

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of seven elements; background of study, identification of problem, scope of problem, question of study, objective of study, significance of study, and sequence of chapters.

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Male dominance over women continues to be a deep reality in various aspect of life. The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 from the World Economic Forum (WEF) show that the global gender gap is only closed by 68.4%, meaning that there is still 31.6% inequality that needs to be addressed. This is closely related to the traditional role of women which often regarded as property or possessions of men, and their roles are frequently confined to traditional functions such as reproduction and serving men within the household (Hasyim et al., 2021). Women are expected to bear and raise children, as well as perform household chores such as cleaning, cooking, and caring for the family. Asri et al. (2023) state that gender relates to socially constructed roles. These roles often lead to economic and social dependence on men, and can result in gender inequality in household decision-making and suppression of women's aspirations and potentials in society (Amir, 2020).

The patriarchal system is often viewed as a means to maintain power structures where men hold significant roles in society (Delukman et al., 2022). The patriarchy concept comprises attitudes and customs deemed to be of men's supremacy (Suleman et al., 2021). This system is shaped by interconnected social, cultural, economic, and political norms (Arafah et al., 2023). The history of patriarchy highlights its role in maintaining social stability, preserving lineage, and safeguarding the interests of families and society as a whole (Krishnan et al, 2020). However, patriarchy creates rooted gender inequalities and reinforces detrimental stereotypes about women, hindering their ability to reach their full potential (Napikoski, 2020). The norms perpetuated by the patriarchal system not only place women in disadvantaged positions but also support and reinforce male dominance in various aspects of life (Afiah et al., 2022). Therefore, the feminist movement emerges as a resistance and critique of the patriarchal system, serving as one effort to achieve gender equality. One of the efforts is using literary work; they have prompted rediscovery and re-evaluating of a number of women writers to have access to all of point of view (Walker, 1979, as cited in Firda, 2021).



are closely related to social life, where authors often utilize their ial backgrounds in writing, such as in novels (Sunyoto et al., tly, authors also insert various social phenomena that occur story (Nur & Arafah, 2023). Literature is easily known as a work ion and motion as the result of human creativity in the form of aesthetic values (Mutmainnah et al., 2022). Literature consists

of various forms such as poetry, prose, and play (Arafah, 2018). Prose is a form of literature that is composed in paragraphs with complete sentences, describes the storyline through characters, and includes various types such as novels, short stories, comics, diaries, letters, folk tales, fantasy, and even mysteries (Arafah et al., 2021). In literary works, writers generally convey various things by presenting values and ideas that originate from the realities of everyday life, as seen in forms such as novels, poetry and short stories (Hasanah et al., 2021)

Regarding feminism, many authors use various literary elements to convey strong and critically feminist messages about gender issues and social justice (Nur et al., 2021). Literature can be defined as a piece of written work with artistic merits created by the author (Arafah et al., 2021, as cited in Asriyanti et al., 2022). Authors utilize literature to voice and support the feminist movement in various ways. In the world of literature, authors have the freedom to create narratives, characters, and situations that reflect the realities and aspirations of women. Literature can reveal the emotional, psychological, and social experiences of women in a deep and complex manner, helping readers understand and appreciate the complexity of women's lives (Damayanti, 2021). Additionally, literature can convey messages indirectly or metaphorically, allowing authors to critique and explore sensitive issues without being confined to direct explanations. Along with the changing times, the influence of the information age also influences the way writers convey these messages (Arafah et al., 2022). As stated by Arafah et al. (2021), aside from the advancement of literature, the information age has changed the way people think and influenced human behaviour. It means issues might arise due to easy and rapid access to information (Hasyim & Arafah, 2023; Arafah & Hasyim, 2023a; Arafah & Hasyim 2023b; Arafah et al., 2023). Thus, literature provides space for authors to explore and express their feminist views creatively, inspiring readers to think deeply about the roles and rights of women in society.

Kate Chopin is one of the American authors who addresses feminist themes in various literary works, including "The Awakening". In her works, Chopin highlights feminist issues such as discrimination and oppression against women. Issues related to women cover a variety of themes, such as discrimination, gender construction, freedom, inequality, independence, eternity, and women's rights and aspirations. Throughout history, women have often experienced discriminatory treatment because of the assumption that they are a vulnerable group (Yudith et al., 2024). Her works are considered examples of feminist fiction in an era where patriarchy plays a dominant role in societal structure. Literary works offer several benefits to the reader (Arafah et al., 2021, as cited in Yudith et al., 2023). Values reflect the author's perspective on the reality he wants to convey to the reader (Arafah et al., 2024).



1) *The Awakening* addresses issues of discrimination and women. The novel tells the story of Edna Pontellier's journey to become a young woman who is unhappy with her marriage, her

children, and her life's purpose. She feels bored with her life bound by the social norms of the surrounding society. She sacrifices her freedom and desires to fulfil her responsibilities to meet society's expectations of women. *The Awakening* by Chopin further discusses issues regarding women's rights to express themselves and live freely in achieving self-identity and purpose alongside the expectations of Creole society. It is noted that Creole society is heavily influenced by the patriarchal system, and a narrow definition of what women can and cannot do exists. She has an extramarital affair and decides to choose her own freedom. Edna asserts her rights as an individual. In the process of discovering herself, she searches for the person trapped within herself and also within the boundaries of societal rules and regulations regarding women. She refuses to have sexual relations with her husband. She also tries to express herself creatively through painting and writing. Instead of living in her present life, she decides to commit suicide by swimming out to sea. This novel is fascinating to analyze because it challenges the social norms of its time and shows a woman's struggle for freedom and self-expression, raising important question about identity.

In this study, the writer is interested to analyzed the main character's struggle in *The Awakening* through liberal feminism and radical feminism in relation to the confinement or restrictions in the patriarchal society experienced by Edna Pontellier in her marriage. Kate Chopin critique the patriarchal culture in the South, where the institution of marriage often treats wives as property and restricts their freedoms. In her efforts to escape from all these limitations, Chopin presents death as a form of absolute freedom for the main character of this novel, Edna Pontellier. From the explanation above, the writer chose the title "*Feminist Resistance in Chopin's The Awakening*" to reflect Edna Pontellier's struggle against the societal constraints placed on her.

## 1.2 Identification of Problems

After reading Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, the writer finds and identifies some problems in the story as:

1. Self-fulfilment through conformity to traditional roles.
2. Gender dynamics beyond the roles of mother and wife.
3. Edna's struggle for freedom within societal constraints.
4. The influence of social structure on the freedom of self-expression.

## 1.3 Scope of Problem



*ning* by Kate Chopin, the main issue of the novel is about pression against women. As mentioned, the writer identifies four analyzed in this novel. To narrow down the issue, the research is its struggle for freedom in *The Awakening*.

## 1.4 Research Questions

1. What kinds of Edna's conflict illustrate the tension between individual desires and societal constraints in *The Awakening*?
2. How does Edna's struggle to achieve freedom in *The Awakening*?
3. How do Edna's conflicts and struggle in *The Awakening* reflect the characteristics of feminism?

## 1.5 Objectives

1. To identify the types of conflicts Edna faces in *The Awakening* that highlight the tension between her personal desires and societal constraints.
2. To explain how Edna's struggle to achieve freedom in *The Awakening*.
3. To analyze how Edna's conflicts and struggles in *The Awakening* reflect the characteristics of feminism.

## 1.6 Significance of The Study

Academically, this research provides information about feminist theory in literature. The main interest of this theory is to explore the patriarchal ideology perspective in literature, especially to delve into the forms of social, economic, and political discrimination against women.

This thesis provides several points of significance. The first significance of this analysis is to broaden the writer's understanding of literature, especially the works of Kate Chopin. Second, the writer aims to convey some lessons about liberal feminism and radical feminism through the characters in this novel. It is hoped that this will enable readers to understand and contemplate the various concepts and values espoused by both feminist theories, as well as their application in everyday life.

Practically, this research should serve as a reference for future similar research, particularly for those who decide to use the same approach in their analysis.

## 1.7 Sequence of Chapters

This research is divided into five chapters. Firstly, chapter one contains background of study, identification of problem, scope of problem, questions of study, objective of study, significance of study, and sequence of chapters. Secondly, chapter two mentions a number of prior researches relevant to the current research, the corresponding approach applied on the research, and the theoretical background. Thirdly, chapter three provides the methods the writer had done in analyzing the data in this study. Fourthly, chapter four consists of conclusions regarding the research. Finally, chapter five summarizes the entire research in the form of conclusion and suggests several recommendations.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of previous studies and theoretical background supporting this study.

#### 2.1 Previous Studies

A study requires several relevant researches to support further research implementation. Some data can be obtained from relevant or closely related researches that have been conducted previously.

Firstly, Hanifah (2020) in *The Portrait of Woman in Chopin's Short Story "The Story of an Hour"*. The writer used a descriptive method with a genetic structuralism approach to analyze the literary work. The research focus on how the portrait of American woman was reflected in Kate Chopin's short story. The result revealed that women in the story were portrayed as confined to their homes, unable to pursue the work or passions they desired, which ultimately led to their unhappiness. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer research can be identified. The similarity lies in the author, Kate Chopin. However, the differences are the title of the research, the theoretical approach, and the specific problem discussed. While the previous research focused on how Chopin's short story reflects the portrayal of American women, this research uses a feminist approach, especially liberal and radical feminism, to explore the struggle of Edna's for personal freedom against the constraints of a patriarchal society within the novel.

Secondly, Yusuf and Susilo (2020) in *Feminism of Woman's Struggle in Cigarette Girl Novel* used the feminism approach to Beauvoir theory in analyzing resistances of woman's struggle in *Cigarette Girl Novel* by Ratih Kumala. The writers focus on the woman character in *Cigarette Girl Novel* that struggles to survive in economic condition after her husband was arrested because accused as one of rebels. The result of this research that the women have same capability to survive in their lives as the men do therefore all the things that is point to them such as second sex, retarded, limited and weak go vague and even disappear because of the story which is told by the writer of the novel. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer research can be identified. The similarity between this research and Yusuf and



the use of a feminist approach to analyze women's struggle. This study focuses on *Cigarette Girl* and economic survival, this research is similar to the *Awakening* with an emphasis on liberal and radical feminism.

Barren (2023) in *The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Chopin*. This research uses structuralism approach by Rene Barren by applies descriptive qualitative methods to analyze the

character and characterization. The writer finds five kinds of love betrayal committed by the main character. They are neglecting her children and her obligation, leaving the house of her family, having affairs with other men, and committing suicide. Furthermore, there are four devastating effects of the main character's love betrayal namely Leonce Pontellier's confusion and his concern about people's opinion of Edna's changed behavior, implicit disappointment of Edna's children, Robert's self-sacrifice, and Edna's downfall. Based on the explanation above, both this research and Susanto's research focus on Kate Chopin' *The Awakening*, yet while Susanto uses a structuralism approach to explore the betrayal of love and its effects on Edna and those around her, this research adopts a feminist approach, specifically radical and liberal feminism, to examine Edna's struggle.

Fourthly, Wulandari and Liliani (2023) in *The Struggle for Gender Equality and Educational Values Collection Sihir Perempuan Short Stories by Intan Paramadita*. This research uses the theory of feminist literary criticism by applies descriptive qualitative methods. The result of this research indicate that the form of gender equality struggle found in the short story collection *Sihir Perempuan* include the fight for women's rights and justice, public and productive roles, freedom of choice for women, and resilience in facing various challenges. Based on the explanation above, both this research and Wulandari and Liliani focus on feminist in literature. However, while their study examines gender equality within short stories by Intan Paramadita, this research focuses on *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, applying a feminist approach. This research focuses on Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* using liberal and radical feminist approaches to explore the main character's struggle. This approach provides a new contribution because it has not been discussed in depth in previous studies.

## 2.2 Theoretical Background

This research uses a feminist approach to explore the representation of women in this literary work through various perspective. In addition, the intrinsic elements of the novel will be analyzed to explore the depiction of Edna Pontellier's character and how important theme such as freedom and oppression develop throughout the story. By combining radical and liberal feminist theories, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the feminist dynamics present in this novel.

### 2.2.1 Intrinsic Elements of Novel



elements, according to Nurgiyantoro in his book *Teori Fiksi* (2010) are the elements that construct the literary work. These elements consist of theme, characters and characterization, existing within a literary work. This study focuses specifically on these elements to analyze the work in depth.

a. Theme

Theme is the main idea that the author wants to convey through the story. Themes in literature are the important subjects and experiences of our public and private lives: they are the ordinary and common words in our everyday thoughts and conversations, like love, death, marriage, freedom, hope, despair, power, war, revenge, evil, and so on. Theme in a novel, according to Jones (1968: 82) is its underlying idea or “wisdom” that the author is presenting. Theme describes the core of the story and often includes thoughts or perspectives about life, morals, values, or the human condition. Theme is an aspect of a story that is parallel to the meaning in human experience, something that makes an experience so memorable, a story that specifically explains most of its elements in a simple way (Stanton, 2007: 36).

Some authors convey the theme directly, while others do not. Therefore, some themes can be easily recognized through the title, but others can be discovered through an analysis of the plot, characters, conflict, and dialogue.

b. Character and Characterization

Character in novel are figures or individuals who are part of the story and play an important role in the development of the plot, conflict, and theme. Character is people who are appeared in a narrative prose or novel and it is interpreted by the readers as a person who has moral quality and certain tendency such as being expressed in what they say and what they do”. Meanwhile, characterization is the way the writer describes and develops the characters in the story.

Character is the review of the role, importance or function character in fiction can be divided into the central character or protagonist (the central character, the main character) and figures subordinate or additional figures (peripheral character) (Irmawati et al., 2020).

The character in literature is dominated by one specific trait and is referred to as a flat character, and term round character ly denotes a personal with more complex and differentiated res. Whereas, there are two kinds of character; they are the character and minor character (supporting character).

The characters can be divided into some categories based on point of view taken: major and minor character, protagonist and



antagonist character, round and flat character (Nurgiyantoro, 2007: 176).

### 1. Major and Minor Character

Major characters are characters who have an important role in a story. Major characters are usually the center of the storyline and often experience significant changes and developments in the story. While minor characters do not have a central role in the story, but still play a role in supporting the storyline. Minor characters are usually not explored in detail and depth, but still have an important role to provide context in the story. In short, a major character is a character who is the center of the story and greatly influences the plot, while a minor character is a character who has a smaller role and still supports the story without being the main focus.

### 2. Protagonist and Antagonist Character

The role of protagonist is a role that should represent positive things in the need of the story. This character is the center of the story, and usually the conflict is centered on him/her. This character experiences character development throughout the story. Meanwhile, the antagonist character is a character who creates conflict for the protagonist character. This character usually has traits that are contrary to the protagonist's character.

### 3. Round and Flat Character

Round characters are characters that are portrayed in depth and complexity. They experience change and development throughout the story, and are often more realistic. Flat characters, on the other hand, are simpler characters. These characters serve to support the storyline, and tend not to change throughout the story.

Characters in stories can be understood more deeply through characterization. Characterization is a way to describe or explain the character's nature, personality, and behaviour in the story. There should be no events without figures, and on the contrary, there would be no figures without events. The character will always relate to each event, which will eventually form a plot. Characterization can be described in three ways, namely physiological, sociological, and psychological (Said & Hula, 2022). Characterization can be done in



two different ways: direct characterization and indirect characterization.

### 1. Direct Characterization

Direct characterization is a method of describing the character in a straightforward manner, through their physical description, their line of work, and their passion and outside pursuits. The reader is informed about the characters by the narrator. Additionally, it might also include additional outside information like names or other overt comments.

This method is often used in novels and short stories to give the reader a clear picture of the character. Direct characterization is able to provide information that is straightforward and not confusing. However, this method is also considered less interesting than indirect characterization.

### 2. Indirect Characterization

Indirect characterization describes the character implicitly through the actions, speech, interactions, and reactions of the people around them. Indirect characterization can be done in four different methods: speech, thoughts, action, and looks. This method allows the reader to interpret the character's personality on their own based on clues given in the story, thus providing a more immersive and interactive reading experience.

By understanding character and characterization, readers are able to understand and explore the meaning of a story. Characters in novels play an important role in developing plot, building conflict, and conveying theme. Meanwhile, characterization is the method or technique used by the author to bring the character to life. Thus, understanding the characters and the way they are portrayed can help in analyzing more deeply the meaning that the author wants to convey.

### c. Plot



Plot is a literary device that structures what happens in a story. It creates conflict or raises a dramatic question. Stanton (2007: 14) defines plot as a story that contains the sequence of events, but each event is only connected in cause and effect, an event which caused the occurrence of other events. According to Abrams (1999: 14), plot is constituted by its events and actions, as they are rendered and organized toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects.

According to Freytag (1984), a German writer, plot is divided into several parts. Those are Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and resolution.

### 1. Exposition

Gustav Freytag in his book *Die Technik des Dramas* (1863), states that exposition is the initial stage where the author introduces the setting of the story, the main character, and the situation underlying the conflict. It shows how the characters relate to each other, their goals and motivations. Exposition provides context for the reader to understand the story before the conflict develops. This stage is important because it determines how emotionally involved the reader and the story will be.

### 2. Rising Action

Rising action is the second phase in Freytag's five-phase structures. Rising action is the second phase in Freytag's five-phase structure. In this phase the main conflict in the story begins to develop. A series of events occur gradually and build tension in the story with the emergence of conflict. In *Die Technik des Dramas* (1863), rising action or complication is a dramatic structure that develops after exposition. In this phase, the protagonist understands his or her goal and begins to work toward it.

### 3. Climax

Climax is the culminating point where the tension built up since the beginning reaches its highest intensity. This phase is usually characterized by a dramatic event, a major decision, or a direct confrontation between the protagonist and the antagonist. Freytag in *Die Technik des Dramas* (1863) defines the climax as the third of the five dramatic phases which occupies the middle of the story. This phase serves as a turning point before the story enters the falling action phase which leads to the resolution of the conflict.

### Falling Action

According to Freytag (1863), the falling action phase consist events that lead to the ending. At this phase, the tension that is reached its peak begins to subside, and the story moves towards resolution. In Freytag's pyramid, falling action serves as intermediary between climax and resolution. This stage



provides space for the reader to understand the changes that occur before the story reaches the final stage.

## 5. Resolution

Resolution is the part of the plot that becomes the final stage of a story. In Freytag's pyramid, resolution is also referred to as denouement in French. At this stage, the main conflict is resolved and the story reaches its completion stage. Resolution usually occurs after the climax and falling action.

There are several types of plots that are often used in story writing. Each type of plot has a different approach to shaping the storyline. There are linear plots that are based on chronological time sequences, to non-linear ones that involve time jumps or complex narratives. In addition, there are episodic plots that consist of a series of separate but intertwined events, monomyths that describe a universal hero's journey, circular plots that return to the starting point, and flashbacks that reveal the past to give context to the main story.

### d. Setting

Setting is a literary device that allows the writer of a novel to establish the time, location, and environment in which it takes place. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2010: 216) says the setting is the understanding of place, time relations, and social environment in which events are told. Setting is the time, location and environment in which a part of the story occurs. So, that readers can analyze the overall setting of the story.

#### 1. Setting of Place

Place setting is an element in a literary work that refers to the location where an event occurs in the story. The element of place used can be physical places or even imaginary spaces created in the story. This location may be a specific place with a name or initials, or it may be a location without a clear name. The setting provides context and atmosphere for the development of the story, and helps the reader to imagine the setting in the story.

#### Setting of Time

Setting of time refers to the time or period in which the events in the story take place. Setting time is the process of describing what an actor or character does at the exact moment that an



event in a story takes place. This includes aspects such as day, month, year, midday, dawn, night, early in the morning, evening, future, past, present, or in any other situation

### 3. Setting of Environment

Setting of environment refers to the overall physical conditions and atmosphere in the story. This setting includes factors such as weather, natural conditions, social conditions, and emotional atmosphere in the story. Abrams (1999:285) stated the setting of the environment is highlighting related to the behavior of the community's social life in the fiction's work. The setting of the environment plays an important role in creating a deep atmosphere in the story.

#### 2.2.2 Feminism

Feminism was pioneered by Virginia Woolf in her book *A Room of One's Own* (1929). This movement emerged in the early 20th century as a protest against a societal system that held unfair perceptions of women. It's a movement that works to ensure that women have the same opportunities and rights as men in all aspects of life, including work, politics, and society. Feminism also fights against discrimination and stereotypes based on gender (Hambur & Nurhayati, 2019). It's about challenging the status quo and working towards a world where everyone, regardless of gender, is treated with fairness and respect. Feminism can be simply defined as the social, economic, and political movements which demonstrate a common purpose: equality for both men and women (Afrili, 2022).

One of the ways which women fights discrimination is through feminism. Lexically, Giddens (2001: 469) stated that feminism is women's movement of demanding full equality between women and men, equality rights that covers all aspects of life, both in the political, economic, social and cultural (Lewis, 2021). In other words, feminism is a women's movement to gain autonomy or freedom of self-determination. Feminism is a social and political movement advocating for equality between women and men. This includes efforts to address gender discrimination, demand equal rights in various aspects of life such as politics, economics, social, and cultural spheres, as well as seeking recognition for the value and contributions of women in society. In other words, feminism aims to create a world where women and men have equal opportunities to thrive and participate equally in both public and private life.



ster in dictionary, feminism is the theory of the political, social of the sexes and organized activity on behalf of women's sts. To define, create, and achieve the political, economic, ial equality of the sexes is the shared objective of a variety of , political movements, and philosophies together referred to as (22).

Feminism consists of 2 waves, the first wave which is called Liberal Feminism and the second wave called the Women's Liberation Movement. The feminist movements began to develop and divided into several types according to Maynard (1995: 259), "The Big Three'as they have been referred to are usually taken to mean liberal feminism, Marxist or socialist feminism and radical feminism, although, as I shall indicate, the number of categories has proliferated over the years".

#### a. **Liberal Feminism**

The pioneers of liberal feminism are Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), John Stuart Mill (1806- 1873), and Harriet Taylor Mill (1807-1858), who act for women rights and liberation, when the economic and social position of European women was very low (Herouach, 2019). It is a main branch of contemporary feminism that tries to establish gender equality in the society (Maynard, 1995).

Liberal feminism is an important part of the movement to fight for women's rights in law and politics (Guy-Evans, 2024). They believe that women should have the same rights as men when it comes to voting and other political freedoms (Bandarage, 1984). Liberal feminists want to change the law so that women have the same rights as men. They fought so that women could vote, work, get an education, and be paid fairly like men. The goal is to free women from discrimination and provide equal rights to all. From this context, people were expected to advocate for equality between males and females during the demand for liberty (Arafah et al., 2024).

Madsen also expresses his thoughts on the liberal feminism viewpoint. The liberal emphasizes on the individual stresses the importance of the individual and individual autonomy which are protected by guaranteed rights, economic justice and equality of opportunity.

Liberalism is a political and economic principle that stresses individual independence, equality of opportunity, and the protection of individual rights. It supports rule of law, civil and human rights, secularism, democracy, freedom of speech, press, religion, and property. It encourages the development of freedoms, particularly in the political and economic spheres. Giddens (2001: 467) stated that feminist theory believes gender inequality is created by lowering access for women and girls to civil rights and allocation of social resources such as education and employment.



#### **ist Feminism**

Marxist feminism is a branch of feminist theory which argues the main cause of women's oppression is capitalism (Guy-s, 2024). This type of feminism is based on the understandings Marxism, proposed by Karl Marx and collaborator Friedrich Engels

in the 19th century. Marx demonstrated how capitalism was able to grow through the exploitation of labor. Capitalism has created two major social classes: i) bourgeoisie, which is the owner of the means of social production (i.e., owners of capitalist companies), and ii) proletariat, which is the employer of wage-labor (sell labor force in exchange for a wage) having no means of production of their own, subjugated in all affairs of socioeconomic life.

Marxist feminism is seen as being concerned with women's oppression as it is tied to forms of capitalist exploitation of labour and where women's paid and unpaid work is analysed in relation to its function within the capitalist economy (Maynard, 1995: 260).

Social classes were described to explain how one class controls the other as a means to produce goods. People who are of a high-class level of economic condition are the bourgeoisie, whereas people who are of a low-class level are claimed as the proletariat since they become the labors of the bourgeoisie (Marx & Engels, 1848).

Marxist feminists blame the capitalistic mode of production as one of the main causes for male domination and women's oppression in society (Hossain et al., 2016). Women should not struggle against men but against the bourgeois system under capitalism, which is a collective work of both men and women of the working class.

Marxist feminism is discovered in the 1970s, which focused on the dismantling of capitalism and way to liberate women that explains the roots of women's oppression from a class viewpoint. Actually, Marx has never developed a theory of gender, and his contribution in feminism is an indirect procedure; due to the rise of capitalism. Marxism has provided the tools and the categories to enable the society for thinking together gender and class, feminism and anti-capitalism (Federici, 2018: 468). Marxist feminism is critical of traditional Marxism for its gender blindness. It is concerned with women's double oppression of both class and sex. It directly blames that the root cause of women oppression is capitalism (Tong, 2009: 98). Marxist feminists have observed that oppression on women is visible in-home environment, workplace, and social life due to economic, social, and business reasons. They believe that women

oppressed by capitalism and gender inequality will vanish when capitalism is replaced by socialism.



### **Marxist Feminism**

Socialist feminism is a vibrant intellectual and political current that has come and gone (Mohajan, 2022: 13). Socialist feminism is part of the international struggle for women's rights and liberation

(Masterclass, 2022). It began in the 1960s and '70s, though socialist feminist thinkers trace their ideas back to the feminist theory of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, drawing upon Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* in 1792 and the work of other early revolutionary theorists. It is inspired by Marxism, and is developed for the reaction to liberal feminism, but it does not lead to the abolition of patriarchy in social relations. Marxism is stuck with the complexity of class analysis which socialist feminists consider as gender blind. Socialist feminism is gained popularity in the 1960s and 1970s. It has gradually faded from the 1980s and has abolished after the collapse of communism in the early 1990s.

Key to socialist feminism is the idea that patriarchy and capitalism are intertwined forms of exploitation and oppression of women (Tong, 2009: 5). In addition to emphasizing gender inequality as a cultural force that stems from patriarchy, socialist feminists focus on how the economic system, particularly in capitalist economies, is a source of oppression (Brenner & Holmstrom, 2013: 266). Social feminists aim to dismantle these structures to achieve liberation.

Socialist feminists believe that women are exploited by a dual system: capitalist and patriarchal (Brenner & Holmstrom, 2013: 266). They reject radical feminism idea that patriarchy is the only system at the root of gender inequality (Maynard, 1995: 264). They also reject the Marxist notion, where class and class struggle are the only defining aspects of history and economic development. They believe that the home is not just a place of consumption, but of production as well. They agree with the fundamental premises of both Marxist feminisms, where capitalism is the source of women oppression, and radical feminism, where patriarchy is the source of women.

#### d. Radical Feminism

The definition of the word 'radical' means 'of or relating to the root'. Radical feminism is a movement founded in the 1960s by the women who had participated in the civil rights and anti-war campaigns, primarily in New York and Boston, then spread to the rest of the USA and Europe; on the basis of the idea that patriarchy is the main cause of discrimination and oppression of women.

Radical feminism is so called because it seeks to create a new approach to understanding the relationship between women and men. Its main focus is on the control that men exercise over women through various means, especially through violence, heterosexuality, the reproductive system, where men as a group are seen as responsible for the ongoing oppression of women (Maynard, 1995:



Radical feminists thus see patriarchy as the root cause of inequality between men and women and they seek to up-root this. They aim to address the root causes of oppression through systemic change and activism, rather than through legislative or economic change. Radical feminism requires a global change of the system. Radical feminists theorize new ways to think and apprehend the relationships between men and women so that women can be liberated. Currently, patriarchy is often overlooked and normalized, particularly within domestic spheres (Jusdalyana et al., 2024)

Radical feminism is the radical evolution and extreme development of liberal feminists inside the 20th century. It opposes patriarchal oppression and female maltreatment, and tries to prevent male-dominated society (Najda, 2019). It focuses on power of men and patriarchy, and privilege within the social system that seeks to promote women organizations as separate social organizations (Jensen, 2017). Radical feminism sees women as a collective group that has been and is still being oppressed by men. Its intent is focused on being women-centered, with women's experiences and interests being at the forefront of the theory and practice. It is argued by some to be the only theory by and for women.

Radical feminism theory focuses more on biological aspects. Members of radical feminism argue that gender inequality results from biological differences between men and women themselves. The point is that women feel exploited by men in biological matters that women have, for example, the roles of pregnancy and motherhood which are always played by women. Therefore, radical feminism often attacks family institutions and party systems which they consider to be sources of oppression. They consider these institutions to be institutions that give birth to a system of male domination so that women are oppressed.

