

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is a verbal artifact that makes **us** able to express **our** thought and feeling on life's most important issues. It can be expressed directly, such as by poetry, or through a narrative story, such **as** short story, novel, **and** drama. There are two qualities of literature; it **says** something worth saying **and** it is something well-said. In this thesis, the thesis writer chooses **drama** to be analyzed, which is different **from** novels, poetry or other kinds of literature.

The term drama comes to our language **from** a Greek word meaning "to do" or "to act". Drama "involves not merely action, but purposeful action" (Gordon 149). Therefore, "**dramas** are written to be performed", of course, **and** it may be argued that the appreciation of a play gained from reading it is not quite the same thing as that gained **from** seeing it on the stage (Brooks 431). Too often college students falsely believe that drama is something useless or even unimportant, **but** through drama or by reading drama, they can find the

relationship between the plays that they are studying in class and their own lives. Besides, it also helps them to identify man's common humanity. *So*, the thesis writer believes that *drama* brings double benefits than novels or poetry because drama is **not only** to be written or *to* be read but people **can** also **enjoy** it **through** their eyes and feelings.

Reading Aristophanes's Lysistrata, the thesis writer is impressed **by** this author because he is **"a Greek Comic Genius"** (**Down 76-81**). He produced his **first** comedy in Athens in 427 *mid* his last in **386**. In competition with other dramatists, he **was** very successful, especially when he won **at least six** first prizes and four-second prizes. Moreover, **people** honor **him for** the advice he **had** given in the **play Frog** in **405** and decreed that it should have the **unique honor** of being performed **a** second time (Henderson **4**).

Besides, Aristophanes is called to be "the foremost poet of 'old' **Attic Comedy**" since he is one **of** the last practitioners during which he **has** created his eleven surviving plays (**4**). Here is the list of his eleven extant **plays**: Acharnians, Kights, Clouds, Wasps, Peace, Birds, Lysistrata, Women at The Thesmophoria, Frogs, Assemblywomen, and Wealth. His play **has** remained **popular** since the early fourth century. Outside his theatrical career, little is **known about** his life. Aristophanes was born **C447/46**, the son **of one** Philippos **of** the urban deme kydathenaion *mid* died probably between **386 and 380** (**3**). He **was** called "old" because by his twenties his hair had thinned and receded enough **to** be called bold.

Aristophanes has been called “a great moralist; . . . no doubt Aristophanes **liked** at times to picture himself with a mission and **a message**” (Lucas 369). **It can be seen from his plays that wrote with a good deal of purposes. Four of his** plays are appeal for peace; largely combined **with** satire concerning war-mongering demagogues, such **as** The Archonians (425 A.D.), The Knights (424 A.D): **which** is discussing the bellicose Cleon, Peace (421 A.D): the **story of a** hero, and Lysistrata (411 A.D): **which** is concern **with strike of wives** (Lucas 368). Eleven of his **forty plays** have survived, and **many** of them are **full of** fierce attacks upon prominent person, although they contain delicious humor and high quality of *true* lyric genius (Robinson xvi). Lysistrata is one **example of** his **plays**, which is full of protest **and** satire toward society, especially men.

The thesis writer chooses Lysistrata **as** the primary **source of** her thesis because it is a comedy **play**, even though it **also** deals **with** war. F.L. Lucas **in** his book Greek Tragedy and Comedy stated that the **form of old** comedies seem to have been **as follows**:

- (1). Some character has a bright idea
- (2). There enters **a** chorus
- (3). There is a set debate **about** the idea
- (4). **It** ends in a revel scene-feast

It is obvious **that** Lysistrata **as the main** character has **a** bright idea **for** she is the one who has the **plan to** stop the **war**. **In** this play, Aristophanes also presents **a** chorus to address the audience. There is also the debate between Lysistrata **and** the Magistrate concerning her idea to help the men in dealing with the war.

Here we can figure out **that Lysistrata** tries to help the men to cope with the country's conflict, **but** it seems **that** the Magistrate insists **on** refusing the offering. *So*, the idea here becomes a set debate between women's side and men's side. Eventually, *the* story ends happily in a scene-feast **by** performing the dance.

Aristophanes tends to write Lysistrata in **a** satirical **way**. Satiric comedy **has** a strongly ethical bent; the offending characters are so severely chastened for their faults **that** their fates can be seen **as** exemplary: one is shown, at **any** rate, **what** is to be avoided (Murray 26). The author conveys message for the society by satirizing their thoughts about **women**. This **play** is **concern with** the struggle **of women and** women's power **to** create peace. The women of Athens **and through** out Greece stand together led **by** Lysistrata and protest **the men** to stop the war between Spartans and Athenians. Lysistrata **was** written during **a** time when the **Greek** city-states were **in** constant state **of** quarreling. **At that** time, the women are not allowed to express their thoughts and their voices deliberately. Women ... "are told that it is 'unfeminine' to **know** much or to have strong opinion on **any** point beyond the set of **a** dress or the fashion o fa **bonnet**" (Bell 3 11). **But**, in this comedy, Aristophanes directly shows **that** the **main** character of the play is a woman, namely Lysistrata Lysistrata **wants to know more about** things beyond the set of a dress **and** has extremely strong **opinion** about equal rights for women. She is still a woman **who wants to** be physically attractive as other women. The different is that she **has** stronger wills and abilities than ordinary woman.

Lysistrata by Aristophanes is “probably one of the earliest pieces of literature demonstrating the free **will and** power **that women** inherently possess, but have **historically** seldom used” (http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ts/book-customer-reviews/0198144962/ref=pmdpln_b_6/102-1533831-6292000). This criticism makes the thesis writer interested in discussing about women’s power **as** seen in Aristophanes’s character in Lysistrata from feminism point **of** view. The **reason why** the thesis writer chooses this point of view because **she** sees the **conspiracy, which** is made **by** Lysistrata and other women, is a movement **that** involves **women’s** power. Lysistrata **bravely** says ~~that~~ the women also have the same rights **as** men to demonstrate **their will and** feelings **in** front **of** public.

Usually, the **common** play will put the savior hero **as a** single fighter, but in this play **the** heroine **acts** not alone (like the heroes of earlier plays) **but “in** concert with, **and as the** leader **of**, her whole class (citizen women **both** Athenians and others) seems to be further novelty” (Henderson 37). Therefore, the thesis writer thinks **that** this **play** is special **for** her because **in this play** the **central** character does not stand alone for she needs other women to help her to **accomplish** her **plan**. The plot **of** Lysistrata is typical of Aristophanes’s “heroic” plays, such **as** Acharnians, Peace, Birds, and Assemblywomen (Henderson 35). Edgar V. Roberts in his book Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing stated that

Character in **comedy** tends to be **far** more limited **than** in tragedy, because **comedy** deals with **groups or** representative types than with

individuals of heroic stature. In comedy, we usually do not find characters **with the depth or individuality** of Hamlet or Oedipus. Instead, there **are** stock characters **who** represent various classes, types, and **generations** (p. 1322)

In Lysistrata the household and its women are shown **to** embody the stable core of Athenians life **by making conspiracy**. **it is** a noble **conspiracy** design **to** save the men and the polis (Henderson 38). In spite of their physical limitation, the women **plan to do it by their own way**. In order to **pet their husbands back**, they must **“abstain from the joy of love”**

(http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/09295857x/0/gid=959072395/sr=8-2/ref=aps_srb12/102-1533831-6292000). However, **these women with**

their own **power** **mid cunning** **win** the war **by making peace for** both sides.

Besides, “in the great majority of comedies, **a** love-interest culminating in **marriage** dictates the progress of the plot” (Muway95). **It** means that love **story** or **story** about marriage makes the **story** more interesting to be read, such **as** in **Lysistrata**. This is another reason **that makes Lysistrata very** interesting for the thesis writer. **In** this story, **Lysistrata has a great plan to end the war;** she uses **“the power of sex over the war”**

(http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/09295857x/0/gid=959072395/sr=8-2/ref=aps_srb12/102-1533831-6292000). The heroes **of this story** are

married women; therefore they can use sex **as their strategy** against their own husbands **in order to make peace**.

The reason why the writer chooses the topic of woman's struggle from feminism perspective because Lysistrata shows some aspects and ideas of feminism. Aristophanes wrote this play in the condition where women are underestimated by men. Therefore, this author describes the women's character in Lysistrata as strong person, independent, and brave. Although the play may not be called a complete feminist document: the main female character traits present some aspects of feminism for she has the characteristic of feminist. Lysistrata fights for the equality for women by making a protest toward the war. She introduces the opportunities for women to have own decision and choices.

Many people, especially men, judge a woman as a weak creature. Woman will never be able to compete with man, which was society's image. Although the play exploits women's sexuality, Aristophanes tries to show that women also have power in order to prove that they have the same rights as men. It is a fact that the hero of this play is a woman who has an influence and brave to fight for the women's rights. She tries to confirm that women have the rights to be treated as a whole human being. Like what Hillary Clinton has stated on Women's Conference in Beijing, China in 1995 that Human's rights are women's rights and women's rights are Human's rights. She tries to remind all women in the world "women must enjoy the right to participate fully in the social and political lives of their countries if we want freedom and democracy to thrive and endure" (feminist.com/hill.htm). That is exactly what Lysistrata did at that time. She wants the freedom and democracy

to make peace **by** declaring the women's rig there are to be heard **and** to be admitted **by men**.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Aristophanes presents his idea of women's power through his work on Lysistrata. In this **play**, the thesis writer sees the power of women in Lysistrata's characters, which brings her to be a female leader who "**win** the peace" (Henderson 26). Therefore, the thesis writer wants to know how the idea of feminism is reflected in the main female character **and** how Lysistrata struggle **for** power *to* end the **war**.

1.3 The Purpose of The Study

In this thesis, the thesis writer focuses her attention to the women **and** their power **as** seen in Aristophanes's Lysistrata. The thesis writer's purpose is to analyze the characters of Lysistrata that reflect to the idea of feminism. Furthermore, the thesis writer also wants to show **to** the readers the efforts of Lysistrata in achieving the peace.

1.4. Significance of the Study

In this thesis the thesis writer wants to introduce *to* the readers, one of Aristophanes's **works**. Aristophanes is a Greek **and** only few people **know** abouts him or even read his works for he is still unknown to the students of Faculty of Letters. Therefore, the thesis writer hopes after reading this thesis,

the readers, especially the students of the Faculty of Letters, can have some understanding about Aristophanes and his style or character in writing a play. The thesis writer also hopes the readers **will** enjoy **in** reading Aristophanes's works?especially Lysistrata.

Besides, **the** thesis writer wants to prove that **wamen** are not **like** what some people thought. Many people assume that "women are described **as** passive irrational, dependent, sensitive, sociability and nurturing (Pringle 49). They think **that** a **woman** does not have **any** power **to** show her capacity and **capability as well as a man**. **Men** demonstrate greater' aggressiveness in a variety of situations, **both** physical **aid** verbal, for example, "**men** fight more and make more slighting **and** critical remarks **than** women do" (Pringle 50). It is no wonder if **many** people place **man** on the **top**, while on the other hand **they** underestimate woman by doubting her capability.

Through Aristophanes's Lysistrata **the** thesis miter will **ty** to prove **that** a **woman** also has her own power to express her feeling Lysistrata tells about women's power during the time of war. From this play the thesis writer tries **to** assume the readers that women also **have** rights to express their voice in the public. It is not the time for **women** to **be** underestimated **by men**. It is the time for women to realize ~~that~~ they have to raise their dignity by **showing** their power. Therefore, **women** should ~~strugg~~ against the domination of **man**.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The thesis writer's attention in this **play** is focused on Lysistrata's ~~struggle~~ the idea to end the **war, and** the women's rights **and** power feminism in Aristophanes's Lysistrata. **In** this thesis the writer limits her analysis **only in one major** character namely Lysistrata. Besides, the thesis writer also uses the other characters to help her in analyzing the women's power. **For** Lysistrata is **an** extraordinary **woman**. She is not only **a** housewife? she is also "the master-strategist, commander **mid** **spokesman**, while the other women are her agents" (Henderson **40**).

1.6. Methodology

For this thesis, the thesis writer uses one of Aristophanes's plays entitled Lysistrata **as** the primary source. To **analyze** this play, the thesis writer **uses** library research **in** order to find some theories, **which** are relevant **to** the topic. Through library research the thesis writer has some important information, **which** give definitions **aid** other understandings about her analysis. This **approach** helps the thesis writer **much** in supporting her opinions **and** arguments **in** the thesis.

Besides, the thesis writer also seeks for more information **from** the Internet to **find** criticisms and some reviews from other readers. These criticisms give her some input for the analysis of her thesis. Furthermore, the thesis writer **also** analyzes this thesis **from** power feminism's **point of** view because this thesis is talking about women **and** their capabilities in demanding

the women's rights. The thesis writer tries to **dig** more information about the definition of feminism **and** other information, which **are** related **to** women's struggle or women's rights.

Finally, literary approach is being used **to** analyze the character **of** Lysistrata. The thesis writer figures out some of Lysistrata's qualities that make her a feminist **and** a hero in the story.

1.7 Organization of The Study

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter, introduction, discusses about the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, importance of the study, scope and limitation, and methodology. The second chapter is the review **of** related literature whose **main** concern is the theories and tools used to analyze the **play**. The thesis writer uses feminist's theories **to know** the feminism movement **that** is evident in the **play**. In order to do so, the thesis writer uses literary tool **that** is characterization to help her categorize Lysistrata **as** a feminist. The thesis writer analyzes the **play** in the third chapter. **In** it, she tries to prove that Lysistrata is **a** feminist from her efforts **to** end the **war**. The last chapter is conclusion, **which** answers **and** concludes all the questions, facts, theories, **and** analysis mentioned previously.