

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the research

Literature is a representation of life and a figment of a person. The invention is not only imaginary but is also colored by the background of social life and the belief of the author. Literature is also the product of creative literature and thought of human life. Literature is also the result of conveying ideas and views about human life which are proured creatively and packaged in beautiful forms by writers. This is in accordance with the opinion expressed by Semi in (Siska 2013:1), that literature are creativity works must be able to give birth to a beautiful creation and try to channel the needs of human beauty. One type of literary work is novel and one of the common problems that is also contained in the novel is the gender problem.

Gender is the nature of fibers, the role that is naturally attached to male and female. In everyday life is often gender injustice such as commonly violent in people who are considered weak in this case women, sexual harassment, and so on. It is based on the explanation that the women is a two-sided figure. On one side, women is beauty. Her charms can make men crazy about. On which side Others, she was considered weak, so that weakness is used as a reason by malicious men to exploit its beauty (Sugihastuti 2010:32). That's what caused the birth of gender injustice. Gender injustice itself manifested in various forms, marginalization, subordination stereotype, violence, dan double load.

The novel is a prose literary work that has broader, accurate composition of sentences, the language used in the novel being the everyday language that allows readers

to readily understand the content of the novel, and even people who have never had a literary education can understand a novel. Literary novels must also have interesting stories, varied stories and positive knowledge for readers. Nurgiyantoro (2010:10) suggests that novels are a work of fiction that is built by the elements of builders, namely the intrinsic element and extrinsic elements. The novel can also be interpreted as a prose that contains a series of person's life stories with others around it by highlighting the character and nature of the perpetrator.

Memoirs of a geisha by Arthur Golden is chosen as the object of the research because this novel tells about a child named Chiyo who comes from the poor small fisherman village and named Yoroido. Chiyo lived with her parents and her older sister, Satsu. But, because of the poverty and the parents were growing old, his father sold Chiyo and Satsu to someone to be brought to Kyoto in the Gion district.

Memoirs of a Geisha invites us into the geisha world, where appearance is very important, where a girl's virginity is auctioned off to the highest bidder, where women are trained to attract the most powerful men. The story of Chiyo, or Sayuri, who was known as Sayuri in a poor fisherman village in 1929, when as a 9-year-old girl, with remarkable blue-gray eyes, she was sold to a famous geisha's home. Unable to bear the life of the house, she tried to escape this act put her in danger of becoming a servant for life. As she mourned her fate on the bank of the river Shirakawa, she met Iwamura Ken, this man approached and comforted her. At that time Sayuri was determined to become Geisha, only to have the opportunity to meet that man one day.

Through Sayuri, the reader has witnessed the plight of women who have studied the heavy arts of geisha, singing and dancing, wearing kimonos, thick makeup, and

complicated hair makeup compete with fellow geisha. But when world war II broke out, and geisha houses had to be closed down, Sayuri with little money and less food had to start again from scratch.

B. Scope of the Research

This study focused on the forms of gender injustice of women in novel “Memoirs of a geisha” by Arthur Golden.

C. Statement of the problem

What are the forms of gender injustice to women in the novel “Memoirs of a Geisha” by Arthur Golden?

D. Objective of the research

Explain what are the forms of gender injustice to women in the novel “Memoirs of a Geisha” by Arthur Golden.

E. Significance of the research

It is hoped to have benefits that can be taken both theoretically and practically. Some of the benefits one hopes to refer to are:

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical benefit of this research is to increase our knowledge of analytical studies of literary works, especially in the study of novels. Through this study it is expected to provide insight and insight into gender injustice analysis in a geisha's novel memoirs of a geisha and can promote an understanding of a literary work and can contribute to applying the literary theory to the application of gender injustice forms and gender injustice to female characters in the novel "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden.

2. Practically significance

- a. It can be a reading material that can improve insights for the reader especially on the novel “Memoirs of a Geisha” by Arthur Golden.
- b. Can be referencing for further research. Serves as direction and instruction for readers to be more interested in reading literature.