

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In ancient time, people are treated based on the citizen class they own. According to *Hornby's Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (2015:258), citizen is "a person who has the legal right to belong to a particular country" or "a person who lives in a particular place". Citizen can be whether first-class or second-class citizen according to themselves. A second-class citizen is citizen that considered as immature citizen. They need to change so they can become a first-class citizen. Kraut & Skultety (2005: 211) states that "A second-class citizen, like immature citizen, is a citizen "under as assumption". The assumption in the case of a second-class citizen is that he or she would become a first-class citizen should such citizenship be maximally extended, as in democracy."

Second-class citizen portrayed as less important aspect that can be easily described by the women in the past. Women are discriminated and treated as less important aspect in their life. They are hurt and treated like slaves. This leads the emergence of feminism to aim at defending women and trying to fight for equality of positions between men and women. Family, marriage, and social life do not only go with men, but also with the existence of women. Human civilization is made by and for both men and women. Both of them live here in a coordinated social system. Both of the species have their own right and needs to live with modest admiration, but the history of human society does not tell us the equivalent existence of both men and women.

In the past, women are assigned merely in areas, they are prepared as housekeeper and mother. This is because women can not work outside to earn money and only rely on their husbands. They must dedicate their life to their family and husband. Meanwhile, men are prepared as the head of family. The portrait of women in the past is very submissive women. Their position which is lower than men, throws them to be unable to do anything but obey and accept it, including the negative treatments from men.

The issue above can be found in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, that reflected by the main character, Celie. This novel is about a young African-American woman who has always been treated badly by her father. She is

impregnated several times by her own father when her mother is very ill. But her father always takes her baby away. Then, she marries with a man with children. She takes her sister to live with her too, but in short time her sister leaves the house. In her marriage life, Celie is also treated badly by her husband and her stepson. There is a long journey before she reunites with her sister and even her children. By the journey of Celie, some of portrait of woman as second class citizen can be found and those can be discussed in more detailed.

The present work will discuss further about those portraits of woman as second-class citizen, focused on the novel by Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*. There are some previous studies about *The Color Purple*. The first is entitled “Woman’s Oppression in Novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker” by Liya Maritta Dewi (2016). The thesis discusses about the oppression happens in the family and the struggles of the main character. The second thesis entitled “Oppression on Women in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*: A Feminist Study” by Putri Ekarini Gadi Pangestu (2016). The last is a journal entitled “Racism toward Celie in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*” by Ade Irawan Kristianto (2013).

The difference between this previous works and the present work is the focus of the topic itself. The present work will discuss the portrayal of woman as second-class citizen in *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. In the other word, the present work will discuss how the woman who treated unequally from the others in the novel.

The present work discusses the portrayal of woman as second-class citizen with the aim of providing a deeper understanding of the novel, especially in understanding the portrait of second-class citizen woman in the novel itself. By understanding the novel more deeply, the readers will certainly gain new knowledge and meaningful learning.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of study above, the problem of this work is formulated as follows:

How is the portrayal of Celie as second-class citizen woman in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The study is taken to understand more about the portrait of woman in the novel, especially focused on the analysis of woman as second-class citizen portrayed in the novel. In the other words, the objective of the study is to answer the problem that stated above, how the women as second-class citizen portrayed in the novel are.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The work is expected to contribute in understanding novel written by Alice Walker. Through the woman character in the Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, reader will understand more about the portrait of woman as second-class citizen that Walker presented in the novel. The present work hopefully can shed further on those portraits of woman as second-class citizen.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The present study will focus on the discussion about the portrait of woman as second-class citizen in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. The discussion of the portrait of woman as second class citizen that reflected through the female character, will be limited to the main character, Celie. Therefore, the discussion will be deals with the portrayal of second-class citizen woman and the concept of feminism theory.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The work is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction, consisting of the background of study, statement of problem, objective of study, significance of study, scope of limitation, and organization of study.

Chapter II is review of related literature, which deals with previous study, related theory, black feminism, and definitions and explanations of portrayal of second-class citizen woman as seen in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

Chapter III discusses about research method that consists of research design, data and data source, instrument of the study, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis.

Chapter IV discusses about the analysis of portrait of second-class citizen woman as seen in the novel.

Chapter V serves as the conclusion of the thesis. Appendix follows the fifth chapter. It consists of the brief biography of Alice Walker and synopsis of *The Color Purple*.