

GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN NOVEL *SOLD* (2006)

BY PATRICIA MCCORMICK

Thesis

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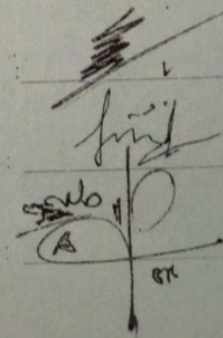
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Abstract

This thesis is an analysis of a novel written by Patricia McCormick entitled *Sold*(2006). This analysis looks at the gender discrimination that is experienced by women who are victims of gender discrimination acts. This analysis is related to the feminist approach and the concept of gender discrimination by Simone de Beauvoir. The analysis focuses on the issue of gender discrimination. The aim of this analysis is to what extent the character, conflict (plot), setting and stage direction contribute to reveal the issue of gender discrimination. This analysis also depends a lot on the narrator to determine which parts of the novel are used as the data. The result of the study shows that Lakshmi experienced gender discrimination such as marginalization, subordination, stereotype, violence and double burden. In addition, women also make efforts to fight discrimination acts such as staying in school, learning English, and breaking brothels regulations.

Key Words : *feminist, gender discrimination, marginalization, subordination, stereotype, violence and double burden*

Skripsi ini merupakan analisis dari novel yang ditulis oleh Patricia McCormick berjudul Sold (2006). Analisis ini melihat diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh perempuan yang menjadi korban tindakan diskriminasi gender. Analisis ini terkait dengan pendekatan feminis dan konsep diskriminasi gender oleh Simone de Beauvoir. Analisis tersebut berfokus pada masalah diskriminasi gender. Tujuan dari analisis ini adalah sejauh mana peran karakter, konflik (plot), setting dan arahan panggung dalam mengungkap isu diskriminasi gender. Analisis ini juga sangat bergantung pada narator untuk menentukan bagian mana dari novel yang digunakan sebagai datanya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Lakshmi mengalami diskriminasi gender seperti marginalisasi, subordinasi, stereotipe, kekerasan dan beban ganda. Selain itu, perempuan juga berupaya melawan tindakan diskriminasi seperti tetap bersekolah, belajar bahasa Inggris, dan melanggar peraturan bordil.

Kata Kunci: feminis, diskriminasi gender, marginalisasi, subordinasi, stereotipe, kekerasan dan beban ganda.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Amid a large number of groups and activists voicing the issue of gender equality, it turns out that there are still much unfair treatment and discrimination received by many parties, especially women. Nepal is one of the underdeveloped countries in the world where the majority of the population must survive in problems of poverty and gender discrimination. Although Nepal has ratified The Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1991, Nepal still puts aside women's rights and limits them. A famous Nepalese writer, Thapa (2016) states that He felt betrayed by his own country. He realized that the presence of women in Nepal was never expected and was not treated well. This is one of them seen from the action of the erasure of women's agency as full human beings

The majority of Nepalese society consider the position of women to be much lower than that of men. They believe that a woman's life is greatly influenced by her father and husband, which means that women do not have their own identity. This is in line with a Nepalese proverb that "women have no caste".

The waiver of rights carried out against Nepalese women can also be seen through the opportunities to get the education and work that they receive. Dangol (2010) explains that women have limited access to education and jobs. This is

different from the fact that Nepalese women have a sizable contribution as a good workforce and mentors in the household. Mahat (2003) states that the position of Nepalese women is far behind men. Girls are not treated as well as boys from the day they are born. They also do not have the same opportunity to achieve development and develop themselves. This situation is commonly known as gender discrimination.

Gender discrimination is a term used to indicate the existence of unfavorable treatment received by someone due to gender. Discrimination is recognized as a form of inequality and a problem for women around the world. According to Fakih (1996), gender discrimination is a treatment of individuals differently based on gender, race, religion, and age. According to Theodorson (1979) discrimination is an unequal treatment against individuals or groups based on something. This is usually unique, such as based on race, ethnicity, religion, and social class. Meanwhile, according to Peplau (1999) discrimination is the behavior of accepting or rejecting someone based on their position in society. In general, discrimination is an attitude that differentiates others based on ethnicity, religion, and race.

Victims of gender discrimination are generally women. This is caused by a lack of understanding in society about the natural and unnatural differences between men and women or what is commonly referred to as gender. According to Bhasin (2000) gender refers to the socio-cultural definition of men and woman, the way society distinguishes men and woman and assigns them social rules. Oakley (1972) states that gender is a difference or sex that is not biological and not natural. Meanwhile, according to World Health Organization (WHO) gender is a character of women and men, such as norms or group relationships of men and women, which are socially constructed. Lips (1993) defines gender as the cultural expectations of

men and women. For example, women are synonymous with gentle, beautiful, motherly, and emotional attitudes. Meanwhile, men are synonymous with strong,

rational, and powerful personalities.

Gender discrimination is influenced by several aspects such as religion, culture, ethnicity, and especially patriarchal culture which is hereditary. According to Bhasin (2010) patriarchy is a system of domination and superiority of men over women. Bressler (2007) states that patriarchy is a social system that places men as the main central authority figure in social organization. Societies that adhere to a patriarchal system usually think that men are always superior to women and women will always be under men's power, which causes many women to receive unfair treatment such as not being able to get a good education, unable to get a job and salary what is appropriate, even everything about women is controlled and determined by men. This proves that the status of women is considered low. Syed (2001) states that women have always been seen as belonging to men. Only men are considered creatures who have wisdom. Women are considered unwise. Therefore, people consider women to be watched by men. Actions of discrimination are still visible today. Women are not allowed to build their own identity. Women are always seen as the daughter or wife of a man. So their autonomy is taken away.

Gender discrimination can manifest in several forms of action. Fakihi (1996) states that there are several forms of discrimination against women, such as marginalization, subordination, stereotyping, violence against women, and double burden. Muchdi (2001) states that gender discrimination is manifested in various forms of injustice, one of which is stereotypes against women. Women are labeled as weak creatures, and can only do household chores. According to Pokharel (2008) various forms of gender discrimination against women are carried out based on ethnicity, one of which occurs in the Brahmana and Chhetri groups. Brahmana and Chhetri are one group that is often forced to marry at an early age. Girls from

Brahmana and Chettri families are forced to marry at an early age without their consent (Luitel, 1992).

This problem is exposed in the novel *Sold* (2006) by Patricia McCormick. The novel shows the life of a Nepalese woman, Lakshmi. She is a woman is treated unfairly. She has to take care of all the needs at home, take care of her sister, and also help her mother work in the forest. She has to take care of all the livestock. She repairs roof tiles and handles all domestic work that should be done by men. She also cannot go to school like her other male friends. She should not leave the house during menstruation, because it is considered disgusting. She was also forced to work as a sex worker. She had to serve many men. She only gets a salary equivalent to one can of coca-cola. Besides being shown by Lakshmi's character, gender discrimination in this novel is also shown by the culture and stereotypes of the community when the birth of a daughter. If a girl is born, then her mother is not required to be given full milk. However, if the male is born, then his mother must be given full milk. And if a baby girl is born, the family is obliged to perform a ritual of praying to God so that it is immediately given a boy. But not the same as when the birth of a baby boy.

There are several researchers who have examined this novel but used different points of view and adopted different themes. Anisa Atilla Haya (2017) She discusses the characters who are victims of human trafficking. She also discussed the forms of human trafficking in the novel such as forced labor, bonded labor, involuntary domestic servitude, and sex trafficking. Some characters in the novel also experience the effects of acts of human traffickings, such as physical impact, psychological impact, and social impact.

The next researcher who discusses this novel is Yunita Trisnaningtyas (2011). She discussed the psychology of women in this novel. This research begins by examining the external and internal conflicts faced by women in the novel. Then it

also examines the

puberty of a woman and also examines the relationship between a mother and daughter. And also researching about a woman's personality and characteristics.

Both of these studies give contributions and inspiration in analyzing the novel *Sold* (2006) by Patricia McCormick. In contrast to previous research, this study focuses on the issue of gender discrimination. The main character gets bad treatment from the community. Although this novel has been discussed with a different theme, this study will show the issue of gender discrimination shown through the main character who is a Nepalese woman who is not treated favorably by the community.

1.2 Problem of Study

Gender Discrimination can be seen in the novel *Sold* (2006) by Patricia McCormick. Therefore, in order to reveal the issue about gender discrimination, the research question is formulated below :

1. What are the forms of discrimination against women presented in the novel *Sold* (2006) by Patricia McCormick ?
2. How do the women make efforts to resist gender discrimination ...

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to find out how far the novel *Sold* (2006) by Patricia McCormick exposes the issue about gender discrimination and how do the women make efforts to resist gender discrimination. Furthermore, it is conducted the role of a character in the novel revealing the issue of gender discrimination. Second, to

find out caused this ideology affects the female characters in this novel.