

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Kottak (2010) states that women are not usually active in public space unlike men who tend to be active in public space. Women are considered close to domestic space because their pregnancy and childrearing duty limit their movement. Kottak (2010) explains that the idea about “women’s place is in the house” appeared after 1900 along with the rise of industrialism in the United States. After 1900, women started to work at home because the war, inflation, and global crisis changed their attitude toward the work or job that women should do. During the World War, the idea about women that should stay at home slowly waned. Women started to work outside as the rise of consumption and the family - needs stabilization (Kottak, 2010). Women are believed to be more inferior than men in the public space. They are stereotypically positioned as subordinate to men.

My thesis aims to find the experiences and challenges faced by women travelers shared in their books. As domestic beings, women are seen as attached to homes. By traveling, women step out of their common territory. Going out to the ‘unfamiliar’ territory will present new experiences and new

challenges for these women travelers. These travelers' experiences and challenges are shared in the women's travel writings.

Travel writing has been written since the fourteenth century by western women such as Mary Kingsley (*Travels in West Africa*, 1897) and Nina Mazuchelli (*The Indian Alps and How We Crossed Them*, 1876) (Mills, 2005). Those travel writings prove that women have written their experiences when they travel for a long time. In the women's travel writings, the readers can see that during their journey the women could get independence, get education outside institution, and measure their own social influence and authority (Smith, 2001). Sherman (2002) explains that travel writing contains travelers' experiences which are described in letters, essays, sketches, plays and poems. However, in the past women's travel writing was not considered worth reading (Sherman, 2002). There was the expectation that travel writing must contain a factual report of an actual travel (Sherman, 2002, p. 31) which could not be served by women's travel writing as a result of women's writing style which tends to be more like a fiction. Later, travel writings are described in a report which consists of "combined a chronological narrative movements and events with geographic and ethnographic observation" (Sherman, 2002, p. 30).

The thesis particularly discusses travel writing book written by Indonesian women. The book I used in this thesis is *The Naked Traveler Anthology*. The book is the collections of the travelling journal of Trinity's

blog followers. Trinity is the writer of *The Naked Traveler* which tells about the journey she has done for several years. She tells the readers about the places she has visited in Indonesia and other countries. She writes not only her experience but also the tips and tricks and the budgeting to do the travelling. Trinity's book gives the impression that everyone can go travelling, so she has many followers in her blog. Her followers are from many backgrounds, such as a writer, a student, a teacher, a police officer and many others. Trinity also inspires her followers to write their travel experiences.

In the anthology, Trinity writes about her phobia, *pteromerhanophobia*. It is an exaggerated anxiety of being in an airplane (2014, p. 7). She tells about how she overcame her anxiety by thinking positively about the flight she was flying with that time. In the same book, Mayawati Nur Halim, a Deputy Editor in Chief in a traveling magazine, *The Trip*, writes about her experience when she was lost in Thailand. Mayawati tells the readers how she felt when she was lost and how she handled the situation at that time (2014, pp. 75-87).

In this thesis, I analyze the women travel writings using feminism approach. The reason for using feminism approach is that the travel writings are written by women who write about themselves. As there are many literary works about women written by men (Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Reesman, & Willingham, 2005), I feel the need to seek more on the women travel writers' experiences including the challenges they face during their journey. I chose

Indonesian women travel writings as they are objects which are yet studied extensively.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Literature.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is women travel writing.

1.4 Problem Formulation

The problem formulation for this thesis is:

- a. What are the travel experiences shared by Indonesian women travel writers in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*?
- b. What are the challenges written by Indonesian women travel writers in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*?

1.5 Objective of the Study

The purpose of the study is:

- a. To know the Indonesian women travel writers' experiences shared in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*.
- b. To know the challenges the Indonesian women travel writers experienced written in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to inspire students in Faculty of Language and Arts of Soegijapranata Catholic University to study about travel writing and to give new perspectives about women travel writing.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. Feminism

Feminism is a move for fighting woman rights. It had negative meaning in 1960s and some women who deeply committed for fighting their rights called themselves as 'feminist'. Around 1960 – 1970, women started to reorganize using different name, 'woman's liberation' or shortened as 'woman's lib' but round the same year 'feminism' is used again with broader meaning in which feminism included not only women's rights but also women's reproductive and social roles (Walters, 2005).

2. Travel writing

Travel writing is a collection of traveler's experience during their journey. It can be in letters, essays, sketches, plays and poems. By the end of the sixteenth century, most of the travel writing was in form of report containing the sequential narrative of movements and events with geographic and ethnographic observations. Travel writing narrating could be in first-person or third-person depending on the

focus of the author, the travelers themselves or the things they encountered (Sherman, 2002, p. 30).

3. Woman Traveler

Woman traveler is a woman who travels to a place in variation of role such as a wife, a scientist, a missionary, or a diplomat (Bassnett, 2013, p. 231) to escape from their family and society pressure (Bassnett, 2013, p. 226), to find something as the proof of themselves, and to find unexpected journey as their pleasure (Bassnett, 2013, p. 231).

