

**SUBALTERN WOMEN IN NOVEL *SING, UNBURIED, SING* BY JESMYN
WARD**

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree



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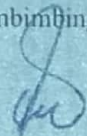
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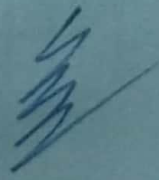


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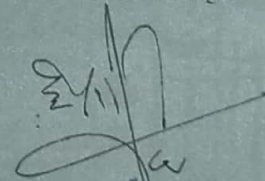


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ABSTRACT

This research is an analysis of the novel "*Sing, Unburied, Sing*" by Jasmyn Ward (2017). In this study, the author aims to reveal the issue of the subaltern woman faced by Leonie's characters as women who experience subaltern positions in their family and society. In this analysis, there are two forms of oppression as a part of subaltern women. The first is verbal oppression such as shouted, being sworn, humiliated, and threatened with harm. This action puts a woman in a subaltern position. The second is physical oppression such as being kicked, hit, pushed, scratched, or pinched. Physical oppression gives a wound or scar to the woman as a result of the act. This analysis uses the concept of "subaltern," a branch of feminism proposed by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and supported by several other experts. The use of concepts based on the context of the novel and interpretation of the text. In this analysis, the elements of the novel that help reveal the subaltern toward women are character, setting, plot, and conflict.

Key words: Subaltern, Oppression, Women

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis terhadap novel “sing, unburied, sing” karya Jasmyn Ward (2017). Dalam penelitian ini, penulis bertujuan untuk mengungkap persoalan subaltern perempuan yang dihadapi tokoh Leonie sebagai perempuan yang mengalami posisi subaltern dalam keluarga dan masyarakat. Dalam analisis ini, terdapat dua bentuk penindasan sebagai tindakan merendahkan perempuan dan membuat perempuan diposisi sebagai seorang subaltern. Pertama adalah penindasan verbal seperti dibentak, dimaki, dihina, dan diancam. Tindakan ini menempatkan perempuan pada posisi subaltern. Kedua adalah penindasan fisik seperti ditendang, dipukul, didorong, dicakar, atau dicubit. Penindasan fisik memberikan luka pada perempuan yang dari perbuatan tersebut. Analisis ini menggunakan konsep " subaltern, “ yang merupakan cabang feminisme yang dikemukakan oleh Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak dan didukung oleh beberapa ahli lainnya. Penggunaan konsep didasarkan pada konteks novel dan interpretasi teks. Dalam analisis ini, unsur-unsur novel yang membantu mengungkap subaltern terhadap perempuan tersebut adalah tokoh, latar, alur, dan konflik.

Kata kunci : Subaltern, penindasan, perempuan.

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Praise God Almighty, for the presence of plenty of mercy and his grace, so that the writer can complete the thesis with the title: Subaltern Women In *Sing, Unburied, Sing* Novel by Jesmyn Ward (2017). I don't forget I would like to send sholawat to prophet Muhammad SAW. Sincere thanks to my parents who always provide prayers and support for the smooth completion of this thesis. This thesis was prepared in order to fulfill the requirements to obtain a bachelor's Degree in English Literature S1 in English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Padang.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research Problem

Gender and inequality issue continue to be crucial issue that must be discussed now, although the struggle for equality has been done in many places in the world. These are still happened today, because the struggle for equality such a wasted, especially for women. Women who have become an object of inequality have caused it to be inseparable from problems of social construction. This makes women's position limited to getting their rights in social life. Women have always been objects within the scope of patriarchy and are positioned as second-class humans after men. Women cannot be separated from their oppression and powerlessness to get a better life. Women are positioned as subaltern groups and also get marginalization, so they cannot articulate their sound to fight against the patriarchal system that has cornered them.

According to *Antonio Gramsci (2005)* subaltern is the inferior classes, by definition, are not bound together and can't join until they can turn into a "State": their set of experiences, subsequently, is interlaced with that of common society, and along these lines with the historical backdrop of States and gatherings of States. It's means subaltern is used to referring for the marginalized and lower class. Subaltern refers to the inferior group, namely the community group that becomes the hegemony of the ruling classes. In this case, women are positioned as an inferior class in a patriarchal society.

Furthermore, referring to *Gayatri Spivak (1988)* From the colonization era until now, women always consider in second - class in social life, and put them in subaltern group. So, women are not even able to make a voice when she fights with the signs of her culture. Its means that the position of women as inferior does not will get a chance

in social life. More, the woman loses her right to live life and is forced to follow the rules set up by society, especially by men. On the other hand, stereotypes that position women as second after men or under men make women people who are always marginalized and receive oppression from men. Men as a dominant role in their social life, always get access doing the oppression in their social life, especially to the woman as an object of oppression. Other factors for some women are the possibility of oppression occurs throughout their lives, because with changes in marital status. Therefore, this phenomenon triggers men to oppress women.

In addition, *Oakley (2001)* defines that the history of discrimination and oppression against women begins in human upbringing until period of death, in which women lost points to men due to the gender makeup that implies masculinity and femininity. It means that women are subjected to discrimination especially on the issue of masculinity factor where patriarchy as highest ranked than feminism. The interpretation of gender from the early stages is leading to discrimination as males are seen as superior creature and they tend to enjoy the freedom which caps them with later authority over families with women being at the nethermost point of social life.

According to *The Gender Knot Unraveling Our Patriarchy Legacy (2015)* Oppression is a system of social inequality one group is positioned to dominate and benefit the exploitation and subordination of another. It means oppression is an action that aims to dominate someone or control others due to gaps in life. On the other hand, oppression is an act that to seize the rights of others and positions the oppressed person to always be under or weak. Oppression also happen because there are superior and inferior individual. Then, superior individual take advantages by oppress inferior individual.

Moreover, *Ahmed, A.S. (2012)* defines oppression or abuse has two main form. First is verbally, he was defined as being shouted at, sworn at, humiliated and threatened with harm. Second is physical, he was defined as being hit, kicked, pushed, scratched or pinched. It means verbal oppression is the oppression by someone through the medium of language or speech. Physical oppression is the oppression carried out by someone through physical contact and resulting in wounds or scars on the limbs.

More so, verbal oppression is categorized into subtle oppression while physical oppression is categorized into material oppression. It is also related with the material oppression which defined by *Kotwal, S. (2019)*. He stated that Material oppression involves a tangible manifestation, occurring as a result of an individual being forced into a particular action.

On the other hand, subtle oppression is the underlying workings of society that are politically charged and shape our behaviour without us even knowing. Based on this definition, it could be understood that any form of oppression leads to the results in a real impact. That can be seen by the five human senses such as a wound, bruise, bleed or anything else that has a mark is called material oppression or physical oppression, while any form of oppression that does not have a clear mark that can be seen directly is called subtle oppression.

Subsequently, there are so many cases about women oppression. The oppression that women get from men is verbal oppression (mental) and non-verbal oppression (physical). Based on the *Forbes article publish by Bryan Robinson, (2021)* The gender discrimination is still alive and well in the workplace. He stated in February, 2021 concluded that female academic internal medicine hospitalists routinely encounter gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment. Among 18 institutions surveyed, women frequently reported inappropriate touch, sexual remarks, gestures and

suggestive looks. And female doctors, more than male doctors, reported that their gender negatively impacted their career opportunities. From this cases, it's mean women are still getting oppression by men and it's the example of verbal and physical oppression by men.

Moreover, oppression of women does not only occur in the social and work environment, but women often also get unfair treatment and oppression in the family environment. In *Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Susan Moller Okin (1989) argues that the contemporary gender-structured family unfairly distributes the benefits and burdens of family life between husbands and wives. Okin included power on his list of benefits, which he called an "important social good". As he puts it, "when we take a serious look at the distribution between husband and wife of important social goods such as work (paid and unpaid), power, prestige, self-esteem, opportunities for self-development, and physical and economic security. , we find socially constructed inequalities between them, right at the bottom of the list". This means that Okin seems to presuppose that power is an unequal and unfair resource between men and women.

The issue of women's oppression that needs to be addressed by women and becomes a public concern is not only seen in real life, but also in a literary work. There is one novel entitle *Sing-Unburied-Sing* written by Jasmyn Ward published in 2017 that also contribute to expose this issue. *Sing-Unburied-Sing* (2017) is the winner of the National Book Award for fiction. The novel is narrated through two character's point of view. First character is Jojo as a kids who representative a men and Leoni as a daughter's Pop who representative a women.

Leoni is an African-American woman living in America. He has a family with a low economic background and lives on the outskirts of America because of the social discrimination practiced by American society at that time. Even though, at that time blacks were allowed to take education and go to the same place as whites, the differences were still very clear. This is clearly seen and experienced by women.

After graduated, Leoni decided to get married and has family. Eventhough, she is black woman, Leoni has white husband. Nevertheless, Leonie still gets discrimination and oppression from white people. Leonie, is an inconsistent presence in the lives of her and her toddler brother. She is an imperfect mother in constant conflict with herself and those around her. She is Black and the father of his children is White. She wanted to be a better mother but was unable to put her children above her own needs, especially drug use. While being tortured and comforted by visions of her dead brother, which only comes to her when she is drunk, Leonie is fought in a way that reflects the brutal reality of her circumstances.

Since childhood Leoni did not get the same treatment as her brother, she was only provided with limited knowledge from school and learned general knowledge from her mother. The science taught by Leoni's mother is basic science and this knowledge is learned through general knowledge about nature, such as medicinal plants, biology and other natural sciences that Leoni can use in the future.

Based on oppression which applied to female character, we can reveal the meaning of subaltern toward women. The faced by female character who living in United States as a black female. It focuses on the difficulties caused by the low view of women, male domination, the inequalities of rights which women receive, and the perversions that women commit as a way to release the emotions they hold back as a result of such oppression. Based on the explanation above, in this research the researcher use feminism approach by Gayatri Spivak about the subaltern.

1.2 Focus of the Problem

This analysis focuses on characters women, black American who faced the subaltern in her environment and family. This study shows how the impact to the character women black in America.

This study is to identify the implied meaning from the text in the novel and focuses on the setting, character, that can be applied to use in analyzing.

1.3 Research Question

Subaltern toward women as an important issue in novel *Sing-Unburied-Sing* (2017) by Jesmyn Ward. Therefore, there are some research questions in the novel to analyze. It is can be read as follow:

1. What are part of subaltern women in Novel ?
2. How does the oppression exist in Novel ?

1.4 Purpose of the Research

The study aims to expose the issue about subaltern women in novel *Sing-Unburied-Sing* (2017) by Jesmyn Ward. It is also intended to find out how the characters, setting, plot and conflict contribute in revealing the issue of subaltern women. It is uses the qualitative method to analyze. Instrument of the research for this study is the analysis of the novel itself and the hypothesis for this study isn't necessarily needed. The data used for this study is a quotations from the novel entitled *Sing-Unburied-Sing* (2017) by Jesmyn Ward and certain books about theory that relate to the analysis. In addition, this study deals with feminism approach with concept subaltern by Gayatri Spivak.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Subaltern Women

The term of subaltern women consists of combining two terms, namely subaltern and women. Subaltern is a person or people (inferior) who are dominated by the Others (superior), and women is a gender of role as human. According to *Antonio Gramsci (2005)* The subaltern classes, by definition, are not unified and cannot unite until they are able to become a “State”: their history, therefore, is intertwined with that of civil society, and thereby with the history of States and groups of States. He said that subaltern groups are always subject to the activity of ruling groups, even when they rebel and rise up: only “permanent” victory breaks their subordination, and that is not immediately. This meant that subaltern was an individual or group who was always oppressed and marginalized by others who had the power to dominate. Subaltern itself was not only naturally formed by low-ranking individuals or groups, but also due to the gender difference mainly to women.

In turn, as a result of the female's subaltern action, the female often receives either verbal or physical oppression. These actions are not only accepted through external (social) environments but are also accepted in the woman's own internal (family) environment. In addition, *David, E.J.R and Derthick, A.O (2017)* states oppression has two main components. First component is power and the second is privilege. He defines power is people’s access to resources that enhance their chances of getting what they need in order to lead safe, productive, fulfilling lives. It means the ability to use power, influence, or control over one's surroundings including other people, organizations, and institutions—in order to obtain what one desires. Privilege is unearned power that is only easily or readily available to some people simply as a result of their social group membership. Moreover, he states that privilege is enjoyed by a

dominant group—whether they are aware of their privileges or not, whether they want it or not, and whether they are well intentioned or not—giving them economic, political, social, and cultural advantages at the expense of members of marginalized groups. This means that privilege is a right that is received or owned by a group or individual that is granted without any special requirements so that the right can dominate other people or groups.

Traditionally, the oppression of women is an act that still exists today. Even though at this time women have been given the right to pursue education or choose the same career path as men, they still accept inappropriate actions from men. The lives of women are symbols of cultural depravity, any oppression they (are believed to) face becomes a justification for denigrating their culture, restricting their rights, and justifying transnational-aggression.

Moreover, According to *Lerner, Gerda (1975)* women are part of the anonymous in history, but unlike them, they are also and always have been part of the ruling elite. They are oppressed, but not like quite either racial or ethnic group, though some them are. They are subordinate and exploited but not like lower classes, though some them are. It's means that the oppression received by women is not something that happens based on their racial, economic, social or political background alone, but they are oppressed because of the low views based on their gender. It is interesting to analyze because to exposing what happened to the women in America. It is not easy for women to be equal with men and it is not easy for women to stop the oppression.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that there are several advantages that can be used to conduct this research. These include, we can find out more about the reasons why a person (woman) accepts an oppression and the pattern or system that is a supporting factor for a person (woman) to accept the oppression. Even

so, in the explanation above, there are also some weaknesses that make this research difficult. this includes no comprehensive explanation of the forms of oppression experienced by a person (woman).

Continually, the reason of researcher use the theory is that by using the above theory the researcher can find out more clearly the important factors, systems and main components that make a woman experience oppression. In this research, the researcher agree with this theory.

2.2. The concept of “Subaltern Women” by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

Can subaltern speak is the long essay by *gayatri chakravorty spivak (1988)*, in her essay she stated that women from the colonial period to the present day still in the situation that placed the woman in the lowest or inferior position. She also stated that this was not happening because of race, status, or education level but because of the view or system that still stressed women as inferior and males as superior. In her essay, Spivak reconsidered the problems of subalternity within new historical developments as brought by capitalistic politics of undermining revolutionary voice and divisions of labor in a globalized world.

The concept that Gayatri Spivak introduced in her essay is adapted from theory by Antonio Gramsci about Subaltern. Subaltern Woman is a study to study or explain if women do not have the same rights as male and they do not have the power to express this because it is defined by the traditions and systems that position women as inferior. Then women get marginalized and get oppression from men, whether in families or internal environment or in social or external lives.

Spivak stated , “The question is not of female participation in insurgency, or the ground rules of the sexual division of labor, for both of which there is „evidence“; rather, both were used as object of colonialist historiography and as a subject of insurgency, though the ideological construction of gender keeps the male dominant. If in the context of colonial production, the

subaltern has no history and cannot speak, the subaltern as female is even more deeply in shadow".(Spivak 2020, P.82-83)

It's means that women as subaltern ,Their voices or their right to speak have been firmly closed and cannot be heard or taken into public space. For example the "Sati" incident In India, spivak argued that subaltern's existence was totally lost when colonialism and patriarchies came together to dominate and marginalize subaltern groups, thus making it difficult for subaltern to articulate their voice.

The emergence of subaltern women concept arise as a radical move to focus on female culture. Gender is studied as a constituent social category in subaltern, and women as a object of subaltern do not have chance to voice and always get marginalized or oppression by men. This phenomenone attrack Spivak to attempting to speak for a marginalized group, thus stop the subalternse status.

2.3. Previous Research

The analysis of the novel entitled *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (2017) by Jesmyn Ward focus on women oppression has not been found yet. There are several research that give a contribution and inspiration in analyzing these novel.

The first study that relates to this study is the research conducted by *Sanne Steele-Nicholson* from Utrecht University (2019) entitled *The Transgenerational Ghost of Slavery Haunting America: Toni Morrison's Beloved and Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing*. The researcher explores the literary representation of transgenerational trauma in novels written by African-American authors. This study aims to show different ways in which the figure of the ghost is used as a literary device to represent the trauma and disremembering that is woven into life and art in the United States. The reseacher used about trauma theory by Caruth, Schwab, and Craps, among others. The result of this research is to proved that trauma can be unconsciously transferred to the next generation.

Second, study is conducted by *Indah Faramadita Fitri* from Airlangga University (2019) final assesment entitled Institutionalized Oppression In Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. She analyze about institutional oppression and the impact toward African Americans in the novel. The research will be focused on characters Riven, Richie, Given, and Jojo who tortued by white Americans. The result of this research to shows that intitutionalized oppression still exist in present days because there is power inequality between African Americans and white Americans in many intitutions in the United States.

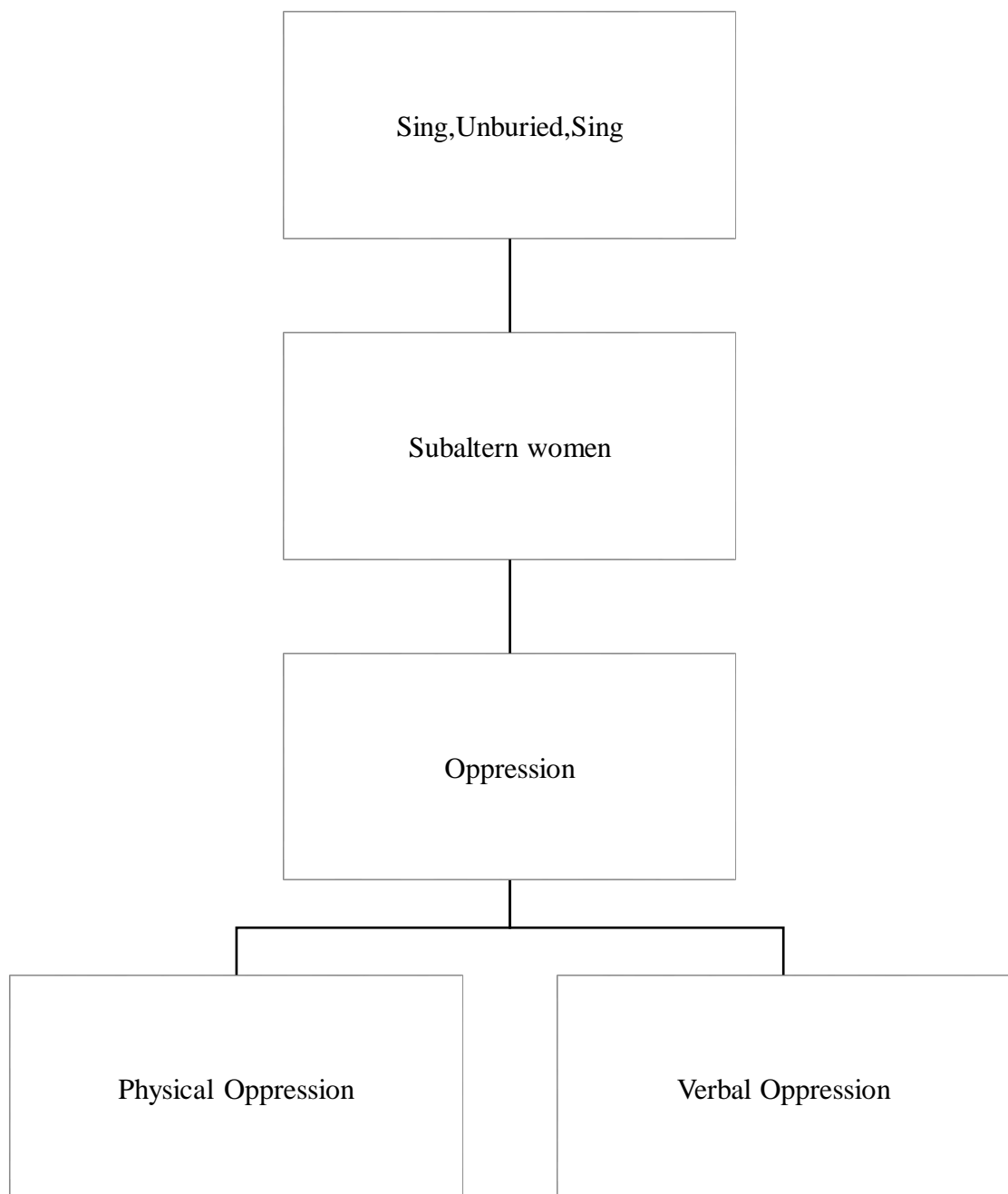
Third , study is conducted by *Muhammad Sabil* and *Bayu Kristanto* from Indonesia University (2021) entitled *Konstruksi Maskulinitas Laki-Laki Afrika Amerika dalam Sistem Rasisme pada Novel Sing, Unburied, Sing Karya Jesmyn Ward*. They analyze about the positioning of black men through the discourse of white masculinity in the novel *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. To reveal racism and black masculinity, the concept of black masculinity from Orelus and positioning theory from Harré & Van Langenhove. The aim of this research is to shows that discrimination against black men still occurs in countries like the United States.

Fourth , study is conduted by *Alexandra Cohl* from The City College of New York (2019) entitled *Reframing as Reclamation: Trauma Theory, African Spiritualism, and Ecocriticism in Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing*. She research is about how ecocriticism and trauma theory intersect within Jesmyn Ward's novel *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (2017) to tackle the complex act of collective healing. The purpose of this research is to show to prove how Ward's novel engages with the transfer of trauma across generational lines and how she then offers a way to mend it at both an individual and collective level.

Based on the previous relevant studies, this study has a significant difference with previous research, this can be revealed from the object and sample of previous research. Another difference from previous research is the functional device used to express the problems studied in the literary work. This study will focus on the character and setting use the feminism approach with the concept of subaltern women by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. This study will reveal the subaltern toward women and form of women oppression of Black American in Novel and how does the element of novel reveal it response in the Novel.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This research is about the issue of women oppression in Jasmyn Ward's novel *Sing-Unburied-Sing* (2017). It uses the concept subaltern by Gayatri Spivak, where the focus on how the characters struggle for identity, social construct of gender and the 'internalized consciousness' of the female. There are two subtopics for this research; verbal oppression and the physical oppression. The conceptual framework for this research can be seen on the following diagram,



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Data and Source of Data

To uncover the subaltern toward women in *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, this research uses a qualitative method. *Moleong (2017)* defines qualitative method as the research method that intends to understand the phenomena experienced by the subject in the form of behavior, perception, motivation, or action with the appearance of words and language in written form. Furthermore, *Denzin and Lincoln (2005)* Qualitative research is multimethod in focus, involving an interpretative, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical materials—case study, personal experience, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts – that describe routine and problematic moments and meanings in individuals’ lives. The phenomena found in the text is analysed by the researcher in order to expose certain issue from the text.

Qualitative method in this research employs prose as written text. The prose chosen for this analysis is fictional prose such as novel. The novel is analyzed by using fictional devices such as plot (conflict), characters, and setting. The fictional devices are related to each other and will contribute to reveal the meaning of the novel. The character element is used to expose the issue of subaltern toward women in the novel. The plot is used to find out the conflict that is faced by the character. The setting element can be used to show the condition, situation, and atmosphere faced by the characters in the novel. The setting will also contribute to find out the conflict in the novel.

3.2. Technique of Data Analysis

In this research, the content analysis (document) is used to reveal the meaning behind the text. There are some steps taken to collect the data:

The first step taken to analyse the novel is reading the novel entitled *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (2017) by Jesmyn Ward. Second, step is sorting the data related to the types of subaltern women and how the novel reveal that the subaltern toward women through the concept of subaltern by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Third, step is identifying the data related to the issue of overcoming women oppression in the novel. Fourth, step is collecting the data. The last step is analyzing the data based on the concept and element of prose.

The elements of novel used to analyse are setting, plot, and characters. The data is analysed by using the concept of subaltern proposed by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak from her long essay *Can the Subaltern Speak*. The use of the concepts is based on the interpretation of text and context of the novel.

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the issue of subaltern woman in Sing, Unburied, Sing novel by Jasmyn Ward (2017). The analysis is using the interpretation of text and context of the novel. Subaltern toward woman refer to the characters Leonie who as the subaltern and get oppression from her society and family in her country. In the novel, the setting takes place in the middle of nineteenth century in United States. It explores the oppression that woman get in her life effect being a subaltern. This analysis uses fictional devices such as character, plot, conflict, and setting to reveal the meaning.

4.1 Oppression

The first part will be discussed is the oppression which woman character get after being a subaltern in the novel face after they life in United States. The term of oppression that women get are verbal oppression and physical oppression. Verbal oppression is an act of violence that occurs using language as its medium, while physical oppression is an act of violence committed by someone using the physical and resulting in physical injury. This happens because there is a power gap between the superiors (men) and the inferiors (women) whose aim is to maintain men's position and to keep women as inferior class. This oppression is carried out by men as a form of the condition of women who are subaltern in society. The differences act which is accepted by woman makes them in marginal position and also get oppression from environment and family. The oppression is an effect from subaltern position as woman in their life.

4.1.1 Verbal Oppression

The first effect that subaltern woman to be analysed is verbal oppression. This leads to the problems of the subaltern toward woman that the character need to be faced. These problems are exposed from the character the women in the novel.

Oppression verbal which is targeted to women in novel reveal when she tried to ask for a job vacancy. She may given a job as a waiter in rural area in town. This show in novel quoted,

“ I called his mama years later after Michael went to jail, thanked God when it was her that picked up the phone and not Big Joseph. He would have hung up in my face rather than speak to me, the nigger his son had babies with. I told Michael’s mother I needed work, and asked if she could put in a good word with the owner. It was the fourth conversation we’d ever had. We spoke first when Michael and I started dating, second time when Jojo was born, and third when Michaela was born. But still she said yes, and then she told me I should go up there, up to the Kill, upcountry, where Michael and his parents are from, where the bar is, and I should introduce myself to Gloria, so I did. Gloria hired me for a probationary period of three months. You’re a hard worker, she said, laughing, when she told me she was keeping me on. She wore heavy eyeliner, and when she laughed, the skin at the sides of her eyes looked like an elaborate fan. Even harder than Misty, she said, and she damn near lives here. And then waved me back out front to the bar.“ (P.25)

From the quotation above can be shown there is oppression in verbal towards woman in the job field. In the feminism, woman who can work outside thier field is not a problem but in terms of social and employment aspects, women who work as waiters, especially in a bar, are a form of verbal oppression given to women. This is also a proof that in terms of employment opportunities, women are limited and only given jobs as someone who prioritizes service compared to using the intellectual property of these women.

The quote also indicates that women experience pressure in the work environment, even though this only occurs in the form of verbal oppression. The verbal oppression that the female character in the quote receives in the work environment is by forcing the woman to eliminate her intellectual property and prioritize physical exertion even though the woman has an educational background.

Based on the quotation, when women working in a bar, especially as a waitress, are required to work hard in terms of serving and accompanying consumers, the majority of whom are men. We can see this based on the sentence “ *You’re a hard worker she said, laughing, when she told me she was keeping me on. She wore heavy eyeliner, and when she laughed, the skin at the sides of her eyes looked like an elaborate fan.*” this sentence is a proved that woman must work by physical power in the bar. Woman character in this quote is pushed to work hard by using their physical ability as waiter, this is the big sign that woman (Leonie) got the oppression in verbal.

In the next quotation we can reveal that woman character already got verbal oppression since in the school. Verbal oppression which is got by woman in her school like insulting. It can reveal in the novel,

“ When we were coming up, I couldn’t count how many times he fought for us on the bus, in school, in the neighborhood when kids taunted me about how Pop looked like a scarecrow, how Mama was a witch. How I looked just like Pop: like a burnt stick, raggedly clothed. My stomach turned like an animal in its burrow, again and again, seeking comfort and warmth before sleep. I lit a cigarette.”(P.29)

From the quotation above, it can reveal that woman character in novel got oppression in verbal way (insulting) with her school friends. It can proven in this sentence “*how I looked just like Pop: like a burnt stick, raggedly clothed.*” In this sentence , we can see woman doesn’t have pride (honor) as a human. Woman character (Leonie) has been insulted and get verbal oppression not only because she is a woman but also by her skin color and her economic background.

Eventhought , woman in the education institution which should make them equal without think about gender differences, race or others. This is so ironic to think that woman is in educational enviroentment, they still got oppression in verbal, even woman character is descripted like burn wood stick which is not considered as human.

From the quotation above, From this quote, it can be revealed that the oppression that occurs against women in the educational environment has become a natural thing and is not of particular concern to be followed up as a problem that must be stopped.

Verbal oppression which also got in family area towards woman. It can reveal in this quotation ,

I clench my mouth, speak through my teeth. My jaw aches. "We'll be fine."
Michael's been in jail three years now. Three years, two months. And ten days. They gave him five with the possibility of early release. The possibility's real now. Present. My insides are shaking.
"You all right?" Pop asks. He's looking at me like he looks at one of his animals when something's wrong with it, the way he looks like when his horse limps and needs to be reshod, or when one of his chickens starts acting funny and feral. He sees the error, and he's dead committed to fixing it. Armor the horse's tender hooves. Isolate the chicken. Wring its neck. "Yeah," I say. My head feels filled with exhaust fumes: light and hot. "Fine." (P.30)

From the quotation above, we can reveal there is verbal oppression got by woman in family environment. The victim of this oppression is Leonie, which did by her father name Pop. Based on the quote we can see there is low measurement towards Leonie. It can be proven in the sentence "*He's looking at me like he looks at one of his animals when something's wrong with it,*" in these sentence woman define as in human even they are in small environment which got respect and don't get oppression but ironically woman got oppression in this condition.

Woman also can't speak up their argument or opinion. It shows in the sentence "*I clench my mouth, speak through my teeth. My jaw aches.*" there is fear which is kept woman in silent. In this quote proven woman has a fear even just to speak up their opinion about something even they think speak up is wrong act as woman.

According to the quotation, The family, which should be a home that can protect women's rights and self-esteem as human beings with the same equality, still gets verbally abused. This also proves that the condition of women as inferior started when

they were in the most minor environment, namely the family. in this case, it can also be expressed that the harmony and mutual respect in the family environment have begun to fade or almost disappear.

Next , oppression that makes woman in subaltern is when man see woman as sexual object and this act did by adult man even teenager boy. This can be see in this quotation ,

“ I don’t want to go nowhere. I want to keep looking down Misty’s shirt. Her bra flashes bright blue again, the kind of blue I’ve only seen in photographs, the color of deep water off in the Gulf of Mexico. The kind of blue in the pictures Michael took when he worked on the oil rig offshore, and the water was a living wet plain around him, making a great blue bowl with the sky. “ (P.45)

From this quotation can shows how man see woman as sexual object, and this act done by teenage boy who is considered doesn’t have mindset to oppres woman. Based on quote we can reveal, man see woman by form of her body not because they are smart and intellect which as equal as man. It can be proven in this sentence “ *I want to keep looking down Misty’s shirt. Her bra flashes bright blue again, the kind of blue I’ve only seen in photographs, the color of deep water off in the Gulf of Mexico.*” this sentence shows man see woman because attracted with their body and it got worst when man interpreted woman body as nothing.

This statement also can proven by the sentence ” *the color of deep water off in the Gulf of Mexico.*” Gulf of Mexico is a isolated water area which marginalize by atlantict ocean, it proven woman get oppression in verbal and put in as subaltern.

In the next quote, it can also be stated that the subaltern position accepted by women made women always got inappropriate treatment by men. And this is proven in the following quote,

“ We’d talk around it, avoid it like a bad customer in the bar who’s too drunk for more, who smells like sweet alcohol fermenting and diesel, yet keeps grabbing my hand when I walk by, saying something fucked up to me like: One more, you sweet Black bitch.”(P.64)

The quote above can prove that women got verbal oppression by men. This was done by men because they always maintaince their position above women and did not respect women as

human beings. In this case, it can be proven by the designation given by men to women in the quote. This can be established by the use of the word "One more, you sweet Black bitch." The use of this word was a form of verbal oppression by men. Men viewed women only as objects they can treat as they please, even women considered only prostitutes or servants who had to serve them and there was no self-respect that they should respect as fellow human beings.

This shows that the subaltern position experienced by women made women got unfair treatment and always received oppression from men. Men always looked down on women and regard women as slaves.

In the quote above, it can be stated that women did not have the opportunity to defend themselves and could only avoid them even though they know that men verbally oppress them. This also shows that even though women are in a work environment, they still do not have dignity as human beings and have the same position as men. In this quote, it can also be proven that the oppression of women is not something to be questioned about and this also shows that men are superior.

4.1.2 Physical Oppression

The second effect of subaltern that woman got in this novel was physical oppression. The subaltern position experienced by women not only caused them to be bullied verbally but also made them physically oppressed.

In addition, the physical oppression received by the female character occurred when she wanted to visit the male family with the aim of giving the news that the husband (child of the family) will soon be out of prison, but the woman did not receive good treatment but was held at gunpoint. a rifle. This is evident in the following quote,

“ I press the gas and swerve out into the street, the car behind me skids and its horn sounds, but I don't care. My transmission switches gears with a high whine. I sling the car around and go faster. The gray SUV has pulled into a driveway, but the driver is waving his arm out the window, and Big Joseph is passing under the tree, stopping at the mailbox I just abandoned, lumbering off his lawn mower, striding toward the box. He is taking something off the seat of the mower, a rifle

that was strapped there, something he keeps for wild pigs that root in the forest, but not for them now. For me.” (P.41)

In the quote above, it could be seen that female characters were physically oppressed by men in her family. This can be expressed by the use of the word "gun" which symbolized violence. Weapons are only used when hunting with the aim of killing, ironically these weapons were used for women.

In the quote can be taken over if treated like a game animal that can be shot and killed. This shows that the subaltern position experienced by women made them very oppressed and even not done humanely by men, and the oppression received by women did not care about the status of the woman. Even though these women were family members of men, women still received oppression from men. This also confirmed if the oppression received by these women also came from their families.

Furthermore, the treatment that women received was very inhuman, and forced to become sex slaves by men. This is evident in the following quote,

“Was a gunman named Blue that did it. It was a baseball Sunday; there was visitors. Some good-time girls, some men’s wives came. But Blue ain’t never had nobody. Called him Blue because he was so dark he shined like a plum in the sun, on the line. But he wasn’t right in the head; that’s why none of the women would talk to him. Wouldn’t take no visits with him. So he caught one of the women inmates out by the outhouses, and dragged her off into a stand.”Pop stops, looks back at the house. “What he do?” I say.

“He raped her,” Pop says. “She was a strong woman, hands near as callused as his from all the picking and sewing she did, but she wasn’t no match for him. Hit anybody in the head hard enough, it knock them out. Her face—you could barely recognize her. And maybe nothing would have happened to Blue for doing it if she hadn’t been the sergeant’s wife’s favorite. Always the one she called to hang wash and scrub floors or mind the kids. Blue had enough brains to know that. So he left her there, striped skirt up around her head, covering her bloody face, that fabric turning muddy and red.”(P.162)

In the quote above, it can be stated that the male character, Blue, treated women roughly and according to his will. In the quote, it can be stated that the male character raped and defeated the woman so that the woman can fulfill the desire of the man. In

the quote, it can also be stated that the physical oppression carried out by men against women resulted in the woman losing her life.

Even ironically, after men felt quite satisfied with their actions, men didn't care about the effects that women received from their actions. Then in the quote, the man left the woman like a dead animal that had no dignity as a human being. This shows that women had always been the object of satisfaction of men and also received physical oppression from men.

From the quotation it can prove if men only make women as objects of sexual satisfaction and do not see women as human beings. even in this quote, the lives that are owned by women do not have an important meaning for men.

4.2 Oppression still exist

In this novel, it can be show that women are too dependent on men. This can be proven by the following quote,

“Don’t nobody sit and stare for that long on something this clean without looking at something.” Misty waved her hand at the coke and winked at me. She’d tattooed her boyfriend’s initials on her ring finger, and for a second it looked like letters and then bugs and then letters again. Her boyfriend was Black, and this loving across color lines was one of the reasons we became friends so quickly. She often told me that as far as she was concerned, they were already married. Said she needed him because her mother didn’t give a shit about her. (P.27)

From the quotation above, It can reveal that when a problem occurs in a woman's life, women do not have the strength to face the problem themselves. They tend to depend on the presence of men, this can be proven by sentences “*Said she needed him because her mother didn’t give a shit about her.*” Based on the sentence , it can show women really need men in their lives, and in this quote the condition of women who really need the role of men to survive and solve their problems is a supporting factor for the oppression of women to occur and there is no resistance by women.

Based on the quotation above , it can show how big the role and influence of male domination is as superior to women. Even in this quote, women indirectly claim that they are weak and cannot be independent. In this quote, it can also be revealed that the doctrine of women is weaker than men and that women need the role of men to prove to be very strong and this strengthens the position of men as higher than women.

Continually, this is very ironic because women who should have the ability to survive in life and solve any problems they have independently, must depend on men for their lives. Even though the background and profession that women have can actually guarantee their lives, they prefer to depend on men. even though if they do that, they unconsciously position themselves more.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of this research, the writer finds that women are positioned as a subaltern group by men in the novel "sing, unburied, sing". This study focuses on the subaltern issue of women. The author finds that women are positioned as subalterns by means of oppression by men. In this study, there are two types of oppression experienced by women, namely verbal oppression and physical oppression. For verbal oppression, the researcher found that women in the novel "sing, unburied, sing" always get abused, demeaned, and even given the lowest position in the form of work. This action results in women having no self-respect in front of men, men always think that women should be below them. The second is physical oppression. physical oppression experienced by women in the novel "sing, unburied, sing" in the form of acts of sexual violence and even the use of weapons against women.

The impact experienced by women due to oppression in the novel "sing,unburied,sing" makes women in the subaltern position. Leonie's character can't fight because she doesn't have the power and chance to get out of the situation. Therefore, she cannot do anything because men are superior.

So, subalterns women in the novel "sing, unburied,sing" still exist at this time. The act of this issue is very dangerous. It can make women always positioned as inferior and get other violence from men. Based on the research, women must be aware and brave to fight injustice action.

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