

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing The Topic

A Thousand Splendid Suns is the novel which published by Khaled Hosseini in 2007. This is the second novel is made by Khaled Hosseini after *The Kite runner* in 2003. Khaled is the great writer because two of his novel are became bestsellers in New York Times. In this novel, the writer is interested to study about gender because after reading the novel writer finds the interesting data about role of men and women in Afghanistan. The definition of gender is a socially constructed definition of women and men. Studying about gender discuss about man and woman. Gender consists of role and stereotype. Generally man and woman have a different role in social, family etc. This research only discusses about role of man and woman in family in Afghanistan. For example role of man as a father, Father has a responsibility to providing necessity of the family. They fulfill all of the needs in their family. Women also have a role in family, for example as a mother, mother has a duty to take care all of her family, cooking, cleaning the house, etc. Gender roles furnish the material for gender stereotype. It means stereotype can appear because of role or we can say they have a connection.

In this case, writer is interested in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. There are some pictures of the differences roles between man and woman in this novel. For example in this novel woman are not allowed to go outside alone. They should be accompanied by their husbands. If they break the rule, they will be punished. The role of a man is more influential than women in 19th century in Afghanistan. As with most

traditional societies, men are considered the breadwinners and take pride in providing for their families and women have a duty to take care of all family members. Women in Afghanistan are usually less educated than men. They marry young, have many babies and generally do not work outside home. This is the picture of the novel

There are some characters in this novel, the writer will explain them. The first one is Mariam, she is the woman who lives in poor family and she lives only with his mother. Mariam actually has a father but because of something her father cannot stay in the same home with her. Her father's name is Jalil, he is the one of the rich people in the city, the reason why Jalil and Mariam cannot stay together because Mariam is born as an harami, (illegitimate child). The mother of Mariam is a housekeeper in the Jalil's house and he does something that he should not do to his maid. He tries to hide it and he made a house in the middle of the mountain for Mariam and her mother. For Mariam, Jalil is a good person because Jalil likes to visit her every Thursday every week and tells a story about the beautiful city where he lives. It is the spring of 1974, the year Mariam turned fifteen. She tells to Jalil that she wants to visit the city in the Jalil's story and see all of the places in Jalil's story and also visit Jalil house but her mother disallows her even she told Mariam that Jalil has three wives and nine legitimate children. When Mariam arrives in Jalil's house, the chauffeur said to the Mariam that Jalil is not in his house, and no one knows when he will be back to home. But Mariam still want to wait Jalil come even she should waiting not in his house but outside.

On the next day, the chauffeur gets the order from Jalil to bring Mariam back and drives her home but Mariam doesn't want it. She runs to the gate and she caught

a glimpse of the Jalil in the window and she felt disappointed and finally she decides to back home. When she arrives, she looks a woman who already dies hanging on the tree, Nana, Miriam's mother.

After that event, Jalil brings Mariam to his home. Jalil tries to force Mariam to marry a man who has a shoe shop and Mariam cannot ignore it. This is the first time how Mariam's life changes.

The next characters are Rahseel and Laila. Rasheed is the person who has married Mariam. Before marriage, he once had a child and a wife but both of them are dying because of accident. At the beginning of marriage Rasheed is very kind to Mariam but everything changes after Mariam gets pregnant and gets misbirth and it happens to Mariam everytime when she is pregnant. Because of that, Rasheed who always expecting to get a child from Mariam feels disappointed to Mariam. Rasheed experienced change his emotion. He is angry to her and anything what Mariam do is always wrong for Rasheed. He also does violence to Mariam. He does it for many years. Mariam's life is getting worse until the girl named Laila comes. She is a victim of a civil war in Afghanistan. Her parents are dead because of missile which is hit her home. Jalil found Laila in the middle of ruins. At that time, Laila is only 15 years old girl. Rasheed helps her and take her to his home but the truth is Rasheed wants to marry Laila. After marriage Rasheed have two children from Laila named Azizah and Zalmai.

From the summary of the story, writer found that role, responsibility and stereotype of men and woman are different. It is interesting for writer to analyze this novel using gender analysis.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of The Study

The object of this analysis is a book *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. In this novel, writer wants to try to analyze the gender role, responsibility and stereotype based on gender analysis. The writer limits the study with focus on analyzing gender role and responsibility and stereotype in family that pictured in the novel.

1.3 Formulation of The Problem

According to the objective and scope of the study, at least there are two research questions coming up that is useful to find data in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The two research questions are:

1. What are the role and responsibility of the characters in the novel?
2. What are the stereotypes of the characters in the novel?

1.4 Review of Related Studies

1.4.1 Previous Study

The research of *A thousand splendid suns* has held by previous researchers such as Pipin Puspitasari *Conflict Between The Traditional and Modern Cultures in Khaled Hosseini;s A Thousand Splendid Suns Novel* (2007), Paskalina Widiastuti Ratnaningsih *The Influence of Jalil,Rasheed and Laila on Mariam's Personality Changes in Khaled Hosseini;s A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2009), Nurul Hamzah Kusnadi *An Analysis of The Main Character Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid*

Suns Through Feminism Approach (2009), Wahyu Risky Umbara *An Analysis of Neurosis Syndrome Reactions in Mariam's Character in The Novel of A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (2010)*, Ismi Adinda *An Analysis on Illocutionary Acts in The Novel A Thousand Splendid Suns(2011)*. Miss Puspitasari discusses the novel through Sociological approach and she discuss about conflict between tradistional and modern culture which is happen in this novel. Ratnaningsih and Umbara discuss the novel through pshcology approach, Ratnaningsih discuss about personality changes of Mariam, one of the major character in this novel and Umbara discuss about Neurosis Syndrome Reaction which consist of Anxiety reaction, Obsessive-Compulsive reaction, and Phobic reaction. There is also Miss Adinda which discusses about illocutionary acts through descriptive qualitative method. She found some kinds of illocutionary acts, such as: Representatives, Directives, Commisives, Expressives, and Declarations. The last one is Mr Kusrini. He discuss the novel through feminist approach and He discuss the struggle about discrimination which done by man to woman. From the previous study, There are no one who discussed about gender role and stereotype that writer wants to analyze in this novel and in This research writer only focus to analyze gender role and stereotype in this novel.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

The most important elements for doing analysis are theory. Theory is a tool to understand the topic or the approach that is applied by writer. In writer subject, Gender analysis is suitable with the subject that wants to be analyzed.

Based on Unesco's Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework:

Gender refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women that are created in our families, our societies and our cultures. The concept of gender also includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). Gender roles and expectations are learned. They can change over time and they vary within and between cultures. Systems of social differentiation such as political status, class, ethnicity, physical and mental disability, age and more, modify gender roles. The concept of gender is vital because, applied to social analysis, it reveals how women's subordination (or men's domination) is socially constructed. As such, the subordination can be changed or ended. It is not biologically predetermined nor is it fixed forever (p.17).

Based on the statement, we can know that woman and man have a different role and responsibilities. *According to Cambridge Dictionary Online*, definition of role is the position or purpose that someone or something has in situation, organization, society, or relationship. Responsibility is something that it is your job or duty to deal. For example, it's her responsibility to ensure the project finishes on time. She takes her responsibilities as a nurse very seriously. According to Branoon:

A gender stereotype consists of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of, as well as the activities appropriate to, men or women. . . . The concepts of gender role and gender stereotype tend to

be related. When people associate a pattern of behavior with either women or men, they may overlook individual variations and exceptions and come to believe that the behavior is inevitably associated with one gender but not the other. Therefore, gender roles furnish the material for gender stereotypes (p.160).

Based on the statement, we can conclude that role is the material of stereotype. It means, stereotype can appear because of role and also they have a connection between role and stereotype. In addition, according to a report Women's right and Gender Section, OHCHR research:

A gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes, or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by women and men. Gender stereotypes can be both positive and negative for example, "women are nurturing" or "women are weak".
(1)

Based on the statement, gender stereotype is an attributes or characteristics both woman and man and also the stereotype can became a negative or positive. And Based on Unesco's Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework:

Gender Analysis is the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated information. Men and women both perform different roles. This leads to women and men having different experience, knowledge, talents and needs. Gender analysis explores these differences so policies, programmes and projects can identify and meet the different needs of

men and women. Gender analysis also facilitates the strategic use of distinct knowledge and skills possessed by women and men (p.17).

Based on the statement, writer can conclude that gender analysis is the way how to understand about women and men. It also knows that because of the experience of men and women and they also have different needs.

1.5 The Method of the Research

Analyzing *A thousand splendid suns* has method to collect the data in the story, so, the writer takes the analysis with close-reading analysis. Close-reading analysis is a method which examines the meaning of each words and sentences to find central idea and supporting details (Parcc: 2011 p.7). Based on Jacobus (1995), Close-reading analysis is a method that the researcher notes specific uses of language, such as imaginary, symbols, repeated terms, pattern of expression, the tone of speakers, and the main idea of the writer introduces. This method concept is to reading over and over again to gain the understanding of a literary work as whole and develop the ideas.

In this research, the note of the elements is based on the gender analysis. Writer does the analysis which focuses on gender role and gender stereotype that contain in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Based on Robert (1997) in his book “Writing Literature”, the gender role, responsibility and gender stereotype can be known through the way of speech, dialogue, and action, comment by other characters. Based on the method, it can be known and found the the role, responsibility and stereotype

in the story. In short, the writer reads the work first and uses this method to find the object of analysis which related to gender analysis.

The writer thinks that *A Thousand Splendid Suns* contain a gender role and stereotype. After reading the text again and again, writer finds the role and the stereotype which is pictured in the novel. When writer finds the data, the next step writer tries to select the data which is more suitable for the subject and after that writer connect it to the theory that writer choose for this subject.