

**WOMEN'S STRUGGLES IN POETRY COLLECTION
MILK AND HONEY BY RUPI KAUR (2011)**

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain
Strata One Degree in English Department*



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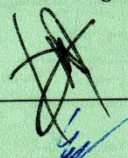
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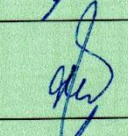
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ABSTRACT

Qolbia, A. (2023). *Women's Struggle in Poetry Collection Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur (2011)*. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research is an analysis of the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011). This research examine several forms of gender inequality and forms of women struggle's struggles to get out of this gender inequality. The form of gender inequality contained is in the form of harassment experienced by women. This research also discusses the form of women's struggle in obtaining freedom and happiness. Researchers' uses qualitative descriptive techniques using feminist theory from Simon De Beauvoir that can make women free to get happiness. The result of this study indicate that women are able to change the situation by fighting the injustice they experience.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Harassment, Feminism, Struggles of Women

ABSTRAK

Qolbia, A. (2023). Perjuangan Perempuan dalam Kumpulan Puisi *Milk and Honey* oleh Rupi Kaur (2011). Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis terhadap kumpulan puisi *Milk and Honey* oleh Rupi Kaur (2011). Penelitian ini mengupas beberapa bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender dan bentuk perjuangan perempuan untuk keluar dari ketidaksetaraan gender tersebut. Bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender yang terkandung dalam puisi ini berupa pelecehan yang dialami perempuan. Penelitian ini juga membahas tentang bentuk perjuangan perempuan dalam memperoleh kebebasan dan kebahagiaan. Peneliti menggunakan teknik deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori feminisme dari Simone de Beauvoir yang dapat membuat wanita bebas untuk mendapatkan kebahagiaan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa perempuan mampu mengubah keadaan dengan melawan ketidakadilan yang dialami.

Kata kunci: Ketidaksetaraan Gender, Pelecehan, Feminisme, Perjuangan perempuan

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Poetry is literary work in metrical form or patterned language, it can also be said as the art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken, designed to produce pleasure though beautiful, elevated, imaginative or profound thoughts (Noer Doddy Irmawati, 2014). Poetry is written from a collection of words that have meanings that can reflect the contents of the poem, because poetry is included in one type of literary work. In literary works, everyone can express what they experienced so that it can be used as a lesson and also a teaching by his or her readers.

Everyone's life experience is very different, this is also evidenced by the existence of gender, social status, education, occupation and others. In society there are many differences between women and men, this can lead to deviations. One of them is the assumption that women are weak and cannot compete with men. According to Ilaa (2021, p. 214) in Beauvoir's book *Le Deuxieme Sexe* or *The Second Sex* (1949), Simone de Beauvoir emphasizes that "women and men are different beings, but the whole Views of the world always seem to be told from the point of view of the men". however Beauvoir adamantly rejects this and encourages women to find him identity through freedom, without coercion or standards imposed on it. Gender equity may involve the use of temporary special measures to compensate for historical or systemic bias or discrimination. It refers to differential treatment that is fair and positively addresses a bias or disadvantage that is due to gender

inequality or norms or differences between the sexes. Equity ensures that women and men and girls and boys have an equal chance, not only at the starting point, but also when reaching the finishing line. It is about the fair and just treatment of both sexes that takes into account the different needs of the men and women, cultural barriers and (past) discrimination of the specific group”

In the view of society, gender is a guide in the provision of human life, especially for women. Women in society often experience discrimination and pressure from other communities, especially for men and also from the social level of society such as in work, love, household (wife) or social status. Not only from social groups, women have more oppression and gender inequality from the family environment, this is because the patriarchal system is emphasized more in the family environment than in the social environment. The family environment still places men as the holder of the highest rights, whereas in the social environment, knowledge and quality are considered more than gender. According Tong in Wahyuningtyas (2010) said “patriarchal ideology is the culture assumes that man is the dominant, where a man in household and family is the superior figure that has more power”. It means that men have a higher role than women in the social life because of gender differences, so that women are considered weak and cannot match the power and status of men. This causes many women to be depressed and their existence is considered not very important, for examples, many divorces because women are always wrong, many job debates think women cannot do

the work, a lot of harassment against women especially sexual harassment experienced by women and even harassment can be carried out by those closest to them such as from their own family environment (father, brother, and uncle).

After looking at the various problems that occur between men and women, it turns out that many women are suffering from the patriarchal system. This encourages women to rise from adversity and struggle to solve the problem of the patriarchal system in social life based on the feminism system. Feminism may be defined as a move to reduce and eliminate gender inequality, or alternatively limited to the goal of improving the position of women while still embracing gender difference, or more ambitiously as having the aim of transforming gender relation and existing gender standards (Walby, 2011). This means that women also want that there are no arbitrary actions by men against women. The equality that women want to achieve is to eliminate the notion that women are weak creatures and always depend on men to live their lives. Many of women experience mental disorders due to the patriarchal system which has a stigma that women are always under man, this make some women express their hearts through written works, such as poetry.

The collection of poems *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011) consists of 4 chapters, namely the Hurting chapter, the loving chapter, the breaking chapter, and the healing chapter. In this study the researcher only used 2 chapters, namely the hurting and the healing chapter because only these 2

chapters are very relevant regarding the types of gender inequality and women's efforts to rise in the struggle for a better life. The hurting chapter which explains the types of gender inequality experienced by women and the healing chapter which describes how women struggle to rise from the gender inequality they receive.

A collection of poems by Rupi Kaur (2011) conveys women's struggles in facing a problem that can make women's emotional and mental pressures. The book of poetry collection is explained that women are often hurt by men in the social and family fields. Therefore, these poems also explain how women can rise from adversity in life with men. This research is motivated by statements and people's thoughts by society about women, such as rape by men against women, as found in the collection of poems *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur.

“Rupi Kaur is a writer and artist based in Toronto, Canada. throughout her poetry and illustrations she engages with themes of love, loss, trauma, healing, and femininity. She shares her writing with the world as a means to create a safe space for progressive healing and forward movement. Her creative direction and photography have broken international boundaries and have since made it into galleries, magazines, and spaces around the world. When she is not writing or creating other art, she is traveling to perform spoken word, as well as hosting writing workshops” (Kaur, 2011)

Based on the poems above, the author focused on women's struggles in their environment and life. The tone and also words used by the author

explain the importance that women can also take care of themselves without the help of men. The author wants to explain and motivate women to rise up and fight on their own and women are able to be strong like men and justify the wrong mindset of society towards women.

1.2 Focus of Reseach

This research is entitled *Women's Struggles in Poetry Collection Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur (2011)*. This analysis focuses on the forms of women's harassment and how the forms of women's struggle are contained in the collection of poetry *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the identification above, this research can be formulated into 2 questions namely:

1. What kind of gender inequalities are experienced by women in the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011)?
2. How are the women's efforts to rise up in the in the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011)?

1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, there are 2 research objectives, namely:

1. To identify the inequalities experienced of women in the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011).
2. To identify the women's efforts to rise up in the struggle in the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011).

1.5 Purposes of Research

1. Theoretically

The purpose of this study is to identify the kind of gender inequalities experienced of women and describe the forms of women's struggle by using a collection of poetry *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011) using feminist studies. So that this research can provide a comprehensive understanding of feminist knowledge in literary works. This study is also useful as a reference in understanding analyzing literary works using feminist theory. This theory can provide an illustration of how the woman struggle's to effort and achieve life without man on the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011).

2. Practically

This study is expected to provide understanding and enrich knowledge and experience, especially for writers, generally students of UNP and can also be used as a reference by other university students who are interested in studying literature in feminist theory based poetry. This research can help us understand and know that women's lives do not depend on men on the poetry collection *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur (2011).