

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is known that literature is an art that can entertain people in the world. Kennedy in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* says that literature is kind of art usually written that concerns us pleasure and illumination (1966:5). So, it can be said that literature is an art as it can express the desire of self-expression. Hudson points out in *An introduction to Study of Literature*,

Literature is vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language (1965:10).

The statement above shows that the materials of literature are something that happens in social life and the experience of an author. Moreover, literature uses language as medium to transfer the idea and feeling.

Literature can be a portrait of social life and imagination which include into a certain kind of literary work with language as the medium. Literature includes all written expressions. There are three genres of literature, namely poetry, prose and play or drama. In this thesis, the researcher observes play or drama of Lorraine Hansberry entitled *A Raisin in the Sun*. The researcher chooses a title "Beneatha's Feminism Perspectives Toward Modern Black Women in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*."

Beneatha has different feminism perspectives toward modern black women. In 1950's, most black women had to work for living. The black rose up to

fight against the social systems and public authorities that had taken their right away. As their skin color, the black have no the same right as white people did for along time. Beneatha wants to be a doctor. She also wants to join guitar course in her school but there are some causes that make her dreams difficult to come true. The causes are about race, class, education, sexual orientation, and economics. The writer takes one of the feminism perspectives that is radical feminism as it represents Beneatha's feminism perspectives. Radical feminism talks not only about race but also about women's oppression, gender relation, women's right movement, and patriarchy. Radical feminist Echols in *Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America 1967-1973* states that radical feminism is the most influential social struggle of the '60s, transformed the cultural and political landscape; its imprint is everywhere in American life (1989: 7). Radical feminism is close to patriarchy. The term of patriarchy is a system of societal which determine that the father becomes the head of the family. Men become more dominate than women. In the story, Beneatha does not want to marry. She wants to focus on her career as she has a great desire to be a doctor. Black psychiatrist Pouissant in Hooks in *Ain't I A Woman* explains that,

Patriarchy encourages men to hate women. These black men are "victims of their own self-hatred." While insecure feelings about their selfhood may motivate black men to commit violent acts, in a culture that condones violence in men as a positive expression of masculinity, the ability to use force against another person--i.e., oppress them--may be less an expression of self-hatred than a rewarding, fulfilling act (1981:104).

Nowadays, modern black women maintain that they should have the right to choose what they want for themselves as far as their lives go. The topic is

chosen because the writer would like to analyze deeply about Beneatha's feminism perspectives toward modern black women. The writer takes the sample from the drama of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* .

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The writer of the thesis is interested in analyzing Beneatha's feminism perspectives toward modern black women taken from the drama of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. There are some questions that are related to the topic. They are as follows:

1. What are Beneatha's feminism perspectives toward modern black women based on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*?
2. What makes Beneatha have different feminism perspectives toward other black women?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the Beneatha's feminism perspectives toward modern black women based on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*.
2. To discover the causes that make Beneatha have different feminism perspectives toward other black women.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This analysis explains the feminism perspectives toward modern black women. One of the feminism perspectives that will discuss is radical feminism. The analysis is about Beneatha's feminism perspectives that explore her high aspirations and dreams. The data are taken from drama of Lorraine Hansberry entitled *A Raisin in the Sun*.

1.5 Significance of the study

By studying this topic, the readers will have deeper and comprehensive understanding on the feminism. The analysis is about feminism perspective especially in radical feminism dealing with gender discrimination. After reading this thesis, the writer hopes that the reader get better understanding of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Moreover, it can give some aspects of human character reflected in this drama specially for Beneatha as the main character. The dreams, motivations, ambitions of Beneatha improve the awareness of woman life. The writer hopes that readers will consider literary works are not only merely as an entertainment but also as a means of mental teaching.