

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of The Research

Gender is a frequently discussed discussion in various circles, both in general and in the literary world. In the literary world, gender is an issue that often appears in various works such as novels, poems, and plays. Generally, gender can be defined as a natural difference between males and females. In the literary world, gender is defined as a study that specific leads to how people describe themselves, how to evaluate others gender-based, and what people understand about behaviors such as masculine, feminine, and queer in the context of society, community, or a field of study including literature.

The gender issue is often a comparison between men and women. In *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, “gender is defined as grouping nouns and pronouns into masculine, feminine, and neuter” (1995:173). The differences between women and men can be seen from society's perspective on the characteristics of women and men. Society has always treated women and men differently and gives rise to an authoritarian side between men and women. The world of literature often talks about men who dominate more than women. Some literary works describe that of a man who has a significant role, dashing, strong, shortcut, wise, and others. At the same time, women are depicted in literary works as having helpless, weak, and unwise.

Women's weak and unwise side compared to men is often depicted in literary works. As Savitt (1982) states in his article “*Female Stereotype in Literature*,”

Female characters in the story have held tightly to several role models as their guides. While male characters have been given free rein to be and become what they like, even to fail if they choose, on the other hand, female characters have been written to play and re-play the same themes, limited as they are. (1)

As Savitt (1982) states, men, dominate almost all literary work, which creates a clear picture for women in literature. As the case with patriarchy, a system exists in a society that empowers men rather than women. The patriarchal system also believes that society grants men the privilege to dominate women, and the perspective given to women is weak and useless. Men often underestimate women. An article from Bell Hooks states,

Patriarchy is a political-social system that insists that males are inherently dominating, superior to everything and everyone deemed weak, especially females, and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence. (2013: 1)

In the statement, she explains how the patriarchal system gives high privileges and power to men to maintain its position to remain more dominant than women. A patriarchal system is a system that insists that the supreme power is in the hands of men. This system shows that men are superior and dominant over others, especially women, who are always considered weak. In addition, in this system, men have the right to lead and rule the weak under them, which leads to eroded spiritual violence. It is shown from the number of literary work that has been written by women where they oppose the patriarchal view that considers women as a source of weakness, and they dare to voice their aspirations loudly and in writing.

The Lord of The Rings is a classic novel of modern fantasy and heroism by renowned writer J.R.R Tolkien. J.R.R Tolkien (John Ronald Reuel Tolkien) is an English writer and scholar best known for his works such as *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of The Rings* (1954), as well as winning the Nobel prize. Tolkien is also known as ‘The Father of Modern Fantasy.’ *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of The Rings* became novels many people liked to translate into many languages. A character with a high consistency of a hero. His works were also filming, such as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of The Rings*. In addition to being filmed, some of Tolkien's novels have been successfully translated into several languages worldwide.

All three books are published in London, and the three novels also present different conflicts. Allen and Unwin, as publishers of *The Lord of The Rings*, state that the first part of *The Lord of The Rings* is *The Fellowship of The Ring*, published on July 29, 1954, and printed almost 3000 copies. The second part is *The Two Towers*, published on November 11, 1954. These books successfully printed more than 3000 copies. The third part is *The Return of The King*, published on October 20, 1955.

The Lord of The Rings also has a lot of opinions from other critics. In the comments, some thoughts oppose or support the author. The average of these comments leads to women's trivial and ambiguous images. Many individuals have different perspectives about Tolkien's motivation for writing the work. One of the elements that influenced him to create this story is that he grew up and prospered in an atmosphere where males ruled all aspects of life. The work also demonstrates how Tolkien made males dominate in every aspect and the author's limited role for women.

The writer will examine two topics in J.R.R. Tolkien's first work, such as masculinity and femininity in the characters. The writer analyzes *The Fellowship of The Ring* as the object of the research because, in this novel, male and female characters have masculine and feminine sides that are swapped as male characters who have a dominant feminine side or female characters who have a dominant masculine side. In addition, some conflicts affect the masculine and feminine sides of the characters in this novel, both external and internal conflicts. Also, the female characters in the story have more power than the female characters in the next two stories and the patriarchal side in this novel which Tolkien describes.

The writer is studying this work for the reasons, the most important of which is that J.R.R Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* began to raise concerns about how Tolkien portrays the female position in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, even though the author has a dominated male character.

Furthermore, this work depicts gender relationship and stereotypes of men and women. One of the most apparent realities is that female characters receive far less attention than male characters. However, the male character in this novel is more dominant than the female figure. In this work, the female character is characterized as a closed lady who remains at home and is submissive to her husband. In addition, this novel has patriarchal aspects of the author, strengthening the writer's proof in analyzing this research.

To study this novel, the writer uses a feminist literary perspective to understand how Tolkien expresses the meaning of the feminine and masculine characteristics of male and female characters. The perspective of Helen Cixous's *patriarchal binary thought* to understand the changes to women and men and gender stereotypes in the novel. Also, the

writer uses *social constructionism* by Simone De Beauvoir to understand the roles built by males and females.

1.2 Identification of Problems

In this study, the writer will analyze how *The Fellowship of the Ring* depicts masculinity, femininity, and conflict themes. First, the writer identifies how the masculinity and femininity side of the male and female characters in this novel. Then, the writer will examine the story in external and internal conflict, and the writer will relate the masculine and feminine sides of the characters influenced by the conflicts. The writer also analyzes how the authors represent changes in stereotypes between women and men. Unfortunately, as a work written by a male author whose background is a patriarchal culture, this novel has significant issues such as men's domination and female roles shown by the author.

1.3 The Scope of The Research

This research is divided into two sections by the writer. To begin, the writer focuses on how the author portrays femininity and masculinity in female and male characters. The writer will analyze the masculine side of the female character and the feminine side of the male character. Also, the writer focuses on how the author depicts the conflicts in *The Fellowship of The Ring* related to femininity and masculinity. The writer will analyze the internal and external conflicts in this novel, which are related to masculinity and femininity.

1.4 Research Questions

The writer focuses on the masculinity and femininity side presented in male and female characters in *The Fellowship of The Ring*. Then, the writer focuses on how the author

depicts the conflict in the novel related to femininity and masculinity. Therefore, researchers will limit their research based on the following two questions.

1. [How](#) does J.R.R Tolkien present the femininity and masculinity side of male and female characters in *The Fellowship of The Ring*?
2. How does J.R.R Tolkien depict the conflicts in *The Fellowship of The Ring* related to femininity and masculinity?

1.5 The Objective of The Research

The writer intends to accomplish two goals with this research. The first describes how male and female characters in *The Fellowship of the Ring* depict masculinity and femininity. The writer wants to demonstrate how the feminine and masculine sides are included in this novel's male and female characters. The second purpose is to examine how the author depicts the problems in *The Fellowship of The Ring*. The writer separates the conflict into external and internal ones linked to the novel's characters, masculine and feminine aspects. Additionally, to achieve these goals, the writer also examines issues related to the representation of women and men in feminist thought in this novel. Furthermore, the writer also hopes this research can positively impact others and provide additional knowledge and views about the feminist perspective.

1.6 The Review of the Previous Studies

Several previous studies relate to the topic and theory that the writer raises. As the first review, this article was written by Gwen Berglind and entitled *The Female Presence in Tolkien's Masculine World* (2017). This article focuses on female power in Tolkien's work.

Although she does not clarify her study methodology in this article, I assume it is written from the standpoint of women as a reader. It is seen in her concern for the issue of women's roles in Tolkien's works, which are connected to Tolkien's life. In this article, the researcher responds to the concerns raised in his research where this issue discusses Tolkien's lack of understanding of women, which forces him to idealize his mother as an extraordinary woman and make the male character dominate in every work. According to this article, many female authors and readers have been disillusioned with Tolkien's work due to an imbalance in which women and men should be given equal attention and share because they are interdependent. The idea also impacted his work, giving women less and more power. Furthermore, I realize that this article is unsystematic in terms of both information and structure. Besides that, this article helps the writer understand the object from another point of view about a woman as a reader.

The second article by Denisa Yunita, Agnes Setyowati H, and Ni Made Widisanti San is entitled *The Relationship of Women's Stereotype and Masculinity through The Study of The Main Character in The Novel Moana by Suzanna Frances* (2020). This article observed two essential issues: gender inequality and violence and the destruction of feminine traits in the main character. From these two issues, I assume that they show how injustice, inequality, and masculinity are manifested in the portrayal of female characters. This article uses perspectives such as gender theory and stereotype as the primary strategy and psychology and sociology as complementary approaches to the issues at hand. Furthermore, I acknowledge that the article's systematic form will assist readers in obtaining data and information and understanding the issues mentioned.

The following article by Siti Fatimah, Surya Sili, and Chris Asanti is entitled *The Masculinity and Femininity Traits of Female Character in Roth's Insurgent Novel* (2019). From this article, I recognized that the concerns raised in this article are relevant to the topic of masculinity and femininity. This research aims at the masculinity and femininity of female characters in the *Insurgent* novel. This article rewriting the novel's female character demonstrates that women can be more masculine. Also, I claim that the article understands how women have more masculine features than feminine traits. In analyzing the issue, the researchers used sex role inventory in their work. Furthermore, this article provides an experience of gender equality and gender stereotypes, which helps the writer see work from another point of view.

Apsyah Imelda and Diah Tyahaya Iman in their article "*Gender Stereotype, Sexual orientation and Intimate Relationship in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Herland and Ayu Utami Saman* (2021). This article compares two literary works, *Herland*, written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, an American novelist, and *Saman* by Ayu Utami, an Indonesian writer. These two works examine that Perkins and Utami were interested in women's demands for independence and that their traits are inconsistent with patriarchal binary thought. The researchers use Helen Cixous' patriarchal binary thought as the major technique in this study. In this method, the researcher intends to convey her findings by assuming that women value masculinity. In this article, they recognize that the two authors have opposing viewpoints on Cixous binary patriarchy, which demonstrates that women may have masculine ideals in their work. In this article, the researchers assume that *Herland* and *Samaan* do not represent male masculinity as favored because they put their position on the positive side of Cixous's patriarchal binary thought even though they

still retain some characteristics of masculinity in these two novels. Furthermore, This research gives the writer a better understanding of Cixous's application of patriarchal binary thought about gender stereotypes, providing data and information for the writer or reader.

The next is an article by Khafidzy, Fakhrizal Alda, and Rosyidah, Usma Nur Dianan entitled *Clary Fray's Femininity and Masculinity the Main Female Character in Cassandra Clare's Novel The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* (2017). This article has the same goal and topic as numerous others studied in a novel. In this review, the researchers that no matter how strong and independent women try to be, they still crave male rights and support. From this article, they assess that the main character wants to demonstrate how masculine and self-sufficient a woman can be while conforming to the period's patriarchal system. In this situation, I maintain that the novel's main female character still requires male protection and help. This research uses Judith Bullers' gender performance as a starting point. Other perspectives mentioned in this article; include new feminism. The presence of symbols in the main character that refers to new feminism demonstrates this approach. This review also helps the writer better comprehend how female characters preserve their masculine elements while maintaining their feminine sides by providing more information from a different perspective.

The last article by Ayu Venty Pratami, Rita Sutjiati Djohan, and Endang Purwaningsih is entitled *The Conflicts of the Main Character in the Novel Entitled "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova* (2016). This article evaluates several types of conflict and finds the dominant conflict in this study. This article has a big scope in terms of objects because it analyzes the main character from her family life, friends life, herself, and vice versa. From the article, they analyze how to determine what kind of conflict the main character is

experiencing and which type of conflict is the most prevalent. In Kurt Lewin's theory, a conflict with the same aim is known as positive-negative, and this article's data show that approach avoidance is the dominating conflict.

My study is different from the previous ones. This study focuses on masculinity and femininity in *The Fellowship of the Ring's* depicted through characters. It also focuses on the conflicts in the novel and how they impact the male and female characters' masculinity and femininity. Then, I will explain and analyze feminist issues in the story using Cixous' patriarchal binary thought perspective.

