

**THE NOTION OF AMERICAN FRONTIER WOMEN IN
CATHER'S SELECTED NOVELS AND REFLECTED IN
INDONESIAN WOMEN:
Genetic Structuralism Approach and
Feminist Literary Criticism**

ABBAS



DISSERTATION

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDY PROGRAM
CULTURE SCIENCES FACULTY
GRADUATE PROGRAM
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY
MAKASSAR
2024**

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Dissertation

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Prepared and submitted by

ABBAS

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**GRADUATE PROGRAM
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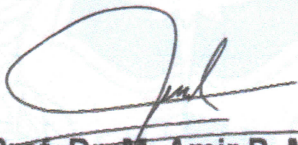
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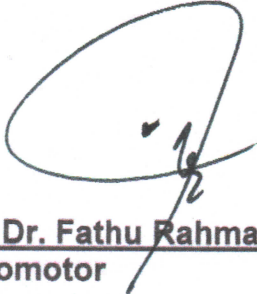
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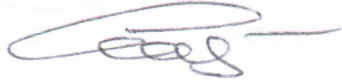
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PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN DISERTASI DAN PELIMPAHAN HAK CIPTA

Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa, disertasi berjudul **THE NOTION OF AMERICAN FRONTIER WOMEN IN CATHER'S SELECTED NOVELS: Genetic Structuralism Approach and Feminist Literary Criticism** adalah benar karya saya dengan arahan dari komisi pembimbing, Prof. Dr. M. Amir P, M.Hum., sebagai Promotor, Prof. Dr. Fathu Rahman, M.Hum., sebagai Ko-Promotor 1, dan Dr. Abidin, Dipl.TESOL., M.A., sebagai Ko-Promotor 2. Karya ilmiah ini belum diajukan dan tidak sedang diajukan dalam bentuk apa pun kepada perguruan tinggi mana pun. Sumber informasi berasal atau dikutip dan karya yang diterbitkan maupun tidak diterbitkan dari penulis lain telah disebutkan dalam teks dan dicantumkan dalam Daftar Pustaka disertasi ini. Sebagian dari isi disertasi ini telah dipublikasikan pada:

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Dengan ini saya melimpahkan hak cipta dari karya tulis saya berupa disertasi ini kepada Universitas Hasanuddin.



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ABSTRAK

ABBAS. *Gagasan Perempuan Masyarakat Frontier Amerika Pada Sejumlah Novel Pilihan Willa Cather dan Direfleksikan Pada Perempuan Indonesia: Pendekatan Strukturalisme Genetik dan Kritik Sastra Feminis* (dibimbing oleh M. Amir P, Fathu Rahman, dan Abidin Pammu)

Penelitian disertasi ini merupakan kajian sosiologis perempuan *frontier* Amerika akhir abad ke-19 hingga awal abad ke-20 yang terdokumentasi pada sejumlah narasi sastra karya Willa Cather seperti novel *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O’Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menjelaskan gagasan perempuan tradisional terkait masyarakat *frontier* Amerika dalam novel *My Antonia* dan *My Mortal Enemy*; mengonseptualisasikan gagasan *new American women* di komunitas *frontier* dalam novel *O’Pioneers!* dan *A Lost Lady*; dan menjawab gagasan perempuan tentang masyarakat *frontier* Amerika dalam novel-novel pilihan Cather. Tujuan lain penelitian disertasi ini adalah menunjukkan refleksi nilai-nilai moralitas komunitas *frontier* Amerika terhadap perempuan Indonesia. Peneliti menerapkan pengembangan konsep metodologis penelitian sastra yang dinamakan Pendekatan Sosiologi Sastra Feminis. Pendekatan tersebut merupakan hasil pengintegrasian dari Pendekatan Strukturalisme Genetik dengan Kritik Sastra Feminis yang memandang narasi fiksi perempuan dalam sastra sebagai dokumentasi dari realita kehidupan masyarakat tertentu pada kurun waktu tertentu yang memunculkan nilai-nilai universal sebagai pandangan dunia. Peneliti menemukan sejumlah fakta sosial dalam narasi sastra bahwa gagasan perempuan tradisional *frontier* Amerika berbasis pada nilai-nilai *Victorian women* yang kemudian direkonstruksi dari tatanan *full domestication* sebagai tipikal *old Victorian women* menjadi *partial domestication* sebagai tipikal *new Victorian women*. Rekonstruksi tersebut dibangun dari gagasan *new American women* pada akhir abad ke-19 yang mengonsepsi gagasan pembaharuan inovatif melalui pengakselerasian peran perempuan pada kehidupan domestik dan lingkungan publik yang dikenal sebagai *new Victorian women* sebagai respon atas kemajuan zaman dan perubahan sosial di kawasan *frontier* Amerika. Kemudian universalitas gagasan perempuan *frontier* Amerika dan pengalaman hidup Willa Cather pada refleksi narasi sastra melalui tokoh-tokoh perempuan diantaranya adalah kebertahanan perempuan pada tatanan keluarga tradisional dan kepatuhan pada nilai-nilai moralitas di tengah perubahan sosial dan kemajuan zaman di akhir abad ke-19 dan di awal abad ke-20 yang diistilahkan sebagai *true women*. Nilai-nilai moralitas Victoria pada komunitas *frontier* Amerika juga terefleksi pada kehidupan perempuan Indonesia dalam bentuk tatanan *old Victorian women* dan *new Victorian women*. Salah satu aspek yang melatari kesamaan notion perempuan komunitas *frontier* Amerika dan perempuan Indonesia adalah alur kesadaran perempuan kedua bangsa tersebut sama-sama berasal dari Eropah.

Kata kunci: gagasan perempuan, masyarakat *frontier* Amerika, Willa Cather, novel pilihan, perempuan Indonesia

ABSTRACT

ABBAS. *The Notion of American Frontier Women in Cather's Selected Novels and Reflected in Indonesian Women: Genetic Structuralism Approach and Feminist Literary Criticism* (supervised by M. Amir P, Fathu Rahman, and Abidin Pammu)

This dissertation research is a sociological study of American frontier women from the end 19th to early 20th centuries as documented in a number of literary narratives by Willa Cather such as the novels *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. The aim of this research is to elucidate the traditional women's notion on American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*; to conceptualize the notion of new American women in the frontier community in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*; and to address the women's notion of American frontier society in Cather's selected novels. Another aim of this dissertation research is to show a reflection of the moral values of the American frontier community towards Indonesian women. Researcher applies the development of a methodological concept for literary research called the Feminist Literary Sociology Approach. This approach is the result of integrating the Genetic Structuralism Approach with Feminist Literary Criticism which views women's fictional narratives in literature as documentation of the realities of life in certain societies at certain periods of time which gives rise to universal values as a world view. Researcher found a number of social facts in literary narratives that the notion of traditional American frontier women was based on the values of Victorian women which were then reconstructed from full domestication as a typical old Victorian women to partial domestication as a typical new Victorian women. This reconstruction was built from the notion of new American women at the end of the 19th century which conceptualized the idea of innovative renewal through accelerating the role of women in domestic life and the public sphere, known as the new Victorian woman as a response to the progress of the times and social changes in the American frontier region. Then, the universality of the notion of American frontier women and Willa Cather's life experience is found in the reflection of literary narratives through female characters, including women's persistence in traditional family arrangements and adherence to moral values amidst social change and progress at the end of the 19th century and continued to develop in the early 20th century, which was termed *true women*. The Victorian moral values in the American frontier community are also reflected in the lives of Indonesian women in the form of the old Victorian women and new Victorian women. One aspect that underlies the similarities in the notion of American frontier community women and Indonesian women is the flow of consciousness of women in both nations originate from Europe.

Keywords: women notion, American frontier community, Willa Cather, selected novels, Indonesia women

CONTENTS

Title	i
Submission	ii
Approval Form	iii
Statement of authenticity of the dissertation and assignment of copyright	iv
Acknowledgement	v
Abstrak	vii
Abstract	viii
Contents	ix
List of Tables	xiii
List of Charts	xv
List of Figures	xvi
Glossary	xix

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research	1
1.2 Formulation of Research	7
1.3 Objectives of Research	11
1.4 Benefits of Research	13
1.5 Scope of Research	15
1.6 Novelty of Research.....	16

CHAPTER II. TRADITIONAL WOMEN NOTION ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER SOCIETY IN NOVELS *MY ANTONIA* AND *MY MORTAL ENEMY*: A Genetic Structuralism Approach

2.1 Introduction	23
2.2 Method	25
2.2.1 Definition of Traditional American Women	25
2.2.2 Research Methodology	32

a. Genetic Structuralism Approach	32
b. Theoretical Framework	39
2.3 Result and Discussion	42
2.3.1 The Traditional American Family on the Structural Meaning of novels <i>My Antonia</i> and <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	42
2.3.2 Background of Willa Cather's Life in Traditional American Society	69
2.3.3 Traditional Family of the American Frontier Society	81
2.3.4 Traditional Women's Notion of American Frontier Society on the Universal Meaning of novels <i>My Antonia</i> and <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	107
2.4 Conclusion	144
2.5 Bibliography	149

**CHAPTER III. NEW AMERICAN WOMEN NOTION ON THE FRONTIER
COMMUNITY IN THE NOVELS *O'PIONEERS!* AND *A
LOST LADY: Feminist Literary Criticism***

3.1 Introduction	154
3.2 Method	158
3.2.1 A Concept of New American Women	158
3.2.2 Research Methodology	167
a. Feminist Literary Criticism	167
b. Theoretical Framework	181
3.3 Result and Discussion	184
3.3.1 New American Women on the Structural Meaning of Novels <i>O'Pioneer!</i> and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	184
3.3.2 Notion of New Women in the American Frontier Society in the Novels <i>O'Pioneers!</i> and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	217
3.4 Conclusion	241
3.5 Bibliography	245

CHAPTER IV. THE WOMEN NOTION OF AMERICAN FRONTIER SOCIETY IN CATHER'S SELECTED NOVELS: Feminist Literature Sociology Approach

4.1	Introduction	251
4.2	Method	251
4.2.1	Definition of the American Frontier Women's Notion	255
4.2.2	Research Methodology	259
	a. Feminist Literary Sociology Approach	259
	b. Theoretical Framework	266
4.3	Result and Discussion	269
4.3.1	Notion of American Frontier Women on the Structural Meaning of the Novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	269
4.3.2	Notion of Women in the Life of American Frontier Society in the Late 19 th Century to the Early 20 th Century	287
4.3.3	Women's Notion Reflections on Willa Cather's Sociological Life and American Frontier Society in the Narrative of the Novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	302
4.3.4	Women's Notion on the Universal Meaning of the Novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	323
4.4	Conclusion	331
4.5	Bibliography	336

CHAPTER V. UNIVERSALITY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER WOMEN'S NOTION IN THE LIVES OF INDONESIAN WOMEN

5.1	Typical Old Victorian Women against Traditional Indonesian Women	348
5.2	Typical New Victorian Women towards Modern Indonesian Women	353
5.3	Bibliography	358

CHAPTER VI. CLOSING

6.1 Conclusion	363
6.2 Suggestion	371

BIBLIOGRAPHY	373
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APPENDIXES

1. Synopsis of novel <i>My Antonia</i>	389
2. Synopsis of novel <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	398
3. Synopsis of novel <i>O' Pioneer!</i>	407
4. Synopsis of novel <i>A Lost Lady</i>	416
5. Biography of Willa Sibert Cather	425

LIST OF TABLES

No.	Tables	Page
1.	Female traits in selected women characters of novel <i>My Antonia</i>	51
2.	Male traits in selected men characters of novel <i>My Antonia</i>	54
3.	Female traits in selected women characters of novel <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	64
4.	Male traits in selected men characters of novel <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	67
5.	The sociological and genetic relations of the novels <i>My Antonia</i> and <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	119
6.	Willa Cather's notion of traditional American women in the novel <i>My Antonia</i>	131
7.	Willa Cather's notion of traditional American women in the novel <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	141
8.	New women traits of the main character of novel <i>O'Pioneers!</i>	196
9.	New women traits of the main character of novel <i>A Lost Lady</i>	212
10.	Comparison female traits of new women, Alexandra Bergson and Mariam Forrester Collins	214
11.	Reflections on the notion of new women in American frontier society in novels of <i>O'Pioneers!</i> and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	238
12.	Female characters analyzed in novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	270
13.	Presentation of the notions of female characters in novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	283
14.	Facts of Willa Cather's life regarding the social environment of American frontier society	292
15.	Notion of women in the lives of frontier communities in the American West	300
16.	Reflections on the appearance of frontier women in literary narratives on the reality of the lives of women in frontier communities in the American West and the life experiences of Willa Cather	306
17.	Reflection on the position and role of frontier women in literary narratives on the realities of the lives of women in frontier communities in the American West and the life experiences of Willa Cather	310
18.	Reflections on the identity of frontier women in literary narratives on the realities of the lives of women in frontier communities in the American West and the life experiences of Willa Cather	316

19.	Reflections on frontier women's perspectives in literary narratives on the realities of women's lives in frontier communities in the American West and Willa Cather's life experiences	321
20.	Women's Notion on the Universal Meaning of Novels <i>My Antonia</i> , <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> , <i>O'Pioneers!</i> , and <i>A Lost Lady</i>	328

LIST OF CHARTS

No.	Charts	Page
1.	Construction of the research formulation of the notion of women in American frontier society in a number of selected Willa Cather novels	9
2.	The procedure for creating literature on the imagination of the humanity of authors	35
3.	Construction of genetic structuralism research methods in literary works	38
4.	The framework of genetic structuralism research methods in the novels <i>My Antonia</i> and <i>My Mortal Enemy</i>	40
5.	Genealogy of Willa Sibert who comes from the Cather's family in Wales, United Kingdom	71
6.	The relationship between feminist notions and literary narrative in constructing feminist literary criticism as a scientific method for exploring feminist issues in literary research	177
7.	Stages of literary research based on the method of feminist literary criticism	178
8.	The research framework for the notion of new American women is based on feminist literary criticism methods	182
9.	Construction of a Feminist Literary Sociology Approach from integrating Feminist Literary Criticism with the Genetic Structuralist Approach	264
10.	Construction of literary research steps using a Feminist Literary Sociology Approach	265
11.	The research framework for the notion of women in American frontier society in a number of selected Willa Cather novels is based on the Feminist Literary Sociology Approach	267
12.	The flow on the awakening of consciousness of American women and Indonesian women from Europe	346

LIST OF FIGURES

No	Figures	Page
1.	Portrait of an elite woman in the southern American colony of Virginia who maintains the tradition of the European women ideal as housewives, arranging household accessories, and managing slaves in the home	27
2.	Portrait of a puritan woman in the north American colony of Massachusetts and a young couple of Plymouth in 18 th century	28
3.	Illustration of a family of Dutch descent living in New York City that reflects the typical American traditional woman in 1700s	29
4.	Queen Victoria with her relatives when her husband, Prince Albert Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (1819-1861) died in 1861 and buried in Windsor	30
5.	Style and fashion of 19th-century American women that followed Victorian ideas	31
6.	The novel <i>My Antonia</i> was written by Willa Cather in 1918 and it used in this study was published by Signet Classic, New York, 2014	43
7.	The novel <i>My Mortal Enemy</i> was written by Willa Cather in 1926 and it used in this study was published by Vintage Classic, New York, 1990	56
8.	Willa Cather's closeness to her grandmother, Rachel Boak, tells Frontier's life in the past	72
9.	Willa Cather as a child lived in her old house which is now a tourist attraction in south Red Cloud, Nebraska	73
10.	Prairie Chatterton is the warehouse area of the Willa Cather family in Nebraska which is currently a 612-acre botanical treasure, in which there is a Willa Cather Memorial	74
11.	Willa Cather appears masculine and often uses a male pseudonym, namely William in a number of her writings in the mass media	77
12.	The house which is currently a tourist spot in America with a prairie background in south Red Cloud became the place where Willa Cather composed the fictional novel <i>My Antonia</i> in 1918	79
13.	The Puritans as part of the early frontiers landed in America on November 21, 1620 and formulated the Mayflower Compact as the constitutional basis for religious freedom	82
14.	Chiefs of the Sioux (left) and Crow (right) tribes along with Indian tribal leaders (center) as native Americans documented around 1865	84
15.	Photo documenting a generation of frontiers riding horses around the prairies of western America in the 1870s	86
16.	One of the traditional frontier families in Oklahoma in the mid-1800s who had to work hard to start settlements and open up wild land to become farmland and ranch areas	88

17.	Cowboys herded hundreds of cows to pasture hundreds of miles away in western America in the 1890s	91
18.	The Dodge City Peace Commission was formed by the Federal Government on June 10, 1883 under the auspices of the National Detective Agency to eradicate bandits that were troubling people in Nebraska and Kansas	94
19.	Photo of a traditional frontier family documented in 1866 traveling into Nebraska territory to clear farms to increase their welfare	98
20.	One of the homes of a French family living in 1700's Illinois. This house was built around 1756 which is still preserved today	100
21.	The condition of Madison Square in New York City (NYC) in the 1920s which was the center of metropolitan community activity was surrounded by business centers, shopping, star hotels and luxury apartments	104
22.	The Willa Cather grandfather of William Cather's house was built in 1851 in Willow Shade, near Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia	118
23.	The ecosystem of valleys, land and hills overgrown with meadows, flowers and trees is the reality of Willa Cather's memories which is documented in the fictional narrative of novel <i>My Antonia</i>	127
24.	Traditional family of frontiers in Nebraska documented circa 1870 and 1900	128
25.	The atmosphere in a city of Illinois around the 1920s in winter inhabited by the American frontier generation	135
26.	Madison Square Park was documented in the 1920s as an icon of New York City's elite surrounded by shopping malls, offices, and luxury apartments	137
27.	On October 23, 1915 in New York around twenty thousand women combined with New American Women and American Feminists held a parade demanding political rights in the form of voting rights before the general election was held	159
28.	Young women who were members of one of the New American Women's societies in 1890	160
29.	The New American Woman who was popular in the 1890s and 1920s can be characterized by her clothing, cycling, umbrellas and being more active	162
30.	Caricatures of The Gibson Girl on School Days (1899) in <i>Scribner's Magazine</i> and A Bicycle (1895) in <i>Scribner's for June</i> as part of the New American Women portrait	164
31.	A group of African-American Women who were part of the New American Women sit on the steps of a building at Atlanta University, Georgia, 1899	165
32.	The novel <i>O'Pioneers!</i> written by Willa Cater in 1913 and the novel used in this research was published by Signet Classic, New York in 2012	186

33.	The novel <i>A Lost Lady</i> was written by Willa Cather in 1923 and the novel used in this research was published by Merchant Book, New York in 2012	206
34.	New women image of American frontier 19-20 century which seeks to create economic independence and expand public access	219
35.	The Bank of Denver's former Golden Triangle location at 606 W. Colfax Ave. was closed in August 2022	229
36.	New York, emerged as an organized women's movement that fought for constitutional political rights in the form of voting rights	232
37.	The typical educated woman was the pioneer of the emergence of new women at the end of the 19 th century to the beginning of the 20 th century in America	237
38.	The pioneer family who built a frontier community in Oklahoma around 1885 lived in a simple house	256
39.	Pioneer women who came in the mid-19 th century and inhabited the American frontier region in Kansas	258
40.	The background of Willa Sibert Cather's life is in the American West which was a frontier community from 1873 to 1900	291
41.	Illustration of collaborative work between men and women in a traditional American family structure during the opening of the wildlands in the American west by pioneers who were the early frontier generation	296
42.	United States of America (USA) is a land country with an area of 9,834,000 km ² and a population of 341,148,181 (2021 data)	343
43.	Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia (NKRI) is a maritime archipelagic country with a total area of 8,566,920.119 km ² (land 1,913,578.68 km ² + waters 6,653,341,439 km ²) and a population of 270,203,917 (2023 data)	345
44.	The traditional family of a 19 th century American frontier community that implemented the Victorian order in the family's domestic life	349
45.	Portrait of a Javanese woman in 19 th century living in a life of full domestication as a typical traditional Indonesian woman	351
46.	The young generation of American frontier communities at the end of the 19 th century emerged as new American women or American modern women as typical of new Victorian women	353
47.	Educated young Indonesian men and women mingled in building nationalist awareness in the early 20 th century	354

GLOSSARY

Terms	Meaning and Explanation
America	: A nation in the northern region of the Americas which became a country called the United States of America (USA) after declaring its independence from Britain on July 4, 1776.
Androtex	: Literary works written by male authors narrate women in a patterned and transparent manner.
A Lost Lady	: A novel written by Willa Cather in 1923 and the researcher used from the publishing of Merchant Book, New York in 2012.
Author	: Someone who produces literary works is called a writer.
Female	: Woman's perspective based on biological aspects.
Feminine	: The psychological and cultural aspects of women.
Feminism	: An ideology of women's liberation and the achievement of women's rights or women's equal rights. It is also a thought as well as a movement that ends the domination of patriarchal values in social institutions such as customs, culture, constitutions, laws, stereotypes, churches, power institutions, state institutions, and other institutions.
Feminist	: comes from the word <i>femme</i> which means women which defines as people, ideologies, theories, concepts, movements, and all conditions related to women
Femininity	: A stereotype that includes the nature, character, soul, mind, and physicality attached to women.
Frontier Society	: Immigrants from Europe pioneered the opening of settlements in America which were still wild and full of obstacles from the 17th to 20th centuries. Europeans from the 1600s to 1700s from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and others came to the North American continent which is currently the United States and Canada. They are known as the first wave of immigrants or America's old nation frontiers. Then the second wave of immigrants took place around the 1800s to 1900s from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, China, and others known as America's new country frontier. The arrival of the first and second waves of immigrants also involved women

	in building American frontier communities.
Gynocritic	: Criticism made by woman.
Gynotex	: Literary works written by female authors are more careful and abstract in narrating women.
Male	: Man's perspective based on biological aspects.
Matriarchy	: The superiority of women in society.
Matrilinieal	: Domination of the lineage from the mother.
Mysoginia	: Hatred of women.
My Antonia	: A novel written by Willa Cather in 1913 and the researcher used from the publishing of Signet Classic, New York in 2014.
My Mortal Enemy	: A novel written by Willa Cather in 1926 and the researcher used from the publishing of the Vintage Classic, New York in 1990.
New American Women	: The group of young American women who emerged in the late 19 th and early 20 th centuries who want to make social change through cultural reconstruction. Their desire is to gain wider access in family and community life in order to reposition the domination of men over women.
New Country	: After America declared itself free from the rule of the United Kingdom through the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 and was reaffirmed in the Treaty of Paris in 1783, more and more Europeans came to America, known as the second wave of immigrants. Their community is very heterogeneous from various cultural and national backgrounds such as England, Holland, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Russia. Such a large population prompted hundreds of thousands of people to begin moving west, central, and south in search of large new lands in the early 1800s. They crossed the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, the Appalachian Mountains, the Rocky Mountains, and the Black Hills thousands of miles away. They immigrated to the areas of Illinois, Nebraska, Omaha, Dakota, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Chicago, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, California, Idaho, and others which later became known as <i>New Country</i> .

- New Victorian Women : American women form a new traditional family order that collaborates domestication and women's public space.
- Old Nation : Thirteen colonies or New England Colonies in the eastern coast of America such as Virginia in 1607, New York in 1609, Plymouth in 1620, Massachusetts Bay in 1630, Connecticut in 1630, Maryland in 1634, Rhode Island in 1636, New Haven in 1637, North Carolina in 1650, South Carolina in 1670, Pennsylvania in 1681, Delaware in 1681, and Georgia in 1732. Those who came during the colonial era were known as the first waves of immigrants from England, Holland, France, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Portugal and Italy. Their motivations varied, such as expanding their territory, looking for trading commodities, establishing new settlements, looking for large and fertile agricultural land, creating religious freedom, gaining freedom of thought, and others. Those who immigrated to mainland America before 1776 were known as the colonial frontier and its colonies are referred to as *the Old Nation*.
- Old Women : Women who still maintain old values and habits according to tradition in society and still maintain their traditional identity in the midst of the demands of changing times.
- O’Pioneer! : A novel written by Willa Cather in 1911 and the researcher used from the publishing of Signet Classic, New York in 2012.
- Perempuan Indonesia Baru : A group of educated young Indonesian women in the early 20th century who took part in public access, the national movement, and used rational common sense in building a family and home life.
- Pioneer Community : Europeans first came to western America in the 1800s as pioneers in opening settlements, farming, and mining in a number of states known as the *New Country*.
- Patriarchy : The superiority of men in society.
- Patrilineal : Domination of the lineage from the father.
- Puritan Women : A women group of Christian reformers who wanted to restore the purity of Christianity, at first tme arrived on the American mainland on November 21, 1620,

boarding the *Mayflower* ship. They stay at home carrying out routine tasks in the kitchen while educating their children in piety by reading the Bible, teaching their children ethics and morality.

- Researcher : The person who conducted this dissertation research entitled THE WOMEN NOTION OF AMERICAN FRONTIER SOCIETY IN CATHER'S SELECTED NOVELS: Genetic Structuralism Approach and Feminist Literary Criticism under supervised by Doctoral Promoters.
- Stereotype : A process of socializing and internalizing people in the environment where humans have been raised which is often used as a reference in differentiating functions, roles, positions, and division of labor between women and men.
- Feminist Stereotype : A label attached to women in an equal rights movement for women to be equal to men, known as feminism.
- Traditional Women : A woman who devotes all her physical and psychological potential to domestic life in fulfilling her duties and responsibilities as a wife to her husband and a mother to her children. Her main duties are cooking, preparing food, washing, cleaning, caring for and educating her children.
- True women : Women are placing traditional spiritual values as ethical standards and superiority of morality in the family and household as desired by church spiritual institutions. Women's public activities are part of their traditional domestic role, one of the main tasks of which is to educate and prepare their children to follow in their father's successful footsteps. Women's modernity does not eliminate their domestication role and they remain obedient to spiritual values.
- Victorian : The women notions initiated by Victoria, Queen of England who reigned for 64 years from 1847 to 1901 and died at the age of 82 in Osborne. The traditional values of women that were initiated by Victoria include women must maintain their chastity, women must be religious, women must appear feminine, women must be passive, women must be diligent in taking care of their families and households, women must maintain their domesticated life, and so on.

- Willa Sibert Cather : An American woman writer who was born in Virginia in 1873 and later died in New York in 1947. She is a cross-generational writer who expresses American women in various types, namely traditional women, new women, and notion feminists.
- Women Notion : The concept of this dissertation research explains all aspects related to women, both performance and competence, such as the performance, position, role, identity, and perspective of women in America at a certain time.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the general idea of dissertation research which consists of research background, research formulation, research objectives, research benefits, research scope, and research novelty. The general idea is a description of scientific procedures in analyzing Cather's selected novels, namely *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. The main idea of the analysis is tracing the novels' genetics which leads to the women's notion of western American frontier society. The scientific method used is the integration of the Genetic Structuralism Approach with Feminist Literary Criticism. This integration is expected to produce a literary research formula which researcher terms the Feminist Literature Sociology Approach.

1.1 Background of Research

The United States is known as a nation from various nations on this earth such as those from America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, including the Anglo-Saxons, French, Dutch, Spanish, Swedish, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese and others. All of these nations immigrated from their home countries and built a civilization as part of American history and ultimately became the identity of the American nation. It makes America a plural nation, a gathering place for people from various backgrounds, ethnicities, races, cultures, languages, religions, and so on. America is also the first republic to be formed based on a constitution which places law as a guide to life that must be obeyed by all citizens. As a constitutional country, America is able to image itself as a pioneer of democratic practices in national and state life that places sovereignty entirely in the hands of the people. As a nation built on the values of pluralism, democracy, individualism, independence, justice, equality, and so on, it has been able to lead America to become a developed and leading country in today's global interactions as a major country that won World War I and II which has far-reaching influence in ideological struggles, economic competition, and military power.

The American nation is a nation that is unique compared to other nations because it has diverse backgrounds in social and cultural life, acculturation of

various ethnicities and nations, the first democratic country to stand on a constitution, and a historical journey that holds many important events. One of the interesting phenomena in the complexity of American society is the history of the lives of American women. One typical American woman who has a strategic role in guiding the journey of American culture is the traditional woman. They have been present since the arrival of British and Europeans in America in the 16th century. They participated in clearing agricultural land in the colonies, contributed to the American independence movement, took part in supporting the abolitionist movement, participated in post-civil war national reconciliation, and established the order of domestication of women in the traditional American family. Typical and notion of traditional American women are considered phenomenological because the presence of the American nation which is currently known as a developed country is the result of the resilience of American women in giving birth to generations in a sustainable manner from time to time. They were able to reposition their roles and initiate reforms in line with changing times from the colonial era to the post-modern era.

Europeans from the 1600s to 1700s from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and others came to the North American continent which is currently the United States and Canada. They are known as the first wave of immigrants or America's old nation frontiers. Then the second wave of immigrants took place around the 1800s to 1900s from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, China, and others known as America's new country frontier. The arrival of the first and second waves of immigrants also involved women in building American frontier communities. One well-known group of women is puritan women who still maintain their traditional order based on spiritual values. One of the typical notions of traditional women is to make the household a place to dedicate themselves. Domestic life, which is termed the domestication of women, is seen as a space for life to achieve happiness. They obey the natural nature of women, namely getting married, taking care of the household, having a husband, giving birth, caring for and raising their children. This traditional American woman is typical in aspects of performance, position and role, identity, and perspective.

Two controversial views in addressing the presence of traditional women. The first view is those who appreciate the role of traditional women's

domestication in passing on moral values to American reform women or *New American Women*. This view is a reflection of the social conditions of the traditional family in frontier societies in western America or the new country which are tolerant, open, and unified compared to people in eastern America or the old country. Women view men as partners so they do not need to be opposites and enemies. The two sexes live in harmony in building a life together so they succeed in creating gender equality without eliminating the natural nature, role and function of women's domestication in domestic life as a typical American traditional family. The second view is the radical feminists who see the pattern of traditional women's domestication as an obstacle to the American feminist movement, thereby slowing down the achievement of women's emancipation goals. This radical women's thinking developed in eastern America or old countries like New York which saw men as competitors.

The process of achieving the achievements of the American nation since frontier immigrants in the old nation of America in the 17th century and frontier immigrants in the new country of America in the 19th century until now is the result of the collaborative hard work of men and women in building settlements and clearing agricultural land. Women must fight as men struggle to survive in order to overcome extraordinary life challenges such as disease, limited food and clothing, wild natural conditions, wild animal disturbances, and threats from Indians. This spirit of independence, competitiveness, and hard work was inherited by traditional American women as the forerunner to the birth of the concept of the new American woman who aspires to progress, prosperity, equality, and justice. This conception was initiated by educated young women who are identified as modern women. They did not completely reject the traditional American family structure, but they emphasized the need to adapt to social changes and reposition their roles to reflect the times.

Modern is often identified as the renewal of social facts existing in society and modernization is a renewal movement that seeks to change the social order that has been adhered to by society for tens or even hundreds of years. Every change and renewal in a certain era is considered as modern in its time. Modern and modernization have an impact on social changes in patterns of social relations, including gender relations between men and women. Women's awareness, driven by changes in social conditions in society, is one of

the causes of the emergence of new ideas to reposition women's values and position in various aspects of life. For example, women's desire to participate in the public world in the fields of economics and education is seen as a new idea to reposition traditional women's values and positions which are characterized by a pattern of full domestication. This new idea, which is considered the spirit of modern women, generally emerged because of the increasing employment opportunities in the public sector and the increasing welfare of people in urban areas as a result of the industrial revolution as occurred in Europe and America in the 19th and 20th centuries.

One of the phenomena related to the modernization of American society is the emergence of new ideas among young women at the end of the 19th century, especially among educated people, to expand the arena of women's life in the public sphere, especially in the economic and educational sectors. They initiated the presence of women in the world of work in factories, offices, property, and others without eliminating women's status in the traditional family structure as mothers for their children and wives for their husbands. The ideas of young American women are the ideals that gave rise to the idea of *New American Women* which brought renewal and change in the order of American society. The emergence of new societies is generally driven by changes in situations in society which result in the birth of ideas for renewal or changes in society's social interactions. This idea can be in the form of a complete rejection which is known as a revolutionary movement, while a partial rejection is called repositioning or transformation. The ideas of the new American women tended to be a partial rejection of the total domestication of women as traditional American women adopted from Victorian values.

Social reality as a historical fact of the traditional American family order built from the unitary gender relations of men and women by the frontiers in the western region of America since the 1800s has been documented by American authors, including Willa Sibert Cather who was born in 1873 in Virginia and died in 1947 in New York. Her ancestry comes from Wales, Great Britain and Ireland. She is a generational western or *new country frontier* who spent her childhood and youth in Red Cloud, Parthia, Denver, Divide, Black Hawk, Nebraska, Illinois, Virginia, and a number of other places. Young Willa Cather hung out with her neighbors and played with her peers in the house, fields, ranch areas, and

pastures. Willa Cather's life experience when she was a child in a farming area left a lasting impression on her memory and life. She also heard many stories from her grandmother, Rachel Boak, who recounted the journey of her ancestors immigrating from England and Europe to America, the journeys of the frontiers to the western region of America, the struggles of the pioneers in opening fields in areas that were still wild lands, and the lives of cultivator communities who still maintain traditional family domestication patterns. Her background in the farming area of the frontier and her life experiences amidst the heterogeneity of traditional families in frontier society in America are considered as documentation of Willa Cather's memories in a number of her literary works such as the novels *O'Pioneers!*, *My Antonia*, *A Lost Lady*, *My Mortal Enemy*, and others.

Memories of farming communities in the American frontier region are typical of Willa Cather as the first author to imagine these frontier communities, especially in her literary works, the *Prairie Trilogy*. Her literary works include the novels *O'Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Antonia* which are liked by many readers because the language is simple, the nuances are natural, the narrative is honest, the expressions are full of memories, and romantic. She became famous with the stories of the frontier generation in the prairie area as a typical of her fictional imagination. She was then equated with other great American writers with their respective characteristics such as Francis Scott Fitzgerald's imagination of American metropolitan society, John Steinbeck's imagination of American Indian society, Ernest Miller Hemingway's imagination of World War I, Sinclair Lewis, Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Zitkala-Ša, Gertrude Schalk, and others.

The novel *O'Pioneers!* written by Willa Cather in 1913 describes a woman named Alexandra Bergson who has a typical new American woman, namely independent, competitive, courageous, innovative, rational, analytic, and objective. She is a reformer woman who brought changes to America's frontier society. This novel documents generations of frontiers who still maintain the fields as their living heritage, as well as Alexandra Bergson's tenacity and persistence in managing her inherited fields in Nebraska. Then the novel *My Antonia* was written in 1918 documenting Willa Cather's notion of women in the traditional family order of the American frontier society. Notion a number of

female characters such as Mrs. Shimerda was oriented toward full domestication and Grandmother was oriented toward the partial domestication of traditional American women. Furthermore, the novel *A Lost Lady*, written in 1923, narrates the story of a woman named Mariam Ormsby or known as Mrs. Forrester with the typical new American woman who is innovative, rational, analytic, and objective, as she is known as a graceful woman. Cather's next literary work is the novel *My Mortal Enemy* written in 1926 which narrates the repositioning of Victorian values in line with the progress of the times and social changes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as reflected by young female characters such as Aunt Lydia , Myra Driscoll, and Nellie Birdeyes.

The researcher of this dissertation determined the four novels by Willa Cather as the object of study, namely *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. All of these novels are considered to document the social life of the American frontier people and their generation, which narrate traditional women and their transformation into new American women. The analysis of these novels is divided into two research issues, namely the notion of American frontier traditional women in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*; and the conception of new American women in frontier society in the novel *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*. The mapping of the issue is based on the premise that the notion of women in the traditional family order in frontier societies in the western region of America, especially those inhabiting the regions of Virginia, Nebraska, Illinois, and others since the mid-1850s was reflected in the novel *My Antonia*, then the notion underwent a reposition following the changes social and modern progress in *My Mortal Enemy*. Furthermore, the conception of the new American woman which brings notion of change and renewal to the frontier society in the western region of America is reflected in the novel *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*. The notion of women in the traditional family structure and the conception of the new American woman form the basis for building the research narrative of this dissertation, namely the notion of women in America's frontier society in a number of Willa Cather's selected novels by integrating genetic structuralism approach and feminist literary criticism.

Researcher as an Indonesian also needs to show the contribution of the results of this dissertation research to the moral values that develop in the lives

of Indonesian women. It is important to trace the universal values of women from American frontier communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the reality of the social life of Indonesian women. This universality can be used as a conception that women have universal values as human beings on this earth despite differences in national, language, cultural, demographic, and geographical backgrounds. The researcher places the conception of universal values of American frontier community women and Indonesian women as a completeness of this dissertation research in a separate chapter.

1.2 Formulation of Research

The arrival of British and Europeans to America in large numbers in the 17th and 18th centuries brought new nuances that changed the social order in this land of hope. They were early frontier people who built settlements and farming on the eastern seaboard of America. They built colonies with different social characteristics which in American history were called *old nation*. The social typical of the Virginia Colony at Jamestown, for example, were noble people who were loyalists to the British Empire, the typical people in the New York Colony were traders and businessmen, the typical people in the Pennsylvania Colony were intellectuals. The Puritans, who were a spiritual group of people who wanted to restore the purity of dominant Christian teachings, occupied the Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts Bay, and New Haven. They are considered to be the founding fathers of the traditional American family structure. Women were an important part of this early frontier society, along with men, working hard to build a new life in America, where nature was still wild and full of danger.

The notion of women in this early frontier society was to act as the wife of her husband and assume responsibility as the mother of their children. They position themselves as good housewives in the family. Their domestication in family life is typical of traditional American women. The domestication of American women did not eliminate the competitive spirit that was imbued in the fact that they worked independently to survive just like their men. Women independently had to get used to dealing with natural challenges and disturbances from Native Americans because at that time men were also doing the same thing so they had to be able to take care of themselves. The habit of living independently by women who are not completely dependent on men is the

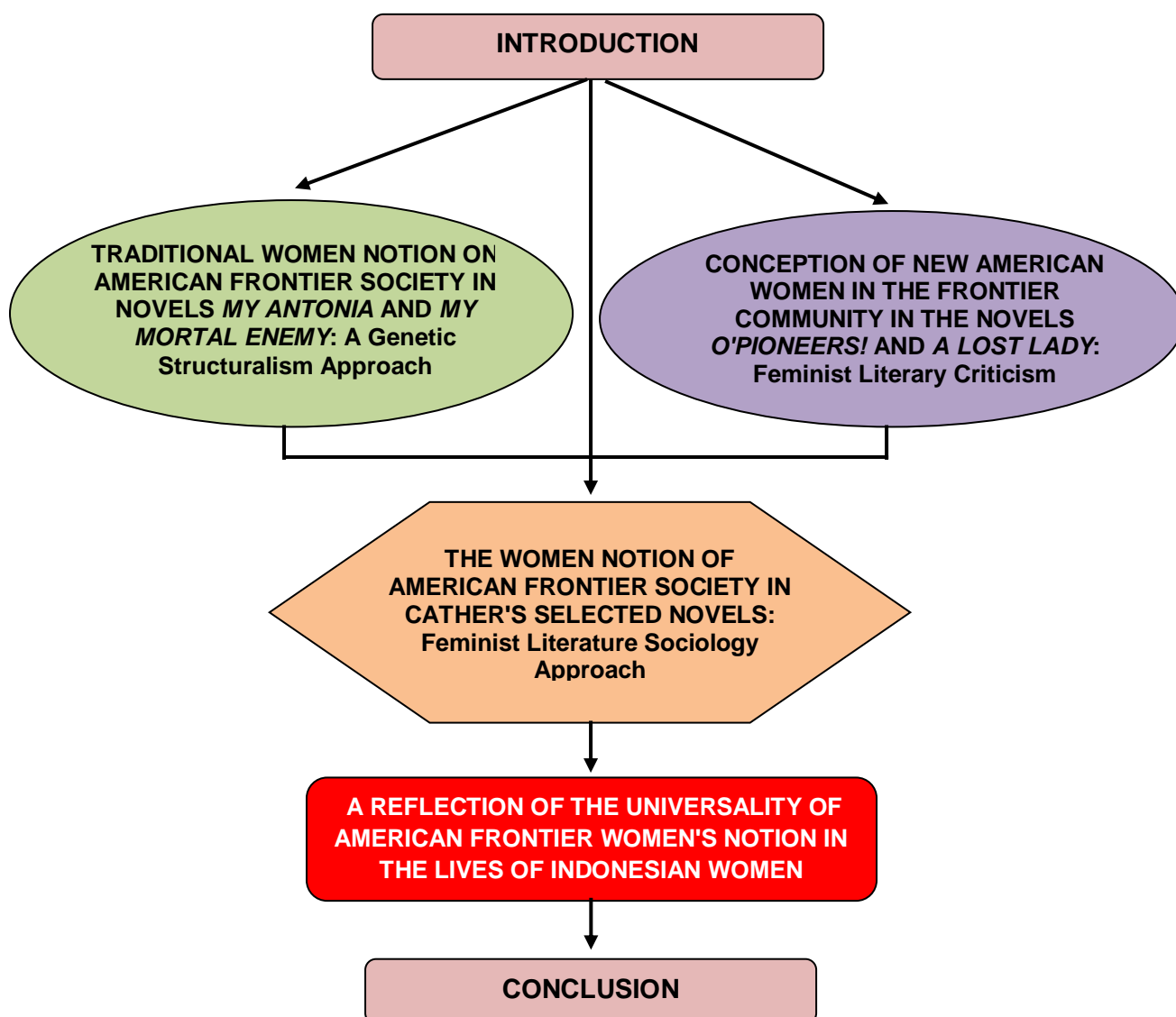
forerunner to the spirit of freedom and competitive character in the survival of both sexes, namely women and men.

The typical traditional American women developed by the frontier community in the eastern seaboard of America or the *old nation* in the 17th and 18th centuries continued in the frontier community in the western or *new country* in the 19th and 20th centuries. They were the pioneers of land clearing which are still wild in a number of western regions of the Americas such as Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, California, New Mexico, Texas, and others. They are generally people who are already married with many children. The man as the head of the household involves his wife and children in clearing areas that are still wild to be used as agricultural land and livestock. The wife must work hard to provide for the family, do household chores, and manage household needs. Most of the second generation of children in frontier agricultural settlements experienced a change in situation as formal education was completed and prairie settlement cities emerged such as Parthia, Red Cloud, Omaha, Denver, Divide, Dodge, Wichita, Kansas, Lincoln, and others. Educated young women from the frontier generation carry out renewal of awareness and bring about changes in the social order of life which are referred to as new American women. They were categorized as typical modern women of their time who inherited the values of the new Americans, namely optimism, equality, democracy, self-reliance, tolerance, and others.

As an academic who actively researches and teaches gender issues in literature, the researcher in this dissertation views the social reality of frontier society in the western region of America as documented and reflected in literary works. Willa Sibert Cather, as a female writer who was born into a frontier family, is considered to have narrated the imagination of conservative traditional family life based on Victorian norms in American frontier society in a number of her literary works such as the novels of *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*. Then at the same time the notion of new women emerged in American frontier society as reflected in the female characters of the novels of *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady* which narrates the ideas of the new Victorian woman. Victorian norms in conservative traditional family life in American frontier society and the ideas of new Victorian women in frontier communities are the basis for constructing

notions of women in American frontier society in a number of selected novels by Willa Cather. Then researcher as an Indonesian also needs to show a reflection of the moral values of women in the American frontier community in the lives of Indonesian women as a conception of the universality of women on this earth. This literary research was actualized based on the dissertation research formulation from the guidebook of *Pedoman Penulisan Tesis dan Disertasi Edisi 5* (Guidelines for Writing Theses and Dissertations, 5th Edition) by Jompa, et al (2021). Based on the guidebook, the researcher constructed parts of the ideas in this dissertation research as visualized in chart 1.

Chart 1. Construction of the research formulation of the notion of women in American frontier society in a number of selected Willa Cather novels and those reflections on the lives of Indonesian women



The research formulation in this dissertation based on the chart above begins with an introduction which is a general narrative of the research as a whole such as background of research, formulation of research, objectives of research, benefits of research, scope of research, and novelty of research. Then the main research target related to the women's notion of American frontier society in Cather's selected novels is constructed from two points of view, namely the first is the traditional women's notion of American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*; and second is the conception of new American women notion in the frontier community in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*. The documentation of traditional women's notions on American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy* is elucidated using one of the literary sociology research methods, namely the Genetic Structuralism Approach. This method was built based on the concept of a French linguist-sociologist named Lucien Goldmann who reconstructed the origins of literary narratives from the author's life setting and social reality as a human fact. Then reflect on the conception of new American women notion in the frontier community in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady* is narrated using feminist literary criticism research methods. This method is a form of analysis of literary works that emphasizes the social conditions of women in society, such as highlighting the social inequality of women and the emergence of women who bring change.

Based on the notion of traditional women and the conception of new American women on American frontier society, the women notion of American frontier society in Cather's selected novels is constructed. The method used is the integration of the Genetic Structuralism Approach and Feminist Literary Criticism which emphasizes the analysis of women's issues in literary narratives which researchers term *Feminist Literary Sociology Approach*. It is a method of analyzing women's issues in literature that is built from certain social realities. Then the universal values of American frontier women's notions are reflected in the lives of Indonesian women as a conception of universal women's consciousness. The entire series of procedures and research results of this dissertation are accumulated in the closing section which consists of conclusions and suggestions.

1.3 Objectives of Research

The main issue of this dissertation research is the notion of women in American frontier society which is reflected and documented in literary works. The American women's notion includes performance, position and role, identity, and perspective. The notion is part of the history of the traditional American family which is passed on to frontier generations in the western region as the values of new Americans, namely optimism, equality, democracy, self-reliance, tolerance and others. This research must be carried out in a focused and directed manner so that the researcher needs to set a number of objectives as the formulation of the problem. The objectives that are discussed in this research dissertation are structured as in three points such as to elucidate the traditional women's notion on the American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*, to conceptualize the conception of a new American woman in the frontier community in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*, and to address the women's notion of American frontier society in Cather's selected novels.

First, To elucidate the traditional women's notion on American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*. Research on American women's notion must be traced from the presence of traditional women as a historical series of American women's lives. They were in America since the arrival of the British and Europeans in the 17th century until the establishment of colonies on the east coast of America, called the *old nation*. The Puritans who first arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607 aboard the Mayflower brought spiritual values in forming the traditional family order in the colonial communities. They dominate the area of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, and New Haven. The Puritans known as Pilgrims agreed to build a sense of justice and equality in the American Colonies. Typical traditional women continued in frontier societies in western America since the 19th century such as Nebraska, Illinois, Virginia, and others, which are called *new country*. The social fact of the frontier's presence in the western region of America is part of the history of American society and Willa Sibert Cather is part of the frontier generation community, which can be considered as genetics from the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*. The traditional women's notion of America's frontier society which is documented in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy*

becomes universal values in the meaning of the two novels. This traditional American women's notion includes performance, position and role, identity, perspective based on the analysis of the narrative relations between the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy* and their genetic elements.

Second, to conceptualize the new American women notion in the frontier community in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*. The new American woman is a woman who is able to bring about changes in her time in her social environment. This change is interpreted as a women's renewal movement that brings progress to people's lives. Women who are typical of bringing change and are able to change people's lives are called modern American women in their society. The female character in the novel *O'Pioneer!*, Alexandra Bergson is seen as a new American woman whose innovative ideas are able to turn agricultural land in the Nebraska region into fertile land and with her self-assertion, she is able to lead the people in her region to become successful farmers. Likewise, the female character in the novel *Lost Lady*, Mariam Ormsby or Mrs. Forrester has a typical new American woman, such as being innovative, rational, analytic and objective. The researcher explored the female characters in the novels by Willa Cather who were considered relevant to the conception of the new American woman as a modern female figure in the era of the American western frontier generation.

Third, to address the women's notion of American frontier society in Cather's selected novels. Social reality as a historical fact of the traditional American family order built from the unity of gender relations between men and women by frontiers in the western region of America since the 1800s has been documented by American writers, including Willa Sibert Cather who was born in 1873 in Virginia. She is a generational frontier in the west or *new country* who spent her childhood and youth in Red Cloud, Parthia, Denver, Divide, Black Hawk, Nebraska, Illinois, Virginia, and a number of other places. Her life background in the frontier farming area and her life experiences amidst the heterogeneity of traditional families in frontier society in America are considered as documentation of Willa Cather's memories in a number of her literary works, including the novels *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. Willa Cather acknowledges the presence of traditional women's notions in

American society in these novels in the form of full domestication and partial domestication ideas.

Another aim of this dissertation research is to show a reflection of the moral values of the American frontier community towards Indonesian women. The similarities between the Victorian moral values held by frontier communities in the western region of America and the social life of Indonesian women are the values of the universal conception of women on this earth. Readers of this dissertation can obtain some information that the universality of the notion of American frontier women at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century as reflected in Willa Cather's selected literary works is a social fact that is also reflected in the lives of Indonesian women amidst changing times and progress. life of Indonesian society.

1.4 Benefits of Research

The results of this dissertation research, which is sociological research on literature, can provide general and specific benefits for readers, researchers, literature teachers, and other stakeholders. The general benefit that can be obtained is to raise awareness among literature readers that literature is the product of the author's imagination which reflects the social life of society as a social imitation. Literary works are not just fictional readings, but have the capacity to reflect and document certain social facts in society by presenting universal values as human facts or world views. Humanitarian facts are social issues in people's daily lives in the form of radicalization and humanity, discrimination and societal integration, slavery and racism, religion and society, society and culture, social strata and classes, ideological battles, interaction and disintegration, gender and sexuality, and others.

Literary sociological research helps literary readers find social facts in the world of literary imagination so that it can be used as a way of life and educational media. In this dissertation research, literary readers can find women's notions in frontier society in the western region of America which are constructed from traditional women's notions and the conceptions of new American women. Literary readers can also enrich their understanding of the history of American women, especially western frontier society in literary works such as the novels *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady* by Willa Sibert Cather.

The special benefit of this dissertation research is that it makes a direct contribution to the development of the academic world of literature and increases the capacity of literary researchers to enrich the sociological study of literature and develop theories in the sociology of literature. The technical procedures of genetic structuralism research and feminist literary criticism are useful for increasing students' capacity to examine sociological aspects of literary works as well as getting to know the background of the social life of writers such as Willa Cather as an American woman writer who comes from the traditional environment of American frontier society. Likewise, lecturers can use the results of this dissertation research as enrichment of learning material in a number of literary courses such as literary theories, literary research methodology, gender in literature, sociology of literature, and others. Likewise, literary researchers in increasing their professionalism can use the results of this research as a procedural scientific reference. Another benefit narrated in this dissertation research is shown that the universality of the notion of American frontier women has sociological relevance to the social life of Indonesian women in absorbing the Victorian order of women. This relevance is a clue to explore further in subsequent research regarding the flow of consciousness of American frontier women and Indonesian women which both originate from the renaissance movement and European enlightenment thought.

Then, in the theoretical development aspect of literary sociology research in this dissertation, what the researcher terms *Feminist Literary Sociology Approach*, it can be used as a model for integrating two literary theories in one form of literary study, namely integrating the literary genetic structuralism approach with feminist literary criticism. Through this integration, knowledge is gained about the notion of frontier women in the American West including performance, role and position, identity, and perspective as reflected and documented in a number of selected novels by Willa Cather, namely *O'Pioneers!* (1913), *My Antonia* (1918), *A Lost Lady* (1923), and *My Mortal Enemy* (1926). Finally, the results of this dissertation research can be used as a medium for literary education on traditional family values and universal notions of women. It can be found in the reality of Indonesian women's lives amidst the changing times and progress of Indonesian society, which is reflected in the universality of the notion of American frontier women at the end of the 19th

century and the beginning of the 20th century. The universality of the notions of American frontier women and Indonesian women were both built from an awareness of Victorian moral values which created old Victorian women and new Victorian women.

1.5 Scope of Research

This dissertation research is a sociology of literature research that places literary works as part of society's social life. Literature is seen as an imaginative world resulting from an author's contemplation of the social reality around her in various literary genres such as short stories, novels, drama, poetry, and others. The author's sensitivity can be obtained through the events her experienced directly or the events she observed carefully or the depth of her knowledge of certain events. Based on this understanding, it can be said that the author's imagination is an imitation of certain social facts in society. Even though the literary work is fiction, the presence of the work has a social background from the author and society as the sociological background of literature. It can be concluded that even though literary works are fiction, but they keep or hide social facts from certain social conditions as human facts reconstructed by writers. Literary work as a social product is related to the circumstances and conditions around it as a reflection of the life of a particular society and within a certain period of time. In literary sociology, literary works are considered as documentation of the life of society in its time.

The scope of this research is specifically the sociology of literature research on four selected novels by Willa Cather, namely *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. The novel is considered Willa Cather's memories of the life of frontier communities in western America such as Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, California, and others. One of the issues that have become a social reality in frontier communities is the presence of the traditional family structure in the western region of America which has ushered in generations of reformers who helped shape the values of new Americans, namely optimism, equality, democracy, self-reliance, tolerance and others. These values are also built from the women's notion of American frontier society as reflected and documented in Cather's selected novels such as *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*. This notion is constructed from traditional women's notions and new American women's

conceptions through the integration of the Genetic Structuralism Approach-Feminist Literary Criticism which emphasizes the analysis of women's issues in literary narratives which researcher terms *Feminist Literary Sociology Approach*. The documentation of traditional women's notions on American frontier society in the novels *My Antonia* and *My Mortal Enemy* is elucidated using one of the research methods in literary sociology, namely the Genetic Structuralism Approach which is oriented towards tracing the origins of narratives of literary imagination from the background of the author's life and certain social realities. Then the reflection on the conception of new American women is narrated in the novels *O'Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady* using feminist literary criticism research methods which emphasize the social conditions of women in society, such as highlighting social inequality in women and the emergence of women who are bringers of change.

The contribution of this dissertation research to the Indonesian nation, which is the background of the researcher's life, is to narrate a reflection of the scope of consciousness of American frontier women on the social life of Indonesian women. This reflection adds to people's knowledge that the awakening of consciousness of American women and Indonesian women came from the stream of consciousness of the Renaissance movement and European enlightenment thought. The relationship between women's spirits in the two nations is bound by the struggle for civil rights and democratization amidst heterogeneity which carries the motto *unity in diversity*. It is a complement to the discussion space for this dissertation research.

1.6 Novelty of Research

The issue of women in literary research is one of the scientific studies that reflects moral and humanist values by using various theories and research methods, including feminist literary criticism, gender psychology, narrative analysis, gender semiotics, sociology of literature, and others. Various women's issues that can be studied in literary works are feminist stereotypes, gender injustice, gender marginality, gender relations, the image of women, narratives of women writers, women's emancipation, the reality of modern women, women's culture and traditions, femininity and masculinity, and so on. The researcher found a number of relevant studies related to issues of femininity in

literary works that had been carried out previously in the form of dissertations, theses, and scientific articles.

The researcher took five relevant studies to explore the similarities and differences while at the same time finding the novelty of this dissertation research. Those researches are (1) a Dissertation at the Faculty of Letters, University of Indonesia entitled *Citra Wanita Dalam Lima Novel Terbaik Sinclair Lewis dan Gerakan Wanita di Amerika* by Soenarjati Djajanegara in 1987; (2) a Dissertation at the University of Nebraska, Illinois-USA entitled *Willa Cather's Women: Gender, Place, and Narrativity in O Pioneers! and My Antonia* by David Laird in 1992; (3) a Dissertation at the Graduate Program of the Faculty of Letters, University of Indonesia entitled *Perkembangan Citra Wanita Dalam Beberapa Novel Perancis yang ditulis Pengarang Wanita* written by Sumarwati Kramadibrata in 1996; (4) a Thesis at the University of Kansas-USA entitled *Lost Ladies, New Women: Narrative Voice and Female Identity in Willa Cather's A Lost Lady and Kate Chopin's The Awakening* by Jordan L. Von Cannon in 2011; and (5) a Dissertation at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln entitled *To Bend Without Breaking: American Women Authorship and The New Women, 1900-1935* by Amber Harris Leichner 2012.

Soenarjati Djajanegara found images of American women from various backgrounds and professions in five selected novels by Sinclair Lewis, namely *Hike and the Airplane*, *The Job and Ann Vickers*, *Main Street* and *Babbitt*, *Dodsworth* and *World so Wide*, and *Elmer Gantry*. Djajanegara in her research found the image of gender relations between men and women, a woman's career in achieving her goals, women's social interactions in the midst of heterogeneous and communal small-town life, the journey of American women's lives in various places in Europe, and spiritual nuances of woman. The literary analysis conducted by Djajanegara has the same research issue with this dissertation, namely the existence of women in literary works. The difference lies in the research focus, research object, and literary research methods used in analyzing literary works. Djajanegara focuses on the image of American women in particular, while this dissertation research is more comprehensive on traditional American women's narratives, the conception of the new American women, and America's first wave feminist stereotypes. The object of Djajanegara's research is the literary works of Sinclair Lewis, while the research

object of this dissertation is the literary works of Willa Cather. The research method used by Djajanegara is feminist literary criticism, while this dissertation research integrates feminist literary criticism with literary genetic structuralism which is the strengthening of literature as a social documentation of women in frontier societies in western America.

David Laird discovered a fact that the novel *O Pioneers!* describes the gender resilience that women have in frontier society, describes the productivity of fields in Nebraska, and presents narrative stories on events that have never happened before in Nebraska. Then in the novel *My Antonia* according to Laird, Willa Cather describes the role of the family in determining the lives of women in complex social interactions, describes the complexity of the atmosphere and the needs of cultivators in Nebraska, and presents a narrative about hired girls from agricultural areas who want equality with people urban. The literary analysis conducted by Laird has the same issues and research objects with this dissertation, namely the existence of women in terms of gender, region, and narrative in the novel *O Pioneers!* and the novel *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. The difference lies in the specifics of the research issue, namely Laird views women in terms of gender, place, and narrative in literary works, while this dissertation research emphasizes the notion of American women in frontier societies of the western America in four selected novels by Willa Cather. The research method used by Laird involves functional semiotics from Roland Barthes which emphasizes the study of manuscripts on aspects of language, gender, physical and social background, while this dissertation research uses literary research methods which in addition to involving literary texts as a structure, also explores the author and social reality as literary genetics.

Sumarwati Kramadibrata in her dissertation research emphasizes the existence of women in the midst of changing times and the progress achieved by women in gender relations as documented in a number of French literary works by Françoise Sagan. The image of women is associated with behavior, situations, moral values, and status in social life that is attached to women by society. The issue of literary research conducted by Kramadibrata is related to this dissertation research, namely the depiction of women in a number of selected novels. The difference lies in the specifics of the research issue, namely Kramadibrata emphasizes the image of French women in the progress

they have made, while this dissertation research emphasizes the notion of American women in the midst of the women's emancipation movement or feminism. Kramadibrata uses French literary works as the object of study, while the object of this dissertation research uses a number of works of American literature. The research method used by Kramadibrata is the sociology of literature in general which is integrated into aspects of language and social settings, while the research method for this dissertation is more specific on genetic structuralism as part of a sociological approach to literature that involves literary texts as the structure, then the author and social reality as the literary genetics. Feminist literary criticism is also integrated into the genetics of the literature.

Jordan L. Von Cannon compares the literary works of two American women writers, namely Willa Cather and Kate Chopin on the narrative aspects of speech and feminine identity. Cannon reveals a literary fact about the narrative of gender discourse in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Cannon explores the theme of New American Woman as an independent, innovative, creative, and competitive individual in the midst of the complexities of traditional society. He considered Willa Cather to be very careful about expressing the identity of the New American Woman, played by a fictional character named Mariam Ormsby or known as Mrs. Forrester in the novel *A Lost Lady*, while Kate Chopin in the novel *The Awakening* through a female character named Edna firmly repositions feminine identity into masculinity. Cannon concludes that Willa Cather's 1923 in novel *A Lost Lady* and Kate Chopin's 1899 in novel *Awakening* reflect the New American Woman narrative, particularly in the American west. Literary research conducted by Cannon has relevance to the issue of this dissertation research on the conception of feminine and masculine identity in women. The difference is in the research orientation, Cannon compares the narratives of two American women writers, while this dissertation research strengthens the identity of new American women's conception in frontier societies of the western America in a number of selected novels by Willa Cather. Then the research method used by Cannon is a narrative discourse on gender relations, while this dissertation research relies on feminist literary criticism research methods which are integrated into the literary genetic structuralism approach.

Amber Harris Leichner describes American women according to a number of national magazines in the period 1900-1935 which is then reflected in several literary works written by American women writers in the early twentieth century, namely Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, Zitkala-Ša, and Gertrude Schalk. The objects of research include the novels *The Touchstone* (1900) and *Pomegranated Seed* (1931) by Edith Wharton, collected stories *Office Wives* (1916) and the novel *Lucy Gayheart* (1935) by Willa Cather, *Autobiographical Sketches* (1900) and the story *The Widespread Enigma Concerning Blue-Zitkala-Ša's Star Woman* (1921), a collection of short stories such as *Adorable Infant* (1931) was published in *Love Story and Lady Gayheart* (1935) was published in Gertrude Schalk's *All-Story Love*. All of these female authors narrate New American Woman which moves towards modernity through repositioning roles from feminine to masculine. They have a role in building a new order for American women who are modern, liberal, and forward-thinking, even though they have drawn a number of controversies from traditional and conservative American women. Leichner concludes that the repositioning of American women from traditional to modern from 1900-1935 is documented in fictional stories written by American women writers. The relevance of the research conducted by Leichner with this dissertation research is that both of them discuss the typical American women in literary works, although they use literary works as different objects of research. Leichner's capacity to prove that a literary work is a social documentation according to the social situation of society and its era is very useful for this dissertation research which uses social reality and the social background of the author's life as literary genetics.

This dissertation research is novelty compared to a number of previous studies. These innovations include the broad scope of research on American women, the image of Willa Cather as a female writer in America's frontier society, and the integration of literary research theory or theorizing the theory. This research reveals that the notion of American women in literary research is more comprehensive on issues of frontier society in the western region of America compared to other studies which generally only focus on one particular aspect such as the image of women, feminine identity, gender survival, and others. The breadth of the research discourse in this dissertation can be seen in the integration of American women's notions in documenting the history of

frontier societies in the western region of America with a literary analysis that includes traditional women's notions and modern American women's conceptions.

Then another novelty is the general impression that American women's discussions around the 20th and 21st centuries are more dominated by feminist issues than other social issues. This research demonstrates another fact in American society through a sociological analysis of literature that the feminist movement fighting for women's constitutional and political rights is not an important issue in frontier societies in the western region which are dominated by inland America or *new countries* such as Nebraska and Illinois. Frontier women in the western region of America have enjoyed equality and guaranteed political rights through the Progressive Movement as a movement for democracy and justice in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Ohio, California, Oregon, Kansas, and others since the early 1800s. The law in the western frontier region does not limit white women's access to various sectors such as politics, education, employment, and others. Since the beginning of the arrival of men and women to open land that is still wild and ferocious in the lands of America's western frontier in the 1800s, they have been accustomed to working together so that the concept of gender equality has been formed naturally. They succeeded in creating gender equality without eliminating the natural nature, role, and function of women's domestication in domestic life as a typical American traditional family. The social reality of this frontier society in the western region of America is an expression of Willa Cather's memories in a number of her literary works known as *a collection of prairie literature* such as the novels *My Antonia*, *My Mortal Enemy*, *O'Pioneers!*, and *A Lost Lady*.

The social reality of frontier society in the western region of America is different from women in frontier society in the eastern coastal region which is dominated by metropolitan America or the *old nation* which declared the feminist movement in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 in order to obtain constitutional rights. Women in America's western frontier region have gained the right to vote since the early 1800s, long before the first wave of feminists in America's eastern region gained their right to vote in 1920 through the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the American Constitution. Feminism is the ideology of women's liberation and women's equal rights in the form of a movement to end

the domination of patriarchal values in social institutions such as customs, culture, constitution, laws, stereotypes, churches, and institutions of power, state institutions and other institutions. Feminism as an organized women's movement emerged in England around 1840, inspired by the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft in 1792 and the thoughts of Margaret Fuller in 1845. American feminism followed in 1848, initiated by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton through the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. The main goal of this women's movement as envisioned by the organization of National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) is the recognition of women's rights as citizens in the American constitution.

The novelty of this dissertation is also found in theorizing the theory, namely finding a new literary research model through integrating two existing literary research theories. Integrating genetic structuralism research methods with feminist literary criticism theory is considered to be able to reconstruct a new analytical model which researchers term in this dissertation, *Feminist Literary Sociology Approach*. The feminist literary research model can be an innovative analytic reference in the specification of literary research issues. This model describes the rationality of the causal relationship between imaginative literary works and the external aspects that gave rise to the work at the level of women's issues absorbed from social reality as a human fact and the background of the author's life. The literary research perspective initiated by integrating genetic structuralism research methods with feminist literary criticism theory here is the fictionalization of women's social life in literary works which is considered to have genetics in the social reality of certain people's lives at certain periods of time through integrating the background of the author's life in it. For example, the notion of women in Willa Cather's selected novels is considered to have its origins or genetics from the social realities of frontier society in the American West. This dissertation research can ultimately enrich readings related to the integration of women's universality issues in literary works as a reference for sociological meaning in the periodization of American literature which also contributes to the moral values of Indonesian women.