

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Talking about women is always interesting. There is always a lot to talk about women. What is interesting about them is not only their beauty or gentleness, but also how they exist in society. Society is a group of people where women and men interact with each other and live in the same place. In the process of interaction, men and women experience different treatments. Unfortunately, women are more susceptible to inappropriate treatment, which has been the case for thousands of years now. For example, injustice, violence, rape, harassment, etc. The cruelest act experienced by many women in the world.

Despite the fact that several researchers, journals, and books have been published, gender issues are always brought up for discussion. Several academics have investigated gender-related issues, and it seems that gender is still the primary focus of research and discussion. The substantive effects of gender are performativity created and imposed by the practice of controlling gender coherence, according to (Butler, 1988) Gender is not a word, but it is also not a free-floating set of qualities. Butler views gender as a series of consistent behaviors within a fairly solid framework that over time become frozen and take on the appearance of a natural substance. True, unchanging gender identity does not exist. Everything is mounded, from repeated words and actions to gender

identity development. Additionally, Butler contends that identity is neither permanent nor coherent. Performance, which changes constantly, gives identity. Gender asserts that an individual's identity is never fixed for this reason. Sexual conversation performance, physical look and performance, and sexual activity performance can all be used to determine gender identification (Butler, 1988).

Since social and literary works emerge as a form of cultural expression that expresses the values of society, literary works are often seen as portraits of the lives of the people surrounding the author or of social reality. Given the existence of literature as a socio-cultural product, women's problems are one of the problems being addressed, as they are consumed and created in a universal context. Concerns about women's underrepresentation in politics and socio-economics, particularly in comparison to men, have led to an increase in discussion about women in literature (Abrams, 1999).

The term "struggle" in a feminist context refers to initiatives taken to combat discrimination, gender inequity, and the oppression of women and other gender minorities. The fight for gender equality in a variety of spheres of life, including politics, economics, social issues, and culture, involves a range of modes of activity, advocacy, and resistance. Related with the struggle to determine the form of representation of women in literary works, this research focuses on the study of the novel written by Alice Walker in 1982 with the title *The Color Purple*. Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia, America on February 9, 1944. She is the little daughter of eight children of Willie Lee Walker and Minnie Tallulah Grant Walker who work as sharecroppers. Walker's childhood was filled with

violence and racism. This is very influential on his literary works. Moreover, the color purple novel is considered important to study because the problems discussed in it are universal humanitarian issues and are a reflection of the attitudes, views and ideals of a society. The values contained in it are very relevant to contemporary life and are considered useful for structuring a better future.

Literary works are the imaginative output of written language used to produce fiction or other creative works. Poetry, prose fiction, plays, essays, and other creative forms can be used for this. Literary works frequently convey a variety of ideas, values, and human experiences while entertaining, inspiring, and provoking thought through the use of complicated language, plots, conflicts, characters, and themes. The novel is one of the literary works that students frequently study for research projects.

The Color Purple Women's Themed novel actually addresses the issue of women seeking freedom and equality as people who coexist with other men. This is indicated by the efforts made by women to fulfill these aspirations, especially through education, labor, courage, and a positive attitude. Women's problems with The Color Purple in Rome state that women have always faced oppression and sexual harassment and were considered second-rate in society. Celie and Nettie give an explanation for this. Serry's stepfather has raped her numerous times up until the point where he has two kids.

“He beat me today because he says I winked at boy in church. Or dressing trampy he do it to me anyway.”(Walker, 1982, p.7)

In addition, Celie did not find happiness in her life after marriage. Her husband did the same as his stepfather. She is always under pressure from her husband and she uses derogatory language to speak to him.

“He tell me, wash this. Iron that. Look for this. Look for that. Find He groan over holes in his sock.” (Walker, 1982, p.16)

In addition, there is oppression in the family because women are only seen as wives or daughters, and wives or daughters must obey their fathers, men, or husband.

By using Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist conception of feminism, the two aforementioned phenomena may be further understood. Existentialism, according to De Beauvoir (1956), empowers women to live freely and make their own judgements about the future without assistance or direction from others. Women so make an effort to defend their rights in order to live for themselves. De Beauvoir (1956) noted that women make many attempts to achieve an existence, such as entering the workforce, becoming intelligent, and rejecting otherness. Women will encounter challenges as long as they strive for it. De Beauvoir (1956) asserted that women will encounter two challenges, namely societal perspectives and self-doubt about societal perspectives.

Furthermore, because the plot is so amazing and fascinating to investigate, a lot of other researchers have also examined this book using a variety of methodologies and ideas. A number of journal papers were taken by the researcher for use as comparison and study resources. The first article was written by (Maharani, 2019). This research has conducted research on "Feminism Struggle of Greer Kadetsky in Meg Wolitzer's Novel the Female Persuasion". This study aims to find a reflection of feminism conveyed through Greer Kadetsky as the main character and Greer Kadetsky's struggle for his rights. The research method is genetic structuralism, according to the findings of this study, Greer Kadetsky's feminist reflection in this novel represents liberal feminism, radical feminism, social feminism, and Marxism. As the main character in this story, her fight for her rights as an intelligent, ambitious, opinionated, and opinionated woman can demonstrate that she is equal to men.

The second was written (Kamariah, 2020) this research has discussed the novel "Room" by Emma Donoghue by applying a feminist approach. This study has purpose to analyze the struggle of women against violence This study adopts a feminism approach, focusing on Simone de Beauvoir's idea of the existence of women and Johan Galtung's theory of violence. The descriptive qualitative method was employed in this investigation. Data gathering for this study was done through documentation. Sentences, deeds, and narratives that are directly relevant to the criteria are used to collect data. Researcher discovered two factors in this study that led women to reject patriarchy.

From the above phenomena and the results of previous studies. Researcher are interested in conducting research on women's struggles. Because women are constantly subjected to sexual harassment and prostitution at the hands of men. This position is also supported by several color theorists and experts. Studying women's challenges is an interesting thing in this research. Moreover, this research is different from other feminist studies in the novel. The difference is that this study analyzes all female characters in the novel. Therefore, this study will find and present all the problems of women contained in the novel. The researcher uses a research entitled *The Struggle of Women in the Novel "The Color Purple"* by Alice Walker: A Feminist Approach.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The current problem that will be examined in this thesis is the threat posed by gender disparities in the social environment and the family, which results in gender issues for those who encounter these circumstances. From the novel *"The Color Purple (1982)"* by Alice Walker, the researcher found several problems that could be

1. Women's struggle against oppression experienced by the main character in the novel *"The Color Purple"* novel by Alice Walker.
2. Gender issues reflected by the main character in the novel *"The Color Purple (1982)"* by Alice Walker.
3. The Sexual oppression experienced by the main character in the novel *"The Color Purple"* by Alice Walker.

4. The aspects of gender in equality found in the novel "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In keeping with the difficulty that has been identified above, the researcher's current study is focused on a feminist analysis of Celie, the protagonist of Alice Walker's 1982 book "The Color Purple." Researcher confine the issue to:

1. Women's struggle against oppression experienced by the main character in the novel "The Color Purple" novel by Alice Walker.
2. Gender issues reflected by the main character in the novel "The Color Purple (1982)" by Alice Walker.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The problem to be analyzed by the researcher becomes clear through the problem-limiting stage, then the researcher will analyze or describe the problem as follows:

1. What are the struggles of woman against oppression by the main character in the novel "The Color Purple"?
2. What are gender issues found in the main character in the novel "The Color Purple.?"

1.5 Objective of the Research

In conducting this research, the researcher found several purposes why the researcher conducted this research.

1. To identify the struggles of woman against oppression experienced by the main character in the novel "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker
2. To reveal the gender issues found in "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker (1982)

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The purpose of this research is to hope that it will be a source of research for students who will make research, as a comparison reading with other research that have existed before, and readers can apply these theories into the novels.

2. Practical Significance

The purpose of this study is to expect it to be a research resource for students conducting the study, and the reader will novel these theories as a comparative reading with other studies that existed before. Can be applied to.

1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

Feminist theory : Feminist philosophy commonly challenged the naturalistic explanation of sexuality, which contends that the relevance of women's social existence may be drawn from the facts of women's physiology De Beauvoir (1956).

Woman Struggle : Various gender inequalities experienced by women's struggles were fought for in a movement called the feminist movement. This movement tries to fight for the freedom of women in the world. In general, feminism is an ideology of women's liberation. This causes women's problems to arise because of the biological differences between men. Since the burden of women's problems in the world, many organizations that care about women have sprung up in the world. Until in literary works try to contain women's problems De Beauvoir (1956).

Gender : Gender is the stylization of repeated behaviors inside an extremely strict regulatory framework that, over time, freezes to generate the appearance of a component or a certain type of natural being (Butler, 1988).