

**THE RISE OF WOMEN IN THE POEMS *A WOMAN'S PLACE* BY FROHMAN (2018),
REMEMBER, WOMAN BY LEYVA (2015), AND *A WOMAN'S PLACE* BY CHIDI (2005)**

THESIS

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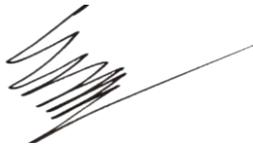
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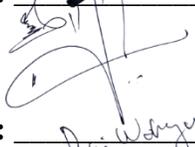
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ABSTRACT

Che Guevara, Gernanda. (2022). The Rise Of Women In The Poems *A Woman's Place* By Frohman (2018), *Remember, Woman* By Leyva (2015), And *A Woman's Place* By Chidi (2005). Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty Of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

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This research is an analysis of three poems by Denice Frohman entitled *A Woman's Place* (2018), by Reese Leyva entitled *Remember, Woman* (2015), and by Sylvia Chidi entitled *A Woman's Place* (2005). This analysis explores the struggles of women represented by the female speakers in all the three poems in conveying their rights and positions, obtaining gender equality and breaking the patriarchal culture. The analysis of the three poems also reveals the extent to which the author implies the female speaker's effort to call for women's awareness in order to gain equality. The study of these poems is uses the concept of feminist theory by Bell Hooks then supported by gender inequality and gender oppression. The results of this study indicate that women already have awareness about the inequality treatment they have experienced and determined to change this condition. The analysis discusses; 1) injustices and oppression towards women, 2) Raising women's awareness, 3) women efforts to achieve equality.

Keywords: Struggles, Inequality, Oppression, Awareness, Equality

ABSTRAK

Che Guevara, Gernanda. (2022). The Rise Of Women In The Poems *A Woman's Place* By Frohman (2018), *Remember, Woman* By Leyva (2015), And *A Woman's Place* By Chidi (2005). Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty Of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

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Penelitian ini merupakan analisis terhadap tiga puisi karya Denice Frohman berjudul *A Woman's Place* (2018), Reese Leyva berjudul *Remember, Woman* (2015), dan Sylvia Chidi berjudul *A Woman's Place* (2005). Analisis ini mengeksplorasi perjuangan perempuan yang diwakili oleh penutur perempuan dalam ketiga puisi dalam menyampaikan hak dan posisinya, memperoleh kesetaraan gender dan mendobrak budaya patriarki. Analisis terhadap ketiga puisi tersebut juga mengungkapkan sejauh mana pengarang menyiratkan upaya penutur perempuan untuk menyerukan kesadaran perempuan untuk mendapatkan kesetaraan. Kajian puisi-puisi ini menggunakan konsep teori feminis Bell Hooks yang kemudian didukung oleh ketidaksetaraan gender dan penindasan gender. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa perempuan sudah memiliki kesadaran tentang perlakuan tidak adil yang mereka alami dan bertekad untuk mengubah kondisi ini. Analisis membahas; 1) ketidakadilan dan penindasan terhadap perempuan, 2) Meningkatkan kesadaran perempuan, 3) upaya perempuan untuk mencapai kesetaraan.

Kata kunci: Perjuangan, Ketimpangan, Penindasan, Kesadaran, Kesetaraan

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The debate between the position of men and women is still a common topic today. In modern times like today, there are still many social conflicts related to the issue of gender inequality. Not infrequently this problem leads to pressure from one party who is superior, especially men towards women. This problem is not unnoticed; in fact this gender-related issue is a problem that has been known to the world for a long time. Silvana (2013) states in the *Women Studies Enslikipedia*, that, “the notion of gender is a cultural concept, which makes a difference in terms of roles, behavior, and emotional characteristics between men or women who develop in society”. From the statement above, seeing from a social perspective, it can be seen that there are differences between rights and obligations, positions between men and women. This division of social roles leads to gender imbalances to the point of suppression. The imbalance and emphasis felt by women will certainly trigger resistance from women. Because of the inequality of position that harms women a lot, triggers the emergence of awareness in them to change the situation. In addition, the many pressures received by women from men to the social environment forced them to fight back and try to rise from adversity. The rise of woman can be said as a form of resistance or struggle carried out by women to fight social injustice and the oppression they receive. In fact, in modern times, there are many laws in the world that protect women's rights and support women's emancipation, but in practice, the patriarchal culture that has been attached for a long time is still felt and has an impact today.

The National Commission on Violence against Women (women's commission) noted that for 17 years, namely during 2004-2021, there were 544,452 cases of domestic violence or the personal sphere around the world. WHO also conducts research to see the level of violence against women around the world. WHO analyzed data from a survey of 161 countries between 2000 and 2018 to produce this latest estimate. The WHO study lists partner violence as the most widely reported form of abuse. About 641 million women claim to have experienced it. Beyond that, 6% of women worldwide say they have been assaulted by someone other than their husband or partner. Based on the issue of social inequality experienced by women, the analysis of this thesis looks at the impact of this patriarchal culture. (Patriarchy is “a social system in which men act as the main central authority figure in social organization and where fathers hold authority over women, children, and property”). Imbalance will lead to oppression, oppression will lead to rebellion. This gender problem that occurs raises resistance by women. These forms of resistance are the main focus of this research.

Problems related to the issue of feminism are also quite portrayed in literary works. According to Pradopo (1994: 26) the literary work is “as the picture of the world and human life, the main criteria that is putted on the literary work is 'truth', or everything that wants to be pictured by the author”. From the quote above, it can be understood that literary works are not only created for entertainment, but also for reflecting the actual situation of real life. Literary works are often used as a means of criticism or anxiety from the author. One of the branches of literature that contains many meanings of criticism of life's problems is poetry. Bernie Ollila (2006) says in his research entitled the definition of poetry, “Poetry is any kind of verbal or written language that is structured rhythmically and is meant to tell a story, or express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being”. From the statement above, it can be concluded that poetry

was created to convey the anxiety felt by the author of the poem. The anxiety can come from external or internal factors. Poets can write poetry based on mere imagination to the actual situation. Poetry writers or poets usually imply a lot of meaning and emotion in the poetry they create, it can be in the form of praise, criticism, anger, sadness and others.

Denice Frohman, Reese Leyva, and Sylvia Chidi are women who enliven the world of poetry. The themes they take up usually contain feminist studies. Through their poetry they convey the criticisms and voices that many women in this world want to convey. Through poems entitled *A Woman's Place* by Denice Frohman (2018), *Remember, Woman* by Reese Leyva (2015) and *A Woman's Place* by Sylvia Chidi (2005), they convey the issue of the rise of women from patriarchal oppression. At first glance, the three poems above seem to only describe the lives and habits of women, but actually they contain a very deep meaning about women's voices and struggles to get their rights in society. These three poems are not only captivating in terms of language but also the way the author conveys the meaning contained in them also impresses the people who read them. In the three poems above, the author focuses their thoughts on the position of women in society. The injustices and oppression they received forced them to rise up and fight back in order to achieve equality.

This analysis uses feminist theory to look at issues of the rise of women from the three poems above. Through three poems; *A Woman's Place* (2018), *Remember, Woman* (2015), and *A Woman's Place* (2005) this research looks at how the feminist movement tries to break down patriarchal culture. The goal of feminists is to equalize the position of men and women, for even today, in this modern world, women are still often underestimated by men. Linda Gordan (2002:6), defined feminism as “an analysis of women’s subordination for the purpose of figuring out how to change it”. For Gordan feminism also means sharing the drive to increase women's

power and autonomy in their families, communities and societies. On another occasion Gordon also defines feminism as a “critique of male supremacy, formed and offered openly to change it”.

The use of this theory is not without reason. There are still many people who think that a woman's place is at home, such thinking is called patriarchy; a thought that considers the position of men above women. Walby defines “patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women” (Walby 1990:20). The assumption of patriarchy is the place of women is domestic and the assumption that women cannot play an important role in society. Feminism is a movement of women to achieve emancipation or gender equality in society. Feminists fight for their rights in society to destroy the patriarchal understanding that has limited every aspect of women's lives. The goal of feminism is to get an equal position with men which cover all social aspects in society.

In societies throughout the world, men are often regarded as superior and women as inferior. "Boys, more in the family system of partisanship is always the only hope in continuing the descent." (Ratna: 2004: 183). This quote explains that men play an important role in the life of a family. Men as role models and absolute decision makers are the true view of this understanding. The theory of gender inequality shows the gap between the positions of women and men. Sometimes gender imbalance is also accompanied by patriarchal emphasis on women; this theory is known as gender oppression. According to INCITE (2005), gender oppression is the act of abuse and violence, patterns of control and power, and systems of abuse and violence committed by group or individual against women and girls because of their gender. From this thought it can be concluded that the inequality between women and men places women in a lower place than men. So that the continued effect of gender inequality leads to the freedom of men in treating women, including physically and mentally harassing them.

This research sees the struggles carried out by women from the perspective of the two theories; gender inequality and gender oppression. According to Dagon (in Ratna: 2004: 187) there is no research that shows a correlation between biological conditions and differences in behavior. Conversely, it can be ascertained that behavior is influenced even determined by certain cultural characteristics. Moreover, according to Charvet (1982:10) that because the courage of woman who are very radical, women get other freedom, such as the right to acquired academic knowledge and work outside at home. From the quotation it can be said, woman struggles is what lead them to the gender equality. This study tries to link the relationship between gender inequality and gender oppression with the feminist movement or the struggle movement carried out by women. This shows how gender inequality and gender oppression trigger the movement of women to fight against the injustices they are receives. The final result of this research is expected to be able to find out the results obtained from the struggles carried out by women and see how the rise of women.

To further analyze the elements of feminism contained in the poems *A Woman's Place* (2018), *Remember, Woman* (2015), and *A Woman's Place* (2005) an analysis was conducted using the poetic elements such as speaker who is the narrator of the poem, repetition, symbol, metaphor, setting and the tone of the poems. By using these poetic elements, this research is able to reveal the implied meaning contained in the three poems.

1.2 Brief Explanation of Author's Biography

Denice Frohman is a poet, performer and educator from New York City. As a CantoMundo Fellow, she has received Residency and Awards from the Latin Arts and Culture Association, the Leway Foundation, the Blue Mountain Center, and the Millet Colony. Her work

has been published in *The BreakBeat Poets: LatiNext, Nepantla: Anthology for Queer Poets of Color*, *The New York Times*, and *ESPNW*, and has been viewed more than 10 million times online. As a former World Poetry Slam Champion female, she can be seen on the national and international arena, from the White House to Apollo to more than 200 colleges. She helps organize #PoetsforPuertoRico and lives in Philadelphia.

Reese Leiva is a writer and poet, and the first time she experienced magic was when she read her brother's short story, "Why Wolves Bark the Moon," in elementary school. In addition, she is the mother of two sacred people and inspires her every day with their great joy. Her writings have been published by *The Urban Howl* and *Her Heart Poetry*, and her poem "Remember, Woman" has given women around the world passion and ferocity. She lives in PNW with her husband and two little children, where she enjoys a lot of rain, summer fruit picking and fresh air.

Lovina Sylvia Chidi was born in Germany, and after spending her childhood in Nigeria, she studied in the United Kingdom, where she engaged in computer science. She is a self-published poet and author. In the first half of the 1990s, she was one of the leading Nigerian female chess players. In 1991, she participated in the Women's World Chess Championship Interzonal Tournament in Subotica, finishing last of the 35 players after missing the first two rounds.

1.3. Focus of the Problem

This analysis focused on the struggles and the efforts of the women to achieve emancipation or gender equality in society. In the three poems, *Woman's Place* (2018), *Remember, Woman* (2015) and *A Woman's Place* (2005),

1.4. Research Question

Therefore, to analyze the struggles and the efforts of the women, the research questions are formulated below:

1. What are the forms of injustices received by women in the poems, *A Woman's Place* (2018), *Remember, Woman* (2015) and *A Woman's Place* (2005)?
2. What do the women in the poems do to fight back the injustices?

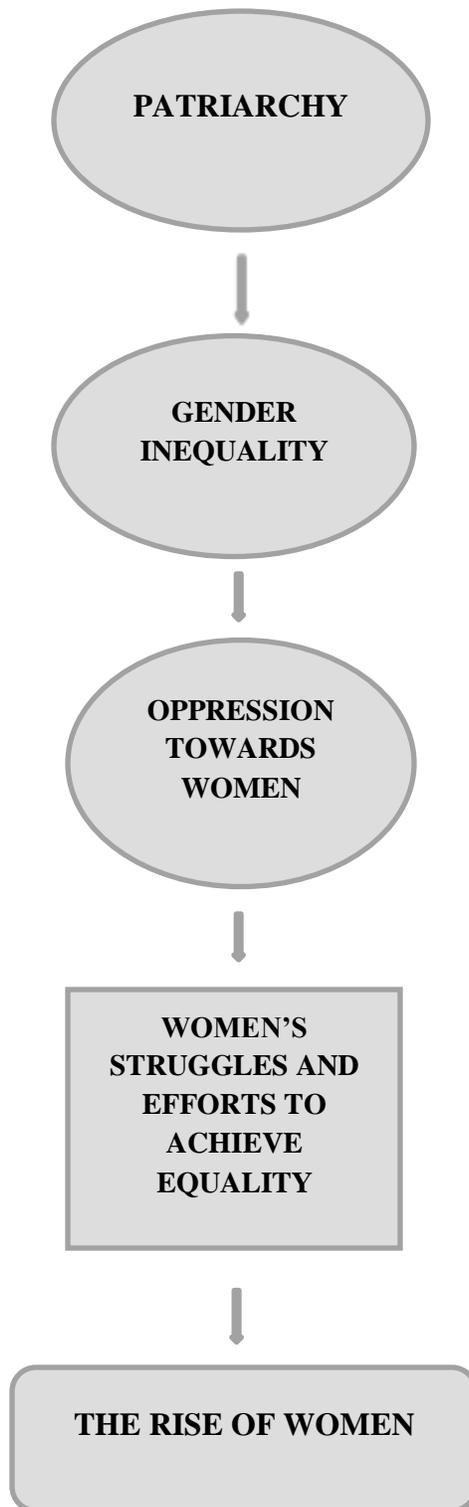
1.5. Purpose of the Research

The aim of this study is to reveal:

1. the injustices and exploitation imposed on women in the poems, *A Woman's Place* (2018), *Remember, Woman* (2015), and *A Woman's Place* (2005). And
2. the women's struggles and efforts against the injustices.

1.5. Conceptual framework

The analysis of this research relies on feminist theory in dissecting the literary works used. Bell Hooks (2000) defines feminism in the book *Feminism is for everybody* as “feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression”. She also stated that “All sexist thinking and action is the problem, whether those who perpetuate it are female or male, child or adult”. This study believes that the resistance carried out by women is a result of the imbalance of position in the social environment they experience, as well as the amount of oppression they receive from both men and the social environment.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

In Denice Frohman's poems *A Woman's Place* (2018), Reese Leyva's Poems *Remember, Women* (2015), and Sylvia Chidi's Poems *A Woman's Place* (2005) it can be concluded that there is a struggle carried out by women conveyed by three speakers to voice the greatness and women's privileges and to obtain women's rights in social life. The speaker emphasized the self-worth of a woman and showed the world that women are not objects but free individuals. Women here can be seen as just as special as men. The speaker wants the reader to understand that women and men are the same, even though women and men have many differences. Basically the above poems aim to motivate women around the world to be brave, smart, and proud to be a woman and stand on their own feet.

The results found from this study indicate that women already have an awareness of gender inequality and the injustices they receive. Women awareness of the situation triggers the resistance from women to rise up and change the situation. The form of efforts from women that has been found through this research is not against physically but rather on the development of the mindset of women themselves. A mindset that is aware of themselves and the abilities and privileges they have. The final result of this study shows that women have risen from their passive nature of the adversity and injustice that they have received so far. Women in the three poems *A Woman's Place*, *Remember, Woman*, and *A Woman's Place* have had the courage to change things and rise up to become sovereign individuals.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the conclusions and findings obtained from this study, the author would like to contribute to provide some suggestions for other researchers in future studies. It is recommended to fully understand the struggles of woman. Next to researchers who use poetry as an object of research in order to understand well the elements of poetry to be used as a tool in dissecting and analyzing a poem. Finally, the author hopes that this research can provide assistance as an inspiration for future research. Not to forget, the writer also really hopes for the readers to provide corrections to this research.

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