

**SELF EMPOWERMENT OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN AGAINST WHITE
HIERARCHY IN *WOMEN OF THE SUN* BY HYLLUS MARIS AND SONIA
BORG**

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain
Strata One (S1) Degree in English Literature*



ARINDA DWITAMI YASMINE

19019073/2019

Supervisor:

Desvalini Anwar S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D.

NIP. 197105251998022002

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG**

2023

HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

Judul : SELF EMPOWERMENT OF ABORIGINAL
WOMEN AGAINST WHITE HIERARCHY IN
WOMEN OF THE SUN BY HYLUS MARIS
AND SONIA BORG

Nama : Arinda Dwitami Yasmine
NIM : 19019073
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, 01 September 2023

Disetujui oleh
Pembimbing



Desyvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum, Ph.D

19710525199802002

Mengetahui

Kepala Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Desyvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum, Ph.D

NIP. 19710525199802002

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi
Program Studi Sastra Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang
dengan judul

**SELF EMPOWERMENT OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN AGAINST
WHITE HIERARCHY IN *WOMEN OF THE SUN* BY HYLLUS MARIS
AND SONIA BORG**

Nama : Arianda Dwitami Yasmine
NIM : 19019073
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, 01 September 2023

Tim Penguji

Tanda Tangan

1. Ketua : Delvi Wahyuni, S.S., M.A

2. Sekretaris : Leni Marlina, S.S., M.A

3. Anggota : Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum, Ph.D





KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN DAN KEBUDAYAAN RI
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI
JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INGGRIS

Kampus Selatan FBS UNP Air Tawar Padang Telp. (0751) 447347 Web: <http://english.unp.ac.id>

SURAT PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT

Saya yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini :

Nama : Arinda Dwitami Yasmine
NIM / TM : 19019073/ 2019
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Dengan ini menyatakan, bahwa Tugas Akhir saya dengan Judul "Self Empowerment of Aboriginal Women Against White Hierarchy in *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg" adalah benar merupakan hasil karya saya dan bukan merupakan plagiat dari karya orang lain. Apabila suatu saat saya terbukti melakukan plagiat maka saya bersedia diproses dan menerima sanksi akademis maupun hukuman sesuai dengan hukum dan ketentuan yang berlaku, baik di institusi Universitas Negeri Padang maupun masyarakat dan negara.

Demikianlah pernyataan ini saya buat dengan penuh kesadaran dan rasa tanggung jawab sebagai anggota masyarakat ilmiah.

Diketahui oleh,
Ketua Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., Ph. d
NIP. 197105251998022002

Saya yang menyatakan,



Arinda Dwitami Yasmine
NIM. 19019073

ABSTRACT

Dwitami Yasmine, Arinda. (2023). Self Empowerment of Aboriginal Women Against White Hierarchy in *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty Of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research is an analysis of novel *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg (1985). The design of this research is qualitative content analysis. The analysis discusses the events that occurred before, after, during the arrival of whites in Australia and the monopolization of Aboriginal tribes' native territories also the oppression from white experienced by Aboriginal Women. It contributes to the analyzing process by aiding in the meaning's revelation. This study's data is based on women agency theory within feminist theory, which examines women and the acts of aboriginal people that come from the analysis, specifically women's empowerment against white. The purposes of this analysis are to show oppressions experienced by the Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of the Sun* and to show how the Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of The Sun* empower themselves to face the oppression imposed on them. The results of this thesis research are territorial control, whitening, and violence perpetrated by white people against Aboriginal women and self-empowerment by Aboriginal women through education, career, and at home.

Keywords: *Oppression, Hierarchy, Self Empowerment, Aboriginal Women*

ABSTRAK

Dwitami Yasmine, Arinda. (2023). Self Empowerment of Aboriginal Women Against White Hierarchy in *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty Of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis terhadap novel *Women of The Sun* karya Hyllus Maris dan Sonia Borg (1985). Desain penelitian ini adalah analisis isi kualitatif. Analisis ini membahas tentang peristiwa-peristiwa yang terjadi sebelum, setelah, selama kedatangan orang kulit putih di Australia dan monopoli wilayah asli suku aborigin serta penindasan kulit putih yang dialami oleh perempuan Aborigin. Ini berkontribusi pada proses analisis dengan membantu pengungkapan makna. Data penelitian ini didasarkan pada teori keagenan perempuan dalam teori feminisme, yang mengkaji perempuan dan tindakan orang-orang aborigin yang berasal dari analisis tersebut, khususnya pemberdayaan perempuan terhadap kulit putih. Analisis ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan penindasan yang dialami oleh lima tokoh perempuan Aborigin dalam novel *Women of the Sun* dan menunjukkan bagaimana kelima tokoh perempuan Aborigin dalam novel *Women of The Sun* memberdayakan diri mereka sendiri untuk menghadapi penindasan yang menimpa mereka. Hasil dari penelitian tesis ini adalah penguasaan wilayah, pemutihan, dan kekerasan yang dilakukan oleh orang kulit putih terhadap perempuan Aborigin dan pemberdayaan diri yang dilakukan oleh perempuan Aborigin melalui pendidikan, karir, dan di rumah.

Kata kunci: *Penindasan, Hirarki, Pemberdayaan Diri, Perempuan Aborigin*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirabbil'alamiin, first of all, praises be to Allah SWT, who has given guidance, blessings, and mercies to me in completing this thesis. This thesis entitled "Self

Empowerment of Aboriginal Women Against White Hierarchy in *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg” is submitted as the final requirement for accomplishing a degree in English Language and Literature Department, Faculty Language, and Arts, Universitas Negeri Padang.

I would like to give my gratitude, respect, and appreciation to the writers beloved family; Defri Prima Putra and Guslinda, also the only one sister Nadilla Annisa Yasmine for their never-ending love, support prayer, advice, care, and support morally and financially to me. During the writing of this thesis, I also received a lot of help and support from several people, I would like also to give appreciation to them:

1. Head of English Language and Literature Department, Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D., and her secretary, Dr. Muhd. Al Hafizh, S.S., M.A., and the staff.
2. The thesis advisor, Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D., for her guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the research process.
3. Examiners, Delvi Wahyuni, S.S, M.A and Leni Marlina, S.S, M.A. for advice, supervision, and crucial contribution to the improvement of the result of this thesis.
4. I had a great thankfulness to the lecturers of the English Language and Literature Department at FBS Universitas Negeri Padang.
5. To my best friend when I was in Man 2 Padang who always cheered me up when I needed encouragement and motivation, Apasih; Tirta, Rima, Dika.
6. To my friends who really care and are always there with joy and difficulty working on my thesis, Lonely; Sinta, Aidin, Nada, Rayhan.
7. For my KKN Surau Gadang friends who were part of my college journey, especially my close friends during KKN; Dilla, Rahmi, Farhan, Fajar, and Zhafran.
8. I would like to extend the appreciation to all friends who have provided me with moral support, constructive criticism, and valuable suggestions throughout the research journey, both in lectures and during school who have been present in my life journey in pursuing education.
9. For my future soul mate, In the future, you will be one of the reasons for me to finish this thesis, even though at this time I don't know where you are. because I believe that something that is determined to be ours will come to us somehow.
10. Like snoop dogg's rap lyrics; Last but not least, I wanna thank me, I wanna thank me for having no days off, I wanna thank me for never quitting, I wanna thank me for always being a giver and tryna give more than I receive, I wanna thank me for just being me at all times.

Padang, July 2023

Arinda Dwitami
Yasmine

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Research.....	1
1.2 Focus of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions.....	6
1.4 Purpose of the Research	7
CHAPTER II	8
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	8
2.1 Review of Related Studies	8
2.1.1 Feminist Theory by Bell Hooks.....	8
2.1.1.1 Agency Theory by Lois McNay.....	10
2.1.2 Kind of Oppression	13
2.2 Previous Research.....	15
2.3 Conceptual Framework.....	18
CHAPTER III	19
RESEARCH METHOD	19
3.1 Data and Source of Data.....	19
3.2 Technique of Data Analysis	20
CHAPTER IV.....	23
4.1 Oppressions experienced by Aboriginal Women as the result of White Hierarchy.....	23
4.1.1 Exploitation	23
4.1.2 Cultural Imperialism.....	26
4.1.3 Violence.....	29
4.2 Self Empowerment of Aboriginal Women Against White Hierarchy	31
4.2.1 In Education.....	33
4.2.2 In Career	37
4.3.3 At Home	41
CHAPTER V	46
CONCLUSION.....	46
5.1. Conclusion.....	46
5.2 Suggestion	47
BIBLIOGRAPHY	48

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Jebb (1992) stated, since the inception of European colonization, gendered racism has been notably visible in the sexual and physical dominance of Aboriginal women in particular. Huggins J (1994) added, Aboriginal women were not supported by white women, who were frequently more harsh bosses than their husbands, inflicting horrific punishment on Aboriginal women in domestic service (Moreton-Robinson, 2000) says, "This 'gendered oppression' that privileged white women to have higher role in Australian society has made it difficult for Indigenous women today to form sisterhoods with white women, who are seen as contributing to their historical oppression".

In truth, the white people had power and throne so that the aboriginal tribes lost and then submitted to the white people. Moreton-Robinson (2013:331) stated that Whiteness is a form of dominance in a hierarchy of oppression officially declared in Australia through the declaration of *terra nullius* and the subsequent appropriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereign lands in 1770. Racism itself is a multifaceted concept and social construct, and being racist is generally identified as holding beliefs and attitudes in the natural superiority of one's own race over other races and the right to racial dominance. Bhopal (2004:441) gives some context for the phrase when discussing race, the word (White) is typically used to designate persons of European ancestry whose identify or are recognized as White.

The term is capitalized to emphasize its special meaning. He also adds, when referring to White Australians, the term "White" may refer to one of the following: a

European Australian, an Australian with European ancestry, an Anglo-Celtic Australian or Anglo, an Australian from the British Isles, an Anglo-Saxon Australian, or an Australian with British or Germanic ancestry.

Martin (2003:7) said that indigenous Australians have faced widespread and persistent racism from white Australians since colonial contact. (Moreton-Robinson, 2003) also stated that it remains profoundly ingrained in Australian schooling, legal, political, and social frameworks, and penetrates all areas of Indigenous people's existence. (Behrendt, 1993) with his following statement:

Teachers took over as educators at the mission schools. They were barred from speaking their own languages or engaging in other cultural traditions. As a result, it was difficult for them to carry on their language, tales, art, dance, customs, marital arrangements, healing, and spiritual practices. On the reservations, Aboriginal women were regularly sexually assaulted by white male supervisors and traded for sexual favors with other authorities.

According to the passage above, Aboriginal women have the same knowledge and talents as white women. However, because Aboriginal women are in the minority, they are frequently exploited, subjected to bigotry and unpleasant treatment by white males, and mistreated. However, advancing women's status, particularly in terms of access to education, health care, and work opportunities, is an important aim in and of itself. It also enhances their ability to make key decisions, such as those about having children. One of the most crucial ways to empower women and provide them the information, abilities, and self- assurance needed to participate fully in the developing process is via education (Butler, 2016).

Early Non-Indigenous researchers into the ongoing invasion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereign lands studied culture through racist/ethnocentric views

and biases and created narratives of inferiority based on human stratification of race (Lorde, 1984). (Butler, 2016) described racism within science as an 'intellectual white-washing' that has embedded racist norms within Australian society, perpetuated by Social Darwinism.

And represent the proof through the novel *Women of The Sun*. This novel was written by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg based on a true event, in this instance the experiences of Aboriginal Australian women in their community through the years. *Women of the Sun*, their 1985 novel, tells about Aboriginal women that have had to face a history of abuse, exploitation, hardship, poverty, racism, and prejudice in the post-contact period (Choo, 1993). The story of main character Aboriginal women on the Australian continent. demonstrates how Aboriginal Australian civilization has evolved over time, both before and after the white aggression. The anguish and pride of the main female characters as they struggle for their lives and identities as Aborigines and women that have an essential function in Aboriginal society and are not regarded as inferior to males. Women are said to have a natural sense of culture and a love and respect for environment as indigenous Aborigines, which is particularly significant in their society. Furthermore, this story demonstrates that it is necessary, if not mandatory, for them to carry on their culture, belief in nature, and original identity to their offspring, as well as the pride of being born Aboriginal. A woman in an Aboriginal tribe plays an essential role since she will pass on this information to her children. This work has a strong atmosphere of Aboriginal women's difficulties in it, as it informs about the unpleasant experiences of several Australian Aboriginal women characters' lives. The struggle of Aboriginal women in it appears to try to offer the reader an understanding of how Aboriginal women's responsibilities in Australian Aboriginal society have evolved.

Self-help and empowerment are closely related in the dictionary definition. Empowerment can relate to user engagement in services and to the self-help movement generally, in which groups act on their own behalf, either in cooperation with or independently of the statutory services. Self-empowerment important for aboriginal women is also supported by (Karl, 1995):

Women may become more self-reliant and establish their autonomous right to decision-making and resource control through the process of empowerment, both of which will help to challenge and end their subjugation. It is a collaborative process that starts at the community and domestic levels and progresses to greater participation, decision-making authority, and control, as well as transformative action that enables people or groups to shift power dynamics in the social, economic, and political spheres of society. (P14)

It means that women should have the freedom to choose and have equal access to resources in the home and in the community, as well as opportunities and authority. Because empowerment is directly tied to shifting power gaining, using, losing, and diminishing the idea of empowerment is understood as the idea of power. It is described as "a multi-dimensional social process that aids individuals in taking charge of their life (Page & Czuba, 1999). (Lips, 1991) also stated that power has always been viewed as a solitary entity and a zero sum since it is typically acquired at the expense of others.

Empowerment may also be seen of as a result since it can be evaluated in relation to anticipated results. But because the former is more precise and analytical than the latter quality, the process may be more educational than the result. Despite these claims, the majority of empowerment studies have emphasized results. Both in their book (Conger & Kanungo, 1988) also (Darlington et al., 2005) claimed the

empowering process or path has been the subject of certain research, although their findings were more applicable to the final result than to the ongoing process itself.

Empowerment's goal was to "improve people's ability to manage their own lives". The term "empowerment" refers to a multifaceted notion that incorporates socio-ecological, educational, psychological, social learning, and many other ideas (Rappaport, 1981). It has several uses, and its methods may be applied to draw attention to and solve issues including social exclusion, marginalization, and equality as well as power dynamics". Despite this, the term "empowerment" is frequently misused, and in Australia, its use is frequently defined in terms of the dominant culture. It can be shown that the phrase empowerment has origins in the women's and civil rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s, as well as in the "self-help" and "social action" ideologies. Literally, the word "empowerment" implies "growing in power." But it is impossible to use both theory and procedure in social work. It is a theory "concerning how individuals may attain collective control over their lives, in order to further their interests as a group and a means through which social workers aim to increase the power of those who lack it (Thomas, 2014).

(Karl, 1995) argued that women's empowerment has long been regarded as critical to the attainment of democratic or human rights. Gender equality and women's empowerment must be integrated into poverty reduction, democratic governance, and sustainable development for society to thrive. Several public conversations have included indicators for women's participation in family decisions, attitudes toward husbands who mistreat their wives, views on whether a woman may pick her job, and challenges women face in obtaining healthcare for themselves. Additional questions in certain countries included the following topics: spouse selection, parental support, asset ownership, control over money for various reasons, awareness of and usage of

microcredit programs, views about gender roles, freedom of mobility, and participation in any organization.

(Batiwala & Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education and Freedom from Hunger Campaign, 1993) talks the majority of the exploitation that results from patriarchal, caste, class, and cultural institutions falls disproportionately on women. Studies have shown that women's restricted control and access over resources contribute to and sustain their inferior status. In contrast to individuals who possess productive assets, it is true that the poor often have restricted control and access to over sources. However, women have far less influence over these resources than males do. As a result, being a woman and being poor makes women doubly marginalized. This reveals individuals who possess productive assets, it is true that the poor often have restricted control and access to over sources. However, women have far less influence over these resources than males do. As a result, being a woman and being poor makes women doubly marginalized.

1.2 Focus of the Problem

The writer discovered that the fundamental issue in this thesis is Aboriginal women's empowerment against the oppression done by the white people on them.

1.3 Research Questions

The problems that can be formulated are:

1. What kind of oppressions are experienced by Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of the Sun*?
2. How do the Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of The Sun* empower themselves to face the oppression imposed on them?

1.4 Purpose of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of the research are:

1. To show kind of oppresions experienced by the Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of the Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg.
2. To show how the Aboriginal female characters in the novel *Women of The Sun* by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg empower themselves to face the oppression imposed on them.