

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Comanche Moon (1991) is a novel written by a female writer, Catherine Anderson. The setting of the story in this novel is in Texas, America around 1859-1864, at that time there was a battle between Comanche, a native American tribe and white American. This novel is not only seen as the work which is written by woman, but also to show the identity of women's writer which make it different with men's writer. In *Comanche Moon*, Anderson puts woman as the main protagonist character. Anderson creates a woman character who cannot live in patriarchal society and against the system of patriarchal.

This novel can be categorized as a writing produced in female phase (1920-present) of women's literary development. Elaine Showalter explains in Guerin (1999) *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, female phase is, "during which dependency on opposition - that is, on uncovering misogyny in male texts - is being replaced by a rediscovery of women's texts and women." (198). This means the women's writer have established their writing and their position as a writer where they expose women's experience as the source of their writing. So, in *Comanche Moon* Anderson wants to show woman's condition under patriarchal system and woman's experience who live in patriarchal society. Through the character of Loretta, the author creates the character of Loretta who againsts the patriarchal system in Comanche tribe.

Gender issue still becomes an attention in recent society, where men and women have different position in society and the assumption that men are more superior than women. Being realise of that, women start to fight to get their liberation under male domination and place their position to be equal to men. They do many efforts to get their rights, one of those

efforts are through writing. Women authors try to show and share their feeling, thoughts, ideas, and experiences in literary work as their protest and critic toward injustice of patriarchal culture. As seen in *Comanche Moon*, Catherine Anderson tries to protest patriarchal system which is practiced by Comanche people. In her novel, Anderson creates a different woman character who rejects and breaks patriarchal system in Comanche tribe. Anderson tries to share her feminism thought where it relates to her personality as an autonomous woman in her writing.

Loretta is the main female character in *Comanche Moon*. It was told in the novel that Loretta reflects a type of a woman who fights and survives from patriarchal system. Living in patriarchal society does not make Loretta becomes a passive woman in receiving all rules in patriarchal society. Her husband, Hunter, comes from Comanche tribe, where Comanche tribe practices patriarchal system strictly.

In *Comanche Moon*, Loretta struggles against her husband. Loretta is resisting when Hunter proposes her to be his wife, because Hunter proposes her by doing an exchange with horses and blankets to her aunt's family, she also protests the polygamy in her marriage. Anderson tries to attempt it by creating a brave figure who has antithesis traits. She describes her main female character as unwealthy and an orphan but she is bright, self-confidence, brave, strong-willed and beautiful.

Catherine Anderson was born in 1948 in America. *Comanche Moon* is not only her great works, she also has published many novels such as *Cherish* (1998), *Star Bright* (2009) and *Early Down* (2010). Anderson has got many awards as contemporary and historical-fiction author and she included to *New York Times* Bestselling Author (Anderson 485). Anderson lives with her husband and her children in Central Oregon. Anderson gets inspiration of writing from her mother and her attitude in writing also she gets from her mother. Her mother and her husband are really support her in writing.

Before writing this novel, Catherine Anderson has done a research about Comanche tribe. As she stated in her novel, “In many ways, *Comanche Moon* is a tribute to a wonderful people, the Comanche nation, and after doing four years of research, I couldn’t bring myself to betray them or their culture by altering the story to fit a mold” (Anderson vii). This quotation states that Catherine Anderson has done a research about the condition of environment and culture in Comanche tribe and how they live their life before she writes this novel.

Based on explanation above, there are some factors which makes the writer wants to analyze *Comanche Moon* by using feminist literary criticism. The first reason is *Comanche Moon* shows that women are possible to fight against men and the action of woman character in getting her right and rejecting all patriarchal systems in Comanche tribe. Second is the sex of the author where the writer is interested in finding how female author portrays women characters in her novel, and the last is this novel as the feminism thoughts of Catherine Anderson. *Comanche Moon* tells that women should not consider themselves to be subordinated by men.

In short, the writer tries to see how *Comanche Moon* can be valued as a feminist reading. Therefore, the writer entitles her analysis with **Catherine Anderson’s Thoughts On Feminism As Reflected In The Main Female Character In *Comanche Moon*.**

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

In *Comanche Moon*, the author depicts the main female character, Loretta, as beautiful, brave, and tricky girl. The author also positions the character of Loretta who protests and againsts patriarchal systems as she found in her marriage which everything is established by man. The portrayal of this character is really different with the women in

Comanche tribe at that time (1859-1864) where women are subordinate to men under patriarchal systems.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

In this research the writer focuses on the character of Loretta, concentrating on the following research question:

1. Catherine Anderson's thoughts on feminism.
2. Patriarchal system that is faced by Loretta in her marriage.
3. Loretta's efforts against patriarchal system.

1.4 The Objectives of the Research

This study is aimed to explain Catherine Anderson's thoughts on feminism through the main female character, to examine the patriarchal systems that is faced by main female character, Loretta, then to find out the efforts of Loretta against patriarchal system by using feminist literary criticism.

1.5 The Review of Previous Studies

In conducting the research, the writer uses the novel *Comanche Moon* written by Catherine Anderson as the primary data. Then references from some previous studies and searching from internet will be used as supporting data to analyse this novel.

The first one is a review from English Department student of Andalas University, in Honesty's thesis (2012) entitled "The Social Comanche Indian's Conflicts With The Texans As Reflected In catherine Anderson's Comanche Moon". By using Sociological approach by Alan Swingwood, she discusses the conflicts between Comanche people with Texans. Honesty explains about social condition of Comanche people and how a quarrel happened

with white people in fighting the land. From her analysis, she concludes that there are two conflicts between them, the first one is fighting among them which makes many disadvantages included sacrifice of life and the other one is the conflict of unclear line of land. This conflicts just give negative effects to the both nations, especially to Comanche people because white people think that they are more powerful. Honesty also finds that Catherine Anderson shows the good side of Comanche people and they are not bad as white people think. Based on Honesty's research, the writer agrees that the conflict between Comanche people and white people give many disadvantages for both of them. This thesis is useful for the writer's research because it gives some informations about Comanche's history.

And then the review written by Krista Lyn, she stated that,

Comanche Moon is an epic love story that is so fresh, original and memorable. Lyn also said that this novel is a story about many thing: good, evil, revenge, destiny, stereotypes, culture, clash, love, loyalty, family, friendship, betrayal, forgiveness and fate. Hunter is a Comanche warrior. An ancient prophecy tells that Hunter will fall in love with a white woman. Hunter can not accept this because the white man is responsible for many murders of the Comanche people, including Hunter's pregnant wife. Loretta is the woman the prophecy has foretold about. She watched Comanche warriors kill and rape her mother. Hunter and Loretta's relationship starts out very slow. Both have intense hatred of one another's race. Both have been personally hurt by the other's race.

Krista Lyn finds that Comanche Moon reveals about the historical truth between the white man and native American. But in the midst of the hatred and painful reality, it brings a love between white American and native American.

Then the last review from Regan, he says that,

Comanche Moon is an epic historical from the Old West. This novel also descripts the pain vivid pictures of Loretta. Where we can feel the the pain and hear the screams. The

action moves along at a good clip, with just the right amount of introspection. There are many threads to the plot, all skillfully woven into an amazing story.

Regan finds this novel is a story of prejudice, hate, and vengeance where then the understanding, love and forgiveness can change the heart between both nations.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

In analyzing this literary work, the writer uses expressive theory proposed by Abrams (1953), in his book *The Mirror and The Lamp: Romantic Theory and Critical Tradition*, he says, “A work of art is essentially the internal made external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulse of feeling, and embodying the combined product of the novelist’s perceptions, thoughts, and feelings” (22). This is based on author’s expression, idea, feeling and view then revealed in literary work. The writer applies expressive theory because woman’s character and action in the novel *Comanche Moon* as the expression, idea, and feeling of Catherine Anderson.

Since women realize that they live in patriarchal society where men are more dominated in all aspects then it rises a movement of women called as feminism. Then they start to get their own right as human being, where women were always positioned under male control. As Guerin states, “..., feminism is concern with marginalization of all women: that is, with their being relegated to a secondary position.” (196). This means that feminism criticizes about marginalizing of women where male more dominates in all aspects of life, then it causes women lose their power and right in society.

Feminist literary criticism is a criticism which explains literary works from female point of view. Feminist literary criticism concerns with the marginalization of women who is in the second position in the society. As quoted in Guerin, feminist literary critics “try to explain how power imbalances due to gender in a given culture are reflected in or challenged

by literary texts.” (196). This means that feminist literary critics aim to criticize gender inequality between men and women as reflected in literary works. Feminist literary criticism focusses on analyzing how women delineated in literary works and how men’s writing are more dominates as their effort to promote patriarchal ideology in literary works. Because of that, feminist critics have goals “to expose patriarchal premises and resulting prejudices, to promote discovery and reevaluation of literature by women, and to examine social, cultural, and psychosexual contexts of literature and literary criticism” (197). It shows feminist critics start to fight women’s liberation and right by criticizing men’s writers and their writing. By promoting the writing of women, literary works become a tool to demolish patriarchal ideology in society.

The writer applies gynocriticism proposed by Elaine Showalter in the term of “*woman as writer*” to criticize *Comanche Moon* because this novel is written by female author. Gynocriticism is a criticism which “pays attention to a literary work written by female author which considered as her point of view concerning her experiences through life” (Barry 123). This means gynocriticism deals with women as the writer and developes female understanding of the female experience in literary work. Gynocriticism focuses on the potrayal of women in literary works which is written by female author as the reflection of women’s life reality in the society. Humm says in her book *Feminism: A Reader* (1992), “under the banner ‘gynocriticism’ Showalter describe that full history of women writer – their literary careers, their favoured genres and their techniques.” (381). Then it shows that gynocriticism covers all about women writers and their writings where women writer have their own way in writing which cannot showed by male author in literary works.

Besides, Carter also says in his book *Literary Theory* (2006), that Sowlerter “coined the term ‘gynocriticism’ for her mode of analysing the works of women writers. She also argues for a profound difference between the writing neglected by male critics.”(95). This

quotation shows that gynocriticism is an approach to analyse women's writing and there is a difference between female and male's writing, woman is able to write valuable writing which is unrespected and neglected by men.

Gynocriticism deals with how female author depicts female character in literary works and uses female experience as the source. As the writer quoted in Selden,

..., whereas the 'Anglo-American' gynocritic wishes to centre on the female author and character, and on female *experience* as the marker of authenticity – on notions of 'reality' (in particular of a collective understanding of what it means to be a woman) which can be represented, and experientially related to, by way of the literary work (221).

From this quotation, the writer concludes that gynocriticism discusses on how women's writer describes women characters in their writing and to show women's experience under male dominance in literary works. It is also possible for woman's writer to convey their feeling and idea about women in their writings.

In analyzing *Comanche Moon*, the writer uses one of four model that stated by Showalter in Guerin, "Elaine Showalter identifies four models of difference: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural..."(199). In this analysis, the writer focuses on cultural model. The writer chooses cultural model because this research about patriarchal system as the result of male dominance in society. Through that systems, male tries to create a culture where it places woman under man's control. And then the writer entitles this analysis with **Catherine Anderson's Thoughts On Feminism As Reflected In The Main Female Character In *Comanche Moon*.**

1.7 The Methods of the Research

In conducting the research, three steps will be followed. The first step is collecting the data. There are two kinds of data used in this research, the primary data is taken from the literary work itself, Catherine Anderson's novel *Comanche Moon*, and the secondary data is taken from literary theory books and articles related to this study. The data is collected by using library research methods, reading the books and browsing internet.

The second step is analysing the data. In analysing the data, the writer applies Gynocriticism "*women as writer*" by Elaine showalter to find Catherine Anderson's thought on feminism which is revealed in her writing and to see woman's condition and their efforts against patriarchal system.

The last step is presenting the result of analysis. The descriptive method will be applied since this research is qualitative research. The writer will explain and discuss about Catherine Anderson's thought on feminism, patriarchal systems that is faced by woman and her efforts against patriarchal systems.

