CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

In human life, there are several race and tribe around the world. Each of them, consist of men and women. Both of them are living together to fulfill their needs. Nevertheless some race and tribe have different physic, psychology and sometimes have different concepts or ideologies which make them difficult to cooperate and compromise each other. Those can make several problems rising such as war and resistance between race.

Resistance can be defined as an act of fighting against something or refusing to accept something which can be harmful for ourselves. According to Zubir (2002) resistance can be appeared and carried out by individuals, family and people in society who feel oppressed, frustrated, and presence of injustice situation. Human discrimination is one thing that makes people doing the act of resistance for example discrimination or violance of ideology and race. Men and women have rights to get freedom and gender equality.

Feminist is a body of social theory and movement which is primarily based on the women motivation and experience. It can be defined as theory that men and women must be equal. Murphy (1995) stated that feminism is a struggle to justify laws that prevent women to achieve their equality against men in all aspect of life. Some feminists argued that men is strong, rational, and independent in society. Men usually handle the economic, politic, and governement system. Beside that, men is important part for women in getting freedom or liberation. Feminist theory is emerged and developed from feminist movement which aims to understand gender equality, women social roles through their behavior and life experiences. It is also helps to
solve several issues faced by women especially on social construction of sex and gender.

Feminism usually happens in real life but it also can be found in literary work especially in novel or fiction. It can be seen through the action that is done by several character in the literary work which includes struggle and resistance. Some author adopt the theme or story about women who struggle and resist cruel goverment in order to gain her rights and conformity. The one of the novel author named Markus Zusak.


*The Book Thief* is a novel that tells the story about a girl named, Liesel Meminger. Through the novel death introduces himself as the narrator in the novel. The story begins after her brother dies on their way to Munich. Then, her mother sends her to 33 Himmel Street in Molching in order to meet her new foster family, the Hubermanns. She meets Hans Hubermann, a quiet man who usually rolls his own cigarettes. Rosa Hubermann, a tempered woman. Liesel begins to call her foster parents “Papa” and “Mama”. A few months later, people of Molching build a bonfire to celebrate Fuhrer birthday. At this moment she hears some violent speech from Nazi party about communist and jewish. Suddenly, she realizes herself as a communist and know that Fuhrer is a cruel person who makes her family suffered,
especially the death of her brother. After the bonfire, she steals a book which is remain called *The Shoulder Shrug* written by Jewish author in order to show her little resistance towards NAZI and Fuhrer. Both Liesel and her foster family reject the Fuhrer governemnt.

Several month after Fuhrer birthday, Rosa surprises to see Max Vandenburg, a Jewish-man that standing in front of her house. Hans and Liesel agree to hide Max in the basement. One day, Liesel was angry because her mama loses her washing job including the one for Ilsa Herman, mayor wife. After that, She steals book entitled *The Whistler* and *Complete Duden Dictionary and Thesaurus* from Ilsa Herman library with her bestfriend, Rudy Steiner. Later, the parade of jews come to Himmel street on their way from Molching to Dachau. She sees their suffering and Hans gives a bread to one of them. Because of his action, he must sends Max away to keep him safe. Hans sent to serve LSE, air raid unit as his punishment.

In 1943, the parade of Jews come again through Himmel Street. Liesel and Rudy try to help them as same as her Papa did before. Not only giving a bread to the Jews but also looking for Max in those parade. Liesel follows Rudy who want to do some act of thievery with his toolbox because Nazi took his father away. On their way, they see a crashed plane and enemy pilot dying near the plane. They show their kindness by putting the teddy bear from Rudy’s toolbox. Few months later, Molching were bombed again when the people sleep but Liesel still writing her story in the black journal in the basement. She survived but the her family and her best friend did not survive. Ilsa Herman, the mayor wife knows that Himmel Street was bombed. She collect Liesel and take her home. Then, she spends a lot time in Alex Steiner shop. She tells story about her and his son, Rudy. One day, in 1945, Germany lost in World War II and Max appears in Alex Steiner shop. She was happy to meet Max again. At the end of the story Death explains that Liesel life at very long age. She lives with her big family when Death goes collect her soul, he showed her book, *The Book Thief*. 
There are several reasons why the researcher is interested to conduct the present research: first, the novel *The Book Thief* has interesting story and can be understood easily. The novel is about struggle and small act of resistance done by main character Liesel Meminger. Second, Markus Zusak is famous and smart novelist, through his novel, he depicts about the struggle, resistance and youth dissidence against Nazi during World War II. Third, the researcher is attracted from the struggle and resistance which is done by the main character in the novel, Liesel Meminger and her kindness toward other race especially jewish during Führer government which makes the researcher to raise the resistance as the issue to analyze the novel.

Based on those considerations, the researcher focuses to analyze the resistance againsts Nazi in *The Book Thief* novel using the Feminist Theory. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study entitled Woman Resistance Against Nazi Regime Reflected In Markus Zusak’s *The Book Thief* : A Liberal Feminist Theory.

### 1.2. Research Question

In conducting a research, the researcher want to classify some research question that should be solved at the end of the research, the research question as follows :

1. What are the indicators of main character’s resistance against Nazi in the novel ?
2. How does the resistance against Nazi depicted in the novel ?
3. Why resistance against Nazi is specifically addressed by Markus Zusak in his novel ?

### 1.3. Objective of The Study

In order to solve the research question, this research will fulfill the research question which aims :
1. To describe the indicators of main character’s resistance against Nazi in the novel.
2. To reveal about how resistance against Nazi are depicted in the novel.
3. To explain the reason about resistance which is specifically addressed by Markus Zusak in his novel.

1.4. Benefit of The Study

The benefit the study which is conducted by the researcher, include:

1. Theoretical Benefit
   The research is conducted in order to give several information about the novel and contribution to the larger body of knowledge, especially in the literature.

2. Practical Benefit
   The study is expected to enrich the knowledge to researcher and students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta or other universities who interested to literary study.