

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

Feminism is a collection of movements and ideologies that share a common goal to define, establish, and achieve equal political, economic, cultural, personal, and social rights for women and it includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employments. According to Ritzer (2004:448) “Feminism is kind of critical social theory which included in social context, political, economic, and history that is faced by injustice people”.

Feminism was born to defend the rights and roles of women in society, as the development of culture and social structure increasingly distinguish women and men feasible. The difference between women and men develop into discrimination which then triggers harassment. According to Ratna (2005:588) “Feminism is the concept generalization of women and also a critical of social theory which have the purpose is to obtain women’s right”. Various kinds of social criticism made by women in a way that they feel can replace their social status in the society through various breakthroughs both in physical movement or movement in ideology. One of the ways in which women to do social criticism gently and educate is to create a literary work.

Literary work is the expression of life in the world of truth and beauty; it is the writer record of man’s spirit of the thought, emotion, and expression. According to Esten in Suaidi et al (2016: 86) “Literature or literary is the expression from the art of reality and imagination as manifestation of human life through language as

medium and giving positive effect to human life and humanity". Literary works is a reflection a picture or a reflection of people's lives. Plato explained that literature is the imitation of life or description from the reality (mimesis). In other word, a literary work should be a model of reality. Therefore, through literature, the author tried to express people's lives that they felt or experienced.

As one of the examples of literary works where the author is trying to express his or her own experience, the writer found an interesting prose that is written in a form of novel by Christine de Pizan entitled *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1999). The writer found this prose is quite different than other novel because it seems the author made it as if it was her form of ideology in order to emancipate women so that they can express themselves freely. Interestingly, the author did not show her idea by using direct language in the novel, but she delivered the idea of feminism through three different parts of stories with three main female characters, namely Reason, Rectitude and Justice.

Reason acts as if she was giving Christine (the main character) the main reason (as the basic foundation) of why she must build the city of ladies, while Rectitude is the one told Christine what should she put or added in the city of ladies and lastly, Justice is the one who guided Christine of who are people (women) allowed to enter the city of Ladies and how she will put defend system to protect the city. However, the writer assumed that all those characters are representing the acts of the author that she must have to raise women, especially their rights. In other word, Reason, Rectitude and Justice are just allegorical figures that are represented herself. Further, those three ladies were guided Christine by giving her explanation in the

form of examples of famous and influential figures from history so that she can understand the things that she must do and do not.

Regarding to that, the writer noticed that the historical figures that are mentioned by those three characters are showing act of feminism so that the writer in this research is focusing in describing and specify the types of feminism based on their acts. Here, the three main characters of Reason, Rectitude and Justice representing those historical figures in order to make Christine understand that City of Ladies is an ideal safe haven for every woman so that they are free to express themselves and free from cruel accusations of men. In that case, the writer through this research is interested to show the depiction of feminism in the novel that are described by the historical figures mentioned by Lady Reason, Rectitude and Justice.

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding to the background of research above, the writer formulates the research questions as follow:

1. How are the acts of feminism that reflected by the historical figures mentioned by Lady Reason, Rectitude and Justice in *The Book of City of Ladies* novel?
2. What are the types of feminism as seen from those historical figures?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the objectives in this research are:

1. To describe the acts of feminism that reflected by the historical figures mentioned by Lady Reason, Rectitude and Justice in *The Book of City of Ladies* novel
2. To describe the types of feminism as seen from those historical figures.

1.4 Uses of Research

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

The writer hopes that this research would be beneficial to readers in terms of information and knowledge, especially about feminism. Moreover, hopefully this research can be used as one of the references for the next researchers who want to conduct the similar topic discussion of feminism.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the research gives information for the common readers about how literary works can be used as media to give satire for either society or government. In addition, this research also shows how feminism can be poured into a literary work or how the literary works reflects the act of feminism.

1.5 Scope of Research

The writer noticed that there are some elements that can be discussed in the in *The Book of City of Ladies* novel. However, the writer in this research only focuses in describing the issue of feminism and the types of feminism that are reflected by the historical figures mentioned by Lady Reason, Rectitude and Justice in the novel by using Tong's theory (2009).