

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Sometimes, the society still has wrong perspective about women. The societies that follow patriarchy system makes them think that women position is subordinated to men. For examples, women position should be lower than men position, women have no freedom to do what they want, women should do the things that become a standard in society, women cannot express their idea, etc. Weber (as cited in Walby, 1990) defines that patriarchy as a system which men regulate and control the community through their position as head of the household. We can still find this phenomenon in domain around us or in several regions from another country. Usually, it is closely related to the culture that is adopted by the community. That culture forces women to abide the rules and makes their position considered subordinate to men.

Engels (1884) assumes that patriarchy system is begun when human starts knowing about private ownership, and this system also makes class system. This patriarchy system makes women do domestic jobs and work according to the wishes of men. This becomes the root of men domination against women. Engels (1884) also says that patriarchal system makes women as devotees. Women become slaves of men greed and become child-making machines.

Nowadays, women want to liberate from those wrong perspectives. They want to change the society's mindset about women position and their role. They want to be free from the rules that bridle them to express what they feel. They are different from previous women. Now, they are braver to express their feelings and their goals. As written by Yasinta (2018) in Kompas.com, Malala Yousafzai, a woman from Pakistan who braved to speak up her opinion and her rights as a woman to get education. At that time, Taliban wanted to control the area where she lived and snatch women's rights, including education. When she was 10 years old, Taliban prohibited women from attending school and doing cultural activities, such as dancing. Even, watching television was not permitted. After the Taliban began attacking a women's school in

Swat, she spoke her speech in Peshawar in September 2008. Her first speech was entitled “How dare the Taliban seize its basic rights to go to school?”. She also wrote a blog for BBC about life under the threat from the Taliban who rejected education for women. She said that Taliban forced them to stay at home and not allowed to do activities. In 2011, Malala got an International Children’s Nobel Peace Prize. In the same year, she was awarded Pakistan’s National Youth Prize.

Through the accidents that have been passed by people in their life, some of them perpetuate it into a literary work, such as novel, movie, song, etc. It makes the study of literary work important to conduct in order to know the relevance of the literary work with the reality. It is because literary work is a reflection of society. Hardjana (1981, p. 10) defines that literary work as a standard disclosure from what has been seen by people in life, what has been experienced by people about life, and what has been thought by people about the most interesting thing in life into language. The norms in society basically represent the social reality and affect the society, so literary works can be a medium to know the social reality that is made creatively by the author.

Analyzing the literary work is not enough just about its intrinsic elements, but how we can analyze the problems that exist in the literary work to see the reflection of social problems around us. We can learn through ideas and thoughts about culture and social life in the literary work that are delivered by the author. So that we can open our mind and knowledge more widely through the literary work and make us more critical.

Through the discussion above, the researcher was interested in analyzing patriarchal practices in the novel from Mo Yan’s *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* that was published in 1996 in China, then was translated into English by Howard Goldblatt and was published in 2005. It talked about life in a country where men were powerful and dominate women, but this novel showed women as the main character of this novel. Mentioned, a woman was forced to be married in her 17 years old, but her husband was a barren man that could not have children. Hence, her husband and her husband’s family forced her to be impregnated by other people besides her

husband. It was because they wanted to have a boy, but they always failed until the last child, the ninth, was born Jintong, a boy with different character. Jintong was a child of the affair with a priest. He was not like a boy normally, but his father loved him so much than the other daughters. The other daughters were treated differently. From this short point, it can be assumed that this novel exposes patriarchal practices, particularly in specializing Jintong than the other daughters. This study tries to analyze the patriarchal practices toward the eight daughters and some women in this novel.

As an addition, the researcher used this novel as an object of this study because it won Dajia Honghe Literature Prize in 1997. Mo Yan, the author of this novel has won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012 and called as a writer who with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history, and the contemporary. He also has written several novels. Those are *The Garlic Ballads* (1988, China; 1995, English), *Thirteen Steps* (1989), *The Republic of Wine* (1992, China; 2000, English), *Shifu: You'll Do Anything for a Laugh* (2002, English), *Sandalwood Punishment* (2001), *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* (2006), and *Frog* (2010).

B. Limitation of the Study

This study is focused on feminism approach. The limitation of this study is the patriarchal practices toward the female characters, that is the eight daughters and the mother, in the family of Shangguan in Mo Yan's *Big Breasts and Wide Hips*.

C. Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study mentioned above, the researcher made a statement about the problem that exists in Mo Yan's *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* novel. This study tries to answer the following problem: How are patriarchal practices portrayed in Mo Yan's *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* novel?

D. Purpose of the Study

By knowing the statements of the problem mentioned above, it can be said that this study aims at finding and describing the problem

that has been stated. Hence, the researcher described more detail, that is: The research aims at describing the illustration of patriarchal practices that are portrayed in Mo Yan's *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* novel.

E. Significance of the Study

Based on the research objectives to be achieved, this study is expected to give some benefits theoretically or practically. The significances of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Researcher hoped that this study can add variation of the study, that is feminism. The discussion about feminism, especially patriarchy, can give a new understanding about the identity of women in different areas.

2. Practical Significance

Beside that, researcher also hoped that this study can give some benefits practically for those who read this study. Those benefits are intended for several group as follows:

- a. For students: Researcher hoped that this study can give some benefits in education, especially for students. Through the discussion of this study, the students' creativity in analyzing a literary work (novel, film, short story, etc.) will increase. Students will be expected to more critical in looking at problems and conflicts in a literary work, not just knowing about intrinsic elements of a novel and can see social facts through the representation in a literary work.
- b. For readers: Researcher hoped this study will increase readers' knowledge and interest in appreciation of literary work.
- c. For teacher: It can be the model of giving understanding of feminism, patriarchy, and other cultural practices through novel.
- d. For researcher: This study is also expected can be a reference for those who conduct the research in the same topic.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

To make it easier for the readers or those who read this study, the researcher gave some explanations about the key terms of this

study. Also, in order to avoid miss understanding about the discussion of this study.

1. Feminism: In general, feminism is the theory of women's liberation since the intrinsic in all its approaches is the belief that women suffer injustice because of women's sex (Humm, 1989, p. 74).
2. Domestic job: Work undertaken related to household maintenance. This job involves the provision of food or cooking, keeping the house clean like washing, sweeping, and taking care of children, etc. This work is most commonly undertaken by women and is generally rated as low in social and economic terms (Ferderika, 2010).
3. Patriarchy: Social system that places men in the highest level and dominates in politics role, moral authorities, and social rights. In a family, a father has authorities toward his other members (his wife and his children). This system implicitly institutionalizes the government and places the position of women under men (Bressler, 2007).
4. Gender and Sex: Sex and gender have the different dimension. Sex refers to the biologic dimension of a man and woman, while gender refers to the social-culture dimension of a man and woman (Santrock, 2003).
5. Mo Yan: A Chinese writer that was born on 17th February 1955 in Gaomi, China. He has written hundreds of short stories and some novels, some of them have been translated into various languages, those are *Red Sorghum*, *The Garlic Ballads*, *The Republic of Wine*, and *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*. This *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* novel was published in 1996 in China as *Feng Ru Fei Tun* and was published in 2005 in English. In his country Mo Yan is called as "the most famous Chinese writer and his works are most banned from circulation" (Williford, 2011).