

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works are often written as the reflection or criticism of real phenomena in society. Female characters in literary works often represent the struggle of women in real life to confront the patriarchal idea. This idea frequently casts men in a dominant role, which places women in the subordinate position of nurturing and caregiving (Tyson, 2006: 85). This challenge influences the images of the female characters portrayed in literary works. In this study, *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D. H. Lawrence is selected as the study object that has a representation of women's confrontation with the patriarchal idea.

David Herbert Lawrence, also known as D. H. Lawrence, is one of the most influential twentieth-century English poets, novelists, and authors. One of Lawrence's published texts is *The Virgin and the Gipsy*, a novella that was first released in 1930. Penguin Group published the novella used in this study as part of the Penguin Popular Classic 1997. This novella has 96 pages and is divided into ten sections. Reading the novella, the writer has the impression that it is an exemplary novella that depicts the experiences of a young woman as she transitions into adulthood. The pursuit of love and desire can be exhilarating. It is the narrative of a young woman's quest for love and the revelation of her passion in a society where such emotions are repressed. The class distinctions and divergent lifestyles make for a sensitive and controversial story.

Put forward the intention to study the literary work because the stories may contain imaginative narration, yet it may denote a criticism or reflect the social phenomenon of the society. *The Virgin and The Gipsy* presents a classical story from the late eighty to early ninety in an English village. The novella narrates the story of a young woman, Yvette, who endeavors to find her passion in a secluded community or social milieu. Yvette, who is only nineteen, is back to live in her hometown in Papplewick with her big family. Her life goes well, but she feels suffocated living in the house as she needs to compromise with her grandmother and other elders in the house. Yvette experiences conflict around the house with her grandmother and aunt, who hate her, and her sister after her mother's elopement from the house. Although her father pampered her the different perspective of things set Yvette to doubt. In many aspects, Yvette is under her grandmother and father's control as they hold a strong presence in the household which represses her. Even so, she still depends on her family a lot as a young girl.

One day, Yvette meets a gipsy man from a caravan, and he offers fortune telling. The first meeting with the gipsy leaves a deep impression on Yvette as she becomes curious. Now and then, Yvette unconsciously thinks and imagines things with gipsy, like an ignited fire. Yvette always dreams of falling in love, but when the youngster from the party proposes she rejects it as she feels they are just "ordinary," unlike the gipsy. One day Yvette visits the gipsy caravan alone; when the passion is hot between them comes the Eastwood's car searching for shelter. As the attempt fails, Yvette gets to know the Eastwoods better, later able to visit their house and know the couple's unusual relationship. However, Yvette's father is angry and

disagrees upon knowing that and makes Yvette break off the relationship. The family wants to prevent Yvette get bad influence to preserve her pureness. She can only follow her father's decision and comes to understand that it might have violated her father's rigid values. When spring arrives, Yvette is not going to the gipsy's caravan but enjoys a leisurely day with grandma in the house before the big flood comes. The water destroys the rectory and Yvette grasps for safety before the gipsy man saves her to the second floor. There, they have physical closeness and tension but never confirmed explicitly about sexual encounters. This accident is not disclosed to others as Yvette understands how her family would react. Unfortunately, Grandma is swept away as she cannot see and walk by herself. Yvette is left alone in the bedroom, reunited with her family, and only receives a letter one day which turns out is from the gipsy man whose name is Joe Boswell.

Through Yvette, the novella portrays the social construct and patriarchal norms of the era, as well as the differing class, gender, and awakening of passion. The moral dilemma inherent in the young protagonist's pursuit of romantic love serves to evoke a journey of adulthood that is both beautiful and complex. The traditional social construct and patriarchal norms have a detrimental impact on women. In a society where social status and views about the world diverge, repressed and liberating, the character is presented as having her own vision and lifestyle. Yvette's experience and change are not easy as she progresses through different circumstances before shaping her personal growth.

## 1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulated the research problems in the question below:

1. What are the struggles of patriarchal society experienced by Yvette in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D.H. Lawrence?
2. How does the women stereotype experienced by Yvette in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D.H. Lawrence?
3. How does Yvette resist the stereotype of women in patriarchal society in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D. H. Lawrence?

## 1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of the study can be achieved by answering the research problems question:

1. To discover the struggles of patriarchal society experienced by Yvette in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D.H. Lawrence.
2. To discover the women stereotype experienced by Yvette in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D.H. Lawrence.
3. To discover how Yvette resist the stereotype of women in patriarchal society in the novella *The Virgin and The Gipsy* by D. H. Lawrence.

## 1.4 Previous Study

The first previous study is a journal article entitled, “The Conflicting Values Among Generations in D. H. Lawrence’s *The Virgin and The Gipsy*” written by Suryani Kurniawi Kahi Leba Kapoe (2018) via *Jurnal Akrab Juara*. Kapoe argues that there are different views and values of the younger and older generations. The

older generation tends to be controlling and dominating, while the younger seeks independence and has a modern approach in life. This contrast creates challenges and tensions between the people living together in the society.

The second previous study is a thesis study from Akiko Yamada (2013) entitled “A Study of *The Virgin and The Gipsy*: D. H. Lawrence’s Essential Attitude Towards Christianity”. Yamada focuses on the analysis about the collapse of the Christianity and societal norms portrayed by characters like Yvette and Grandma. There was a contrast between the indoor life (the rectory) where Yvette lived and the outer world, which was more wild and liberating.

The third previous study is a journal article from Ana Widiyanti (2023) entitled “Portrait of British 20th Century Reflected in D. H. Lawrence’s *The Virgin and The Gipsy*”. Widiyanti uses sociological approach and focuses on the analysis about the depiction of class distinction, rise of middle class, the loss of power of nobility, and the influence of social position based on social status. The varying lifestyle, life condition and position set challenges for the people with different social classes.

The fourth previous study is a journal article from Cyrine Kortas (2022) entitled “A Feminist Dialogic Reading of the New Woman: Love, Female Desire, and Family in *The Virgin and The Gypsy* by D. H. Lawrence and in *The Tragedy of Demetrio* by Hanna Mina”. Kortas focuses on the depiction of female characters from two short stories, Raji’aa and Yvette. Applying theory of Bakhtin’s dialogism and feminist critical theory, the article delves on how Raji’aa confronts the expectation of dutiful wives and mother and Yvette resists the attempts of patriarchal character to define and control her in accordance with societal

expectation. The research emphasizes the ability of the heroines to challenge the restriction and having a self-discovery despite all of that.

The fifth previous study is a thesis study from Fitri Aningsih (2015) entitled, *The Death of Victorian Morality and the Emergence of Post-Victorian Female Subject in D. H. Lawrence's The Virgin and The Gipsy*. Aningsih focuses on analyzing the representation of Victorian morality and post-Victorian morality through the usage of the language. Using theory of representation from Stuart Hall, she focuses on the four categories, fashion, marriage, human relationship, and sexuality. The result is that Victorian morality contrasts with post-Victorian morality, in which the latter has more liberating values: equality, freedom, and universalism.

The sixth previous study is a journal article written by Rahime Cokay Nebioglu (2023) entitled, "The "Mesmerised States" of Becoming-Woman in D. H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and The Gipsy*". Nebioglu focuses on analyzing the character, Yvette challenges the traditional norms of gender and sexuality in the context of Deleuzian theory. Yvette embodies the concept of "becoming-woman" through the interaction with the Gipsy family, challenges dominant power structure and begins to experience a sense of empowerment and self-discovery.

The seventh previous study is a journal article written by Ala'a Muwafiq Mustfa (2014) entitled, "Symbolism in D. H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gipsy*". Mustfa focuses on analyzing the symbolism used by the author to reveal the conflict between natural instinct and convention. There are symbolism of virginity, the

rectory, the toad, the rector, the worm, the gipsy, water, and the dam shows the relationship of man and nature, based on conventional opinion and real knowledge.

The eighth previous study is a journal article written by Nancy Paxton (2013) entitled “Reimagining Melodrama: *The Virgin and The Gipsy* and the Consequences of Mourning”. Paxton focuses the analysis comparing the melodrama theory references to Lea Jacobs and Linda Ruth Williams with the events in the novella. The melodramatic formula both reflects and subverts by the characters that go through mourning and melancholy, like Mr. Saywell and Yvette. There are also a critique about portrayal of innocence and gender roles that against the repressive English value in the era presented in Yvette’ character.

The ninth previous study is master dissertation written by Koulougli Fatma and Mouzarine Chabha (2019) entitled “D.H. Lawrence’s *The Virgin and The Gipsy* (1930) and Eugene O’Neill’s *Stranger Interlude* (1928): A Cultural Interpretation”. The dissertation analyze through Raymond Williams’s cultural interpretation theory focuses on the concepts of dominant, residual, and emergent of culture and the impact on character within society. Both female characters, Yvette and Nina experience struggles in dominant culture of their society and both reject the traditional values imposed on them in different way. They portrays complexities of the cultural identity and confront them to seek freedom.

The tenth previous study is an article written by Michael Kramp (2004) entitled “Gypsy Desire in the Land: The Decay of the English Race and Radical Nomadism in *The Virgin and The Gipsy*”. The article analyze the novella using theory framework of deterritorialization and reterritorialization by Deleuze and Guattari.

It delves deep on the critique of English racial and cultural decline post World War I. Yvette lives in a constrained English society which obsessed with eugenic and stagnant lifestyle and later meet the gypsies that has nomadic lifestyle that allow them be free from the restrictive societal norms.

The previous studies section examines the same object but utilizes various theoretical frameworks. The first, second, and fifth previous studies analyze the moral approach with the incorporation of Stuart Hall's theoretical framework of representation in the fifth previous study. The third previous study applies the sociological approach. The fourth previous study applies the feminist approach and incorporates Bakhtin's (2008) dialogism of new women. The sixth previous study applies the theoretical framework from Deleuze and Guattari on the concept of becoming a woman. The tenth previous study incorporates theory from the same author but different focus on the concept of deterritorialization and reterritorialization. The seventh previous study applies the symbolism perspective. The eighth and ninth previous studies apply different theories of cinematic melodrama and cultural interpretation along with the feminist approach. These previous studies utilize library research as a method of data collection.

Based on the study findings presented above, it can be inferred that D. H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and The Gipsy* (1997) remains insufficiently examined, particularly in the relation to feminist perspective of women's struggle. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the struggle that the character must endure or experience which influences the women stereotype portrayed by Yvette.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the female character named Yvette as portrayed in *The Virgin and The Gipsy* novella by D. H. Lawrence. The research addresses both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the narrative. The intrinsic elements that will be analyzed in the novella are character and characterization, setting, and conflict. Meanwhile, the extrinsic uses feminist literary theory and from Lois Tyson in the book *Critical Theory Today* (2006: 83-130) to see how the women characters are presented in literature. It challenges the refined perception and structure that perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces stereotypes. In a society where social status and views about the world diverge, repressed and liberating, the character is presented as having her own vision and lifestyle. The focus of this study analysis is the portrayal of Yvette's struggle and the women stereotype she lives in, as she also resists that internalized stereotype. The unit of analysis in this research focuses on analyzing the dialogue and narration in which Yvette is mentioned.

### **1.6 Writing Organization of the Study**

#### **1. CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains Background of the Study, Research Problems, Purposes of the Study, Previous Study, Scope of the Study, and Writing Organization of the Study.

#### **2. CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD**

This chapter explains Theoretical Framework and Research Method that support this study. Theoretical Framework consists of the theory used to analyze

the research problems. Research Method consists of the explanation of the method and steps in compiling and analyzing the data.

### 3. CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the result of the discussion and the answers from the Research Problems. The writer writes down the result of the discussion based on the data analysis of the images of women as represented by Yvette in D. H. Lawrence' novella "The Virgin and The Gipsy".

### 4. CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis result based on the research.

### 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

This chapter contains the reference which the writer use to write the research.