CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter concerns with introduction. This chapter is divided into eight parts, namely, background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method and research paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

Independence or freedom is very important in people’s life, especially for women. Independence is something which is had by people since they were born. Independence is a condition where people have the ability to act according to their wishes. The term independence describes people who is not forced and demanded, but with independence people can feel their existance as a human being. Actually, women and men have same right and obligation in social life. They have equal opportunity to do anything that they want as human being. It means that women can stand alone without men. According to Anderson (in Mandell, 1995: 5), “In Principle, every person is to be given equal opportunities and civil rights, in which every person should be allowed to exercise freedom of choice, unfettered by either public opinion or law.” Women can be independent, if they want to try as hard as possible. Women also have the same power with men. Mandell (1995: 5) states that women have rights to define as autonomous beings. As independent women, they can achieve the goal of life according to their desires. Nowadays, women can do
anything which they want to do. There is no difference between men and women, so they are free to determine the direction of their lives.

In nineteenth century women has no right, it is proved from the position of women in nineteenth century was really in bad condition, especially in Dutch Colonialization in Indonesia. During this period the society had strong assumption that “women’s position was clear; she was always physically and intellectually inferior to the men” (Rubenstein, 1987: 7). Because of that assumption, women must receive their destiny as a mother and wife. They could not enter in any profession. Marriage is women’s destiny to be confessed in society, Stuart Mill and Taylor Mill (in Anderson, 1983: 252) stated that the occupation women should (and would) choose is marriage. Men assume that women has no ability to do the activity in any profession. So, women always depend on men. They can not do anything by theirselves.

Plato classified women in the same degree with children and slaves. He stated that male was superior to female. Meanwhile Euripides asserted that women were not able to do good work and considered that they would continuously destroy society with evil deeds (Nasif, 2001: 36). From those explanation we can conclude that women in that era has no the same right with men. Men can do anything, but women do not stand alone without them. There is no independent women. All women can not live without men beside them.
Woman’s independence is avowed now. Woman independence comes from the word “woman” and “independence”. Woman is a daughter who related to the term weak and dependent to man. And independence or freedom is free, free from the demands, independent and not dependent. Independent woman or a woman who is independent, knows nature as a woman, a woman who feels her normal but everyone said he was incredible. Women who are reliable and have the desire. Women who know how to put themselves in all sorts of situations.

Independent woman is woman who does not hesitate to say please and help. Independent woman is a woman who can hide or against any shortcomings that they have as a woman, who had aspirations to stand on their own feet in pursuing what they believe in, and strive to get all the best that they are capable of Achieve.

Literature has a close relationship with human life, Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 13) argue that literature is reflecting various fact and social phenomena and problem in society, like: class structure, conflict family, relationship, a possibility divorce, friendship and population phenomena that actually happened in society. One of literature is novel. According to World Book Encyclopedia, novel is a long fictional story written in prose. Novel is one form of mental reflection of the author's awareness of the value and thrive in the midst of the community because the novel is never separated from the surrounding socio-cultural system. In the novel we have room for more social and historical
complexity, more richness of character, motive and choice, along with a setting so particular we can draw a map (Hall, 1987: 166).

According to Chase (1978: 12-13), the novel renders reality closely and in comprehensive detail. It takes a group of people and sets them going about the business life. The novel has served the interests and aspirations of an insurgent middle class. A novel tells a real situation, or shows a story based on the problems of human life. Novel becomes the first choice for the reader, because it gives some advantages. For example, by reading novel, the reader can learn the problem that appear in human life, get pleasure and also enhance vocabulary.

One of the famous novels in Indonesia is This Earth of Mankind. This Earth of Mankind is the first novel from Buru Quartet, which is reflected the condition of human life in Dutch colonialization. The novel was written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, when he still live in prison in Buru Island. Before written in 1975, since 1973 Pramoedya told this story orally to his friends. When he went out from the prison, Pramoedya returned to work hard to sort the stack of paper doorslag which is successfully rescued from Buru Island. Almost all of the original text was detained by the prison officials and never returned. Within three months, he was succes to copy back and knit the stack of paper to be worn weathered became manuscript. This novel was first published by Hasta Mitra in 1975. Within 12 days, around 5,000 copies sold out. Only a few months after This Earth of Mankind came out, a number of publishers from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Netherlands and Australia made a
relation with Hasta Mitra to get the legal translation. On November, Hasta Mitra has made three edition, and managed to sell at least 10,000 copies.

This novel was banned by Kejaksaan Agung in 1981, on charges of propagating the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and Communism, eventhough this novel does not mention anything about the teaching of Marxism-Leninism and communism, but in this novel just mention Nationalism. Before banned, the novel was success with 10 times reprinted in 1980-1981. Until 2005, this novel has been published in 33 languages. In September 2005, this novel was published back in Indonesia by Lantern Dipantara.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer was known as one of the prolific authors in the history of Indonesian literature. Pramoedya has produced more than 50 works and was translated into more than 41 foreign languages. His major works, a series of four novels: This Earth of Mankind, Child of All Nations, Footsteps and Glass House. Among Pramoedya’s other works are Story from Blora, Corruption, The Fugitive, The Sparks of the Revolution, Dawn, Not an All Night Fair, On the Banks of the Bekasi River and Guerilla Family, and so on.

Pramoedya was born in Blora, Central Java on February 6th 1925 and died on April 30th 2006 in Jakarta. He was the eldest child in his family. His father was a teacher, while his mother is a rice cooked seller. His original name was Pramoedya Ananta Mastoer. According to him, Mastoer (father’s name) was seemed too aristocratic, he removed the word “Mas” and use
family name “Toer.” Pramoedya was studied at Radio Vocational School in Surabaya, then worked as a typist for the Japanese newspaper in Jakarta during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia. Almost of his life was spent in prison. Three years in Colonial Prison, fourteen years in Nusakambangan island. When Orde Baru era 1965-1969, in Buru island 1969-1979, without jurisdiction process. On December 21st 1979 he got liberation letter because he didn’t involve in G30S PKI but he obliged to report in KODIM Jakarta Timur until 1999. During he was in prison he made some books one of them is *This Earth of Mankind*.

*This Earth of Mankind* receives enthusiastic reception from the readers, mostly it receives good responses, for example:

Laura said that what a magnificent book!! The first book in the Buru Quartet tell the story of Minke, a young Javanese student who is constantly fighting against the Dutch colonial dominance. His love story with Annelies, a beautiful Indo-European girl and his relation with her mother, show how they have to fight in order to survive in this colonial period. After his library has been burned during the 1960’s coup attempt and his book have been banned, he was able to present an oral version of his novels. The first book of this series was published after his release from Buru Island concentration camp in 1979. The sequel of this book is Child of All Nations. (http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1398034.Bumi_Manusia)

*This Earth of Mankind* is a novel which sets in the late 19th century before the 20th century, contains about social conditions at that time with all the problems that exist. Pram described clearly the conditions during the reign of the Dutch colonialization. Various problems emerge clearly. In his own writing he tells the love story between a native and girl Indo-Dutch descent. Minke, a native who has a mindset like a European, he was not the ordinary
indigenous breeds, his blood still flows the blood of the kings of Java and so he could get an education at HBS since then, finally he was almost not a java anymore, just his body is Java but all of his views on life is really like an European view.

He is an intelligent young man, who loved literature. By inviting from his friend, Robert Suurhof, Minke meet with Mellema’s family. The most important thing in this novel is his introduction with Annelis Mellema, a girl who is so beautiful, her beauty was mentioned more than the beauty of the Queen of the Netherlands at the time, Queen Wilhelma. She was the daughter of a "Nyai", not an ordinary Nyai, not just a concubine who is often considered to be abhorrent. She was the daughter of a wonderful mother, a mother who is so capable of taking care of a lot of work including Boerderij Boeitenzorg after Mr Mellema, his master, his husband who is not valid, turned into a crazy people who have no care about anything around him.

One day Minke met Annelis Mellema, an indo girl, child of Herman Mellema and Nyai Ontosoroh (a native). Annelis is a hardworking girl. She inherited her mother's tenacity though not a formal education but she quickly learned from her husband until she could continue to manage the business of Mellema.

Minke and Nyai are both proud, highly educated, strong-willed individuals, who refuse to accept the hierarchy that parcels out freedom and power according to the amount of European blood running through one's veins. In developing the novel primarily through the consciousness of these
two characters and their confrontations with injustice, Pramoedya casts a stark light on the hypocrisy of European civilization. Nyai, though a concubine with no legal rights over her children or the business she has made successful, emanates a moral authority unmatched in the novel. And Minke, though his native limitations are regarded as self-evident to many Europeans, proves through his writings and his behavior that he is the equal of anyone.

When Nyai discovers that Minke wants to be a writer, she tells him to "Write always about humanity, humanity's life, not humanity's death. Yes, whether it's animals, ogres, gods, or ghosts that you present, there's nothing more difficult to understand than humanity." That's why there is no end to the telling of stories on this earth. *This Earth of Mankind* is one such story. An unflinching portrayal of both the suffering caused by colonialism and of human dignity trampled upon, it is also a story of a valient struggle for freedom. It is one of the most compelling political novels of the twentieth century, and an unforgettable attempt to understand humanity in all its complexity.

The analysis is focused to the character of Sanikem which is also known as Nyai Ontosoroh in Toer's *This Earth of Mankind*. There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel; first is because this novel is a popular novel, second is because this novel tells the women’s life and fate in Dutch colonialism and Javanese feudalism. Third is because this novel tells the story of woman personality which make she aware to change her fate become an independent woman. Fourth is because a realistic
historical novel, which give us the historical women’s life includes women’s position, women’s role, women’s right, and women’s participation.

The first reasons is because it is a popular novel that is written by Pram, because this novel has been translated in several languages. This is also a phenomenon novel, because this novel ever banned to published.

The second reason is because this novel tells the story of woman’s life and fate in Dutch Colonialism and Javanese feudalism. This novel is reflected the woman’s life in Dutch, as a concubine, woman has no right to struggle her life. She just follow her master’s rules. Women are like a servant. While, in Javanese feudalism, women must respect to a men. They can not struggle her life too. Women has no the same right with men. Women is under men. They must follow the men’s rule.

The third reasons is because this novel tells the story of woman personality which make she aware to change her fate become an independent woman. This story is reflected in the character of Sanikem or Nyai Ontosooh. She gets the name of Nyai Ontosoroh after she married with his master, Mr. Mellema. She do not want to be an usual concubine, as well as she can, she would try to do the best thing for her life, and especially for her daughter’s life. She wants to be an independent woman, she wants to change her fate as a servant. And finally by her power she becomes an independent woman, she manages her company by herself well.
The fourth reason is because a realistic historical novel, which give us the historical women’s life includes women’s position, women’s role, women’s right, and women’s participation.

The researcher uses the feminist theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because feminist theory is the most appropriate theory which discuss about women’s problem. Zerilli (2005: x) argued that feminism is a political movement that has striven to unite women in a struggle for freedom largely by refuting the naturalized feminity on which the illusion of a given, common identity of women is based. There are many problems for women, one of them is woman’s independence, that appear in this novel, which relates to the struggle of inequality of women problem. So, the researcher gives the title:

**WOMAN’S INDEPENDENCE REFLECTED AT THIS EARTH OF MANKIND NOVEL BY PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER (1975): A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

**B. Literature Review**

There are some literature reviews related to *This Earth of Mankind* (1975) novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer in which is conducted by some students. The first study is conducted by Auliana Sofi in 2009, entitled *Eksistensi Perempuan dalam novel Pramoedya Ananta Toer*. The main point of the research paper is the existance of women which is analyzed using feminism approach. The second is study which was conducted by Rere Azizah, an Airlangga University student, in her research paper published on May 25, 2011, entitled *Complex oppression Towards Sanikem as Depicted*
in Toer’s ‘Earth of Mankind’. This study discusses the existence of the oppression toward the Javanese women during the Dutch’s colonialism in Indonesia.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher proposes the problem:

1. How is woman’s independence as Nyai Ontosoroh reflected at This Earth of Mankind (1975) novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer using a feminist approach?

2. How is woman’s independence as Nyai Ontosoroh reflected at This Earth of Mankind (1975) novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer based on its structural elements?

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing women independence as Nyai Ontosoroh reflected in This Earth of Mankind novel (1975) written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer based on a feminist approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follow:

1. To analyze woman’s independence as Nyai Ontosoroh reflected at This Earth of Mankind (1975) novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer using a feminist approach.
2. To analyze Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *This Earth of Mankind* novel based on the structural elements of the novel

F. **Benefits of the Study**

The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits:

1. **Theoretical Benefits**
   
The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *This Earth of Mankind* novel.

2. **Practical Benefits**
   
The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest with literary study on the novel from a Feminist Approach.

G. **Research Method**

Research method is significant to organize a research. It makes easy for the researcher to analyze the data and to arrange a research proposal. The researcher elaborates five main points concerning how to conduct the research. They are: (1) type of research, (2) object of the study, (3) data and data source, (4) method of collecting data, and (5) technique of analyzing data.
1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using library data. The purpose of this research is to analyze novel using feminist approach. The steps to conduct the research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is woman’s independence reflected at This Earth of Mankind novel (1975) written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. It is analyzed by using a feminist approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data sources that are used in this research, namely primary and secondary data sources as follows:

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data source is This Earth of Mankind novel (1975) written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are materials other sources such as books, dictionary, internet and journal which is related to the study that support the analysis.
4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The method of collecting data in this research is note-taking *This Earth of Mankind* novel. So the researcher has some steps in analyzing the data as follows:
   
   a. Reading *This Earth of Mankind* novel to understand the novel deeply.
   b. Reading some related books to find out the theory and information which is required.
   c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
   d. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data sources.
   e. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
   f. Drawing the conclusion and formulating its pedagogical suggestion.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

   The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the novel and feminist criticism.

H. **Research Paper Organization**

   The researcher organizes this research paper in order to make an easy understanding. There are six chapters in this research as follows. The first chapter is dealing with introduction, which explains background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is dealing with underlying theory, which explains the
notion of feminism, major principal of feminism, the notion of woman’s
independence, structural elements of the novel. The third chapter is dealing
with social background of Indonesian society in the late twentieth century.
The fourth chapter is dealing with the structural analysis of the novel by using
feminist approach and discussion. The fifth chapter is dealing with the
feminist analysis and the last chapter deals with conclusion and suggestion.