

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason For Choosing The Topic

The Testaments is the sequel of *The Handmaid's Tale* written by Margaret Atwood and released in 2019. This novel is the winner of the best fiction in The Goodreads Choice Awards in 2019. In the Republic of Gilead, the government has the absolute power to regulate the country. For women, this is a disaster. Because women's lives are restricted, their position is under the rules of the government. Men dominated almost all women's rights. Women's activities are always supervised. The women in the Republic of Gilead does not necessarily submit the treatment by men, they also do resistance.

In the Republic of Gilead, an organization does the resistance by stealth. This resistance was carried out by an underground organization called Mayday. Mayday is a secret resistance group that functions to oppose and bring down Gilead from within. People from all walks of Gileadean who want freedom are the members. The resistance aims to make women get their rights and treated better by men.

In describing the novel, the writer uses the character's point of view as the novel's appeal. In the novel, the character Agnes, who is the daughter of the Commander, is one of the country's top officials and Agnes carries out her daily activities like a commander's daughter. She go to an elite school, dress, and do activities that have been arranged and taken care of by the servants. Agnes has a life that is almost entirely regulated. Daisy, whose real name is Nicole, is the daughter of a handmaid with a commander. Nicole is smuggled out of the Republic of Gilead. The government wants Nicole to return to the Republic of Gilead.

Nicole lived her life as a shop owner's daughter. Without knowing, the fact that the shop owned by her parents is a place for mayday agents to take away handmaids and other

women who want to run away. The third character in *The Testaments* is aunt Lydia, who worked for the Gilead elite. Aunt Lydia hated Gilead and became one of the secret agents who provided important information to the Mayday organization. These characters experience and witness male domination over women and try to resist it.

From what can be seen from the novel, the writer chooses to analyze the novel by using the feminism theory, especially related to women oppression in patriarchal culture and how the women resist the oppression itself. There are still many women who are oppressed by men. There is a lot of situation in which men have power than the women in the novel but that situation does not necessarily make women submit. Because men oppressed women in many aspects that affect their daily life, they also do resistance. Therefore, the writer considers how men oppressed the women and how women do resistance against it is important to study.

1.2 Objective and Scope of The Study

The object of the analysis is a novel *The Testaments* written by Margaret Atwood. In this study, the writer takes data experienced by three female characters' points of view and their resistance against the oppression of men. This novel is set in The Republic of Gilead and Canada. The purpose of this research is to analyze the resistance of women toward oppression. Although this novel can be discussed from another perspective, the writer decides to only focus on the resistance of women toward patriarchal culture in *The Testaments* written by Margaret Atwood.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The writer determines important data to analyze in this novel. In detail, the writer wants to focus on the following aspects as the problems of the research:

1. How are the women oppression in patriarchal culture in *The Testaments*?
2. How are the women resistance towards patriarchal culture in *The Testaments*?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Studies

Several novel critics, one of whom is Laura Freeman from BBC, have reviewed this novel. She reviews this novel as ‘The rapes aren’t the worst of Gilead. Boredom kills. The long parentheses of nothing.’ The horrors and repressions of Gilead, so shocking on first encounter, so convincingly realized, are here repeated. Atwood’s prose is as powerful as ever, tense and spare. She invests certain phrases with ironic fury: adulterer, precious flower, Certificate of Whiteness, fanatics, defiled. Her word games are ingenious. She forces you to think about language and how it can be made to lie. The plot is propulsive and I finished in six hours flat. The Handmaid’s Tale ended on a note of interrogation.

Another review is from Sophie Gilbert from the Atlantic Magazine. she writes that Atwood exposes the many ways that reputation management can influence testimony. Penelope, as Atwood portrays her, chafes at her long-suffering image. She declares, “I’ll spin a thread of my own,” intent on complicating “the edifying legend” of her life. In Aunt Lydia—whose dry humor, ironic grandiosity, and contrarian instincts, not to mention her fame, call to mind Atwood’s own—Atwood continues to blur stark villain-victim distinctions. She gives readers a witness who has claimed not just agency for herself, but an agenda. During the years that have elapsed since the events of *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Lydia has been neither voiceless nor unsung. Atwood has given her a newly tricky goal to accomplish with her testimony: proving that she isn’t a traitor. Both sides, Lydia knows full well, can level that charge, because even as she’s abetted the brutal patriarchs, she’s been secretly plotting Gilead’s downfall. But the real audience she cares about is her future reader, whom she pictures as ruthlessly judgmental: “a young woman, bright, ambitious,” all too eager to condemn an older woman for making conniving, imperfect decisions and failing her gender.

This research mainly discussed about the resistance of women toward patriarchal culture in *the testaments* by Margaret Atwood. In order to keep the authenticity of this study and avoid plagiarism the writer has done a library research to find any other studies related to this novel. Based on the library research, any study about the testaments by Margaret Atwood has not been conducted yet.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

In doing the literary research, the writer needs the theory to analyze the literary work. The theory of the research has the function to help the writer to understand the problem of the research and the writer can formulate the research question. Based on the topic of this research which focuses on analysis the resistance of women toward patriarchal culture the writer chooses feminism theory to analyze *The Testaments* written by Margaret Atwood.

1.4.2.1 Feminism

In general, Feminism refers to literary works where most of the authors are women, which are used as a modern method and way of expressing disapproval of male domination with the purpose of understanding women's oppression in relation to race, gender and class and sexual preferences. (Rana, 2018).

"The theory of feminism is a theory of literary works that is concerned with the restrictions on women being low-level positions by the patriarchal culture". (Wilfred, 1999) It can be seen that the theory of feminism is a theory about the position of women in a patriarchal culture as inferior in power.

In expansion, (Paludi, 2010) stated that feminism may be a conviction in social, financial, political, and legal disparity for certain standards. For situations serving conventional social orders, women and men are given a distinctive treatment, which treats men more than women.

1.4.2.2 The Concept of Patriarchy

The word 'patriarchy' actually implies to show of the father or the 'patriarch', and initially it was utilized to portray a particular sort of 'male-dominated family' - the huge family of the patriarch which included women, junior men , children, slaves and household workers all beneath the run the show of this prevailing male. Presently it is utilized more for the most part “to allude to male power, to the control connections by which men overwhelm women, and to characterize a framework whereby women are kept subordinate in a number of ways” (Bhasin, 2006).

Patriarchy alludes to the male domination both in open and private circles. Women's activists primarily utilize the term ‘patriarchy’ to portray the control relationship between men and ladies. Hence, patriarchy is more than a term; women's activists utilize it like a concept, and like all other concepts it may be a device to assist us get it women’s substances.

When understand the concept, each thinker has different thoughts and concepts in studying and defining patriarchy. Walby characterizes “patriarchy as a framework of social structures and hones in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women”. She clarifies patriarchy as a framework since this makes a difference us to dismiss the idea of natural determinism (which says that men and ladies are normally diverse since of their science or bodies and in this manner doled out distinctive roles) or “the idea that each individual man is continuously in a high position and each women in a subordinate one” (Walby, 1990).

Patriarchal ideology overstates biological contrasts between men and women, making certain that men always have the prevailing, or masculine, roles and women continuously have the subordinate or feminine ones. This ideology is so capable that “men are ordinarily able to

secure the clear assent of the exceptionally women they oppress". They do this "through institutions such as the institute, the church, and the family, each of which legitimizes and reinforces women's subordination to men" (Millett, 1970). Control, dominance, chain of command, and competition characterize the patriarchal system. So patriarchy could be a system of social structures and hones, in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women. If one takes patriarchal government to be the institute whereby that half of the populace which is female is controlled by that half which is male, the principles of patriarchy appear to be two fold: male shall dominate female, elder male shall dominate younger. (Millet, 1970)

Sexual politics gets assent through the "socialization" of both genders to fundamental patriarchal polities with respect to temperament, role, and status. As to status, a unavoidable consent to the partiality of male superiority ensures superior status within the male, inferior within the female. The first thing, temperament, includes the arrangement of human personality along stereotyped lines of sex category ("masculine" and "feminine"), based on desires and values of the dominant group and directed by what its members cherish in themselves and discover convenient in subordinates: aggression, intelligence, force, and viability within the male; passivity, ignorance, docility, "virtue," and ineffectuality within the female. This can be complemented by a second factor, sex role, which orders a consonant and highly elaborate code of conduct, gesture and attitude for each sex. In terms of activity, sex role allots household benefit and participation upon infants to the female, the rest of human achievement, interest, and ambition to the men. The constrained role apportioned the female tends to capture her at the level of biological experience. Therefore, about all that can be depicted as distinctly human instead of animal movement (in their claim way animals moreover grant birth and care for their babies) is largely reserved for the male. Of course, status once more takes after from such an assignment. Were one to analyze the three categories one might assign status as the political component, role as the sociological, and temperament as the psychological—yet their

interdependency is verifiable and they form a chain. Those granted higher status tend to receive roles of dominance, generally since they are to begin with encouraged to create temperaments of dominance. (Millet, 1970).

1.4.2.3 Women Oppression

Young (1990a) stated The concept of oppression names the endless and profound injustices a few groups endure as a result of as often as possible oblivious presumptions and responses of well-meaning people in conventional intuitive, media, and social generalizations, and auxiliary highlights of a bureaucratic chain of command and advertising instruments, in brief, the typical continuous forms of existence.

James (1998) argues that Feminism is grounded in the belief that women are oppressed or disadvantaged by comparison with men and that their oppression is in some way illegitimate or injustice.

Ann Cudd (2013) argues that oppression is an institutionally structured harm perpetrated on social groups by other groups using direct and indirect material, economic, and psychological force.

1.4.2.4 Women Resistance

(Prashad, 2009) state that, we are able to re-create our bonds and ready to fight, ceaselessly, for what we consider to be our rights and for what we envision, however clumsily, as our freedom, not fair for ourselves, but for working people in general.

(Millet, 1970) contends that “A female is born and a woman is created. In another world, one's sex, be that male or female is decided at birth. One's sex, in any case, maybe a social development, being created by social thoughts and norms. deliberately or unconsciously women and men accommodate the social thoughts build-up for them by society. Women to be

mindful of their circumstances both within the society and at home, to create their self-consciousness as women, to demand their correspondence with men, and to get their autonomy. The resistance is the one way to realize equality, dignity, and rights (such as the right to education, right to birth control, right to divorce, and to take part in decision-making)”.

It can be concluded that the resistance for women is how they can return their rights. Thus, resistance can be define as every action or practice which is done by the victims to challenge or overthrow the domination in order to free themselves from the injustice.

1.5 Method of Research

This research focuses on the resistance of women toward patriarchal dominations in The Testaments in the perspective of Feminism. This study concentrates on the resistance of women toward patriarchal dominations in the Republic of Gilead. The study is conducted by applying a method of close reading.

According to (Jacobus, 1996) close reading analyzes subtle elements; interpretation is exploring the meaning of the content by drawing our own understanding, background, and observations. Interpreting literature is reactions for examination: setting them forward for comparison, discussion, and development. The elucidation strategy starts with a close reading method. Concurring to (Jacobus, 1996) “ Close reading takes the frame of writing, discussion or silent observation, ought to be based on questioning the text. Close reading requires that you simply take the text genuinely sufficient to study it, explore for details that might something else go imperceptibly, look at the text for uncommon words and terms, and allude to the word refers to be sure of their meaning when necessary”.

according to (Brummett, 2018), close reading is the careful, restrained perusing of an object with a view to a more profound understanding of its meaning. Therefore the writer

decides to read this novel carefully, and examine certain words in the dictionary so the writer does not misunderstand the contents of the novel, then this method will produce data that can be used by the writer in this study.

Thus, in analyzing this novel, the writer in the process, the text of the novel is read, find the difficult words and re-read. To get the meaning of the text with a view to answering the research by way examine special words, phrases, and sentences related to the research problem. while taking a note when some details about domination of men toward women and responses towards it which presented by the author. After recognizing the texts which can be related to the theory of the resistance of women toward patriarchal dominations, the writer carefully questioning the data by doing silent observation technique until all of the texts related to the theory are precisely understood.

The details about the research problems are inspected based on feminism theory. In feminism, women oppression in patriarchal culture is related to the treatments received by women from men. The treatment that women get is the inequality treatment whether it's in group or individually. Common response is a resistance. It signifies every attempt done by the victims to break the power and oppression. Data related to the resistance of women toward patriarchal culture in the novel are explored through words, phrases, and sentences.