CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents such topics as background of study, statement of problems, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of Study

“Literature is a performance in words,” says Frost (Steve, 2011). Literature has its own artistic quality to string the words into a beautiful work. The power of words which are engaged in the making of literary work has the ability to records the thoughts and expresses the feeling. Mangaraj (2011) stated that literature may attract in two ways; through its matter and through its manner. The matter must be those who read it are interested in exploring it in some way. The manner must be that it will be pleasing the reader and he can add it to his fund of knowledge. Literature is also important, because it speaks to people through its universality and affection.

Literature introduces people to the new world of experience which makes them grow and evolve through the journey of reading the literary works. Mangaraj (2011) argued that the subject matter of literature is society. It means that people who live in different societies also have differences in sharing their thoughts, feelings, and so on. He also stated that the society reacts to literature in living way. It seems like literature has the ability to express social sympathies which may give some influences on the people’s mind and attitude.
Engaging with the above fact that literature is affected by society, the issues which come up in literary world sometimes are adopted from the events happening in the society. It can be seen from each story in literature which has different topics. One of many topics that have been lifted from the reality in society is the issue about gender. This issue focuses on the imbalance power between male and female, the unequal treatment of boy and girl, the stratification of status, rights and values between both sexes, and so on. Things that make differences are the author gives his direct solution in the end of the story meanwhile the society which experiences the gender issue itself tries to cope with it along the way.

As the proofs that the issue about gender not only appears in the factual life but also becomes the raising point in the literary world, there are some researches about this issue in literature. As one example, Mashuri (2011) analyzed violence as one kind of gender inequality in Kholed Hosseini’s novel “A Thousand Splendid Suns”. His study showed that violence was divided into four parts such as physical violence, psychological violence, economical violence, and sexual violence. He also found the fact that all forms of violence happened because of system of patriarchy which assumed that women were always in second class, symbol of inferiority and weakness. As the result of his analysis, he concluded that women existence in that novel were always subordinated, discriminated, marginalized and alienated in the society. Another research about gender in literature had been conducted by Kone (2010) which concentrated her study in the issues of gender in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel “Scarlet Letter”. The issues of gender that had been analyzed in her study were gender stereotype, subordination, and violence. She found in the novel that women had the bigger responsibility to the violation of social norms adopted by the Puritan community which were still discriminated to women.
The writer of this study expects to analyze all kinds of gender inequality found in Jean Sasson’s novel “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil”. She believes that the aspects of gender inequality are attached one another. She tries to investigate all aspects of gender inequality encountered by Princess Sultana as the main character, all at once the story teller.

The discussion of gender issues is challenging, because it does exist in both literal and factual world. The writer is interested in analyzing this issue because of concerning the fact that the gender issue, somehow, still happens in many parts of countries. The credence that women are worthless is something unbelievable and shocking. That is why she tries to open the way world views women as the minority and wishes to fix it. She feels the deep need to uncover the problem which is faced by many discriminated women across the nation, in this case in the form of literature.

The reason for choosing the novel “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil” written by Jean Sasson (1993) is this novel claimed written based on the princess’ true story. The princess made a friendship with an American woman who worked at the royal hospital and told her the story. Women of Saudi Arabia lived in cage. They had no freedom, no control over their own life, no value but as a bearer of sons. They were hidden behind the veil as prisoners, slaves and properties. Women were ignored by their fathers, scorned by their brothers and abused by their husbands. In contrast, men had absolute control over the women’s life. The authority of a Saudi male was unlimited which his wives and children survive only if he desired. In this novel, gender inequality in male and female relationship appeared as the major problem. Many intrigues and incidents were involved in the story. The writer hopes that by analyzing this novel, she can open the fallacy about men and women status, at least in literary world.
1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of study above, the problems of study are formulated as follow:

1. What kinds of gender inequality faced by Princess Sultana found on the novel “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil”?
2. What are the causes Princess Sultana gets gender inequality based on the novel “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil”?
3. What are the effects of gender inequality on Princess Sultana’s life?

1.3 Purpose of Study

Concerning with the problems above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To find and know the kinds of gender inequality faced by Princess Sultana found on the novel “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil.”
2. To know the causes Princess Sultana gets gender inequality.
3. To know the effects of gender inequality on Princess Sultana’s life.

1.4 Significance of Study

The result of this study is expected to give contribution for both theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study will develop the body of knowledge, particularly in literary studies concerning with gender issues. The readers will understand the literary work and gender itself, which has become the current issues in social and textual points in late of the 18th century. Then, the next researcher may compare the result of this study as a consideration and reference when conducting some literary studies related to the topic. Practically, after acquiring some
understandings about gender inequality issues, this study is expected as the basic knowledge to be considered that there will never be found unequal treatment, stereotype or concept between man and women, both in literary and factual world.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Despite of its elements, novel has many things to be discussed including the issues which engage in it. The writer chooses to analyze gender inequality issue found on “Princess: A Secret behind the Veil” written by Jean Sasson (1993) as the scope of this study. The writer limits the study on the gender inequality faced by Princess Sultana, the princess of Saudi Arabia.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and make the study clear to the reader, the writer would like to present several definitions of key terms:

1. Study is process of learning or examining a subject in detail. (Oxford, 2003)
2. Gender inequality is an imbalance situation between male and female concerning with their rights, opportunity, and status. (Fakih, 1996)
3. Jean Sasson is an American writer whose work mainly centers on women in the Middle East.
5. Princess: A Secret behind the Veil (1993) is one of the novels written by Jean Sasson concerning about women issue in the Middle East.