

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

As a reflection of society, literature often talks about the domination of men toward women. As a reflection of society, literature often talks about the men's domination's of women. This problem still exists as a discourse in literature. We can see in the literary works, which mostly defined man as stronger, smarter, and wiser than women. Meanwhile, women's characters are often depicted as subordinate weak and irrational.

Furthermore, women – which are stereotyped as weaker, dumber, and unwise than men – can be seen almost in every literary work. As Savitt claims 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. (1982: 1)

As Savitt mentions, because the famous literary works are dominated by men, it influenced the depiction of women in literature. Patriarchy is a system in the society which is given the privilege of men dominating women and it is maintained through the father's lineage, so women always remain as subordinates. Bell Hooks in her article 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 to maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence.”

(hooks, 2013: 1)

hook emphasizes how patriarchy gives privileges to men to maintain their position to continue to dominate women because they considered as the dominant group.

Bonny Ball Copenhaver (2002), in her dissertation, “*A Portrayal of Gender and a Description of Gender Roles in Selected American Modern and Postmodern Play,*” analyzes how gender in modern and postmodern works portrays female and male characters in one of literary works genre; play. She finds out that male playwrights describe female characters based on the traditional gender role in society (352). Likewise, these characteristics can be finds in *Long Day’s Journey into Night* by Eugene O’Neill.

Eugene Gladstone O’Neil is an American origin playwright who was born on October 16, 1888. During his live, O’Neill already published several plays, among them, are *Beyond The Horizon* (1920), *Anna Christie* (1922), *Strange Interlude* (1928), and *Long Day’s Journey into Night*. All of these plays won Pulitzer Prize that makes O’Neill become the only American playwright who wins Pulitzer Prize four times.

Arthur and Barbara Gelb states that *Long Day’s Journey into Night* was written based on Eugene O’Neill’s true story. O’Neill made this play as a wedding anniversary gift to his wife, Charlotta. *Long Day’s Journey into Night* published in 1956 by Yale Press and staged in Stockholm, Sweden, on February 2, 1956, for the first time.

Long Day's Journey into Night set in August 1912, this play has four major character's, they are James Tyrone, a husband with his wife Mary Tyrone, and their two sons, James Tyrone Jr and Edmund Tyrone. This play happens in the Tyrone's summer house from morning until late at night. The story revolves into the Tyrone family, which wrecked as the story goes on.

Tyrone blames his stinginess of using cheap doctor to treat Mary's pain when she delivered her baby that makes Mary addicted to morphine. Mary, who trapped in her past, feels like her life is happier when she was young. Jamie blames himself because he cannot be a good brother for Edmund and admit his jealousy of his younger brother. The last child, Edmund, who has a fragile body, must rest for six months in the sanatorium because of tuberculosis. It was a hazardous disease during that time.

As further reading, the writer finds that female and male characters are presented differently. Female characters in this play are described negatively. Meanwhile, male characters in this play, particularly Tyrone, are described positively through his domination as a husband and father. This condition occurs arguably because Eugene O'Neill, as a male writer, wants to maintain patriarchal value through his work. Therefore, the writer will analyze how the images of women and men's dominations are portrayed in this play. Although this play was published in 1956, the issues reflected are still relevant until today. In contrast, the image of women is considered inferior. Meanwhile, men are superior and dominant.

The writer chooses this play to be analyzed because this is one of American best play, which won the Pulitzer Prize. This play is widely read, studied, and enjoyed by many people. Therefore, the writer proposes this research and entitled

this research as “**The Images of Women and Men’s Dominations As Seen In Eugene O’neill’s *Long Day’s Journey into Night.*** “

1.2 The Identification of Problem

In *Long Day’s Journey into Night*, the writer finds how female characters are depicted negatively. Meanwhile, men are portrayed as dominant figures. The writer believes that, as a play which is written by a male author, the images of female characters in this play are biased. It means that female characters in this play are created based on traditional gender roles. The writer argues that the difference in the characters’ portrayal in this play aims to maintain the value of patriarchy.

Hence, in this research, the writer analyzes how the negative image of women are portrayed in *Long Day’s Journey into Night*. Moreover, the writer also shows the depiction of male characters through their dominations, to see the different portrayal of women and men’s characteristics in this play.

1.3 Scope of the Research

This research applies feminist criticism from the perspective of a woman as a reader. Since this research focuses on intrinsic analysis, and the writer will show how O’Neill, as a male writer, depicted female characters in his work, *Long Day’s Journey into Night*. The writer focuses on the portrayal of female characters in this play, Mary Tyrone and Cathleen. Furthermore, the writer also shows the men’s dominations in this play to see how male and female characters described differently.

1.4 Research Question

The research focuses on how female characters are portrayed in this play and to see the dominations of male that occurred in this play. Therefore, the writer will limit the research based on the two following questions.

1. How are women portrayed in *Long Day's Journey into Night*?
2. How are men's dominations shown in *Long Day's Journey into Night*?

1.5 The objective of the Research

The purposes of this research are :

1. To examine how Eugene O'Neill portrays the images of female characters in his play, *Long Day's Journey into Night*.
2. To elucidate the different portrayals of female and male characters through men's dominations in *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

The writer hopes this research will help to enrich literary studies on gender studies and feminist criticism, especially on American literature.

1.6 The Review of the Previous Studies

Long Day's Journey into Night is one of the greatest plays in American literary history. A lot of scholars already analyzed this play with different theories. Among them is a journal article written by Majed S. Al-Lehaibi, an Assistant Professor of the English Department of Jazan University, Saudi Arabia, entitled *Family Conflict Theory in O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night* (2015). He states that sometimes, families are the center of the conflict. There are several conflicts happen in Tyrone's, such as between sibling, between parents, between past and the present life of Tyrone's and conflict between mother and herself. His finding argues this play advances the theme that, within the context of the family,

the ghost of the past plays itself out in the present. The play also demonstrates that families are often the centers of conflict and contradiction. This journal helps the writer to understand the object from another point of view.

Second, a journal article by Bitu Darabi from Islamic Azad University with her supervisor, Sima Farshid, an assistant professor in Karaj Branch, Iran. Darabi's journal entitled *Lacanian Orders in Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night* (2013). They analyze the characters from a mental and psychological perspective based on Jacques Lacan's psychic order, which is well known as Lacanian orders. Lacan says that the human psyche is formed by three orders; the imaginary, the symbolic, and the real. These orders *are related* to the characters in this play. They find that the Tyrones suffer from a mental problem caused by the unfulfilled desire of the *Imaginary Order*. So, they use drugs to satisfy themselves. This article shows the problem of Tyrone's family from the psychology perspective.

Third, the writer finds a journal article from Beauty Dewi Sofranita entitled *Pemikiran dan Tindakan Tokoh Helen Dalam Feuchtgebiete Karya Charlotte Roche* (2015). Beauty Dewi Sofranita is a graduate student from Germany Literary Studies Department Surabaya University. In identifying her thesis, she uses a radical-libertarian feminist perspective by Kate Millett concerning Helen characters in *Feuchtgebiete*. Helen, as the main character has different characteristics from the feminism concept that exists in society through her thought and behaviors. The result of her study shows that Helen represents a radical-libertarian feminist perspective acted differently and deviates from femininity value, such as refusing all kinds of hygiene perception, internalize androgyny, and undergo sterilization. This research gives the writer a better understanding of the

application of sexual politics theory by Kate Millett about how the image of women in society is shaped by patriarchal culture.

Later, the writer also finds an article by Li Jing entitled *Heroine Image Interpretation in Long Day's Journey into Night* (2016). Jing analyzes how the image of women in the patriarchal society is represented by Mary based on her three social roles as a daughter, wife, and mother. As a daughter, Mary is being shaped and educated on the patriarchal core of her father. When she becomes a wife, Mary's life is controlled by Tyrone. Her married life with Tyrone was limited to accompany Tyrone on his tour and raising her children. This is what cause Mary to become so depressed and lonely as she doesn't have any friends, likewise with her life as a mother. Mary feels that she failed to raise her children in accordance with traditional society standard at the time that makes Mary's life became tragic.

Li Jing studies that Patriarchal culture is a source of Mary's misery as a woman who lives in a patriarchal culture. Besides, the depiction of Mary's life in this drama is also a reflection of how a woman lives in a patriarchal society, whereas women's lives are fully controlled by men. Li Jing's research shows how patriarchy has a negative impact on women.

The last related study is a thesis by Ayu Wirdawati, a graduate student from the English Department Andalas University. Her thesis entitled *The Negative Stereotypes of Women in Sebastian Fitzek Novel's Therapy* (2008). Wirdawati, in her thesis, explains how the negative stereotypes of women shown by female characters and by the plot of the story. She applies feminist criticism and uses the Sexual Politics theory by Kate Millett to analyze her work. She finds that as a man writer, Sebastian Fitzek labeled female characters with negative stereotypes as a

medium to defend patriarchal ideology existence. This research helps the writer to enrich the understanding of how female characters' literary works are often portrayed negatively by male writers.

1.7 The Theoretical Framework

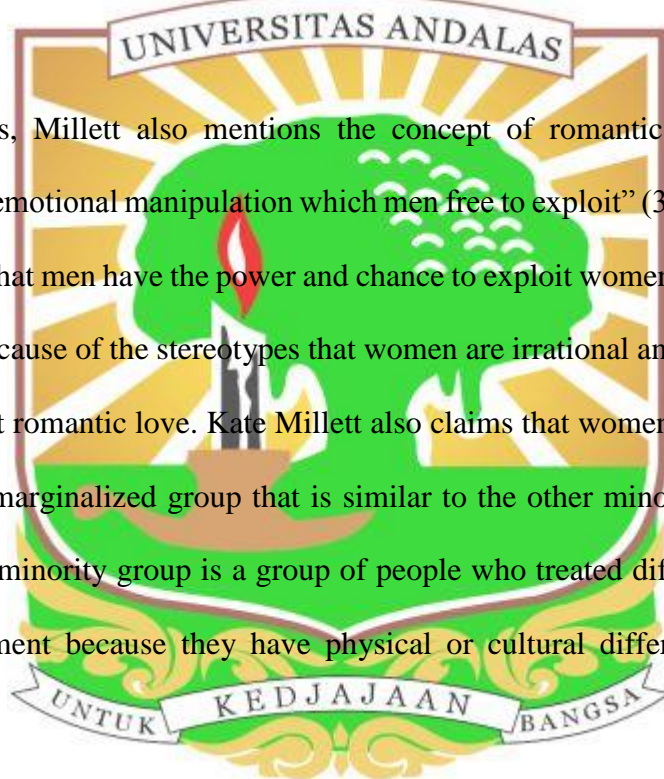
In conducting this research, the writer uses feminist criticism. Feminist literary criticism, as Mario Klarer states in his book *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (2004: 97), "Feminist literary criticism focuses on stereotypes or distorted portrayals of women in a literary tradition dominated by men". As many critics insist, feminist criticism examines how women in literary works are dominated by male characters. Thus, with feminist criticism, we can see how women's image in literary work are often described with negative stereotypes.

The writer also reads *Theorizing Patriarchy* by Silvia Walby (1990). Walby (20) define patriarchy as a "system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women". For deeper studies, patriarchal system also exists in literature. Furthermore, the writer applies Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics* to analyze the image of women in literature written by men writer. Millett argues that the main source of oppression against women is ideology. Patriarchy considers women as subordinate both in public and in private. Millett also emphasizes how sex and gender used as a reference in distinguishing the roles of women and men. The unequal and repressive role differences in the relationship between dominant and subordinate towards men and women are called sexual politics. As Millett stresses, sexual politics see how basic patriarchy regard to temperament, role, and status. Men are considered to have higher status than women. In temperament, men are associated as smart, logic, and aggressive, while women are depicted as

ignorance, docility, and passive. Meanwhile, in its role category, women's roles in society only related to biological experiences, such as giving birth and babysitting. On the other hand, men tend to adopt roles as mastery (26).

Kate Millett states that family is the smallest patriarchal institution in society. In the patriarchal family, women-only involved in household and took care of children. While the father always ends up as the head of the family. A man who becomes the head of the family has full authority over his wife (or wives) and children (33).

Besides, Millett also mentions the concept of romantic love, which is described as "emotional manipulation which men free to exploit" (37). At this point, Millett states that men have the power and chance to exploit women. This condition can happen because of the stereotypes that women are irrational and illogical when they talk about romantic love. Kate Millett also claims that women in a patriarchal society are a marginalized group that is similar to the other minorities. Based on their status, a minority group is a group of people who treated differently and get unequal treatment because they have physical or cultural differences from the majority (55).



On the other hand, Millet analyzes several famous literary works written by men in a women's perspective, to see how far man's dominations of women in the field of literary criticism. She analyzes popular works, such as D. H. Lawrence, Henry Miller, and Norman Mailer. In analyzing their works, Millett discovers how female characters were poorly or negatively portrayed by male writers. Millett notes how many male characters in these novels are denigrating, exploitative, and repressive towards female characters. Based on the novel written by the men writer,

Millett finds that the relationship between sex and power by male characters towards female characters is a reflection of society (Hans Bertens: 95).

Furthermore, the writer uses sexual politics to identify the depiction of female and male characters found in *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

1.8 The Method of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer uses three steps. The first step is collecting the data, the second one is analyzing the data, and the last is presenting the result.

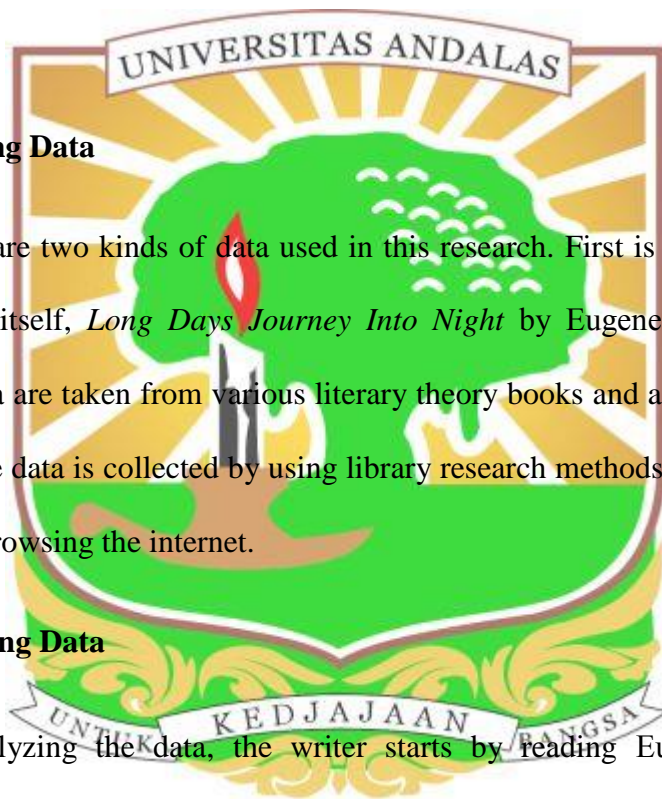
1.8.1 Collecting Data

There are two kinds of data used in this research. First is primary data, is literary work itself, *Long Days Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill. Then, secondary data are taken from various literary theory books and articles related to the topics. The data is collected by using library research methods: reading books, articles, and browsing the internet.

1.8.2 Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the writer starts by reading Eugene O'Neill's play *Long Day's Journey into Night* comprehensively to get a better understanding. Then the writer identifies and compares female and male characters in this play. Moreover, the writer analyses it by using feminist criticism, focusing on the theory of sexual politics by Kate Millett. Lastly, the writer reads the books and articles that support the analysis.

1.8.3 Presenting Data



The last step is presenting the result of the research. Since this research is qualitative, the method used in presenting the result of the research is descriptive. Therefore, the result will be presented descriptively through words.

