

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

It is not a secret anymore that the gender inequality issue has become a problem in America. Many women accepted their unequal status without question, but there were also others who took an active interest in political life and who became increasingly dissatisfied with their continuous exclusion. Feminists in America answered this problem with a movement which is known as women liberation movement.

Their movements are divided into three waves, namely the first wave, the second wave and the third wave. However, considering the vast range of feminism, I will only focus on the second wave of feminism for my analysis for the simple reason that the second wave of feminism has different purposes compared to the other waves. The second wave of feminism was more concerned about inequality and problems of working-class women. I am of the opinion that this wave has a more significant role in spreading the spirit of feminism compared to the first wave of feminism, which only concerned middle-class single women. The superiority of the second wave of feminism is clearly

reflected as every single feminist could have their ideas and opinions, which distinguishes this wave from the third wave of feminism.

In the third wave, there is no all-encompassing single feminist idea, which I believe “killed” the inspiration of feminists in this era. Furthermore, the third wave of feminism lacks a cohesive goal and also it does not have a set definition that can distinguish itself from the second-wave feminism. On the other hand, “the second wave of feminism focused on de facto inequalities, or unofficial inequalities, and also felt that de jure and de facto inequalities were inextricably linked issues that needed to be addressed together”. (georgetowncollege) For this reason, the second wave of feminism offers various names and methods in fighting for their ideology such as Carrol Hanisch with her inspirational songs that criticized gender inequality and Shulamith Firestone who founded New York Radical Women that functions as media for women to express their opinion about gender inequality. I personally think it is more challenging to analyze the second wave than the other waves.

The term 'Second Wave' was coined by Marsha Lear and referred to the increase in feminist activity which occurred in America. In America, the second-wave feminism rose out of the Civil Rights and anti-war movements in which women, disillusioned with their second-class status even in the activist environment of student politics, began to band together to contend against discrimination. The tactics employed by The Second Wave Feminists varied from highly-published activism, such as the protest against the Miss America beauty contest in 1968, to the establishment of small consciousness-raising groups. Furthermore, Second Wave Feminism not only made an impact upon western societies, but also continued to inspire the struggle for women's rights across the world (georgetowncollege).

It is undeniable that the second wave of feminism was famous for radical ideas as it is explained in *Feminist Thought*, the goal of radical feminist is to eliminate gender system that has been created by our society. They believe that the system is the root of oppression on women. Every radical feminist seeks to overthrow the patriarchal standards of current society by attacking the underlying beliefs and causes of the patriarchy. Thus, the radical feminism tries to attack the social beliefs of masculinity and femininity (Tong 66)

It is interesting to study the ideology of radical feminism and how they tried to give a negative representation about masculinity in their text through several strategies that can be discovered by using several linguistic features. Moreover, it is also a challenge for me as a male to see the other side of feminism. Another thing that encourages me to choose radical feminism is because radical feminist has a unique approach to express their action and ideology in society. For that reason, I intend to analyze the practice of ridiculing a certain gender by a person who is a radical feminist.

There are a lot of important figures in radical feminist organization; however, I will only focus on Valerie Solanas, an influential and controversial radical feminist figure. Solanas, who was born in Ventnor City, New Jersey was an American radical feminist writer and the author of SCUM manifesto. She claimed that she regularly suffered from sexual abuse at the hands of her father and her grandfather. Her parents were divorced when she was 11, and her mother remarried shortly afterwards. During 1966 until 1967, Solanas tried her fortune as a playwright. She wrote a play entitled *Up Your Ass* about a man-hating prostitute and a panhandler. It is believed that this play reflected her infliction. (womynkind.org)

Several considerations lie behind my decision to analyze Solanas' text. The first one is because she is the most radical feminist among the radical ones.

As a proof, Valerie Solanas had a radical vision in a relatively young age of making an all-female society and degeneration of males. She poured her vision of a society without males in the tract entitled SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men) manifesto. Another consideration why I choose Valerie Solanas is because of her bravery to fight back males' domination towards females in her era.

In this thesis, I will analyze how Solanas represent male in her text. According to Halliday and Hassan, "the text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole" (1). However, due the limitation of time and length of the thesis, I only focus on the opening part of the text, as this text is thirteen pages long. I believe, that the part can give enough evidence on Solanas' point of view, as the text is an argumentative one, and in argumentative text, the opening part is "thesis statement" or the position of the writer (Paltridge 110)

The particular part of the text is analyzed by applying Martin and Rose's theory of Appraisal, which concerns about various resources a text producer can use to negotiate social relationships by "telling our listener how we feel about things and people" (Martin and Rose 26).

The reason why I choose text analysis is that this study device seems to be very helpful to reveal what the language above the sentence or above the clause is, and therefore it is concerned with larger and more detailed linguistic fields. It is also concerned with the language use in social contexts. These subfield of linguistics will help me to analyze and reveal the real intention of the writer implicitly or explicitly. In the end, hopefully, this topic can make readers aware that writers usually have certain intentions and attitudes in their text. Thus, by doing the study, I hope I can show how that works, so that readers are encouraged to be more critical when dealing with texts they find in their daily life (1115).

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

1. What linguistic elements are applied to create the representation of masculinity in Valerie Solanas' SCUM manifesto?
2. How is masculinity represented in the text?

## **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To reveal the linguistic elements used to create the representation of masculinity in Valerie Solanas' SCUM manifesto
2. To show how masculinity is represented in the text

## **1.4 METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method used was library research. I began the research for this thesis by finding and reading some books that were relevant with the topic discussed. I also searched for some further explanation about the basic concept of text analysis. After that I analyzed the text based on appropriate theory and wrote the research report.

## **1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Theoretical Framework. Chapter Three is the analysis of the text. The last chapter, Chapter Four, is the Conclusion of all those analyses. At the end of the thesis, I put the Bibliography and Appendix.