

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Individual is the smallest unit contained in an existing order in society. The individual comes from the Latin "Individium" which means not divided. Individuals are part of society that can no longer be separated into smaller parts. Individuals who gather together will form a group or it can also be called a community (Puspitasari, 2017). Each individual has characteristics that are different from each other, the differences are clearly visible such as differences in gender, race, talent, opinion, desire, and much more (Puspitasari, 2017). Individuals have privileges that can be used to achieve their own happiness without harming the people around them, this can also be called freedom. Individual freedom must be achieved by individualism.

Individualism itself has existed since the 18th century. The term individualism was first introduced by Alexis De Tocqueville, he was a European who visited America. According to Tocqueville, individualism is a reflection that makes certain individuals distance themselves from those closest such as family, friends, and relatives (Tocqueville, 1835). This way, individuals can build their own world and can adapt easily to the wider environment.

Individualism is recognized as the core of American culture (Bellah, 1985). Americans are highly independent individuals. They do not like to depend on others, and vice versa. Americans have the belief that this "individualism" is a "good society" (Bellah, 1992). It means that as individual people, Americans must

be self-reliant. They are taught from the start to consider themselves as individuals who are responsible for the lives they live. They are not trained to depend on others (Althen, 2010). This will be an important determination to shape their own destiny, they are freed to achieve their own desires independently. This strong individualism distinguishes America from other nations.

This value of individualism encourages Americans to think about their own lives above others. If there is a problem, they need to solve and control it by themselves and never ask others for help. They never want to make things difficult for others. On the contrary, they never interfere with other people's problems. Individualism Americans also never cared much about what other people thought of them. They only focus on themselves. Each of them believes that they must compete to achieve success in a competitive society.

Individualism is closely related to personal interests. They are self-serving and do not want to be prohibited or disturbed by other people including friends, the social environment and even their own parents (Yuxian, 2013). However, individualism is more concerned with personal desires it cannot be separated from the surrounding communities. It does not mean a person does not interact with others, but they live according to their own desires without depending on others because individualism is not selfishness (Bellah, 1985). The failures and successes achieved by a person are determined by their own abilities (Clark, 1974). Tocqueville (1835) said that individualist people have no debt to anyone, their fate is established by their own hands.

In 19th Century men and women do not get individual freedom equal. Individualism just for men not for both. In individualism there are two values were sacred namely, equality and freedom (Mahrudi, 2022). Equality is men and women as equal members, they have opportunity to participate in social, economic, and politic activities (Nagato, 2016). The human rights between men and women are equally respected. Women desire to activities and participate in their family and community. Gender equality established by men and women as equal members.

Freedom is ideas and values that are accepted and desired by all individuals as a form of human rights. Apart from that, freedom is very important for someone to achieve success in social, economic, and political terms (Dierksmeier, 2011). Freedom should be owned by every individual regardless of their gender. However, women's freedom was limited at that time. The rights of men and women are not equal due to the patriarchal system. Men are more dominant while women are just secondary people (Walby, 1990).

In the 19th Century, women were considered irrational, weak, fragile, and unable to be independent. They are just a pet who must obey their owner who is their husband (Weitz, 2003). According to Walby (1990), the wife can be said as a person who produces, while the husband can be said as a person who takes over the production. Therefore, the wife is often considered invisible and always dependent on her husband.

Women are considered inferior to men, therefore as a wife must always obey her husband. The wife must carry out her obligations starting from doing a

housework and taking care the children. Women are also considered obstacles to men because they are able to destroy the existing order (Evans, 1994). At that time, women were rarely seen in society, it is because they were assigned to always be at home and do their job as a daughter, wife, or housewife (Chafe, 1994). Men are more dominant than women, that is making a women unable to freely make decisiona for themselves. That is why the women need individual freedom to do whatever they want. After they get married, women will lose their own right property and other rights, such as not being allowed get a job and work outside their house. They are weak and must be obedient to their husband. This is considered their nature as women (Chafe, 1994).

Patriarchal culture places men more powerful than women, it is influencing women's existence in society. Walby (1990) introduces the patriarchal into two types namely, private patriarchal and public patriarchal. Private patriarchal focuses on women in the household is considered a form of stereotype attached to women. Housework is must be considered for women. Women cannot be free to do whatever they want because women's movement is limited. Meanwhile, public patriarchal focuses on structure in the society.

As a result of discrimination against women in the United States, feminist movement is needed to make women aware they are oppressed. The feminist movement can be divided into three waves. The first wave succeeded in holding convection in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. This convection was attended by 300 people and was chaired by Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Madsen, 2000). There are two results of this convection, first reforming the laws of marriage, divorce, child

care, and the right to choose (Madsen, 2000). Second, women's right to express her opinions in public (Tong, 2006).

After this convection event, in 1869 Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the *National Women's Suffrage Association*, and Lucy Stone founded the *American Women's Suffrage Association* (Madsen, 2000). In 1890 these two associations united under the name *National American Women's Suffrage Association*. The main goal of this association is to gain the right to vote. By gaining the right to vote, women and men are considered equal (Tong, 2006).

The second wave of the feminist movement, founding of the *National Organization for Women*, *The Natural Women's Political Caucus*, and *The Women's Equity Action League*. The goal of this organization is to improve the status of women in various existing institutions, such as telephone companies, television networks, and political parties (Tong, 2006). The third wave is better known as Postmodern Feminism, the aim of this third wave movement is to avoid any actions or ideas that refer to men (Tong, 2006).

After feminist movement, women do not really depend on men. They are able to work in various fields, able to have careers, and able to obtain an education. The goal of feminism is women can develop their abilities maximally. This feminist movement is growing, they are increasingly motivated to be able to achieve other goals in various ways, and one example is through literary works. Through feminist literary works, the oppression of women by men will be described.

According to Humm (1986), feminist literature was pioneered by Simone de Beauvoir with her book entitled *Second Sex*, Kate Millet with her book *Sexual Politics*, Betty Freidan with her book entitled *The Feminism Mystique*, and Germaine Greer with her book *The Female Eunuch*. According to Tong (2006), feminism in the 19th century developed rapidly through literary works pioneered by Mary Wollstonecraft through her literary work entitled *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Next is *The Subjection of Women* (1969) by John Stuart Mill and last *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845) by Margaret Fuller (Wiyatmi, 2003).

One of the famous feminist writers in the 19th century was Kate Chopin. Kate Chopin is an American writer who always raises the theme of feminism in each of her writings. She is one of the best-known feminist writers in America. Mostly in her writings, she always shows various depictions of women. The way she describes women has always been similar, trapped in household life. It relates to her actual condition where she lives a social life just like other women in that era who are trapped in conditions where men are more powerful than women (Yeremia, 2018). Based on that, it is reasonable that she writes stories about the trapped housewife. She tries to show the depiction of women who do not get their own rights as individuals and do best for their lives.

In her works, Chopin placed women as submissive and domestic human beings. It was an ideal life for women in the 19th century where they were supposed to be good wives who provided their families with meals and clean homes as well as able to raise their children (Buckner, 2005). If women do not

meet these criteria, they are considered as bad wives. Take a look at one of Chopin's popular works *The Awakening* (1899).

This novel tells about a wife named Edna Pontellier. She is depicted as a wife who leaves her husband for another man named Robert whom she meets on holiday. When she was with Robert she felt excited, in love, and free unlike when she was with her husband. Edna saw the difference in attitudes shown by Robert and her husband. During the holidays, her husband often spent time with his friends, so Edna felt neglected and lonely. Meanwhile, Robert treated Edna very well, they had pleasant conversations so that Edna felt comfortable because someone was listening to her. She felt that she was not ignored and appreciated. Robert makes Edna feel like a human again. She begins to express herself again through painting, because before marriage Edna really liked painting and after marriage she escapes for a while from her role as a housewife. After a while Robert met Edna again they both loved each other, but Robert left Edna because he could not be with a married woman. Edna felt very sad about Robert's departure. She went to the place where she met Robert for the first time. Since Robert left, her loneliness has become increasingly clear. She started walking towards the sea and started drowning herself. In the end she kept her promise, she would never again belong to anyone other than herself.

After women were getting married, their individual lives disappeared. They could not afford any hobbies or their favorite activities anymore. Their focus is only on the domestic duties as housewives. It can be seen in two of Kate Chopin's short stories, *The Story of an Hour* (1894) and *A Pair of Silk Stockings*

(1896). Both of the stories implicitly tell about how unpleasant it is to be a housewife. *The Story of an Hour* depicts a woman who feels freedom after hearing the death of her husband. Unfortunately, when she knew that her husband was still alive, she died in shock. Meanwhile, *A Pair of Silk Stockings* tells about a woman who spent some money to buy several things to pleasure herself. After that, she was afraid of returning home and hoped that the train would take her on a long journey. Both of the stories implicitly show the little joy that they have while being apart from their husbands. There is a moment of freedom and joy that is very pleasant for them.

Therefore, based on the background above the writer is interested in conducting this study with the title *Individual Freedom of Women in The Story an Hour and A Pair of Silk Stockings by Kate Chopin*.

1.2. Problems of the Study

Based on the explanation of the background above, the formulation of the problem are:

1. What is the depiction of women in *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin?
2. What is the author's view on individual freedom of women in *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin?
3. What is the historical background of *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin?

1.3. Purposes of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem of the study above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the depiction of women in *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin.
2. To describe author's view on individual freedom of women in *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin.
3. To described the historical background of *The Story of an Hour and A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin.

1.4. Hypothesis

Women as the main characters in Kate Chopin's *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* do not have individual freedom

1.5. Previous Studies

Before conducting this study, several researchers had conducted studies on Kate Chopin's short stories. This study used different theories with different conclusions. The first study was conducted by Trisna Leony (2012) entitled *The Narrative Pattern of Three Kate Chopin's Selected Short Stories* ("*The Storm*", "*A Respectable Women*", and "*A Pair of Silk Stockings*"). This study uses Structuralism as the approach and Narratology's Todorov as a theory. Todorov divides the narrative into three parts, namely proposition, sequence, and semantics aspect. The result of this study is that the three short stories of Kate Chopin have

the same narrative structure. Women as the main characters face trivial things that should not be a fuss about. Meanwhile, the themes of the stories are that even though most women have their own desires, they will still return to the people they care about such as their own husbands.

The second study was conducted by Panji Ari Kusuma entitled *Liberal Feminism Values Reflected on Louis Mallard in Kate Chopin's Story of an Hour* (2015). This study uses Structuralism which focuses on intrinsic elements to find out the characterization and the conflict experienced by Louis Mallard. Tong's theory, which focuses on extrinsic elements, is used to find out the values of liberal feminism in that story. The results of this study are that the main character is described as an ordinary wife who loves her husband so much. She is also an independent, stressed, young, suffering, and frail woman. The conflict contained in *The Story of an Hour* is the main character's problem with herself and her problem with her environment. The values of liberal feminism can be seen in the condition of the main character after hearing the news of her husband's death.

The third study was conducted by Fardhillah Hanifah in her thesis entitled *The Portrait of Woman in Chopin's Short Story The Story of An Hour* (2020). This study applies a Genetic Structuralism to find out the portrait of American woman. It can be seen from the short story itself (intrinsic elements) and from the condition of women in American society at the time the literary work was written (extrinsic elements). The result of this study that women were only stay at home and not allowed to work, so this making women to be unhappy.

The fourth study was conducted by Anugrah Putri Amalia in her thesis entitled *The Analysis of The Main Character's Internal Conflict on Chopin's Selected Stories* (2021). This study uses three of Kate Chopin's short stories which are *A Pair of Silk Stockings*, *The Story of an Hour*, and *A Respectable Woman*. She uses Structuralism as an approach and Psychoanalysis as the theory to find out the internal conflicts felt by the main characters in the stories and the influence of personality structure toward those conflicts. This study finds out that there are two internal conflicts felt by the main character which are approach-avoidance and double approach-avoidance. Then, Id, Ego, and Superego as the personality structure affected the main character in resolving the conflict.

The fifth study was written by Rifdika Khoufi Amna entitled *Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Cathy Song's Poems: Picture Bride, Lost Sister, The White Porch, and The Youngest Daughter* (2016). Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann is used to find out Cathy Song's worldview through her poems. The result is traditional values as the worldview is found in the four poems of Cathy Songs. The four poems are the representative of the voices of women who have lost their traditional values and they have to adapt themselves as Asian immigrants.

The sixth study was conducted by Lailatul Khusnia entitled *A Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Racism in Octavia Butler's Kindred* (2017). This study focused on describing the views of racism contained in that novel. This study used Genetic Structuralism as a theory. The result of this study is a description of the lives of the characters in the novel *Kindred* by Octavia Butler in the 19th Century.

She said that humans are created equal, there is no certain judgment based on differences in skin color and race.

From the previous studies above, the difference between the previous studies and this study lies in the focus. This study focuses on the women characters, especially wife, who during their marriage do not get their individual freedom in household life. The writer used Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann to discuss this study.

1.6. Theoretical Framework

Structuralism emerged from the views of Ferdinand de Saussure. He was a Swiss linguist. Structuralism had two ideas from Ferdinand. First, the supportive relationship between text structure and cultural practice has a certain meaning. Second, have a view that the existing meaning is the result of the support from the text structure and cultural practice (Storey, 1996). Culture will be born and developed over time and there are scientific concepts. This scientific concept creates social, economic, and political activities. In other words, the society itself will give birth to their culture, a civilization will not develop without this social activity in society (Hasan, 2014).

Ferdinand de Saussure also influenced Roland Barthes' views on language. Barthes views language as a system related to history and culture. Barthes said that language is not only a tool to express the author's emotions in literary works,

but is more than that (Nuarca, 2017). Barthes paid great attention to language in analyzing literary works.

According to Levi Strauss (1972) structuralism grows and develops based on similarities between the structure of language, thought and society. According to Taum (1997), Structuralism is an approach to literary texts that has a relationship with various other literary texts. A literary text has several elements such as ideas, plot, characters, theme, setting, language style, and message.

To understand a literary work, one must begin by first identifying the literary itself as a structure before connecting with the structure outside of the literary work (Zambrud, 2018). Structuralism believes that literary work can be understood based on certain rules in the creation of the literary work (Goldmann, 1981).

According to Teeuw (1984) Structural analysis has the aim of explaining deeply, thoroughly, detail, and carefully about all the aspects contained in a literary work, so that it can get the overall meaning. This approach is known as pure Structuralism (Pradopo, 1985). Structuralism views that literary texts as a structures. Structuralism is an intrinsic approach that analyzes literary works through the elements that make up literary works, these elements come from within the literary work itself (Suwarno, 2012). Structuralism analyzes literary works free from elements originating from outside the literary work such as the background, history, and social life of the author.

Juhl was the first to oppose the existence of this autonomous Structuralism. Juhl (1980) said that it would be very dangerous if the author as a creator of literary works and as the giver of meaning to literary works was ignored because it can eliminate the personality, characteristics, values, and norms held by the author. Along with the development, this Structuralism is considered less able to determine the meaning contained in literary works, therefore this approach is widely opposed because only understands the intrinsic elements. This structuralism approach must be related to the society and history where the literary work was created (Pradopo, 1985). According to Stanton (1965), the elements of a literary work must consist of themes and story facts (plot, characters, and setting). Here are many critics who oppose this autonomous Structuralism approach, they try to combine autonomous Structuralism with the Sociology of Literature approach which is finally called Genetic Structuralism.

Genetic Structuralism is a theory proposed by Lucien Goldmann, a literary expert from France. This theory arose because Goldmann was dissatisfied with the Structuralism approach which only focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary works and examines them without paying attention to the external elements of literary works. This lack of Structuralism can be corrected by adding genetic elements to literary works, literary genetics is the origin of the place where the literary work was created (Goldmann, 1981).

Three of fundamentals in Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann which can be understood more easily about characteristics of human action (Burns, 1973). First, the tendency to adapt themselves to the reality in their

surroundings. They do this in certain way called “rationality”, it means that human effort to respond all problems in their surroundings. They always direct the responds “significancy”. It means that the respond suitable or useful for them (Burns, 1973).

Second, the tendency toward “consistency” in it is totality, it means that human tendency to create consistent pattern in their thought, behavior, and feeling as their respond to all problems in their surrounding (Burns, 1973). Third, it is dynamic structure, the tendency to change and develop the structure of through, behavior, and feeling. The tendency toward “transdency”, it means that the practicality, activeness, and dynamics of all the social and historical movement (Burns, 1973).

Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann is one theory that is often used in researching literary work. Goldmann make a concept about Genetic Structuralism in five formulations, namely fact of humanity, collective subject, world view, structure of literary work, and dialectical conception between comprehension and explanation (Faruk, 2015).

A. Fact of Humanity

Fact of humanity is all human activities such as political, economic, social, cultural, and art activities. Human changes the environment around them to reach the balance between their self and their environment (Goldmann, 1981). According to Faruk (2010) this concept can distinguish in two parts that are individual fact and social fact. Individual fact is built by someone behavior and

dream which is connected in social class, the social fact which is connected to the history (build by economic, social, and political terms in the society).

Human facts do not just appear, but through the result of human activity as the subject social. This happens because humans develop and adapt with their surrounding environment. Human as individual is not able to develop and adapt alone, human need other human to overcome the individual.

Goldmann (1981) said that in human science there are two categories that he called structure and function. Function is always in unaware situation, but the structure is not. Human facts includes the human behavior, this can be physical and verbal behavior. This fact can be certain in social, economic, and political term. Human product as the result of relationship between human and community around them (Goldmann, 1981).

B. Collective subject

Collective subject is the human as a subject. Goldmann (1981) said the subject divided in two part, individual subject and collective subject. Individual subject is the fact of individual and collective subject is the fact of society (history). Activities social, economic, politic, and great cultural works cannot do by a person, but human as individual. Collective subject is not individuals can stand alone, but human as the one unity (Faruk, 2010). Goldmann (1981) said that collective subject as a group that has influenced the history of human life which has experienced development.

C. World View

The world view is an inspiration and idea that connects each member of a group with others with the same feelings (Goldmann, 1981). In other words, the worldview exists as a response to the social and economic conditions of the surrounding communities (Goldmann, 1981). The conditions of social and economic of each individual must change over time. A society will not develop without these social and economic activities in it.

World view in the society as effect of social condition where the literary works was written. Literary works represent of the social condition which ever happens in the environment. Goldmann (1981) said that the literary works is a meaningful structure that would represent the world view of the author's, not as individual but as a member of groups in the society. It can be stated that Genetic Structuralism is a theory that connects between literary structure and structure of society through a world view.

To find the world view in the society, the writer must find the human fact that representation in the literary works, because the world view has relationships with the human fact. Based on the explanations above, it can be concluded that the author's world view have a relationship between the social structure in the literary works and the social structure in the society, and relationship between the author's socio-cultural background and the literary works.

D. Structure of literary work

Goldmann (1981) has two opinions about literary works. First, literary works are an imaginary expression of a world view. Second, the expression of the author's worldview is created through the relationship between characters and objects. In Genetic Structuralism, structure of literary work is different with the concepts of structure as generally. The structure in question is thematic structure. It means attention focuses on the relationship between characters and characters, and characters and surrounding objects (Goldmann, 1981).

E. Dialectical Conception between Comprehension and Explanation

Goldmann developed the method namely Dialectical method (Faruk, 2010). The Dialectical method views literary works as structures of a world view, so that they have a coherent structure. As something coherent, literary works are built from small parts (Faruk, 2010). To understand this Dialectical method, it can be explained using comprehensive dialectical concepts and explanations.

Comprehensive means a description of the structure of the object being studied. Explanation means an attempt to combine all small objects into a larger object (Faruk, 2010). Comprehensive seeks to understand the meaning in literary works. Meanwhile, explanation seeks to understand the meaning, then place it into the social group where the literary work was born (Faruk, 2010).

According to Faruk (2010), Genetic Structuralism is the analysis of the structure of literary works by paying attention to the origins and also to the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literary works. Genetic Structuralism pays

attention to the text, social background, and the social history of the place where the literary work was created. This can be seen through the elements of fiction in the story such as characters, setting, themes, and plots (Maiza, 2018). These elements of fiction could be the representation of the real life of society at a certain time and place.

Goldmann said that Genetic Structuralism can be carried out through three stages (Hanifah, 2020). First, the literary work itself must be examined to obtain its structure and then to prove the parts that are related, so that the overall meaning can be obtained. Second, analyzes how the socio-cultural background and social history of the author are afterward related to structures related to the author's worldview. The last, analyzing the background and social history of the place where the literary work was created. An understanding of the internal elements of literary works that cannot be separated from the external elements of literary works. Therefore, Genetic Structuralism begins by looking for internal elements and then connected with external elements, examples of the social life of the author, the social history of the author, and how the social environment in which the literary work was created.

1.7. Research Methods

Literary work should be coherent because has a meaningful structure. Literary work help human to solve the problem which happen in society. Lucien Goldmann (1981) developed the method namely Dialectical method, it understands the literary work with the nature existence. This study use Dialectical

method. Dialectical method works is by dissecting the text, explicit and implicit contained in the short stories Kate Chopin's *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* using the theory of Genetic Structuralism.

According to Faruk (2010), the Dialectical method has the point of view that every individual fact in a literary work only has meaning if it is placed in a whole social group. The Dialectical method views literary works as structures of a world view, so that they have a coherent structure. As something coherent, literary works are built from small parts (Faruk, 2010).

To understand this Dialectical method, it can be explained using comprehensive dialectical concepts and explanations. Comprehensive means a description of the structure of the object being studied. Explanation means an attempt to combine all small objects into a larger object (Faruk, 2010). Comprehensive seeks to understand the meaning in literary works. Meanwhile, comprehension seeks to understand the meaning, then place it into the social group where the literary work was born (Faruk, 2010).

1.7.1. Data Collection Method

Data collection methods are the first step in this study because the aim is to collect the data (Sugiyono, 2009). In collecting the data, this study uses the observation technique. This can be done by doing a close reading of the short stories. According to Creswell (2013), observation is data collection activity that is carried out directly to observe the current phenomenon.

According to Eppley (2019) Close reading is a method used in the activity of reading text that explains information in detail. Meanwhile, according to Tarigan (2009) close reading is a reading activity to gain a comprehensive understanding of all types of reading. To get the data the writer has two data sources, primary and secondary data.

Primary data is a data source that provides information directly to the data collector. Secondary data is a data source that does not directly provide information to the data collectors, such as documents or other people (Sugiyono, 2009). The primary data in this study are the short story *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin. Meanwhile, secondary data in this study are journals, websites, books, theses, and articles on the internet that are relevant to answering the problems.

1.7.2. Data Analysis Method

According to Moloeng (2017), data analysis is organizing and sorting data into basic patterns, categories, and descriptive units so that the themes and hypotheses can be formulated in accordance with the data that has been provided. In this study, the technique used to analyze data is observation, namely reading short stories. The first step is to read and understand the content of *The Story of an Hour* and *A Pair of Silk Stockings* by Kate Chopin.

Next, the analysis will begin by taking notes and underlining the text that focuses on the depiction of women in the short stories above. The way Kate Chopin expresses the condition of women in the 19th century can be seen through

her writings, such as habits, behavior, manner, and dialogue between the characters she created in her two short stories above.

The analysis will continue by analyzing how the background and social history of the author. The last, analyzing the background and socio-cultural history of the place where the literary work was created. After examining the background of Kate Chopin's life, it continues by describing how Kate Chopin's worldview regarding the individual freedom of women.