

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Topic

“Literature is a creative activity and art without artistic values literature would be just another kind writing, along with scientific, works, reports,” as stated by Wellek and Warren (1956). Literature is the reflection of what happens at surroundings. A work of literature tells the condition in reality life, teaches us more something that we do not know before. It is not rare we know something new from a literature, even people sometimes change themselves because of a literature they have read.

In making a novel, an author usually adopts theme based on the condition that happens around the author. The social phenomenon is one of big things that affects a literature to be formed. Poverty, radicalism, discrimination, racism, feminism, and thousands of human’s cases in life often be taken as the reason why a literature is written. In this research, the writer intends to discuss feminism, a theme that becomes the main topic lifted by the novel’s author, Paulo Coelho in making his grand work, a novel entitled *Mata Hari*. This novel tells about Mata Hari, the main character in this novel, the woman who fights patriarchal system in old Europe. Her biggest action in battling patriarchal system occurs when she decides to be a spy for France, whereas, she accepts to be the agent for Germany, even in this case she just pretends to accept that bid. Based on this part, it explains

that Mata Hari is an extremely brave woman. First, it is explained when she decides to take the bid from Germany meanwhile she does not want to. Second, it is explained when she asserts that she intends to be a spy for France without pressing. In old Europe, it is not common for a woman to take hard work like the man usually does.

Mata Hari is described as a woman who has strong characters, beautiful, smart, and tricky as well. Her beauty brings her to Rudolf MacLeod, a Scottish officer. At this point, the problem has just begun. Mata Hari with her smart tricks passes his matter by matter until she can not do anything, except accepting her death penalty as the price she has to pay for a freedom. This kind of thing is called as patriarchal system. "Patriarchal is a term that generally used to refer to male power in the control of women that refer to systems that make women remaining to be controlled through a variety of ways that emerge and developed along with the rotation of the world." as said by Susilowati (2013). The writer concludes based on the quotation that patriarchal system is not a balanced system, because it takes side with men and ignores women's rights.

As the opposite of patriarchalism, there is feminism, the name of women movement that is chosen by Mata Hari to fight patriarchy in her life. Sarah Gamble mentions the general description of feminism as "The belief that women, purely and simply because they are women, are treated inequitably within a society which is organized to prioritise male viewpoints and concerns" (2006). As the more detail of feminism description, other expert says:

Feminism is an understanding, study and social movement that aims to change the subordinate status of women in society that prioritizes men's perspectives. A society that prioritizes the interests of men over the interests of women is the definition of a patriarchal society (Weedon (1987) in Wright, (2006)).

The existence of feminism is an effect of the existence of patriarchy, a system that puts men as the superior part while women as the inferior. "Feminism is a movement that began among 1550 - 1700 in England as the form of struggles to face patriarchal" as said by Wright, (2006). The statement shows how old feminism movement is, so that is possible for the writer talks about feminism in old Europe like Paulo Coelho does. Although feminism had been begun before this century, on the reality, there are many patriarchal systems happen currently. Many societies think this is a normal system that has to be obeyed by women and feel women who are feminists are rebellious women that are wrong.

B. Reason For Choosing The Topic

Patriarchal system has been existed in this world, in every side on the world without exception, from east cross to west. In Indonesia itself, patriarchal system is reputed as something normal, likewise what happens at the author's environment. Basically, patriarchal system can't be reputed as something true, because there is a lot of error, misunderstanding, and human rights that attached in this case.

Wherever, whenever, and however, patriarchal system is wrong and never be true. For the example, in work, women are given lower salary than men can

get, meanwhile women here spend the same energy and time like the men do. In education, women who are smarter than men are labeled as arrogant women by their friends, meanwhile men who are smarter than women are labeled as ideal students. In household, women (mother and daughter) are wrong if they don't get up earlier, don't do household's works, don't keep the house clean, don't go home on time, and many others, meanwhile men (father and sons) will be okay if they do the same things. In social life, women who achieve bright future (good in career, high in education, etc) will have stereotypes as egoist women, meanwhile if men who reach all will have stereotypes as success men.

Too much inequality that must be accepted by women, even it happens and common in this era, an era that called as modern era. People should realize if patriarchal system is never right and have to be straightened. The role of women is very needed in this matter, since women are the part that have to change the world for the world that they will get. Based on that current problem, the writer wants to make new comprehension to people that women have the same rights as men do. Through *Mata Hari* novel, by telling the struggle of Mata Hari to get independence, the writer intends to show women now to not be afraid to take big steps to reach their dreams. Through the death of Mata Hari, the author asks all society to be more respect and understand how importance an equality for women as human being.

C. Research Problem

To restrict in order to focus the research, the inquiry would be guided by the following general questions:

1. How are the characterizations of the main character “Mata Hari”?
2. How does the main character struggle to resist against the patriarchal system?

D. Purpose of The Study

Based on the problems above, these are two objectives:

1. To understand the characterizations of the main character “Mata Hari”.
2. To observe the main character struggle to resist against the patriarchal system.

E. Significance of The Study

The significance of this study is to detect the system of patriarchy and the struggle of the main character in *Mata Hari* novel. In doing the research, the writer intended to make the readers apprehend about how the patriarchy works and how the main character struggle for feminism by her basic characterization. Furthermore, the writer aspirants to build the mind of readers, especially for

women in doing her role as the women who have the same equality in career, chance, and right as human being, as the men can do.