

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The role of women in daily life is important since they have maternal instinct for giving such contribution to the around the world. Their role cannot be underestimated because every human is created in same way so they also have the same opportunity in developing themselves such as having a freedom in developing their own talent, choosing household, public relationship or social communication, and profession. Nowadays, women's role has such a good place and acceptable; they do have contribution in various institutions. On the other hand, viewed from other perspectives women are still abused for example; the persistence of women trafficking, domestic violence to women, and even sexual abuse.

In Webster dictionary sexism is defined as prejudice or discrimination against women. It is the imperceptibility of sexism that enables it to flourish in our society. Thomas (1980: 240) "sexism is readily lends itself to a morally unobjectionable description and it is the positive self-concept of men have been more centrally tied to their being racists". According to Mills (2008:10-11), the term of sexism is also used to categorize a set of stereotypical beliefs about women who cannot be directly related to the use of language or a particular set of features. Overt or direct sexism is the type of use that can be identified in a straightforward through the use of linguistic markers, or through the analysis of

the presumption, which has historically been associated with the expression of a discriminatory opinion about the woman, who gave the signal to listeners that women are seen as low in relation to the group of men.

The Years of the Voiceless novel also conveys the history about Soeharto in the Period of the New Order Military Regime in 1966-1998. Historically, the New Order started to reign after the March 11, 1966 Letter of Order, the Super Semar, was issued and it lasted in the resignation of President Soeharto on May 21, 1998. On one hand, as it was named, the New Order regime was known as reformer. In later development, it became authoritarian and militaristic which controlled in centralistic way the elements of the society, such as the media, political parties, organizations, labors, government employees, and other activities in the public sphere. The regime implemented its power in an integral and paternalistic way. It united elements of the society, as it was easier to manage. (Alkatiri, 2013:83)

For the duration of the Suharto New Order regime, the 1965-66 killings were described obscurely in school history textbooks under the generic term of crushing the PKI, which could have been interpreted as the suppression of those directly involved in the 30 September Movement. The military regime used its version of the coup attempt to deflect attention from the killings. (McGregor and Katharine, 2009:8-9)

Okky Puspa Madasari known as Okky Madasari is an Indonesian author and journalist. She won an Indonesian major and most celebrated literary prize, Khatulistiwa Literary Award, in 2012 for her third novel, *Maryam*. Her

first novel *Entrok*, an epic about life under totalitarian and militarism during the Indonesia's New Order era, has been translated into English and was published in July 2013 under the title of *The Years of the Voiceless*.

Okky was born on October 30, 1984 in Magetan, East Java, Indonesia. She graduated from Gadjah Mada University's International Relations Department in 2005 with Bachelor Degree in Political Science. She has chosen to become a journalist and writer ever since her graduation. In 2012, she took sociology for her Master's degree from the University of Indonesia.

Okky's novels consistently voice human rights and freedom, and are always against any form of repression. Okky is a realist, with all of her novels attempting to portray the face of Indonesia. While she tells mostly about Indonesia and its people, the issues she carries in her novels showcase basic and universal humankind's problems. Her novels have won nation-wide praises, with Apsanti Djokosujatno, one of Indonesia's prominent literary critic from the University of Indonesia, claiming that they are already categorized as canon and will become classic. Okky's first novel, *Entrok* (2010), tells a story about how Indonesians live under the ruthless dictatorship of Suharto's regime and how they struggled to survive under oppression of the military's dominance. It also translated into English entitled *The Years of Voiceless* (2013). Her second novel *86* (2011) vividly describes the prevalent corruption within the country and especially among its civil servants. The novel was shortlisted as top five in the Khatulistiwa Literary Award in 2011. Her third novel *Maryam* (2012) which describes how Ahmadis are violently thrown away from their own home and homeland

without any protection from the government won the 2012 Khatulistiwa Literary Award. *Pasung Jiwa* is her latest novel, released in May 2013. It addresses individual struggle to break free from his or her own individual limitation as well as the caging of norm, tradition, religion, state and economic dominance of the few riches. The novel was shortlisted by the Khatulistiwa Literary Award in 2013.

Okky Madasari's novel "Entrok" was translated into English by Nurhayat Indriyatno Mohamed as "The Years of the Voiceless," takes a particularly jaundiced view of the rule of Soeharto and his cronies. There are two narrators: Sumarni, a girl who grows into puberty in a village near the East Java city of Madiun in the early period of Indonesian independence, and her daughter Rahayu. Sumarni is an illiterate Javanese woman who still practices ancestor worship. She puts her hopes and efforts on her belief. She works as cassava peeler with her Simbok at Ngranget Market. Her greatest wish is a bra after she feels uncomfortable with her breasts. She thinks that she is carrying a pair of balls on her chest. She wants to have a bra like Tinah, so her breasts do not bounce around but they swelled out beautifully.

Then, she married with Teja who worked as porter at Market. Instead of just cleaning cassava roots in return for food, as her mother has done to survive for many years, she becomes a market porter, then a trader and finally a money lender. She amasses enough wealth to build a sturdy house, own a car and a couple of hectares of sugar cane fields, and send Rahayu to school and university. Rahayu is the only one Marni's daughter, part of a new generation shaped by education and more knows about religion than her mother. She grows up in a

sufficient condition because her mother struggles for living and being able to send Rahayu to school until university. She is a firm believer in God and in common sense. She stands against the ancestor, even against her own mother who still believes in ancestors. One day, Rahayu told her mother that it is a great sin. Rahayu does not talk much to her mother at home. Yogyakarta is the place where she continues her studies. She will go home occasionally but still the same as usual, she will not talk much with his mother. She comes home to ask her blessing for her willing, marry a handsome man who has been married.

Sumarni is still running her business and setting aside some money for powerful people with the uniforms and their boots to get peacefulness. After the wedding, she never returns to home until she does not know that her father has died. She does not finish her college because she tries to help the villagers in Magelang that their land will be reservoir. Her husband died on the incident and she was imprisoned in Magelang. Sumarni comes to see Rahayu in jail every time. She does not care about how much she takes her money out only for seeing her daughter. She buys a beautiful bra, clothes and delicious foods for Rahayu. Day by day, Rahayu is free from the jail and she comes back to her hometown with her mother. Sumarni has prepared many foods for thanksgiving. Rahayu does not interrupt of what Marni's did. There is no more hope or wishes for them now, Rahayu cannot be employee like what Sumarni dreams about because on her ID card stamps a sign that she was *Eks-Tapol*. In the end, those who opposed the will of the state were declared nonpersons and their identity cards stamped "Eks

Tapol” the mark of former members of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). In the novel, Rahayu shares this fate.

The reason why I study this novel is as follows: *first*, Indonesia is the house of democratic transition in which the life of minority, women, and disabled groups are often reprimanded. *Second*, as teacher, this novel is valuable to be studied because it can be the media for teaching about how citizen lives in late of 60s and history of Indonesia in the past. This novel can be one of the examples of tragedy happened in Indonesia.

Third, I prefer to employ feminist approach since it helps me seeing problems from women’s eyes in analyzing this novel. *Fourth*, this study has important and interesting issue, it is sexism. That’s why the writer entitled **Sexism in Okky Madasari’s *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013)**.

B. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses her research on analyzing sexism reflected in Okky Madasari’s *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) using feminist theory.

C. Problem Statement

Major problem statement is to unveil sexism by employing feminist approach. The details are as follows:

1. How is feminist values reflected in Okky Madasari’s *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013)?
2. How is sexism portrayed into specific types in Okky Madasari’s *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013)?

D. Objectives of the study

After formulating the problem statement above, the researcher has the following objectives:

1. To describe feminism reflected in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).
2. To unveil sexism portrayed into specific types in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer really hopes that her research has some benefits. The research divided into theoretical and practical benefit, they are as follows.

1. Theoretical Benefit

a. Students of English Department

This study gives new reference to them and hopes it can help the readers to understand and enrich the readers' knowledge especially in the literary study of Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).

b. Lecturers

This research will add new information that can help lecturer to teach literature especially in understanding feminist for the students and give some contributions to enlargement the study in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).

2. Practical Benefit

a. Other Researcher

This research can be used as an additional reference for the next researcher, especially those who are interested in the study of feminist Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).

F. Research Paper Organization

The researcher systematizes this research into five chapters. Chapter I consists of Background of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II indicates of underlying theory consists of Literature Review, Theoretical Review presents the notion of Feminist, major principle of Feminist, notion of sexism, types of sexism. Chapter III deals with research method and chapter IV deals with analysis of feminist values. Chapter V presents sexism analysis and Chapter VI presents Conclusion, Pedagogical Implication, and Suggestion.