

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Literary works are works that are actually realized because there are many personal experience, this is like what a person can see or experience in his daily life to be enjoyed, studied and responded to by a reader or a literary connoisseur.

Literary criticism is a very clear and compilable literary study based on direct study of a literary work, categories, and schemes, this cannot be created in vacuo alias without a footing and vice versa, there can be no literary criticism or literary history without a set of questions raised in a system of thought, reference and generalizations (Rene Wellek, 1990: 39) Literary criticism is a term that is often used for studies related to defining, grouping, analyzing, interpreting and evaluating literary works according to Abrams, in Ismawati, 2014

Novel is a literary product that can play an important role in provide many views to address the various conflicts of life in it. This is possible because in various issues discussed in the novel are problems about human life itself. The development of novels in Indonesia itself has a great possibility to penetrate the marketing figures of writers, this is proven by the very rapid number of new novels being published. The novel has various themes and contents, including social issues, romance, personal issues that generally occur in society, including those related to women. An author is also able to write a lot of fictional literary works including novels and usually the themes raised in the novel are taken from various life problems that the author has experienced himself, the experiences of other people, or the author's own imagination.

The struggle of women experiences various discrimination in various ways Important areas of the hopes of women's struggle can be seen or witnessed in the fields of education, economics, and politics. In the field of education, women usually prefer routines to care for, educate and raise their own children. In terms of the viewers, a literary work is a variety of images of the reality of life that can present images and reflections of various life problems. The specialty of a literary work is its various characteristics that can be studied with one theory. One of them is the theory of feminism. (Dagun 1992: 7-11)

According to Philips Bob CockGoefeFeminism is a theory about equality between men and men women in various fields such as politics, economy, education, social or organized

activities that fight for the rights and interests of women (Sugihastuti in Setyorini, 2017:292). Feminism in literary research is also considered a movement of awareness of the various neglect and exploitation of women in society as reflected in various literary works (Sugihastuti, 2002: 27). In a literary work, usually the female figure is often discussed and used as an object in an image. Women are very interesting to talk about. Female figure who has two sides. One hand, women are a beauty, whose charm can drive many boys crazy. On the other hand, he has always been considered weak. Strangely, in that weakness many bad men use it as an excuse to exploit its beauty (Sugihastuti in Shely, 2018: 1)

Feminism is a movement that basically demands equality as well justice of rights both in political, social and economic matters between women and men without any discrimination. Not only that, this feminism is also a movement for the emancipation of women, this movement loudly voices the revision of women's roles and rejects the comparison of degrees between men and women. Therefore, feminism aims to increase the role of women so that they are equal to the role of men. Feminism's struggle to achieve this goal includes many methods. One of the tricks is to get the same rights and opportunities as men. In the study of literary feminism there must be a contradiction or resistance that a woman tries as a form of complaint or an attempt to deny the existence of injustice against women. If there is no opposition or resistance on the part of women, it cannot be said with feminism.

For Tasharofi in Azwar et al, (2020:3) feminist criticism advocates equal rights for all women in all spheres of life: social, political, reliable, individually, economically, aesthetically, and psychologically. Mustafa in Azwar et al, (2020:3) explains that feminism in general focuses on women, rights, and defends women's rights which have become a trend after the 20th century. Not only that, feminism also affects the world of literature, as listed in art by some novelists. For Yazbahar in Azwar et al, (2020:3), there are many interesting topics to discuss among women, a kind of equality discussed in novels. In this direction the struggle of women is a struggle of people who are considered to be social cases. Not only that, the feminist women's movement, started in the West in the 1980s and began to spread in our country naturally in carrying out the role of women and their problems in society.

For Lóttter in Azwar et al, (2020:3), feminism has steadily become a philosophy to stop firmly on politics through the women's movement. At this time, feminism still demands really,

really, really, really attention. For Ryan in Azwar et al, (2020:3) feminism is the closeness of women to seize opportunities imposed on them and dare to voice their wishes.

Basically, women in patriarchal culture occupy an inferior position, while men are in a superior position. Women are also more generally considered as objects than subjects, in literature there are many forms of discrimination against women which can be in the form of pornography and acts of violence against women. The depiction that a woman is weak also causes more discrimination in various ways. This led to the emergence of a feminist movement in various developed countries (Ratna in Arizah, 2019: 509).

One of the novels which focuses on the role of women's struggles that can be unite students in one class who do not know each other because of racial differences, and are not familiar with each other even in one room, are hostile to each other and only care about their respective races to become close and have a high family spirit Freedom Writers is a true story taken from the children's diary room 203 with the original title, "The Freedom Writers Diary Of Student Room 203" by Erin Gruwell and published in 1999 where people are still very unusual about what Erin was doing. Gruwell.

Freedom Writers novel, is also a novel based on a true story (based on true story) which describes a situation of racial conflict and creates conflict between gangs which then extends to all aspects of Long Beach community life, in the United States by taking a 1992 setting. extends to all aspects of community life, to the area of education. So that many people and communities in the country are part of racism against some of their people who are considered different from their groups.

Basically the spread of slavery led to the rise of racism. Form racism that exists also varies. The divisions stemming from race on train trams, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, sightseeing facilities, jobs, non-existent selection rights, and poverty are examples of racism that exists among dark people. For Native Americans, running out of land, being displaced from cities, and poverty are common things. For Latinos (citizens of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Central America) finding a decent living is very difficult. The presence of racism has created a civil rights movement that wants to fight for their rights like Americans. In this movement, anti-racism behavior is clearly visible

Racism or what can be called racial discrimination in the United States has existed since colonial period. This has had a huge impact on life for a number of people in America, such as

black people, Latinos, and even natives in America (Indians). When large numbers of people immigrated in droves to the "new world" or Newland, there arose a servant who was bound to be called a slave. They were black people who could not afford travel and food.

This anti-racism attitude grows with time and developmentera. In the 20th century, racism became something that was opposed. But in fact, this attitude is still very much embraced by people in America. This situation is clearly illustrated in the film Freedom Writers. Some of these communities are pro-racism and some are anti-racism. One of them depicted in the Freedom Writers novel is Erin Gruwell. He is an anti-racism teacher who is very successful in turning his students into anti-racism, so that they can do positive things for their environment. At a time when so many people around him were pro against racism, Erin Gruwell remained in his stance that he really wanted to make his students one and forget about racism. Why did it happen? In fact, being a person who was against racism at that time was very risky. He may not be liked by the people around him, threatened with various things, expelled from work, or even killed. This is what makes the writer very interested in making **"WOMEN'S FIGHT REFLECTED IN *THE FREEDOM WRITERS DIARY* BY ERIN GRUWELL (1999): A FEMINIST ANALYSIS"** as the title of the author's thesis.

## **B. Problem Statement**

Related to the approach that the author uses in research. This problem can be formulated as follows:

1. How did the educator Erin Gruwell struggle in the novel Freedom Writers?
2. What are the forms of resistance faced by Erin Gruwell's character in the face of racism in the novel Freedom Writers Diary?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

1. Knowing how the struggles of the educator Erin Gruwell in the novel Freedom Writers.
2. Knowing what are the forms of resistance of the educator Erin Gruwell in the novel Freedom Writers Diary.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

In this study the authors hope that there are benefits that can be taken, both benefits theoretically and practically. The benefits that can be taken are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research is expected to enrich science, especially in the field of feminism novel analysis, so that it can be useful for the development of literary works, one of which is the novel.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. For Students

Through this research, students are expected to be able to understand and analyze English novels and can increase knowledge about research make use of feminist literary theory.

- b. For other researchers

The results of the research can add to the research references of English literature and literature add insight to the reader about the image of a woman in a literary work