CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of the key terms used in the thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

Society still assumes that the position of women is lower than men. It is called discrimination which can be found in literary works. One of the literary works that can be criticized in feminist perspective is novel. According to Nancy Armstrong (The Cambridge companion to Feminist Literary Theory. 2006: 99):

Novel criticism acknowledged the success of these new reading practices during 1990s, when it focused considerable attention on sentimental fiction as the imaginary seedbed of a more inclusive nation, class mobility, and aesthetic innovation. In the years following that success, few critics of the novel have reflected on the fact that feminism adapted a very traditional - that is, masculine - notion of lack to think about the status of women and the gendered division of labor, not to mention the historical role played by both the category of the feminine and the people who occupy it.

In literature, novel criticism is one of innovation in literary works. This is a new reading practice that successfully brings modern analysis to the novel which has been traditional and masculine. The traditional and masculine novels tell about women status and their burden that are reflected as discrimination. The novel criticism analyzes and criticizes a literary work that has discrimination content in order to give information to the reader about feminist perspective.

The main aspects of literary criticism are analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating the novel (Pradopo, 2010: 93). The researcher tries to analyze literary
work which contains of injustices and inequalities of women. In doing feminist literary criticism the researcher should analyze, interpret, and evaluate the novel based on feminist perspective.

According to K.S (2009:51) feminist literary criticism Perspective is seriously discussed because some reasons, they are: (1) give a feedback of the literary symptom which had developed in the past century. (2) Open the movement space which is developed between author or women critic with men critic in understanding women author literary works. (3) Re-contemplate of literary criticism perspective which had existed for centuries, so there can be new theorems which is more understand human symptoms.

There are some important steps that can help researcher to do the research. First, identify women characters and find the position in society. Second, analyze another character especially who has relation with woman character that is analyzed. Third, analyze the style of author such as the language and the story of the novel that is expressed by the author (Sugihastuti, 2010: 101).

Those steps can be analyzed based on gender analysis. But, firstly the researcher must differentiate between gender and sex. Gender is differentiation between men and women, not based on the biological nature. The biological differentiation is the will of God, so it will be permanently different, whereas gender which is socially constructed by a behavioral difference between men and women. (Fakih, 2008:7) Shortly, gender analysis should involve two sexes to explore the life of characters, especially characteristic of main characters. It can be done by making role, status, and position of character.
According to Bressler (1999:4) the meaning of literary criticism is a disciplined activity that attempts to describe, study, analyze, justify, interpret, and evaluate a work of art. This discipline attempts to formulate aesthetic and methodological principles on which the critic can evaluate a text. Literary works can be criticized based on specific perspective, such as feminism that researcher conduct in this research. Criticizing a literary work is not only to women authors, but also to men authors. Their literary works sometimes contain discrimination to women, even women authors. That is why there is Feminist Literary Criticism which can change the stereotype to women that commonly negative.

According to Azis (2007) feminism perspective have not a great portion to be discussed in Indonesia. This topic is not too concern to be analyzed in Indonesia. While, in western this kind of criticism is main thing to study related to literary term because it is serious topic to be analyzed further that can give great contribution for women equality.

The researcher finds the human symptoms in the novel *Memoirs of Geisha* which is chosen as an object of analysis. The novel told about the struggle of woman who was fated as a Geisha. Geisha is an elegant entertainer from Japan. They are surrounded by men. Only rich men can get their performance. Chiyo (Sayuri) was the name of main character in this novel. Many hard things happened in her life since she was a little girl. Even then she enjoyed being Geisha but she didn’t get a right as men. As a poor girl, she was sold by her father to be a Geisha and her life was only to serve her costumer. The researcher can find many gender biases which can be analyzed as Feminist Literary Criticism in *Memoirs of Geisha* Novel.
1.2 **Statement of the Problem**

Considering the points discussed in the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follow:

- What kinds of gender bias are expressed in *Memoirs of Geisha* novel based on Feminist Literary Criticism Perspective?

1.3 **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose related to the literary works is:

- To find out the kinds of gender bias of *Memoirs of Geisha* Novel based on the Feminist Literary Criticism

1.4 **Significance of the Study**

The study has two significances:

1. For the reader, this research will enlarge the knowledge about literary criticism especially on feminism perspective. The reader also knows about gender biases expressed in *Memoirs of Geisha* novel.

2. For the next researcher, it can be used as a reference for the next researcher who wants to conduct a research about literary criticism analysis.

1.5 **Scope and Limitation**

The research is limited to the gender bias that is expressed in the *Memoirs of Geisha* related to feminist literary criticism.

1.6 **Definition of the Key Terms**

1. Feminist Literary Criticism (FLC): woman was a site of intense literary and critical activity that examined the power of the feminine as symbol even as it
worked to contain and constrain women in practice (A History of Feminist Literary Criticism: 2007).

2. Novel: a fictional prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginative with human experience through a connected sequence of events involving a group of person in a specific setting (Merriam Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature: 1995).

3. *Memoirs of a Geisha* is the title of the novel written by Arthur Golden

4. Gender: differentiation between men and women characteristics based on a social and cultural scheme.
   
   Bias: inequality or discrimination which is happened because of the gender differences.
   
   (Analisis Gender dan Transformasi Sosial: 2008).

5. Gender bias: the bias of role, status of women and men such as stereotype, subordinated, marginal, burden, and violence (Analisis Gender dan Transformasi Sosial: 2008).