

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Iran is the Islamic Republic that has a multi-ethnic. According to Iranian sociologists, Iran has a rough and disordered society currently. One of the most controversial social issues is the relationship between men and women. Patriarchal society is one of the issues that troubling women from having their right as a human being. Iranian culture has been traditionally patriarchal with the father or the husband at the head of the family and household. The modernization processes that took place in the 20th century, until the Islamic revolution, have changed the situation with the modern and educated classes. However, the people and the more traditional classes remained more or less the same. Patriarchal always shows as a strong and reference to Islamic law, it practices by controlling the female appearance and mobility. Patriarchy is deeply rooted in religious and cultural practices, it has been a major institution since ancient times in the area. It is portrayed in Persian literature and metaphors, ethnics, cultural construct, explanatory systems, both religious and secular extensively. The patriarchal system is involving the control of the family, both wives and children by the husband or the father and in their absence with other male relatives (Price, 2006).

Women need to obey whatever men said, it could be their father's or husbands. They are insubordinate position, doesn't get the equality of life in their own country. Many younger men have grown up to believe than men are decision-makers and expect

to manage their household with their sole preferences. But on the other side, Iranian women who have been exposed to modern values expect to be treated equally and will not tolerate the traditional values.

Song of a Captive Bird is a debut novel of Jasmin Darznik. Jasmin was born in Tehran, the capital city of Iran and came to America when she was five years old. She is inspired by Forugh Farrokhzad, an Iranian woman poet. She is much influenced by Forugh Farrokhzad's life. A *New York Times Book Review* "Editors' Choice" and a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller, *Song of a Captive Bird* was praised by *The New York Times* as a complex and beautiful story as a reminder of the power of women creativity who lives under the patriarchy. As what Jasmin said in an interview with carolineleavittville, women are fighting in intimate spheres, minds, and relationships and public too. That's why she thinks it's important to learn and read about exemplary women, women who speak out and step into their power. We need to see more women who acting bravely, and also to make ourselves can be seen in brave ways. As one of the most trailblazing women of the twentieth century, Forugh had fascinated Jasmin for years and years. It started when her mother brought a book of her poems to America when they fled Iran in the late 1970s, and it makes Jasmin grown up with the sense of how Forugh was idolized in Iran, especially by the young woman but also how controversial she'd been (Caroline, 2018).

Song of a Captive Bird, tells about the life of Forugh Farrokhzad who live under the patriarchal society who face the subordination position. All her life Forugh Farrokhzad only told to obey and didn't get much right like her brothers, for example in education. As an Iranian daughter, she can't do whatever she wants. But she loves to

write poems, only with poems she can feel what freedom is. Until one day, she gets caught going out with her lover and her father decided to marry them right away. It was not a happy marriage and Forugh starts to think about making poems again, and she did it. But this time she makes a scandalous poem without worried that she has done something bad as a woman. She doesn't care if she broke rules and tries to live her life as a free woman and tries to get equality in her life.

Song of a Captive Bird is the story of a woman who fought to create her own terms of life, to balance between conflicting rules and desires, and to survive in the conservative world. When she had what she chooses, it was hard. Her independence and career were achieved at significant cost, not only the surrender of her child but also the love affairs that freed and entrapped her at the same time.

1.2. The Objective and Scope of the Study

These objectives of this research are described in two parts, the first one about patriarchal society in Iran and the second is about the resistance of woman that pictured in the novel.

The scope of this study will be limited in two places, that is in Iran, which is Tehran and Ahwaz. The study will focus on discussing feminism in the novel. It will be described the patriarchal system and the resistance of woman.

1.3. Formulation of Problem

The writer specifies her analysis into two matters that she thinks is important in this novel. In detail, the writer would like to focus on the two following aspects, and makes them into research questions as follows:

1. How are the women treated in the patriarchal system in Iran as seen in *Song of a Captive Bird* novel?
2. How are the woman resistances on the patriarchal system as seen in *Song of a Captive Bird* novel?

1.4. Review of Related Literature

1.4.1. Previous Study

This novel is published in 2018, with a lot of review from the reader but no one has done research in this novel with any theory of literature.

The review from Elyse Walters said being a disappointment in the eyes of those around you - closest to you - people who are supposed to love you - time and time again - has got to be debilitating, exhausting, devastating, and forever lonely. Yet this woman kept getting right back up every time she was pushed down. The title of this book couldn't be any more perfect (Goodreads.com).

Another review is from Dina Nayeri she said that Farrokhzad writes the poem that will make her both a symbol of female strength and a notorious "woman without shame," as Persian mothers like to say. In it, she confesses, "I've sinned a sin of pleasure / beside a body trembling and spent." She doesn't hide behind the metaphor, and she isn't the

meek beloved of the old poems. She acts on her own desires. Tehran is scandalized. (The New York Times; March 21, 2018).

The other review is from Liz (Goodreads.com), Iran in the mid 20th century was not a fun place to be a woman. A girl's education stopped when she was fourteen. And a girl was forbidden from being outside without a chaperone and it was frowned on for a married woman to be in public unattended. Everything revolves around a woman's honor.

The writer will analyze the novel with feminist theory. This research will be the first research about *Song of a Captive Bird* novel by Jasmin Darznik.

1.4.2. Theoretical Framework

To achieve a good analysis in appreciating literary work, the writer needs theory to analyze the literary work. Based on the topic of this research that focuses on the analysis of women, the writer chooses the Feminism theory to analyze the *Song of a Captive Bird* novel. According to Cuddon (1999: 315), feminism literary criticism is a way to analyze women's lives and experiences which as portrayed in various kinds of literature – especially the novel, and to lesser extent poetry and drama. It will examine the male domination within the literature, the male image representation and also challenge women's image that has been created by male writers. Feminism has many branches such as women's movement, gender inequality, women's image in society, women's struggle, women's attitude, women's subordination, etc.

From the theory, we can know that feminism is the theory that analyses women's life and experience in literary works. In this work, the writer will also talk about women's lives under the patriarchal culture. Abeda Sultana (2010) said, "Patriarchy refers to male

domination both in public and private spheres, patriarchy in its wider definition means the manifestation and institutionalization of male dominance over women and children in the family, and also in society in general. It implies that men hold power in all the important institutions of society while women are deprived of access to such power.”

Patriarchy in Iran was so prevalent that any opposition is considered a radical. Islam is one of the religions that use patriarchal. Patriarchal continues to rule the gender relations in Muslim societies because of the persistence of tribal structures. The tribal structure is the genuine type of patriarchal organization, and can still be found in the Arab world, in Iran and Afghanistan (Eickelman, 1989). This area is characterized by men are entrusted with safeguarding the family honor through their control with the family over the female members. Contemporary Muslim patriarchal societies for example control over women is considered necessary because women are regarded as the potential source of fitna, which is a moral or social disorder (Mernissi, 1987).

According to Mary Wollstonecraft (1792), women must stand for their rights and not allow their male-dominated society to define what it means to be a woman. Women themselves must take the lead and articulate who they are and what role they play in society. Most importantly they must reject the patriarchal assumption that women are inferior to men. Forugh Farrokhzad was known as a brilliant poet that becoming the icon of feminism in Iran. She fearlessly voicing passion and protest at a time when a lot of people still believe that women shouldn't be heard from at all. She gave Iranian women permission to dream, to be bold, furious, lustful and rapturous.

During the Pahlavi era, there was a change in the traditional attitudes for women that are banning the veil, the right to vote, compulsory education, etc. Under the Iranian constitution, women are not equal, because they use Sharia law which was adopted after the Islamic revolution in 1979. The Pahlavi Shah was the rulers of Iran in 1925 until 1979 when they introduced many reforms concerning women's rights in Iran. In an early reform Reza Shah introducing a forced unveiling of women by a special decree on January 8, 1936. It's involved the police officer to pulling the hijab away even from religious women and the worse thing is by force. Between 1962 and 1978 the Iranian's women movement gained victories.

1.5. Method of the Research

For this research, the writer has chosen a close reading technique to understand the text. According to Brummet, close reading is the mindful, disciplined reading of an object with a view to a deeper understanding of its meaning. It means that the writer needs to be focused on and re-read the novel several times. After understanding the story, the writer will collect the data to support the research. The data that the writer collecting are referring to chapter II and chapter III, based on the theory that the writer choose. After collecting the data, the writer will analyze the data based on feminism theory. The writer will see the compatibility between theory and data so that this research becomes feasible.