

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kasim (2005:40) mentions in Introduction to Literature (teaching materials): Based on its form, poetry can be divided into seven forms; they are ballad, ode, elegy, pastoral, sonnet, confessionals, and free verse. Some of that poetry was created in order to be sung and preserved orally among illiterate or semiliterate people. People sing to express their feeling. Literature is the mirror of life. It reflects human life and all phenomena that appear in daily life. Literature can be anything that expressed even something impossible. However, the writers are not the liar because of their imaginative or even their silly mind that creates silly words as their works. Those words may have the deeper meaning that we never think before. It may contain of the various value and idea, philosophical idea for instance. Literature is the way to express the experience of the writers. They write whatever they see, whatever they hear, whatever they want to say by using selected and special ordered words to make their work beautiful. Obviously it is possible for the reality of a fictional world to approximate to that real life, to create an illusion of everyday reality, but it is also possible for the writer to express the idea. In this case, the writer uses words as their medium to express their idea. Literature cannot be separated from the aspect of life because it is the imitation of life and it concerns with the aspect of life such as religion, social, politics, economic, cultural, historical, etc.

Poetry is a part of literature. Poetry derives etymologically from the Greek word 'poiesis' which means 'a making, forming, creating (in words), or the art of poetry, or a poem'. Poetry as a literary work is also one of the oldest genres in literary history. William Wordsworth in *Understanding Poetry* (2009:5) says, "poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings". This tradition is based on the expressive theory about literature. On the other hand, McRae (1998:1) says that poetry is words with a frame around and also the words inside birthday cards. Therefore, it is quite difficult to make an exact definition of poetry. Poetry is not just the creation of meaningful arrangements of words. Besides, poetry can never be fully explained. It can be felt. There is no use to talk about poetry if the readers do not feel it. There is always mystery about poetry. As a result, it can be finally concluded that poetry is a spontaneous expression of human's feeling or imagination which has best words in the best order.

Poetry has four main aspects. Pardede (2009:11) says, "the aspects of a poem are sense, feeling, tone, and intention". Sense is the subject matter of the poem. It is what the poem is about. Very often, but not always, a poem's title will give the readers some indication of its general meaning. Then by reading it over and over carefully, the readers can catch its meaning. Feeling is the attitude of the writer toward the subject matter. By reading a certain poem carefully, the readers can understand what the writer feels or thinks about the subject matter and his/her opinion about it. Tone is the attitude of the writer towards the readers. It is about whether the writer is in a good mood or bad mood, optimist or pessimist, happy or sad, etc. The readers understand it by giving their attention to the words (diction)

that the poet uses in his/her poem. And the last is intention. Undoubtedly, the poet writes a certain poem for he/she has a special intention, at least for he himself/she herself, to express his/her feeling. But what the readers have to know is that good poems are written because they have to be, not because their authors want them to be.

2.1. Hermeneutics

The term hermeneutics is said to derive from the Greek god “Hermes” who “practiced” the revelation of divine messages. In order to deliver the messages of the gods, Hermes had to be acquainted with their language as well as with that of the mortals for whom the messenger were destined. Hence, Hermes had to understand and interpret for himself what the gods wanted to communicate before he could translate, articulate, and explicate this to their mortal subjects. While Hermes had to ‘explain’ what the gods intention were to mortals, his explanations were clarifications aimed at rendering what was unclear, clear in order to allow mortals to make sense of understanding what was being conveyed. Hermeneutics is defined as theory of the interpretation of meaning (Butler, 1998: 285).

In finding the meaning of a literature artwork, the concept of hermeneutics gives attention in analyzing the meaning of texts. In *Literary Terms and Criticism* John Peck and Martian Coyle state that Hermeneutics refers to the general theory of interpretation, the procedures and principle involved in getting at the meaning of texts. What is called a text depends to a large extent upon the ideas about what are we looking for. (1984:134).

The word hermeneutic means the science or art of interpretation. The word hermeneutics was originally confined to the interpretation of sacred scripture; but during the nineteenth century it broadened its scope to encompass the problem of textual interpretation as a whole. (Eagleton, 2008:57)

In introduction to *Literary Hermeneutics* written by Peter Szondi states that hermeneutics is the theory of the exegesis interpretation or interpretation on literary works (1995:1). Later in this book, Chladenius stated that hermeneutics as theory of interpretation indicating the true understanding of a passage. Notion of understanding is the meaning of a passage, and what idea its possible obscurity lead to definition of interpretation as the teaching of concepts which are necessary for complete understanding of a passage, but which reader might lack. It means that “words, phrases or sentences” have something in themselves through which one could reach a certain or probable understanding by interpretation.

The philosophical hermeneutics in the 20th century also contributed a momentum to carry existentialist thought into the 21st and as theory interpreting a text, originally a Biblical and then a legal and finally any literary or artistic text, hermeneutics has played an important role in Continental thought. It was introduced into modern philosophy by Friedrich Schleiermacher, where his hermeneutics’ orientation gives a relevance he necessarily had for the existential philosophy in the late nineteenth century, later he stated that It is not a matter of interpreting individual passages but of comprehending what is spoken and written in its original life of its author: speech and writing viewed as “moment of life breaking forth” and at the same time as an act, that is, not merely as a document

but as an active, vital expression of life. Schleiermacher distinguished two moments in the act of understanding, grammatical interpretation as the consideration of speech in its relation serves one of them, and psychological interpretation which he also terms technical interpretation, as the consideration of speech in its relation to the thought of its originator. (Szondi, 1995:117).

Hermeneutics concerns with the meaning of an unfamiliar text, whether its strangeness to be historical, like an ancient inscription or simply foreign to us, like the statements of someone from another culture or even from another profession or academic specialty. Szondi states hermeneutics theory determines the possibility of universally valid interpretation on the basis of an analysis of understanding. Interpretation of what is seen depends in part on one's past experience, prior knowledge, professional background, culture and expectations (1995:1). Since, hermeneutics deals with the issue of meaning, the meaning itself has variants interpretation. In *Literary Theory: an introduction*, written by Terry Eagleton, Husserl states that meaning was kind of ideal object, in the sense that it could be expressed in a number of different ways but still remain the same meaning. On this view the meaning of literary work is fixed once and for all; it is identical with whatever 'mental object' the author had in mind, or intended, at the same time of writing, Eagleton (2008:57).

Talking about poetry, we will think about beautiful word, diction, idiom, symbols and stanzas. However, we need to know poetry at a glance. Poetry is an expression of writer's idea that uses the selected word to beautify its stanza. We

also will find some symbols in it, that's why poetry has more specific meaning than the word itself. Lucelle Ubercombe in Pardede's *Understanding Poetry* (2008:6) says that poetry is the expression of imaginative experience, valid simply as such and significant as such communicable given by language which employ every available and appropriate device.

2.2 Feminism

In General, in the sense of feminism is an ideology that drives women to reject the culture of the patriarchy, marginalized, sub-ordinated, and devalue the position of women in the fields of politics, economy and social life in general. In a special sense, i.e., in literature, feminism associated with ways to understand the works of literature in relation to the production process as well as the reception. Relating to the emancipation of women and equal rights, in contemporary social science known as gender equality movement (Ratna, 2004:184).

In addition to the cultural movement, as feminism is also one of literary theory which leads to the study of literature to focus the analysis on the problems of women. Feminist literary criticism is primarily a criticism that looked at literature with a special awareness of certain gender many affect the political, economic, cultural, social and literary. During this time representing readers and creators in literature are men. Feminist literary criticism is expected to bring a new perception and expectation in the analysis of literature. Next Humm (1986:12) says, the power of feminist criticism lies in the courage of women to reject the separation of literature from other social activities and being critical of the

ideological force in the culture. Feminist criticism focuses on reading as a woman. The women are not biological but in refers to the strategy and ideology. A woman biologically not necessarily have any awareness of the social construction of women. Awareness of gender roles and social-cultural construction this is a strategy that socialized feminist in their struggle. "We read with a gender role with a consciousness of the social construction of femininity".

Kate Millet citing Moi "Millet argued that social and cultural context must be studied if literature was to be properly understood" (Moi, 1986:24). To understand literary works properly, required extensive knowledge about social culture. The same as those expressed by other literary critic that literary analysis can't be released from the socio-cultural context of the community in which it is produced.

Feminist critics of special task is to analyze the impression (Melody) of women as presented in literary works based on an egalitarian vision of humanity, as claimed by Spencer (1982:154) in *Feminist Criticism and Literature*. "Feminists Criticism may be said to have one of the specific tasks on the analysis of the image of women as they appear in the existing literature, based upon an egalitarian vision of humanity".

Next is the period post feminism with Naomi Wolf, Susan Falludi and Ann Brooks. The term post feminism not indicate anti feminism but rather to describe the simultaneous merger, revision and depolitized of many of the main purpose of the second wave feminist.

“I believe post feminism is distinct from anti feminism and sexism, for it aptly describes the consciousness and strategies increasing numbers of women have developed in response to the new difficulties and opportunities of post industrial society in this sense the diffusion of postfeminist consciousness signifies both the achievements of, and challenges for modern feminist politician” (Stacey, 1987:520).

Post feminism firmly explain consciousness and strategy of increasing of the women in responding to the difficulties and opportunities in community post industry, in this case the dissemination of awareness of post-feminist shows the achievement and a challenge for the modern feminist politician. Brooks with great detail reveal the intersection of feminism thoughts with post feminism and post colonialism who presented a dynamic movement that is considered capable of challenging the framework of thought patriarchy and imperialist (Ibrahim in Brooks, 1997: xvi).

In the process, facilitating a pluralistic conception of post feminism broad-based subject application of feminism and has focused on the demands of the margined culture, diaspora and the colonized for a non-hegemonic feminism that is able to vote in local, indigenous feminism and postcolonial (Ditto, 1997: xvi). According to Wolfwomen of whatever will feel happy in the groups struggle when they felt accepted to be part of the struggle, Wolf (1999) invites activists to embrace and convert all thewomen in the struggles of stopping discrimination.

2.2.1 Independent Woman

Independent Woman's way for being equal are; they are waiting for a chance to break free and rushes to equip themselves with the knowledge and ability to be able to have activity in the public sphere. The independence they get is not a gift or come for granted, but it is something that has to be fought. Many hindrances and obstacles faced by women to advance and survive. The community determines the stereotype of women as weak and passive, emotional because it's not worth getting an important position in the work. Not to mention with the very nature of the term misused to hinder the advancement of women. People say, "never mind the women don't need high school-a total look forward to going to the kitchen as well." That wretched thing like this can be trusted by most women and certainly very detrimental. Most of the other women continue to fight

2.3 Related Studies

A thesis entitled *Feminism through Figurative Language in Contemporary American Songs of Leading Contemporary Feminist Music Icon* by Morakot Areerasada and Pataraporn Tapinta talks about feminist values reflected in contemporary American songs of 'third wave' feminist lyricists such as Madonna, Pink, Beyonce, Britney Spears, Lady Gaga, and Kesha and also analyze how those feminist values are reflected in those songs through figurative language. The main theoretical frameworks of four major perspectives of third wave feminism of figurative language. This thesis helps the writer understanding feminism through song written by woman in order to elaborate the thesis.

Another thesis entitled *The Detailment of Feminism: A Qualitative Study of Girl Empowerment and The Popular Music Artist* by Jodie Christine Simon talks about “Girl Power!” is a message that parent raising young women in today’s media-saturated society should be able to turn with a modicum of relief from the relentlessly harmful messages normally found within popular music. But what happens when we turn a critical eye towards the messages cloaked within this supposedly feminist missive. A close examination of popular music associated with girl empowerment reveal that many of the messages found within these lyrics are frighteningly just as damaging as the misogynistic, violent, and explicitly sexual ones found in the usual fare of top 100 hits. In fact, this cooption of feminist messages introduces a new danger in that it makes the commodification of feminism into a marketed brand of heightened sexual awareness while promoting traditional male behaviors as equalizing acts of power. This helps the writer to look further about the feminism to write the thesis.

A thesis entitled *Feminism in an Era of Mainstream Co-optation* by April Amanda Caddell tells about Contemporary American culture is witnessing the phenomenon of many high-profile celebrities proudly calling themselves, feminist—I refer to these individuals as celebrity feminists. This phenomenon comes as a shift from the historical avoidance with the term feminist and the feminist movement due to mainstream media’s portrayal of feminism using negative and fallacious stereotypes. The current shift to “feminism is wonderful,” in the mainstream media—as a reflection of a white supremacist and patriarchal society—de-politicizes feminism, making it less of a radical movement that seeks

social change and more a portrayal of individual empowerment on the part of exceptional women. This thesis also helps the writer to elaborate about feminism and how it is affecting the world.

By the brief description above, the writer of this research is using Qualitative Descriptive method by Meleong from his book entitled *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif* to analyze Feminism as it is portrayed in the lyrics of Meghan Trainor's selected songs.