

THE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY IN THE COLOR PURPLE NOVEL BY ALICE WALKER

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the struggle of women to get gender equality. The purpose of this study is to describe how gender inequality is depicted in the novel *The Color Purple* and to describe how women struggle to get equality. This research is a qualitative research and the method used is descriptive qualitative method. The theory used in this study is the theory of feminism from Beauvoir which will analyze the problem of gender inequality and women's struggles to achieve equality. The results of this study indicate that the forms of gender inequality experienced by the female characters in this novel are subordinatio, stereotypes and violence. Living in the midst of a patriarchal society makes the female characters in the novel *The Color Purple* have to face various kinds of oppression by men. The researcher also found the struggles of women leaders to achieve gender equality, namely, women intellectual, to be themselves, and the freedom in self-actualization.

Keyword: Feminism, Gender, Beauvoir, Subordination

INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a reflection of the author about life and life is combined with the style of play and creation that is supported by the experience and observer of life. Literary works have two aspects, they are aspects of form and content, aspect form is things that involve objects, and the aspect of content is human life experiences, such as socio-cultural, the way they are thinking, etc. Djojuroto (2006) this content material factor is the more potent due to the fact it is only as a field or media. Literary works are considered culturally representative of a particular genre and some literary works capture social problems such as violence against women. This is a common problem in a patriarchal society or to the extent in some privileged societies.

Every man or women ought to have integrity and freedoms of life without differences in all aspects, which includes differences of gender. But in reality, women

are frequently considered weak and women's existence has relied on men. Beauvoir (2010) stated that men continually attempt to take control of women through the guidelines they created in order that women end up depending on men. Because of that women are prone confronted abuse from men and the lack of their freedom. This movement tries to fight for women's freedom in the world. The feminist movement was the beginning based on the emergence of women's concerns to fight the gender inequality they experienced. Hannam (2013) states that the term feminism can be interpreted as: acknowledging the imbalance of power between the sexes, using women in a lower role than men. The movement is prompted through the attention that women have same rights with men. Women through feminist movements and concepts demand that cultural awareness which generally discriminates against women's opposition can be changed so that the balance can be dynamic.

Women As the second gender make it tough for women to express themselves and the way women survive. The struggle of women is related to using the feminist movement which also wants gender equality between women and men. Tong (2009) revealed that the authentic meaning of feminism is the situation of women who are detached based on oppression, power, hegemony, injustice, and violence. Women's struggle begins offevolved from their willingness to reveal who they are in the public sphere. Beauvoir (1949) the willingness and resolution of women make women fight on and on until they attain the point of achievement. The struggle of women against the oppression experienced by women is an attempt by women to demand equal rights between men and women in all areas of life.

Women have a natural disparity based on men. They experience menstruation, pregnancy, and childbirth. With this condition, women suspect that men need to respect them. They no longer oppress them. From the models above, women struggle to accept equality as men. The form of equality can be seen in several forms, namely position, role, rights, and participation. Women's struggle is a branch of feminist studies. In general, feminism talks about women in some cases. Here, feminism relates to using women's efforts for equality. This issue is everyone's concern.

In feminism, women ask for equality or emancipation and that they are fighting against unequal treatment done through the people. Furthermore, Paludi (2010) said that feminism is a perception of social, economic, political, and judicial inequality for certain principles. In an environment that serves conventional people, women and men are treated unequally who tend to deal with men rather than women. Gender inequality among men and women will become a trouble that leads to unfair treatment and possibility for women in society. As stated by Martin (1916), the essence of feminism is to highlight freedom, independence, and

emancipation or equality between men and women in all aspects, such as; social, political, and economic. A social situation in which men have a proper to control women and have extra acquire in the public quarter creates gender jealousy for women. Women assume that their roles, which are only handling a child and a household, are built by patriarchal values in which men have an crucial role. This jealousy creates attention in women in order that there is a women's movement to advantage equal roles in society. Related to struggles to determine the form of the women's representation in literature, this research focuses on the study of a novel written by Alice Walker in 1982 with the title is *The Color Purple*. Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia, America on 9 February 1944. Alice Walker is the youngest child in her black family in the south. She began writing approximately black women living in America, seeing first-hand the problems confronted by the people. Walker's childhood was filled with violence and racism. This was giving much influenced by her literary work. Because her youth so fields with the persecution and separation, Walker reveals herself worried closely in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Her novel, *The Color Purple* has garnered critical acclaim and Won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award for Fiction, and was later adapted as a film and musical of the same name.

Because of the issues about the violence against women and how the struggle of women to get their equal rights interests the researcher to make the further analyzing inside of the novel *The Color Purple*. This novel is very interesting due to its high quality. People can analyze not only about the historical events occurred in black American society, however also the moral values. This novel desires to show the readers that humans have their own rights, whether they're white, black, male, or female. They should struggle and fight in gain freedom although they're oppressed. The novel also teaches readers to appreciate and deal with different humans equally. This

applies to infidelity, physical, verbal, and sexual harassment. And also nowadays, violence against women is one of the most concerning problems faced by people all over the world. The main object of the researcher is Celie as the main character who fights for equality and her resistance against violence and oppression against women.

Therefore, the researcher chose the topic of this research is about the struggle of women for equality under the title "The Analysis of Women Struggle for Equality in The Color Purple Novel" as it is represented in the feature of the characters, especially Celie, the main character in the novel of The Color Purple. The main character's point of view can explain how the way of the main character, Celie, has accomplished the struggle as a woman for equality in the novel already impacts her life.

METHODS

On this research, the researchers used literary research method to investigate the finding of text which was a novel titled The Color Purple. In order to analyze the text, researchers used feminism theory of Beauvoir. Feminism is a movement perpetrated by women to reject everything marginalized, subordinated, and demeaned by dominant cultures, both in political, economic, and other social life, Feminism is a movement against gender injustice against women, both in the family environment and in the social environment. Feminism is a path to request equality of rights among men and women because the Feminism Movement questions women's rights and interests. This study applies the concept of feminism to interpret the struggle of a woman for equality of the main character in the novel. This research focuses on gender equality by using the feminist approach to analyze women's struggles in The Color Purple Novel by Alice Walker.

The researchers also focused on gender equality which was appeared in the text. Gender equality includes the elimination of

discrimination, stereotypes, violence and justice against men and women. Gender justice is a method of fair treatment against men and women. Gender justice means not being able to different roles, subordination, marginalization, double burden, and violence against women or men. Htun and Weldon (2010) defines gender equality as "an ideal condition in which men and women have similar opportunities to participate in politics, the economy and social activities, their roles and status are equally valued, neither suffers from gender based disadvantage or discrimination, and both are considered free autonomous beings with dignity and rights."

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Gender Inequality Issue

a. Subordination

The term of women subordination refers to inferior position of women, their lack of access to resources and decision making, and to the patriarchal domination that women are subjected to in most societies. One of the forms of the subordination is the domination of males over females. Here are the passages proven:

"I tell Nettie to keep at her books. It be more then a notion taking care of children ain't even yourn. And look what happen to Ma". (P.4)

After finding out that Nettie has lover. A widower with three children who are the same shape whit his Pa, Celie tells Nettie to continue her education. Women must have equal education. In this case Cellie was born in poor family and raped by her Pa. When Albert wants to marry her sister Nettie she refuses for Albert's desire. Cellie wants Nettie got education, go to school and make a school teacher.

Mr. __ come back home Mr. Alphonso

(Pa) to confirm whether he could really marry Nettie. Mr. ___ also wanted to make sure that Pa wouldn't change his mind. but after thinking about it Pa changed his mind and wanted to trade Nettie for Celie

"Well, He say, real show, I can't let you have Nattie. She too young. Don't know nothing but what you tell her. Sides, I want her to git some more schooling. Make a schoolteacher out of her".(P.7)

Women should prioritize education. Women must prioritize education. Mr. Alphonso objected if Nettie married a widower. Nettie is still too young and still has to continue her schooling. Nettie also has no experience in managing the household. Mr. Alphonso also saw the background of Mr. ___, an old widower with a similar face to himself and with three children. Therefore Mr. Alphonso does not allow Mr. ___ to marry Nettie.

In contrast to Nettie, Celie had feel the subordination of her father. she wants to have the same education as Nettie but her father doesn't allow that. Her father kicked her out of school.

"The first time I got big Pa took me out of school. He never care that I love it. Nettie stood thete at the gate holding tight to my hand. I was already dress for first day. You too dumb to keep going to school, Pa say. Nettie the clever one in this bunch". (P.9)

Women get injustice in getting education. When Celie wants to go to school like Nettie, Pa took her out from school. Pa said that Celie too dumb to keep going to school. Pa also compares Celie to Nettie by

saying that Nettie is the smart one. Celie will never get better education because of her situation that raped and controlling by her step father.

After deciding not to marry Nettie to Mr. ___. Mr. Alphonso swaps Nettie for Alice to marry Mr. ___. But Mr. ___ never knew what Celie was like; Mr. Alphonso also explained how Celie's character was to Mr. ___

"...She ugly. Don't even look like she kin to Nettie. But she'll make the better wife. She ain't smart either, and I'll just be fair, you have to watch her or she'll give away everything you own. But she can work like a man". (P.8)

Pa wants Mr. ___ to marry Celie because he thinks Celie is older and should marry first. Although there are many shortcomings that Celie has, but is hard worker and will obey Mr. ___. Cellie's father degrading Cellie through education by saying Cellie not equal smart either. It shows very clear educational differences lead to men dominance of degrading women who are not educated and considered Cellie as weak.

Cellie is described as a woman who always obeys what her husband says. But in contrast to the character Sofia is described as a dissident woman who never obeys her husband's words. Harpo as a husband also complained about it to his stepmother, Celie

Harpo wants to dominate Sofia like Mr. ___ do to Cellie but Sofia fight him. Sofia have a power, Sofia know what's good for her and what's not. Sofia also can fight a man but Cellie doesn't want to fight a man because she doesn't have courage.

When Celie wants to free herself from Mr. ___ by following Shug Avery to leave.

Mr. ___ was angry and berated Celie. He insulted Celie and also underestimated Celie.

“You’ll be back, he say. Nothing up North for nobody like you. Shug got talent, he say. She can sing. She got spunk, he say. She can talk to anybody. Shug got looks, he say. She can stand up and be notice. But what you got? You ugly. You skinny. You shape funny. You too scared to open your mouth to people. All you fit to do in Memphis is be Shug’s maid. Take out her slop-jar and maybe cook her food. You mot that good a cook either. And this house ain’t be clean since my wife died. And nobody crazy or backward enough to want to marry you, neither. What you gon do?”. (P.165)

The quotation above shows about how men want to dominate women. Mr. ___ decidedly uses his dominance to put Cellie down. Mr. ___ couldn't accept that Celie would leave him and start a new life in Memphis. He said that Celie would be useless there because she didn't have any talent. Mr. ___ also said that no one would want to marry Celie because Celie has many flaws.

When Celie denied Mr. ___'s words that had demeaned her, Mr. ___ laughed at her. Mr. ___ still insults Celie's physique. he thinks Celie is nothing and has many flaws.

“He laugh. Who you think you is? He say. You can’t curse nobody. Look at you. You black, you pore, you ugly, you a woman. Goddam, he say, you nothing at all” (p. 165)

The quotation above describe how women are belittled. Considered worthless and not beautiful are also demeaned for being a woman. In this novel, being a woman is not easy. Always gets rough The quotation above describe how women are belittled. Considered worthless and not beautiful are also demeaned for being a woman. In this novel, the female characters face a lot of struggle and get rough treatment. Women are bullied, enslaved, and also always underestimated by men.

b. Stereotype

Stereotype is a positive or negative set of beliefs held by an individual about the characteristic of a group of people. There are many women's stereotypes in society, for example beliefs that women are gentle, weak, and irrational. When already married a woman is considered as someone who is obliged to look after the cleanliness of the house, cooking, caring for children and taking care of their husband. In this novel, reveals about women characters who are asked to do household chores and obey their husbands. Here are the passages proven:

“Harpo, she say. Harpo the oldest boy. Harpo, don’t let Celie be the one bring in all the water. You big now. Time for you to help out some”.

“women work, he say.”

“What? She say”

“Women work, I’m man”. (P.18)

The quotation above tells about the obligation as women who have to do household chores. In The Color Purple novel, men have an understanding that it is only women who have to do household chores. As a man they only need to be served by women.

The stereotype that occurs to women in this novel is clearly described through the character Celie. As a woman and a wife makes Celie inevitably have to obey her husband's orders.

“He tell me, Wash this. Iron that. Look for this. Look for that. Find this. Find that. He groan over holes in his sock”. (P.22)

The quotation above tells about the obligation as a wife who must obey her husband. Women are made like a servant who has to do this and do that. As a wife, Celie is required to always serve the needs of Mr.____. Celie must also always follow the orders of Mr.____ to do this and that.

Not only Celie's character, Sofia's character also experiences stereotypes because she is pregnant before marriage. Women with this condition are considered like wild women who can't take care of themselves

“Young women are no good these days, he say. Got they legs open to every Tom, Dick and Harry”. (P.27)

The quotation above tells about women being looked down upon by men. When Harpo invites Sofia to go to his house and meet Mr.____, Sofia get scorn from Mr.____. The stereotype that says that young women are not good because Sofia is already pregnant and unmarried. Therefore, Mr.____ looked down on Sofia as a cheap woman.

After separating and leaving Harpo, Sofia returns to visit her home which has now become a nightclub. he also wants to have fun like the others.

“A woman need a little fun, once in a while, she say”
“A woman need to be at home, he say”. (p.66)

The quotation above tells about difference of opinion between Harpo and Sofia. The stereotype that says that women have to stay at home because of the patriarchal understanding that occurs in the living environment which is described in this novel that women should not have fun and should be at home doing household chores, taking care of children and also their husbands.

After separating from Sofia, Harpo dated Mary Agnes or what he usually called Squeek. Unlike Sofia who likes to argue with the Harpo, Squeek is a woman who is submissive and always obeys Harpo's orders. Squeek joins Celie, Sofia and Shug to take the fight against men. When they laugh at Mr.____, Harpo gets angry with Squeek. According to him, women shouldn't laugh at men.

“Harpo look at Squeek. Shut up Squeek, he say. It bad luck for women to laugh at men”. (p.161)

The quotation above tells about how women should respect men. the stereotype that says that women should respect men because men are the head of the household. Women are prohibited from doing what they want because of the position of a woman under men.

When Sofia's mother dies and she doesn't cry, Harpo confirms to Sofia that people think women are weak. Sofia should be like most weak women out there, she should be crying.

“But peoples use to men doing this sort of thing. Women weaker, he say. People think they weak, say the weaker, anyhow. Women sponse to take it easy. Cry if you want to. Not try to take over”. (p.175)

The quotation above tells about the view that men are considered masculine, strong and brave, while women are considered as weak, gentle and obedient feminists. This perspective causes women to be considered weak and there is arbitrariness against women.

c. Violence

Violence against women does not mean only physical violence. It is much broader and includes sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse. The first problem faced by women in this novel is sexual harassment. As the discussion that is widely discussed in feminism, women are considered as human who have duty to satisfy the sexual needs of men. In *The Color Purple* novel, Celie goes through lots of violent moments and she accepts the moments without any retort. Here are the passages proven:

“He never had kine word to say to me. Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn’t. First he put his thing up gainst my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Than he grab hold my tities. The he push his thing inside my pussy. What that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it”. (P.1)

The quotation above reveals that Celie’s father commits several forms of violence against Celie. He’s physically violent to her by raping her. He also causes emotional damage by never showing any respect of human being. He also emotionally separates her from others by forcing her to keep quiet about the way him treating her.

Not only sexual violence, Celie also

got physical violence from her father. Celie can't do anything wrong. If he made a mistake, no matter how small it was, his father would beat him.

“He beat me today cause he say I winked at boy in cruch. I may have got something in my eye but I don’t wink. I don’t even look at mens. That’s the truth. I looked at women, tho, cause I’m not scared of them”. (P.5)

The quotation above reveals abusive treatment of men towards women. In this novel, Celie's father has always been violent towards Celie. In the quotation above, Celie is accused of winking at men, even though what actually happened was that Celie looked at women because she was afraid of men, so she only dared to look at women.

After marrying Mr.__, instead of getting happiness, Celie still gets violence. When Celie came to Mr.__'s house, one of Mr.__'s children greeted her with a stone that went straight to her head.

“He pick up a rock and laid my head open. The blood run all down tween my breasts. His daddy say Don’t do that! But that’s all he say”. (P.11)

In the quotation above reveals about how Mr.__’s son behave against Celie. Celie's arrival to Mr.__ greeted with a stone throw that resulted in Celie's head bleeding. Mr.__ as a father can only reprimand his son without doing anything. It describes how Mr.__ educates their children by allowing their children to commit violence against women.

After marrying Mr.__, Celie must be faced with violence again. The violence this time was carried out by her husband, Mr.__.

One of Mr.__'s children, Harpo, wonders why every time Celie makes a mistake, Mr.__ always beats her.

“Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr.__ say, Cause she my wife. Plus, she stubborn. All women good for—he don’t finish. He just tuck his chin over the paper like he do. Remind me of Pa”. (P.20)

The quotation above describes the abusive behavior of Mr.__ as a husband. According to Mr.__ a wife deserves violence. This condition also trashes Celie becoming a passive woman who has no effort to fight back because her self-esteem has been destroyed.

Mr.__ often abuses both Celie and her child. Mr.__ often beats his children as well as Celie, but Celie gets hit harder and hurts. Mr.__'s cruelty must be accepted by Celie, because Mr.__ is her husband

“He beat me like he beat the children. Cept he don’t never hardly beat them. He say, Celie git the belt. The children be outside the room peeking through the cracks. It all I can do not to cry. I make myself wood. I say to myself, Celie, you a tree. That’s how come I know trees fear man”. (P.20)

The quotation above shows that violence is a common thing in the family and women have to accept it. Women have to put up their bodies to get violence and the result of that habit is women are afraid to resist abusive behavior from men.

Harpo compares Celie to his wife, Sofia. Sofia who never listens to her orders is in stark contrast to Celie who always obeys

her father's orders.

”When Pa tell you to do something, you do it, he say. When he say not to, you don’t. you don’t do what he say, he beat you”.

“Sometime beat me anyhow, I say, whether I do what he say or not”. (P.51)

The quotation above tells that women must be obedient. Celie always gets violence if she doesn't obey Mr.__'s words. Harpo, son of Mr.__ wants Sofia to do the same as Celie. Harpo wants Sofia also obey his words just like Celie did. Not argue and not fight like how women should be.

Shug Avery is a woman who is loved by Mr.__. At first Nettie didn't like Shug. But after taking care of Shug for a long time, Celie and Shug finally become good friends. And when Shug wanted to leave Mr.__'s residence, Celie stopped her because if Shug left, Mr.__ would beat her again.

*“He beat me when you not here, I say”
“Who do, she say,
Albert?” “Mr.__, I say.”* (P.61)

The quotation above tells about the violence that Celie received when Shug wasn't at home. Celie complaining to Shug Avery about how she's being treated in the house. Mr.__ with his rudeness, hitting, berating and also limiting the activities of Celie. The existence of Shug Avery slightly revived Celie, Mr.__ no longer bothering Celie.

Shug and Celie grew closer and closer. Mr.__ didn't like the closeness that existed between Celie and Shug. Especially when Shug defended celia by demeaning Mr.__'s

behavior.

"I wanted to kill you, said Mr. ___ and I did slap you around a couple of times. I never understood how you and Shug got along so well together and it bothered the hell out of me" (P.218)

The quotation tells about women who are always treated harshly. How the rude attitude of Mr. ___ to Celie in the house. As a husband should be done by Mr. ___ is to protect his wife. Mr. ___ didn't like the closeness of Celie and Shug Avery. Every time Shug defends Celie and Shug tells the truth about Mr. ___ that she heard from Celie, Mr. ___ felt so angry that he wanted to kill Celie and also slapped her many times.

2. The Struggle Against Inequality

a. Intellectual Women

In the novel *The Color Purple*, Celie's character is described as a weak and oppressed woman. While some characters are described as brave women, rebels and also brave against men. Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia are women with strong characters and also those who teach Celie how to find resistance. Here are passages proven:

"But Pa, Nettie say, crying, Celie smart too. Even Miss Baesley say so. Nettie dote on Miss Baesley. Think nobody like her in the world". (P.9)

The quotation above describes how women fight for their right to education. To get an equal education, Nettie struggles to persuade Pa, her father, so that Celie also gets the same education as her. Not only Nettie, their teacher Miss Baesley also

participated in fighting for Celie's education.

Celie tells Harpo to beat up Sofia if she doesn't obey Harpo's orders. But unfortunately, Celie does not know that Sofia is a brave woman.

"But it Harpo and Sofia. They fighting like two mens. Every piece of furniture they got is turned over". (P.32)

The quotation above shows that women are also capable of fighting men. Born and grew up in a family that mostly consisted of men, Sofia became a strong woman. She is not like most women who just stay silent and accept violence. Sofia shows that she is able to be equal to men by fighting the violence perpetrated by Harpo.

b. To Be Themselves

In *The Color Purple* novel, several female characters openly show themselves. Such as Shug Avery and Sofia who have masculine characters so they dare to be different. While Celie is a woman who is hesitant and afraid to show herself because since childhood she was demanded by her father to keep everything that happened to her just for herself and God. However, after meeting Sofia and Shug, Celie starts to gain the courage to show herself. Here are the passages proven:

"First she smile a little. Then she frown. Then she don't look no special way at all. She just stick close to me. She tell me, Your Skin. Your hair, Your teefs. He try to give her compliment, she pass it on to me. After while I got to feeling pretty cute". (p.16)

The quotation above tells about how women struggle with their insecurities. In this novel, black woman often gets oppression such as skin color, body shape, and curly hair. Thus making some women feel that they are ugly and unworthy. In the quote above, Nettie compliments Celie so that she feels that she is also beautiful and worthy.

Unlike Celie who didn't dare to be herself, Sofia bravely did what she wanted. Sofia is against the ban on wearing pants for women. She is stylish according to what he wants.

"I see Sofia dragging a ladder and then lean it up gainst the house. She wearing a old pair of Harpo pants. Got her head tied up in a headrag. She clam up the ladder to the roof, begin to hammer in nails". (P.50)

The quotation above shows that women are capable of being themselves. In this novel, women are prohibited from wearing pants because they are considered to resemble men. But with her confidence, Sofia bravely put on her pants and also did the job that a man should do.

As a woman, Shug does not want Mr.____ to be her husband. plus knowing Mr.____'s behavior towards Celie. Often violent, demeaning and humiliating Celie.

"Shuf Avery finally say, Good thing I ain't your damn wife". (p.59)

The quotation above shows that women have integrity. After hearing Mr.____'s words demeaning his wife, Celie, Shug felt lucky not to be his wife. Shug is an independent woman who doesn't like to be looked down upon by men. Because she is able to do

everything herself, make her own money, therefore she feels lucky not to marry Mr.____.

After leaving Mr.____, Celie struggles to find her true self. After all this time she was only a woman who only worked at home, she finally found what she wanted

"I am so happy. I got love, I got work, I got money, friends and time. And you alive and be home soon. With our children". (P.173)

The quotation above describes a woman who has successfully struggled against adversity in her life. After moving to Memphis Celie started her new life sewing, making many pants of different colors and sizes. She finally gets what she likes, does what she wants, and she is grateful to know that Nettie is still alive with her children.

Life in Memphis made Celie change a lot; she began to dare to make her own decisions for herself. she must dare to go against what men say

"Do I look like a fool? I ast. I smoke when I want to talk to God. I smoke when I want to make love. Lately I feel like me and God make love just fine anyhow. Whether I smoke reefer or not". (P.177)

The quotation above describes a woman who can be herself without being controlled by anyone. In Celie's previous environment, women were prohibited from doing what men usually do, such as smoking. But after moving to Memphis, Celie began to dare to do what she loves and be herself, without the coercion and rules of Mr.____ again.

Wanting to follow in the footsteps of Shug and Celie who want to go to Memphis, Squeek gets opposition from Harpo. Squeek

this time was not only silent and obedient; she dared to voice his long-held desire.

"Listen Squek, say Harpo. You can't go to Memphis. That's all there is to it".

"Mary Agnes, say Squek".

"Squek, Mary Agnes, what difference do it make?"

"It make a lot, say Squek. When I was Mary Agnes I could sing in public". (P.163)

The quotation above shows that women want to be themselves. Squek was a nickname for Mary Agnes of Harpo after they got married. Squek who also wants to express herself further to become a famous singer. Because since getting married and having children, Squek never sings in public again. She wants to be herself like before where she can sing in public.

c. The freedom in self-actualization

The Color Purple tells a story about a black woman who is sexually and physically abused, as well as verbally dominated for close the three decades. The female characters in this novel fight for their freedom as women. They struggle against violence, against not being oppressed and belittled, and also free to choose their path in life. Here are the passages proven:

"Don't let them run over you, Nettie say. You go to let them know who got upper hand."

"They got it, I say."

"But she keep on, You got to fight. You got to fight".

"But I don't know how to fight. All I know how to do is stay alive". (P.15)

The quotation above describes women's

struggle in the face of oppression by men. After marrying Mr. __, Celie is responsible for teaching Mr. __. Celie's sister, Nettie, also helped teach the children Mr. __ and also taught Celie some things that Celie should know. Nettie also encourages Celie to fight back Mr. __ and also act more firmly against Mr. __'s children.

while visiting Mr. __'s house, Mr. __'s sister, Kate. felt sorry to see Celie. Seeing the bad behavior of Mr. __ and Harpo, Kate gave Celie support to fight back.

"You go to fight them, Celie, she say. I can't do it for you. You go to fight them for yourself". (P.19)

The quotation above shows how to empathize with fellow women to fight against oppression. Kate, Mr. __'s sister knows what happened in Mr. __'s house and is concerned about what happened to Celie. Celie is enslaved by Mr. __ and his son, Harpo. She is required to do all the household chores on their own without the help of men. Kate encouraged Celie to fight the oppression for herself, so she could feel freedom for herself.

Seeing Sofia as a woman who dared to fight men, Celie felt jealous. Sofia was able to fight her husband, while Celie didn't have that courage. Sofia also explained to Celie why she became a woman who dared to fight.

"She say, All my life I had to fight. I had to fight my daddy. I had to fight my brothers. I had to fight my cousins and my uncles. A girl child ain't safe in a family of men. But I never thought I'd have to fight in my own house. She let out her breath". (P.34)

The quotation above describes how women struggle against oppression and violence since childhood. In this novel, a woman who lives in the midst of a mostly male family struggles against oppression. Sofia is one of them, since childhood she had to fight against the oppressions by her family. Therefore after marrying Harpo and having a family of her own, Sofia doesn't want any fights between her and her husband.

Harpo is sad because he thinks he is not able to educate Sofia to be a good wife. every time he tried to hit Sofia for disobeying his orders, Sofia always retaliated. Celie who knows the right also gives advice to Harpo.

“Some womens can't be beat, I say. Sofia one of them. Besides she loves you. She probably be happy to do most of what you say if you ast her right. She not mean, she not spiteful. She don't hold a grudge.” (P.51)

The quotation above tells that women can also fight back against oppression. Women are required to always obey what is said by men. if men tell to do this, women have to do this. Sofia is not part of it, Sofia is able to do what she wants to do, she is also able to resist the violence committed by her husband. When Sofia is hit by Harpo, Sofia will hit back.

When Sofia was in prison, everyone was worried. Because being in prison is the same as being in hell. But Sofia is a tough woman, she struggles against the harshness of life in prison.

“I say what yall told me to say. Bout Sofia not being punish enough. Say she happy in prison, strong girl like her. Her main worry is just the thought of ever

being some white women maid. Sofia say she never going to be no white woman's nothing, let alone maid”. (P.76)

The quotation above describes how black women struggle in the face of slavery. Black women are often made slaves by white people because of their large bodies and being able to do many household chores. Sofia is even willing to go to jail just because she doesn't want to be made a slave by a white woman. Sofia was furious when the mayor's wife offered her to be a maid.

After getting out of prison, Sofia tells Celie why she hates it when white people want to make them (black women) as slaves.

“They have the nerve to try to make us think slavery fell through because of us, say Sofia. Like us didn't have sense enough to handle it. All the time breaking hoe handles and letting the mules loose in the wheat. But how anything they built can last a day is a wonder to me. They backward, she say. Clumsy. And unlucky.” (P.82)

The quotation above describe that black women do not deserve to be slaves. White people who make black women as slaves are only those who are not able to do household chores properly. According to Sofia, white people are careless because they think that black women can handle their work.

Mr.__ has been hiding letters from Nettie for Celie. Shug finds out about this and tells Celie where Mr.__ has hidden the letters. After getting the letters from Nettie, Celie read the letters one by one. in one of Nettie's letters, Nettie told Celie to fight and leave Mr.__.

“You’ve got to fight and get away from Albert. He ain’t no good.”
(p.100)

The quotation above tells about women's struggle against oppression. According to Nettie, women must fight against men who have bad habits. Nettie, in her letter to Celie told Celie to fight against Albert (Mr.____). Nettie wants Celie to leave Mr.____'s house because of Mr.____'s bad behavior. Nettie wants her sister out of her slump with Mr.____.

After all that happened, Celie tried to be brave to get freedom. Supported by Shug, Celie decides to follow Shug to Memphis and leave Mr.____.

“Celie is coming with us, say Shug”
“Mr.____’s head swivel back straight. Say what? He ast.”
“Celie is coming to Memphis with me”. (P.160)

The quotation above tells about how women struggle to free other women from oppression. Shug Avery, an independent woman who wants to free Celie from Mr.____'s house. After all the things he went through with Celie, Shug wanted to take Celie with him to Memphis. So that Celie can start her new life without the violence and bullying that is often done by Mr.____.

Celie's decision received opposition from Mr.____, according to him; a wife should not leave the house. Celie also dared to open her voice and fight Mr.____

“You lowdown dog is what’s wrong, I say. It’s time to leave you and enter to the Creation. And your dead body just the welcome mat I need”.

“Say what? He ast. Shock”

All around table folks mouth be dropping open. (P.160)

The quotation above shows for the first time Celie dared to fight Mr.____. Women must dare to take action to get their freedom. Celie, a woman who had been silent all this time and had never put up a fight, finally dared to fight back. Finally he dared to take action to leave Mr.____ and start a new life.

Not only Celie, Squeek also followed Shug to Memphis. Squeek wants to be a singer and wants to be free from the restraints of her husband, Harpo.

“Finally, Squeek look at everybody from under her bangs. Me, she say. I’m going North”.

“You going What? Say Harpo. He so surprise. He begin to sputter, sputter, just like hid daddy. Sound like I don’t know what”.

“I want to sing, say Squeek”.
(P.162)

The quotation above shows the struggle of women to go in search of freedom. In this novel, married women are not exempt in terms of work. Women can only work at home doing household chores and taking care of children. Squeek decides to follow Shug Avery and Celie to Memphis so she can become a singer and be free from her husband, Harpo.

3. The Equality

After everything that happened in the past, they all rearranged their lives. Women are free from the abusive behavior of men, dare to make decisions, and also achieve their happiness as they want. Men change

their mindset, learn to respect women, and learn to be a better person day by day. Sofia chose to stay with Harpo, Shug got the husband she wanted, Mary Agnes managed to realize her dream of becoming a singer, Nettie who managed to get back together with Cellie, and finally Mr. ___ who changed her character drastically to be back with Celie. They are all reunited, celebrating their happiness, also joking like they should

“I feel a little particular round the children. For one thing. They grown. And I see they think me and Nettie and Shug and Albert and Samuel, and Harpo and Sofia and Jack and Odessa real old and don’t know much going on. But I don’t think us feel old at all. And us so happy. Matter of fact, I think this the youngest us ever felt”. (P. 233)

The quotation above describes the success of the female characters in achieving equality. After going through the inequalities that occurred and also struggling to get past the problems of inequality, they all got a happy ending. and also the male characters who change their mindset and change themselves to be better than before.

4. Analysis of Feminism

The researcher describes the forms of gender inequality and how women struggle to get equality in the novel. The first is gender inequality, based on the theory stated in the previous chapters; there are 4 forms of gender inequality. There are marginalization, subordination, stereotype, and violence. The color Purple has given readers gender inequality throughout the stories exposed to female characters, which only includes subordination, stereotypes, and violence.

While the point of marginalization is not found in this novel.

Subordination happens because gender occurs in all different forms from place to place and time to time. The manifestation of gender subordination in this novel can be found in education. In this novel some women do not get a proper education. It is forbidden to go to school and marry old men who already have children. Women are often considered stupid and unworthy of education. In this case, it is Celie who gets gender inequality in subordination.

Stereotype is a belief about the personal attributes of females and males. Men are portrayed as the authority whereas women are regarded as sex objects or as doers in domestic roles. In this novel the stereotypes experienced by women because they considered as a weak group, stupid, and unable to fight against men. For example, as experienced by Celie's character who always obey Mr. ___'s words as her husband. This is also experienced by the character Sofia, where as her husband Harpo forbade her to go to the jukejoint (nightclub). According to Harpo, the only place for women is at home. Patriarchal understanding plays a big role in this stereotype.

Violence is an attack or assault to someone's integrates of psychologically or physically. In marriage relationship, violence actions are often committed by husband to their wives. In this novel, violence is a common thing done by men against women. The violence committed is not only in the form of physical violence, there is also emotional violence and sexual violence. An example occurs in the characters Celie, Nettie and Sofia. They have experienced violence ever since their father and brother perpetrated them. Until they grow up and get married they still often get violence from

their husbands.

The second one is the struggles of women for gender equality: there are women intellectual, to be themselves, and the freedom in self-actualization. Women intellectual are women who are educated, have a voice, show their own minds, and dare to fight men. In *The Color Purple* novel the characters Celie, Sofia, and Mary Agnes are women who are fight for themselves to be intellectual women. The struggle to become an intellectual woman in the midst of men with an old-fashioned mindset is very difficult. Because men think that women can't be better than them.

To be themselves is is a struggle to be yourself, where women can also show their talents. In this novel, some women are limited by men because their skills are considered incompatible with themselves as a woman. Celie is one of the figures who fight for this, Celie, who since childhood has always been limited by her father, cannot do this and that as she wants. The same thing happens after marriage, Celie must be limited by the husband. Until she meets Shug Avery and finds her true self, so that she can put up a fight against the things that limit her.

Freedom in self-actualization is a struggle for self-determination. In this novel, the researcher finds many problems of violence experienced by female characters. Belittled, harassed, bullied, and abused by men are common things experienced by the female characters in this novel. Celie, the main character who struggles to find freedom. Because her father married her to a lazy old widower who is often rude to her. Various supports are given by other female characters for Celie, such as Nettie and Sofia who encourage Celie to fight and leave her husband. Shug Avery who taught Celie to fight her husband and also brought Celie to

go with her so that she could be free from Mr.____.

At last, the struggle of women for equality is an interesting topic for literary researchers. There are many studies doing research on this for the above reasons. The same topic as this research has been raised many times to get better results in understanding women's struggles. Based on the results of the analysis, the first result of this discussion shows that the forms of gender inequality that occur are subordination, stereotypes, and violence appear in the female characters in the novel. The second result shows that to fight inequality there are 3 forms of struggle, namely women intellectual, to be themselves, and freedom in self-actualization.

This research is different from previous studies which only focus on the main character and examine the type of feminism that occurs in this novel Emanuel Simparinka (2022). Furthermore, Anggun Inggrit Larasati, Agus Triyogo & Yulfi (2021) found that there were 7 forms of struggle for black women, namely: the struggle to make dark skin equal to white skin, reform the religion of dark people, the struggle to accept law, justice for American, struggle to reclaim their right, struggle to make people mere conductive, and to accept black people in their society. Further research by Moh. Muzakka & Suyanto (2020) by comparing two different novels found that women's struggle for equality occurs because of the patriarchal understanding in society.

CONCLUTION AND SUGGESTION

Conclution

Based on data the analysis and research results, it can be conclude that there are 3

gender problems experienced by female characters in *The Color Purple* novel, namely subordination, stereotypes, and violence. In the case of subordination to woman only experienced by the character Celie. In the case of stereotypes on women experienced by the characters Celie, Sofia, and Mary Agnes. And in the case of violence against women experienced by the characters Celie, Nettie and Sofia. In the three cases above, Celie's character experiences all these inequalities. Celie's character is depicted as a woman who is weak and always resigned to accepting acts of violence committed by men.

Based on the findings of the inequality problem above, these inequalities create a struggle that must be achieved by the female characters in this novel. The researcher found 3 struggles of women described in *The Color Purple* novel, namely women intellectual, to be themselves, and freedom in self-actualization. The struggle to become an intellectual woman was carried out by Celie and Nettie where Celie was forced to stop attending school and replacing Nettie in an arranged marriage with Mr.____. Then Nettie had to continue her school to become an educated woman unlike her mother and Celie. Furthermore, the struggle to be yourself experienced by Celie, Sofia and Mary Agnes, where they struggle to convince themselves to develop the talents they have and fight the prohibition of men. The final part, the struggle for self -freedom is carried out by Celie, Sofia and Mary Agnes where they fight violence and also ventured to leave their husbands to get freedom. At the end of the story, the women get the equality they

want. They dare to be themselves, have a good job, have their own income, be what they want to be, and get a good man.

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