

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is an expression of human being in the form of written or oral work based on thought, opinion, experience, to feeling in imaginative forms, reflection of realities or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media. Literature is a work of beautiful writing (belle letters) which record something in the form of language that is compressed, inside, twisted, shortened and twisted, made into odd or other aesthetic ways composing through language tools (Eagleton, 2010, p. 4). In imaginative literature there is a fictional prose and novels are one type of fictional prose.

According to Halim cited by Sumarni (2014) clarified that literature is basically an art. This artwork covers the emotional aspects of human life as outlined by the author in various forms for the readers to enjoy. The author's way of conveying the emotion of the art is very unique and distinctive. Therefore, it can be concluded that literature is an art in language. In line with that, Sudarni (2017) mentioned that literature is any kind of expression that includes the ideas, experiences, and aspirations of a writer in numerous forms of literary works. Literature covers diverse varieties of events and problems in everyday life. By this, literature automatically containing moral values that can be understood by the readers. Literature is a type of human articulation. Basically, all things can be said in different ways. Therefore, the literature includes all forms of expression that contain teachings that are intended to be conveyed to others, whether in written form, recording, or coordination.

In general, literature has several parts including poetry, prose, drama and others. Some of them can all be called works, from several parts having their respective art. especially for prose is a novel, it is a work that can be analyzed, because there are elements in it. There are intrinsic and extrinsic elements that are interrelated. Even the most popular literary works are novels. Something that has a story varies among other literary works. The variations that show because of the characteristics in the novel vary so that it also has various theories. In my opinion, this is very relevant in literature, especially in novels.

In life everyone has problems, whether problems from outside or problems from within himself. Problems faced by humans can occur due to facts that are different from expectations. In general, problems that arise in life make people feel challenged and

motivated to be better and do things differently than before. Often humans can solve their own problems, some people also find it difficult to solve their own problems.

The African-American woman is said to have acquired similar rights as regular people. Prejudicial treatment of white residents is progressively diminished. Many individuals of color prevail in their professions. Obviously, to accomplish this isn't simple, numerous deterrents should be confronted. And then, look at this novel, the author additionally analyzes: the state of society, customs, and propensities; history of the battle for harmony; women and families in dark society. America at that point relates it to this novel. In the Meridian tale, Walker makes history, social issues and fiction. Therefore, different points of view are required in this examination. To clarify Alice Walker's perspective on the quiet battle, which expects endeavors to keep up women autonomy, and to protect and keep up fellowship and family. In this paper utilizing a subjective strategy with a hereditary structuralism approach, in particular the design in detail or sound by taking a gander at the relationship of inception, cause-impact, and occasions that impact making artistic works.

By analyzing the capacity of the battle and life of the primary character examined in the novel, it very well may be thought about a large portion of the excursion and beneficial encounters in battling for social equality just as the circumstance and state of the local area around then. This exploration is likewise significant in light of the fact that it talks about new types of battle to acquire the exceptional privileges of women. From this examination can likewise give understanding that by advancing profound quality can get expectations and standards without submitting demonstrations of violence. Violence will just add another issue, and can additionally cause insult for the subject. Also, another fascinating thing got from this exploration is the achievement of the type of the battle for harmony decidedly affects the types of battle that have been endeavored explicitly for the powerless gatherings to be specific women and children.

The Meridian character represents a female warrior in the 1960s when the struggle for nonviolence was at its peak. Artistically, this novel tells the reality of life and education in college that a woman must face and her struggles in civil right movement. This study tries to describe Meridian's character, her mindset transformation, and all her stratagem on civil rights that are different from her colleagues. Other than that, this research also elaborates the main reason, and the real goals of her struggle. Therefore, the researcher conduct this research by using a

structuralism approach, socio-historical methods and elaborate the data with dialectical analysis.

The Civil right movement is actually a great integration activity, which includes the unification of various races from all levels of society. Concepts and practices such as beloved community and nonviolent resistance intervene in the antagonism between politics (socialism) and spirituality (Christianity), removing the latter from its institutional hierarchy (the Church) and focusing on the afterlife, while shedding the former's instrumentalism (killing for revolution) and gave materialism and collectivism a moral foundation. The historical suffering of nonwhite women and children provides a moral ground in the recognition that change cannot be accomplished by “doing to them as they have done”, because it would only overturn the binary rather than challenge its destructive logic. Or, as one Civil Rights activist put it in terms that are usually less pious and more tactically astute: the most powerful weapon that people literally cannot defend is love, kindness.

This research proves that Meridian's nonviolent struggle is being fought. to make African-Americans aware of their civil rights, especially to promote women's liberation. In addition, her belief in non-violent struggles by visiting African-American families is in line with her efforts to reunite and maintain family relationships, not just in African-American families.

Based on the illustration above, the researcher wants to analyze the efforts made by the Meridian character to achieve his goals by using a Feminist Theory entitled: ***“The Rise of Women’s Soul in The Meridian Character to Obtain Civil Rights in Novel: A Feminist Approach”***.

B. Research Question

Based on the explanation above, the researcher mentioned the problem and questions to discuss:

1. What are the kinds of women’s struggle in the *Meridian* Novel by Alice Walker?
2. How does the main character struggle to get her love and justice?

C. Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to answer the problem that has been mentioned. So it is said is the struggle of Meridian on relation to civil rights in the *Meridian* Novel by Alice Walker:

1. To identify the kinds of women's struggle in the Meridian Novel by Alice Walker.
2. To describe the main character struggles to get her love and justice

D. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of research can be explained as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The results of this research are expected to provide knowledge of human thinking, which often means that women are only limited to doing something, which is wrong thinking. In the development of science, as an academic reference to support the theory of feminism.

2. Practical Benefits

This research is expected to make readers better understand human feminism in literary works, especially for students of the English Department who are interested in Alice Walker's work to use the feminist analysis approach. In other words, this research can be a source of comparison for further research. Increase knowledge on how to analyze novels that use a feminist approach and increase knowledge about novels.