

Women Rights Limitation in Stephen King's *Sleeping Beauties* (2017)

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Abstract

This research is an analysis of the novel *Sleeping Beauties* (2017) by Stephen King. The purpose of this study is to reveal the issue of limitations women's rights experienced by the women characters in the novel *Sleeping Beauties* (2017). This study uses Iris Yong's five forms of oppression (1990) to reveal rights limitations through the oppression that has been done on the women characters. As a result the female characters in this novel experience rights restriction as a woman as the results of the marginalization, violence and exploitation acted on them.

Key words: Rights Limitation, Women, Patriarchy

A. INTRODUCTION

Many cases have shown unfair treatment or discrimination in the society especially from men to women. Men tend to dominate women in many situations and conditions and underestimate women's role in daily life activities, starting from simple things like doing house chores, cleaning, cooking to the complex things like making determining decisions in the family, managing money, making sure the children has descent education, career options, have smaller chance on getting essential position in their job and so on. Many women these days are fighting back as they want to be treated equally and fairly in the society in order to get respect. Interestingly, there are still many beliefs spread in the society that see men as superior in many life aspects than women. Even the rights of women are possibly extinguished

Many cases have been recorded that show how many women are suffering from men's domination either from their environments or their own society. Today, many kinds of discrimination become wider and evident around us. This happen not only in the domestic area such as in families but also in public places like offices, school and so on. Men domination in families, for example, forcing women to accept facts that men with their role as the husband and breadwinner, must then be treated and served well. This includes women's or wife's duties to

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take care of all their husband's needs, cleaning up the house to please the husband and of course to take care of the children. According to World report on violence and health. Geneva, World Health Organization (2002) the domination over women by men is also followed by violent actions where there are many husbands are found to have the habits of beating, slapping, kicking and many more. Violent actions on their wife as expressions of their domination and authority over women. By doing so women are expected to learn from their mistakes and can do their role in the house better. In public area men dominate even more, taking most of control in institutional settings like in law, politics, education, science, society, industry and technology.

There are many examples shown that women rights limitations are still happening among us. According to certain national studies, up to 70% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some point in their lives. According to UNICEF, around 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide have been subjected to forced sex at some time in their lives. Then One of the most harmful kinds of violence is child marriage. Despite the fact that 25 million child weddings have been avoided in the last decade, more than 150 million females are expected to marry by 2030. Every year, 12 million females marry before the age of 18. The number of women and girls alive today who were married before the age of 18 is estimated to exceed 650 million. Girls who marry as children are more likely to experience intimate partner violence than girls of the same age who marry later. Tragically, child brides are at a higher risk of dying during childbirth. Pregnancy and delivery problems are the main cause of death among 15 to 19-year-old girls worldwide. Living in variative circumstances, as well as forced migration, increases the danger of human trafficking for women and girls. According to the 2016 Report on Human Trafficking, 71% of all trafficking victims globally are women and girls. 75% of trafficked women and girls are trafficked for sexual enslavement.

In patriarchal society, women are considered subordinate to men because of their position in the family and the society. Sultana (2012) in his journal entitled "Patriarchy and Women's Subordination" stated the system, which keeps women dominated and subordinate, and to unravel its workings in order to work for women's development in a systematic way (Sultana, 2012) Patriarchy system explains that family is the primary source where the doctrine of patriarchy is applied. This system also describes that family, society, and state have relations interrelated to regulate its citizens through the head of family which is in charged by male. This is still happening out there and many woman are still discriminated since they are all under men's domination. Some men in this time still assume that "female" is a second sex which mean they are inferior than men. The patriarchal system gives absolute priority to men and restrict women's right at the same time

The idea of domination leads to oppression that makes men feel superior than women or even want to try and attempt to gain dominance over women's rights has been happening since the beginning of history. The biggest reason behind of all those discriminations and marginalization is patriarchal culture. The term of patriarchy is mostly identical with negative labels where women were

seen as weak, powerless, unintelligent, dependent, hopeless, useless, and so on. Those negative labels lead to gender discrimination that makes women being even further oppressed by men. Rich (1976) states on *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*:

Patriarchy is the power of the fathers: a familial-social, ideological, political system in which men-by force, direct pressure, or through ritual, tradition, law and language, customs, etiquette, education, and the division of labour, determine what part woman shall or shall not pay and in which the female is everywhere subsumed under the male (Rich, 1976:57)

As what Rich explains about patriarchy, the ideological, law, political system, and almost at all aspects of life that give impact of stereotypical beliefs which made women as the second-class instead of having equality with men. From the idea which means throw down women to the lowest level, it is clear enough how patriarchy happens not only in the domestic area but also in public such as in political system that makes women did not get the same chance to develop themselves as men .

Patriarchy is the culture that restricts and limits women's freedom in society. The aim of this system is to make men more superior than women in every aspect of life, be in domestic area and public sphere. Millet (1977) says in *Sexual Politics*, that "our most civilization is in the hands of male like military, industry, technology, universities, political, office and finance. Since patriarchy is associated with society, surely there is no doubt that society plays a big role in it and that is what makes this system keep on living. Unfortunately, this system is glorifying one gender, like men.

Although many women fight against the domination imposed on them, the acts of ruling women to men's authority continue. The domination is not only done physically but is legalized by law to make it stronger. Women's rights limitation is doing under legal law is applied to make women become and stay inferior in society. Walby defines "patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women" (Walby 1990:20) she explained patriarchy is a system that responsible to limit rights of women. The system

Every human has their own rights. Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They are applicable regardless of where you are from, what you believe, or how you live your life. They can never be taken away, but they can be limited in some circumstances, like as when a person violates the law or in the interests of national security. These fundamental rights are founded on common ideals such as dignity, fairness, equality, respect, and independence. These ideals are legally defined and protected. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, was the first legal declaration to outline the fundamental human rights that should be guaranteed to all people. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which turned 70 in 2018, is the cornerstone of all international human rights law. United Nation (UN) stated that there are 30 articles serve as the foundation for present and future human rights conventions, treaties, and other legal instruments. The International Bill of Rights

is comprised of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Limitation is an act doing by a person or organization to restrict something in order to gain advantages for them. The rights limitation has systematically developed in the whole society of our life. Because in our beliefs it is implied that men are born to dominate and women to be subordinate “men are usually able to secure the apparent consent of the very women they oppress”. They do this “through institutions such as the academy, the church, and the family, each of which justifies and reinforces women’s subordination to men” (Millett 1977:35). From this statement we know that inequity has been happened among us all this time and it can be seen clearly. Thus also happened in the household, some of women are having no control on their own. In the private the restriction taken by primarily individual within household, in the public it is more complex and coordinate. From that all “the state has a systematic bias towards patriarchal interests in its policies and actions” (Walby 1990:21)

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. As the part of human being, women also have same rights as equal as others like any other human being. Rights can not be restricted and controlled moreover removed by other. In this case some part of human being are trying to restrict women’s rights because they feel more superior and see women are not equal as them

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The research technique provided information about how the study was conducted. On the other hand, it assists the researcher in becoming more systematic in the research and provides the readers with a better knowledge of the current research procedure.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The forms of rights limitation experienced by the female characters in the novel *Sleeping Beauties*

All the female characters in the novel *Sleeping Beauties* experience many problems and unfair treatments because of their existence as a woman. The setting time of the story is present time, even though gender equality has been around for a long time but women are still getting discrimination by some part of people or the system especially in America that glorifies human rights, but ironically this novel shown us otherwise. Women often considered as the second level in the society occasionally encounter difficulties to use their rights. This novel reflected forms a hierarchy of human classes, such as American patriarchy which makes them being gender discriminated.

Using the victim side story and elaborating it with Young’s oppression theory, this novel reveals forms of oppression which are marginalization, exploitation, violence, powerlessness, and cultural imperialism.

2. Discussion

The term "marginalization" refers to the process of exclusion that pushes someone to the margins of society.. Because it entails material expropriation and devastation, marginalization is possibly the most destructive type of oppression. As long as patriarchy dominance controls a given society, women will be marginalized. Because men are powerful and the dominant culture, they believe that women are not equal to obtain same position in society

There are some of quotations that reflected the forms of marginalization in the novel *Sleeping Beauties* which experienced by the women.

There came a time, long before the events recounted here, when the Tri-Counties (McDowell, Bridger, and Dooling) petitioned to have the defunct Ash Mountain Juvenile Reformatory converted into a badly needed women's prison. The state paid for the land and the buildings, and it was named after the county—Dooling—that provided most of the money for refurbishing the institution. (p.50)

From the quotation above it can be seen that women are not placed in the female-based prison despite the ability of the state to provide it. Regardless the constitutional rights that protect prisoners against unequal treatment on the basis of race, sex, and creed, and the model sentencing and corrections act that was created by Uniform Law Commission in 1978, the prisoners still received bad and unfair treatment. even though it already has a constitutional law but the women here are still placed in their own prison

From this situation it is reflected that women still experience marginalization, in this case the government did not appear to pay attention to thing that women also need even it just a prison. With this condition prison can be worse than usual prison. This means that government is restricted women's rights

The news of Aurora had struck Jeanette as preposterous. Women cocooned in their sleep? Had the migraine ruined her mind somehow? She wanted to take a shower, but she didn't want to talk to a guard. They wouldn't let her, anyway. A prison had rules. The guards—oh excuse me, the officers—were the rules incarnate. You had to do what they said or bingo, Bad Report. (p.185-186)

The example of the marginalization from the prison can be seen in this quotation, the women only just want to clean themselves but the guard always not letting them to do that, it is not because for women's safety it just because the guard don't want to deal with women. The guard just don't want to guard the women and wait for them to use the toilet, in fact they still have protocol and

women also have right to clean themselves. It seems all women already know this and they just accepted it

He saw Jared approach, nodded at him, and spoke as if resuming a conversation they'd been having. "This shit will quiet down after all the women are asleep. They cause most of the trouble, you know. You're looking at a man who knows. I'm a three-time loser in the marriage wars. Not just a loser, either. Routed I've been, each time. Like matrimony is Vicksburg, and I'm the Confederacy." (p.212)

From this quotation women are still being accused by the man, in this situation the Sleeping pandemic has begun and the only victim are women but people are still accuse women as the cause of the problem instead of helping the women they choose to put a blame on women who are innocent about this case

From this condition it can be analyzed that most of the people are not paying attention to the women's problem. As the second subject and not considered that women problems are also their problem, as long as it women problem it is because of the women and the women must solve it alone by themselves

now they get to have it both ways! They forgot what the Bible says about how a woman should follow her husband in all things, and sew, and cook, and have the kiddies, and not be out in public wearing hot pants! Get even with men, they mighta been left alone! But that wasn't enough! They had to get ahead! Had to make us second best! They flew too close to the sun and God put em to sleep!". (p.305)

The people even marginalized women using the bible. It seems that the women do not have their own freedom in their own life and subjectification that all women did the same mistakes and said all the women are bad and they deserved to get punishment from God

This misconception has become their theoretical basis against women and standardized women as they like. They just women to do the house chores, having babies and just that. They don't assume that the women also have capability to do everything they want and that the women also capable doing something like men does.

It also can be determined that the patriarchy violets the rights of freedom from the women. As the ruler it seems that some of them just want women as a housemaid, nothing more

4.1.2 suppress women's power

Power is the capacity of an individual or group to influence the actions, beliefs, opinions and behavior of others. Everybody can not have the same power in society and some of people are really ambitious in gaining the power. In order to have the highest position in society people tend to take the power of other to claim their position by making them powerless. In this case, men are taking the power of women to remain as superior in society. Powerlessness refers to the individual or group that does not have power to resist or fight for their own freedom. The dominant or the superior side easily control the powerless to do their orders since the power capacity of the inferior has been limited by them.

According to Freire (2004), the powerless experienced the culture of silence, in which they are not able to speak their voice. While particular individual or group certainly can not express their terrible condition, the others just think that their participation will not giving any impact. The rights that has been violated is the right of freedom and the right of free to speech

Those who feel powerless possibly underestimated easily since they believe that they are the lowest part of society. As a result the powerless can not do anything about what happened to them

“Why only women?” the reporter on the flatscreen wondered aloud. “At first we thought just the very elderly and the very young were vulnerable, but now it appears that women across age groups—”

Garth rested his forehead against the door and slapped it. “Stop! Quit it!”

“Open up!” The voice was deep and pissed off. He tapped some reserve strength and lifted his head to peer through the spyhole (p.77)

From this quotation above it shown how underestimated women are, and the part who make the women powerless is men. In this situation a women reporter just wanted to ask question to the public. She just want to know what exactly is going on and what is happening to the women, but the television immediately disconnect the news. They don't want to spread the news about women because they think that is unnecessary

“The ladies,” said a voice from behind Michaela. It was the White House protestor, who had come over to watch. “The ladies. Jesus please us.” “That outbreak began with a woman named Mrs. Troffea, who danced madly in the streets of Strasbourg for six days and nights,” DiPoto said, warming to his subject. “Before collapsing, she was joined by many others. This dance mania spread

across all of Europe. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of women danced in cities and towns. Many died of heart attacks, strokes, or exhaustion.” He essayed a small, smug smile. “It was simple hysteria, and eventually died out.” (p.178)

Some desperate women literally do anything to seek for help and attention but seems nobody really care and nobody wanted to help the women, yet they still blaming women for what happened to them. They go down to the street to show that they are suffered but there is still no proper respond from the men

“I understand. Prison can feel very close. You understand that you’re in a prison, right? This is the Correctional Facility for Women in the town of Dooling. You haven’t been charged with any crime, let alone convicted, you’re just here for your own safety. Do you follow all that?”. P152

Because of the problem that is held by the patriarchy it seems that they use it to suppress women by not giving their rights that they deserved. Some women are just want to ensure their safety because she has no idea anymore how to protect herself this show how powerless she is. She got in to jail to escape hell

4.1.3 Exploitation

Exploitation as mentioned by Young (1990) is a system that helps superior ethnic to grow larger using the power and potential of minorities to gain many advantages in economical factor and then claim their superiority. exploitation is power and inequality relationship involving a condition when the exploited is continuously in the subordinated one. It since the dominant has power and wealth to do any actions of using the energy of individuals or groups to control the exploite.

The exploitations can be triggered because on side feel superior than the other and it only profitable for the people who held most power and the other side people who don’t have power will suffer

“I have to do this. It’s better this way. It solves all the problems. How many men have hurt you? Plenty, I imagine. I’ve worked with women like you for my entire adult life. I know you didn’t just walk into prison on your own. A man pushed you.” (p.561)

This quotation reflected that women are getting exploit by man and the society already know this situation and become common things in the society. A man just want the women do whatever they likes and tend to push the women to

do the job that they don't even want in their life that out of their capability. They do not have freedom to choose their own job yet they have to fulfill a man expectations

She doubted if it would arrive; although it had been a man who took her call, Michaela was sure that it was women who actually filled the orders. Wasn't it usually the women who got those kinds of jobs? The crap jobs? If you see a toilet bowl without a ring, she thought, you know there's a woman somewhere in the vicinity.(p.380)

Some women get undesired job and just for helping and accessory not as the major part of the job anyway. It always the weak that get the lowest job and craps job, like what has been said in this quotation. Excluded from the job that have possibility to increase their power, status, and wealth. Women's freedom is limited by their idea that working outside the home is a challenge to compete with their husbands. Women should work since their husbands are at risk of losing their jobs due to their lack of education and ability.

Maura had been in prison for decades. She had done a lot of reading, and even made her way through the Bible. It had seemed like a fairly worthless stack of paper at the time, men creating laws and women begetting beget- me-nots, but she remembered a compelling line: Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. (p.272)

From this quotation it shown that men are creating the law that unfavorable for women and it already become a system, system that partial, only benefit to the ruler and the elites. This unfair system has seize women's right to be equal. Women deserved equal wage as man and equal opportunity to get the job that appropriate and compatible with their ability and skills

The people who have the power to control a society tend to control how people interpret and communicate. As a result, they become a social standard in a society including life objectives, experiences, and accomplishments

4.1.4 Violence

Violence is the worst and the most visible form of oppression because it clearly seen and people are actually physically and mentally suffer from this type of oppression. The abusers could commit the act of violence anywhere and at any time, whether in public or private spaces such as the home. It makes them an easy target for assault or abuse, especially for women who are second-class citizens.

4.1.4.1 Physical Violence

This form of violence possibly the most well-known to be found in the society, especially in America sadly. The objective of physical violence, particularly women. Usually the perpetrator using their advantages in their strength and power to harm women. For example the men are literary roaming looking for sleeping women to kill because they considered women as dangerous creatures

So, what did that leave? It left people's homes. But if groups of vigilantes—of crazies, whoever—did start to go around killing the sleeping women, homes were the first place they'd check. Where's your wife? Where's your daughter? It's for your own safety, for everyone's safety. You wouldn't leave dynamite lying around your house, would you? (p.300)

Some people are really follow the order to kill women to remain their safety, they think women are dangerous and caused all of this problem so they decided to patrol from house to house to hunt women and kill them all. This violation has gone too far. People should not killing people just like that even less the women and they are in their sleep, they don't know anything at all. They supposed to get help not to be killed

“First, to give you some information. The torching has begun. Men are burning women in their cocoons by the thousands. Soon it will be by the tens of thousands. It's what many men have always wanted.” “I don't know what your experiences with men have been. Rotten, I suppose. But whatever you may think, most men don't want to kill women.” (p.325)

Some men are really burning the sleeping women they don't stop killing women that lead by untrusted information without thinking about the consequences. They do this act violence with groundless information.

They had a list of streets to be canvased, tucked into a notebook where they wrote down the addresses of houses containing sleeping women, plus their names and some form of ID. If the houses were locked, they were allowed to break in, which was fun at first. (p.353)

They even have a list that has women in their house to kill them all. They break the rule of property by breaking in to the houses. This is insane because the authority itself let that all happen, which should be a protector it turns out to be the criminals

4.1.4.2 Psychological violence

When it comes to psychological violence, the goal is to make these women feel traumatized and resentful of themselves. The impact of this violence make women feel unsafe and hopeless. The various types of violence shown in the novel

AURORA WARNING: URGENT!

By Dr. Philip P. Verdrusca

A team of biologists and epidemiologists at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center have determined that the cocoons surrounding women afflicted with the Aurora Sleeping Sickness are responsible for the spread of the disease. The respiration of those afflicted passes through the cocoon and becomes a transmission vector. This vector is highly contagious! The only way to stop the spread of Aurora is to burn the cocoons and the sleeping women inside! Do this immediately! You will give your loved ones the rest they long for in their semiconscious state, and stop the spread of this pestilence. Do it for the sake of the women who are still awake! SAVE THEM!!! (p.318)

This is a fake order from the person who claimed to be a doctor or an expert and asking people to burn all sleeping women that they found around them. this news spread so fast making public panic, most of them believe it and making women more afraid. Instead of calming the situation the men made the atmosphere more chaotic, let the women suffered mentally

“We shoulda seen this coming!” the trucker/preacher proclaimed. “The women flew too high, like that fella with the wax wings, and their wings melted!” “Icarus,” Howland said. He wore a baggy old barn jacket with patches on the elbows. His specs stuck up out of the breast pocket. (p.304)

From this quotation above even the preacher was giving the bad preach to the audience, saying that women “flew too high” meaning that the preacher accused women were having too much and forget about what the God said then get punishment in their excitement. This incrimination enough to make women feeling guilty and more depressed.

This reflected that violent is really happening around us and the victim is the sleeping powerless women who can not do anything and they don't know what is going on around them. This reflected that women often become the victim of violence because women are considered to be inferior and weaker than male.

4.2 How does the rights limitation applied to the female in the novel *Sleeping beauties*

In this novel the men held most of the power in their society. Sometimes they considered women as second class citizen in society, because of that they created a belief that men are better than women in many aspects and then it becomes a culture in society. In this case they places culture as colonial. It means the culture take power to control the society in acting.

4.2.1 Cultural Imperialism based on gender

According to Young (1990) Cultural Imperialism means the universalization of the dominant group's experience and their culture and then establishment as the norm and this superior group become determiner and representative of humanity as such (Young, 1990). These norms that their establish become a guidance for society to behave. This act intend to limit women's rights. By regulating which bad and goods belief, cultural imperialism set the norms in society to be followed. This can be the first things they do in order to limit women's rights

4.2.1.2 Controlling the Media

Media is one of the most powerful tool in providing information to people or in society. Media control information and information is power. It is the power to influence people's thinking, emotion, ideology and behavior. But the big media, probably the most of the media are controlled by the powerful. It is their instruments of keeping their power. Most of the people trust all the information come from the media especially from the television

“Women all over the world are struggling not to go to sleep because they're afraid they'll never wake up, and you think that's female hysteria?” Michaela, the tech guy, and the woman from the protest were staring at the monitor, fascinated. “Go to commercial!” George called, looking over Stephanie Koch's shoulder. “We just need to take a break, folks! Sometimes things get a little tense. That's live television, though, and—” (p.179)

From the situation above it reflected that the media is controlled by the people who don't want to spread the news about the women. The television news

just considered that sleeping women is just a female hysteria and when one of the protestors are complaining the television immediately put that on commercial break. They doing that because they are keeping the government's reputation. In this novel most of the men are not taking this sleeping case not seriously, some of them are making jokes out of it. That shown the women didn't have the same rights as men in getting the same attention by the nation or government.

4.2.1.3 Making up an ideology

Ideology is a set of beliefs or opinion of a group or an individual. It is very often that ideology refers to a set of a particular culture. It is powerful enough to oppress some people or even a gender. It is has become a common thing that people tend to degrade women and think that the men are better than women. The ideology often growing since they are childhood. It told by their fathers and the people around them This novel shown that this wrong ideology make the women suffer

“Thoughtfully put, sir, the contribution of a true intellectual, and a belief that many men advance, usually ones with a certain sense of inferiority when it comes to the fairer s—” Don started to rise. “Who are you calling inferior, jackwad?” (p.307)

From the quotation above it can be seen that some of men considered that men is superior and women are inferior. In this situation the government is about to burn the sleeping women and some of them are not agree with this the decision and when they say inferior, the man named Don Peters started to get mad. He doesn't want to be called inferior. He believes that the one who inferior is only women

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

From the analysis using Young's forms of oppression (1990), it can be concluded that oppression from patriarchy leads to rights restrictions or limitations experienced by most of women reflected in the novel *Sleeping Beauties* (2017). These women suffered from many kinds oppression which are marginalization, exploitation, suppression and violence.

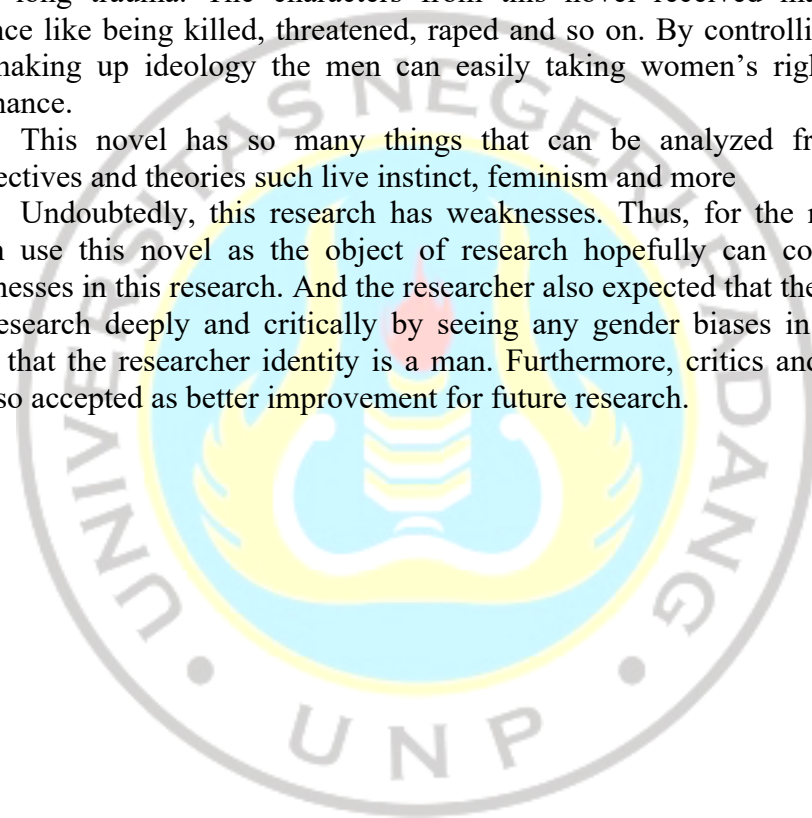
This analysis answered the research question about what attempts have been made to limit women's rights And how are the actions of limitations women's rights applied. There are many attempts that the limitations women's rights happened because of patriarchy which is using their power to oppress women, the oppression causes rights violation or rights restriction. The action is applied directly to the women in this novel. The women faced the act of oppression that indicate the rights limitations in their daily life.

The first form of oppression is marginalization which is the most common things that happen to women for example women has more restriction in their life

rather than man. This inequality makes women lose some of their rights, for example from this novel the women is not even placed in the women prison even the country have no problem to build it. The next one is exploitation, in this novel this happen when women forced to get a job by her man even she is not into the job. This pressure makes women suffer to do something that they don't really want to do. The next is suppression. Women are suppose to ger equal chance as men but sometimes the society tend to underestimated the women and as a result the women could not get equal chance. The last one that can be found in this novel is violence, this is the worst thing that can be happen to women because this act is really abusive and the victim can be suffered physically and mentally causing really long trauma. The characters from this novel received many kinds of violence like being killed, threatened, raped and so on. By controlling the media and making up ideology the men can easily taking women's right and assert dominance.

This novel has so many things that can be analyzed from different perspectives and theories such live instinct, feminism and more

Undoubtedly, this research has weaknesses. Thus, for the next research whom use this novel as the object of research hopefully can complete those weaknesses in this research. And the researcher also expected that the readers read this research deeply and critically by seeing any gender biases in the research given that the researcher identity is a man. Furthermore, critics and suggestions are also accepted as better improvement for future research.



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