CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The gender issues already became a social phenomenon in this world, especially in western countries. The tradition in western culture has a stereotype that women are weak and powerless. There are big differences between men and women. Murniati in her books discussed that in Indonesian history, there has been a division of works based on gender. Then comes the difference of works between public area and domestic area, women tend to be isolated and live in their groups while men can socialize (2004:79). Years ago, before R.A. Kartini fought for women’s right to have education, only man who could go to school meanwhile women spent their time in house doing housework because their duties were to serve their family, get married the man who were selected by her family, give birth and raise their children.

Maria Ulfah in her book Peranan dan Kedudukan Wanita Indonesia mentions some of clans in Indonesia that have this stereotype such as Batakinese. They consider women as ‘barang belian’ because their husbands will ‘buy’ them from their family, this is called ‘sinamot’ (1994:256). In Batakinese tradition only men will continue their family name because it, they never count their daughter as a child. Another clan that makes women as the second class is Bali, Nyoman Darma in Wanita Bali Tempo Doeloe mentions problem that is faced by women in Bali. In Bali, women has big responsibility for their family, they should work hard for their family and be the servants for their husbands meanwhile their husbands spend their time by gambling and their husbands are allowed to do polygamy (2007:29).
The society thinks that women’s duties are to serve their husband and raise their children. Indonesia has a culture in which men are regarded as the first class of society. This culture is called Patriarchal culture. Patriarchal culture based on Bhasin “merupakan sebuah sistem dominasi dan superioritas laki-laki, sistem kontrol terhadap perempuan, dalam mana perempuan dikuasai” (1996:3). Patriarchal culture shows a domination system and superiority of men, they have a full control of women. “Dalam patriaki melekat ideologi yang menyatakan bahwa laki-laki lebih tinggi dari perempuan” (Bhasin, 1996:4). This system gives the rights of superiority for men.

The gender issues often occur in literary works as it can be found in novels. This theme already existed in Indonesia literary since 1920. Marah Rusli was an author that used this theme as his work in Siti Nurbaya which was published by Balai Pustaka. And then, it was continued in 1930 by Sutan Takdir Alisyabanah. He wrote a novel entitled Layar Terkembang. In this modern era, there are many women authors struggle for equality of gender in their works, especially about the domination of man because of the tradition and religion. One of them is Oka Rusmini. There are many issues about women’s problems like injustice, violence, and discrimination which can be found in Oka’s works. The inspiration of Oka’s novels is not only taken from her environment but also from her experiences.

Oka Rusmini was born in Jakarta, July 11th, 1967. Oka is a Balinese writer that brings the theme of Balineses’ old tradition which always harms women especially in griya ‘Brahmin’s house’ as one of her way to protest the injustice in griya. She does not only write about the life of Brahmin, but also writes about something taboo and explores about women sexual life, for example Joged Bumbung ‘Balinese dance’ which is done by teenager and this dance is full of erotic movement (Access from Universitas Sumatera Utara).
http://www.journalbali.com/women/oka-rusmini-pendobrak-tabu-dari-bali.html, 24 February 2014, 01.00 am). She already wrote Sagra (2000), Tarian Bumi (2000), Kenanga (2003), and many more. In some of her works, Oka makes women as the main characters. She shows that women struggle for their lives.

Tarian Bumi was one of her works which was inspired from her life experience. She is Brahmins and she does not like about the griya life. Oka feels the tradition in griya, sometimes, harms the women’s lives. Tarian Bumi was already translated to Germans Erdentanz published in 2007 also to English as Earth Dance published in 2013. This novel got appreciation from Indonesia Ministry of Education in 2003.

Talking about literature is basically talking about life. Literature means to know about life because literature is the imagination of the writers about life, about everything that the writers have felt or thought in life. Wellek (1977:94) state that ...literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’. It means that literary is not only as the product of creativity, but also as the product of the reality. Literary reflects what happened in the era of the writer, and sometimes the literary doesn’t represent life directly but it is indirectly portrayed that there is a social life issue inside.

As the writer mentioned above, gender issues become one of the most ‘favorite’ theme in literary. The authors make women as object, they describe woman as gentle person and as a mother who always lives behind her husband meanwhile man are described as smart and diligent person. This situation made feminism was born to change the stereotype of women. Feminism was a movement.
which tried to make women living on equal terms with men and not pushed down, by law or by culture, into a subservient role (Endarwarsa, 2002:146).

Feminism based on the literary was a studies research which tried to understand the position and role of women as reflected in literary. Position, role of women and the domination of man will be the point of these studies. *Tarian Bumi* is one of novel that reflected this phenomenon, this novel which talks about the fights of Balinese women. The fights of women characters which reflected in *Tarian Bumi* based on the Balinese tradition. As we already knew that Bali is one of some places in Indonesia that practices Hindu religion, (stratification) caste social and patriarchal culture. In Bali, religion (Hindu) cannot be separated with culture. Religion and culture is a source of social practices, philosophy, habits and traditions. Moral values also express both tradition and religion. For this reason, the writer assumes Balinese women face different hardships compared with other ethnic groups in Indonesia. Oka shows that Balinese women are strong and critical. One of the characters that shows this is *Luh Sekar*, a woman from the lower caste who has a big dream to make her life become better by marrying the man from higher caste and another character is *Ida Ayu Telaga Pidada*, *Sekar’s* daughter. She is Brahmins who decides to get married with *Wayan Sasmita*, from *Sudra* caste. This novel does not only talk about fights of *Telaga* and *Sekar* but also other women around *Telaga’s* environment. They are *Luh Kenten* and *Luh Kambren* who decided to be single women.

The writer chooses *Tarian Bumi* to be analyzed because this novel raised the theme of Balinese women’s fights in an unusual way. Oka, as the author, tries to reveal something hidden in social life and the problems which are forbidden to talk (taboo). This study is expected to describe the author’s motivation and intentions.
found in the novel, especially about women and social problems, culture and tradition, the philosophy of society and other issues related to Balinese society.

1.2 Problems of Study

Based on the topic and background of the study, the problem of study can be formulated as follows:

1. How are the figures of women’s characters pictured in Tarian Bumi?
2. How are the fights of women’s characters against traditional values reflected in the novel?

1.3 Objective of Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To explain the figures of women’s characters pictured in Tarian Bumi.
2. To explain the fights of women characters against traditional values reflected in the novel.

1.4 Scope of Study

In doing the analysis, the writer using theory of dynamic structuralism and feminism. The writer should focus on the topic of the study in order that the study is not out of context. This study focuses on analyzing Oka Rusmini’s Tarian Bumi. Specifically, the writer analysis the figures of women characters and fights of the character such as Ida Ayu Telaga against the traditional practices and the other characters (Ida Ayu Sagra Pidada, Jero Kenaga, Luh Kambren, Luh Keten and Luh Gumbreg) are needed to support the analysis.
1.5 Significance of Study

The analysis of this study is expected to give information of the readers who want to understand and appreciate literature in general and the works of Oka Rusmini in particular. The significance of this study firstly is to show the life of about woman in Bali society. Secondly through this study, the writer hopes that the reader will be more aware of the role and tradition of our society and appreciate the role of women.