

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Talking about women is endless and always interesting. Women have an extraordinary role in society and family, whether it is about physical, educational or career perspective. However, women's journey was not that smooth, it took a struggle to get to the point of getting the same opportunities as men. At that time, women were only assigned to cook, give birth, and dress up. While men have higher degrees, they work outside and are allowed to fight for their careers.

Meanwhile, women are only allowed to stay at home without having the same rights as men, such as working, expressing opinions, they are not allowed to pursue higher education because of the stigma of their parents that women were not important in high school because later they would also return to the kitchen. This kind of thing still happens a lot in our environment. But with the passage of modern times, the status of women to get rights like men has begun to be fought for. Not to excel but to give a sense of justice that women can work like men.

Even though women have very important role to be willing to give their lives during childbirth but giving birth cannot be done by men, giving birth can only be done by women, but the society views women very low. This extraordinary task was taken for granted. If there is no woman, there will be no man. Even women fight to the death to give birth. But not a few men who behave badly towards women, one of which is by making women as lust gratification, housemaids without paying attention to the rights of a wife. Because the right of a wife is not only about being given physical and spiritual support, but a wife also needs the right to take part

in holding a family, voice her opinion and even work outside to help her husband earn a living without leaving his responsibilities

One of the heroes of the feminist movement is Mary Wollstonecraft. The WHO interpreted Feminism as a movement for the emancipation of women, a movement that focuses on improving the rights and position of women and strongly rejects the inequality between men and women. Wollstonecraft is best known for *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), in which she argues that women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack of education. She suggests that both men and women should be treated as rational beings and imagines a social order founded for reason. Women have the ability to show their existence just like men. It is not surprising that today many high positions are occupied by women. This shows that women are capable, that women do have to be highly educated, must have strong provisions to take care of their families and society.

Oppression between men and women generally does not only occur in Indonesia. In New York, to be exact, in 1982 women experienced domestic violence and for unmarried women they were often harassed. Not only the harassed, but also women at the time is being traded. To overcome this precisely in 1982 founded an organization called New York Asian Women's Centre (Commonly known as NYAWC or Womankind) was founded in 1982 by a group of volunteers led by Pat Eng. The organization discusses domestic violence that has rarely received attention. Women have also launched community campaigns to boycott domestic violence. In 1984, the first activity has been launched on the East Coast with limited hours available, to address the problem from battered Asian women. Meanwhile, the All-volunteer counseling training program also proposed. In 1985, the move by volunteers to bring abused women and children back to their homes in an emergency had effectively created the first organized housing program for East Asian battered Asian women

while conducting the organization's early fundraising activities. Three years later, womankind hired the first full-time employees to establish a safe shelters for women and children who were hit hard by the limited economic options faced by most battered women.

In the same year, in 1982, a writer named Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote a short story entitled "The Yellow Wallpaper ". This story tells the story of a husband and wife. The husband is a doctor. His wife suffers from depression after giving birth to her second child. Understanding to this condition, the husband brings the wife to a quiet place away from the crowd to be able to recover herself. But unexpectedly, the wife feels imprisoned physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The wife is a very imaginative woman, she always focuses her gaze on the yellow wall in front of her. She imagines inside the wall is a woman. With such an incident, a wife's psyche will be more sensitive when bearing the burden of thought. In fact, depression does not have to be isolated to calm one's mind. Precisely the attention of the closest people will make the situation improve quickly. The woman feels soft and easy to think about anything that makes her disturbed. Being close to loved ones will make it easier to cure depression. If you leave her alone it will make women even more tortured because her thoughts will flying everywhere. The thing that should be made happy for her is by those around her because being alienated actually becomes a psychological burden to her.

Like the previous story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, feminism makes women feel pressured by circumstances that everything has to be managed. A soul that should be happy with a loved one is even alienated for various reasons for healing but giving the freedom to do things without any restrictions is a good thing for her. Women actually just want to be with men in a state of joy and sorrow. Instead of being injured, they are kept away from loved ones. As felt by the wife, she should be worried after giving birth to be gathered with loved ones, to have the motivation to

get up, and is motivated to grow and heal her heart and mind. But what her husband did actually made her feel imprisoned in a golden cage. It is true that the husband's intentions are good, but for the wife, her husband accidentally keeps her locked up in her own shackles.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

The Yellow Wallpaper is a story about a woman who has a sense of burden that is felt after giving birth. The problems statements that will be solved in study.

1. Why did her husband send her into a new place environment?
2. What kind of oppressions are experienced by the main character?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In accordance with the formulation of the problem, the objectives of this research are.

I have two problems for this research. In the first problem, I will study and find out more about feminist characters, what oppression is experienced by the female characters in the story, and later will also explain what forms of oppression are carried out by the husband to his wife after giving birth.

In the second problem, which will be discussed later, what is the reason for her husband to send his wife to a new place after giving birth. This problem will later be developed into an analysis for my final project.

## **1.4. Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the disclosure of deviance against women in The Yellow Wallpaper written by Charlotte Perkins Gillman. Basically, this research discusses the causes of feminist actions experienced by female characters. The story from The Yellow Wallpaper concludes that

there is a lot of psychological pressure felt by these women. The woman feels confined by her husband to her physical and psychological distress.

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The struggle of female figures and communities from all over the world has led women to be able to show their essence in the fields of education, work and so on. That men also exist because they were born from a woman's womb and it should be glorified. For the general public, it should be eliminating the stigma of the past. That the growing era of women is able to rise to show their essence like men. Not to show that women are higher in rank, but women want to show that they are capable of taking part outside like a man.

### **1.6. Approach to the Study**

This research aims to show the forms of oppression that occur against female characters in *The Yellow Wallpaper* and analyzes how female characters experience oppression. This theory discusses the common forms of oppression in society. This form of oppression is somehow called an act of injustice that befalls a person or group of people because of some reasons, such as class, race and gender.

To analyze this story the writer uses a theory from Louis Tyson. The theory described "Feminist Criticism", the author, Lois Tyson makes similar notions about such patriarchal forces. She writes that "patriarchy continually exerts forces that undermine women's self-confidence and assertiveness, then points to the absence of these qualities as proof that women are naturally, and therefore correctly, self-effacing and submissive" (Tyson).

## **1.7. Organization of the Paper**

In chapter one, the writer will classify this study or final project into five chapters which are being used for the systematics of the writing process. In this chapter presents several parts, namely Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the Study, Scope of the Study, Significant of the Study, Approach of the Study, and Organization of the Paper.

In chapter two, the writer discusses further about synopsis and biography of the writer in this study.

Chapter III in this chapter contains the theoretical framework that the writer referred and discussed from previous research conducted by former researchers, the definition of characters, review of the short stories that she has researched and applied Tyson theory.

Chapter IV is about findings and discussion in which the researcher explains the data and finding. She applied the theory of feminism according to Tyson. This chapter answers the question formulated in the problem in Chapter I

Chapter V contains the conclusion and suggestion, in his chapter the writer draws conclusion based on the previous chapter and give suggestions to the fellow readers.