

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Feminism is women's movement which demands emancipation and equality rights with men, thus a term that emerged long after women started questioning their social position.¹ The ideology of feminism which considered on the liberation of women with believes that suffering and injustice towards women cause of their sexuality.²

Discussion about feminism it's talk about how polarization of men and women on society and discussion about rights, status, and women position on domestic and public.³ The action of feminism experiencing movement and understanding on its concept of thinking. This phenomena caused multiple streams or movement which emergence in three waves, in attempt at some kind of classifications, histories of feminism have talked about the historical appearance of strong feminist movements at different moments as a series of "waves". Thus "first wave" feminist is used to refer to the late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century feminist movements that were concerned.⁴

Liberalism, the school of political thought from which liberal feminism has evolved, is in the process of reconceptualizing, reconsidering, and reconstructing itself.⁵ Liberal feminism is response to and development of liberalism. For this reason, it is necessary to provide some backgrounds on

¹ Jane Freedman, *Concepts in the Social Sciences Feminism*, (Buckingham: Open University Press, 2001), p. 3.

² Zoer'aini Djamal Irwan, *Besarnya Eksploitasi Perempuan dan Lingkungan di Indonesia*, (Jakarta: Elex Media Komputindo, 2009), p. 38.

³ Siti Muslikhati, *Feminisme dan Pemberdayaan Perempuan dalam Timbangan Islam*, (Jakarta: Gema Insani, 2004), p. 17.

⁴ Jane Freedman, *Concept in the Social...*, p. 4.

⁵ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought A More Comprehensive Introduction*, (Charlotte: Westview Press, 2009), p. 11.

liberal thought. Mainstream liberalism in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in whatever variant, offered a form of thought in which “the individual” (the full adult citizen) is a “descendent of the enlightenment concept of an autonomous rational being” and political equality is associated with that ability to reason.⁶

Discussion about rights-duty of women’s responsibility has been going on for a long time. Most of people which give unbalanced place for women with various reason. Similar things which appears on Christian society, which brings under the name of God and it’s scripture. Until women place in the lower place.⁷ Women’s condition in the middle age is almost apprehensive. Most of women illiterate which on inferior⁸ position from the men.⁹

The relationship between feminism and Catholicism is not new, but in rapidly changing cultural environment the nature of the debate has shifted significantly in recent years.¹⁰ Early Christianity on their view that anchoress have their opportunity to against family dominance, which still alive around medieval nun, but only in minimal form. But in the late century independence of female priests was subjugated and dominated by monk’s power.¹¹

Coming from this reason the writer should analyze the Criticism of Liberal Feminism on the role of Women in Catholic and Protestant.

⁶ Chris Beasley, *Gender and Sexuality, Critical Theories Critical Thinkers*, (London: Sage Publication, 2005), p. 30.

⁷ Ev. Aya Susanti, *Feminisme Radikal Studi Kritis Al-Kitabiah*, (Bandung: Yayasan Kalam Hidup, 2008), p. 3.

⁸ Women occupy lower position than men in the Middle Age or Modernism.

⁹ Mariani Febriana, “Perempuan dalam Lintasan Sejarah Kristen: Ini Aku Tuhan, Utuslah Aku”. *Jurnal Aletheia*, Vol. 4, No. 7, (September, 2002), p. 50.

¹⁰ Tina Beattie, *New Catholic Feminism Theology and Theory*, (New York: Routledge, 2006), p. 17.

¹¹ Arvind Sharma, *Perempuan Dalam Agama-Agama Dunia*, (New York: State University of New York Press, 1987), p. 263-264.

B. Problem of Study

Referring to above background, the writer formulated the problem of this research as follows:

1. What is the catholic and protestant perspective on liberal feminism?
2. How is liberal feminism views on the role of women in Catholic and Protestant?

C. Purpose of Study

Based on the Problem above, this research purpose on :

1. Knowing clearly Catholic and Protestant perspective on liberal feminism
2. Analyzing and describing the role of women in Catholic and Protestant

D. Importance of Study

The study requested to give valuable contribution to research and the students. It is expected that this research can be used for:

1. Theoretical Importance

- a. To extend the knowledge about Liberal Feminism critical on the role of women in Catholic and Protestant.
- b. As one of the references that might be used for the next researcher.

2. Practical Importance

- a. To prove that women degrees not lower than men in the social field, suffrage, and their leadership in the Church secure while many critic on the role of women inside and outside the Church in this world.
- b. To fulfill requirement for the degree of licentiate in Ushuluddin Faculty for Comparative Religion.

E. Literature Review

Regarding to the research of liberal feminism and the role of women in Catholic and Protestant, the researcher find many writings which discussed either about liberal feminism or the role of women in Catholic and Protestant. The first writing is, *Status dan Peranan Perempuan dalam Gereja Ajaran Katolik*, an undergraduate thesis. Written by Chaerunnisa a graduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah period 2008. On her writing, she described how was indicators of gender inequality and status and the role of women in perception of Catholic¹². However she did not described about the role of women in perception of Protestant and how liberal feminism view on it.

So, came after that, *Wanita dalam Agama Kristen Protestan*, an undergraduate thesis. Written by Mohammad Najmi Bin MD Mukhtar a graduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau period 2010. On his writing, he described the role of women in Christian Protestant and aspect of dogma and sociology in Protestant¹³, but he did not described inequality of gender in protestant.

So next what the writer found is *وجهة النظر المسيحية للدور المرأة السياسي* a thesis. Written by Muhammad Arfiandoni Hidayatullah a graduate of Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies period 2015. In this research described about the role of women in Christianity¹⁴ and analyzed it according to Islamic perspective. However there is no idea regarding to feminism.

¹² Chaerunnisa, *Status dan Peranan Perempuan dalam Ajaran Gereja Katolik, Analytical Study Gender Perspective*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Philosophy, Department of Comparative Religion Faculty of Ushuluddin, Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah), Jakarta, 2008, p. 38.

¹³ Mohammad Najmi Md Mukhtar, *Wanita dalam Agama Kristen Protestan, Analytical Study of Possession and Role of Women*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Department of Comparative Religion, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim), Riau, 2010, p. 25.

¹⁴ Muhammad Arfiandoni Hidayatullah, *وجهة النظر المسيحية للدور المرأة السياسي*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Department of Comparative Religion Faculty of Ushuluddin Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies), Ponorogo, 2015, p. 20.

The next thesis is *Hamka's Thought of Feminism Issues* written by Epon Sopiah an undergraduate thesis of Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies period 2001. In this research he described feminism according to Hamka's perspective¹⁵ but neither criticism concerning to role of women in Christianity or liberal feminism.

While the next literature is a journal entitled *Feminisme dari Perspektif Protestan* written by Vic. Dianita Aprissa L. Taranau which explained theology of feminism from Protestant perspective that injustice and hardness was violation of faith of theological problem¹⁶ but there is no idea about liberal feminism and the role of women in Catholic.

F. Theoretical Framework

Liberal feminism is one of several kinds of feminism which have differences and similarities with another feminism. Liberal feminism takes the model of progress within a capitalist society and works for political reform, equal rights, and improved working condition, with the assumption that the present social economic system of Western countries is still redeemable and reformable.

Then to describe and analyze criticism of liberal feminism on the role of women in Christianity the writer use phenomenological approach.¹⁷ This study discusses with concept of feminism, by submitting the phenomena on the role of women in Catholic and Protestant Christianity.

¹⁵ Epon Sopiah, *Hamka's Thought of Feminism Issues*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Department of Comparative Religion Faculty of Ushuluddin, Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies), Ponorogo, 2001, 19.

¹⁶ Vic. Diana Aprissa L. Taranau, "Feminisme dari Perspektif Protestan", *Journal of Musawa*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2014, p. 112

¹⁷ It is an approach used to describe experience as it's lived. In religion studies this approach is possible to describe spirituality and develop then assert the observation.

G. Method of Study

1. Kind of Research

This research is literary research. Then the writer should discuss and focus to Criticism of Liberal Feminism on the role of women from its book which analyze liberal feminism and the role of the women in Christian.

2. The Technique of Data Collection

The sources of data in this research be classified into two parts:

a. The Primary Source

Primary sources are the data that collected by the writer based on works on liberal feminism and the role of women in catholic and protestant, such as:

- 1) *Feminism Thought A More Comprehensive Introduction*, written by Rosemary Tong (Westview Press, Charlotte, 2009). It's describe about liberal feminism, conceptual roots of liberal feminism thought and action, personage of liberal feminism, and its organization.
- 2) *Women in the Church, A Biblical Studies on the Role of Women in the Church*, written by Samuel Bacchiocchi (Biblical Perspective, Michigan, 2000). The author explain the ministry of women in the old testament and new testament, the headship of women, and equality between men and women.
- 3) *New Catholic Feminism Theology and Theory*, written by Tina Beattie (Routledge, London, 2006). In this book she describes clearly about feminism and faith according to Catholicism.
- 4) *Women and Men, Gender in the Church*, written by Carol Penner (Herald Press, USA, 1998). It describes and focuses on male female equality, the religious life of women, the differences between men and women according to gender and feminism.

5) *Perempuan dalam Agama-Agama Dunia*, written by Arvind Sharma (State University of New York Press, New York, 1987). This book describe clearly about women in the religion and their role toward the Church.

b. The Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are those works written by others that including encyclopedia, journal, articles, etc to help the researcher understanding the main of the problem.

3. The Method of Data Analysis

Because this is a phenomenological study, then writer use the following methods:

a. Descriptive Method

Its purpose precisely the characteristic of individuals circumstances phenomenon in the community.¹⁸ The whole result of this study should be described and reworded.¹⁹ Researcher used this method to understand the role of women in Catholic and Protestant and how is view of liberal feminism about it.

b. Comparative Method

This research is comparative study, this study use comparative analysis. In comparison properties essential to the research object can be clearer and sharper. Comparison forcing firmly to determine similarities and differences, so that the nature of the object can be understood purely.²⁰

¹⁸ Abuddin Nata, *Metodologi Studi Islam*, (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2011), p. 188.

¹⁹ Sudarto, *Metodologi Penelitian Filsafat*, (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2002), p. 41.

²⁰ Anton Bekker, *Metodologi Penelitian Filsafat*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 1990), p. 51.

H. System of Study

To systemize this study, the researcher describes and describe this research into four chapter; Chapter one: as *Introduction*, containing background of study, problem of study, purpose of study , importance of study, literature review, theoretical framework, method of study, and system of study.

Chapter two: entitled *Liberal Feminism on Catholic and Protestant Perspective*, it is divided into three parts. First, containing Liberal Feminism and it is divided into three: the first is interpretation of liberal feminism, the second is the history of liberal feminism, the third is personage of liberal feminism including; Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, and Betty Friedan. Second, Catholic Perspective on Liberal Feminism, and third Protestant Perspective on the Liberal Feminism.

Next Chapter three: it is discussing about *The View of Liberal Feminism on the Role of Women in Catholic and Protestant*, it is containing about The Role of Women in Catholic and it is divided into three parts: first, Catholic perspective on gender equality, second Catholic perspective on gender inequality and, third women's role and their status in Catholic Church. Second, The Role of Women in Protestant including, position and role of women in early Protestant and women in Protestant church. Third, Similarities and Differences Women's Role in Catholic and Protestant including similarities women's role in Catholic and Protestant and differences women's role in Catholic and Protestant. Fourth, The View of Liberal Feminism on the Role of Women in Catholic and Protestant.

Chapter Four: *Closing*, containing the result, suggestions, and closing.