

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

The reign of Queen Victoria, who inhabited the throne of the Kingdom of England and Ireland, started on June 20, 1837, and concluded with her death on January 22, 1901, (Kerr, 2019). During Queen Victoria's reign, the British Empire ruled the world through business and international trade. Queen Victoria's society, in addition to the economy, changed throughout this period. These developments had an impact on household daily life, in particular daily household life, particularly for women. Women are expected to behave according to societal norms. Working-class women in particular, experience the pressures of this culture, including numerous regulations and restrictions on their rights such as the freedom of speech and expression (Barrett, 2013). In this instance, women must meet societal standards. Working-class women feel the pressures of this culture, which includes numerous prohibitions and limits on their rights such as the right to speak and express themselves. Women are expected to be the perfect housewife, care for children and family, and serve their husbands, and even women are unable to select who to marry (Barrett, 2013).

In patriarchal culture, Victorian gender ideology placed a strong focus on the roles that men and women had to play, the presence of separate spheres is also a contributing reason to this restriction on women (Murdoch, 1970). It was believed that women belonged in the domestic sphere and that men should be strong, independent, and involved in public life. As a secondary lead and household member, women did not have the same rights as men. As a result,

women were given additional feminine chores, such as housekeeping and following their artistic hobbies (Murdoch, 1970). In the Victorian era, men and women looked for the ideal partner based on the demands of a strict society. It was an achievement for the men to keep a woman and her family safe and comfortable in their home (Petrie, 2000). It demonstrated that a man could work through hardships with financial family support, gaining respect from peers and other males in society.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Victorian Romantic era has begun (Kerr, 2019). This philosophical approach was represented in many works of literature, painting, music, architecture, criticism, and history across Western Civilisation. This age and the changing environment around them have impact on emotion, imagination, nature, and social class. Poets, for example, were born during the Romantic period (Kerr, 2019). The works of literature that are still known and studied. Famous early-eighteenth-century writers like James Thompson and William Cowper, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron, and John Kates writings influenced and have been read by Emily Brontë. Emily Brontë's literary work is frequently compared to male classic poems, concerned with the realm of the human psyche, dualism, and the split between self and nature, even if her poems did not worry authors in the early 18th century (Showalter, 1977).

A novel or poetry collection was frequently published in book form by Victorian women writers as their first works (Peterson, 2015). However, it is not easy to publish or release the literary works in that moment. Women who choose a career in literature frequently experienced social rejection, earned poor income,

and were subject to unfair criticism. Women found it challenging to access men social and professional networks because of the distinct spheres' ideology. And because the restricted and patriarchal society of men that women must be at home doing household even so, the literary works written by women criticise society or represent the story from women to women (Murdoch, 1970). The critical of feminist issues write by women in the form of voicing status the patriarchal society, that women also worthy to be educated and have equal status as men.

The type of literature in Victorian era is typically authored by women under a pseudonym the majority of the writers of this genre are women who made the decision to pursue a career in literature (Peterson, 2015). Not like the men writer, women writer is hard to accepted by the society because of the different perspective, and many strict rules for women. For example, women should be stay at home to serving and obey to husband, because the society opinion women are strictly to have freedom of their voice. From a feminist perspective today, it is conceivable to believe that women made certain changes to the male-dominated genre because of the widely held perception of the literary works (Showalter, 1977). Some literary works also prove the men point of view of women writing and view society and critics of patriarchal society. Instead of a lot of rejection from society about female who publish the literary works, the women writer succeeds to gain the voice behind the pseudonym name.

Even though women's writings still have scepticisms from any literary works of writing women, and in public generally stated by Showalter (1977), the

literary works still existed in the patriarchal social circumstance due to the against the oppression to the women. Some literary works by women's writing were criticised by readers because of the strict society and assumed that women should not have to write. The 1840s saw the emergence of female writer, even more different from a female experience standard of content, this work only focus on some of the notable names, those who established a tradition.

One of the famous women writers from the Victorian era with a female perspective is Emily Jane Brontë (1818-1848), who was born in Thornton, Yorkshire, England, and is one of the most famous Romantic novelists (Gezari, 2007). Emily Brontë is the author of more than 200 poems and the book *Wuthering Heights* (1847). The complexity of human existence, religion, selfhood, death, nature, horror, and power are explored in Emily Brontë's poetry throughout *Wuthering Heights*. The poetic grandeur is a vision that is distinct, dark, unusual, and unsettling. Emily Brontë literary works often criticise society and give the Victorian reader the elements in Emily Brontë's works with the common social circumstance of dramatic and romantic poems (Gezari, 2007).

Even though *Wuthering Heights* is the most popular literary work, Emily Brontë also writes poems that also highlighted the Victorian circumstance with the common writing style of women. The poetry of Emily Brontë has written offensive language for the society in the era to represent and show the real life of women in the Victorian era (Gezari, 2007). Some of the expressions of the environment of life in the Victorian era, Brontë writes in the poems as representative of women's desire and the true women of the Victorian era.

Emily Brontë tried to explain the moment in that time with poetry describing sentiments and the special position of women in the Victorian era. Some poems of Emily Brontë represent sociological culture, women characterise, society, and the environment of women in the early 19th century. It represents and explains in Brontë's poems such as *Faith and Despondency* (1846), *The Prisoner* (1846), *Remembrance* (1846), *Anticipation* (1846), *Stars* (1846), *Love and Friendship* (1846), *XVII Stanzas* (1846), and *XV* (1837) that the poems described women's desire for a lover and were far from the expectation of women in the Victorian that were known as pure, ideal partners and perfect wives for the household. As the theme that Brontë have, it also the love poem that expresses the loss and suffering from the love in Brontë's poems.

The repression that Victorian women have experienced showed in Emily Brontë's poem *The Prisoner* (1846). In this poem, Brontë telling with her unique poetic words that women being imprisonment with the rules of society that women have to be in home forever for being the servant of her husband. Also, they do not have ability to running their daily life except they have permission from her husband. Thus, women can not fulfilling their dreams to go outside, expressing themselves, because they have to buried all the dreams inside.

As the women writer, Brontë criticize the society norms that giving limitations for women. In the poem *XV* (1837), Brontë shows another side of expression for Victorian women in her writing. This poems shows that women has power to rage and desire to break the traditional system or patriarchal system

from society norms. Brontë explains that without from the heroic traces, women can tell their feelings for being repressed by the society.

The selected poem for this study *Faith and Despondency (1846)*, *The Prisoner (1846)*, *Remembrance (1846)*, *Anticipation (1846)*, *Stars (1846)*, *Love and Friendship (1846)*, *XVII Stanzas (1846)*, and *XV (1837)* about the suffering and loss of women with a love partner and talk about the circumstance of women from the man's point of view women always have an obedient personality. The poems that Emily Brontë wrote from the experience as a woman in nineteenth-century England and significant impact on the literary works.

In view of the fact that most of Emily Brontë poems were about the society of women and human nature, this research is to be enlightened on how Victorian women are portrayed through the poems especially the characteristics of Victorian women described in Emily Brontë poems (Gezari, 2007). Brontë's literary works by the life experience and the social circumstances, and Brontë writes into the works that critics to the society in the moment. With poetic language interspersed with self-affecting and poetic style, Brontë's work affects the readers as well.

The female voice in Emily Brontë's poems that contains with feminine issues, it can be analysed with Hélène Cixous *Écriture Feminine*. Eventually, Hélène Cixous's perspective shifted toward history and autobiography. As a result, for the majority of us, the work on the *Écriture féminine* remained an immensely influential but undefined term. Several literary critics have

commented on this intriguing idea and even identified it in the works of well-known authors and poets (Showalter, 1977).

As a French feminist, Hélène Cixous brings the concept and of *Écriture féminine* in this study is about writing about women and bringing women to writing (Cixous et al., 1976). In this study, the selected poem of Emily Brontë writes about women, and this writing style can be analysed of the poems that related to the background story of the poetry. The *écriture féminine* focuses on women writing and breaks the men's view of women and it can be proved through this theory. The female voice from this concept also intended and breaks for men's point of view about women writing.

In this study, the purpose of analysing the selected poems of Emily Brontë with *Écriture féminine* theory by Hélène Cixous is to understand and to create a new perspective on men with the theory of *Écriture féminine* as used in selected Emily Brontë poems. Additionally, using the *Écriture féminine* theory, the researcher hopes that this study can provide a new perspective and understanding of women's writing.

B. RESEARCH QUESTION

From the previous study, these are the research question that researcher find out from the object:

1. How was the repression experienced by women in the Victorian era addressed in Emily Brontë's selection of poems?
2. How does women respond to the repression they experienced during the Victorian era in Emily Brontë's selected poems?

C. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

These are the objective of the study considering the context of the selection subject:

1. To understand the *écriture féminine* of Hélène Cixous applied in selected poems of Emily Brontë.
2. To elaborate the women struggle of the patriarchy in Victorian era in selected poems of Emily Brontë with *Écriture féminine* theory of Hélène Cixous.

D. REVIEW OF RELATED STUDY

At this point, to have a comprehensive understanding of the study, the researcher reads and examines three relevant studies of research publication. The researcher finds out some the related theories to analyse this research with *Écriture féminine* that use to analyses of related study from journal, thesis, books, and articles. Furthermore, the researcher also analyses the Emily Brontë's write in the poems that represent of Victorian women with some supporting publication.

First study is "Body, Love and Maternity in Sylvia Plath and Forough Farrokhzad: *A Study Based on Hélène Cixous's Écriture féminine* by Asrin Vajdi published from University of Lorestan in 2013. This study is defining the *Écriture féminine*; it is real and is represented in every metaphor, phrase, and sound used in the poetry of Plath and Farrokhzad. Iconoclastic poets like Plath and Farrokhzad challenge the phallogocentric paradigm by discussing the body, love, and motherhood (Hossein Joodaki et al., 2013). In Emily Brontë' poems, as a topic of this study also discuss about love relationship as represent to

Victorian women and desire, with the breaks the men's perspective of women writing.

The second study is *Oppressed Women's Voices and Female Writing in Sylvia Plath's "Tulips" and "Daddy"* by Shiyun Tang, Wanqi Zhang, and Zehui Zhang from Collage International Education published in 2022. This study is analysed about Sylvia Plath's poetry explains how women trapped in patriarchal society is problem can find freedom and develop a new identity. Plath first explains how conventional patriarchal society denies women's rights and consciousness through the presentation of the feminine body in order to do that. At this point, death imagery represents the eradication of the false women, and it is by this eradication that Plath can portray the new female that Cixous theorises (Tang Shiyun et al., 2022). The female voice gained in Emily Brontë poems also sought with patriarchal life of Victorian women, because of that Brontë tries to explain the social circumstances.

The third study is *Hélène Cixous's Concept of Love as a Strategy of Feminine Writing in Margaret Atwood's Life before Man* by Mandana Kalantari and Shahram Afrougheh from Islamic Azad University published in 2014. This study focuses on identifying aspects of Margaret Atwood's *Life before Man* that can be compared to Hélène Cixous' ideas. To do this, the analyses of feminine writing in detail and apply the concept of love, which is the cornerstone to this method, to the major characters in the story stated earlier. Here, love is shown to create a nonviolent relationship between oneself and the other. Lack of love causes characters' relationships to fail and turns their lives into a viscous circle

(Kalantari & Afrougheh, 2014). In this study, researcher also analyse the writing style of Emily Brontë selected poem that represent of the society of Victorian women with the love and friendship through *Écriture féminine*.

The fourth study is *Emily Brontë in the Post-Romantic Age: The Transformation of Romantic Imagination in Emily Brontë's Poems* by Jingjing Zhao, from Hangzhou Normal University published in 2021. This study discuss about the situation of exile or wandering is what the post-Romantic poets are dealing with. As a result, it is only natural for them to seek for a helping hand to give them support and lead them through the uncertainties, as well as a voice to assure them of certainty and keep the end in mind as they attempt to cope with a world that seems to be coming to an end (Zhao, 2021). Different than this study, researcher trying to analyse the Emily Brontë's poems about the perspective of women writing and female voice through the *Ecriture Femine*.

The fifth study is *"A poet, a solitary": Emily Brontë—Queerness, Quietness, and Solitude* by Claire O'callaghan from Loughborough University published in 2018. This essay discusses the prevalent and popular ideas about Emily's reserve while also looking for a more useful and sympathetic approach to comprehending her choice for seclusion. Such a chance is presented by Emily's writings, notably her poetry. While acknowledging the negative and unpleasant emotional manifestations in Emily's work, the study contends that there are also more insightful revelations about Emily's longing for seclusion (O'Callaghan, 2018). Despite analysing the same writing of Emily Brontë, this study is different because the researcher is analysing the gaining female voice

by Emily Brontë's writing and discussing a new perspective of men's point of view of women.

Finally, this study is to analyse the definitions Emily Brontë's selected poems portray Victorian women in accordance with Hélène Cixous's *Écriture féminine* theory that related supporting the main to this research. In this study, the researcher tries to the concept of *Écriture féminine* that is applied in related literary works. Also, the researcher tries to find the definition of breaks of men's perspective to women writing.

E. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology in this study divides into three methods:

1. Data and Source Data

In this study, researchers have eight main data to analyse Emily Brontë's poems *Faith and Despondency (1846)*, *The Prisoner (1846)*, *Remembrance (1846)*, *Anticipation (1846)*, *Stars (1846)*, *Love and Friendship (1846)*, *XVII Stanzas (1846)*, and *XV (1837)* and that is used as the main topic in this study. Also, in this research, the data is be taken in the form of a stanza. The researcher takes four data from the book of *The Complete Poems by Emily Brontë* that represent the repression and struggle to patriarchy in society norms surrounding of Victorian women. Furthermore, the second data takes from supporting journal, articles, book, and thesis to analysing the study.

2. Method of collecting data

In this part, the first step is researcher collecting and selecting the data from Emily Brontë's poems by reading the book *The Complete Poems*

by *Emily Brontë*. Second, researcher find the relation of the poem that represent of society in Victorian women and desire through the selected poem. In this study, researchers use Library Research technique, that a method of research in which knowledge and information are obtained by reading genuine books or using computer engines to assist answer the research question (George, 2008). To gather information about literature might be viewed as library research, which is also the kind of research that is frequently called literary research or literature study. Third, researcher also collect some source information from journal, articles, thesis, and books that support the theory and analyse both offline and online source to considering the main data of Emily Brontë's poem as the object in this study. Lastly, the researcher categorises the poems of Emily Brontë by selecting the poems with feminine issues that related to *Écriture féminine*.

3. Method of Analysing Data

As stated previously, this study is analysing the writing style of women and representation social circumstances of Victorian women portrayed through the main object in selected poems of Emily Brontë with *Écriture féminine*. Following the collection of data, the next step is analysing this study by the qualitative method. The qualitative method is a method in which the researcher focuses on one or more cases over time and collects detailed, in-depth data from multiple sources of information (Creswell, 2013). First, the researcher reads the poems and chooses eight selected poems *Faith and Despondency (1846)*, *The Prisoner (1846)*, *Remembrance (1846)*,

Anticipation (1846), Stars (1846), Love and Friendship (1846), XVII Stanzas (1846), and XV (1837) by Emily Brontë. Second, according to Hélène Cixous' *Écriture féminine* theory, the researcher examine how Victorian women are represented in a few of Emily Brontë's poems. The researcher analyses the problem with the applied theory of *Écriture féminine* that contains of political issues, patriarchal power structure, and biological issues, which is focusing on the social circumstances of Victorian women represented in Emily Brontë's selected poems. And third, the researcher elaborates in detail on how Emily Brontë impacted men perspectives by applying Hélène Cixous' *Écriture féminine* theory from analysing the selected poems as main object from point of view critical feminism.

F. PRESENTATION

This research study is divided into four chapters. Chapter I includes the introduction the researchers explain the aims of this study in the background of choosing the object, research question, objective of the study, review of related study, research methodology, theoretical approach, and presentation. In chapter II researcher explain the theoretical approach and framework of *Écriture féminine* by Hélène Cixous's use of theory to analyse the poems of Emily Brontë as the main data. In chapter III, the researcher analyses the data of this study by analysing the eight selected poems of Emily Brontë such as *Faith and Despondency (1846), The Prisoner (1846), Remembrance (1846), Anticipation (1846), Stars (1846), Love and Friendship (1846), XVII Stanzas (1846), and XV (1837)* which represent the characterisation of Victorian women and desire. In

chapter IV the last chapter, the researcher concludes all the research in the previous chapter of this study.