

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Subject

Woman at Point of Zero is one of novel written by Nawal El-Saadawi. Nawal El-Saadawi is an Egyptian feminist writer, activist, and psychiatrist. She has written some books such as *The Hidden Face of Eve*, *God Dies by the Nile*, *Memoir of a Woman Doctor*, *The Fall of Imam* and others. Usually she uses the subject of women in Islam, paying particular attention to the practice of female genital mutilation in her society .

It can be seen from her book, *Woman at Point Zero*. This novel was published in Arabic in 1975. The novel takes Egypt as setting. *Woman at Point Zero* is a story that potrays Egypt's woman life. In Egypt, the woman always gets abusive from their family and society. It can be happen because the position of woman is lower than man and male is more dominance than woman. Everytime, the abusive of woman always happen in Egypt. The kind of abusive are physical, sexual, and mental. Therefore, the abusive of woman becomes a tradition for society in Egypt.

The novel takes a woman that named is Firdaus as the main character. Firdaus was born from family who her father is illiterate and cruel. Since Childhood, she always gets abusive from her father and her uncle too. She always hits by her father. Not only that, Firdaus raped by her uncle.

When she was adulthood, she still gets abusive from her husband and people around her. Not only that, Firdaus becomes a prostitute. She does not realize that she exploited by Sharifa. Firdaus still becomes a victim of abusive. Until someone make Firdaus realizes that she only taken benefit by Sharifa. Firdaus realizes and escapes from Sharifa. After she realizes, Firdaus still gets abusive from people around her. But, she can against the abusive. She feels that she must against the abusive. Therefore, she tries to does something to defend her life.

After she know that she only taken benefit by Sharifa, Firdaus decides to be herself. She wants to out from the abusive. In fact, she still taken benefit by pimp. Because she can not hold the pressure, Firdaus tries to away from the pimp. The struggle of Firdaus to be free from the pimp is escape from the pimp. The desire of Firdaus to be free from the pimp is known by the pimp. He tries to kill Firdaus. Firdaus tries to survive.

Based on the story, the writer is interested to analyze the novel because the novel based on the true story that faced by women in Egypt. In the novel tells about main character that gets abusive since childhood until adulthood. The abusive was done by her family and unknown person. The writer found some traits that makes the main character gets abusive. Because of that, the main character must struggle to escape from the abusive in her life.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of Study

The object this research is a novel *Woman at Point Zero* written by Nawal El-Saadawi. This research is analyzed by structuralism. There are two objectives of this research:

1.2.1 To describe the traits of the main character in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*.

1.2.2 To describe the struggle of the main character in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*.

For the scope of the study, it just focus on the character.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

According to the theory and the problem in this research formulate as:

1.3.1 What are the traits of the main character in the novel?

1.3.2 How are the struggle of the main character in the novel?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

There are two previous study that the writer choose which have the same topic but different theory presented. The first is *Gender Perspective in the novel Woman at Point Zero by Nawal El-Saadawi' Feminism* by Lina Azizah (2008). The problem formulation in this thesis was how the structure that build, the manifest of gender perspective, and the meaning contained within *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El-Saadawi? The method of the research data from novel ,books,and artichel. The scope of the research was focused to analysis of the structure that build, the manifest of gender perspective and the meaning contained.

The second previous study is *Feminism nalysis in the novel Woman at Point Zero by Nawal El-Saadawi* by Eka Wilany (2017). The analysis to find some probles in gender equality, inequality and to see the relation in society of *Woman at Point Zero* Novel. The methodology of the research used in this research was descriptive qualitative. The results of the research was found that Firdaus assured that she seemly accepted the similar treatment with men.

In reference with the two previous study, the writer compiled a research entitled *The Struggle of Main Character Seen in Nawal El-Saadawi's Woman at Point Zero*. Futhermore, the writer will examine in the similarities between the writers research and the previous study that the writer had chosen. The similarities are all of researches used the same novel as the subject but different theory. The writer used objective approach.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

1.4.2.1 The Objective Theory

To analyzing character in the novel,the writer will use objective theory. According to M.H.Abrams in his book *The Mirror and the Lamp* ,”Objective describes the literary product as a self-sufficient and autonomous object, or else as a world-in-itself, which is to be contemplated as its own end, and to be analyzed and judged solely by “intrinsic” criteria such as its complexity, coherence, equilibrium, integrity, and the interrelations of its component elements ”.

The theory will focus on the element that are known as instrinsic elements which refer to inside of literary work. The instrinsic elements include the

character, plot, setting, theme, point of view and etc. The writer only focus on character.

1.4.2.2 Character

According to Edgar V. Roberts in his book, *Writing about Literature*, "Character is a verbal representation of human being as presented to us by authors through the depiction of action, conversation, descriptions, reactions, inner thoughts and reflections, through action, authors own interpretative commentary."(66).

Based on quotation, character in a story is describes from human personality that we can understood by analyzing through the dialogue and action of the character with each other that potrayed in the story.

1.4.2.3 Struggle

According to Kate Millet in her book *Sexual Politics* " Women must revolt against the power center of their culture that is male dominance, will enable women to be aware of their situation both in the society and at home,to form their self-consciousness as women, to demand their equality with men and to obtain their autonomy." (Chapter II)

It can be seen that women must struggle to against oppression which done by a male because of their culture. The women must struggle in order to they get their rights. Their rights can be like right to life, the rights to be proctected, and rights to change lives.

1.5 Method of Research

In order to make this analysis more complete, the writer needs some process to make the analysis more accurate. The writer takes the steps of collecting data. The data be from various sources, such as books, articles and internet. The writer divides data in two categories. The first data can Nawal El-Saadawi's novel *Woman at Point Zero*. The second data that the writer collects from other sources, such as books, and things that related and support the analysis.

The research on character applies method of two interpretation (Jacobus, 2001). According to Jacobus in his book *Literature An Introduction to Critical Reading*, "Interpretation is the exploration of those meanings". In the research, the exploration will be conducted on the text of the novel to find character.

The technique which is used in interpretation is close reading. According to Jacobus, the technique is that research notes specific use of language, such as imagery, symbol, repeated terms, pattern of expression, tone of speaker and the main ideas that the writer introduces.

Close reading needs to read and reread it, search for detail, examine the text for special words and terms, look for symbolic uses of language, ask why certain patterns of behavior or patterns of words repeat themselves, note allusions to other literature and develop and work to answer questions about the text. Based on Jacobus, one function of close reading is to pattern of imagery, the responses of the reader is not part of the work literature as an object. Close reading by focused on main character in the novel.

The research takes novel *Woman at Point Zero* as a subject. Chapter one, the writer describes the reason of writer choose the novel. Chapter two, the writer

will describe about the traits of main character. Chapter three, the writer will describe the struggle of the main character to escape from the abusive.