



**WOMAN'S CHOICE IN TRACY CHEVALIER'S
*GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING***

THESIS

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DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicate this thesis to:

1. My greatest mother, Endang Sriwijarti, who always supported me to get highest education, encourages me to finish my thesis and gives the best for my life, I love her so much;
2. My beloved brothers and sisters, Oktorio Wisnu Pradana, Bayu Pramadya Kurniawan Sakti, Ayu Widyaningrum Dewi, Angga Ulung Tranggana, Agung Prahadian Kamajaya, Adhi Hamdani, Lina Hernia Witarti, Priska Puspita Iriandini and Lusi Nirmalawati who always cheer me up to finish my study;
3. My lovely bestfriends, who always accompany me and become the reason I smile every day;
4. MyAlma Mater.

MOTTO

“Women are not merely born, women are process of becoming.

And "the process of becoming" will never end”

(Simone de Beauvoir)

*“What an odd thing a diary is: the things you omit are more important than those
you put in.”*

(Simone de Beauvoir, The Woman Destroyed)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that this thesis entitled **Woman's Choice in Tracy Chevalier's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*** is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any helps received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, October 15th 2015

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Hopefully, this thesis can give contribution towards the English Studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of literature.

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SUMMARY

“Woman’s Choice In Tracy Chevalier’s Girl With A Pearl Earring”. Dinar Indramaya Maharani, 100110101039, English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University.

This research analyzes the woman’s choice in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. This novel tells about how woman is taking choice for her own life without any influence from the other to get her existence. This novel uses main female character named Griet as the narrator of the story. Griet is sixteen young girl who is later forced to be a maid by her mother and start her unfair life. Her problem solving and making decision refers her as the figure of postfeminism in this research.

This research uses qualitative research method. The data are about the events in *Girl with a Pearl Earring* related to the construction of postfeminism, and the condition of woman in reality in the same era and setting related to the novel. In analyzing the woman’s choice in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, I use Irigaray’s theory of postfeminism. Her theory gives understanding the form of femininity and language indirection. In order to fully understand I conduct this thesis starts with the general idea about characteristic of female characters in the novel, how woman is treated, and goes to specific idea about woman’s choice of main female character.

This research aims to gain understanding about woman choice related to her condition, needs, and position in the society. The result of the research shows that the woman’s choice is an action of woman to show her independence and existence. Women in the novel are described to have a choice whether they decide to be in domestic place or show themselves in the public square, interacting with the society. In author’s narrative, woman also described her role as an active subject of her passivity, because whatever woman has decided for her life, she makes a choice in a full consciousness and it relates as a one way to be a postfeminist.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

According to Welleck and Warren (1949:9), literature is essentially result from a creative and imaginative process operating under the impulse of feeling expression, ideas, or the thinking of writer from a situation process and social condition which is defined as everything in print. Literature was also a media of social criticism or reflection of social life that has message to the reader about social phenomenon and also used to analyze the social problem that happened. One example of social problem that appears in the literary work is about woman issue especially about woman existence. In literary work, woman character is often depicted as an object which is explained as a character with beautiful face, disposed as passive character, etc. As opposed with woman character, man character is often represented as subject who is explain as a powerful character that always appear as a hero, rational, has a tactical mind, and active character. Although the main character of the story is a woman, but the potrayal character of woman is always under man domination in which she is oppressed. This discussion will analyze one example of literary work which is assumed the existence of woman in the literary work.

Woman is the most interesting object to discuss like never ending story caused by her social representation. Woman in traditional role has stereotyped as inferior to man physically and also intellectually. Woman marked as an object that must be obedient to the men's order and represented as part of crude sexual binary: they were virgins or whores (Whitford, 1991:169). There are many factors that emerged woman oppression, such as; religious aspects, political aspects, and social aspects. Those social stereotypes of woman are often used to potrays female characterization in literary work. By representing women as sexual objects, for instance, rather than politically powerful subjects, women receive a version of femininity and womanhood that is perpetually limited. It increases response from

feminist to transform literary critical approach which in the literary studies known as feminist literary criticism.

In "Feminism and Its Fiction"(1998), Lisa Maria Hogelan explains that as a kind of literacy, feminist sees that writing is a part of political process of resistance as an act of writing as women, reading as women, and writing for women. Feminist literary criticism began when woman students and teachers working within the patriarchal institution of the University in English Department. They began integrating explicitly feminist-oriented approaches to text as part of the second wave, at the end of the 1960s in a few pioneering cases and more widely, into the 1970s and 1980s. The critical attention of these feminists focused on representation of woman in male-authored works. This kind of criticism often takes the form of hunting out stereotypes of women and using them as means of identifying the ways in which these restricted cultural representations underpin women's oppression.

Feminist literary criticism aims to know the standard of literary work by using feminist perspective when the man dominate the literary world and woman as an active reader or writer. It is caused by their belief about the influence of the feminism's growth and the rising of woman's consciousness to the literary work. Feminist literary criticism is aimed to attack misinterpretation and stereotyping in literary work to increase more balance representation of woman in the literary work. Feminist literary criticism purposes to disturb the certainties of patriarchal culture and to create less oppressive climate for woman writers and readers. Feminism aims to escape from the definite theory and to develop female discourse. Feminist literary criticism began to focus on woman in text, in process both of rediscovering long-forgotten and undervalued woman's writing from history, and of developing aesthetic criteria applicable to women's text being produced in the present.

One example of literary works written by a female writer is *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier which was published in 1999. The novel talks about a housemaid girl named Griet that has difficulties to decide her own choice for her life. The novel sets out in the year 1664. 16 year-old Griet is living with

her family in the Dutch city of Delft. Her father is not able to work anymore so Griet is forced to take up work as a maid for the famous painter Vermeer's house. Actually, Griet has desire and skill for being an artist, but her mother tells her that a young girl like her is only proper to be a maid. Sometime, Griet feels jealous with her brother who is prepared by her parents to be an artist. During her work as a maid, Griet faces a lot of problems for example from Vermeer's wife named Catharina who is jealous because her husband pays Griet all his attention. Beside that, there is also Van Ruijven, Vermeer's rich client, who sees Griet as an object and voiceless. The final problem is appeared when Van Rujiven ask Vermeer to paint a picture of Griet. It makes Catharina more jealous to Griet and angrier to her husband because Vermeer uses her earrings to make a paint of Griet without her permission. She attacks her husband for painting Griet and not herself. Griet turns on her heel and leaves the house and she knows that she will never come back. She needs to make a decision for her own life. Ten years later Griet was married to Pieter, the butcher's son, and has two children. She learns that Vermeer has recently died and in his last will it is put down that she should get Catharina's pearl earrings. Griet makes her own decision for her continuing life by her consciousness with considered about her family's life and her expectation as a woman, individual, and also as a part of society. Griet's character shows us about what woman is supposed to do for their own life when they are already oppressed by the society. Griet's story shows that woman did not need to be an independent for getting her expectation by separated with man, but woman is only need to find her consciousness and have clear understanding about their own need as a woman and human beings.

Girl with a Pearl Earrings tells about how the main female character in the novel decides the way of her existence as a woman and as a part of society. The woman's problem and the main character's taking choice for her life that present as the main theme in the novel was included in feminist perspective, more specifically post-feminism that support the discussion of this research. Postfeminism is explained about the way of woman to get their life confidence by making her own choice in a conscious condition. From the explanation above, this

research used postfeminist as a main issue of this research. It is interested to discuss the idea of postfeminism through the main character in the novel because this novel shows that woman can seize her accomplishment without losing their femininity. Postfeminism issue shows us that to be a woman we do not need to get a second place under man and does not mean to be separated from man. Woman only need to know what better for her and find the one who will respect to her, make her enjoy life, and protect her. This research is expected to give any advantages in the literature development, especially in the postfeminist issue and could encourage the students in conducting research about woman studies.

1.2 Problem to Discuss

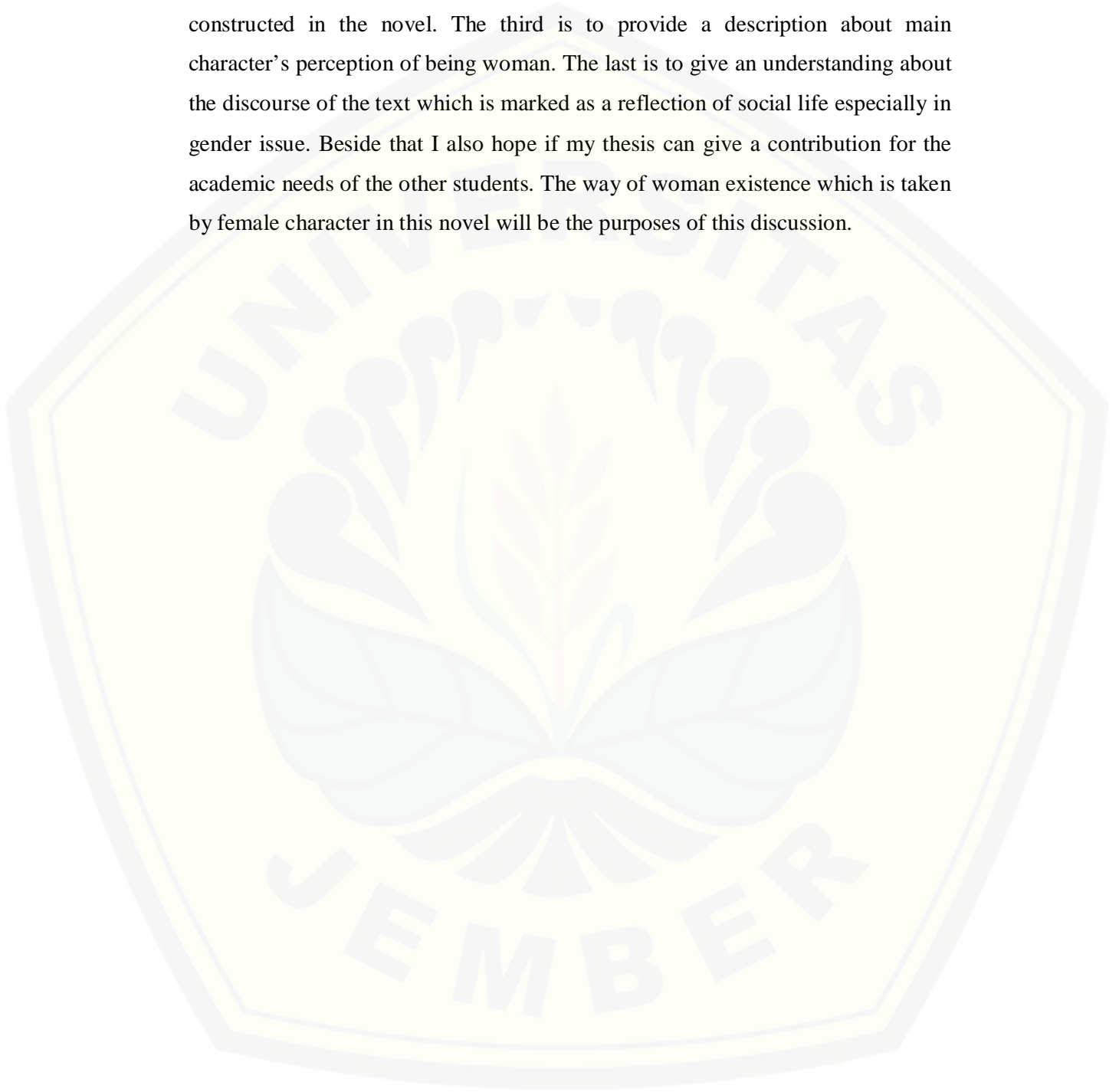
As I explained in the background of the study above, this research studies about woman choice for their own life to get accomplishment as a woman as represented in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. This decision is taken by woman cause by woman subordination that makes woman feels pressured. *Girl with a Pearl Earrings* tells about the role of woman as a subordinated on the basis of masculine parameters. The description of woman is characterized by Griet. Griet is a main female character who got pressure from her society and finally she has to decide for her confidence without any forces from anyone. The discussion of this research will be focused on the woman's life in the novel which explains the woman representation, how the woman resistance and subordination in her life was, and what idea of postfeminism is applied through the main female character in the novel. The problem of this thesis are formulate in some questions, there are;

1. How is woman represented in the novel?
2. How is post-feminism constructed in the novel by woman choice?
3. How was the woman condition in Netherland during 17th century?

1.3 The Goal of the Study

Based on the problem to discuss, there are some goals in writing this thesis. Firstly, the goal is to give more understanding about postfeminist criticism in the literature analysis that is used to present pluralities of feminism and

postfeminism perspective. Secondly, the goal is to find the relation between man and woman, existentialism of woman, and representation of woman that is constructed in the novel. The third is to provide a description about main character's perception of being woman. The last is to give an understanding about the discourse of the text which is marked as a reflection of social life especially in gender issue. Beside that I also hope if my thesis can give a contribution for the academic needs of the other students. The way of woman existence which is taken by female character in this novel will be the purposes of this discussion.



CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Before having further discussion, it is important to give clear descriptions about the term used in this thesis. This description will help the readers both to understand the given explanation in the study and to avoid misunderstanding about the topic. It is also important to give clear understanding about the patterns and other explanation linked up to the theories. Explaining the terms makes easier in analyzing the matter of woman representation, woman choice and woman subordination in Tracy chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earrings*.

Some important theories and concepts related to the topic of the discussion set in this theoretical framework. Moreover, this literature review is important in order to give a clear information and description about previous research and theories related to the topic discussion in this thesis. By knowing the idea of many other researches this research gets some advantages, there are; to prove the different analysis of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* with the previous research, and help to make easier the using of Irigaray's theory in analyzing data from a novel. This previous researches also helps me to study about woman construction. There are two discussions in this literature review. The first explains the previous research. The second explains postfeminism theory.

2.1 The Previous Research

The previous research is a sample of similar study with the topic or an object that related to the topic which is taken in this thesis. The previous research is important for the writer to help the analyzing process and as a reference to prove the difference of this thesis from the previous research. There are several previous researches that have contribution in this discussion which have the same object or perspective, such as: the scholarly paper of Naomi Sianturi entitled "*Griet's Conflicts as a Housemaid in Chevalier's Girls with a Pearl Earring*"(2009), from Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University,; Fitriatul Hasanah entitled "*Rereading Woman's Power in*

Anchee Min's *Empress Orchid*"(2013), Faculty of Letters, Jember University; Ullynarra Zunga Vriscarini entitled "Women construction in Paulo Coelho's *The witch Portobello*"(2013), Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Naomi Sianturi's thesis took same object with this discussion that was Chevalier's novel entitled "Girl with a Pearl earring" but, had analyzed different topic. Sianturi's paper aims to describe main character and to find out the internal and external conflicts she faced by using a theory of conflict. Sianturi was focusing her analyze on psychological aspect of the main character.

Hasanah's paper used Irigaray's theory that explains the concept subjectivity of woman. Her thesis described the construction of woman in old Chinese culture that appeared in *Empress Orchid*. Hasanah analyzed woman representation who characterize by Lady Yehonala who showed that woman could still be an active subject, even when she was oppressed by the local culture. The woman construction in Hasanah's thesis showed how woman should live in society. Hasanah concludes that the symbolizations and stereotypes of Lady Yehonala could be seen as new concept about woman or as a call for woman to define her own concept (Hasanah, 2013:46).

Vriscarini's thesis also used Irigaray theory about postfeminism to analyze about woman construction in the novel. She focused on the perception about woman, how the main character managed her womanliness, and how the woman was constructed in the novel. Vriscarini explained about the way of woman existence without losing their femininity. In her thesis, she also used Irigaray's theory to analyze how the female character was constructed in the novel and how the female character managed her womanliness.

After knowing the idea of many other researches, I get some advantages to help this research, there are; to prove the different analysis of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* with the previous researches, and also help me to make easier in using of Irigaray's theory to analyze data from a novel. This research uses same source data with Naomi's thesis but using difference topic, whereas Sianturi's focused on analyzing psychological aspect of the main character. On the other hand, this research focuses on the way of woman existence and the discourse of the novel

about post-feminism issue. Hasanah's and Vriscarini's thesis used different main source data but same theory about post-feminism which is also used in this research. Their ways in analyzing woman's construction by using Irigaray's theory lead me using this theory to analyze data of this research.

2.2 Literary Criticism and Feminist Literary Criticism

According to Wellek in *Theory of Literature* (1955:18), literature has functioned as *dulceet utile* (entertaining and beneficial). In reading literary work which has quality the reader will get entertainment and advantages, so the reader will be more selective in choosing the literary work. This matter pushes the writer in producing a masterwork, and also increasing the quality of their work. In this term, literary criticism will be very useful for the writer to help increase their skill in writing process to produce the literary work which has a quality as a media of entertainment and also in giving advantages.

Literary criticism is a branch of literature study that is used to analyze literary work by doing direct analyzing and giving judgment about the quality of literature as an art (Pradopo, 1995: 3). Literary criticism aims to know the value of literary work as a media communication of the writer to the reader in social critics' concepts. It aims to give more understanding about certain phenomenon which include in the literary work including comprehending the meaning of literary work. Literary criticism also gives advantages to increase the reader ability to reach the message of literary work with the result of making the reader appreciate literature. There are so many kind of literary criticism, one of them is feminist literary criticism. Feminist literary criticism is based on women receive a version of femininity and womanhood that is perpetually limited by representing women as sexual object in the literary work (Gamble, 2006:103). Main purpose of feminist literary criticism is to analyze a gender relation between man and woman in social deconstruction. Feminist literary criticism will describe a woman's oppression which is found in the literary work.

Feminist literary criticism cannot be separated from feminism movement. Feminist literary criticism is a response of the development of feminism. Feminist

literary criticism is a new branch of sociology of literature. In Gamble (2006), Lebihan explains that feminist criticism had to do something more than reread the same, old, tired texts. The work of it began to focus on texts by woman in process of both rediscovering long-forgotten and undervalued women's writing history, and of developing aesthetic criteria applicable to women's text being produced in the present (Gamble, 2006:104). It means that, feminist literary criticism does not mean to criticize woman, or critique about woman, or critic about woman's writer. Feminist literary criticism aims to give consciousness about a gender which has relation in culture, literature, and society. This gender increases the different to the writer, reader, characterization, and extrinsic factor that influence the writing process.

2.3 Postfeminism Perspective in Literature Studies

Feminism is a movement striving for equal political and social rights for women. In the cultural understanding, feminism as well as political movement which change the way of women's thinking and feeling. Feminism also affects how women and men should live side by side in the society. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995:428), feminism is a belief in the principle that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men. This movement develops not only because women want to get an equal position with men, but also to avoid some abuses that always happen during women's life in the society. There are four basic feminism theories, such as;

1. Liberal feminism essentially seeks opportunities for women's advancement in existing society through institutional changes in education and the workplace.
2. Marxist feminism locates the source of women's oppression on the problems of capitalist society.
3. Radical feminism places the sources of women's oppression on patriarchy.
4. Socialist feminism explains about a combination of the last two, which hold both economic and patriarchy equality responsible in women's oppression.

Beside the example above, there are still many thoughts about feminism, but this research only focuses on postfeminism. The word "post" in postfeminism

is the key which shows that postfeminism begins after the “second wave” feminism. As Jones states that technical term of postfeminism originated from within the media in the early 1980 to represent the reaction of “second wave” feminism (in Brooks, 1997;3). It has always tended to be used in this context as indicative of joyous liberation from the ideological shackles of a hopelessly outdated feminism movement. Postfeminism aims to weaken feminism movement in struggling to reach equality among people especially women. Postfeminism wants to create the final purpose of the “first” and “second” wave’s feminism movement. Postfeminism thought will be understood as a specific sensibility including; physically property, reshuffle of objectivity to the subjectification, self-surveillances stressing, monitoring and self-control, individualism focuses, choices and empowerment, and the increasing ideas of natural sexual difference. Postfeminism gives an image that everyone has reached equality and feminist can focus to the other issues. As Ann Brooks claims:

The concept of “post” is often used to signal a complete break in previous range of usually “oppressive” relation. Post as used in these instances often implies that these relation have been overcome and replaced and in this context the emphasis is on a new range of temporal, political, and cultural relations...As it is understood in this book the concept of ‘post’ implies a process of ongoing transformation and change (Brooks, 1997;1).

In this case, the word of ‘post’ relates to postfeminism can be understood as critique deals with patriarchy. It does not assume that both patriarchal or modernist discourses and frames of reference have been replaced or superseded. Postfeminism also occupies a similar ‘critical’ position in regard to earlier feminist framework at the same time as critically engaging with patriarchal and imperialist discourses. Postfeminism stressed their point of view both of man and woman as human that has the same rights as individual or as social creatures. This idea is increasing consideration of man and woman position. Woman has completed the rights in making decision for her life in consciousness.

In literature perspective, postfeminist critique relates to the literature studies with focusing analysis about woman. Literary critics give some consciousness about two different sexes that much relate to culture, literature, and

social live. Postfeminism, as what critics state, tries to invite woman to go back to the time of pre-feminism (Gamble, 2006; 37). On the pre-feminism era, women are placed as prominent figurehead in their position as mother and wife who give them power to control their family and home.

According to Ann Brooks in her book entitled *Postfeminism and Cultural Studies*, postfeminism is not only a mindset but also a theory which is related to the gender discrimination and women's oppression (2003:3). This movement seems like against "first wave" feminism concept about fight for women's discrimination and gender. Post-feminism tries to criticize universality aspect of imperialism to the women which brings by feminism concept. In this concept, we can generalize about women's topic in gender discrimination role. When we talk about gender, the problem orientation does not aim to sexes but it is more about nature of that body. In this case, we can conclude that is not fair if suffer only refers to women, because in reality, gender discrimination can also involve men.

Early feminism demanded equality between the sexes stressed on gender dichotomy: male superiority versus female inferiority. On the other hand, post-feminism has begun to consider the question of what the postmodern notion of the unstable subject (Wright, 2000:14). Postfeminism concerns with the element in postculturalism which focusing on the ideological construction of discourse. Dealing with literary studies, feminist, in postfeminism era, has intervened toward revealing art to cultural practice that historically has excluded the subjectivities of women.

Postfeminist is also against the hegemonic statement from the feminist which think that every woman should take the same abuse and imperialism. Postfeminism believes that there is always the difference oppression between women, because there are many system functions called local culture, social status, pigment, religion, and etc. Every system has a different function in every social activity of human such as accommodative or exploitative. According to postfeminism concept, this opinion marks the biggest failed of feminism concept in control gender emancipation movement. Feminism cannot make another racial variable on their fights about gender discrimination. In other words, feminism has

failed to set women free from discrimination of the social concepts. On the contrary, feminism places women in the new domination labeled by gender discrimination.

According to Alice (In Brooks, 1997;3), Postfeminism is a feminism that pushes woman into wanting too much. Postfeminism concerns with the ideological construction of discourse. Postfeminism considers that liberal feminism has destroyed and despoiled human rights as social nature. Postfeminism stresses that woman should take her existence by making a decision for her own life in consciousness without leaving their nature as woman. Woman can reach her existence and emancipation by still being a woman and keeping the human nature that differed by two sexes which have to live side by side in the social sphere.

Dealing with literary studies, postfeminist has examined towards revealing art to cultural practice that historically has excluded the subjectivities of women. According to Tong, postfeminism tries to persuade everyone to be a feminist the way he/she wants, because there is no specific rule about how to be a “good feminist” (Tong; 2009; 270). There are many theorists of post feminism, for example Helene Cixous, Luce Irigaray, and Julia Kristeva who are mentioned by Tong in her book “Feminist thought”. These three theorists show that there is the same line in the movement of postfeminist which put the differences between man and woman, and also masculinity and femininity. This research deals with postfeminism’s concern on the discourse construction of postfeminism ideological according to Irigaray’s theory.

2.4 Luce Irigaray’s Theory on Post feminism

Luce Irigaray was a French feminist, philosopher, linguist, and philosopher, who interested in the concept of difference between sexes; difference among women; difference within the single individual woman (Brooks,2003;78). She is included as a founder of “second wave” feminism which is not only against the social imbalance of woman but also the structure of ideology that has long buried and made woman stuck in unlucky position unlike a man. Irigaray explains

that woman emancipation is only created by theory about gender based on gender and rewrite and right for every gender, as two difference substance in social duty and rights.

Irigaray stresses on how woman should practice the difference between masculine and feminine rather than practicing the opposite. Besides that, she also states that in any case, the culturally, socially, economically valorized female characteristics are correlated with maternity and motherhood; with breastfeeding the child, and restoring the man (Irigaray, 1985a;25). Her theory shows a thought that woman should be feminine and womanly, as it is the goal of post feminism, and also shows that woman has choices in her life, although a woman's nature is already described by the male systems of representation.

In her book, Irigaray claims;

Women, stop trying. You have been taught that you were property, private or public, belonging to one man or all. [...] That therein lay your pleasure. [...] That pleasure was, for you, always tied in pain, but such was your nature. If you disobeyed, you were the cause of your own unhappiness. But, curiously enough, your nature has always been defined by men, and men alone. They are the ones who have taught you your needs or desires. You haven't yet had a word to say on the subject. [...] You have so many continents to explore that if you set up borders for yourselves you won't be able to "enjoy" all of your own "nature" (Irigaray, 1985b;203-204).

Irigaray claims that unhappiness of women is only made by their selves. Women are the only suspect for every pain that their deals with. She suggests that women do not mean to against men, because their nature is belonging to man. They only need to realize about their special position in men's life. By being a wife or daughter or sister or mother, women are always placed after men to be protected, love, guide, and owned by men. Their positions show that they are very precious and special. Besides that, women can also use their position to be elegant leaders for their lives as wife, as daughters, and as mothers. They have many advantages if they can receive their "nature" and also take some advantages from it. Caused by that, woman should realize that there is no reason to have unhappy feeling. They do not need to use that reason for going separated from men's sphere. Women only need to accept their nature, open their borders, and

respect to their selves. Women and men have relations which cannot be separated from each other, they are created to support and to furnish each other as a social nature. There is still no important reason for women that pushed them in their needed to be called as subjects, because in the reality they are never placed as objects.

Irigaray also takes advantages in the psychoanalysis of the philosophy and theory in analyzing patriarchal system that adverse woman's life. In her work, she explains about the essentiality during woman's liberation fight that does not demand the equality, but by constructing men-women's culture which appreciate the difference between two sexes. Irigaray affirms that emancipation of woman can be reached by a theory of gender based on sexes and rewrite about rights and duty of each sexes as two different element relate with social duty and rights.

In Hasanah's thesis (2013), Irigaray suggest that equality between men and women cannot be achieved without theory of gender as sexed and rewriting of the rights and obligation of each sex, in social rights and obligation (Hasanah, 2013:9) She attempts to establish that feminine is not in relation to man but in relation to the woman herself. Language is one of symbolic exclusively masculine and thought which is owned by patriarchal that defines women as object and makes women have no freedom. She also tries to define what femininity is, how the mother-daughter relationship is and the maternity should be in and of her-self.

Therefore, analyzing literary work can never be separated from analyzing the language practice. This thesis uses Irigaray concept and theory because she also states that women are defined by their circumstances or environments which are derived from language. Language itself, gives strong influences to the definition of woman. For her concepts, Irigaray used Freud's concepts in sexuality and Lacan's concepts about symbolical sphere of language.

Irigaray's theory is also supported by Freud's concept which states that sexual desire has an influence in human intellectuality and cultural. Basic theory of Freud about woman explains that the sexual development between man and woman depends on the penis or the form of sexual organ. Irigaray used this

concept to rearrange irrationality of woman and also criticize enlightened ratio to wreck basic of patriarchy hegemonic.

Besides that, Irigaray also takes advantages from Lacan's symbolical sphere of language, law, and culture to criticize, against, and proposed the psychoanalytic explanation. Irigaray uses Lacan's concept to criticize, against, and propose the explanation of psychoanalysis about theoretic refraction in psychoanalysis's concept. Irigaray also states that from language perspective men and women are sounding just the same (Irigaray, 1985b;205). There is no reason to say that language is one of any medias that pushes women in second opinion.

Irigaray in *This Sex Which Is Not One*, states that the feminine is defining something which does not constitute a sexual heterogeneous but rather represent a type of negativity that sustains and confirm the homogeneity of masculine desire. In her book, Irigaray tells that woman needs to practice the different between masculine and feminine rather than practicing the opposite. Woman does not need to generalize the difference between men and women;

“What I want, in fact, is not to create a theory of woman, but to secure a place for the feminine within sexual difference. That difference-- masculine/feminine-- has always operated “within” systems that are representative, self-representative, of the (masculine) subject.

For one sex and its lack, it atrophies, its negative, still does not up to two. In other words, the feminine has never been defined except as the inverse, indeed the underside of the masculine. So for the woman it is not a matter of installing herself within this lack, this negative, even by denouncing it, nor of reversing the economy of sameness by turning the feminine into the standard for “sexual different”; it is rather matter of trying to practice that difference.” (Irigaray, 1985b;159)

In her quotation, she stressed that her focusing is on how woman gets her confidence in her social life without arguing the nature of woman as a human being. Woman only needs to be feminine and accepts the difference, because masculinity and femininity are far different. Woman can still get her existence by exploring her femininity and life side by side with a man to support each other, or she can choose to be an independent without stuck in patriarchal roles, but naturally woman as a social nature will always needs a man as her partner. That is

why, Irigaray argues that woman only needs to practice the difference through making her own decision in consciousness. This statement appropriates to analyze the data taken from Tracy Chevalier's *Girl With a Pearl Earrings* as the main character, Griet, has her own perception about being a woman and how she decides the way of her existentialism in her social sphere.

Irigaray's theories above show that she has thought that a woman should be feminine and womanly, as it is also the goal of post-feminism. Woman is always tied in her position by owing her seclusion at "home" and accepting being a mother to place on private services (Irigaray, 1985; 83). Irigaray also says that the relation between those art and sexual differences has never been really thought, even by women themselves. That is why, women only need to keep their femininity and should gain an understanding of themselves as women.

In Zunga's thesis (2013), Irigaray mentioned some points about language indirection. She explains that woman needs to learn about occupying her position of "I" and "You" in language. Those two different subjective words have marked by subjectivity of sexes. Irigaray describes how she determines that woman does not place the subject position, because as her opinion in her book that by saying "I love you" means that one respects the other. Saying "I love you" is a way to show how people respects to each other. According to Irigaray, she states that; "I love you" means that "I" maintains a relation of indirect to "You". I do not subjugate you or consume you. I respect you (as irreducible) (Zunga, 2013:12). From that quotation, Irigaray tries to influence woman about play role on the subject position. Finally, Irigaray's theory is to define that woman has choice or power of deciding her own life, although a woman's nature is already described by male system of representation.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD

Doing a research, of course, needs a method used in order to get its exculpatory. It is important doing a research not only focusing on the formulating process into a good thesis, but also how the data is used as a research sources are properly used to collected and processed. Method belongs to methodology which is usually a guideline system for solving a problem. The type of research will explain below, including;

3.1 The Type of Research

The type of research used in this thesis is descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative is divided into three purposes, such as; to gain an understanding of underlying reasons and motivations, to provide insights into the setting of a problem, generating ideas and/or hypotheses for later quantitative research, and to uncover prevalent trends in thought and opinion (Blaxter, 2006;64). The function of this kind of research is to support or strengthen the opinion based on the collecting data. This kind of research will be helpful to explain and analyze about woman decision in the novel entitled *Girl with a Pearl Earring* which is reflected through the narrative that will be analyzed using the theories and some documents that proper with the data and topic discussion. Furthermore, I will relate the main female character with phenomena, incidents, and situation in the novel to reveal the problem which is discussed in this research.

3.2 Data Collection

The data collecting process in this thesis is arranged by data from some sources. The data that I use for this research is information and facts found in books, journals, and websites. The main source is the novel by Tracy Chevalier entitled *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The primary data are focusing on the description and representation of woman which is presented in *Girl With a Pearl Earrings*. The primary data includes the dialogues, paragraphs, and narratives in

this novel which are used as proof of my analysis. I mark words or sentences in the novel which show the representation of woman and the ways of Griet in deciding her own choice. Here, Griet known as the main female character of this novel, is a model of a woman who tries to get an existence or position as a subject.

This primary data are supported by the secondary data which are taken from some information in the references, such as information which are taken from the books about feminism and feminist literary criticism books, journals about women, transcripts, papers, journals, articles, and the biography of the author. All those data are taken from Library of Jember University, cybernetic, and personal collections. This thesis uses library research in collecting data and information which are relevant to the topic discussion. The data concerns with material and information which are taken from many books, dictionaries, and references to support the analysis. Smith (1993:204) states that the library research is the research done in work room of the researcher or in the library room where the researcher gets the data and information about his research object through books or other visual equipments.

3.3 Data Processing and Data Analysis

The primary data are some fact or information from novel taken from the materials in the form of sentences and words, those will be written in the discussion as quotations to strength the explanation. It is also used as a proof of the study. The sentences or word which show the information and fact related to the problem discussing of this research will marked and used as a main data. Data are categorized on the basis of problem to discuss. This categorization is used as the way to examine woman subjectivity or the ways of woman existence. Based on my explanation before, this research uses Irigaray's postfeminist theory to get a deep understanding of the representation of woman in Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The data which have significances to my problems are used for this research. It is because to get the specific or detail explanation for my discussion in this thesis.

The first step, the data are collected by taken from the primary source and secondary sources which represent the problem of analysis. Second, close reading is needed to comprehend the topic to discuss. After collecting data, the data are categorized based on the topic told in the sentences by the narrators in the novel. The data which are related to representation of woman are used to answer the first question. Then the data about how the woman taking choice for her own life, what factors that relate to making decision process of woman, and the effect of the way of woman's problem solving are used to answer second question. The information about condition of woman in Netherland during 17th century is taken from secondary data are used to compare with woman condition in the same era in the novel used to answer third question.

After collecting and categorizing data, the theory is used to give more explanation about the relation of the data with the problem to discuss in order to give final result of this research. The theory used as a tool to find the writer's ideology through the literary work. It is purposed to find the relation among the data. In this research, the data are analyzed by using descriptive method which solves the problem of the research using current facts and phenomena. The classification and verification data based on theory of Postfeminism by Luce Irigaray to gathered and analyze the data which is appropriate to the topic of discussion. Using Irigaray's theory about postfeminism, the analysis continues to analyze the factors influencing woman's choice and how the woman's choice according to postfeminism theory. Then, analyzing about how the condition of woman in that era in real life compare with woman condition in the novel to find the ideology of the writer relate to the postfeminism discourse.

The primary data and secondary data of this research are juxtaposed in order to read the ways of woman's existence discourse in the novel. The discourse guides to map the representation of woman's life in the novel used to examine how woman's choice is constructed in the novel. Irigaray's theory about feminity and indirection, related to the postfeminism theory is used as the basis of analysis. The writer's statement which relates to the problem to discuss will also used to

give complete analysis about woman's choice. The theory is used as a tool to find the writer's ideology through the literary work.

This thesis uses two kinds of methods; there are descriptive and inductive methods in the analyzing data of the thesis. Descriptive method used to solve problem of the research by describing or portraying objects of discussion based on the data. This method helps to make significant description about the topic discussion. This research also begin with explain the detail observation of the object start with a topic and how the theory is formulated refer to the final of this research. The discussion will begin with the specific one then continuing to describe the general one. Inductive method is also applied to know how the Postfeminism concepts according to Luce Irigaray. The data from the novel in the form of quotation are used showing how the concept of Postfeminism is used.

CHAPTER IV. WOMAN'S CHOICE IN TRACY CHEVALIER'S
GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING

This chapter investigates the representation of postfeminism in *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. The representation focuses on three aspects: woman objectification, human nature based on gender differences, and woman's choice. Therefore, the following subchapters will show the explanation of the woman's choice in the novel entitled *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The first subchapter attempts to map and explain more about the narrators' perception about being woman through women characters in the novel, social treatment of woman, and also how the main female character portrays the woman subjectivity by using Irigaray's concepts of femininity. The second subchapter discusses about the representation of postfeminism in the novel. Finally the last subchapter uses to explain the woman condition in the real life related to the novel to find out the ideology beyond the representation of postfeminism and then it leads to the reason of the ideology constructed in the novel.

4.1 Representation of Woman in the Novel

Representation of woman in the novel shows how the female characters are constructed in the novel. According to Oxford; Advanced Learner's Dictionary, the word "representation" is formal statements made to somebody in authority for example to make known one's opinion or to make protest. In this research, the representation of woman aims to show how the female characters are explained in the novel according the narrators' perspective and female characterization in the novel. It is aimed to make easier in analyzing the ideological context of the literary work based on woman's life portrayed in the narrative of the novel. This explanation also has purposes to find the postfeminism discourse constructed in the novel relate with the theory of postfeminism by Luce Irigaray. Representation of woman according to Irigaray is including femininity. Whereas, woman has to accept their womanhood and keep

their femininity to get a position in the social system which is dominated by male.

In *Speculum of Other Woman*, Irigaray states that;

Representation can dispense with and supplant the role played in the real life of the senses by the mirror. [...] Woman, reduplicate of what man has staked upon desire. We have already seen that this role fell to woman. We shall, of course, need to come back to it (Irigaray, 1985a: 95).

The representation shows how the woman takes their position in male domination system without separated by man but keep their independency. As a part of social system, woman should have representation by society and its representation depends on how woman take steps in her role upon male domination system. Woman should know that she is the center of the role of male domination. It means that woman has subjective role in the social systems by placed side by side with man. The representation of woman according to Irigaray can be proven to the female character in *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

This subchapter explains about woman's life related to their needs and problem in the society. In *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, there are a lot of proofs about woman representation by Tracy Chevalier as the author of the novel. The author is the main important role in leading a story of literary work, because she has prominent power to construct the plot and the characterization of the story, especially about female characters. In this novel, there are five main female characters as an object of this research analysis. They are Griet, Catharina, Maria Thins, Tanneke and Griet's mother. Those characters are related to one another in string up the plot of the story even they get different role. In this subchapter, I try to explain about how the author represents the female character in the novel and analysis of those data using the theory of femininity according to Irigaray.

4.1.1 Women's Characteristic in the Novel

In the previous chapter, it is mentioned about Irigaray's concept that shows a thought of female characterization that is woman should be feminine and womanly, and already described by the male systems of representation. Beside that she also explains that woman is a result of a certain lack of characteristics

(1985a:112). This concept appears in *Girl with a Pearl Earring* which presents the ideas of femininity, or how main female character should have a certain attitude in facing her problem that is related to feminism movement, especially for being postfeminism. There are various female characters drawn in this novel with many different characteristics and personality. In this research, I explain women's characteristics based on Irigaray's characteristics concepts. According to her, there are many features of woman characteristics, but I just focused on two difference related characteristic, there are: independent and loving creatures.

Independence of woman is how woman takes a responsibility for her own life such as working to fulfill her needs. According to Irigaray's postfeminism concept, woman independence is not really fulfilled related to the real meaning of independent because of man's love influence that makes her weaker. It relates to loving creature as another characteristic and personality of woman that becomes the analysis in this subchapter. As Irigaray states that:

“Thus, we attribute a larger amount of narcissism to femininity, which also affects women's choice of object, so that to be loved is a stronger need for them than to love. [...] Femininity is instigated by a wave of passivity, by the transformation of the little girl's early instincts into instincts “with a passive aim” and by her perpetuating the “object” pole. When it really comes down to it, then, woman will not choose, or desire, and “object” of love but will arrange matters so that a “subject” takes her as his “object” (Irigaray, 1985a: 112-113).

There are many characters in the novel, but this research only focuses on five female characters in the novel that are related to postfeminism concept according to Irigaray's theory, such as; Griet, Catharina, Maria Thins, Tanneke, and Griet's mother. All of those characters are proper with Irigaray's concept of postfeminism which shows a thought of woman's nature and woman's life in her effort to get confidence for herself. Those characters also show Irigaray's concept about being a woman. In her concepts, Irigaray states that to get an independent woman does not need to be separated by male domination, but only accepted their nature as a woman. Besides that, in her concept Irigaray also explains that woman

cannot reach the total of independence, because woman is still influenced by man with their need about man's love.

This novel uses the first-person perspective, which constructs Griet as a narrator and also as a main character of the story. Griet is sixteen young maid girl who gets work influenced by her family condition and under decision of her mother. Catharina is Griet's young mistress who always shows as common lady in that era. Maria Thins is Catharina's mother who portrays the successfully prominent figureheads in household environments. Tanneke is Griet's partner during works as maid in Vermeer's house. The last is Griet's mother who always control and order her will to her daughter. They are female characters who will be explained in this subchapter because their characterization related to Irigaray's theory of postfeminism.

These quotations below are the illustration about the characteristics of those characters according to narrator of the main character.

When my mother returned I was sitting by vegetable wheel. I waited for her to speak. She was hunching her shoulders as if against a winter chill, though it was summer and the kitchen was hot.

"You are to start tomorrow as their maid. If you do well, you will be paid eight stuivers a day. You will live with them." (Chevalier, 1999: 6).

"Eight stuivers a day isn't such a lot of money." Agnes had a hoarse voice, as if her throat were covered with cobwebs.

"It will keep the family in bread. And bit of cheese. That's not so little." (Chevalier, 1999:9).

I asked Tanneke how long she had worker for Maria Thins.

"Oh, many years," she said. "A few before master and young mistress were married and come to live here. I started when I was no older than you. How old are you, then?"

"Sixteen."

"I began when I was fourteen." Tanneke countered triumphantly.

"Half of my life I've worked here."

I would not have said such a thing with pride. Her work had worn her so that she looked older than her twenty-eight years. (Chevalier, 1999:26)

These quotations explain about female characters that are portrayed as independent characters. These female characters are depicted worker women who have been taking a job as a maid since their youth. They have worked for money, for themselves, and also for their family. These quotations give clear explanation that the reader is expected to gain understanding that a woman does not need to depend on a man upon financial matters. Besides, woman also can take a role to replace men's duty on family feedings. Woman is created or has nature as a maternity character. That is why, woman's job always relates with household duty. However, in this novel Tracy Chevalier constructs female character to have jobs outside the house. In this novel, there are two female characters that are taking job outside their house without losing their role in private services. They are taking job as a maid which is not separated from woman's nature upon motherhood.

People nodded at me and watched curiously as I passed. No one asked where I was going or called out kind words. They did not need to---they knew what happened to families when a man lost his trade. It would be something to discuss later---young Griet become a maid, her father brought the family low. They would not gloat, however. The same thing could easily happen to them. (Chevalier,1999:11).

In this quotation, Chevalier describes that woman working outside the house is not a big deal it is because of many reasons that can make woman should replace man's duty. People around Griet understand her family condition in case of financial matters. It increases Griet's confidence in taking responsibilities to support her family. Replacing man's duty means that man and woman support each other as social being. Further, women can show their existence as an independent character without being separated from man, but can keep their role as a subordinate character. This information proper with the term of postfeminism that are trying to persuade a women to be a good feminist without pushing themselves to be radical (Tong, 2009:270). According to postfeminism issue, being a good feminist is how woman gain the same equality with man without neglecting her nature.

She was the kind of old woman looked as if she would outlive everyone.

She is Catharina's mother, I thought suddenly. It was not just the color of her eyes and the wisp of grey curl that escaped her cap in the same way as her daughter's. She had the manner of someone used to looking after those less able than she—of looking after Catharina. I understood now why I had been brought here rather than her daughter (Chevalier, 1999:18).

"Maria Thins is very wise." I had learned that I could voice opinions in front of Tanneke as long as Maria Thins was in some way praised (Chevalier, 1999:51).

This quotation explains the other female character named Maria Thins, Catharina's mother, who is described as a prominent figurehead in domestic place of patriarchy. This character is not worker but she has an independent characteristics in her duty related with motherhood. She is the portrayal of female character who keeps her femininity and takes a responsibility as a good mother as a prominent figurehead in a family sphere. According to Modleski, postfeminism aims to rereading the woman's condition in the era before feminism by considering position of woman in social relation under patriarchy system as a mother role (quoted in Gamble, 2006:37). Being a mother in patriarchy system is a benefit for being woman. Mother is an important role in family sphere that has a duty in taking care of the children and supporting her husband.

Another characteristic of female character in the novel is woman as a loving creature. As it is mentioned in the explanation above about woman in postfeminism perspective, woman cannot leave their needs by still having a relation with man. Postfeminism commonly seeks to develop an agenda which can find a place for men as lovers, husbands, and fathers as well as friends (Gamble, 2006:36). It explains how woman has been influenced by having a relation with man, even they play role as independent character. Woman is created as warm hearted character that will be completed by man's love. Woman is created as loving creature that needs love and to be loved by man. In her novel, Chevalier also constructs female character as a loving creature that cannot ignore her desire into loving man.

I did not know what to do. The thought of me covered with his robe, unable to see, and him looking at me all the while, made me feel faint (Chevalier, 1999:57).

I did not like to think of him in that way, with his wife and children. I preferred to think of him alone in his studio. Or not alone, but with only me (Chevalier, 1999:77).

These quotations explain about Griet feelings when she is around man who makes her in love. He is Johannes Vermeer, Griet's master, the first man who makes Griet fall in love. When she is around him, she always feels different thing about herself. She is a female character that is influenced by love upon a man. Griet's feeling always makes her nervous when she is around her master. Love makes Griet weak and seems like lose her intelligence. It also increases an ambition of her to get full attention from her master. As it explains by second quotation above, Griet tends to think her master only with her or alone without his children or his wife. Griet thinks that her master is bothered by them. She also feels that she is the one who understands better about her master than his family. Besides that, Griet also shows herself as a woman who is lack of man's love. As it explain in the sentence, "If I could not work with the colours, if I could not be near him. I did not know how I could continue to work in that house" (Chevalier, 1999:143). This sentence explains how Griet will lose her spirit when she already finds the fact that she will be separated from her master. From that sentences Chevalier proves that woman is a loving creature, and construct Griet as a woman that has full of love inside her. Her love can make her strong and also weak.

Talking about woman as a loving creature, it is not only about how woman opens herself to love someone, but also how she has positive judgments to someone who makes her in love. In loving someone, we will always have different perspective about people mistake. Woman who has love in her feeling will easily forgive and find another reason that makes her able to accept man's lack or only ignore it. It is proved in the novel, when Griet already blame Catharina as the one who wants a lot of children. She feels that this condition make her master confused to response her wife's pregnancy, but she also understands if her master also has role upon it. Griet ever sees when her master seduces Catharina in the night to

serves him. By knowing that, Griet does not want to blame her master. She does not like to remember her master as a man who seduces woman. She chooses to stop thinking the master like that and more likely imagine him alone worked in his studio or only with her (Chevalier, 1999:77).

Lack of man's love is also felt by Catharina that is also explained in the quotation above. Even she knows that having baby is a big problem for their family, she cannot refuse her husband when he wants her. Love makes Catharina feels that she is desirable than being wanted. In that quotation relates with her position as a wife, woman tends to be passive that is tied her in accepting her husband order. It is proper with Irigaray's thought that woman agrees that being loved is better than to be a lover (1985a:112).

I don't ask what risk he had gone to in order to find out for me. "Thank you Peter." I whispered. It was the first time I had spoken his name.

I looked into his eyes and saw kindness there. I also saw what I had feared---expectation (Chevalier, 1999:67).

People were staring at us, for he was a stranger to the church. And he was a handsome man—even I could see that with his long blond curls, bright eye and ready smile. Several young girls were trying to catch his eyes (Chevalier, 1999:118).

These quotations provides an illustration that woman can put her expectation into man to reach her independence. Woman also feels more confident when she knows that she has special attention from man. In that quotation, Griet also be more confident when she knows that the man who gives her special attention is the most adorable man. Griet starts to believe in man's kindness. Griet sees Pieter as a good guy but she still fears to put her expectation in Pieter. However, slowly she tries to accept him into her life. Woman has warm heart that makes her can easily open herself to love. Woman naturally can predict and makes herself ready for man's love in any reason and condition.

4.1.2 Woman's Perception about Being Woman

As Zunga explains in her thesis, perception in this explanation is a sensory experience of the world around which involves both the recognition of environmental stimuli and actions in response to these stimuli. By having perception, someone is able not only to create experiences in his mind, but also act in responding to the experiences (Zunga, 2013:17). In her explanation, perception can be concluded as an action to increase an opinion as a response from an experience that increases personal point of view to make more sensitive in understanding or as an awareness of some phenomenon. Perception is responsive action in seeing, or understanding, or interpreting something. In this research, this subchapter describes about how the main female character, Griet, has a perception about being a woman and also her way to respond in her mind about it.

Griet is a daughter in lower class family in Delft. Her mother ordered her to get work as a maid to support their family needs after her father's accident. During her work as a maid, Griet has met other female characters who have different roles with her. From those characters Griet increases her perception of being a woman. There are some quotations from the novel which show how Griet or other female characters in the novel see and talk about women.

Catharina herself seemed to know nothing of my sister, or did not show it. She was nearing her confinement, and as Tanneke had predicted she spent most of her time in bed, leaving the baby Johannes to Maerte's care. He was beginning to toddle about, and kept the girls busy (Chevalier, 1999:74)

"This is how she would like the house to be every day," Tanneke grumbled to me as she was as she was preparing juggled hare and I was boiling water to wash the windows with. "She wants everything to be in state around her. Queen of the bedcovers!" I chuckled with her, knowing I shouldn't encourage her to be disloyal but cheered none the less when she was. (Chevalier, 1999:80)

These quotations explain about Griet's perception to other female characters, Catharina, according to her friend's information. Tanneke tells Griet that Catharina is the laziest woman in that house. Griet's perception is not only based on what Tanneke told her, but also from her personal experiences that make her

perceives Catharina is careless woman. Catharina lets her daughter replaces her duty in taking care of her baby while she has nothing to do and uses her entire time to sleep alone. Catharina is also the one who does not care and hold Griet to go to meet her sister, when she knows that her sister is sick. Even Catharina never asks about her sister condition since the quarantine start until her sister's death. Catharina pretends that she knows nothing about that. In these quotations, Griet shows her disagreement to Catharina attitude because she is improper with image of woman about maternity that is identic with loving character and full caring character. As it states by Irigaray, that female character correlated with an image of maternity and motherhood (Irigaray, 1985a:25).

The quotation above also explains another perception of Catharina based on Tanneke's statement to her. It influences Griet to increase perception that Catharina is sluggard woman that always makes difficulties for everyone in that house. Tanneke has complained Catharina's habit that always lies in her bed and orders people to do everything she wants, but she can do nothing about Catharina's habit because she is only a maid. However her comment about Catharina shows her disagreement if woman is only being lazy and spent her time for nothing when she should be able do something to help herself or everyone else. By her comment, Griet has her own perception that she agrees with Tanneke statement. Although she also has perception that the way of Tanneke talking about her mistress shows that she is disloyal to her mistress even Griet avoid to think about her in that way.

From there she could get easily to the great hall to feed the baby when he woke. Although Catharina was not feeding him herself, she insisted that Franciscus sleep in the cradle next to her. I thought this a strange arrangement, but when I came to know Catharina better I understood that she wanted to hold on to the appearance of motherhood, if not tasks themselves. (Chevalier, 1999:104)

The quotation above explains the other side of Catharina as mother. Sometimes, she knows as woman that is not feeding her baby by her own self. She seems like careless to her baby by let him taken care by other. Griet can see Catharina as mother and respect to her as a woman when she finds a fact that

Catharina always wants to make sure herself that her baby sleep tight. That is why she always wants her baby sleep next to her.

In her novel, Chevalier constructs woman with her superiority by Griet's perspective. It shows how Chevalier, as a woman, delivers her idea about woman as a female character which breaks the rules of woman representation. That is often play role as an objection character that has no superiority, accept their beauty and maternity. In her novel, Chevalier shows that woman also has intelligence, can also appear as wise character, and as leader in her private services.

“Maria Thins is very wise.” I had learned that I could voice opinions in front of Tanneke as long as Maria Thins was in some way praised. Tanneke was fiercely loyal to her mistress. She had little patience with Catharina, however, and when she was in the right mood she advises me on how handles her (Chevalier, 1999:50).

The quotation above explains superiority of woman with her wise and loyal characteristic that relates to female characteristic based on Irigaray about maternity and motherhood. As a mother, woman is confirmed to have wise characteristics in order to increase her independency as prominent figurehead in her home. This characteristic is valorized woman in culturally, socially, and economically. In culturally perspective about patriarchy system or marriage rules, by having this characteristic, woman can be respected and adhered by her family. It also needs cause as a wife, woman demands to be good advisor for her husband. Marriage is also known as a product of culture as it is explained by Irigaray that if marriage gives woman opportunity to show her power by making her own decision in order to raise her social status. That is also increase the valorized to woman in culture and society (1985a:25).

Chevalier also constructs woman as an intelligent character as it quotes in the sentence: “Maria Thins was no so easily fooled. When she heard from a gleeful Tanneke about her move to the cellar and mine to the attic, she puffed on her pipe and frowned”(Chevalier, 1999:107). This sentence describes that woman is not fool like as she seems like. Griet's sees Maria Thins as respectable

character. It increases Griet's desire to be a woman like Maria Thins who has charisma as independent figure of motherhood. Griet's admiration toward this figure is also described by the sentence; "She was quicker than I had thought an old woman could be" (Chevalier, 1999:109). This sentence shows Griet's agreement about those characteristics that shows woman superiority. Her perception describes how characteristics of women are constructed. Her perception shows how being a woman is appropriate with Griet's expectation. Such characteristics are also described in Irigaray's concept about being woman that is relate as her role as mother. As it states, that the value of woman would accrue to her from maternal role, and in addition from her "femininity" (Irigaray, 1985b:84).

4.1.3 Woman's Objectification in the Novel

In domestic place, women have never been anything but a mother because they are always secluded in the "home" that is known as the place of private property (Irigaray, 1985b:83). It gives clear representation of woman that is always tied to their position. Woman is created as maternity character that often has role in taking care and serving the house, the husband, and the children. Woman's job is identical with minor art such as cooking, knitting, embroidery, and sewing. Woman is always placed in the house jobs, perhaps she can get another skill but also it only on an activity that is not need to deplete her power, including poetry, painting, and music.

For woman's work—which we may agree, provisionally, stands in a privileged relation to "love", "family, and "home"—has not always had trait of reclusiveness and social isolation that Freud notes and that he sees as a women's "weaker social interest," "social inferiority". Only with the advent of the patriarchal family and more particularly with the monogamous individual family does housekeeping lose its social character and limit itself to "private service." (Irigaray, 1985a:121)

Irigaray argues that woman has special right in taking jobs that only relates with their nature as maternity creature. As Irigaray notes from Freud, woman is tied in position that make her being isolated from social sphere and place her into

“private service” in her family. The idea of woman that is tied in her position as maternity character is represented by some female characters in *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. Women are described as a housewife, mother and maid. For example, Griet is described as a young maid girl. She was forced to get work as a maid because she has no other choice as a girl. She gets work outside her house, but she cannot explore her skill. She gets job as a maid that is taking care of household work such as cleaning, cooking, taking care of child, and sometimes going outside to go shopping. By being housemaid, Griet places herself into private services that can never be in public place, where the social interaction happened. Sometimes Griet has a chance to go to the market as an order of her mistress, but she has only buy as her mistress has ordered and have to go home quickly to take care of her other duty. Besides that, she also has free day to going home once a week. However, she only uses that chance to meet her family.

Besides her, there is also another female character that plays role as private service by being a servant and also wife. There is Catharina, Griet’s mistress, which is ruled by several conditions by her husband that a child is important in marriage. Catharina is jobless. Her activities only taking care of her children and husband which are also helped by her mother and her maid. Female character in this novel corresponds with statement above about woman has only place in minor art. Griet’s mother is described as a woman who is taking her duty as a good wife and mother for her family. She replaces her husband’s duty on leading family and orders Griet to be a maid in order to save their family. As Chevalier quotes in her novel:

“The Guild looks after its own, as best it can. Remember the box your father gave money to every week for years? That money goes to masters in need, as we are now. But it goes only so far, you see, especially now with Frans in his apprenticeship and no money coming in. We have no choice. We won’t take public charity, not if we can manage without. Then your father heard that your new master was looking for a maid who could clean his studio without moving anything, and he put forward your name, thinking as headman, and knowing our circumstances, Vermeer would be likely to try to help.” (Chevalier, 1999:9).

Griet has no choice for her family except taking job as maid. The quotation shows the imbalance treatment between son and daughter in Griet's family, whereas her brother, Frans, has an opportunity to get apprenticeship and can still continued it after her father accident. In contrast with Griet, as a daughter, she should take her father's duty in feeding family and paid her brother's apprenticeship. It proves that there is an imbalance treatment between son and daughter, whereas her mother forces her to get work without caring about what Griet wants for her life about art skill. In contrast, her brother takes special opportunities in taking apprenticeship to be an artist. It also explains how woman is only placed as the second after man in patriarchal role, and tied her position in private service.

In her *Speculum of the Other Woman*, Irigaray states that women are described in so far as their nature is determined by their sexual function (Irigaray, 1985a:129). The sexual function of woman relates with reproduction function that makes woman only receiving whatever comes out from man. In this case woman is positioned as an object and passivity characters that also gets some bad treatment by man. Woman nature that is identical with maternity, weakness, beauty and lack by male is placing her upon objectification characters. As it is mentioned before according to Freud, woman has appearance as inferior in society (1985a:121).

In *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Catharina, one of the female character, is described to correspond with quotation below. In her life, Catharina is tied as a woman who has no other activities in her life except making a lot of babies. She is described as selfish woman, but also has strong motherhood side. As it is mentioned according to Griet's assessment about Catharina in the sentence, "Given her nature, Catharina was surprisingly patient with the baby, but snapped at everyone else, even her husband" (Chevalier, 1999:84). Griet indirectly says that Catharina is selfish woman when she has interacted to people around her, but she shows her motherly side to her baby. It is explain about Catharina's maternity.

He looked both proud and embarrassed. I was surprised—he had become a father five times before, and I thought he would be used to it. There was no reason for him to be embarrassed.

It is Catharina who wants many children, I thought then. He would rather be alone in his studio.

But that could not be quite right. I knew how babies were made. He had his part to play, and he must have played it willingly. And as difficult as Catharina could be, I had often seen Him look at her, touch her shoulder, speak to her in a low voice laced with honey (Chevalier, 1999:77).

The quotation above gives an illustration that woman is often placed as an object that receives the order of a man especially in reproduction process. In this quotation, Griet realizes that the complete control of the activity of reproduction is belonging to man, and woman is only the one who is being controlled. Woman only can be subject when people sees her as the one who needs to blame when she asses her family with a lot of children. It is caused by woman's nature which is determined by her sexual function. Although she plays role as passive one, woman on her sexual function takes control of some situation or activity, especially in reproduction activity. This activity relates to be a mother, have a baby, and get married.

In her concept, Irigaray reads Engels's work and agrees that marriage concept has implicitly into work contract. Whereas, marriage gives facilities that is placed a woman into private place to "bought" by a man to be his wife who will do household job for him, such as; give her life, her body, and her heart to him, serve her needs, gives a decline, and take care all his need. As she states in her book, "within the family he is the bourgeois and the wife represent proletariat (Irigaray, 1985a:121).

The other nature of woman is also explained in the novel by Griet when she was in a discussion with her father. Griet explained about her mother activities at home. Her activities correspond with Irigaray's which quotes Engels' opinion that is placed woman as a servant. As it is stated in a sentence, "who only differ from ordinary courtesan in that she does not let out her body on piecework as a wage worker, but sells it once and for all into slavery (Irigaray, 1985a:121). Woman taking position as a wife means that she has to work as like what slave done. Woman works all the time to do all household's work like a slave. As it

explain in this sentence, “At the time my father and I talked, my mother had been busy around us, stirring the stew, feeding out plates and mugs, sharpening a knife to cut the bread (Chevalier, 1999:91). Griet tells us what duties that make woman busy and what woman can do at home as a wife. This sentence proves about woman private services in family sphere.

This novel also tries to convince the reader that marriage is something that is needed in woman’s life. Chevalier brings the reader to understand that marriage is needed by female characters to be her ways escaping from unlucky condition. Woman who is near to the age of marriage is order to married. Chevalier shows that woman objectivity also comes appear when Griet mother force her to be kind girl to the man who interested in her as it is stated in the sentences:

When I left to go back to my mother insisted on accompanying me part n the way, even thought it was raining, a cold, hard rain. As we reached the Rietviled Canal and turned right towards Market Square, she said, “You will be seventeen soon.”

“Next week,” I agreed

“Not long now until you are a woman.”

“Not long.” I kept my eyes on the raindrope pebbling the canal. I did not like to think about my future.

“I have heard that the butcher’s son is paying you attention.”

“Who told you that?” In answering simply brushed raindrops from her cap and shook out the shawl. I shrugged.

“I’m sure he’s paying me more attention than he is other girls.”

I expected her to warn me, to tell me be a good girl, to protect our family name. Instead she said, “Don’t be rude to him. Smile at him and be pleasant.”

Her words surprised me, but when I looked in her eyes and saw there the hunger for meat that a butcher’s son could provide, I understood why she had aside her pride. (Chevalier, 1999:92)

Those quotation tells about how her mother remind Griet about her age which force her to realize that she is already in the age of marriage. She tells her to be more kind and charming to the boy who gives her special attention. Once, narrative of the novel leads the reader to find information that woman objectification also come appear when she was play role as a daughter. According to quotation above, woman is forced to do act that she tries to avoid. Griet hopes her mother will not discuss about marriage, but once again her unlucky family

condition forced her to agree her mother. She realizes that she knows what her mother means. She is in the age of marriage and marriage can help their family.

In this novel, there is also an objectification to woman that shows how woman gets treatment from a man around her. As it is quoted from Griet when she feels uncomfortable with how man sees her as a woman, in sentence, “I recognized the man poling from earlier that day-[..]- He grinned when he saw me.” (Chevalier, 1999:23). This sentence explains how the way man sees a woman. He looks Griet by grinned eyes as if he sees a deer to hunt which makes Griet feels uncomfortable. It gives explanation if that man sees a woman as a prey. As his way of seeing a woman in that way refers that woman sees as an object of sexual desire. There is also other quotation that shows how woman viewed only from their sexual appear, such as;

He had did not let go of the pot. “Is that all I get? No kiss?” He reached over and pulled my sleeve. I jerked my arm away and wrestled the pot from him (Chevalier, 1999:23)

I tried to speak to another soldier on a barrier at a different street. Thought friendlier, he too could tell me about my family. “I could ask around, but for nothing,” he added, smiling and looking me up and down so I would know he didn’t mean money. [...] I had forgotten that soldiers think on just one thing when they see a young woman (Chevalier, 1999:66).

Those quotations show how woman gets sexual abuse from men, the man asks Griet to use her sexual appear as a payment media for men’s service in helping her. The data describe how the sexual different positions woman in unlucky position that often makes woman gets bad treatment from man. As a sexual object, woman is often seen only from their beautiful face and body. According to the quotation above, we can conclude how man asks woman for physical contact to pay her refers to abuse treatment of woman. Woman body as a payment also mention in explanation above. It relates to Irigaray’s concept when woman lack by man sphere and her representation is described by male system. As she states, masculine parameters always were being basic concept of female sexuality (Irigaray, 1985b:23).

Besides that, I also interpret that the representation of postfeminism issue in the novel is also influenced by the author. The construction of woman character in the novel is influenced by author perspective as a woman. It may also occurred author's media to communicate her ways of thinking about woman and how she creates woman existence in her novel about being woman is correspond with Irigaray's concept. Chevalier constructs her main female character as an independent character who is taking choice for her own life in her climax story of the novel. Her way in telling story about woman consist in her novel is the way to communicate her ideas about woman which tells woman with maternity character which provide a place for her as the "other" as feminine. As Irigaray stated that speaking (as) woman is not speaking of woman. She said that it is not about create a discourse of which woman would be an object or subject, but in speaking (as) woman, one may attempt to provide a place for the "other" as feminine (Irigaray, 1985b:135).

In her novel, Chevalier uses Griet as main female character who also plays her role as the narrator of this novel. She tells her experience as I character to be a medium in conveying woman's feeling and desire. Griet's characterization in the novel shows that woman should not always accept treatment from her surrounding which place her as a girl, daughter, maid and woman. Woman should raise her own value and should not be silent. As Hasanah explain in her thesis that woman in involving some communications and speeches which shape her identity and subjectivity does not have any symbolical tools. It is also stated by Irigaray in Hasanah's thesis that suggests woman to use language as a medium communicate rather than language as a referential system (Hasanah,2013:35). In this term, this research uses the novel of Tracy Chevalier as a communicating medium of woman to the other woman by portray woman's choice as an answer to express their existence. Woman's choice is the way to prove consciousness of woman as human with maternity nature that is portray by main female character in the main source data that is used *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier.

4.2 Woman's Choice in the Novel

This novel tells about young maid girl named Griet that is always limited by her role as a girl to determine what she really wants for herself. It describes Griet's feeling when she has to accept the decision that is made for her. The pressure that she felt makes her find her courage to make her own choice for herself as her need upon her life without any influence from anyone else. She makes her decision to set free her life from oppression around her without losing her femininity and needs as woman, also as a part of human being. Her ways of taking choice construct postfeminism discourse in this novel.

According to postfeminism concepts, existence of woman does not mean to be separated from man's sphere and against the society about patriarchal system. Woman only needs to find her confidence to make her own decision in her consciousness condition. Woman also needs to accept that among man and woman there is the same right which is needed to respect each other. The equality of them only can be reached by respecting each other about her duty and rights. The discussion about postfeminism in this research considers Irigaray's theory of postfeminism (1985b:159).

One of any her concept that is considered with the discussion of this research is about representation of woman's nature. She describes that woman's nature is tied in her sexual function and it increase big effect upon her existence. Irigaray also underlines that we should see woman as a part of human being that has potential to get respect in other role. As her quotes;

“That is all I had to say to you about femininity. It is certainly incomplete and fragmentary and does not always sound friendly. But do not forget that I have only describing women in so far as their nature is determined by their sexual function. It is true that the influence extends very far; but we do not overlook the fact an individual woman may be a human being in other respects as well” (Irigaray, 1985a:129).

This novel also shows how main female character agrees that she is a woman that needs to make a choice by considering her position without losing her nature and independence. The way she makes a choice for her life is related to Irigaray's concept about being woman that has no fear since woman has nothing

to lose (Irigaray, 1985a:84). To discuss woman choice, this subchapter consists of two different sub-subchapters that will explain briefly about the discussion about woman process as postfeminism's figure upon construct the discourse beyond the novel by her taking choice.

4.2.1 Griet: The Figure of Postfeminism

In this sub-subchapter, I use Griet as main object of analysis by placing her as a figure of postfeminism. Griet as main character of the novel is described as woman who gets many problems in her entire life and in process of seeking solution for her own self. Her way in problem solving and making a decision refers her as postfeminism figure in this research. Griet is oppressed by the others around her and also being an object, but she still has expectation to prove her existence to show that she is a woman that also has power for her own. I take her as figure of postfeminism because she is one of female character who does an act to show her existence that refers to postfeminism. One of her act is by making choice for her life in her consciousness but without leaving her nature as it mention in postfeminism concept. Besides her act by making decision, Griet also increases some expectation of being woman as her experience result of her perspective about other woman and also to valorize the woman's value in the society as the effect of objectification that she went through.

In this novel, Griet also plays role as the narrator of the story which explain "I" character that not only tells the even in the novel but also shows what the problem of woman, how she manage herself to face her problem, and how the final result of her solving problem. Being characterized as "I", Griet shows how woman can play in two different roles both as object and also subject. As it is quoted in the novel from the phrase, "As we gathered my things, She explained why I was to work for Vermeers." (Chevalier,1999:8). The last sentence of this quotation explains how Griet placed both in object and subject.

In the phrase, "She explained why I was to work for Vermeers", consist by two verbs such as "explained" and "was". These two verbs linked by the word "why". In that phrase shows that "I" order to work by "She" (character "I" is role

Griet, character “She” is role by Griet’s mother). As we can read, “I” in that phrase aims to place as an object of the sentences which accepted order by “She”. However, in the second sentences consist of this phrase, “I was to work”, explains that “I” turns to be the subject. It means explains that in the same period, character “I” place into two different roles as an object and subject who is accepted and also doing something for her life. Griet accepted an order means that she place as an object, bus she is also doing a work or make an acting which also place her as subject. As Irigaray explains that woman needs to believe in “object” that solidly determined as in the same condition, she is accepting the silent work as a condition remaining indefectible “subject” (1985b:115). Identifying of the subject cannot refer as a static reference (passive) because moving and acting is an identification of subject. As it has described by Griet in this novel, as a woman she does not only accept but also moving and acting.

Before we go to the further discussion, I also want to describe the personality of Griet according narrative of the novel. It aims to show how the way of thinking of Griet and how she as female character increases her comfort zone and also her confident.

I liked sleeping in the attic. There was no Crucifixion scene hanging at the foot of the bed to trouble me. There were no painting at all, but the clean scent of linseed oil and the musk of the earth pigments. I liked my view of the New Church and the quiet. No one came up except him. The girls did not visit me as they sometimes had in the cellar, or secretly search through my things. I felt alone there, perched high above the noisy household, able to see it from a distance (Chevalier, 1999:110).

The quotation above explains about Griet’s that plays an image as introvert and solitary character. It is proved by the sentence that she likes sleeping in the attic. According to Oxford; Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, attic is a room in the top of house. This is the quietest place that is often uses as warehouse. As Griet’s feels comfort by sleeping in that place whereas no one will interrupt her. Griet also tells that the one who will meet her in that place is only him, Vermeer. It shows Griet’s desire that as woman she always wants to take her time alone. She still needs man character to accompany her. As an introvert character, woman

should be independent, but Griet shows us that she still comfortable by seeing a man to accompany her. Griet shows her independency and also her needs as a woman by keeping her feminine sides that is influenced my man's love. As Irigaray mention based on Freud's thinking, that the "feminine" is always described in term of deficiency or atrophy, as the other of the sex that alone holds a monopoly on value: the male sex (Irigaray, 1985b:69).

In this novel, the main female character is also constructed by a lot of desire of woman that oppressed to be encouraged to express her existence. As it is mentioned in explanation above that Griet places herself being active and passive subject, she also shows her character not only as acceptor, but also as a creator. The oppression from others character to her, makes Griet brings herself to create desire that help her find motivation for herself. That also makes Griet finds her courage to make a decision for her own life. There are many quotes that show Griet desire of being woman;

I wanted to wear the mantle and the pearls. I wanted to know the man painted her like that. I thought of me looking at my reflection in the mirror earlier and was ashamed (Chevalier, 1999:36).

So I tried to describe the woman tying pearls around her neck, her hands suspended, gazing at herself in the mirror, the light from the window bathing her face and her yellow mantle, the dark foreground that separated her from us (Chevalier, 1999:47).

The quotations above explain Griet's hope to wear accessories of upper class woman and also being a model of painting. It is caused by her thinking as if woman can express her own self by being a model of painting, and in her perspective woman from upper class always can be easily being a model of a painting or order herself to be a model of painting. By being a model of painting, woman can be explored by the painter through her beauty and sex appeal that will increase admiration from everyone. It also means that woman from upper class has no limit power to express herself.

By the sentence, "separated from us", Griet is stressing that basically she disagrees with that limit. It increases her desire to break the limit by imagining herself wears the same accessories of those woman and being a model of painting. It means that Griet wants to show her existence by showing her

feminine side. Griet describes her thinking to be a woman that is only need to accept themselves as a woman. She also shows that there is no way for her as a woman who is castrated by society rules except include in male representation. She has desire to place herself being a model of painting that has value inside herself by showing her sexual appear to increase man's admiration to her.

“The discovery that she is castrated is a turning point in a girls growth. Three possible line of development start from; one leads to sexual inhibition or to neurosis, the second to change of character in the sense of masculinity complex, the third, finally, to normal femininity.”(Irigaray, 1985a:61).

Except her desire, there is also an acting of Griet which describes how she wants to show her power to reach her rights and to increase her value among society. There is a quotation that explains Griet knowledge about the importance to show that she also has rights.

The joint was grey at the edges. I sniffed the meat. “This is not fresh,” I said bluntly. “Mistress will be none to pleasant that you expect her family to eat meat such as this.” My tone was haughtier than I had intended. Perhaps it needed to be. (Chevalier, 1999:40)

The quotation shows how Griet acts as a buyer who has control to a seller. She knows that as a buyer, she has rights to get good service. She makes higher her tone to prove that she has power and everyone who hears that must respect her. It also quotation shows that Griet as a woman want fight for her rights. She needs to show her existence and she can do it. Griet has motivation inside herself to fight for what she has to reach. Her motivation is not only increasing by the result of her perspective about woman around her but also from her desire as a woman. It also increases by the suggestion from another character that still respects and trusts her. One of any quotation will be explains by the sentences below;

“Don't be silly, girl,” Maria Thins said quietly to my back. “You can't do anything for them and you have to save yourself. You're a clever girl, you can work that out.” (Chevalier, 1999:63).

Maria Thins' words reveal Griet's ability relates to intelligence. In her words, Maria Thins support her to believe on her own self, because she is clever enough to find solution for her own self. As Maria says that she is only the one who can save herself. This statement increases Griet's confidence to face her problem and to be an independent character in solving her own problem. As explained before, Maria Thins is a woman who is believed as a wise character in Griet's perspective. She gives Griet belief that woman has also superiority relate with her position as mother.

Relate with mother's manifestation, Griet also imagines when she is being a mother. She manages herself in a way which she does not lose herself when she has married and become mother. That is why; she has expectation that someday she will give her advice for her daughter the same as like her mother give her. It is explained by the sentences; "My mother remained impassive. She did not speak her mind often. When she did her words were worth gold. [...] They were a mother's words, words I would say to my own daughter if I were concerned for her" (Chevalier, 1999:137). Those sentences explain Griet's desire to give advice as transferring process of her ambition to her child. Here her ambition aims to protect and secure her child as it happened from her experience before. Being mother as the way of her existence relate to Irigaray states in her theory that, "becoming a mother of son, the woman will be able to transfer her son all ambition which has been obliged to suppress in herself" (Irigaray, 1985b:42). It explains that being mother makes woman force herself to press her own self in order to protect her child. It relates with woman's experience in living her life and do not it happened to her child as same as she ever faced.

Griet's character shows the portrayal of woman as female character which plays a role both as an object and subject. As an object, Griet is often tied in her position as a daughter, girl, and housemaid which makes her lose her rights to express desire. While she is placed as an object, Griet also plays a role as subject because she makes her own decision to agree or refuse the role that has been decided for her. Besides that, Griet can also show her ability to take advantages from her positions that makes her still satisfy and comfortable. Griet knows how she can show

her existence from role as an object. For example, when she is ordered by her mistress to go shopping, as a maid (object) she only accepted what her mistress ordered, but, she also knows, in the market as a buyer (subject) Griet is realized that she has rights to get good service. Griet's character also shows woman image in Irigaray's concept about postfeminism. It is proven by her act by keep her feminine sides. This explanation leads this research to reveal how Griet become the figure of postfeminism, and also to be reference to continue the next explanation about the result of Griet in solving her problem relate to her image in postfeminim perspective.

In her theory of postfeminism, Irigaray also describes woman by has no specific specularization to identify herself in breaking free of the natural specular process that now hold her to set herself out as "being a woman". By taking an active part in the development of history, woman never reach anything except place herself as undifferentiated oppaqueness of sensible matter and its cannot be possessed as consiousness of self but super ego. She is merely the passage that serves to transform the inessential whims of a still sensible and material nature onto universal will. Woman is the guardian of blood that had use it substance to nourish the universal consiusness of self (Irigaray, 1985a:224-225). Postfeminism pushes woman into wanting to much and lead herself to reach her rights to make a decision or choice without any pressure or influence from others without losing her consiousness of woman's nature as social creature. It also describes by Griet as her final response during her experiences being a young maid, Griet dare herself to make a decision as her act to reach her freedom. In taking her choice there are some consideration that shows her as a female character who is realize that she cannot separated from man, family, and society. She realized that she have to be independent by supporting from the other. As it explains by the sentences;

I reached the center of the square and stopped in the circle of
tales with the eight-pointed star in the miiddle. Each point
indicated the direction i could take.

I could go back to my parents.

I could find Pieter at the Meat Hall and agree to marry him.

I could go to van Rujiven's house—he would take me in with a smile.
I could go to van Leeuwenhoek and ask him take pity on me.
I could go Rotterdam and search for Frans.
I could go off on my own somewhere far away.
I could go back to Papits' Corner.
I do into the New Church and pray to God for guidance.
I stood in the circle, turning round and round as i thought.
When I made a choice I knew I had to make, I set my feet carefully along the edge of the point and when the way it told me, walking steadily (Chevalier, 1999:216).

The quotation above explain Griet's mind when she realizes that she has to get her freedom. She wants to be independent without any ppressure from her mistress. That quotation shows how she finds her consiousness that she has to make her own choice without any influence and for her needs. She believes in herself about the only one who really knows herself better. There are also consideration in her mind as a way of her taking freedom. Her consideration shows that she realizes if she cannot separate from her society to reach freedom and show her existence. She agrees that she still needs supporting from the other and accepts her nature as a woman that still need a man. In taking her choice, Griet still shows herself as a caring and loving character that will not leave her family. In her minds she does not consider about what her own needs by keep moving and forgetting her past. Griet thinks about how to set her life free by still imagining several ways that still relates with her duty as a woman and forgetting the opportunities that she can only leave her past life and start a new life by living alone. Her ways in deciding what her needs and considering the aspect that will influece her choice also relates to Irigaray's concept about consiousness. She said that woman always can exist and get her freedom by remembering the intermediate momment in preserve at least the soul of man and of community from being lost and forgotten. Woman ensures of the consiousness of self by forgetting herself (Irigaray, 1985a:225).

4.2.2 The Result of Griet's Choice

This last sub-subchapter will explain some events that place Griet in the hardest position and push her to be brave to solve her own problem by making difficult choice. This sub-subchapter will explain the final climax of this novel that becomes a reason for Griet to push herself making a choice and set herself free from the oppression around her. Griet gets some efforts during her existence process, one of them is satisfaction.

As we know people make a choice for their life caused by influence from some events that they have to face. One of them is bad treatment that makes them oppressed. It is also happened to Griet during her works as a maid. Even when she was still a young daughter of her mother, she also felt oppressed for becoming a maid. Basically, Griet protests her mother when she forced her to get work as a maid by showing her face expression. However, her family conditions did not give her other opportunities. She has followed her mother order to get work to Veermers as a maid. Finally, she can also enjoy her work as maid because it gives her experiences both in loving a man and also fulfill her pleasure in art. She always dreams to be in art studio to enjoy an art work. As it is explained from her father statement in the sentence, "This is what you like best about your new life," he said presently. "Being in the studio" (Chevalier, 1999:48).

Besides being a maid, Griet is also asked by her master to be an artist for his painting. In this case Griet makes a decision to fulfill her pleasure in art work. She also uses this opportunities to get freedom in expressing herself. Her ways in creating an image of herself in painting model considered with Irigaray's concept that woman should have the eternal feminine aspect in her mind and body.

I had hesitated because I did not want to lie but did not want him to know. My hair was long and could not be tamed. When it was uncovered it seemed to belong to another Griet—a Griet who would stand in an alley alone with a man, who was not so calm and quiet and clean. A Griet like the women who dared to bare their heads. That was why I kept my hair completely hidden—so that there would be no trace of that Griet. (Chevalier, 1999:122).

This quotation explains how Griet wants her painting can express herself as a woman. She wants to keep her mysterious side but still shows her sexual appearance. She will show her feminine aspect without showing all part of her body.

Griet places herself as an acceptor as a daughter for being a maid. In being a maid, she also places herself in passive act by doing her master and mistress order. It makes her finally lost her comfortable and realize that she has lost her freedom as a woman. The one way she decides for herself is leaving her master's house and making a choice by her own self that influences her entire future in taking her freedom to express herself. In taking her choice to reach her existence, Griet decides to approve Pieter's proposal to marry her. She accepts Pieter's proposed because she knows better about Pieter's feeling to her, and from her perspective it does not matter if she does not loves him yet. Once again, her choice corresponds to Irigaray's statement about woman's nature and marriage. She quotes that commonly marriage is unprepared with love but as her nature, woman can increase her love after the first child is born (Irigaray, 1985a; 106).

It explains that woman has nature as a loving creature, so in deciding to marry, woman does not fear into losing her love sides. For Griet love will come to her when the first child was born. She decides to marry Pieter because she often feels that Pieter always gives her hope to get better life.

He was patient with me when I become tongue tied or sharp or dismissive. (Chevalier, 1999:119)

When we arrived at the butcher's stall and Pieter the son was not there, my eyes unexpectedly filled with tears. I had not realized that I had wanted to see his kind, handsome face. Confused as I felt about him, he was my escape, my reminder that there was another world I could join. Perhaps I was not so different from my parents, who looked on him to save them, to put meat on their table.(Chevalier, 1999:143).

The narrative describes how Griet judges Pieter as the one who treats her well, gives her a lot of attention and kind to her. She also realizes that Pieter can save her and also her family into better life. That is the reason why she agrees to marry him. She places herself into patriarchy system that can make her

oppressed, but she also realizes that she can reach her freedom and show her existence in society by playing role as a wife. As it is stated by Irigaray about social different, that woman is only need to practice herself into the difference, turning the feminine into the standard for “sexual difference” (1985b:159).

Griet decides to deal with her condition and needs as a woman. She agrees that she needs man to support her existence. For her installing herself within this lack under male domination is not serious problem. It is caused by her belief by turning into marriage, she does not only set her life free from oppression as being a maid or help to fulfill her family needs, but also getting value as a woman by accepting man’s love. She believes that her marriage will place her better turn into freedom as far as she can be a good wife and mother both for her husband and child. As same as Irigaray states in her book, that marriage does not secure unless this wife has succeeded in making her husband and her children as well and in acting as a mother to her children, it means that a wife should serve her husband as well (Irigaray, 1985a:107).

As a result of her choice by keeping her femininity there are some advantages that can be reached by Griet. She proves that her choice make her happy and success as a woman. Her decision to get marry with Pieter makes her more easier in fulfil her family needs, getting activities not only in private services, and also takes a good treatment from man. She feels that she finds everything be easier with Pieter who never asks about her past.

It was easier with Pieter. He simply glanced up at me from his work. He had decided long ago not to ask questions, even though he knew I had thoughts sometimes that I did not speak of. When he remove my cap on our wedding night and saw the holes in my ears he did not ask (Chevalier, 1999:122)

The quotation explains how Pieter treats Griet well as she expects before. Pieter is the one who understand her better and make her easier to face her life. Griet also feels satisfied and peaceful in continuing her life after making a decision for her own life because she finally realizes that her master does not love

her, he only cares her as an object of the painting of her than herself (Chevalier, 1999:233). It describes that Griet finally enjoys her life in spending her life to love her new family.

By her choice she can get what she wants in her life and get what she needs. It is explained by the last sentences in this novel; “A maid came free” (Chevalier, 1999:233). This sentence explains what Griet wants for her life becomes true. Finally she can set herself free. She also can reach her dream to get freedom in choosing her duty. She can be a good mother for her life, a lovely wife for his husband, and success daughter for her parents. Besides that, she can also pay her master kindness by help him paying her debt in Pieter’s shop and feels relieved by finding her husband will be pleasant getting his payment of Vermeer’s debt (Chevalier, 1999:233). It makes Griet feels totally free from all those oppression that she has faced.

The concept of postfeminism also portrays by the way of female character make a decision for her life. The way of her consciousness about her femininity in taking choice proves postfeminism concept that agrees in respect woman and man’s right as a part of human being. By keeping a relation with man, woman in the novel show how the concepts of Irigaray can be accepted. Irigaray states that woman does not need to practice the opposite, but only need to agree the difference between masculine and feminine (Irigaray, 1985b:159). It will place woman in save position in society without losing her nature.

4.3 Woman Condition in Netherland in 17th Century

This subchapter describes about woman condition in real life in the same setting and era with the novel. It needs to explain in the last subchapter because the woman construction in the novel is related to the woman’s life in real life. Representation of woman in the novel is constructed based on woman condition in reality. The fact of woman in the novel is influenced by the condition of woman in reality in order to make the data of the novel seems like really happened, because literature is social process of the writer as citizen and aims as mirroring of social condition of the society. This subchapter describes about woman condition in

Netherland during 17th century to reveal the relation between woman constructions in the novel with the issue of feminism in that era. It aims to find the representation of woman in that era that is considered with the goal analyzing of woman in this novel especially in gender issue.

In “Dutch Woman in Seventeenth-Century New Netherland”(2013), Vann Maria explains that 17th century was known as the era of New Netherland. Woman movement fought for her rights in Netherland (or will explain next as New Netherland) began in 1624. In that period, women were already involved in society aspect including law, business, religion, and etc. She gives an example about woman movement in struggling for her rights by Altjen Sybrans on 6 March 1663. Sybrans challenged male authority in the Honorable Council of War and the Honorable Court at Widwyck, New Netherland to search of vindication from accusations of slander. She was charged make abjection to a man that was also the member of the council. Even finally she had to bear the mulct as the name of justice; she still showed her bravery to resist against male domination, she had clear understanding about her rights as citizen by speaks her aspiration in Netherland Empire. Sybrants was one of some women who are struggled to show that in each era women in Netherland has right in social system.

New Netherland as the trade-centered colony made Nederland be more opened with cultural diverse. It also increased social freedom of women in society, even in that era women had no bigger status in law system, they got advantages of one of the less restrictive societies in the seventeenth-century Atlantic world. Dutch women also had social status that made their possibility to intervene in social system such as civil rights, politic, laws, and etc.

Before women's thought are constructed, the historian placed Dutch women in same position by other colony society as same as New England. Augustus H. Van Buren stated in Maria Vann's journal that, “she was what God Almighty designed a woman to be-the nobles, the holiest things on earth-the helpmate of her husband and the mother of mankind”. Besides that, historian might construct an assumption that New Netherland provided an equal effect that increased the possibilities of women to have important role as citizen in Dutch

Colonial. New Netherland gave opportunity to conflicts that involved woman involved known as a place of culture, religion, and ethnic diversity (2013:2).

Vann states that in showing “who the boss is” in community, familial ties in the borderland environment appeared to be great importance to the Dutch. Household became a place where the women had basic opportunity to be success that could be replaced by men. They were relied able to be a good negotiator upon supporting their husband. Dutch women had bossy characteristics that ignore common social convention in a whole Europe culture. Girls in Netherland often reported to act inappropriate with the Europe culture about woman’s role in that era by act “unnaturally domineering over their husbands”(2013:7).

Vann also explains that there was still women oppression as it is in society even they were purported bossiness. Occupying a subservient role to men, women were often being victims of verbal and physical violence. It made women being more active in legal domain as plaintiffs and also defendants. The testimony and rights of women were safeguarded and satisfied at surprising rate, which underscored their status in society. However, Dutch woman were still represented as a clearly a part of a male-dominated society even they are submit under patriarchal system (2013:8).

Women’s life in Netherland in seventeenth-century is represented in the novel. In *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Chevalier constructs female characters as predominance by male. It is portrayed through Catharina and Griet that influenced by male. They are Dutch women who have power to create male character in hardest position as a man and husband. They also represent women that influence and can support man’s business. The main character of this novel is also appropriate with female characteristic in Dutch in realty. Whereas, Griet is described as worker woman who has independency to replace her father duty and also has power for her own self to take an action fights for her rights as human being.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Woman's writing is one of the ways to transfer the perspective of writer related to all the description on woman's image which is constructed by patriarchal culture. This research uses Irigaray's theory of postfeminism to analyze woman's choice as a form of woman's act to show her independency. As it is explained, women are part of society that has representation by social systems and it depends on their ways to play role under male domination. Woman can keep their independency without being separated by man.

Woman choice is about how woman has her own authority to make a choice for her own life. It refers to Irigaray's concepts about postfeminism that woman's equality does not mean to be separated from man's sphere but only realizes to respecting each other. Woman only needs her authority in making a decision to prove that she also has same rights with man in controlling her own life. Basically, the woman condition that she gets in her life is consciously her own choice.

Woman condition in the reality with the same era and place in the narrative of the novel helps to make the data from the novel seems like really happened. It is related to the relation of literature function that is not only for entertaining media but also the mirror of society. This point also uses to reveal the relation between woman constructions in the novel with the issue of feminism in that era.

Literature is an alternative medium in criticizing the social systems, offering and creating the reality. Chevalier has opinion about woman's characterization which is also linear with Irigaray's concept that woman can be active subject for her passivity because accepting their position in society in a full consciousness in a one way to be a post feminist. Besides, even accepting their position into passive character woman also has made a decision with her consciousness to be the passive character. It means that everything woman does for

her life can only happen by her agreement, and it is only made by her own self. Woman choice is a decision that is taken by her own and will only happen by consciousness condition. Woman can choose whether they want to be in the domestic place or show themselves in the public space, interacting with the society.



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APPENDIX

Synopsis of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

The *Girl with a Pearl Earring* is the novel by Tracy Chevalier, an American novelist. This novel published in 1999. This novel tells about Griet, a sixteen-year old girl who is forced by her mother to get work as a maid to replace her father's duty. The novel opens with Vermeer and his wife, Catharina, visiting Griet's family to have a look at the girl they hope to hire. Griet has been cutting vegetables for the soup and has separated them by color in a wheel: turnips, carrots, leeks, red cabbage, and onion. She places the vegetables in this order because, she claims, otherwise the colors fight each other. Vermeer is intrigued by Griet's natural artistic interest and hires her on the spot. Griet is forced into work when her father, a tile painter, loses his eyes in a kiln explosion and she needs to help her family raise money to eat. The next day, Griet travels to the Vermeer household and meets their five children, including their daughter Cornelia, a seven-year-old with a wicked streak that is immediately apparent. Griet also meets Maria Thins, Catharina's mother, and her maid, Tanneke. Throughout the first few months at the Vermeers, Griet does not see the painter again, but can sense him around every corner. Her infatuation grows every day, so that when he speaks to her for the first time, she physically begins to shake.

One of the jobs Griet is expected to perform at the Vermeer household is to buy meats from the butcher, Pieter. It becomes very apparent early on that Pieter the son, the son of the butcher, has feelings for Griet, even though she is only interested in her master, Vermeer. Griet fits in nicely to the Vermeer household, gaining complements for her work from each of the family members except Catharina and her shrewd daughter, Cornelia. Cornelia continues to create trouble for Griet, throwing her water pots into the river, breaking her favorite tile, and even stealing her tortoiseshell comb. The only solace Griet finds in the household is when she is cleaning Vermeer's studio, a task that requires her to clean without appearing to have moved anything. There, she imagines what the painter is doing, and what it would be like if his eyes fell upon her. Soon, she

begins to notice that Vermeer's eyes do follow her around rooms, and gaze, almost longingly, at her. Vermeer's eyes are not the only ones that track Griet. His patron, van Ruijven, regularly gropes Griet and makes inappropriate comments about her. van Ruijven decides that he would like to be in a painting with Griet, an idea that horrifies her. It becomes very clear that Vermeer also does not want to paint van Ruijven with Griet and wants to protect her from this lascivious man. Van Ruijven impregnated the last maid that he wanted painted, and Vermeer wants to protect Griet from the same fate. He strikes up a deal to paint Griet on her own for van Ruijven, rather than having her sit with him.

Before this, Vermeer and Griet began to spend a lot of time together when Griet began assisting him with his paintings. Griet was given the task of purchasing paint supplies and grinding them in the evenings before Vermeer painted in the afternoons. The fact that they were working so closely together had to be kept a secret from the family, especially from Catharina, who would certainly be jealous. When Vermeer begins painting Griet, however, it becomes almost impossible to keep this secret from Catharina. Around this time, Pieter the son becomes more aggressive in his pursuit of Griet and even shows up at the Vermeer's doorstep on her eighteen birthday to propose to her. At this time, however, Griet is so infatuated with Vermeer that she cannot contemplate leaving his household, despite the warnings she's received from his friends that Vermeer is only interested in himself and his art. He will ruin her, they warn. But Griet doesn't listen and is eventually convinced to wear Catharina's pearl earrings in the painting, even though Griet knows that doing so will land her on the streets. Sure enough, when the painting is complete, Catharina finds out that her husband has been painting Griet and is outraged. She is extremely jealous, rightfully so, and tries to slash the painting with a palette knife. Griet runs from the house as Catharina goes into early labor, and never looks back.

In the epilogue, ten years later, the reader learns that when Griet ran away from Vermeer's household, she ran into the arms of Pieter the son, whom she later married. She never saw Vermeer again, and heard that he passed away, leaving behind eleven children and a great deal of debt. One morning, while Griet

is working the butcher stall, Tanneke, the old maid, comes to fetch her, claiming that Catharina wants to speak with her. Griet has not interacted with any member of the Vermeer family in over ten years, and has no idea why Catharina wants to see her. When she arrives, she is overcome with emotion upon seeing Vermeer's household again, and wishes she could see him, or the painting, one last time. In his will, Vermeer requested that Catharina give Griet the pearl earrings from the painting, which is why Catharina has called her here. It is clear that Catharina has not forgiven Griet, or her husband, and does not want to hand over the pearls. But she does, and Griet pawns them, wanting to erase the memory from her life. Griet uses the twenty guilders she received from the sale to cover the Vermeer family's butcher debt, and keeps five guilders for herself, which she swears she will never spend.