CHAPTER TWO

LITERARY REVIEW

Theoretical reviews play an important role in this field, providing a comprehensive overview of current theories, models, and research findings. By synthesizing and analyzing existing knowledge, theoretical reviews can help identify gaps in our understanding, highlight areas for further investigation, and inform future research directions. In this review, we will explore some of the key theories and concepts that have shaped understanding of feminism, with a particular focus on Tong theory. Through this examination, we hope to shed new light on the current state of knowledge in this field, and identify opportunities for future research to advance our understanding even further.

2.1 Review of Previous Studies

In order to clearly compare and prove, this research needs some previous studies which the topics are related to this research, so the previous study is used as supporting material. Previous research is important in this study, especially as a foundation or reference in the form of theory based on the findings of various previous studies, which is needed as supporting data. The findings and theoretical methods used in previous research Therefore, relevant research on the same topic was chosen as a reference for the writer in conducting the current research. The writer uses 5 related studies from *Carlita Dewi's (2019), Ratna Kurnia Sari (2018), Tofik Kurohman (2020), Miskiyah and Akhmad Sofyan (2023), Hastuti, Gunawan and Andriani (2018)* that will be reviewed one by one.

The first study from Dewi (2019) is entitled *The Ideas of Liberal Feminism Revealed through Cristina's Valhalla's Character in Coelho's The Valkyries.* This research delves into liberal feminism, centered on gender equality wherein women possess autonomy over their own selves and their freedom. Dewi elucidates that liberal feminism revolves around gender parity, wherein women seek self-discovery and the freedom to chart their own paths. Women are granted the autonomy to make choices and decisions as well. The study unveils that within "The Valkyries," through the characters Cristina and Valhalla, the novel embodies the concepts of liberal feminism aligned with the nineteenth century. Both characters exhibit distinctive qualities that challenge societal norms within their environment, especially during their pursuit of a significant expedition. This research contributes by exemplifying the analysis of liberal feminism within specific literary works, bridging a gap in the literary discourse.

The second previous study is from Sari (2018) study entitled *Analysis of Liberal Feminism Values in Battle of the Sexes Movie* examines the portrayal of liberal feminism through the main character, Billie Jean King, a professional female tennis player. Using a cinematographic approach and liberal feminism theory, the author analyzes the film to identify the characteristics and values associated with liberal feminism. The research employs a literature review and qualitative descriptive method to explore Billie Jean King's traits and the feminist values portrayed in her character. The findings reveal six key characteristics of Billie Jean King: talent, critical thinking, courage, confidence, ambition, and independence. Furthermore,

the study identifies the values of liberal feminism in Billie Jean's character, including equal opportunities in the economy, freedom, and education.

The third previous study entitled *"An Analysis of the Feminist Characters in Kate Chopin's The Awakening" written by Nur (2017).* This research applies Huberman's (1994) theory analysis model. This study explores the central character as an embodiment of feminist ideals in the works of Kate Chopin. The primary objective of this analysis is to delineate the portrayal of the feminist character within the leading female character, highlighting her commitment to feminist principles. The findings of the study indicate that there exists one character who can be recognized as a feminist symbol, specifically Edna Pontellier. Edna's transformation into a feminist character is attributed to the societal pressures and male dominance she encounters. Her aspiration is to project herself not solely as a wife and mother but as a woman with her own identity and autonomy, akin to that of a man. Nur's analysis of the feminist characters in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening" highlights the transformation of Edna Pontellier from a conforming woman to a feminist character who challenges societal norms and seeks to define herself on her own terms. This study underscores the novel's portrayal of the feminist struggle for autonomy and self-expression, making it a seminal work in the realm of feminist literature.

The fourth previous study entitled *An Analysis of Liberal Feminism of the Main Character in Brave Film* by Miskiyah and Sofyan (2023). This study aimed to identify the categories of liberal feminism and delineate the attributes of liberal

feminism evident in the protagonist's words and actions within the movie. Analyzing liberal feminism through the expressive behaviors and statements of the character Merida, the researcher employed a descriptive qualitative approach, guided by Alvarez's theory (2018). The study yielded 22 instances of data pertaining to the liberal feminism exhibited by the central character in the film "Brave." Among these instances, 19 data points were categorized as reflecting individualist feminism, while three data points aligned with libertarian feminism. Within these categories, the research also identified distinct characteristics of liberal feminism, encompassing equitable access to education, the right to vote, the development of women's maturity and self-identity, and the promotion of equal freedoms, including freedom of speech and press. Among these characteristics, the most prominent was the right to vote, demonstrating that the central character in "Brave" predominantly emphasized her struggle for the autonomy to make choices.

The last previous study was conducted by Eka Desmawati (2020) with the title Analysis of feminism in the novel of little women by Louisa May Alcott. focused on achieving equality with men across various dimensions, including politics, society, economics, and culture. The fundamental principle is that everyone should be treated as equals, unless specific circumstances necessitate otherwise, irrespective of their gender roles. This research addresses the topic of feminism, particularly focusing on the different feminist perspectives embodied by the female characters in the novel and how feminism manifests in the characters ongoing development. The research objectives include a detailed exploration of the various forms of feminism portrayed in the novel "Little Women" and an examination of

how these feminist ideals are reflected in the unfolding narratives. The research adopts a qualitative descriptive methodology, with the primary data source being the novel "Little Women." The research findings reveal the presence of four distinct types of feminism within the pages of "Little Women." The characters in the novel can be categorized into Liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, Existentialist feminism, and Radical feminism. However, it is important to note that feminism is not only evident through these theoretical frameworks but also through the characters' struggles for survival, their efforts to navigate a male-dominated world (patriarchy), their pursuit of personal comfort and fulfillment, and their resistance against being subjected to violence by men.

Finally, those studies could bring contribution examples on studies in feminism. The findings of these studies can contribute to a better understanding of challenges associated with feminism focusing on gender inequality and prejudice encountered by women across various circumstances. Furthermore, they can serve as a basis for creating efficient strategies and actions to advance gender equality and enhance the empowerment of women.

2.2 Feminist Approach

This study focuses on feminism. Thus, the approach employs the feminism approach. Feminism is the ideology of women since intrinsic in all it approaches is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their sex. (Humm, 1990:74). Consequently, feminism embodies the notion of equating women and men, affording women the agency to pursue their aspirations. Maggie Humm also said,

"Feminism is a term used by cultural and essentialist feminism to describe the ideology of female superiority" (Humm, 1990:73).

Feminism emerged during the early 1900s, with Virginia Woolf taking the lead through her work "A Room of One's Own" (1929). Linguistically, 'feminist' stems from the term 'femm' denoting women who strive to advocate for women's rights as a collective social group. The objective is to rectify gender disparities within feminism. Broadly interpreted, the feminist movement involves women rejecting all aspects relegated to the margins, subservient positions, and derogation by the prevailing culture. This encompasses not only politics and economics but also various facets of social life.

Feminist perspectives in literature are multifaceted and encompass a variety of theories and ideologies aimed at comprehending and evaluating gender roles, representation, and power dynamics in literary works. An influential feminist scholar, Rosemarie Putnam Tong, has authored numerous works on feminist theories and approaches.

According to Tong (2019), feminist approaches in literature can be generally classified into the following:

- Gender critique:

Gender critique is a critical issue in literature that analyzes the portrayal of women, men, and non-binary individuals, and explores the construction, perpetuation, or challenge of gender norms, roles, and expectations in literary works (Belsey, 1985).

It is concerned with examining how gender is represented in literature and the implications of such representation for social, cultural, and political contexts.

- Intersectionality:

Feminist literary criticism Highlights the interconnectedness of gender with additional societal classifications such as race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and physical capability. It recognizes that individuals may experience multiple forms of oppression or privilege, and analyzes how these intersecting identities shape the portrayal of characters and their experiences in literature. Tong proposes that intersectionality reflects the dedication of women and worldwide feminists, irrespective of cultural backgrounds. to "widen the scope of feminist thought." (Tong, R. 2018).

- Women's agency and empowerment:

Feminist literary criticism focuses on women's agency, autonomy, and empowerment in literature. It examines how female characters navigate societal barriers, challenge traditional gender roles, and assert their identities and desires in literary texts.

- Female authorship:

Feminist literary criticism considers the role of female authors and their contributions to literature. It examines how gender influences the reception, publication, and interpretation of women's writing, and advocates for the recognition and inclusion of female authors in literary canons and traditions.

- Social and cultural context:

Feminist literary criticism considers the social, cultural, and historical context in which literature is produced. It analyzes how societal norms, values, and power

dynamics shape the portrayal of gender in different time periods, cultures, and literary genres.

- Language and representation:

Feminist literary criticism explores how language and literary devices are used to construct and represent gender in literature. It examines the use of gendered language, imagery, symbolism, and narrative techniques, and critiques the ways in which language can perpetuate gender biases and stereotypes.

Feminism, as a movement, encompasses several branches with distinct methodologies. These branches include liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern feminism. Radical feminism emerged as a response to the patriarchal framework that assigned identity based on sexuality. Within radical feminism, the belief persists that an individual's sex and gender are not inherently connected. Further is a complete explanation on feminism.

2.3 Feminism Theories

Feminism is a diverse and multifaceted movement with various branches or types of feminism, each of which emphasizes different aspects of gender equality and addresses specific issues. Feminism encompasses both an ideology and a reform movement with the goal of enhancing the position of women. Advocates of feminism hold the common belief that women have historically faced and still experience oppression based on their gender. This subjugation is rooted in various constraints imposed by societal customs and laws, limiting women's participation and success in the public domain. Overall, the overarching aim of feminism is to

promote equality and foster a balanced relationship between genders. The concept seeks to challenge the dominance imposed by patriarchal culture, advocating for women's equal standing with men. Rosmarie Putnam Tong quotes Wendell opinion in "A (Qualified) Defende of Liberal Feminism" saying the general purpose of liberal feminism is to create society which is equitable and careful of the freedom for the self-development so that women and men can improve themselves." But their general pursuit is dynamic; depended on the symptom of the time.

In Rosemarie Tong's book "Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction," third edition, she explores various branches of feminism, including liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, care-focused feminism, multicultural, global, and postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism, as well as postmodern and third wave feminism.

In this study, the author introduces four categories of feminism, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, as well as Marxist and socialist feminism:

a.   Liberal Feminism

This brand of feminism aligns itself with liberal ideals. Liberalism posits that all individuals, regardless of gender, are inherently equal, harmonious, and possess equal potential for rationality. It advocates for women's independence, emphasizing the need for them to actively strive for equality with men. Liberal feminism does not only focus on women being able to do everything that men can do. Instead, it centers on the idea that some women should have the freedom to pursue their own desires and choices (Tong, 2009, p. 18). Liberal feminism underscores women's

freedom, granting them the same liberties as men, enabling them to engage in activities and express themselves without societal constraints. Women have the freedom to express themselves through their choices, as they are regarded as equals to men without any restrictions. Liberal feminism aims to achieve equality between women and men, promoting their independence and the freedom to shape their own destinies. It seeks to establish gender equality through political and legal changes. This form of feminism, characterized by its individualistic nature, emphasizes women's capacity to demonstrate and uphold their equality through their personal actions and decisions.

Liberal feminism begins with the premise that addressing gender equality should start with personal interactions between men and women. According to this perspective, all women have the potential to assert their competence in achieving equality, and therefore, societal change can be realized without the need to fundamentally alter the social structure. Key concerns for liberal feminists encompass issues such as reproductive and abortion rights, combatting sexual harassment, ensuring voting rights, improving access to education, advocating for "equal pay for equal work," making childcare and healthcare more affordable, and shedding light on the prevalence of sexual and domestic violence against women.

Liberal feminists contend that women inherently share the same capabilities and moral reasoning as men but have historically faced obstacles in expressing and exercising these abilities. This hindrance is primarily attributed to patriarchal systems, especially the gender-specific assignment of labor roles. Frequently

confined to the domestic sphere, women have been deprived of a voice in the public sphere, perpetuating a historical imbalance in opportunities for self-expression and agency.

b.   Radical Feminism

Tong's characterization of a radical feminist is one who vehemently asserts that the sex/gender system lies at the core of women's oppression. In contrast to liberal feminists who endeavor to effect change from within the existing system, radical feminists aspire to establish an entirely new system. They argue that the current situation perpetuates a deeply ingrained sexism, which they regard as the foremost, most prevalent, and most profound manifestation of human oppression. Consequently, they advocate for its transformation. The radical-libertarian feminists seek to eliminate the notion of femininity, along with its associated roles in reproduction, motherhood, and sexuality. Their goal is to create a society where individuals and the collective exhibit a blend of both masculine and feminine attributes.

In contrast, the radical-cultural feminists reject the idea of masculinity as a favorable quality and urge women to fully embrace their femininity. They advocate for women to emphasize characteristics culturally linked to women and to downplay those culturally linked to men (Tong, 2009). This form of feminism gained prominence in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. Its proponents believe that both men and women should receive an education that helps them recognize traditional norms as oppressive and encourages the creation of new norms rooted in

a female perspective. Radical feminism represents a branch of feminism that perceives women's oppression, often referred to as "patriarchy," as a fundamental system of power shaping societal relationships. It aims to challenge this system by rejecting conventional gender roles and opposing male domination.

Radical feminists assert that womanhood, in its essence, holds intrinsic positivity an aspect frequently neglected in patriarchal societies marked by the oppression faced by women. They pinpoint physical violence as the linchpin of patriarchy, positing that dismantling this societal structure is achievable if women recognize their inherent worth and strength. This recognition entails the establishment of a supportive sisterhood among women, a critical examination of oppression, and the formation of female separatist networks, both in private and public domains. In essence, radical feminism serves as the fertile ground from which numerous feminist ideas and perspectives spring forth, challenging and reshaping the discourse surrounding gender dynamics and societal structures.

c.   Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Marxist feminism is a theoretical framework examining the intersecting influences of capitalism and patriarchy, particularly concerning women. Advocates of Marxist feminism assert that class delineation extends beyond just socioeconomic status, identifying women as an oppressed class. This stems from the argument that the capitalist system relies on the exploitation of women for its functionality. The core focus of Marxist feminism lies in examining the connection between the accumulation of capital within the capitalist system and the existence of patriarchy

or gender-based hierarchies. Marxist feminism emerged during the second wave of feminism, particularly in the late 1960s and 1970s, with notable growth in countries like Britain. Advocates of Marxist feminism argue that the path to achieving gender equality lies in dismantling our capitalist society. This perspective addresses issues such as wage disparities, barriers to attaining job security or excelling in certain fields, and the frequent absence of family-friendly policies in many higher education institutions and national organizations.

Gender inequality theories acknowledge that women's social circumstances and experiences differ not only from those of men but are also inherently unequal. Socialist feminism draws connections between the oppression of women and Marxist concepts of exploitation, oppression, and labor. Socialist feminists contend that women are held back due to their unequal status both in the workplace and within the domestic sphere. Activities like prostitution, domestic work, childcare, and marriage are all viewed as ways through which women are exploited by a patriarchal system that undervalues women and the significant contributions they make.

Socialist feminists channel their efforts toward broad societal change that impacts society, rather than focusing solely on individual circumstances. They recognize the importance of collaborating not only with men but with all other groups because they perceive women's oppression as a component of a broader pattern that impacts everyone within the capitalist system. Based on the explanation of Marxist and Socialist Feminism in accordance with Tong's theory, the writer can draw some

defining characteristics of these perspectives, such as women are integral contributors to the economy.

2.4 Character and Characterization

Character is an important part of intrinsic elements because it represents the idea of the author through their actions and dialogues. According to Mario Klarer (Klarer, 2004, p. 17) Character classification encompasses two common categories: flat characters and round characters. A flat character embodies a consistent trait from the story's outset to its conclusion. Conversely, a round character is characterized by multifaceted or intricate traits.

Mario also affirms that each character type is associated with a distinct mode of presentation within the narrative. This mode, termed as "mode of presentation," delineates the author's approach in conveying the character's essence to the reader. It can involve either narration or demonstration. Expository characterization, or telling, entails the author's portrayal of the character through the narrator's voice. Typically, physical attributes are conveyed through descriptive sentences. Dramatic characterization, or showing, entails the author's depiction of the character through dialogues within the story (Klarer, 2004: 18).

In his book titled *An Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students,* Murphy outlines various methods to aid readers in comprehending characters (Murphy, 1972, pp. 161-173):

- Personal Description: Murphy guides readers in grasping individuals' traits by scrutinizing their appearance and attire.

- Character as Seen by Another: The author offers insights into each character by portraying their perspectives and opinions through the eyes of other characters.

- Speech: Murphy provides clues to each character through their dialogue and interactions with others. The words spoken by a person serve as hints to their character.

- Past Life: The author informs readers about a character's past life, shaping their characteristics. This can be conveyed through direct comments by the author, the character's thoughts, or descriptions by others.

- Conversation of Others: Murphy gives clues to a person's character through the conversations of other individuals and any remarks made about them.

- Reactions: The author assists readers by revealing clues to a character's nature through their reactions to various situations.

- Direct Comment: Murphy directly describes and comments on a character's attributes within the narrative.

- Thoughts: The author unveils the character's thoughts, providing insight into their inner world.

- Mannerisms: Murphy aids readers in understanding characters by describing their mannerisms and habits, offering insights into their characteristics.

2.5 Film Analysis

In film analysis, structure is the design framework integrating various elements of a film and presenting the filmmaker's thought process. A film is shaped by many

elements (audio and visual). In theory, audio and visual elements are categorized into narrative and cinematic elements (Pratista, 2008). These two elements are interrelated in a film. The narrative element is the material or content. In the context of the film, the narrative element is its storytelling. Meanwhile, the cinematic element is the method or style used in crafting the content. Pratista states in his book *Understanding Film* that in film, the narrative element is the treatment of the story, while the cinematic element or cinematic style comprises the technical aspects of film formation (Pratista, 2008, p. 1-3).

In general, a film can be divided into two formative elements: narrative and cinematic. These two elements interact and complement each other. If these two elements stand alone, a film will not come into existence. Narrative is a sequence of events related to each other and connected by the logic of cause and effect (causality) that occurs in a space and time (Pratista, 2008). Every story in any form and regardless of its length certainly contains narrative elements. For example, stories told by friends, newspaper articles, novels, comics, films—all contain narrative elements. Pratista (2008, p. 2) states that narrative elements are related to the story or theme of the film. Every narrative film cannot be separated from narrative elements. Every story surely has elements such as characters, problems, conflicts, locations, time, and others. All these elements form the narrative element, interact with each other, and complement each other to create a sequence of events that has meaning and purpose.

In exploring films, the term representation takes on various meanings that aid in enhancing people's understanding of movies. Essentially, representation can be likened to another term for film itself, as movies portray images or ideas related to their themes. It is crucial to grasp that what viewers see on the screen is a form of repetition, or re-presentation, of the original movie.

When discussing films and their connection to reality, the focus is on how images in films can reveal or point to real things rather than merely representing them (Pratista, 2008). However, some argue that all representation adheres to specific rules tied to a particular time and place, highlighting potential inaccuracies. Representation holds significant importance for researchers delving into how films portray identity and depict specific groups, particularly those marginalized or oppressed (Hall, 2001). This concept extends to advocating for or speaking on behalf of individuals or groups, like the roles of politicians or lawyers. Filmmakers from these groups may feel the pressure of representing their community through their work.

Additionally, representation can also refer to how our minds form mental images. This idea plays a vital role in certain theories about understanding, a topic occasionally discussed in film studies. Furthermore, examining the representation of feminism in films adds another layer to comprehending how movies portray different groups of people.

The representation of film can be seen from two related elements, cinematography, and *mise en scene* (Sikov, 2004). Cinematography refers to the technical aspects of filming, such as camera angles, camera movement, lighting, and framing. It is concerned with how the visual elements of a film are captured on camera and arranged to create a particular visual style and mood. *Mise en scene*, on the other hand, refers to the overall visual design of a film, including the setting, costumes, props, and placement of actors within the frame.

Mise en scene and cinematography work hand in hand to sculpt the visual elements of a film, molding its atmosphere and overarching significance. Though separate entities, they dance in harmony, with cinematography amplifying mise en scene through its mastery of camera techniques, lighting, and framing. Conversely, mise en scene steers cinematography by dictating the placement of actors and props, ultimately defining the visual identity of the film. When delving into film studies, dissecting these components becomes paramount in unraveling the intricacies of how filmmakers weave meaning, evoke emotions, and carve out a distinctive aesthetic in their cinematic creations. These elements also play a role in conveying and challenging societal norms, including those related to feminism.