GENDER OPPRESSION: A STUDY ON GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER BY BERNARDINE EVARISTO

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Abstract

Since the old-time, gender oppression has been a global issue. It usually happens to women and girls, especially to them who are in vulnerable positions due to their lack of financial and educational capabilities, their status as immigrants, people of color, and dependent on the oppressors. This research aims to analyze cases of gender oppression portrayed in Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo. The novel shows the struggles of female characters who experienced oppression. The objectives of the research are to describe forms of gender oppression and victims’ responses towards it by using gender theory. The writer uses a qualitative method by applying close reading techniques to gain a complete understanding of the data. The study reveals that the oppressions are experienced by 12 female characters in the form of sexual harassment, sexual abuse or assault, and intimate partner abuse or domestic violence. All cases of gender oppression are done by male characters except one. The perpetrators of sexual harassment and sexual abuse or assault are all men. In term of intimate partner abuse, there are no differences between men and a woman in committing it. The victim’s responses are divided into two categories which are resistance and submission. Women with high educational and strong financial capability mostly chose to be separated from the oppressor because they are capable to live by themselves. In contrast, those who do not have adequate education and financial capability chose to submit to the oppression or resist by committing suicide.

Keywords: Gender oppression, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, domestic violence