

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

According to Esten (1978: 9), literature is the disclosure of artistic and imaginative facts as manifestations of human life. In this point, literature plays an important role for the disclosure process of facts that exist in people's life. It is undeniable that literature is a meaning for one to know how to understand problems in life through a literary work. In literature, there are many interesting things to learn and understand. It is in the future aims to the thought process of a person looking for ways to solve problems from the easiest to the most difficult. Literary works are such as movie, music and novel.

Society is now also familiar with Novel media. Novels appear in various genres according to the era that is anesthetizing people. The novel also has its own interests by its readers. Novels are usually presented to art lovers who spend their time reading. Besides, through the novel the writer can delivered the purpose of the story through the characters that the writer made. So is the storyline that is made as attractive as possible so that the reader is interested in appreciating the novel.

Novel is an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting. Through the novel, the writer can express the expression of the soul through the characters that the writer created. The novel is also able to hypnotize the reader to follow the writer's plot. Follow each series until conflicts are created. Sometimes the reader can also dissolve the emotions implied by one of the characters told. Various expressions of readers in appreciating this literary work. Also various genres and characters created in each novel.

The novel has characteristic depending on character, presenting more than one impression, presenting more than one effect, presenting more

than one emotion (Tarigan. 1991: 164-165). This means showing the nature of the binding one another and should not be missing a single part in it, because it can be one of the novel's ways to imagine and to describe in story of the novel. Then, the novel also has a function that is to present a story which contains more than one impression, effect, and emotion. In the novel contains many interesting storylines to be known. Even we can apply through many types of literary approach such as feminist approach in the feminist analysis.

Feminism is a theory that pointed for equality between men and women. This theory is intended to change the assumptions that have developed in society. Feminism believes that women have the ability to be compared to men. In society, women are considered as backward people who have no role and position in various institutions. Even in certain areas, women are classified as human beings who have work at home. Various homework such as cooking, washing, taking care of children, and doing other things at home. This greatly limits women in moving. Women will not find progress in other strata of life, such as high education, freedom for give opinion, etc.

This phenomenon is what makes women like being excluded from various social lives. Men are often preoccupied with activities outside the home, while women are in the opposite. Women are limited by rules that indirectly develop in society. Many women who do not have the motivation to continue their education. as a result they also do not have the opportunity to get decent jobs such as in offices or large institutions.

From Encyclopedia Britanica via the Uvic online source database shows that feminism is characterized as having 3 waves of modern fairly organized feminism. The first wave was in the late 19th and early 20th century in the US to gain the vote; the 2nd wave beginning in 1960-1970 to gain equal right in the US; and the 3rd as a freedom of expression.

The definitions of term 'feminism' differs from person to person. According to June Hannam (2007:22), he point out that feminism can be interpreted as : 1) A recognition of an imbalance of power between the

sexes, with woman in a subordinate role to men. 2) A belief that woman condition is social constructed and therefore can be changed. 3) A emphasis on female autonomy.

From the explanation above, shows that not all theories explain that women are behind men. It can be interpreted that women are now equal to men. Women can be a benchmark for paradigm changes that have developed in society. Over time, women are able to rebel and show their achievements. Besides being adept at their duties at home, women can also be relied on in people's lives. Many women now have brilliant careers. It is this run who can prove that a woman can be relied on. Through these women, they can become mothers for future generations.

Even so, there are still many areas or ancient societies that adhere to the old ideology. They still believe that men and women are very different degrees. Even though not all people believe like that. But things like this are still many we find in the suburbs, inland areas, and low economic community level.

Life is important for every creature on this earth. Life is not just breathing, eating, drinking. But life can be meaningful if someone has activities with other individuals to interact in their daily lives. Every human being has the right to fill his or her life. humans are also obliged to maintain the privacy of others. All this is done to respect each other in living life on this earth. Humans are free to argue, move according to their choices and conscience without pressure from any party in accordance with applicable norms.

Humans use their lives with various things. Many people misuse life and waste time on unskilled things. There are also those who are always preoccupied with things by interacting with many people in the fields, social, economic, political, etc. Various things can be done by humans to fill their lives. Humans are free to fill their lives without disturbing the lives of others. This law goes so far that humans can live with mutual help, respect, mutual respect and mutual acceptance.

From explanation above, The researcher will try to analyze about Melinda Sordino as the Major character of *Speak* novel. *Speak* is a fiction novel by Laurie Halse Anderson. This novel was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The first edition on October 22nd 1999, it contains 197 pages (first edition). This novel tell about the girl who have trauma for communicating with others. Melinda felt pressured by the response of her friends who were not good enough to her. Melinda does not get the right of freedom on her. Melinda tries to solve the fear that is in her. Melinda also tried to express the emotions she had been hiding and closed tightly. And then, Melinda have to survive to struggeling her life. In fact, trauma is afamiliar disability in society because various case becaused any factors, as Simund Freud highlighted that all important experience since childhood is kept in mind and influences through and behavior when adulthood (Ryan,2011:129).

Laurie Halse Anderson illustrates Melinda as the major character who tells a figure with pressure. Melinda is so determined to fight fear to talk with other people. Melinda is not completely mute. But Melinda only speaks at the moment that she feels it is necessary to make a sound. even though his voice was very soft. *Speak* novel can be categorized as a feminism novel because Melinda as the major character is told as a formidable woman who managed to solve her fear.

Speak also explains Melinda facing difficulties every day. Melinda underwent activities by confining herself in her room, she also became a person who was alone in school and her environment. Melinda is depressed and has no passion for life. He had to deal with people around her who thought she was strange and not approachable. Some feel Melinda is a strange attitude because they don't know what causes it. However, there are also those who feel Melinda's attitude causes hatred because they have a misunderstanding with Melinda. The conflict between Melinda and her friends begin with the end of summer party at their school, Merryweather High.

Melinda is a victim by her senior, Andy Evans. *Speak* is a simple story written to describe the figure of Melinda who struggles to turn into a brave person. Initially, Melinda felt Andy trapped her at a party. Until he felt scared and called the police. But when the police arrived, the party became chaotic and it was Melinda who was accused of making trouble at the party. Melinda was eager to explain the misunderstanding, but she could not find those words. Melinda is depressed.

In *Speak* novel, Melinda is a figure who can be seen from her struggle to get freedom for her life. Eventhough Melinda is school gets bullies from other students, she tries to stay get education under these pressures. *Speak* novel tells about how Melinda experienced her bitter journey of life. Melinda was a brave figure, even though she was in a trap and there was a rape, Melinda could be free and run away. And after that melinda's life turned dark. Melinda's courage is what needs to be appreciated as the role of women. Besides that, Melinda's courage to rush spontaneously to call the police for the abuse she received also included actions that could be considered as part of Melinda's courage to seek refuge. After Melinda's pressure begin, she met Mr. Freeman. He is a teacher in the art class. Melinda's changes begin when Mr. Freeman gave Melinda room to tell what was felt through art. Melinda was indirectly forced by Mr. Freeman to express through the work she created. Mr. Freeman felt Melinda had a lot of problems that she didn't know how to solve. Mr. Freeman is a character who plays a role in transforming Melinda into someone who does not always close herself from her environment. For Mr. Freeman, every human being must live with the truth of life. Melinda is struggle to continue her work. Finally, she managed to get rid of all hes pressure and fear. Melinda managed to become a brave figure to reveal the misunderstandings that have occurred so far. Melinda managed to tells what caused the chaos at the end of summer party. Not only that, Melinda also managed to tell her friend, Rachel Bruin that Andy Evan was the one who had trapped and raped her. Melinda speaks.

The response from the novel, the first print of the novel was sold out. Another copy is printed. The novel by Laurie Halse Anderson was crowned the winner in the award-winning 2009 novel. *Speak* has been adapted for the film. *Speak* is a 2004 American independent coming-of-age teen drama film. The film was released on January 20, 2004, Directed by Jessica Sharze and Annie Young Frisbie as Scenario Writer. The film stars Kristen Stewart, Hallee Hirsh, Steve Zahn, Eric Lively, etc. The story begins after Melinda as Major Character was raped. Then she is depressed and under pressure. Melinda struggle to get her freedom. The researcher is interested in this novel: first because the novel is full of lessons for women. Secondly because the researcher is impressed in all the characters in the story. Third, the researcher interested to study in literature. Fourth because the researcher want to learn and analyze about the struggle of a student who is a rape victim in order to stay strong in life.

The first is because the novel is full of lesson for women. This novel tells how a woman fights for her rights. The major character in the novel explains how he managed to overcome the fear that haunted her. This novel managed to express the figure of a rape victim to still have the right to live.

The second is because the researcher is impressed in all the characters of *Speak* novel. The character in this novel is a girl with a different story. She is a rape victim. And the novel tells how she is struggle to get freedom of her rights.

The third is because the researcher interested to study in literature. This novel is one novel with feminist genre. The researcher is very interested in researching and analyzing stories presented in within this novel as learning material.

Fourth because the researcher want to learn and analyze about the struggle of a student who is a rape victim in order to stay strong in life. The novel tells the story of the struggle of a woman who was a victim of rape by her senior at her school and get trauma. She is also depressed and get under pressure in living her life. Then she try to defeat her fear and

pressure. With all bullies faced in her school. She try to break her fear and struggle for her rights.

Based on the illustration above, the researcher is interested to analyze this novel by using a feminist approach entitled **Melinda Sordino's View Towards Life Based on Her Story in Laurie Halse Anderson's Novel "Speak" (1999) : Feminist Approach.**

B. Research Question

The researcher formulated the Reserarch Question as follows :

1. What are the Melinda Sordino's view towards life based on her story in "Speak" novel by Laurie Halse Anderson?
2. What are the feminism value of Melinda Sordino depicted in the novel?

C. Objective of The Study

1. To identify the Melinda Sordino's view towards life based on her story in "Speak" novel by Laurie Halse Anderson.
2. To reveal the feminism value of Melinda Sordino depicted in the novel.

D. Limitation of The Study

The researcher concentrates this research in analyzing Melinda Sordino's View Towards Life Base on Her Story in Laurie Halse Anderson's Novel "Speak" (1999) : Feminist Approach.

E. Significance of the Study

This research has several benefits as follows :

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to provide more information, benefids, and contributions to the other researchers, especially the literary study in Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This research will provide information and knowledge about the use of feminism approaches to the novel.