

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the writer presents some review of literature. They are used to support the analysis of Social class gap in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

1.1 Social Class

Social class is group of people within a society who possess the same socioeconomic status. It refers to a group of people with similar levels of wealth, influence, and status. The context of classes is distinct social groupings which at any given historical period. The social classes can be (and were by the classes themselves) distinguished by inequalities in such areas as power, authority, wealth, working and living conditions, life-styles, life-span, education, religion, and culture. Besides being important in social theory, the concept of class as a collection of individuals sharing similar economic circumstances has been widely used in censuses and in studies of social mobility as in class society, is a set of concepts in the social sciences and political theory centered on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories. Despite controversies over the theory of class, there is general agreement among social scientists on the characteristics of the principal social classes in modern societies. Sociologists generally posit three classes, the most common being the upper, middle, and lower classes.

1.2 Feminist Definition

Feminism was born to defend the rights and roles of women in society, as the development of culture and social structure increasingly distinguish women and men. The difference between women and men develops into discrimination which then triggers harassment. According to Ratna (2005:588) "Feminism is the concept of generalization of women. A critical of social theory which has the purpose is to obtain women's rights". Various kinds of social criticism made by women in a way that they feel can replace their social status in the society through various breakthroughs both in physical movement or movement in ideology.

According to Ritzer (2004) "Feminism is a kind of critical social theory which includes social context, political, economic, and history that is facing by injustice people" (P. 448). Feminism is an understanding that arises when women demanded to get equal rights as men. The term was first used in the political debate in France in the late 19th century. According to June Hannam (2007:22) in the book of feminism, the word feminism can be defined: 1) Recognition of an imbalance of power between the sexes, with women in a subordinate role to men. 2) A belief that women's condition is socially constructed and therefore can be changed. 3) An emphasis on female autonomy. Based on the theory above, it can be deduced that the movement of feminism made to seek gender balance. Feminism is the women's liberation movement of racism, stereotyping, sexism, oppression of women, and phallogentrism. Gender balance is to align the masculine position and feminine in the context of a particular culture. This is

because, in one certain feminine culture is often considered inferior, not independent and only be subject. For that feminism can also be regarded as a movement to fight for women to be independent. Montagu (1953:23) says that "in almost every society there is a belief that men are superior and women are inferior, women also think that belief is right, because it believes as what really happens". This view can't be supposed as a reason that position of women is under men. Handayani and Novianto (2004:163) state that men are more competent, good orientation, strong, active, competitive and confidence than women. This condition is unfair for women, also portray that there is gender discrimination in the past. It happens from the generation to the next until they realize their injustice. It encourages the emergence a belief called feminism. The feminist movement related to women's nature particularly and in general it related to women's emancipation. Women's movement is in order to reach the equality of right with men in many aspects, such as politic, social, economy and culture. (Rosenstand, 2006:567) says that "the principle of equality does not imply that everyone is the same, but that everyone should be treated as equals unless special circumstances apply.

The purpose of feminism theory is to understand women's injustice in terms of gender, race, class, sexual and also how to change it. Women are weaker than men biologically, and different physically. There are four genres in this period. They are Liberal feminism, Radical feminism, Socialist feminism, and Marxist feminism. The second wave feminism begins on 1960. According to Ratna (2005:223), the second wave has bring out two genres, they are existential

feminism which explains and rejects the presence of women to bring up their children. Another genre is gynocentric feminism which focusing on the disparity of men and women. While the third wave in the early 1990. There are many perspectives about feminism. The writer presents four types of feminism, they are Liberal feminism, Radical feminism, Marxist feminism, and Socialist feminism.

2.2.1 Liberal Feminism

The liberal feminism rose in the seventeenth centuries. Liberalism gives intensity for the equality rights in occupation or education. The feminist believe that democracy is naturally adaptable to equality for the women and men. Every human being is created with the same rights and every woman must have the same opportunity in developing their future. Pilcher and Whelehan (2004:49) state as follow.

“This liberal position is broadly held to be the dominant, ‘common-sense’ stance on feminism, applicable to the majority of women who identify as ‘feminist’ in some way, but dont want to overturn the social status quo in order to achieve better social conditions for women”.

Liberal feminism is trying to make women and men equal, corporate, independent and free to decide their own future.

2.2.2 Radical Feminism

This type of feminism spreads out in the United States since 1960s-1970s. They consider that both women and men must be educated to see the tradition as one of oppression and be encouraged to create a new one based on a female perspective. According to Davies in International Encyclopedia of The

Sociology of Education also gives an opinion about radical feminism. Davies states:

“In radical feminist theory the male symbolic order, to which women gained access through liberal feminist strategies, is seen as constitutive of women’s oppression and not something in which women can or should function in the ways men do”.

Rosenstand (2006:596) says:

“The goal of radical feminism is thus to raise the individual awareness of what the patriarchal tradition has done to us, men as well as women. We must try to undo the social and psychological damage done by centuries of male dominated culture-by making women aware of how much in their personal and professional lives has been dominated and design by men”.

2.2.3 Marxist Feminism

Marxist feminism is growing up in the second wave during late 1960s and 1970s, in Britain especially. Marxist feminist analysis as the identification of the structural elements that determine the quality and nature of our experience. Pilcher and Whelehan (2004:50) state that “changes in women’s social conditions with the overthrow of industrial capitalism and changing relations of the worker to the means of production”. They consider that changes of women’s social are from the economic, social, political structure which related to capitalism. Guerin (1979:202) states that “Marxist feminists attack the prevailing capitalistic system of the West, which they view as sexually as well as economically exploitative. Marxist feminist thus combine study of class with that of gender”.

2.2.4 Socialist Feminism

Women's participation is important in development of economy. This condition does not mean to increase women's status. In capitalism women's is in under development. Socialist feminist is concerned with the roles allocated to women that are independent of class status. Tuana and Tong (1995:262) say: socialist feminist claim that the labor of women, in the domestic realm serves not only the interests of specific families but also the interests of capitalism in that the family reproduces the attitudes and capabilities needed to enter into the wage labor force.

The socialist feminism's purpose is to construct the society in order to get equality in gender.