

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter presents the theory related to the representation of feminine leadership to postmodern feminism analysis in *The Host* Novel by Stephenie Meyer. The topics are postmodern feminism, feminine leadership, synopsis, representation by Stuart Hall, and theoretical framework.

2.1 Postmodern Feminism

2.1.1 Definition of Postmodern Feminism

Postmodern feminism is not like traditional feminism. It moved away from the old feminism. This kind of feminism rejects to elaborate the more important and powerful of one gender. It stresses variety and differences. Postmodern feminism wants every woman that shows themselves on their writing to become the kind of feminist they want to be. It can serve women more options to be what they want. The modern way of thinking is the important act in most people everyday's life. Postmodern feminist believe that people now are staying in as area of refusal and there is no a stable self and logical powers capable to produce important knowledge. Knowledge is not objective than politics and ethics anymore. Language does not interpret reality, because reality does not exist for it to tell about. There are some aspects of postmodern feminism such as oppression, freedom, and diversity (Butler in Gamble, 2006, p.37).

Oppression is one of the aspects in feminism that still cannot be solved until now. In postmodern era, women face more oppression than in the old feminism era. Women stand on the subordinate position in a patriarchal or men dominated society, Butler did not think that all of women were equally oppressed by men or that no women were guilty of oppressing other women (Butler in Tong, 2009, p.107). The second aspect, freedom for women is limited by the work environment, especially the personal freedom. They cannot be what they choose to be. In the society with many persons do certain jobs, they tend to develop certain character traits, interest, and habits. Without such adaptations to the demands of their particular occupations, they would not be able to do a great job (Butler in Tong, 2009, p.102). The third aspect, diversity become the important things in feminism. In Butler's opinion, postmodern feminism itself can be defined with diversity.

Many feminist believe that postmodern feminism have begun and used in the 1980's. Postmodern feminism is used to discuss about many different theories in the term of feminism movement. Usually, people who use this term are individuals that might be contrast the whole term of feminism, because they feel that it does not have any relations with society nowadays. Those individuals coincide that feminism is positive term to help women get the rights they fight for.

In this era, it can be seen by some people that women's right are as they should be and feminism is no longer needed, it is the sign that why we are now in the postmodern feminism era. The whole view by these individuals usually derive that problems in this era affect everyone, not only women. This term is seen as a

new era for women and the opinion that they are completely the same in nowadays, moving on from the old view of the traditional feminism.

The extremist view of postmodern feminism feels that this is the right time to move on from the traditional feminism. This usually consists of white males, because they feel that they get the most effect by feminism as a whole as a direct impact to their rights in the society. This problem is different from the anti feminist view, because feminism is still seen positively into women and its historical value to adjust the structure of equality nowadays. This view does not have to excuse the slide back to a patriarchal dominated society again, but that the staunch feminist may really contribute to the negative view of women by breaking their borders from their attitude with general societal issues (Butler in Ashba, 2008, p.41).

According to Helen Cixous, she challenged women to write themselves out of the world men have constructed for women. Women should put themselves as the unthinkable into words. They have to reveal the nonexistence into existence. Cixous believe that this was more than just a style of writing, but it is the very possibility of change (Cixous in Gamble, 1998, p.42).

Postmodern feminism is one of the varieties of feminism. The definition of feminism itself is the movement of social and political equality of men and women. The people who fight for the movement of gender equality writes about feminism, and have the thought that feminism is good movement to get women's rights is the feminist (Baumgardner and Richards, 2000). Feminists have fight for

women's rights such as protection from violence, sexual harassment and rape, rights in the workplace to be in the same level as men, including free days on maternity and equal fee with men, and against other specific discrimination toward women.

Postmodern feminist fights for their each gender. The meaning of the statement is many lesbian and transgender nowadays who fight for their rights and to be avowed by the government and all of the people. That is the differences between traditional feminism and postmodern feminism. Traditional feminism wants their rights in the workplace, to vote for the leader, and the protection for everyday and everywhere they are, while postmodern feminism wants their own gender to be avowed and to be accepted in the public area.

According to Rosemarie Tong, since the relationship between postmodern feminism and feminism is difficult to explain, feminist who considers themselves as a postmodern feminist face some difficulties to explain how can they become both postmodernist and feminist . Postmodern feminist also rejects every mode of feminist which thinks to give some explanations of why women are oppressed, so they have to reach justice and emancipation (Butler in Tong, 2009, p.270). Indeed, some postmodern feminists believed to the way how traditional feminist think that all of them avoid it.

It is better for women who are searching for freedom to escape from the unwanted terms because they realize the signal of coherence that stops the differences (Cixous in Tong, 2009, p.260).

According to Tyson, feminist criticism is related with the ways literature and other culture to strengthen or weaken the oppression of women in economic, political, and social. Feminist criticism is also related with marginalization of women writers in the traditional literary. Tyson also explained about some common spaces of feminist theories (Tyson, 1999, p.81).

Feminist criticism has in many ways, followed what some theorists call the three waves of feminism. The first wave feminism happened in the late 1700's until early 1900's. This first wave was about women's fight for equal contract and property rights. The author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, Mary Wollstonecraft, highlights the discrepancy of gender. This first wave of feminism is often not considered, women in the late 19 until 20 centuries realized that they have to get political power and the right to vote first to bring about change. Their political agenda developed to issues concerning sexual, reproductive and economic matters. Women have the potential to contribute just as much if not more than men.

The second wave feminism happened in the early 1960's until late 1970's. It was about expanding the debate. Building on more equal working conditions necessary in America during World War II, the second wave of feminism fought for the equality in workplace, sexuality, family, and reproductive right. This second wave of feminism obsessed with white women's problem, while many women during second wave were part of the Black Civil Rights Movement, Anti Vietnam Movement, Chicano Rights Movement, Asian-American Civil Rights

Movement, Gay and Lesbian Movement and many other groups fighting for equality.

The third wave of feminism happened in the early 1990's until present. This third wave of feminism refuses the perceived essentialist or more generalized and simplified. The ideologies focus on the second wave of feminism such as white, heterosexual, and middle class. Third wave feminism takes from post-structural and contemporary gender and race theories to expand on marginalized populations' experiences. Writers like Alice Walker stated in the statements below.

“...reconcile it (feminism) with the concerns of the black community and the survival the wholeness of her people, men, and women both, and for the promotion of dialog and community as well as for the valorization of women and of all the varieties of work women perform” (Tyson, p.97).

Postmodern feminism belongs to the third wave of feminism because it happens on this era. It is on the future era of feminine leadership just like the time setting on *The Host* novel by Stephenie Meyer that takes in the postmodern era.

2.1.2 Common Space in Feminist Theories

Women are oppressed by patriarchy economically, politically, socially, and psychologically. Patriarchal ideology is the primary means by which they are kept so. Women are considered as other in every domain where patriarchy governs. Women are marginalized and defined by their differences from the norms and values of men. All of western civilization is deeply rooted in patriarchal ideology, for example, in the biblical portrayal of Eve as the origin of sin and death in the world. While biology determines our sex, male and female,

culture determines our gender, masculine and feminine. All feminist activity, including feminist theory and literary criticism has its own main goal to change the world by pushing gender equality. Gender issues take a part in every aspect of human production and experience, including the production and experience of literature, whether we are consciously aware of these issues or not (Tyson, 1999, p.91).

2.2 Feminine Leadership

Feminine leadership is defined by behaviors that are supposed to characterize women, but feminine leadership fails to recognize and make line the natural power differential based on societal oppression that unexpectedly affects women as compared to men. Feminine leadership also fails to recognize heterogeneity among women, relying on essentialism and stereotypes. Stereotypes of the universal feminine do not generally mesh with society's perspectives about leadership. Women are seen as nurturing, more relational, emotional, more caring, less assertive, and less confrontational than men (Butler in Gasser, 2014, p.53).

When women lead the path to the greater leadership role, they are presented with the powerful chances to define and bring to life their extraordinary leadership style and the impact. In a developmental study of men and women, women got less supportive nonverbal responses from the inferior than men leaders (Butler in Chemers, 2014, p.165).

Women nowadays are not really seen to rely on as a leader. People more believe on men to be a leader than women. Yet women now are brave enough to

show what rights they should have as a women. They do not afraid of what will happen next after they fight for their rights. The important thing is they get what they are fighting for. There are some aspects in feminine leadership such as empathy, powerful, and confident (Butler in Stead and Elliot, 2009, p.54).

The first aspect, empathy, women must be have this aspect longer than men. It must be taught since they were born. Empathy means they care and aware of other feeling. Empathy is an emotional capacity and the power that women have (Butler in Tong, 2009, p.192). The second aspect, powerful, it is not always about the ability to control or influence people, it has different meaning in postmodern feminism era. Laughter can be defined as powerful, because it is the refusal to behave with propriety. Women's laugh is a weapon against oppression, cuts the patriarchy down (Butler in Gamble, 2006, p.235). The third aspect, confident, it can be defined from the gesture and act that women do. Laughter and the way women walk are kinds of confident aspect in postmodern era. Confident is necessary for women leaders to take risks and accomplish high goals. Confident is a strong act of women leaders. People will see women as a good leader by her self confidence. In postmodern era, confidence is not always related with the look of women's body. Women's bodies are powerful because they represent the forces of life (Butler in Tong, 2009, p.141).

Women's right is the idea of fight for their equal rights with men. The history of women's rights had told that women should gain property rights, the women's suffrage or the right to vote, reproductive rights, and the rights to get equal pay with men at work. There is a famous saying about women's right that

says “*Women’s rights are human rights*”. That saying means that women should get the same rights with others. Yet in some countries, women are still rejected to get the same rights with others because of their gender.

Women’s position is important in the organization. They bring their own point of view and characteristics into the organization. Their presence enriches the variety in the organization and leadership. The variety in the organization and leadership is a must, if we want to be more creative and perceptive in facing challenges in this era.

Women’s ability to lead as an entrepreneur, leader of an organization or leader in politic is proven. The leadership styles of women which tend to be participatory give a high priority on human resource development. Their care to detail also makes the leadership style is suitable in this era of innovation.

2.3 Synopsis of *The Host* Novel by Stephenie Meyer

This novel begins with the invading of a Soul that expert in many hosts of many planets into a woman body named Melanie Stryder. The Soul needed human body to keep alive on earth. This expert Soul was chosen in order to get information in Melanie’s memory. The Soul was named Wanderer. The information is needed by The Seeker to find out about the existence of humans which are free from Soul. Melanie is the one who knows the existence of the humans.

Melanie’s body is so strong that makes Wanderer overwhelmed. Melanie Stryder is a type of woman who is not easy to give up, full of emotion, memories,

and complex feelings of human. The Seeker, who are responsible of Wanderer, started to confused of how to manage Melanie's body which is very strong because the yearned feeling she has to her boyfriend and brother. She does not want to give her body and soul just like that. She wants to fight for her people that are on the hidden place and free from the Soul.

Actually, Melanie was with her boyfriend, Jared and a group of rebel to chase away The Soul. Melanie, Jared, and a group of rebel was suffering to keep alive, but she was arrested by The Seeker who put The Soul into her body to find out the existence of human in hidden place. On the way to Tucson, Melanie suddenly remembered about Uncle Jeb saying about a secret hidden place that Uncle Jeb has built. Wanderer tried to find out about that secret hidden place, and she was found by Uncle Jeb. She almost died and hard to breath. Once again, Wanderer shocked that she is in human body, although Melanie consider Wanderer as a parasite in her body.

Kyle and Ian O'Shea are two brothers who tried to kill Wanderer in Melanie's body, but Uncle Jeb success to prevent it. Wanderer was treated just like human being. She was feed, worked, and taught some histories after dinner. During that time, Wanderer becomes friend with Ian's friend, Wanda. Ian was falling in love with Wanda, who was falling in love with Jared, and Wanda refused Ian's feeling. Wanda thought that Ian only loved her body.

When Jamie came back from the crowd with his injured foot, Wanda and Jared secretly went to the hospital to take some medicine and medical equipment.

People finally realized that Wanda can be a lodge because she is trusted by others Soul. Wanda wanted to tell her big secret to human about how to remove The Soul without killing the human's body. She promised to tell it with two conditions. The first is the doctor has to promise to send The Soul into other planets, and the second condition is she promised to remove Wanda's soul from Melanie's body, and bury it because it did not want to be a parasite anymore. Wanda keeps distance from Ian because Ian was so angry to know that Wanda wanted to end her life, and the doctor wanted to remove her from Melanie's body. After that, Wanda was woke on the new body, and that new body wanted Wanda to be in that body.

2.4 Representation by Stuart Hall

In this study, the analyzed character is the Seeker Woman named Lacey. She is woman leader character which indicates feminine leadership in postmodern era. The three aspects of feminine leadership exist in the Seeker Woman character which is represented using representation by Stuart Hall (1997). According to Hall, signs and symbol are used in language such as sounds, written or spoken words, pictures, musical notes, and objects to represents drafts, ideas, and feelings to other people. Language becomes the media through which thoughts, ideas, and feelings are represented in culture. Language is the representation to the centre of the processes which produced meaning (Hall, 1997, p.1).

Meaning is what gives us a feeling of our own identity, of who we are and with whom we belong to (Woodward, 1997). Meaning is always produced and

can be changed in every private and social interaction of where we belong or take part. Meaning is also produced every time people express themselves, make them of, accept the suitable culture, that is when people mix the culture with different ways to daily life, and do it in daily life and with this way they are gave the meaning or value.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

This study uses postmodern feminism concept of Judith Butler to analyze how feminine leadership represents postmodern feminism in *The Host* novel. The concept is also used to determine how a woman can lead people in the postmodern era. Postmodern feminism is applied to analyze the feminine leadership style of The Woman Seeker character in *The Host* novel. Feminine leadership is represented by The Woman Seeker character in *The Host* novel.