, taking back her prize. Not long after, Tracy travels to England and is introduced to

Gunther Hartog, a world-class fence for valuable stolen property. Thus begins her life as one of the world's cleverest criminals, Tracy pursues some brilliant con schemes filled with humor and ingenuity all over Europe, such as stealing jewelry from an actress on the Orient Express, valuable painting from a museum, reselling a gem to a jeweler for much higher than its worth, etc. The Interpol issues alerts all over Europe in search of - as they perceive it, a gang of con-women. Only Daniel Cooper, a plain-looking sociopath and insurance investigator, seems capable of matching Tracy's brilliance; although he never manages to catch her red-handed. In the end, after having collected enough money to live a luxurious life, Tracy and Jeff plan to marry and live together in Brazil as law-abiding citizens.

The story has the main point. It reveals the way of a woman rebels her condition when a gang of men traps her and sends her into the jail. After, she gets out from the penitentiary, she has not already an ordinary citizen anymore. Several difficulties comes out. She is no longer have rights. And of course, an ex-convict would not be easy anymore to get in the society.

Based on the above considerations, the researcher tries to break down the problem in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes* using a feminist perspective. In this study, the researcher proposes a title **WOMAN'S REBELLION IN SIDNEY SHELDON'S *IF TOMORROW COMES* (1985): A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

B. Literature Review

As far as the researcher knows, in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, there are some researchers who conduct the study on Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes*. Some researchers are:

First, is Yulia Astini in 1995 with research entitled *A Sociological Study of If Tomorrow Comes: A Genetic Structuralism Approach*. It focuses on the Sidney Sheldon's

worldview in the sociological study where the work appears. The characteristic is the intrinsic study, the background of the author, and the background of the social and history of literary work when the author creates it. First, the intrinsic study gives description about the theme, plot, setting, the point of view, and the characters of *If Tomorrow Comes*. Second, the background of the author, Sidney Sheldon is an American. Most of his novel tells us about the Liberalism overview. He always performs his major character with a female character because he is inspired with her mother and his wife characterization. Third, are the background of social society and the history of literary work when the author creates it. Sidney Sheldon published *If Tomorrow Comes* in 1995, so the social and historical condition in the year portrayed in the novel.

Second, Henky Nugroho Tri Pebrunto in 2004 made a research *Challenge and Response in Sidney Sheldon's If Tomorrow Comes: A Behavioristic Approach*. This approach focuses only on those aspects of behavior, which can be directly observed, and the overwhelming influence of the environment in shaping those behaviors. This approach stands in sharp contrast to the biological, psychoanalytic, and cognitive approaches, which look inside the organism to determine the causes of behavior. It is determining the environmental causes of behavior. Ivan Pavlov and John B. Watson began to develop a framework which emphasized observable processes (environmental is the stimuli and behavioral is the responses). It focuses in the challenge in a form of someone's life condition and the observable reaction to the condition as the responses. It assumes that the behavior represents certain learned habits, and he attempts to determine how they are learned. Tracy Whitney frames with some villains; they sent her into the jail though she was innocent. It sets her with hard life, she learns with it. And in the end, she showed her way becoming a cone artist, giving vengeance with the people who set her up. The last, she becomes a jewel swindler.

The third is Agus Sriyanto is research in 2005 entitled Search for an Existence in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes : An Existentialist Approach*. It focuses on the way of thinking of Tracy Whitney, as the main character, when she faces a condition, compartment to the world, fired by integrity. The force of existential choice comes charging home to her, when she feel alienated from the mass of norms by which most people around her govern their lives. The core of existentialism is recognition of inescapable personal responsibility. It involves the realization that the human individual is irredeemably free and responsible for choosing her outlook on the world, for her conduct in it, for essentially *who or what* she is, and that no appeal to external authorities such as God, or to rational philosophical systems, or to a predetermined 'self', or to the norms that surround us, or to science, can remove this and do the job for us if we wish to live as fully authentic human beings and not as 'things' enslaved by the world. We can say that this is the way of someone's show her way to be a thing with this own.

The fourth is Nita Purnawanti is research in 2004 en titled Greed and Conflict of Interests in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes: An Individual Psychological Approach*. *If Tomorrow Comes* gives a portrayed, that Orsatti and his men's greed lead Tracy into various conflict of life. The individual psychological analysis also gives description about Tracy's ability to cope with the problem of greed and conflict of interest. The impact of greed and conflict of interest in Tracy Whitney personality is based on the sixth tenets of Individual Psychological of Alfred Adler. There are: inferiority feeling, fictional finalism, striving for superiority, Social interest, style of life and creative self. We can say that the sixth tenets of Individual Psychological of Alfred Adler. We can see that greed and conflict of interest influencing Tracy becomes an International Jewel Swindler is the way to cope her problems.

The fifth is Katon Wijayanti is research in 2009 entitled Anxiety of Tracy Whitney in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes: A Psychoanalytic Approach*. Anxiety rises when human feels uncomfortable and it influences the mental. Based on Sigmund Freud opinion, there are three component of personality in anxiety : id, ego and superego. This study focuses on the problem of the major character (Tracy Whitney) that cause the conflict of her mental condition. It happens when there is contradiction between Id, Ego and Superego and bring her into anxiety.

However, no researcher has conducted a study based on feminist perspective, at least among Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta students. That is why the researcher in this occasion attempts to study a feminist perspective of the major character, Tracy Whitney on Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes*.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problem statement "How is woman's rebellion reflected in Sidney Sheldon's novel *If Tomorrow Comes*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The study is focused on woman's rebellion reflected in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes* by using feminist perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

1. To give an additional contribution to the literary research, especially in the study of Sidney Sheldon's work.
2. To give additional contribution on understanding *If Tomorrow Comes* from feminist perspective.

F. The Benefit of the Study

This study is expected to give benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to development of knowledge; particularly the literary study in Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes*

2. Practical Benefit

The practical benefits are to fulfill the requirement for Getting Bachelor of Education in English Department, and to be used as a book guiding in researching *If Tomorrow Comes*.

G. Research Method

The writer analyzes Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes* using qualitative method which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data which then drawing conclusion.

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *If Tomorrow Comes* novel by Sidney Sheldon published in 1985 by Warner Book. It has 408 pages.

2. Types of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative as the type of the research. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of the data is in the form of text entitled *If Tomorrow Comes* by Sidney Sheldon. The writer divides the data source into two categories; Primary data source and Secondary data source.

a. Primary data source

The primary data source is the novel itself *If Tomorrow Comes*, which is published in 1985 by Warner Book and it has 408 page. It involves words, phrase, and sentences.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data are taken from other sources such as biography of the author, website about the novel, several books of literature.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this research is library research, in which the data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a short of document used as evidence.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this research is descriptive analysis, in order to get an interpretation of the text and content analysis dealing with the feminist perspective of the novel, *If Tomorrow Comes*.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into six chapters. The First chapter talks about background of the study, problem statement, literary review, limitation of the study, object of the study, benefit the study, research method and organization. Chapter two explains the underlying theory that consists of the notion of feminism, basic concept of feminism, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. And chapter three contains social background of the American society in the late of twentieth centuries. Chapter Four presents structural element and discussion of the novel *If Tomorrow Comes*. Chapter Five is data analysis; it presents feminist perspective analysis of the novel.

Chapter Six is conclusion. This chapter draws the conclusion of the analysis and offers some suggestions.