

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 . The Background of the Research

*Dubliners* (1904) is a modernist novel written by James Joyce. He wrote *Dubliners* in systematic structure at the beginning of human's life, started from childhood, adolescence and went into adulthood. Among those stories, there are three short stories entitled *Eveline*, *The Boarding House* and *Clay* which are prominently showing the female's characters who attempted to survive and avoid the entrapment in their social life. Each of those female characters faced the monotonous life which then brought it into oppressed women who were paralyzed between their own choices to decide and continue their own lives.

James Joyce (1882 -1941) is an Irish writer who spent his early life in Dublin. He got a Bachelor of Arts degree with a focus on modern languages when he preceded his education at University College Dublin. His careers in writing appeared from his early age, when he got passion in literature and he was known for the aesthetic form of language in his writing.

Joyce depiction of woman as a subject in three short stories; *Eveline*, *The Boarding House* and *Clay* refers to the issues of gender and economic of Irish society at that time. These two cases become very essential since women's right presume have any movements in many

areas, such as culture, politic, working place, education and etc. It is true that there are some opportunities of better life for women, but however those few transformations is not really give significant impacts to women. They do any attempts to change their own condition in order to get passionate life, but the society does not give them any options to change. The author also presents these women's characters as oppressed women who are powerless in family and society. In the family, the role of gender is significant to oppress women due to male domination. Meanwhile, in the society they are oppressed because of the social pressure. However, they should fulfill their family needs under the constrains of gender's power and economy and demanded to be ideal women based on the motherhood as the ideal image of mother in society.

This novel published in the modernist area, which was mostly literary works at this era concern with the social condition under changing of transformations in many ways, such as culture, economy, politics and etc. Modernism as one of literary movement had influenced many authors to liberate their way of thinking into another perspective that examine the literary works experimentally with such new techniques. It serves the unfamiliar idealism, which moves from old traditions and means to bring the change. As transformations begins, it is hopefully can lift up the women's life particularly. But on the contrary, it shows the facts that the women's life under those changing in that era dealing with stagnancy and dispassionate life.

As women getting oppressed regarding those conditions, due to the male domination in family and oppression from society. They cannot fully enjoy those changing and liberate themselves. Moreover, they are getting separated from their own world which shape the decline of their personality becomes pathetic, hopeless, and fail to move forward. Therefore, the patriarchal system also has important role in correlating with economic system contribute to the women's oppression, subsequently women have paralysis which leading into decay.

Paralysis comes within women's characters in these three selected short stories as a result of the oppressions. Women's characters in these stories live their life in the restrictions of their circumstances which limited their moving to get a better life. The society does not provide them options to escape from that harsh reality. Their primary activities only stay at home and nurture the family's members. Women's duties in household highlight the crucial meaning to be truly woman. Furthermore, the various aspects in social life in those three short stories in *Dubliners* which consider as a result of paralysis appear from people's power surround their family, society and religious life.

## **1.2. The Identification of the Problem**

Three selected short stories in *Dubliners* entitled *Eveline*, *The Boarding House* and *Clay* reflected women's experience in their daily life in facing the oppression, which resulted in paralysis. The evidence of paralysis within each female characters in those three short stories, deals

characters in Clay who repressed by needs of having family, in which her religion's doctrine prohibit her to marry. As a whole, these three women's character entrapped in their own society, fail to move forward and also has no decision. So, this research focuses on main female characters in those three selected short stories who had entrapment in their own lives. Moreover it also discusses about the power of motherhood that embedded in female character's suffering within her society. Motherhood emerges to strength women's oppression by determining woman's duties in the home and role of women in the society.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Research**

In this research, the writer focuses on those women's character in three selected short stories, *Eveline*, *The Boarding House* and *Clay* and concentrating on this following research questions:

1. How do the women's paralysis occurred as a result of gender and capitalism as represented in those three short stories?
2. What is the power of motherhood in the three selected short stories?

### **1.4 The Objectives of the Research**

This study is aimed to examine the occurrence of paralysis as reflected which comes from the oppression of gender and capitalist oppressions. Women's role in the home and in the society serves awareness for man to oppress physically and economically. Moreover, it also examines the power of motherhood that concern on mother's figure as salvation of those oppressed women's characters.

### 1.5 The Review of Previous Studies

The research of this study concerns with the observing data from library research, which have related to the author, and those three selected short stories in *Dubliners*, “Eveline”, “The Boarding House”, and “Clay”. The writer has not found the thesis of English Department Student of Andalas University who has discussed *Dubliners*’ James Joyce.

Roger T. Briggs (2003) thesis entitled “Dubliners and the Joycean Epiphany” “discusses an aspect of religious life in Dublin in the early of twentieth century. The Roman Catholic Church was an important and prominent aspect, where the ninety percent of Irish people was a Roman Catholic Church with the numbers of Protestants belonging to the Church of Ireland. Joyce used his religious doctrines in *Dubliners* to show the importance of Catholic faith in Ireland, and also how the importance manifests itself in his characters, his view of the politics of the time, and his own interpretation about Church’s doctrines and practices.

The second research is “Joyce and Feminism” by Mohammad H. Al-Hamdani (1996) from Yemen-America Language Institute, Yemen. He illustrated the feminist reality in those two selected short stories in *Dubliners Eveline* and *The Boarding House*. In this essay, he analyzes that Joyce fights such patriarchal concepts that imprison and mistreat women. In *Eveline*, a main female character suffered from a lot of hardships and deprivation .She did not try to find any indecent job that would make her much easier money because she had to take care the family. In *The*

*Boarding House*, he showed that Joyce exposed the harsh reality in which females were not treated fairly and were exploited sexually and economically. Both of these two stories have similar concept of feminist criticism that had come into sight as an outcome of what women suffered through ages especially in patriarchal societies. He focused on females because of their imbalanced relationship with males and the consequences of such a relationship.

Another previous study that can be related to this research is “Lives of Girls and Women: Female Characters in Dubliners” by M. Pilar Sanchez Calle (1998), Universidad de Jaén taken from the Papers on Joyce 4 29-40. This essay analyzed the three aspects that affected women’s oppression, that was paralysis, gnomon and simony. The paralysis means that there is no movement in moral or physical feature, on the other hand the society made women’s life trapped and even become pathetic. The concept of gnomon refers to the important missing pieces throughout the story which is often thinking by female characters in Dubliners, and at last the simony deals with participation in the brutal economics of personal relationships considered as a monetary transaction, they victimize or can be a victim of pursue an economic interest. As a whole, he showed that how the depiction of female characters as societal types and as individual oppressed by specific circumstances. Although all characters, male and female, were paralyzed in the prison of self and society, gender is a more oppressive element for women than for men. Their frustration were often

directed into the manipulation, which confirms to the repetition of the same pattern of oppression.

Then, a thesis entitled "The Economic Oppression toward Women in Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders: A Marxist Feminist Reading" by Fitri Yani (2004) argued the idea that women are getting oppression in every aspect of social life, especially in economic aspect. If women get inequality in economy, they will get the oppression. The economic oppression will be the great oppression for them because economy is the basic in social system. She also offered that critics in feminist study does not only focus on the gender issue in textual context and analyze the images of women, but also in social issues of gender inequality. For this case, it tries to explore social imbalance toward gender in a literary works.

The last one is article journal by Florence L. Walzl entitled "Pattern of Paralysis in Joyce's Dubliners: A Study of the Original Framework (1961),\_depict the paralysis in the Dubliner's character as a effect of restrictions of life in Dublin considering that this city is sick, almost reach to the death in each individuals. This study seeks the basic pattern of image paralysis in the fourteen short stories that divided into four stages .First, the pattern is in childhood's stage, which the characters had development themselves psychologically and emotionally had an illusion to face real life, which can be stressed them. In youth, the free choices to choose what their future holds are serve to achieve goals in life that eventually stultifies their spirit and paralyzed their act become the similar

patterns on this stage. In the maturity, characters had paralysis in action while have inability to achieve those goals individually and in the society as a whole. The last stage is in the public life, it captures the moribund society where its people morally and intellectually dead. Thus, in these fourth stage, Joyce affirm those paralysis pattern had originally rooted individually, and getting broaden while the characters faced the harsh reality in Dublin. The Irish people in Dubliners had paralyzed in emotion, will, action and social values.

From the previous studies above, the writer get references which are important in conducting this prevailing research. It can be a guideline and a step to write this analysis. However, the writer will have different analysis comparing with those predecessors. Within this research, the writer will apply Feminist literary criticism which focuses on the Feminist Marxist. Furthermore, the writer will focus on the concept of paralysis city of Ireland as an impact of oppression of woman, both in gender and capitalist. The idea of motherhood also become important in this story since mother's role preserved to protect women position between the home and in her environment.

## **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

This research will apply Feminist criticism, with the subtopic about Feminist Marxism. Feminism issues that concern on the Millet's idea in argue the nature of women's oppression is patriarchy, it subordinate female

as an inferior male in civil and domestic life to oppress women directly or indirectly (Selden,1993: 214).

Since feminist criticism is historically challenging on man's domination and obstructing women's goal to gender equality ,this idea also hold by Feminist Marxism that generally focus on the gender's matters and economy. Based on Tyson (2006) on Marxist perspective "Marxism can be used to help us to understand how economic force has been manipulated by patriarchal law and custom to keep women economically, politically, and socially oppressed as an underclass" (94).

As quoted by Eisenstein (1984) in *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (1978) by Karl Marx and Engels which state their critique toward the Feminist Marxist. By capitalism, Marx and Engels referred to theory of power, that derives from class positions. In society the class divisions divided into two, they are bourgeois and proletariat.

"The bourgeois sees in his wife a mere instrument of production...the bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about hallowed co-relation of parent and child, becomes all the more disgusting the more, by the action of modern industry "( 10)

Moreover, Marx argued that the oppression of woman is effect of capitalist organization and based on the lack of power and control (18).

“...reveals their belief that the family, at least historically, structured the division of labor in society, and that this division of labor reflects the division of labor in the sex act. Initially, the family structure defined the structure of society” (22).

Woman’s oppression in the home and in society has been structured, primarily by the patriarchal system itself, which put aside the women’s justice is over male domination, that exist in the family in household activities of wife as a first form of sexual division of labor. According to Guerin (2006) the capitalist society that put economic matters on their concern put women as a tool to enrich the bourgeois in this case, is the husband in the society without pleading the women’s aspiration. “Marxist feminists attack the prevailing capitalist system of the West, which they view as sexually as well as economically exploitative” (202).

Then, the power of motherhood as a form of defending of crucial figure of mother clearly presented by Chodorow in her essay “Motherhood, Reproduction and Male Supremacy (1972)”, focuses on “mothering as part of the operation of male dominance” (79). Chodorow explain how motherhood as an institution is reproduced through mothering. Motherhood focuses not only upon the reproduction of children, but also in the reproduction of society, so it is not only reproduce children but also new mothers (80).

Eisenstein (1978) also argues that the crucial mothering role contributes not only to child development but also to the reproduction of male supremacy. Because women have to be responsible for child care and later to nurture their child to enter society. While women's activities allocate to the home's duties, men's activities has been omitted form the home (94).

Then, in *Contemporary Feminist Thought* by Eisenstein (1984) contains the idea of motherhood which undertook by Adrienne Rich by providing the concept of motherhood into two halves, which she named experience and institution (70).

“I try to distinguish between two meanings of motherhood, one superimposed on the other, the potential relationship of any woman to her powers of reproduction and to children ;and the institution, which aims at ensuring that potential and all women shall remain under male control” (7)

The discussion about the motherhood's idea that proposed by Rich sought the intention that motherhood is not only about women has choices to reproduce or not, to bear the children ,being an ideal mother with her household activities, and showing the submissive behavior. It contrasted to old idea about motherhood , particularly to the Good Mother which associates with principle birth, warmth, nourishment, perception, fertility , growth and abundance (Guerin:160). The institution that she says refers to

the power which maintains the experience of mother or woman's capacities over male's power. It concentrates on how woman's idea about being mother is not only located to home, but it transform gradually into the creation of experienced mothers in all aspects in society, including economic, health, family, political, and etc. Therefore, the power of motherhood relies on women's contribution to their family in the household activities and also to the society which is their role gives an aspiration for woman efforts in the society.

### **1.7. The Methods of the Research**

In conducting the research, three steps will be followed. Those three steps are collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result analysis. In collecting the data, the writer applies library research method, the research has two kinds of data, the primary and secondary data. The primary data taken from the literary work itself, *Dubliners* by James Joyce, while secondary data is any information which is taken from literary theory books, some journals, essays and articles referring with this novel.

In analyzing the data, the writer uses some books and other sources that deals with the concepts of women's paralysis as a result of gender and capitalist oppressions by applying the Feminist Marxism studies, It is also deal with the idea of motherhood refers to the book Contemporary Feminist Thought by Hester Eisenstein. The referential method will be used to identify feminist Marxism issues, especially in the book titled