

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Throughout the history, the character of women has always been portrayed as submissive, passive, and easily controlled by men. Like most opinion of men, a woman's place is just at home. They can not do what the things can be done by men. On the contrary, men are always portrayed as a strong and active creature. Women and men are physically and psychologically different, but it does not have to make women use the chance to be treated equal with men. In literary studies, feminist criticism emerged out of the fact that the view about human in literary works reflects the imbalance relationship between men and women. Women are just accomplish to the hero's journey to get their aims. It is very disadvantaged for women. Therefore, we have to change the wrong concept about gender equality in order not to do any harm for women. One of a good ways is to give an understanding about good moral values to the children early on. So that when they grow up, they understand about the concept of gender equality, where men or women can live peacefully and equally without any further discrimination against women.

The development of the children thought can be influenced by literature.

There are many moral values contained in the children literature. Children

literature can be influential in children's developing gender identity. Thus, it is important to give moral message to the children because it can help the children to know their roles as a man or a woman who will be directly reflected in their behavior and traits. Consequently, the children often directly imitate gender roles in the children literature they read into their life, but the problem here there are many stories portray women as powerless, passive, dependent, while men as powerful, active, and independent.

As human's creation, a story cannot be separated from its creator. An author plays a very important role in delivering the human's issues that s/he writes in his/her works. An author may include his/her own expression of feelings in his/her works. In this research, the writer analyzes seven fairy tales: *Briar Rose*, *Goose Girl*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snowdrop*, *Ashputtel*, *Jorindal and Jorindel* and *The Raven*, collected by Brothers Grimm. The Brothers Grimm, Jacob Grimm was born in 1785 and his brother Wilhelm Grimm was born in 1786. They were authors who together collected folklore. In 1812, the Grimm Brothers published their first volume contained seventy stories. Their tales are available in more than 100 translations and have been adapted to popular Disney films.

In the seven fairy tales, they define women as beautiful objects, powerless in their lives, while men are powerful agents of their own destiny. There are two definitions of woman in this seven fairy tales; first, the "good" women who always passive, patient, weak in their life and can get happiness in the ending of this stories. Second, the "bad" women who always active, strong, always fighting to get a better life and will get punishment in the ending of this stories. The women are apparently "good" only because they are passive and patient. The

women are “bad” because they are active and powerful. Meanwhile, men are always described as a good and strong character and always be a savior for the women. Men characters is important to save the women character. It means that if no men characters in this tales it makes women cannot free from all of problem in their life. The figure of the Prince that shown in this tales was only as an inducement for women in order to make women become weak, submissive and passive. Grimms tales show the active women always be an antagonist character. If they active, they always described bad and evil. It makes them must be killed and punished in the ending stories. From the explanation above, we will get the wrong concept for the children thought. How can the children think the “good” women is always passive and powerless and the “bad” women is always active and powerfull. It makes children get the wrong concept gender in their life.

The writer is interested in doing this research to find out how the images of women in seven fairy tales of Brothers Grimm. The writer sees two definition of women that contend with the real fact. In this tales, passive women as the main character who always get the happiness in their life. How can the passive women will get happiness in the life. It is very contend, the passive women always saved and get happiness in the ending. It makes the writer interested to choose the noble women who described in passivity rather than strong women. The writer wants to see any further how Grimms stories show the negative image of passive women that indirectly make women especially children think to be passive in order to get a good life. The writer uses feminist theory by Cheri Register. And also, Grimms are the famous author who collected many folklore, and also their tales available

in many translations like the writer has explained before, so its easier to the writer to find the data about Grimms stories.

Therefore, to point out and analyze the problems which are found in this tales, the writer comes up with the thesis entitled: **The Portrait of Passive Women in Brothers Grimm's Fairy Tales: A Feminist Reading.**

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

This research will analyze seven fairy tales of Brothers : *Briar Rose, Goose Girl, Rumpelstiltskin, Snowdrop, Ashputtel, Jorindal and Jorindel* and *The Raven*. The writer will focus on intrinsic element of the tales, especially on the characters how image of female characters in this seven stories, and stories message that can be described through the action and interaction of the characters. The writer also analyze the message from seven stories by using feminist perspective.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

In order to make the analysis more specific in analyzing seven tales of Brothers Grimm, the research will be focused on the scopes as the following:

1. How do the stories portrait women (female character)?
2. The stories message: A Feminist perspective.

1.4 The Objective of the Research

The purpose of this study, first to describe the images of women in Grimm's fairy tales, to show the passivity of women as represented in female

characters in seven tales of Brothers Grimm. Second, to prove that those images propose gender inequality, which is not supposed to be taught to children, because indirectly will make them grow as people who oppose equality.

1.5 The Review of Previous Study

In this review of related studies, the writer will review some researchers conducted by English Department students, Andalas University, specifically the researches about Brothers Grimm short stories. The writer focuses on how delineation passive women in many Grimm's fairy tales, especially from seven fairy tales that the writer has selected but she does not find and the writer tries to do some research in internet.

The writer finds some articles about fairy tales of Brothers Grimm. First, an article entitled "Fairy tale analysis: *Rumpelstiltskin*" by Alysa Dudley. The article analyzes how a name gives a great importance in Rumpelstiltskin story. Only one character that has a name in this story, he is Rumpelstiltskin. No body know his name. He has a power from his name until at the end of this story the queen get his real name and she has power over him. In this fairy tale, names give a power and characters do not want others to know their real name.

Second, an article entitled "Illustration by Walter Crane for 'Snow White' (1882)" by Walter Crane. This article tells plot of Snow White that contain about magic, scary, and often violent journey where talks about mystery and adventure. In this article also gives information how Grimm's Fairy Tales are not all appropriate for very young children. Some of the tales contain violence and prejudice. We must be carefully when reading these stories to young children.

Third, there is an article entitled “Feminism and Gender Roles in ‘The Princess and The Frog’” by Ana Mejia, an article about feminist and gender role in “The Princess and the Frog” movie. From this article, Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan show an important aspect of gender roles. In here, the writer sees the roles of gender are reversed. Tiana’s father do feminine role and her mother do more masculine role. Tiana’s feminist ideas are shown from she was early on. When she was 6 years old, Tiana shows her dislike fairy tales and stories where a man saves the women. She believes that she can lives happily with her own hard work and dedication. The female, here, holds more power than the male, breaking the oppression that is put on women. Through Prince Naveen and Tiana’s father, the movie shows the idea that men and women are not different in society.

The research that the writer conducts is different from the previous studies because there is no research from the students of Andalas University and internet about the portrait of passive women in seven of Brothers Grimm’s fairy tales. In this research, the writer applies feminist literary criticism, particularly Register’s theory, the research that the writer wants to seek out focuses on the how images of women in these seven fairy tales.

1.6 The Theoretical Framework

In this analysis, the writer focuses her analysis on the text of the short stories. It is conducted using feminist literary criticism. Feminist literary criticism is a criticism to analyze literary works through women point of view. Here, the writer concern on image of woman as one of feminist studies. In a book by Newton is stated “ The ‘image of woman’ school of feminist critics adopts this

point of view and is particularly concerned with how woman represented in literature” (1998: 263). It means that the image of woman is to analyze the presence of female characters in literary works.

In doing this analysis, the writer wants to apply images of women criticism proposed by Cheri Register. Register (in Donovan, Ed 1989:2) identifies three subdivision of feminist criticism, they are: (1) the analysis of the “image of women”, as nearly as appears in work by male authors, (2) the examination of existing criticism of female authors, and (3) prescriptive which sets standards for literature that is “good” from feminist point of view.

Based on the subdivisions above, the first and second step are analyzing the image of women which is represented in work of male and female authors, and it certainly involves the role of the reader as feminist. In this research, the portraits of the women in their stories can be positive or negative. The authors can describe the image of a woman as strong, rational, active, independent, and etc. Or, on the contrary the authors can follow patriarchal ideas such as weak, passive, submissive, dependent etc. By applying the first and second subdivision, the writer will get the image of women in seven fairy tales collected by the Grimm Brothers: *Briar Rose*, *Goose Girl*, *Lily and the Lion*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snowdrop*, *Ashputtel*, and *The Raven*.

To support her analysis to be deeper and better, the writer needs the opinion of other feminist critics, especially about ‘image of women’. According to Toril Moi (1985: 44) describes that “... the study ‘image of women’ fiction is equivalent to studying false image of women in fiction written by both sexes.”

Moi argued that false image refer to the misconception of women in literature. By studying the image of women, critics can find the misconceptions of women characters in fiction and also can find the right concept of image of women based on women's real experiences.

According to Elaine Showalter, there are two forms of feminist criticism (1985: 75) the first is woman as reader, (feminist critique) to analyze men's work. The writer will use this form in analyzing seven short stories of Brothers Grimm. Second is woman as the writer, she calls it (gynocritics) to analyze woman's work. Feminist according to Showalter in book *Sexual/Politics: Feminist Literary Theory* (1985: 74), feminist critique is to analyze what men think about woman as stated below:

“ One of problem of feminist critique is that it is male oriented. If we study stereotypes of women, the sexism of male critics and limited roles women play in literary history, we are not learning what women have felt experienced, but only what men have thought about women should be”

According to Showalter, the writer will analyze what male and female author's think or view about women, which can be seen through their works. It means that the image of females characters in men and female's work do not always reflect about women's feeling or experiences.

In this research, the writer evaluates how Grimm's tales oppressed their female characters to show men's power over women. In the Fairy Tale Grimm's Brothers of *Briar Rose*, *Goose Girl*, *Lily and the Lion*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snowdrop*, *Ashputtel*, and *The Raven*, Grimms' tales show that women have bad images.

They do not deserve to try to be better and more dominance as seen of female characters in this stories. Women must realize that men deserve more to be holder of power in society. They have to keep being submissive and women will be powerless forever. By showing the negative images of women in their female characters, Grimms' tales want to show men more dominant than women.

In doing this research, the writer uses Feminist Literary Criticism. For a long time, Feminist Criticism has attempted to free women for male dominated culture. Since there are so many male authors, women's resistance is portrayed as invaluable creature. Feminist Criticism tries to analyze the bad notion where woman is disadvantages compared to men. The writer selects Feminist Criticism, particularly image of women by Cheri Register. Feminist Criticisms are applied in analyzing in the stories of Brothers Grimm. Here, the writer will focuses with woman as the main character in the stories.

1.7 The Methods of the Research

In conducting the research writer will uses two kinds of data; they are primary data and secondary data. The primary data are collected from the seven fairy tales of *Briar Rose*, *Goose Girl*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snowdrop*, *Ashputtel*, *Jorindal and Jorindel* and *The Raven* which are collected by Grimms Brothers. The secondary data are collected from several books and articles that related to the analysis. It uses three steps; they are collecting data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of analysis.

The first step is collecting the data. In conducting this research, the writer conducts some steps to complete this analysis. The writer uses library research by

collecting the primary data and secondary data. The primary data is taken from The Complete Illustrated Stories Of Brothers Grimm as the object of the study and the secondary data is the information taken from books, notes, theses, and articles from internet.

The second step is analyzing the primary data. The writer uses the qualitative analysis which focuses on meaning, perspective, and understanding as well. The beginning of this research is reading and understanding the primary data. Secondly, finding the secondary data and deciding the most suitable theory as the interpretive to examine the object. Thirdly, the primary data is analyzed by using Feminist Criticism, image of women by Cheri Register. Besides, the secondary data is used to support the arguments and strengthen the main analysis.

The third step is presenting the result of analysis. In presenting the result of analysis, the writer uses qualitative method which according to Robert C. Bogdan and Biklen in their book *Qualitative Research for Education* is “Qualitative research is descriptive; the collected data is the form of words or picture than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation” (1198:20). Furthermore, based on the book, the writer applies descriptive method that stresses the utilizing of quotations from the both primary and secondary data to deliver the finding of the analysis.