

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Reason For Choosing The Topic

*Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* is a novel from South Korea written by Cho Nam Joo. This novel was published in 2016 and has translated into many languages. Jamie Chang who translated this novel is a professor at Ewha University. According to BBCNEWS, Minumsa Publishing Group measures that this novel became a bestseller in Asian neighbors like in Japan, China, and Taiwan, also publishing rights have been sold in 17 countries including UK, US, France, and Spain.

Kim Nam Joo, as the author of this novel, relates her experiences as a woman who quits her job and stays at home as a wife who takes care of a husband and a mother who takes care of children. This novel became sensational because Kim Nam Joo well described the life of Korean women in Korean society. The novel describes the lives of Korean women and the problems they face through the characters Kim Ji Young and other women in this novel. The background of the story in South Korea which is still thick with patriarchy that dominates not only in family life but also in Korean society.

The story tells Kim Ji Young, as the main character as a girl, wife, and mother. This novel puts Ji Young's life in stages, starting from Ji Young's childhood, adolescence, early adulthood until marriage. Kim Ji Young was born on April 1, 1982, at an obstetrics clinic in Seoul. She lives with her parents, grandmother, sister, and young brother in a roughly 35-square-meter house with two bedrooms, one dining and living room and one bathroom. Her father is a low-level civil servant and her mother is a housewife. Kim Ji Young is married to Jung Dae Hyun and has a daughter named Jung Ji Won.

Problems faced by Ji Young per phase of his life, such as when she was in her family, prioritized affection to younger brother. In school, Ji Young who experienced being followed by someone she did not know, freedom to dress in uniforms, and sexual harassment by male teachers against female friends. Cho Nam Joo also puts the discrimination treatment, and gender equality in the story felt by Ji Young and her female friends in the phase of Kim Ji Young's work life. The pay gap by gender and the preference of men to work in terms of positions is also seen here. According to Gender Wage Gap, OECD, 2014 : The gender pay gap in Korea is the highest among the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries. According to data in 2014, women working in Korea earn only 63 percent of what men earn, the OECD average percentage is 84. Korea was also ranked as the worst country in which to be a working woman, receiving the lowest scores among the nations surveyed on the glass-ceiling index by the British magazine *The Economist*.

In this case, there are many companies that prefer to recruit for men than women, even from these companies there are those who go directly to the college to ask their best male graduates to work for their company. Although their economic growth is very fast and is a developed country but because of the strong patriarchy system in Korea, making the gender gap very strong in Korean society. It is embedded to image on women toward Korean society, such as the necessity of giving birth to sons, taking care of a husband and looking after children. And as the result that appear from this novel, many Korean women brave to more speak up what she faces. This makes men feel disadvantaged and make their position useless.

Based on this story of novel, the writer decided to focus on the analysis of the image on women, image on how male see woman at the position in the family and job fields, and how society which still adheres to the patriarchal system see women. The action how woman resistance against the image, that men and family also society gives to them as seen in the novel.

## **1.2 The Objective and Scope of The Study**

The object of this research that the writer used is a novel of *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* written by Cho Nam Joo. The objective this research are to analyze the image, the perspective by Korean society who still hold patriarchy system and resistance against the image by women.

1. To analyze The Image on Woman as Seen In The Novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*
2. To analyze The Woman Resistance Against The Image in novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*

## **1.3 Formulation of The Problem**

According to the the objective and scipe of the study, the writer found formulation of the problem of this research such as :

1. How are The Image on Woman as Seen in the Novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*?
2. How are The Woman Resistance Against the Image in The N ovel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* ?

## **1.4 Review Related Of Literature**

*Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* novel has received a lot of criticism for what happens to women in the novel. In this section, discusses the research that has been done by several previous researchers.

### 1.4.1 Previous Study

The writer found the some thesis to the novel about The study *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*, has been conducted by previous researchers by, Tiara Maya Azizah Y. N. 2018. Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada. With the titled “*Confucianism Value and Perspective of Woman in Korean Novel Born 1982, Kim Ji Young (82 년생김지영)*”. The purpose of this study is to know Confucianisme value and Korean society perspective of woman depicted in this novel. Korean society perspective of woman analyzed by analyzing discrimination the main character faced from family and society. This research result shows how Confucianism have a big impact in Korean society also Korean people daily live such as married couple housewife and husband, brother and sister and the other confucianism value. The result in this research also show how korean people with their confusianism and patriarchy system see woman in society.

And the other thesis research is by Graciella Stephani Ganadhi 2021. With the title *Woman Gender Discriminations in South Korea Leading to Kim Ji Young’s Hwabyung* seen in Cho Nam Joo’s *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*. Yogyakarta: Universitas Sanata Dharma. The purpose of this study is about to analyze Kim Ji Young suffer from a mental illnes, *hwabyung*, due to the discriminations that she experienced as a south Korea woman in society. The author of this research provides three objectives in the novel, such as Kim Ji Young’s characteristics, kind of gender-based discrimination, last is relation between Kim Ji Young’s characteristic and gender discrimination that she experienced in her *hwabyung*. Kim Ji Young characters as quiet, unsertive and passive individual also possessing a logical, emotional, and sensitive side. She experience discrimination in his life as wife and mother and as working profesional this causeded her to develop *hwabyung*. *Hwabyung* is an illnes that occurs when people are held back on their feeling or anger as a consequence. This

usually occurs in in patient with family conflict pressured by society taht have roles as mother and wive.

And the third is conference research Siti Rahmah, SP, Eti Setiawati, Sony Sukmawan, and Susi Darihastining. With the title of research Patriarchal Oppression in Kim Ji-Yeong, Born 1982 By Cho Nam Joo: A Feminist Literary Study. The purpose of this research is the patriarchal culture of South Korea leads to a great deal of oppression experienced by Kim Ji-Young as the main character of the novel and her mother. This gender oppression will possibly continue to the next generation. The results signify that Kim and women in South Korea basically do not want to be marginalized. They need to be supported and respected for their role in getting the same rights in work, household, education, social culture, and politics.

From the fourth study above, it is said that most of them discuss the problems of inequality, discrimination, and oppression experienced by the main character Kim Ji Young and women in novels that use a feminist approach. After seeing the problems that occur in the above research, the writer now takes a discussion about the image, how the Korean Society gives a perspective to women in the novel and how women's resistance is embedded in that image.

#### **1.4.2. Theoretical Framework**

To analyze the topic in this research, the writer needs a theory to support this research that related to the story in the novel Kim Ji Young, Born 1982. The theory is an important tool to make an analysis for appreciating literary works. The theory that the writer used is a feminism theory. Feminism criticism which has existed in the second half of the twentieth century, feminist literary criticism according in Bressler book, *Literary Criticism, An Introduction To Theory and Practice* (2011) states that,

“feminist criticism is an umbrella term for a variety of approaches to culture and literature that are of particular interest to woman” (144).

It means that feminist criticism is a term that encompasses various cultural and literary approaches that are of special interest to women. Feminism criticism has studied in multiple branches such as equality, oppression, subordinate, patriarch, the image on woman, resistance. Taking some of the above definitions that related to the topic the writer wants to be analyzed in the novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*, Bressler (2011:144) asserted that in his book:

“Equality rights for all women (indeed, all peoples) in all areas of life; socially, politically, professionally, personally, economically, aesthetically, and psychologically.”

From the theory, we know that all women and all people should have the right to equality in all areas. More specifically in the social, political, and economic fields. The right to equality in other thing that we must strive for in the right is, the right to live in dignity, free from fear, and freedom to make life choices. Sometimes there are also women who experience discrimination or oppression because of male dominance. According to Tyson (2006:86) in his book *Critical Theory Today*:

“feminist have observed, to justify and maintain the male monopoly of positions of economic, political, and social power, in other words, to keep woman powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic political and social power” (86).

From the theory it means that, where men hold the rights to control women in society because it is dominated by men. Man existences will oppressed and discriminated the existence of women by not recognizing that the woman had an educated background and a capability in a job. Denying and not believing in the capacity of performance in women so that women feel that they are unable and powerless to do things beyond their limits. and men, will monopolize the positions of economic, political and social.

Bressler (2011:144) says in his book that, “Patriarchy is the rule of society and culture by men”. From the quotation, that means this has been entrenched in patriarchy that men are the ones who hold the rules in society, including taking control in important institutions. Continuing the words of Bressler, Sultana (2012) also stated:

“men hold power in all the important institutions of society” and that “ women are deprived of access to such power”.

From this quotation, men can lead, hold and have control and became an important role in the institutional society but women to be the less fortunate that can't have a big power.

Subordination, according to Sultana (2012), that “the inferior position of women to men”. That means woman will have a lowest position that that does not make them should have equal as men in position to make decisions or take opportunities also capabilities, because they are obstructed by male power and male dominance in society also in family. Sultana (2012) provide several 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 for 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 rights.

Thus are, there are several aspects that can be found in life based on a patriarchal system that makes women still under the name of their subordinates. So that appears several images, the view of men towards woman.

#### **1.4.2.1 Women Image**

Some feminist critics because of the images, the woman can not be treated equally by men. The women cannot do or have a job and position or career as men can do. Millet (2000:46), said that as to status, a pervasive assent to the prejudice of male superiority

guarantees superior status in the male, inferior in the female. That means, In terms of being better, it is again held by men who are able to dominate in various fields, while women follow afterward because they are considered inferior. In the presence of male dominance, according to Kate Millet in Charles E. Bressler book (1994:183),

a female is born and a woman is created. In other words, one's sex be that male or female, is determined at birth One's gender, however is a social construct, being created by cultural ideas and norm. Consciously or unconsciously women and men are conform to the cultural ideas established for them by society. For example, little boys must be aggressive, self-assertive, and domineering whereas little girls must be passive, meek, and humble.

From the quotation above, it means differences in social constructs lead to different treatment of women and men. At phase of birth, female learns and is formed. She will try to understand from her surroundings like how to act and behave. After growing up, the female will be formed into a woman. At this stage, the woman is the result that formed by female maturation process. And this is where woman created. she will face a situation where she have to accept and reject. Gender formed men and women by the views from cultural norms and ideas. Consciously or unconsciously, it is the society that formed how the image are masculine and feminim. Which can see take the strong is a part is a men, aggressive, able to stand out, and dominate anywhere while the weak part, passive, physically weak, and humble is a women.

Patriarchal societies usually associate violent feelings with sexuality, the latter is often equated with crime and power. This is seen both in the sexual fantasies reported by psychoanalysis and those reported by pornography. Millet (2000:63), in the book of *Sexual Politics* stated that "The rule here associates sadism with the male ("the masculine role") and victimization with the female ("the feminine role"). For example, In view of the sadistic



character of such public fantasy ascatters to male audiences in pornography or semi-pornographic media. Sexual treatment that is usually done by men is in the form of violence and there is also a form of fantasy of their wild thoughts. The victims of what they did were women, but many of them could not fight back. and only after the incident occurred, they dared to report it.

#### **1.4.2. Women Resistance**

Every woman can fight, say what's thinking in her head. They do not have to comply with the rules that have been setting by man or even the others. When woman can do it, then they can move on their own. In Bressler book (2011:148), according to Mary Wollstonecraft in her book with the titled *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)*, “Women, she maintains must define for themselves what it means to be a woman. Women themselves must take the lead and articulate who tehy are and what role they will play in society by rejecting the patriarchal assumption that women are inferior to men”. It means that, Women themselves must understand and be aware of their own abilities in terms of leading or what roles they will take in society. they must be strong and trust themselves, and be able to reject the patriarchal assumption that women are inferior and weaker than men.

According to Millet (2000) : women must revolt against the power center of their culture that is male dominance, will enable women to be aware of their situation both in the society and at home, to form their self-consciousness as women, to demand their equality with men, and to obtain their autonomy. The resistance is the one way to achieve equality, dignity, right, (such as right to education, right to birth control, right to divorce, participate in decision-making).

This means that as their self-awareness as women, they can fight with male domination to get their right in a position and create a situation. they can prove the existence of themselves with self-consciousness.

In this research, the writer only focuses on the image on woman seen in the novel such as, perspective by men that women is a sexual adventure of man. That women is unreliable and underestimated by man. That women have to giving a son by perspective in korean society that still adhere to patriarchal system. From this image, then formed of resistance that women gave to them, to prove that women can do that as a form of resistance to these images.

## **1.5 Method of Research**

The research is conducted by applying close-reading method based on Jacobus (2001). According to Jacobus in book *Literature An Introduction to Critical Reading*, “interpretation is the exploration of the meaning of text”. In this research, the exploration conducted on the text of the novel to find the meaning of the story. Close reading is a technique that will be use the interpret the story.

According to Jacobus, the method is that the writer notes specific use of language, such as imaginary, symbol, pattern of expression, tone of speaker and the main ideas the writer introduces to the story. In this research, the note of elements in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982* are based on the feminism approach (Kate Millet, 2000), (Abeda Sultana, 2012), and (Charles E. Bressler, 2011) which focuses on the image on woman in patriarchal system by Korean society and women action of resistance as seen in the novel.

Close reading technique which is applied in this research is held in the following the steps, First, read and reread it, the writer use this technique for take the text seriously to read and read again and take a note to helping writer in find the topic. Second, search for details, Search everything in details in to the data and make the highlight the topic that appear and might be not unobserved. Third, examination the word refer to the meaning of text, finding

about word that have multiple meaning in the text by underline the words, such as slang language that korean people like to use it.

Besides that, the writer use some of book of theory, search some scientific journal and research paper to support the explanation and to make sure the analysis. Based on the method it will known and found the topic that the writter analyzed is the image on woman as seen in the novel and the woman resistance against the image in the novel.