

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing The Topic

Women Without Men is written by Iranian writer, Shahrnush Parsipur who was received the prestigious Hellman Hammett Award for Human Rights in 1994. The first edition has been published in 1989. In 2011, Faridoun Farrokh published a new translation. It pictures how the women's life in Iran.

Iranian women have traditionally been deprived of many of their basic rights and have suffered from both male centered ideologies and male dominance that treat women as irrational, child-like and immature, and from widespread discriminatory policies that affect their lives from birth to death (Majid Mohammadi, 2007). The male domination limits the women rights in Iran. They are discriminated in the society. They live in traditional society that make them in subordination.

From the explanation, it can be seen in the novel that women have been controlled and subordinated in society by the men. Amir has a sister whose name is Munis. He always disallows his sister to go outside the home without his permission. He warned to his sister to do not leave the home. Munis as a woman disallow to going outside. She is just pretties good if she stays at home. One day, his sister goes without his permission and does not come to home for few months. When his sister come back home, he kills her and buries at backyard. Munis breaks the rules that have

been made by the society. He never tells the police about the accident, because it is normal a brother did to his sister.

Another character is a woman whose name is Farrokhlaqa. She is 51 years old where she must be permission by her husband to do everything. Her husband always watching what Farrokhlaqa is done. After a long marriage, she kills her husband who only has desire to control her, not to know her. The next character who describe in the novel is prostitution women whose name is Zarrinkolah. She lives at Golden's Akram since she was a child and works as a prostitution woman. She is always pressured by Akram to service her costumer. She lives under pressure of work, but all she gets is tongue lashing and once even a beating.

The women characters try to struggle against the subordination that they experienced. All of women characters meet in Farrokhlaqa garden that sold by Makhdot's brother. Makhdot is a teacher who traps in rules of traditional society. She is panted herself to be a human tree. The all women characters continue their life in the garden.

The unique of this novel is that the story pictures the women's life in patriarchal culture in Iran. Women live in traditional society. Women have subordinated and have discriminated by men. On the other hand, they must struggle against the subordination. Based on the explanation, it can be known that suitable theory is feminism. Feminism has some branches such as women's movement, gender equality, women image in society, women struggle, women' attitude, women's subordination, etc. Women's subordination and struggle in the novel are

interesting to analyze and add more analysis in this literary works. In this research, the writer takes the analysis of women's subordination and struggle in patriarchal culture in *Women Without Men*.

1.2 The Objective and The scope of The Study

The object of the analysis is a novel *Women Without Men* by Shahrnush Parsipur. This research is about women's subordination and struggle in Iran. The objective of the research is to analyze the women's subordination and struggle in patriarchal culture that pictured in the novel. The writer limits the study with the focus in analyzing women's subordination and struggle in Iran in 1989 – 1995 that is seen in the novel.

1.3 Formulation of The Problem

Based on the objective and the scope of the study, there are two research question that will help writer to do the analysis in *Women Without Men*. The two research questions are:

1. How are the women's subordination in patriarchal culture as seen in the *Women Without Men* ?
2. How are the women's struggle as seen in the *Women Without Men* ?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

The discussion of *Women Without Men* has held by some researcher like *Mellisa Ann Crowder* who also has discussion about *Women Without Men* in 2007. The research focuses on female experience and oppression in religious that analyze

some novel and film. It examines the state of Islamic feminist through Iran fiction film and supporting Islamic text. Today, the writer focus on analyze the women's subordination and struggle using feminism theory.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

In doing the analysis, the writer needs theories to analyze the literary work. Theory is a tool to understand the topic or the approach applied the writers as a foundation of a research. Based on the topic of this research focuses on analysis of women, the writer use the feminism to analyze the "*Women Without Men*" novel. Women live under pressure of patriarchal culture. According to sultana:

The patriarchal system is characterized by power, dominance, hierarchy, and competition. So patriarchy is a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women (3)

It can be known that patriarchy is a system of social construct of domination of male. In patriarchal culture, men have power to control and make women in subordinated position. The male domination makes women have treatment as secondary position in society. In addition, Sultana is also said "the biological inferiority of women makes her inferior also in her capacities, her ability to reason and, therefore, her ability to make decisions" (4). It means that women have no power to do anything because the inferior and man as superior in patriarchal society. Women should be subordinated by men. It describe that women is depending on men.

Patriarchal culture treats the women as powerless and dependent on men because of the domination of male in the society. Chain (1979:406) define on his book:

Patriarchy is set of social relation with material base that enables men dominate women...patriarchy describe a distribution of power and resources within families such that men maintain power and control of resources, and women are powerless and dependent on men.

It means that the male domination contribute to the women subordination in patriarchal society. The power of men as a superior dominated the women. Women are powerless and depending on. It is the reason the subordination happened to women in traditional society. Abeda Sultana also said that the powerlessness contributes to subordination of women:

Women's subordination means the inferior position of women to men. The feeling of powerlessness, discrimination and experience of limited self-esteem and self-confidence jointly contribute to the subordination of women. Thus, women's subordination is a situation, where a power relationship exist and men dominate women (7)

It can be known that subordination is a power relationship and man dominate on women. Because of the position of women as inferior and powerlessness is the reason why subordination happened to women. There are kinds of women subordination happen in society. In addition, Sultana said that the kinds of women subordination:

The subordination that we experience at a daily level, regardless of the class we might belong to, takes various forms – discrimination, disregard, insult, control, exploitation, oppression, violence – within the family, at the place of work, in society. (7)

From the theory, it can be seen that the kinds of subordination are discrimination and being violence within the family in society. According to sultana, there are specific forms of discrimination on women:

A specific form of discrimination and a particular aspect of patriarchy...such as, son preference, discrimination against girls in food distribution, burden of household work on women and young girls, lack of educational opportunities of girls, lack of freedom and mobility for girls, wife battering, male control over women and girls, sexual harassment at workplace, lack of inheritance or property rights for women, male control over women's bodies and sexuality, no control over fertility or reproductive right. (7-8)

It can be known that the power of relation between men and women make women discriminated by men. The forms of discrimination that women experience is like women lack of freedom and mobility and burden of household work on women.

In the other hand, women do not always accept the discrimination that they gets as subordinate. They must struggle against the subordination. Based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (Sixth Edition: 1291) "Struggle is to fight against

somebody/ something in order to prevent a bad situation or result”. In addition “Struggle means to fight somebody or try to get away from them”.

It can be known that struggle is the way of women to fight the subordination situation. They must struggle the subordination to get their rights. Women fight the male domination to be equal to men. They fight the men and try to get away from them.

1.5 Method of Research

The research on women subordination and struggle in *The Women Without men* is conducted by applying close reading analysis. Based on Jacobus (1995), close reading is a method that researcher notes specific uses of language such as imaginary, symbols, repeated terms, pattern of expression, tone of speakers, and the main idea of the writer introduces.

To be detailed based on Robert (1997) in his book “ Writing Literature”, the women image and subordination can be known through the way of speech, dialogue, and action, comment by other characters. According to the method, it can be known and found the women’s struggle and subordination in the story. In addition, the writer also use close reading to do the research.

The first one, the writer reads the novel correctly and analyzes which part in the novel that describe women’s struggle and subordination. The women’s struggle and subordination itself contains in the story. It reflected in explicit and implicit meaning through the women characters conversation and speech. Second, after reading the work, the writer tries to select the data which relevant to the subject of the

research. Third, the writer tries to connect the data with the theory and also read the previous study that related to the novel.