

**GENDER ROLE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL *ONE
TRUE THING* BY ANNA QUINDLEN**

THESIS

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*

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Malang, 10 September 2014

The Researcher

Jamilatuz Zahro

MOTTO

Living Out Loud

(Anna Quindlen)



DEDICATION

This thesis is proudly dedicated to my beloved parents,
my great Mom, Lathifah and my pride Dad, M. Hasan Kamali
For abundant love, life, pray, and support.



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Praise to Allah, the Almighty who has given me some mercies and blessings, to finish this thesis. Then may peace and salutation always be given to Prophet Muhammad who has guided me from the laziness to the eagerness to learn everything.

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Malang, 10 September 2014

Jamilatuz Zahro

ABSTRACT

Zahro, Jamilatuz. 2014. *Gender Role of the Main Character in the Novel "One True Thing" by AnnaQuindlen*. Thesis. English Language and Letters Department. Faculty of Humanities. Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang.

Advisor : Muzakki Afifuddin, SS., M.Pd

Keywords : Feminism, Gender Role, Homemaker

Rethinking feminism from subjectivity and gender is important. Women can make use of it as a socialization and perspective of gender role. However, only few studies conducted in term of different perspective about gender context. This study, therefore attempt to analyze the gender role of the main character (Ellen) in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen. The study focuses on feminism and gender context which is mentioned in three research questions, first is what are Ellen's gender role relate to gender in that novel. Second, what are Ellen's responses toward her domestic role relate to gender in that novel. The last, how feminism sees Ellen as 'woman' in that novel. The implications for feminism and gender study in theory or practice are given as well for society perspective toward women life.

The analysis of gender role which is considered to be bias is insightful discussion for women, students, and society as well. As this might highlight for women who have their own gender role in term of certain culture where they live in. Identifying one of the women around the world, this study takes Ellen's role as 'woman' in the novel who play career woman and homemaker. Although, she is not the only woman in the novel but to avoid bewildered discussion, this study focuses on Ellen and her roles. Also, Ellen does not play the roles at once but she experiences the gender role in her work and in her parents' house.

The method of the research is analyzing the text of the novel by close reading, in which the analysis is purposive to find the objective of research questions. Reading many time and comprehensively is needed to make detail description what actually woman's roles in the novel. The limitation of this study is that only take Ellen's role and life as 'woman' in the novel. The next researchers are expected can analyze both Ellen and her mother which have different role and choice they want to live with. Also, perhaps, they can compare both roles by rethinking feminist perspective about woman in the present.

ABSTRAK

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Pembimbing : Muzakki Afifuddin, SS., M.Pd

Keywords : Feminism, Gender Role, Homemaker

Merubah pemikiran terhadap feminisme dari subjektifitas dan gender menjadi hal yang penting. Para wanita mampu menggunakan feminisme sebagai sosialisasi dan perspektif terhadap peran gender. Namun, hanya sedikit penelitian yang mengupas perspektif yang berbeda dalam konteks gender. Oleh sebab itu, penelitian ini dibuat untuk menganalisa peran gender yang diperankan oleh karakter utama (Ellen) dalam novel *One True Thing* karya Anna Quindlen. Penelitian ini mengarah pada konteks feminisme dan gender yang telah disebutkan dalam tiga rumusan masalah, yang pertama apa saja peran gender Ellen dalam novel. Kedua, apa saja respon Ellen terhadap peran domestik dalam novel. Terakhir, bagaimana feminisme melihat Ellen sebagai 'perempuan' dalam novel. Implikasi penelitian feminisme dan gender ini baik dalam teori atau praktis menjadi perspektif baru untuk masyarakat terhadap kehidupan perempuan.

Analisa peran gender sering dianggap menyimpang menjadi diskusi yang multi tafsir untuk kaum perempuan, pelajar, dan masyarakat. Terlebih perlu digaris bawahi untuk kaum perempuan yang memiliki peran gender karena pengaruh budaya dilingkungan yang mereka tinggali. Mengidentifikasi salah satu dari keberadaan perempuan di seluruh dunia, penelitian ini hanya menyoroti peran Ellen sebagai perempuan dalam novel yang berperan sebagai wanita karir dan ibu rumah tangga. Meskipun dia bukan perempuan satu-satunya dalam novel hal ini menghindari diskusi yang meluas, penelitian ini difokuskan pada Ellen dan peran-perannya. Disamping itu, Ellen tidak hanya berperan dalam dunia domestik saja akan tetapi dia mengalami peran gender di kantor dan rumah orang tuanya.

Metode penelitian ini berupa analisa teks dalam novel dengan cara membaca, dimana analisisnya bertujuan untuk mencari jawaban dari rumusan masalah secara objektif. Membaca berulang kali dan komprehensif sangat diperlukan untuk membuat deskripsi yang detail tentang bagaimana sebenarnya peran perempuan dalam novel. Kelemahan dari penelitian ini adalah hanya mengambil peran dan kehidupan Ellen sebagai 'perempuan' dalam novel. Peneliti-peneliti berikutnya diharapkan mampu menganalisa Ellen dan ibunya yang memiliki peran dan pilihan yang berbeda terhadap hidup yang mereka inginkan. Selain itu, mereka bisa membandingkan kedua peran Ellen dan ibunya untuk merubah pemikiran feminis tentang wanita di masa kini.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher elaborates and explains background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, research method which consists of research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis followed by definition of key term in the last of the chapter. All contents of this chapter represent what, why, and how the researcher does this research.

1.1 Background of the Study

People say women are unique creatures regardless elsewhere they come from. They have some common traits which are fastened to them, such as motherhood and housewife. The common traits imply to the roles of women. Women are pregnant, childbearing and childrearing, while men earn money and take control over the family. The term 'happy housewife' maybe becomes something normal in which some women accept their role without any rejection. In this case, women who prefer not to work at all due to make their family and children become the priorities of their life (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 5).

The implication emerges among the society as common assumption that women are the best at maintaining the house stuffs. Women have been misled by feminists into thinking incorrectly that they could 'have a career and an independent life without forgoing motherhood' (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 1). It means that the

roles of women cannot be separated from women's life (motherhood). In 1960s and 1970s the feminists stated their affirmation of women's role in the workplace and their equality with men (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 4). The roles seem to be constructed unintentionally by judging the nurture of women expelled by the presence of feminist movement, which later engages all women to break out the construction by inviting them to play out in government.

Media and Gender (1999) exposes that one of ways to empower women is involving them in development projects. The paradigm is expected to eliminate discrimination by giving large access in development process for many sectors. However, the movement is clearly seen in developed countries, while in third world like Indonesia still adopt the feminist spirit in women equality.

The movement of feminism in Indonesia does not take much attention from women in which they are still influenced by stereotyping of second sex. In this case, women approve the double burden role in which they work without leaving house stuff responsibility. Agnes Samsoeri and Maria H Siagan as journalists of *Suara Pembaharuan* state that husband is leader of household and wife is a partner. And Titi Sri Haryati as journalist of *Surabaya Post* adds that the best profession for women is a teacher (Ashadi Siregar et al, 1999, pp. 101-102). Those show that stereotyping of women as graceful, merciful, and motherhood do not take any risk and lack of public mobilization.

The stereotyping can be specified toward gender stereotyping, which is defined as socially constructed concept that refers to the housework, rights, and behaviors a culture considered appropriate for males and female. In fact, carrier

women in Indonesia hold their responsibility as homemaker, even, some of them prefer being housewife and taking care of their family. Johnson mention that other feminist similarly argue that significant number of women would prefer to stay at home with their children and be full-time housewife (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 1).

Some women prefer depend on their husband and ensure that family is main priorities but, how they define “housewife” whether as profession or obligation regardless a number of wages. Catherine Hakim states that women can be divided into three groups according their choices; home-centered, adaptive, and work-centered (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 5). Home-centered can be found in term of women’s preference to take care of the house stuff. She argues that it’s common and possible for develop societies since 1960s in choosing lifestyle to handle the demands and opportunities of family and work life. On the other hand, the choices face the constrains in which always there are limitation for woman to stay in work place, for instance, the ideal worker have to work full-time and over time without forgoing childbearing and childrearing. It supports the role of feminist in changing the need to structure of paid work and assumption about who the ideal worker is (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 6)

The next question will be “What if women work? And what’s wrong with that?” which is addressed to women who are interested in work place or bored to death in handling house stuff. Some feminists state that women worker will replace the women as mother as ideal feminist object (Johnson & Lloyd, 2004, p. 7), in which cannot be separated from spirit of gender equality. Whether women are going work to support the equality or earning money to have additional family income and

child endowment. It can be seen, in Indonesia there are many housewives depend on their husband's wage which is now considered cannot fulfill their family needs. Furthermore, it calls 'dual role' which is raised by feminist in 1960s-1970s which women have multiple identities become both mother and worker.

However, although the novel has 1960s background of story, precisely in 1967, dual roles do not come up in the novel. It can be seen by quotation below:

My parents met and married in 1967, and though we later came to think of 1960s as a time of great upheaval and liberation, the truth was that for then the upheavals came later, in their everyday lives (Quindlen, 1994, p. 47)

And how Ellen's mother prefers to be housewife and serve her husband by quotation below:

Our house looked like a pony has somehow nosed its way in among the horses, a painted miniature to their murals. But it was beautiful as any inside because my mother's hard work. She had married man who would never be rich, but she said she had not minded, because she knew he had a vocation instead (Quindlen, 1994, p. 20).

"A good wife makes a happy home,..." (Quindlen, 1994, p. 195)

Also wife does not have nothing to do with earning money because husband who only do it. It can be seen by conversation below:

His mouth got very thin, his voice very English, a prelude to meanness. "My wife? My wife? That woman is your mother. I have sat here hundreds of times watching her do for you, care for you, cook for you."

"And for you," I said, refusing to be shamed.

"Ellen," he said, "I have to earn a living. To pay the mortgage. To pay the medical bills. Your mother understand." (Quindlen, 1994, p: 48)

And Ellen Guldenas the main character of the novel, who is the only daughter in the family, who is successful magazine writer, who eats ambition for breakfast refuse cannot easily approve her new role as homemaker.

In this novel, Anna Quindlen spills out family problem in which each member of the family has their own character. In this case, how she shows up dilemma for Ellen who has strong character in facing her role as homemaker. Discussing how the happy family should be is not surprising for readers in which Anna Quindlen has been skillful to explore daily life. Anna Quindlen was born on July 8, 1952 in Manhattan New York who has already published two successful collection of her work when she decides to leave the paper in 1995. In this case she wins a Pulitzer prize for her first book "Lesson Object" in which tells about Irish American family in suburban new York in 1960s. Furthermore, the next book is *One True thing* (1994) by exploration of daughter's journey home to take care of her ill mother, she shows how happy housewife life.

Also, Anna Quindlen who works for New York post as columnist and novelist also, she writes her best reviews in *Black and Blue* which is talking about domestic abuse. Perhaps, the family issue coloring her life in which she loves to rereads Christmas carol more than any other book, and the expectation is a family on Christmas. She raises three children and asks them to read some other books such as, *Portnoy's Complaint*, *the world according to Garp*, *the chocolate war*, etc. Then she discusses with them afterward. And, Quindlen's novels are thoughtful exploration centering on women who may not start out strong, but who ultimately find some core within themselves as a result of what happens in the story (cited from Barnes and Noble.com, pp. 1997-2014)

The main point of the novel is how the main character struggle against society assumption which is represented by her father. Talking about struggle against the rules in the novel does not mean physically contact or domination but it is driven to how she can proof that woman is not weak, although she have to struggle in feminine way, being a homemaker. It can be seen, how she learns to cook, spend time to laundry and vacuuming, and join a book group (Quindlen, 1994, p. 39). Those do not run well in which Ellen always misses her freedom like in New York, her apartment, her job, and her lover, Jonathan. She just gets temperament and too sensitive while her brother, Jeffry bother her when she handling house stuff. Also, she looks her father comes and goes from college without give any sympathy to her who is the only one who handles all the house stuff. She feels desperate and exhausted to be new “mother”, but in the end she accept their role as homemaker even when her mother die she felt missing to do some house stuff works.

How Ellen feels something is missing after her mother died of breast cancer, no more household routine activity she has to do. It can be seen by quotation below:

In fact it was much like the life I had lived those last few months tending my mother, and yet it felt so empty by comparison. There was no center to it, and yet it felt so empty housewife’s routine of sweeping floors, folding laundry, even watching soap operas. I cooked and clean and read; I simmered casseroles and made pies. There was no one, nothing, around which all this activity revolved (Quindlen, 1994, p. 213)

By the quotation above it indicates that in the other way role and nurture seem to be constructed. In fact, since infant baby the parents have behaved gently to their daughter than their son.

Roles of women do not have any references in which they are created and constructed by society. The nurture side of women is used by people to place them in

domestic area without any agreements. Hence, pattern of culture engage as common rules naturally. It erases the right of women to choose and decide what life they want. It indicates that the purpose of gender role to expose the realities which are happened all around the world due to different treatment of the society.

Gender refers to the socially constructed differences and relations between males and females; it is involved of differing roles, responsibilities, constraints, opportunities, and needs (International Labor Office, 2008, p. 89). It can be seen, in the novel, how a father force her daughter to take care of the mother while he has two sons (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22), and how a woman is placed to be nurse and man are free to work, study, and earn money. The case shows male and female have different responsibilities as society expectation. In fact, in this age, a man who works as chef does not have responsibility to cook for his family. Meanwhile, a woman who works as headmaster still has responsibility to take care of their children and some house stuff. Thus, roles are not the point but it is about society expectation for men and women.

I used to experience the same position like Ellen. As the first daughter in the family I have big responsibility to be a mother when my mother cannot do the house stuff. I should be able to cook simple meals, I have to spent sufficient time to wash the clothes and dishes, and I put a side my business for my family. Moreover, when my mother got sick and she had to stay in the hospital around a week. My father begged me to go home from college to care of my sisters. I did not have any choices, I felt so pity to my mother and I could not refuse my father's want. In this case some women experience the same things in term of doing the house stuff without any

agreements. Perhaps, it shows how people maintain women in motherhood and how women are directed to be loyal since they are born. It can be seen how mothers and fathers usually playing more roughly with their male children than with their female children. So that, I am going to analyze the gender role of the main character and her struggle against her culture.

1.2 Research Questions

Related to the background of the study above, the researcher will analyze as follows:

1. What are Ellen's roles related to gender in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen?
2. What are Ellen's responses toward her domestic role related to gender in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen?
3. How does feminism see Ellen as a woman in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find what are Ellen's roles in the novel
2. To describe Ellen's response toward her domestic role
3. To know feminism perspective about womanhood of Ellen in the novel

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The research questions guide the scope of the research by analyzing the gender role which is peculiarly taken from major character which plays the role of woman among work field and family. The researcher is not going to discuss other women roles in gender due to avoid bewildering discussion of gender roles with some characters. The only woman character is taken from Ellen. The response of the new role is not going to be taken from psychological aspect but how she drives it into her daily life. Also, the acceptance of the new role is taken from the conflicts between her and her father before her mother die.

The limitation of this study is involving the two roles of women in the novels. Those include domestic and public role which is played by Ellen and her mother. Both roles are played by woman who has her own choose and it is included feminism and gender. However, due to the limitation of the researcher, this study is going to take one side of Ellen role. In addition, the next researcher can be reserch both role and giving detail description of Homemaker life and Carrier woman life in different perspective of feminist group (Liberal Feminist, Radical Feminist, etc.)

1.5 Significance of the Study

This significance of the study is going to explain the important point of this study toward the study of feminism in theories and practice.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Conducting this research the researcher theoretically contributes several reading about gender role which is embraced of feminism theory. Broadening the role of women within public and domestic it peculiarly takes place in New York. One of this big city in America well-known as equality women worker, but in 1960s the thought of equality being quite different in domestic field by patriarchal bracket. It can be seen, how gender role is defined by society treatment and figured it out in all country differently. Thus, judging and generalize the gender role in all countries being erroneous impression due to it adjusts as society need, by reading and understanding the gender role discussion it will be helpful to minimize misunderstanding for next researcher.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Committing gender role discussion is to drive readers comparing problem of gender role surround them. Finding the different and common treat of it direct people to choose the role or do the role appropriately. This research practically expects the readers to understand the meaning of gender role which later they could do and give the role referentially.

1.6 Research Method

It provides detailed descriptions of research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

1.6.1 Research Design

Feminism presents the counter of abundant assumptions of women which is portrayed in writing, indeed men's writing get the top list of rehearsing what women are. Much attention derive from women writing, and of women – and men –writing about women's minds, bodies, art and ideas in which those are the expression of the centuries (Plain & Sellers, 2007, p: 2). The researcher does not concern in sexist writer but it is going to take the gender role of feminist perspective, in term of critique (phenomenon and history) by modern feminist thought of Gender Role. By means exposing the Gender Roles in the novel, in finding the roles are never be choice, but being homemaker or career women is chosen by the woman. Taking a big part of forming their roles, woman cannot be separated from affection and devotion side which they get since being infant.

The method of the research is analyzing the text of the novel by close reading, in which the analysis is purposive to find the objective of research questions. Reading many time and comprehensively is needed to make detail description what actually woman's roles in the novel. For further, the response and causes of Ellen being home maker are spread out in the story, and it is much easier to be found by reading then analyzing the relation between researcher's assumption and the data.

The research is designed into some steps by making the frame of research design by showing the interest topic which is going to be discussed. The next step is going to be arranging research questions which are needed for more information toward the topic. Then decide the supportive methodology and it is followed by

collecting data. The last step is analyzing the data which is collected and citing the final conclusion of the result.

1.6.2 Data Source

The data source of this research is the novel entitled *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen. It is published by Dell Publishing in 1994 contain of 289 pages. It is divided into two parts; first part is about Ellen's life in New York, having her dream job as magazine writer and standard of living. But she turns into homemaker when her mom gets breast cancer. Her life pass for depresses and unhappiness due to she has to leave her sophisticated life in New York. Over five months she become a homemaker, her mom is died due to morphine overdose indication.

The second part, she has to admit that she miss doing dish and gardening. But two week after her mother's death, the police come to her parent's home and arrest her in suspect of killing her mother. Ellen is suspected by giving morphine more than she should give to her mother, in reducing the back pain. But Morphine overdose indication is closely relate to Ellen careless. In the end she is entered to jail and bailed by Mrs. Forburg, she becomes a nurse and stay in Langhorne.

By both part brief story of the novel, the researcher is only going to take first part of the novel due to relate to Ellen life during her mother sick to die. The response of Ellen toward domestic role and under pressure being homemaker.

1.6.3 Data Collection

Understanding English novel is no longer taking for granted especially for the researcher who can be categorized as beginner. The researcher use some steps of collecting data by reading twice until three time while marking and notice the sentence or word, which is considered having relation with the research question. Further, the researcher classify the data which is involved in the scope of the problem and keep the data which is considered out of discussion to be next research.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

The researcher will interpret the main data which one implied the gender role. Obtaining the data by interpreting and showing the data which is supported will be avoid the subjective of the researcher. The interpretation is consisted of dialogs and sentences which is related to Gender Role. The next, the data is going to be analyzed in term of the Gender Role theoretically and practically happen in the novel. The last, the researcher is going to analyze by identifying, describing, and explaining those with related sources.

1.7 Definition of Key terms

1. **Gender** is cultural concept which includes distinction in term of role, behavior, mental, and emotional characteristic between men and women in society. Sex is different with gender due to sexist biological difference of two group, male and female which cannot be changed without surgery. (Women's Studies Encyclopedia; cited by Mufidah Ch; Ridwan, 2006)

2. **Gender Role** talks about how men or women behave in their society. Despite these changes, however, the truth is that even today, society still has expectations for how men and women are to act. Wienclaw mentions sort of gender role determiner in her writing “Gender Role” which consist of biology, culture, society, and heredity and environment (Wienclaw, 2011, pp. 33-37)
3. **Character** is the fictional representation of a person, which is likely to change, both as a presence in literature and as an object of critical attention, much as it changes in society. Ideas of the place of the human in the social order, of human individuality and self-determination, clearly shift historically; and this is often mimed in literature by the relation of characters to actions or webs of story (Childs & Rojer, 2006, p. 23)
4. **Homemaker** is a woman who spends a lot of time looking after her home and family. If you describe a woman as a **homemaker**, you usually mean that she does not have another job. (Collin COBUILD Dictionary, 2006)
5. **Housewife** is a married woman who does not have a paid job, but instead looks after her home and children. (Collin COBUILD Dictionary, 2006)

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents a review of theoretical background which supports this research. The significant sources concern with the topic which will be discussed are feminism, gender role theory, and previous studies.

2.1 Feminism

Feminism is the only bloodless movement along the history of centuries. The movement fight for gender cases, some of them inequality, patriarchal system, emancipatory, etc. (Plain & Seller, 2007, p. 2). Women are still in majority as the subject who oppose the superiority of men in any accesses, both public and domestic. Men completely lead and control of everything of both spaces, whether women can be 'happy housewife' or 'busy mum' to fulfill domesticity (Johnson & Justin, 2004, p. 1). Most of women dispute their right of equality through literary works.

Goefe defines Feminism as equal right theory between men and women in politic, economy, social, or movements which fight for the rights and women cases (Sugihastuti; Mas'adi, 2000, p. 37). In the other hand, feminist oppose and deconstruct the myth which men and women are different, so that certain attitude can be differ by gender (cited from *Isu Gender dan Gerakan Feminism*). Meanwhile gender in its origin is cultural construction in which social determiner is shaped purposively. In cultural exposure restrictions are considered taboo and labeling will

be followed as the norm punishment. Most of them are addressed to the women, as the single doer.

Women have suffered many discriminations and injustices whereby the history of feminism cannot be separated from men and women. Feminism movement early emerges in United States of America in 1700s (Madsen; Suryaman, 2000: 1). While literary criticism emerges around thirty-five years ago as the impact of feminism (Plain & Seller, 2007, p. 1). It provides causal thought about why feminism movement emerges in this world and what are the main goal. As cited in Sawyer description, sex-role stereotypes say that men should be dominant; achieving and enacting a dominant role in relations with others is often taken as an indicator of success (Murphy, 2004, p. 25). And Under patriarchy, women are not reliable witnesses to a man's worthiness, except in bed—and there as a class, not as individuals (Stoltenberg, p.41). Thus, the histories of feminism show continuing women's struggle for equality.

Based on the document which is published by Australian Law Reform Commission there are some factors causing gender inequality. They are Women's contribution to the community is undervalued, Women have less access to financial resources than men, Women suffer inequality in the workplace, and Women are restricted in contributing to legal and political institutions. Thus, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott spearheaded the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. They voice on the social, civil, and religious condition of women. And during the decades of gaining women right in USA,

women won the right to vote in 1920. It is clearly seen that feminist struggle in wide-range find the goal.

Feminism movement is not single case, it cover ideologies and struggles to gain women's need, in different dimension. During the ages to present time feminism movement has been divided into some groups. Budiman (1985: 36) classifies feminism into three groups, they are Liberal feminism, Radical feminism, and Socialist feminism (Mas'adi, 2009, p. 14). There are some others groups of feminism movement but Mansur states that Radicalist, Marxist, and socialist feminism is the most prior group in which some of women's inequality problems portray within the group's struggle (Mas'adi, 2009, p. 15). Each feminism movements struggle different goal in the same frame of male supremacy.

The goal of their struggle rely on what regime they live, it kinds of massive critic toward the superior in treating women differently. They are known as feminist perspective rather than feminist groups. But, those perspectives are going to be discussed generally, in term of feminist struggle. First, based on sociology perspective Liberal Feminists have focused their attention upon "equality of opportunity" between males and females. Liberal feminism insist of freedom for women in which 'freedom' is in two forms; personal and political autonomy. They intend to promote gender fairness and autonomy of women could end up unreasonably hindering autonomy (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Cudd, 2006, p. 223). Further, Liberal Feminists have been criticized (and variously derided as *bourgeois or middle-class* Feminists) for their failure to understand that in any society that is fundamentally unequal in its economic and social structure

"equality of opportunity" is a fairly meaningless concept. How liberal feminist see the equality in politic field and gender fairness, liberal feminism theory does not support this research. In term of the struggle of liberal feminist voice, gender role seems exist as the reason of the movement.

Second, socialist feminist, sociology sees this form of Feminism under plays the significance of Capitalist forms of exploitation. Socialist feminism locates the origins of women's oppression in the interaction of the capitalist system based on class inequalities, with the patriarchal system based on gender inequities. Based on the analysis of Current reality is viewed in terms of an economically based class system reinforced by sexist attitudes and practices. Hence, feminism aims to abolish both capitalism and male dominance in order to end women's oppression. Furthermore, Socialist feminism in China provided *equal rights to work* for women though women took the burden of both the home as well as the work front (cited from Sanjay Nair's article). In this case, the struggle of socialist feminist focus on capital side which considers women have to be allowed to work with equal payment as men. So that, the socialist feminist theory are not suitable to support this research due to gender role is included in classes.

Third, Radical feminism emphasizes that in the existing social order women are oppressed and exploited primarily in sexual and procreative relations in the home, which is the sphere of life defined by the male culture as personal rather than as political. Moreover Radical feminist sexual theory drew on and opposed earlier discourses in which female sexuality had been cast as a defining metaphor that justified women's social subordination (Gerhard, 2001, p. 114). Generally, Radical

feminists hope that by speaking truthfully about their experiences they could both over turn the *universal* oppression of female sexuality and reinvent female sexuality (Ibid: 102). Radical feminism seems to explore women body in which often suffering from men domination. So that, this feminist perspective are not considered supporting this research due to the struggle of equality tend to emphasize female sexuality subject.

Next is Marxism feminism, Marxism and feminism are theories of power and its distribution: inequality (Mackinnon, 1982, p. 516). It resumes objective social, economic, and political relations shapes and determines women oppression (Smith, 1983, p. 12). Smith adds, in term of the relations between patriarchy and class in the context of capitalist mode of production (Smith, 1983, p. 1). Feminists charge that Marxism is male defined in theory and in practice, meaning that it moves within the world view and in the interest of men (Mackinnon, 1982, p. 518). Marxists typically extend class to cover women, a division and submersion that, to feminism, is inadequate to women's divergent and common experience (Mackinnon, 1982, p. 520). Exploring what feminist should be achieved gives real understanding that women are never being the lucky race. But in this research the main character play her role as worker well and appreciated by her boss. So that, Marxist feminism theory does not support this research apparently.

Feminism within general discourse dealing with women and men, and put them into superior and inferior one. In feminist stand point, it is determined by sex and gender in which people legitimize them as matter-of-fact. Thus Feminist scholars develop gender equality concept, in which gender different with sex due to

sex refers to biological anatomy then gender influenced by social condition, culture, religion, and law. In term of sex, it seems strictly determined from the minute a child is born, it is assigned to a sex category, according to its possessing a penis or a vulva (Murphy, 2004, p. 154). Otherwise, Showalter defines gender about the difference between men and women are understood from social culture construction (Showalter, 1989, p. 3). Even though sex and gender have the same meaning etymologically (Echols and Shadily, 1983, p. 265) but gender is also culture expectation what men and women should do (Lips, 1993, p. 4).

Those gender differences causing many problems which relate to gender issue. Based on Mansur gender issue include gender relation, gender role, and gender inequality in which experience by men or women. In addition, Mansur Fakhri (2003) states that gender differences burden women's work heavier due to women consider well-maintained and 'domestic science', and they will never be breadwinner, so that household is addressed to women. So when it is a question of 'male' and 'female' roles, we are not dealing with "a role played here and there in such and such a situation", but with a real shell which the person has completely adopted, and which has been gradually built up during an existence governed by the differences between the sexes (Murphy, 2004, p. 137). And gender role will be the main discussion of this research in which exploring gender role of the main character portrayal in the novel of *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen.

2.2 Gender Role Theory

Wienclaw (Saleem Press, 2011, p. 33) defines gender roles as how men and women are act within society; act in norms of behavior. Most people find it hard to believe that gender is constantly created and recreated out of human interaction, out of social life, and it is the texture and order of that social life (Richardson, 2004, p. 33). A sex category becomes gender status through naming, dress and the use of other gender markers (Richardson, 2004, p. 33). And, gender roles grow fertile within social life even at home which mother and father represent men and women roles. Lorber also states that parenting is gendered, with different expectation for mother and for father, and people of different genders work at different kinds of job (Richardson, 2004, p. 33).

There are no certain theories discussing gender problems but they are adopted from sociology and psychology theories. Some of them are structural-functional theories, social conflict theories, feminism liberal theories, etc. According to structural-functional theories, an institution always have member with different function, and it purposes to achieve the goal of the institution, not individual concern. This structure and function in institution cannot be separated from culture and norm influence, also the value of social system. Talcott Parsons and Bales consider that dividing role sexually is normal.

Otherwise, some feminist categorizes gender difference in cultural feminism. Gender particularly interrelate with culture in which not all women think and act alike; nor do all women value the same things or aim for the same goals (Tong, 2009, p. 200). In this case, women are different from each other due to in the

culture influence. Tong states that multicultural feminism focuses on the basic insight that even in one nation—the United States, for instance—all women are not created or constructed equal (Tong, 2009, p. 200). Such as her race, ethnicity, sexual identity, gender identity, age, religion, level of education, occupation or profession, marital status, health condition, etc.

Also, she expands multicultural feminists stresses rely on which time and city women live. In this case, they are member of the First World developed, Northern, Western nation or instead a Third World developing, Southern, Eastern nation, each woman in the world will be positively or negatively affected in significant ways (Tong, 2009, p. 200). For instance, women living in Eastern or Southern nations that were previously colonized by Western and Northern nations may have particularly complex identities. And during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, U.S. feminists focused mainly on the gender differences between men and women. In some extent they debate those traits are biological givens or social constructions, and whether masculine traits are better than feminine traits or vice versa (Tong, 2009, p. 201).

Although for some women, it is not sexism, but racism, ethnocentrism, classism, heterosexism, or ageism that may be the major contributor(s) to their low status. Baluja argues that individuals reassess their roles in society, in terms of what men and women believe to be their responsibilities, how they fulfill them, and what constitutes appropriate behavior (Baluja, 2003, p. 1). When gender become a great divider to categorize humanity, in some cases such as job classification. Moreover, where men and women should be there to do such work which is considered

appropriate with them. The world is divided into two groups, males and females; we tend to consider all males similar, all females similar, and the two categories of “males” and “females” very different from each other. So that, in this research, the researcher only classified gender role for woman in which it is considered as most discussion of feminist critics.

In fact, people may restrain ‘the gender role’ in their social life. Gender Role does not refer to one object but it depends on which demographic and century’s people live in. It can be changed as social needs such women in single parent can be breadwinner and men in single parent can be homemaker. However, people cannot refuse it entirely throughout social living always relate to culture. And, the culture often bound in certain area. Thus, the research is going to focus in gender role of the main character which plays the role of the worker and the mother.

2.2.1 Gender Role at the Workplace

The influence of feminist theory toward social work transforms into its own paradigm which is called as feminist social work. It emerges around 1970s when ‘woman’ are included of curriculum of social work (Dominelli, 2002, p. 1). In the workplace women often become less attention of the right as ‘the other’ employee. In term of diversity, someone in the workplace refers to the differences between workers, such as sex/gender, race/ethnicity, age, physical and mental ability, socio-economic class, language, religion, nationality, education, sexual orientation, family, marital status, HIV status, and so on (International labor Office, 2008, p. 54). In this case, casual workers have fewer rights and less protection. Moreover,

Their absence of a continuing stable relationship with any employer can lead to casual workers not being considered employees at all, even where there is a contract (International labor Office, 2008, p. 32). Furthermore, women get career break regarding the maternity due to prohibition dismissal during pregnancy (International labor Office, 2008, p. 29). Even to breastfeed their child women should have the right to interrupt her work for this purpose (International labor Office, 2008, p. 24). Thus, the multiple identities for women was to be conceptualized by 1970s feminism in terms of women's 'dual roles', being both mother and workers.

However, it always there are some requirements or demands from employer for women who works for his or her company. It can be seen, women are allowed to get their carrier and achievement in public area without mothering even childless. In 2002, articles appeared prompted by a new book by British academic James Tooley discussing whether 'thirty-something' women have been misled by feminists into thinking incorrectly that they could 'have a career and an independent life without forgoing motherhood (Johnson & Lloyd, 2005, p. 1). Hence, they will be ideal worker without any excuses in the work place for childbearing and childrearing. Gilbert also argues in family as indicator perspective can distinguish at least four general categories that form a continuum of work-family lifestyles—traditional, neotraditional, modern, and postmodern (Gilbert, 2008, p. 29). The categories are included the number of children which become the important reason for women's achievement and the childlessness with postmodern way of life (Gilbert, 2008, p. 29).

2.2.2 Gender role at home

According to Baluja Gender role at home this is played by woman, in this case, Mother often socializing children..., and for helping the family navigates the adaptation process.. Hence, the systems of household structure create attitudes about the appropriate roles of men and women. Furthermore, this gender role is the result of gender stereotype which is addressed to different expectations for female and male behavior. It can be seen how traditional gender role suppose men to earn a living to support their families, they are to be aggressive and in charge. Meanwhile, Women belong at home cooking, cleaning, and caring for children. Women must accomplish these tasks as they find themselves living within a potentially different gender stratification system (Baluja, 2003, p.1). The tasks included some duties as Baluja (2003: 183) research questioners which have some similarities task with the novel below:

Household Tasks	Ellen Housework
Works outside the home	-
Cooks meals for family	√
Washes dishes after meals	√
Buy Groceries (food, household supplies, etc)	√
Determines household budget	-
Cleans the house	-
Does Laundry	√

Disciplines children	-
Takes children to school	-
Helps children with homework	-
Does household repairs	-
Determines extent of schooling for children	-

Table 10.1: Tasks included in Household Activity questionnaire

Based on the table, the researcher does not totally agree with the task that is portrayal for women, due to the task or housework is depend on the culture women live in. In the other hand, in the present time career women replace motherhood due to women can do what men do in term of public access. And, the term equality and emancipation create a spouse compromising in handle house stuff and children.

Although men can help their wife with housework, most of them prefer to work outside the house due to gender stereotype. The stereotypes are included males are supposed to be adventurous, assertive aggressive, independent and task-oriented, whereas females are seen as more sensitive, gentle, dependent, emotional and people-oriented. Also, In the USA, traditional gender roles and behaviors have typified men as autonomous, powerful, controlling, assertive, aggressive and self-determined of U.S. women, on the other hand, have traditionally been considered the caregiver and homemaker (Gender Roles and Marriage: A Fact Sheet, 2014). By those stereotype people decide their role and it is usually followed by the work they do.

However, for ages the right of women in deciding the role is often denied by men, in this case in a family, a father is family decision-maker who often decide what her daughter should be and with whom she marry to. Even though when woman may work outside the house in the family she still takes housework part. It can be seen the control of husband, According to a survey conducted in 2007 by Amato, Booth, Johnson and Rogers, by the end of the 1990's, the majority of husbands believed that spouses should share breadwinning, that a wife's employment does not interfere with her role as a mother and that husbands should take on a greater share of the housework when their wives are employed (Gender Roles and Marriage: A Fact Sheet, 2014).

People often learn her gender role because they live in certain circumstance which includes large society. Every circumstance has certain demand toward their society. Further, the process of learning is known as gender socialization which usually people face the conflict due to respect environment laws, norms and customs. The conflict is included the response of mental perhaps there is consistent evidence woman who experience greater gender role conflict also experience more psychological distress. Although the woman's psychological distress was not measured in this research. The researcher is not going to discuss the socialization deeply but focuses on the response of woman face the learning process.

2.2.3 Gender Socialization

Gender socialization begins the moment people are born, from the simple question *Is it a boy or a girl?* Children learn the gender role by the agencies of the

society. Gender socialization is a more focused form of socialization, it is how children of different sexes are socialized into their gender roles and taught what it means to be male or female. And gender differences result from the socialization process, especially during the childhood and adolescence. Consequently the gender socialization process is divided into two orders of factors, one leads the challenges and the other is the resources, it is included object to reach and strategies of participation.

Implicit in the gender role socialization is the belief that males ought to adopt a traditionally masculine gender role and females a traditionally feminine one because everyone will get along much better that way (Ickes, 1981,1985; Ickes & Barnes, 1978). Based on Coltrane there are three types of theories explaining gender socialization: psychoanalytic, social learning and cognitive developmental. However, social learning is going to use for limiting discussion in this gender socialization. Social learning theories can be defines as behavioralist theories that rely on reinforcement and modeling explanations of behavior—the environment makes people do things. Coltrane argues that people think boys and girls are supposed to be different, it promotes certain behaviors and self images that recreate the preconceived cultural stereotypes about gender. The process repeats itself over and over in an unending spiral across the generations (Coltrane, p. 114), it seems natural modelling. So that, an individual is demanded by people surround him or her to what they expect and denying the process means he or she does not considered as member of society.

2.3 Previous Studies

The researcher finds some researches which use Gender Role analysis. The researches include another literary works which discuss the role of women. First, it is from Taralyn Adele MacMullen, she writes a research entitled *The Role Of Lady Macbeth In Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Production Thesis In Acting (2005)*. In the research she discusses the role of Lady Macbeth using examples from famous past productions of *Macbeth*. *Macbeth* was produced by Swine Palace in association with LSU Theatre, created and performed with SITI Company at the Reilly Theatre on Louisiana State University's Baton Rouge campus. There are three actresses are Sarah Siddons, Ellen Terry, and Judi Dench. She finds that Lady Macbeth is the only woman who could ever play this role. In her research it is clearly stated that there are two kinds of role of women, first, Lady Macbeth is played by Siddon, Lady Macbeth is played as a ruthlessly ambitious woman who dominate her husband. The second, Lady Macbeth is played by Terry, Lady Macbeth is played as devoted wife who struggles with and for her husband in feminine way. The last is played by Dench which almost similar with Siddons in term of woman to be in power and they (husband and wife) are equal. Each actress play the role based on her background understanding about how women should act in their society. In this case they have learned the gender role and choose which role she wants in her life. The first previous study analyzes the gender role portrayal that woman does not always become the inferior one in certain places. From this previous study, the

researcher can get better understanding in analyzing gender role using character analysis of player.

The second, it is from Corey M. Jay, he writes a research entitled *The Unraveling of Shakespeare's Othello* (2012). The researcher is only going to take a Gender Role side in his research, which gender role is clearly laid out in *Othello* and are relatively in-line with gender expectations of the late 16th century, in that men hold positions of power and there are few representations of the female sex. The idea of "sex" also has great significance in *Othello*. Bianca, the whore who has fallen in love with Cassio, is blamed for the death of Roderigo just by the fact that she is a whore and present at the scene. Cassio, who makes no secret of his rendezvous with Bianca, is only deemed an unworthy lieutenant after he gets into a drunken brawl – his coupling with a prostitute seems to have no importance. It is widely assumed that wives will obey their husbands, yet mention is made of the power women can have over their husbands. The roles for women in *Othello* depict three distinct social classes and bring three different levels of maturity and life experience to the stage. In this case, the society expect the same role from women to obey and serve her husband, that gender role never give woman advantage even always put woman in disadvantage by suspecting of killing. From this previous study, the researcher can recognize the position of woman using text analysis and learn how to understand the gender role textually.

The last but not least, it is from In this research she discusses the limitation of women right in term of what should woman do and should not do, including gender role. In this case, Elizabeth Bennet (in *Pride and Prejudice*) should not has

power and independent, by means she has to obey to their family to receive marriage proposal from man who she did not want to marry with. Also, Annisa (in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*) does not allow riding horse and having high education because she is a woman, but she should be joined by her parent with the man who later doing sexual harassment to her. In this case, woman is strictly put in certain role and condition which she cannot deny. The gender role which they should do is such custom and she has to obey, or she will embarrass her family. The last previous study, the researcher knows some restrictions for women and how those applied in the society especially in a literary work. The researcher gets some contributions from each previous study above. The researcher can make use of the previous studies in term of women's experience and living in certain place and time. In this research, the researcher tries to analyze gender role of the main character in the novel who is a successful worker and turns into homemaker.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter provides the research finding and the analysis. The data are classified based on the statement of the problems. The first is Ellen's roles in the novel, then Ellen's response toward her domestic role, and the last is how feminism sees Ellen as a 'woman' in the novel.

3.1 Ellen's Roles in the Novel

According to gender role theory in which adopts sociology and psychology theories for discussing gender roles, Gender Role for women is divided in two kinds, they are woman at workplace and woman at home. Tong expands the discussion among Multicultural Feminism in which gender role form is based on the time and place women live in (Tong, 2009: 200). Ellen experiences both gender roles in her life. She experiences as a worker in the magazine company in New York before she becomes homemaker in her parents' house in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Those experiences are included gender role when men (Ellen's managing editor and Father) control her work. Also, the settings of place in the novel are taken place in New York as Metropolitan City and Langhorne which is demographically has largest population and amount of families reside there. New York governor provides freedoms for women in having equal opportunities by giving them protections in health and reproduction. Meanwhile, Langhorne which is suburb of New York City is still in the level of struggle the free thought of feminism. It is clearly stated that Ellen live between

Modern (New York) and Traditional (Langhorne) town. It can be seen by the quotation below:

Setting of New York in the novel:

“See, Bri, Ellen never relaxes. New York is her kind of place. An entire city of people who never relax, who were antsy in their own hometowns...”(Quindlen, 1994, p. 14)

Setting of Langhorne in the novel:

Even on its nicest block, where most of the residents were too rich to work at the college, Langhorne had the odd feel of town that is about something other than itself... When I went to college in Boston—or Cambridge, as all Harvard students learn to say—I convinced it was because I wanted a larger pond, a more cosmopolitan setting, blessed release from the bell Jar of Langhorne, where everyone knew my name and my class rank, which was number one (Quindlen, 1994, p. 21).

Another conversation about Langhorne:

“I’m Halley McPherson,” she said, shaking my hand. “We just moved here from Atlanta. My husband is comptroller at the college. This is such a nice thing, isn’t it?”

“It is, but it must seem sort of small town after Atlanta.”

“Well, everything really is small town, anyhow, isn’t it? My husband always says there are no big ponds. Although your mom says you’re a New Yorker, so maybe you wouldn’t agree.” (Quindlen, 1994, p. 137)

How modern (characteristic of the present of the immediate past: Online Dictionary of Merriam-Webster, Inc) living influences Ellen’s thought and shapes her life into modern way. Also, she is Harvard graduation (Quindlen, 1994, p. 31) in which education has big part of people to influence the way they think about something, indeed Ellen. By the background of her education it is odd if she is controlled by her father’s rule and does it sincerely. Being homemaker and leaving her sophisticated life in New York become the big challenge for her. Meanwhile, traditional (characteristic of the old styles comparing to mainstream:

Online Dictionary.com) living makes her considering the important of society expectation though she does not want to do it. It can be seen by quotation below:

Modern thought:

A forty-six-year-old woman aching to ask her sophisticated city-daughter where you could buy attractive maternity clothes (Quindlen, 1994, p. 18)
 “We can hire a nurse. That’s what Beldens did Mrs. Belden’s mother was sick.”
 (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22)

Traditional thought:

I think that the people I know now believe I went home to take care of my mother because I loved her. And sometimes I believe that was in my heart without knowing it. But the truth is that I felt I had no voice. I felt I had to be what my father wanted me to be,...(Quindlen, 1994, p. 24)

In the Gulden household, the ethos was do it yourself, for everything from charismas gift to floor sanding. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22)

The gender roles which is played by Ellen as the main character will be explained by classifying roles in carrier woman, Ellen as magazine writer and in homemaker, Ellen as mother below:

3.1.2 Ellen as Magazine Writer

Ellen has her own life in New York, an apartment, job, best friend, and lover which make her so hard to leave her sophisticated life. Those are shown by her life in New York which everything is done automatically, such answering machine (Quindlen, 1994: 16) and the privacy of place is no longer strict (Quindlen, 1994: 21). It can be seen by conversation below:

“Your mother didn’t hire a nurse when you had your tonsils out. She didn’t hire a nurse when you had chicken pox or when you broke your arm. She wouldn’t want strangers in her home. She won’t even have a cleaning woman.”
 “Papa, I have an apartment, I have a job. I have a life.” (Quindlen, 1994, p. 23)

Although, the work of woman is considered paying household endowment rather than earning money (Mosse, 2003, p. 59). Similarly, it is addressed to Ellen who really enjoys her job, as magazine writer and she feels that is enough to have such perfect life. In the other hand, she can be a reporter even president of the magazine, which means Ellen does not have ambition to earn wealth but she prefers to gain her dream (a writer) to become breadwinner. In this novel, Ellen is mentioned interested in becoming writer since she is twelve by winning the essay contest. And it makes her become most famous child in Langhorne.

Those show Ellen as independent and free woman by her perfect life as carrier and free woman. The perfect lives are clearly shown by what she owns in New York. It can be seen by the categories below:

a. Apartment

An apartment is a set of rooms for living in, especially on one floor of a building (Cambridge Online Dictionary). People perhaps prefer to stay in apartment to house because they can have another job out of the city and they do not have to tidy things up of the stuff. It is also done by Ellen who lives in downtown of New York, it can be seen by the quotation below:

My apartment is the home of someone who is not a home-maker, someone who listens to message on the answering machine and then runs out again (Quindlen, 1994, p. 16)

b. Job

Job is the regular work that a person does to earn money. It can be temporary or permanent job which people get the salary from it. Ellen gets the permanent job which she really enjoys it due to the job is her dream job, to be a writer. It can be seen by quotation below:

“Ellen’s got the life,” said Jeff, who’d been asking about the magazine where I worked (Quindlen, 1994, p. 14)

More, and I would miss a book party and lunch with the editor of an important magazine. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 18)

...but I got the message anyhow—and then went to work for some big magazine in New York as an editorial assistant and sometime reporter (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22)

c. Friend

A friend is a person who you know well and who you like a lot, but who is usually not a member of your family. People always has friend to make their life full and they will not feel alone with friend. Jules is the only Ellen’s friend who make her be what she want, she love to share and spent her time with her. She is her workmate in same magazine company. It can be seen by the quotation below:

My friend Jules, my only real friend at the magazine or in New York, took me to lunch (Quindlen, 1994, p. 28)

Jules loved me as I’d never been loved by a friend before, with full knowledge (Quindlen, 1994, p. 29)

d. Lover

A lover is the person you are having a sexual relationship with, but you are not married to. Every girls wants a gorgeous guy to love even to share their life with, it also Ellen feels toward Jonathan whose love she expects from high-school. It can be seen by the quotation below:

I spent the money on a hiking trip in Colorado and a leather jacket for Jonathan. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 31)

I heard steps behind me and there he was, handsome in blue sweater and gray flannel pants, his eyes hidden by his mirror sunglasses (Quindlen, 1994: 81).

Ellen issuccessful magazine writer does not have any serious problems with her life in New York. Everything seems run smoothly in her surrounding.

She has bright career and good reputation as writer even reporter. But she still has to resign from the magazine to take care of her mother. It is common for every employer defers to their expert or good employee to release the job, due to the company still need their ability to arrange the company well. It is also felt by her Managing Editor, Bill Tweedy is deeply compassionate her resign because she is a good writer. Even, Bill Tweedy offering her a promotion and more money but Ellen still stand on her decision. Finally, he respects her decision to resign though Ellen does not really ask for it. She leaves her perfect life in New York and return to her parents' house in Langhorne. It can be seen by quotation below:

"...You were doing good here. You did nice short thing on the gay cop, the story on the girl who murdered on Madison Avenue, that was a good piece. You did all the research on that kids-and-summer guide. If you quit, there's no guarantee."(Quindlen, 1994, p. 28)

I had quit my job at magazine and sublet my apartment. The people I worked with had tried to be sympathetic, but they were incredulous. "My mother is sick," I said to the managing editor, a stout, short man named Bill Tweedy, flushed from high blood pressure and hard drinking... (Quindlen, 1994, p. 28)

However the way Bill Tweedy does not tolerate to his employee in caring domestic life (her family) is considered normal, in which New York has been adopt the emancipator of women. By offering promotion and considering more money are better than doing homemaker require ideal worker. According to Lesley et al state that ideal worker without any excuses in the work place for childbearing and childrearing (Jonson & Lloyd, 2005, p. 1). In addition, how an ideal worker has to deny trivial case such as domestic life because it inhibit their performance and loyalty toward the company. Even excuse doing breastfeeding and housework. It can be seen by the conversation between Ellen and her managing editor below:

“Ellen,” he said, “not to be crass, but a sick mother means three weeks off and very nice arrangement of flowers sent by the staff... If you quit, there’s no guarantee.”

“I have to,” I said

“How about if I gave you a promotion?” he said. “More money?”

“Mr. Tweedy, do you honestly think someone would come in and say their mother dying of cancer to get a rise?”

“Ellen, this is New York.”(Quindlen, 1994, p. 28)

By the end of their conversation it is clearly stated that woman worker should not be disturbed by domestic demands and woman has to choose making money or nursing family. Then do women have choices and do women can choose what they want? In this case the choices seem to be embedded in freedom for women. In addition, every individual is free to choose and that choice is empowering, no matter the choice actually is. In the other hand, Ellen does not have any choices even any authorities to decide her life. Though she has chance to get out of her family problems, but she does not do it due to her devotion to her mother. And it naturally shaped by the culture and society environment. In fact, people limit women’s freedom which may include class, colonialism, education, abuse or reality of living in culture that objectifies women’s bodies—are neatly erased (read: Herizons Women’s News and Feminist Views).

Some career women feel having job is satisfying and they proud of it, due to other women do not work as they do. Sometimes, they do not consider about the achievement or promotion they get from the company due to women’s existence in public is pride. It can be seen, how Ellen refuse the promotion from the boss. It is problematic when women consider having job is the site of existed as long as the salary can pay the household endowment or less of it. In the other hand, some other women really prioritize achievement or promotion even leaves their motherhood and family life. In this case, there are many president of fashion

designer such as Prada president has to be single parent. She totally handles the product until ignoring her family, a year later her husband divorce her. Hence, women also have diversity choices in their life and they are free to decide which priority they make in life.

Even, the choices being made perpetuate patriarchal ideas and it cannot be separated from political perspective to make women stay in the border line of women nature. It is shown by how Ellen's father does not give her choice and force her to stay at home. That is represented that he is the only decision maker of the household. Nevertheless, women's freedom and autonomy not only in term of their reproduction but also in more public aspect of life and society. It always has barrier to involve in society which has uncompromised system. In this novel Woman has right to work but as Marilyn Lake states that In a major discursive shift,' she says, 'the woman as worker began to replace the woman as mother as the ideal feminist subject (Jonson & Lloyd, 2005, p. 40). In this case Ellen can refuse to go home but she cannot refuse her nurture and social order, as the only daughter cares for her dying mother.

3.1.2 Ellen as Homemaker

According to Baluja Women may have the ability to control or influence the behavior of younger people, but they are less likely to have the ability to make decisions affecting themselves or the household as a whole (Kaari Flagstad Baluja, 2003: 198). So that, the woman's status as worker even homemaker does not influence her right to control her life. Even this household structure demand the appropriate role for woman based on society expectation. Ellen fulfills the

society expectation which is represented by her father's want, who forces her to stay at home. The daughter should take care of her family to replace the mother's role. It can be seen by quotation below:

But the truth is that I felt I had no voice. I felt I had to be what my father wanted me to be, even if it was something so unlike the other Ellen he'd cultivated and tutored for all those years, even if it meant that had to go from his brightest student to his demi-wife (Quindlen, 1994, p. 24)

"Don't forget being a daughter. You could always be a daughter." (Quindlen, 1994: 50)

When woman experience unfairness and underestimation, it is indicated that there is superiority chain toward her life. That is pretty much anti-feminist to assume that equality may not exist, in the case of personal choice that woman make in their life. Woman should know their position, such as Ellen should be a daughter. Then what's wrong being a daughter? If woman has the same right with son and same opportunity to do in her life. It is perfectly unacceptable to say that woman should know her limitation and her custom. It is also happen to Ellen whose her father's ideology calls for division of household tasks between men and women. Ellen has to nurse her dying mother while her two brothers study to college. It can be seen by quotation below:

"Ellen," said my father, "your mother needs you. She is coming home Tuesday and she won't be well for long. The disease apparently advanced. Soon she may not be able to bathe herself. In a month or two she will not able to cook or clean (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22).

Something I'd spent my whole life trying to win from him. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 23)

The second time Teresa came to house Jeffry and Brian were home from school (Quindlen, 1994, p. 140)

How Ellen should handle the house stuff and hold her own want deeply meanwhile, her brothers and her father get their life. Ellen is the only one who

suffering unfairness and no one understands her feelings. She experiences the culture shock, she suffers mental conflict in which in New York she never does the housework and suddenly doing housework sucks in her 'new life'. It is natural side of human include men who is getting anger or emotional due to face the condition they cannot change for a while. Similarly, in this novel in the part of how her brothers free from living needs and Ellen still busy in the kitchen even take care of her mother. It can be seen the different role of Ellen and her brothers below:

In the den my brothers were talking, their voices rising, falling, breaking. I went out on the porch and sat hugging sweater around me until the sun began to disappear and chill to descend. Then I went inside to make turkey sandwiches (Quindlen, 1994, p. 95).

The boys took her out in the jeep, wrapped in scarves and blankets against the cold...the tree of them came in that night howling because of Jeff's description...I could hear them in the den as I made cocoa and set out Christmas cookies on a plate in the kitchen. (Quindlen, 1994, pp. 145-146)

In the other hands, as cited from Baluja statement that This traditional ideology of women are responsible for tasks taking place within the family compound, while men are responsible for tasks taking place outside the family compound (Baluja, 2003, p. 199). Stay-at-home moms and homemakers used to get a lot of grief in feminist circles. In fact, there are some women feel comfort and do housework sincerely without any rewards. They consider become a homemaker is obligation for women even carrier-woman. Doing dishes and changing the dirty diapers than going to work without any complains. But it is different from Ellen who still learning and adapt the situation even refuse the role apparently. That is exactly what she does not want to be doing with her life. It can be seen some housework which Ellen does as homemaker:

1. *Housework*

These works include woman doing things in the kitchen and handle all the house stuff, and homemaker does not has any public access due to busied by doing dishes, as matter of kitchen;

“Mama,” I said. “Mama, you’re going to need help. I can sit with you while you have the chemotherapy”-and when I saw her lips begin to work I added-“the treatment. I can take care of the house and do some of the things the doctor says you can’t do until you’re feeling better.” (Quindlen, 1994, p. 34)

And when I had spent sufficient time each day on the small everyday chores of laundry and vacuuming I found so tedious, she would call out to me: “Time to read.” (Quindlen, 1994, p.39)

I cooked for those women, the day I learned how much work it took to make lunch for ten, or at least I do it the way my mother did. (Quindlen, 1994, p.67)

...she sent me shopping, and when I returned she laid her ingredients out on the kitchen counter...(Quindlen, 1994, p.67)

I spent the rest evening creaming onions, peeling yams, making stuffing exactly as my mother directed, producing a great groaning board of dishes just as she always had (Quindlen, 1994, p. 86)

2. *Housework*

These works include woman who is the best creature to take care of the household, even becoming nurse is demanded due to woman’s nurture and woman has to work hard without any complains and appreciation;

My mother was upstairs getting dressed, and I was packing a bag with her pills, extra gloves, and four Christmas Ornaments that we had not put on her tree,...(Quindlen, 1994, p. 135)

It was difficult to maneuver the wheelchair up and down the curbs and over the uneven pavement, and sometimes she became impatient. When she wanted to go into Langhorne shoe Shoppe, I struggled with the chair at the door, holding it open with my hip, trying to steer and force the big rubber wheels over ridged floor mat in the doorway. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 99)

I had been so busy arranging for her dress, her medication, where her wheelchair would go in the car,...(Quindlen, 1994, p. 128)

The first housework show that woman seems spend her whole time in the kitchen and run to fulfill the need of the family. By checking the entire household fine and do not lack of everything she sacrifice her time and put aside her own life for the family. Then how come some women call those a perfect life? When they sacrifice a lot of things to get happiness. Even, they were educated and economically successful woman who leave careers for full-time homemaking due to the reason of their children (Giele, 2013, p. 3). Differently from Ellen as young and single woman who keeps continuing to refuse to be a homemaker. All the duties around kitchen and her mother seem to succumb her life in short way to give up. It can be seen by quotation below:

The fiction that everything was fine, that life was simple and secure, that husbands did not stray and children grow, that the body did not decay and finally fail, that the axis of the earth passed dead center through the kitchen and living world and kept spinning, our family unchanging, safe and sound. (Quindlen, 1994: 86)

The second duties show that woman demand to take care of the household. In this case she has to take care of her dying mother and help her to do her daily activities. How Ellen becomes full-time mothers which she cannot afford to do. She has to accompany her in the house all day meanwhile her father get the college to teach his students. She gets difficulty to fulfill all her request even when her mother uses the wheel chair. She keeps everything running well and pretends everything is fine. Whereas she hides the tiredness and anger to her father who place her into that condition, and to her mother due to seize her life.

Those data above expose what kinds of housework that woman does in certain country, such as Langhorne. Those kinds of things are also experienced by other woman around the world in which woman are considered the best creature to play the domestic role. Assuming woman can maintain everything well, the

men in this novel underestimate woman as ‘the second sex’. In this case, they take for granted of Ellen’s life and consider her the opinion and choice is less important. Also, it can be seen by how her editor offering money to make Ellen stay in the magazine and how her father chooses the life for her.

She handles all her mother’s needs though with hard acceptance by being so rough to her father. However, her father and two brothers consider those duties are natural for Ellen as woman. They believe that woman should engage with the housework and caring family. Meanwhile, the man is free to do everything he wants in their life without dealing with society expectation toward role in domestic life. Even, the men do not necessary to learn ‘the gender role’ and feel a grief suffering without any complains.

3.2 Ellen’s response toward her domestic role

In this subchapter, the researcher explains about Ellen’s response toward her domestic role. According to Gender Role theory there is gender socialization which discusses the process to adapt the gender role within society. However, the researcher is not going to discuss every detail of the process in learning gender role. In this case the process includes Ellen’s trial of learning the gender role which causes the symptoms of emotional feelings. The discussion is limited in her feelings of rejections until acceptance toward her domestic role. The responses are complex within mental conflict and the relation with her father.

Based on Ickes data of comparing with women in the entire sample, find that whether men or women are asked to be masculine man or feminine woman they were significantly more likely to report such stress symptoms as feeling fat,

tiring easily, feeling sad or depressed, feeling worthless, feeling shy, and feeling that *you just can't go on*. (The Ickes and Bames study, 1993, p. 73). Similarly, what Ellen's father treats his daughter, to be a homemaker. Those cause Ellen behaves more emotional and cause negative response toward her life. It is represented by the changing of Ellen's feelings of anger, depression, and desperation. It can be seen by the data below:

Afterward I wondered why I hadn't loved that day more, why I hadn't favored every bit of it like soft ice cream on my tongue, why I hadn't known how good it was to live so normally, so everyday...after that day was a Thursday, and I was still my old self, smug, self involved, successful, and what in my circles passed for happy. (Quindlen, 1994, pp. 13-14)

All my life I had known one thing for sure about myself, and that was that my life would never be her life. I had moved as far and fast as I could; now I was back at my beginning... (Quindlen, 1994, p. 24)

For of course I thought we would not do anything much except drift, that she would feel sick, although she did not look or act sick at all, and I would be miserable, although I would hide it and deny it. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 37)

From the data above show that Ellen is independent woman who totally own her life, and she feels so miserable when her father mess up her life by caring her mother. Losing of her own life makes she feels lose her whole happiness. In the other hand, there is another changing those feeling of Ellen into pity and devotion. Hence in this subchapter the researcher is going to divide Ellen's feeling into rejection and acceptance toward her domestic role.

3.2.1 Rejection

The first response of Ellen toward her domestic role is rejection. She rejects being homemaker because she has bright carrier in New York. From those reason it can be influenced by some factors such as her education background. Whether, formal or non-formal education, it usually constructs the perspective of

human being and give the response to something differently. In this novel Ellen is described as Harvard graduation, who is smart and intelligence. It can be seen by the quotation below:

I was gifted, special, that there were things other people could not do that I could do effortlessly. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 24)

I only know that one day I went in to see my adviser at Harvard...(Quindlen, 1994, p. 31)

Education may empower woman in any sectors whether economic or politic, even social life. Woman may take advantage of high education regarding the choice that she makes in her life. In feminist discussion they criticize the system of patriarchy and male-dominated, some of them are educated people and experience the same condition of discrimination. Ellen with her high education may response the domestic role as disaster at the first time, but she face it calmly and offering to hire nurse in her parents house or to take sabbatical of her father, for her mother. She intends refuse it carefully because she wants continue her life in New York. But her father still begs her to stay and does not give her another choice. It can be seen by the conversation below:

"My train is at six-ten," I said, my voice trembling.

"Ellen," said my father, "your mother needs you. She is coming home Tuesday and she won't be well for long. The disease is apparently advanced. Soon she may not be able to bathe herself. In a month or two she will not be able to cook or clean.

"We can hire a nurse. That's what Beldens did Mrs. Belden's mother was sick. " but even as I said it I knew how preposterous it sounded. . (Quindlen, 1994, p. 22)

And:

"I'll be back Tuesday morning," I said, and he nodded.

"To stay," he said, a declarative sentence.

"I don't know about that," I said. "There are other options. Maybe you could take a sabbatical. It's been four years since you took one for the book."

"...And sabbatical is out of the question for me right now." (Quindlen, 1994: 25)

She keeps continuing refusal, being homemaker even a mother is so difficult for her. She has to learn to cook and tidy things up every day, even nurse her dying mother who takes her time all day. Meanwhile in New York she never does those things, she just enjoys the life as metropolitan girls. For carrier woman such as Ellen doing those duties are new, she does not enjoy her life anymore with pretending to be a good child by force. Some women think that with high education and bright carrier woman should not always stay at home, she can earn money by herself even, she does not need a husband. Having family and take care for them are also a choice for woman. And, the Ellen's refusal continues to make her relationship with her father fall apart each other. She does not respect her father anymore. It can be seen by the way Ellen refuses her father's want rudely. The data (conversation) below:

1. Looking up from pride and prejudice and the circle of golden light cast by the reading lamp I finally said, "Why am I doing this alone?"
 "Doing what alone, may I ask?"
 "Tending to your wife."
 "My wife? My wife? That woman is your mother. I have sat here hundreds of times watching her do for you, care for you, cook for you—"
 "And for you," I said, refusing to be ashamed. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 48)
2. "Which seemed to me particularly futile. You and I have different roles to play here."
 "I don't like mine."
 "It won't last forever."
 "That is a low blow," I said.
 "Ellen, there is no reason for the two of us to be at cross-purposes. Your mother needs help. You love her. So do I."
 "Show it," I said.
 "Pardon me?"
 "Show it. Show up. Do you grieve? Do you care? Do you ever cry?..." (Quindlen, 1994, p. 49)
3. Nothing changed when my mother become sick. If anything my father was more distant than ever, and more mannered in his manner when he arrived. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 48)
4. I don't know whether my father knew I knew. Our relationship underwent a change after that. I was less supplicant, more judge, and I was a person who, when called upon to judge, always judge harshly. . (Quindlen, 1994, p. 55)

It is clearly seen from the first and the second data how Ellen truly change her feeling to her father. In his case, the first story from the novel showing that Ellen and her are so close. Indeed, usually daughter prefer be with her father and son prefer with her mother. It seems a happy and unforgettable memory in her childhood, for Ellen to tell everything to her father. It can be seen by the data below:

Whenever I came home, from college and then later visits from the city, he would call me into his study, with its dark furniture and dim sepia light, would lean forward in his desk chair and say, simply, "Tell." (Quindlen, 1994, p. 15)

The second data show that Ellen realizes her distance with her father but she cannot do anything to fix it. She just want to his father know she is suffering, she cannot hold this feeling any longer. She expects everything is going to run well soon and those duties are not last forever.

Then she behaves differently even rudely to her father, perhaps it because Ellen is suffering sorrow and living up normal. She hides her own feeling without anyone understands her hard works. She handles all of the house stuff, take care of her mother, even she does not has time for herself. Moreover, Jules recently get busy with her work and Jonathan does not visit her anymore. She feels everyone has forgets her and she is priceless. Hence, she becomes too sensitive and outrageous to her family when she does some house works. It can be seen by the quotation below:

"That's not fair," I said. "I can help. I can do things here for you. I can do things with you. I come home and you're not even happy." I sounded petulant but I did not care. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 35)

And when I had spent sufficient time each day on the small everyday chores of laundry and vacuuming I found so tedious, she would call out to me: "Time to read." (Quindlen, 1994, p. 39)

"Sure she is. But wasn't it really that you didn't want your little world disrupted, that you needed her around to keep everything running smoothly? Just like you need me around because she can't. you bring me here and drop me down in the middle of this mess and expect me to turn into one kind of person when I'm a completely different kind and to be a nurse and a friend and confidante and a housewife all rolled up in one." (Quindlen, 1994, p. 49)

From the data above are indicated that Ellen experience mental conflict. She cannot tell to anyone and no one want hear her story. She just feels alone, shrunken, and pathetic, she begin to mourn her life and lose her identity as Ellen who is successful magazine writer. She tries to through the condition (being homemaker) day by day, no more complains and saying rudely. She love her parents but she learn to be what they want her to be though she feel a grief sadness. It can be seen by the data below:

My eyes were dry and sandy. I felt tired and sapped, as though I had been living here like this my whole life. As indeed I had, looking for myself in the space between the two of them. (Quindlen, 1994: 51)

...where I went as much to shake off the feeling of being buried alive that I felt in that tiny room as because I really wanted another cup of coffee. But I prayed to myself, without form, only inchoate feelings, one word: please, please, please, please, please. (Quindlen, 1994: 59)

I suppose today that I should say those months were wonderful for me, a chance to make amends for a lifetime of taking for granted, the truth is that while it was happening I tolerated it, and when I thought about it I hated it all. In the beginning I thought it was because of all that I was missing, because of the life just an hour away that was passing me by, in the city where you could become yesterday's girl in a weekend. (Quindlen, 1994: 64)

Ellen is not only smart and intelligent girl who graduate from Harvard, since child she had shown her achievement. She wins from the contest essay and from that completion all people in Langhorne recognize her. Although she has high education and good record in her country she cannot do anything to change

the society assumption about woman. That woman is better stay at home and being homemaker, and she will be 'happy housewife' like her mother. Otherwise, some curriculums teach women to be more feminine way, a real homemaker. It shows education somehow cannot empower someone to be what she or he want, especially against social or culture.

3.2.2 Acceptance

Based on the data the previous data which has been mentioned, showing that Ellen totally refuses the domestic role but due to her father's want she does it by force. As mentioned by the researcher before that Ellen cannot do anything to refuse her domestic role finally, Ellen give up of her family condition. During five months Ellen survives to be a homemaker, she does everything she need to do. It begins from January until May when the day her mother die. She feels really sorry for her, sorry for late to be her daughter, and sorry to do not recognize her. Her mother realizes her that someday she will become a mother. It can be seen by the quotation below:

But the truth is that I felt had no choice. I felt I had to be what my father wanted me to be... (Quindlen, 1994, p. 24)

I was beginning to understand the effort in the care now, and that made me angry, to know how she pretended that he had a job and she had something so much less. And it made me fearful, too, of the future. (Quindlen, 1994, p. 50)

"I know someday I'll be able to walk away from this. But what if I just get back into it again? What if I marry Jon and it turns out that what he really expects is a suburban who knits sweater for his children?" (Quindlen, 1994, p. 64)

The acceptance of her domestic role perhaps influence by her culture background. Culture cannot be separated from human being who lives in certain society and the custom is tight to every people inside. There is no public access to

get out of the role which all the people and Langhorne engage the woman as the best homemaker. Although Ellen has lived for several years in New York but if she come home to Langhorne she cannot deny the domestic role, such as her father does to her daughter. Also, the great devotion of the daughter to her mother changes everything of Ellen response toward domestic role. Even, after her mother die she miss doing housework when she stay in her teacher's house, Mrs. Forburg.

Based on the data above it is indicated that Ellen who has normal life suddenly gets depression and stress. Suffering unfairness from her father, Ellen as the single daughter has to be a mother. She loses her job, her lover, even her perfect life because she has to do the house works and serve the household's necessities. In this case, she does not only nurse her mother but also cook for her family even she does not has time for her own life. Although she keeps continuing refuse the domestic role, finally, she accept the role because of doing her father's want. In the end of her mother is dying, she realizes that she never really recognize her mom and become a mother is all woman has to be in the future.

3.3 Feminist Perspective toward Ellen as a 'Woman' in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen

According to feminism theory which purpose to gain the equal right between men and women in any accesses, the setting of time in the novel refers to 1960s in which is known as time of great upheaval and liberation (Quindlen, 1994: 47). It shows that equality has been struggled by feminist through ages, which are women right in the election become the proof of their success. In this

novel the equality has been allowed in job access for women. Ellen works at the magazine company in New York City with high salary, and she owns high reputation as writer (Quindlen, 1994: 28). In this case feminism theory has affected the perspective of Ellen as the main character to earn the money and life independently.

In the other hand the condition totally change when her father beg her to take care of her mother. It seems what feminist say about men are leader and controller of the family are happened in certain circumstance. While women can only become housewife and busy their self with kinds of housework. Moreover, taking care of the whole household and running the house stuff can make them as 'happy housewife'. In this novel that condition can be seen from her mother's pride of being housewife without any complaining (Quindlen, 1994: 69). However, Ellen does not agree when her father want her to stay at home (Quindlen, 1994: 22), while he can earn the money and release his responsibility as husband for taking care her wife (Quindlen, 1994: 48).

In addition, based on feminism struggle, analyzing the way Ellen refuses her father's want; it indicates her struggle against the superiority. Assuming woman or a daughter has to change a mother position even nursing the family, legitimate her father asking Ellen to stay at home. Although, she finally accept her domestic role but she keeps continuing refuse to be a mother. She just feels she does not has any choices except become what he want her to be. She is just getting through the domestic role day by day with a lot of pressures (Quindlen, 1994: 108) and suffering bad life (Quindlen, 1994: 158).

It seems unfair for Ellen as woman who busied herself with any kinds of house stuff while her brothers free to school (Quindlen, 1994: 140) and her father go to teach his student in the college. According to feminism theory Ellen does not get the equal right which she may not to be a breadwinner. Also, Ellen cannot refuse the domestic role, even her social environment considerer it is as natural for woman. It can be seen, their expectation toward Ellen as a daughter has to take care of her dying mother because of love (Quindlen, 1994: 24). Hence, in feminism discussion that woman never gets advantages as member of the family.

Talking about man or father who take control may refers to patriarchy in which feminist has its own definition. In term of feminism patriarchy is an authoritative male system that is both oppressive and discriminatory. The oppressive is included of social classes, such as social, political, economic, and cultural environments. Meanwhile, discriminatory within its control of access to power. Ellen's father has its control and power regarding his family which refers to cultural environment. He controls her daughter to do what he wants and the power to make Ellen stay at home. Also, in patriarchy discussion woman also has power but it is engaged only the ownership of the home and wealth, which is called as matriarchy.

In the other hand, patriarchy is considered most misunderstood critical-theory concept, in which the system based on tradition of inferiorities and its privilege. It is consisted of social stratification of dominance society who live inside and the regulation. In this novel Ellen is the only one who against the system of matriarchy while her parents and her brothers engage that system. In this case the plural thought of Ellen's family represents her society not as

individual thinking but dominance society. No matter what talents and intelligence woman might possess, she has to engage society expectation.

By the acceptance of Ellen toward the domestic role, she actualizes the society expectation as well. She learns the gender role by learning to cook and nurse her mother. Rethinking career woman to be a homemaker such as Ellen is surprised, even learn and accept the role sincerely. In fact, the term of stay at home mom (SAHM), Martin argues that those moms working at home full-time are doing work entirely for their children (www.RainSanMartin.com). She also states that they are working hard as a career homemaker and the husband will feel respect as the head provider. Or, the women that choose to stay at home to raise a family are their choices.

Infeminist discussion, feminism does not mean that every woman has break through the society life and become the leader of family. Feminism instead means that every woman has choices, and being SAHM is not always wrong. As cited from Amy Glass, that women can do anything, they can be everything they want, included stay at home mother, there is no wrong way to do feminism, even judge their choices (Intentional mom, article by Amy Glass, 2014). Making an own choice is freedom for every one, include the women. Although, feminists always struggle the equality between man and women but in this case the final choice is their right, as women want to decide their life to be. Hence, Ellen finally accepts her domestic role by realizing her future which will bring her to be a real mother.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the researcher will give a conclusion of all discussion from the previous chapters. The conclusion will be arranged based on the research problems. Besides that, the researcher will also give a suggestion for the next researcher who will analyze the same novel or the same theory.

4.1 Conclusion

As stated before, this study was done to analyzed Ellen's gender role portray in the novel *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen, the result of this study can be concluded into the following conclusion.

Woman and feminism has extent discussion within woman's social and individual life. It may affect physical even psychological side of woman without erase the power of the men's role. but to make it straight conclusion, the researcher just provide feminism as the main theory. The first is Ellen and gender role which id divided into Ellen as magazine writer or it can be refers to carrier woman and Ellen as homemaker. In the early part of the novel Ellen enjoy her job as magazine writer in New York and her life is simply run by happiness. Otherwise, the condition change when she becomes homemaker by force due her fathers want. Ellen suffering a grief sadness by being a mother and put a side her own life. Leaving New York and stay at home with the housework all day make her easily angry and depression.

The second is Ellen's response toward her domestic role, it is included rejection and acceptance to be a homemaker and a real mother. In the early part of the novel Ellen is described as really temperamental girl in which although she does the housework, she keeps continuing rejection to stay at home. It is shown by how she being rudely when she has the conversations with her father. She always demand her right to has her own life and regret why only Ellen who do all the mess alone. She feels alone, shrunken, and pathetic when her friend and her lover not longer visit her, she feels unfairness and powerless because she does not has any authority to oppose her father.

In the end of her mother dying, Ellen changes her mind and her understanding about mom. Regretting the time run very fast before her mother dies, she misses doing dishes and gardening. During five months she handles all the mess with all the memory with her mother. She realizes that she will become her mother and accept the homemaker sincerely. And she finally knows what she is going to be, a carrier woman, a homemaker, or both of them. In the end of the story, she takes the nurse profession in the hospital that her mother is healed and do what mother should do.

The third part of this conclusion is about how Feminism sees Ellen. Ellen is woman whose ambitious and successful girl in New York who turns into homemaker due to her family condition. Rethinking feminism just against the male-dominance and struggle for equality, in this study feminism give women more choices to be what they want. Even she chooses to be a home maker and rise the children, that is refers to freedom. A freedom to choose and no judges toward women's choice. Ellen does not has choices except to be a homemaker but in the

end when her mother die, she can continue their life in New York. But she decides to stay in Langhorne and to be a nurse, just like what Teresa does to take care her mother. Finally, she owns her life back without leaving the domestic role.

In some extent, the topic of gender equality such as in Islam discussion may have similar definition about gender which is culturally leaned among men and women (Sri SuhandjatiSukri, 2002: 3). It refers to social characteristic, hair style, Profession, and other activities which culturally learned. However, the understanding of Muslim about woman may have common assumption that woman is charged by the daily housework. That position make woman experience the limitation of public access. Moreover, Abdul Djamil mentions the *Hadis* which say that if people charge their business to woman, they will not gain the happiness (Sri Suhandjati Sukri, 2002: introduction). This *Hadis* explain that woman should not be a leader, by means they will not give any chance to woman to a leader (in term of war).

The reduction of women position may marginalize their existence, by different interpretation from Quran Muslim may have their own reason. But there are some *Ulama'* convince the equality of women position based on the interpretations from Qoran. It can be seen by *Al-Hujraat* and *An-Nahl* below:

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female. And made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you. And Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well-acquinted (with all things). [Al-Hujuraat: 13]

Whoever works righteous, man or woman, and has faith, verily, to him We will give a new life, a life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions. [An-Nahl: 97]

Both of the verses give the sign that men and women has the same position so that they will get better life if they do the best action. Moreover, those verses does not impress the special treatment for men. So that women may have their authority to do what men do, even they also have right to choose what the life they want whether be a carrier women or homemaker.

The last conclusion, woman and feminism do not only take for granted what feminist struggle along ages. In these modern ages, emancipation has been legalized to the whole part of the world, even develop country. Woman may rethink and criticize what actually their society expects without put aside their interest as individual. Though, some government still limit women's moving but the only point of basic of human being is the right to choose. And the position of woman as society is equal in public access and the different is just the best action which is they done in front of God, the Almighty.

4.2 Suggestion

In this occasion, the researcher will suggest the next researchers who are interested in analyzing this novel as the research object to analyze this novel using any other approach, especially feminism approaches, because actually this novel also contains many woman and feminism aspect. Also, in this study the social side may include due to the main character living in certain circumstance, as woman. The next researcher can also try to analyze this novel using the other theory. Hopefully the next researcher will get better finding and analysis.

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