

WOMAN'S ROLES IN A MAN DOMINATED SOCIETY IN CHAROL SHIELD'S *THE STONE DIARIES*

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Abstract

Penelitian ini berkaitan dengan peran wanita dalam masyarakat yang didominasi pria dialami oleh Daisy di novel *The Stone Diaries* karya Carol Shields Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah: (1) Menggambarkan Peran wanita di novel *The Stone Diaries* karya Carol Shields, (2) Mengungkap Proses konstruksi dari Peran wanita di novel *The Stone Diaries* karya Carol Shields. Dalam mengeksplorasi penelitian ini, beberapa konsep feminisme menjadi kunci untuk menganalisis apa yang tersembunyi di dalam cerita seperti feminisme oleh Kate Millet, karakterisasi peran perempuan oleh Mansour Fakih, konsep perbedaan dengan Michelle Barret, kelompok teori diredam oleh Cheris Kramarae dan artikel lain yang berhubungan dengan penelitian ini. Studi ini menemukan bahwa karakter Daisy menggambarkan status wanita dan posisi wanita dalam masyarakat dan keluarga. Bagaimana masyarakat mengkonstruksi peran bagi mereka, yang cenderung untuk mengalahkan mereka dan perjuangan perempuan dalam mencapai hak-hak yang sama dengan laki-laki. Masyarakat menyebutkan bahwa peran perempuan hanya terkait dengan urusan rumah tangga seperti memasak, merawat anak-anak, patuh kepada suaminya dan bergantung. Daisy terpinggirkan oleh beberapa peran dalam masyarakat yang diatur untuknya. Sikap masyarakat terhadap wanita mengarah kepada ketidakseimbangan dan ketidaksamaan hak-hak antara pria dan wanita. Sementara itu, proses konstruksi peran wanita dapat dilihat pada tingkat yang berbeda dari pria dan wanita, seperti wanita tidak memiliki hak untuk melakukan pekerjaan dan wanita tidak memiliki kesempatan untuk membangun karir. Perempuan tidak memiliki kesempatan yang sama dengan laki-laki hampir dalam aspek kehidupan, seperti aspek ekonomi, sosial, dan pendidikan.

Kata Kunci: Feminis, Peran Wanita, Dominasi Pria

Abstract

This study deals with woman's roles in a man dominated society experienced by Daisy in Carol Shield's *The Stone Diaries*. The purposes of this study are: (1) Depicting the Woman's Roles in Carol Shields's *The Stone Diaries*; (2) Revealing the Construction Process of Woman's Roles in Carol Shields's *The Stone Diaries*. In exploring the study, some concepts of feminism becomes the key to analyze what are hidden in the story such as feminism by Kate Millet, the characterization of women's role by Mansour Fakih, concept of difference by Michelle Barret, the muted theory group by Cheris Kramarae and any other article which are related with the study. The study finds out that the character of Daisy illustrates the women's status and women's position in society and family. How society constructs the roles for them, which tends to defeat them and the women's struggle in reaching the equal rights as men The society construction mentions that women's role is just related to the domestic affair such as cooking, taking care to the children, being submissive to her husband and being dependent. Daisy is marginalized by some roles in the society which are arranged for her. The society attitudes toward women lead into the imbalance and unequal rights between man and woman. Meanwhile the construction process of woman's roles can be seen in different level of man and woman, such as woman does not have right to do man's work and woman does not have chance to build a career. Women do not have the equal chance as men in almost aspect of life, such as economical, social, and educational aspect.

Keywords: Feminism, Woman's roles, Man domination

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher provides background of the study, Research question, Objective of the study, , Significance of the study, Scope and limitation, Research Design and summary of related literature.

Feminist analysis focuses a good deal on the enormous role played by gender that is, by a society's definitions of femininity and masculinity in our daily lives. Feminine and masculine gender-norms, however, are problematic in that gendered behavior conveniently fits with and reinforces women's subordination so that women are socialized into subordinate social roles: they learn to be passive, ignorant, docile, emotional help meets for men (Millett, 1971: 26).

Feminism distinguishes between the word sex, which refers to our biological constitution as female or male, and the word gender, which refers to our cultural programming as feminine or masculine. Women are not born feminine, and men are not born masculine. Rather, these gender categories are constructed by society, which is why this view of gender is an example of what has come to be called social constructionism. (Tyson, 2006:86).

Gender always determines the position of men and women. Men is the leader and women as the follower. From ancient years to the middle of 20th century being a woman meant being a housewife. Women were repressed. Not only they did not have any rights, except to stay at home, do the housework and care for a husband or children, women were considered only a half of human being. Nowadays, when there are so many feminist coalitions, it is hard to imagine that once upon a time, females were not considered a part of society.

Women's role is often said as gender nature from God, but it is actually the concept of men's superiority that tends to be a social construction rather than theological perspective. The problem is the society consideration assumes that social perspective is created from theological perspective and it is still defended although the social condition has changed. It made some gender problems in society especially to the women's position such as women's subordinate, unequal right between men and women, and women marginalized (Fakih, 2003: 12).

For many years ago, women have been defeated by society. Women are assumed as the second sex, it happens because women are weaker than men physically. The society attitudes toward women lead into the imbalance and unequal right between men and women. One of them is related to the gender role. The society construction mentions that women's role is just related to the private area. Women do not have the equal chance as men in almost aspect of life, such as economical, social, and educational aspect. As the developing period and the struggle of feminism, women's condition has changed.

Now, women also work outside the house, having broader chance in educational and economical aspect.

Literary works have a big concentration toward social phenomenon especially in gender topic. By analyzing literary works, the people may study social life which is revealed by the writer through their works. Carol Shields gives us an insight to woman's roles in a man dominated society through her novel *The Stone Diaries*. Carol Shields is the most distinguished and honored of all writers in the Canadian literary tradition. Carol worked as an editorial assistant for the journal *Canadian Slavonic Papers* and as a professor at the University of Ottawa, and the University of British Columbia.

One of the famous novels of Carol Shield is *The Stone Diaries*, published by Penguin Group in 1993 in the United States a year later. The novel won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and Canada's Governor General's Award, the only book ever to win both awards. It was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the 1993 Booker Prize, and was also named one of the best books of the year by Publishers Weekly and a "Notable Book" by The New York Times Book Review.<http://www.biblio.com/carol-shields~125276~author> retrieved on 11 December 2012)

The Stone Diaries tells about the life of Daisy Goodwill Flett. She lives span the 20th century that marked significance changes for women in terms of available opportunities. As women in elsewhere in the world were largely relegated to the narrow role of housewife and mother; women were expected to nurture their husband and children, but not themselves. For Daisy, this role becomes set in stone.

Daisy limited by the subjugation of women to the fixed gender roles of American society that still exist although in a more subtle manner than for Daisy's generation. The images of Daisy reveal a portrait of woman accepting the role in life that society has given to her, but overall conforming to the conventions of her time. The man dominated society constructs the woman consider as woman being a housewife only, except to stay at home, do the housework and care for a husband or children. In the end of the story, she found her freedom. She becomes a social activist. And her profession proves that women can get their emancipation and opportunity to actualize their ability and have equal rights as men.

Daisy's character in Carol Shields describe about the woman's status and woman's position in society and family. How society and religion constructs the roles, which tends to defeat them and the woman's struggle in reaching the equal rights as man.

Traditionally, women's place is at home, having childbirth, taking care of the children, and doing the house works that are related to the domestic area. Besides, women also cannot have high education. Traditional role insists on women have not high education, because there is misassumption among

society, saying that high education is not important for women. Women's traditional role is just staying in house, so that they should not have high education as men. (Arivia, 2003:91). Because women's nature is being a wife and a mother. And women's role is just related to the domestic area

But, in this era, when social stratification has changed, the increasing family's necessity and the necessity of female in exploring her ideas and ability, women's role has greatly changed. Now women also work outside the house. Women work full time or part time in offices, factories, and other sector area but they do not leave their position as a mother or a wife. The initial necessity for a mother to give birth and nurse their children lead women to the continuing caring and nursing role which they adopt in all cultures. Because of their roles as mothers, women are primarily absorbed in domestic activities (Giddens, 1993: 173).

Feminist have observed that men are superior to women. It has been used to justify and maintain the male monopoly of positions of economic, political, and social power. In other words, to keep women powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic, political, and social power. That is, the inferior position long occupied by women in patriarchal society has been culturally, not biologically, produced. (Tyson, 2006:86).

The change of women's position cannot be separated from the feminism; it is the belief that men and women are equal. This equality needs to be more than just words; it must be seen in everyday life, wherever, and whenever they are. Men and women have the same right in their life. Men must not force women's choice. Women can define something they like such as their destiny, and their role. Because basically women and men are equal. Both can be partner of each other.

One implication of the different social arrangements between men and women can be viewed in the way society positions women. Feminine and masculine gender norms are problematic in that gendered behavior perpetuates women's subordination so that women are socialized into subordinate roles (Goffman 1977, 306). For women, this can be applied to the role of motherhood as a cultural expectation. While reproduction is considered a natural phenomenon which involves anatomical features suited for procreation, feminine expectations establish motherhood as an ideal role for women.

Based on the explanation above, the woman's roles reflected to the Daisy character which lives under man dominated in society. Woman treated unfair and lost the freedom of being independent. The power of patriarchy which tends to oppress and marginalizes women has made women loose out their liberations. Woman has to obey rules which have been arranged by patriarchal society. And the man dominated society construct woman's roles which woman was repressed.

Through this study it is expected that it will give distinct in woman's roles in a man dominated toward the novel.

The research questions of this study are "How are woman's roles depicted in Carol Shields's The Stone Diaries? And How does man dominated society construct woman's roles in Carol Shields's The Stone Diaries?.

The researcher also provide the objective of the study that is To reveal woman's roles in Carol Shield' The Stone Diaries and To reveal the construction process of woman's roles in Carol Shields's The Stone diaries

The result of this study is expected to give contribution to the related study theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the finding of this study is expected to enrich theoretical knowledge based on literary studies, especially which are related to the woman's roles. In addition, this study tries to implement one of the literary criticism that is feminist literary criticism. Practically, the aim of this study is to give more understanding in reading and analyzing short stories and implicate it to our real life. Another expectation is that the study could be references for another student who are interested in conducting the same study.

This study focuses on The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields.. It will be limited on Daisy character and her husband (Cuyler Goodwill or Barker Flett) within the novel. The other character also has important roles to contribute the supporting illustration of woman's roles through the story on the novel. In this case, the other characters who have contribution toward women's roles are daisy's friends and her family. To prevent broad analysis, theory and concept will be applied as limitation of study. Feminism approach is applied to analyze this story concerning on the woman's roles in a man dominated society. It uses feminism approach by Kate Millet, concept of difference by Michalle Barret, the characterization women's role by Fakih, women and their lack of power by Cheris Kramarae are used to analyze this study.

RESEARCH METHOD

This thesis is regarded as a descriptive-qualitative study and use a library research. Therefore, the data will not be in number. The descriptive method of his study can be elaborated as follows

This study uses entitled The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields, published in 1993 by Penguin Books, USA Inc as the main data in this study as the data source in this study. The data are in the form of direct and indirect speech of the character dialogues, and an epilogue which represents woman's roles in a man dominated society..

The method of collecting data which is used in this study is library research. It does not use statistical research. It is not served in numbering or table. Data is derived by close reading meticulously and analyze the literary element either intrinsic or extrinsic. The references are taken from library and internet to support the theory.

The data in the thesis will be classified according to statement of the problem. The discussion will not talk the things which not related to the study. It will ease to analyze and observe the story. The next step is relating the data with the acceptable theory and concept. The first problem statement will deeply describe the depiction of woman's roles. The second aspect will reveal the construction process of woman's roles.

ANALYSIS

There are two statements of the problem in this study, there are: 1. How are woman's roles depicted in Carol Shield's *The Stone Diaries*? How does man dominated society construct woman's roles in Carol Shields's *The Stone Diaries*?

1. The Depiction of Woman's roles

The role for woman and man are known as gender role, it arranges some duties, and obligation for both woman and man. Gender role is the result of the social construction which has been convinced by people from a long time. Actually, gender role is not role based on biological aspect, but rather than social construction.

Woman's role arranged by society is the result of the patriarchy power that tends to oppress women. Woman's traditional role requires woman to stay at home, doing some domestic works, submissive to the husbands, dependent. Traditionally, women do not able to express their desire and ability because they just stay at home for days.

The setting of the novel is mainly the beginning of the 20th century in America and Canada. At that time, the attitudes towards man and woman from the society are at different level. Women are treated unfair and lost the freedom of being dependent. It reflects in Daisy, It plays an irreplaceable leading role which influent the women's life.

a. Woman's Place is in Domestic Affair

It has been assumed that women's role is just related to the domestic area; actually, this assumption comes from the socio-culture construction. Then, this assumption is considered as gender nature for women and men (Fakih, 2003:11).

Gender role is not based on biological aspect, but rather on social construction. Gender role causes unbalanced role for women and men, especially for women. Women are marginalized by some roles in the society which are arranged for them. If women do not follow and break their gender role, they will be marginalized in society. Traditionally, women are not able to express their desire and ability because they just stay at home for days. All day, woman is busy at home and bounded by some roles constructed by society and which must be followed by them.

Daisy was born into a world that has known neither of the world wars, and in which a woman is required to be first and foremost a domestic support

system. She leaves another one in which the globe has contracted and women expect to work outside the home.

"Daisy prepares supper for her family—husband, three children—in an Ottawa kitchen (summer heat once more, so a cold meal): There will be jellied veal loaf, sliced tomatoes, potato salad, raspberries again, but in little glass bowls." (Shields's.1993: 103)

Kitchen is rich with significance in the novel. Daisy is a traditional housewife. It is told that Daisy deeply desires to be a good wife. She has to be able cook, at least when women lived in the twentieth century, woman is still in traditional position, and they have to be able to cook and to do other domestic works. Women's traditional role requires women to stay at home, doing some domestic works such as cooking, washing, taking care of the children, and serving their husband. Traditionally, women do not able to express their desire and ability because they just stay at home for days.

Although there are many controversy said that every woman can do this job but in the Daisy's story, it is kind of woman's roles which should do in order to respect to her husband and family. And it becomes heredity in Daisy's family since she is still life with her mother. Every day she prepares supper for her husband and children. There will be jellied veal loaf, sliced tomatoes, potato salad, and raspberries again, but in little glass bowls. These foods were always presented in his family since she was child in his family till now when she has a husband. Especially because Daisy was born in the early 1900's she was expected to take on the role of a wife and mother. Because of the expectations of her society, she never truly knew herself or what she wanted to do in her life.

b. Woman is Submissive to the Husbands

The power of patriarchy which tends to oppress and marginalizes women has made women loose out their liberations. A woman has to obey rules which have been arranged by patriarchal society. In a family unit, a wife has to obey rules and everything ordered by her husband. Traditionally, based on the conventional doctrine; a wife is forbidden to go out from her house without the husband's permission, a wife is also considered as intractable woman if she tries to break her husband's rules.

"A woman who abandons her husband must have reason, must be able to show reason, but all his wife would ever say was that he'd been mean with money." (Shields, 1993:73)

Being a woman and also wife, she has to respect toward everything which her husband's said as long as it does not exceed the limit. Such as when he had to leave the house, she must have a strong reason to leave her house, because sometimes society consider woman which never permit to her husband when they go out from house, it means that the woman do not respect with her husband as the leader of her family. As much as possible

we as woman should always tell our husbands to even the slightest thing. It cannot be contested because it is natural that a man as leader for a woman.

In the family, he is a leader who should be honored existence. He is fully responsible for his family. But sometimes it is good openness between men and women in family's matters especially when the man went out of the house, he also has to consent to his wife instead as wife she must has a strong welds when leaving home. Man has a big responsibility to keep his family.

In our society, there are some roles for both husband and wife. The society has constructed that the role of a husband is being a leader of the family who has responsible to fulfill the basic necessity of her family. As the leader of the family, a husband has the rights in making decision related to his family. The basic socialization of the patriarchy system is family. It can be seen from the power of husband who handles the main role in his family, and tends to ignore rights of the wife.

c. Woman is Dependent

The traditional roles require woman to be obedient to her husband and depend all her life to her husband. It is because she never gets her rights and always marginalized by men. Woman who does not independent in her economic aspect, and still depends on their husband, they will never get freedom to actualize herself.

But actually, some traditional women's role makes women dependent, because women are bounded by some roles that limit their actualization to be themselves not as the portrait of an ideal woman which is constructed by the society.

"With an orphan's heart and a wistful longing for refuge, for a door marked with her own name." (Shields, 1993: 213)

She felt trapped in her relationships, life style, and most importantly she felt trapped in her own life. Daisy's mother, Mercy, died when she gave birth to Daisy. Daisy was an unexpected child and right after giving birth to her, Mercy died on the kitchen floor. Silent and still as a boat, a stranger in the world for all her life, who has given her child the last of her breath. After her mother's death, Daisy was put in the care of a neighbor, ClarentineFlett.

However, Clarentine died when Daisy was a young child, she is a dependent woman. Although Daisy is orphan and wistful longing for refuge but she can prove to his family now. She is a wife who can take care of her children now. It also indicates that woman is not weak as society or man's perspective.

"Dr. Spears, when she met him by accident walking on the Quarry Road, did catch hold of her wrist and speak to her in a most curious and candid manner. "Women need the companionship of other women." (Shields, 1993:9)

The quotation above explains the conversation of Dr Spears when meet with woman. At the time, she said that women need companionship of other women. In this topic the other character such as Dr Spears also influenced to the Daisy's character. The word women need companionship describe the woman feels loneliness, not the unhappiness of life itself, but only a seasonal attack of loneliness, because she stays at home alone everyday and she needs a friend to accompany her. It cannot be blamed that we are depend on other people except the husband especially woman. Essentially, not only women but also men are depending on each other. But the most significance in this case is women.

In other side, the criterion of modern women's role that is related to the private area is women should not do the domestic work, but they have a schoice to be a career woman or a housewife. The domestic chores are often considered as unproductive work, while public chores are productive work and it effects on the women choice to work outside house in which they will have more valuable work and high wage (Tong, 2004: 155).

It is still difficult to receive a career woman in the society, because the traditional role of woman is staying at home, taking care of the children, cooking and doing some others house working. But, in this era, when feminism movement has spreads everywhere, the role of women has changed. Women get their emancipation and opportunity to actualize their ability and have equal rights as men.

2. The Construction Process of Woman's Roles

Contemporary feminist theory blames the positioning of women at the low end of the social structure on forces behind people's attitudes and values. Thus, traditional beliefs and sex-role expectations among both women and men contribute to the continuance of gender stratification. The various myths, stereotypes, labeling of the role of women cannot be separated from the prevailing social construction, how women interpreted and portrayed in society. The dominance of patriarchal culture has led to a variety of gender bias that causes various forms of injustice, heavy burden, discrimination, and even many forms of violence experienced by women.

There is an era in which men have big power to lead the social condition in every field of life. This power dominates all of aspects so that the men have big roles in managing society. Dominating conditions of man's role builds the resistances of women such in society. The condition of this domination constructs the women mindset and leads them to resist. Women unify to resist themselves not to be defeated by the men but having the same role or even higher than men. These roles make the significant cause in women's side. It affects the construction process of woman's roles that there is limitation between man and woman, such as woman does not have right to do man's work, Woman does not have chance to build a career.

a. Woman does not have right to do man's work

The idea of difference between men and women which happens continuously as has been seen in socially approach. According to Millet how unfair the social circumstances had differentiated the rights between men and women. Because of our social circumstances, male and female are really two cultures and their life experiences are utterly different. She also stated about men's power which caused sexual domination toward women, whereas women just muted although they were treated like that.

In our society there are some roles for both husband and wife. The society has constructed that the role of a husband is being a leader of the family who has responsible to fulfill the basic necessity of her family. As the leader of the family, a husband has the rights in making decision related to his family.

"The real troubles in this world tend to settle on the misalignment between men and women that's my opinion, my humble opinion, as I long ago learned to say. But how we do love to brush these injustices aside. Our wont is to put up with things, with the notion that men behave in one manner, and women in another." (Carol Shields, 1993:89).

The quotation above illustrates the differences between men and women. not only the physical but also the social manner. We can see why the man look more assertive and hard than woman, why are we often hear domestic violence perpetrators husband, why more criminal acts performed by men, and so on, it is because they are different physically, and psychologically. Besides the constructed stereotypes of men through culture patriarchy.

This is one of the construction process of woman's roles which the different role among man and woman affect the man dominated event takes place both in family life and society that is due to the imaging of women and men. Women are often known as the gentle creatures, beautiful, emotional, passive and motherhood, while men are seen as being strong, aggressive, and powerful. Often times these imaging could lead to discrimination against women.

b. Woman does not have chance to build a career

In the traditional role, women are considered as low intellectual human, and this consideration often causes some oppression to women, such as in the work field, women are posed in the low position of company, and they are just paid for some jobs, which are still related to domestic chores. However, this assumption is discouraged by John Stuart Mill, one of the liberal feminist followers. Mill insists that men are not superior to women in intellectuality but according to him, the different intellectuality between men and women is based

on the high education that is accepted by men and their lucky position in society (Tong, 2006: 28).

"She's lost her job. A man named Pinky Fulham has taken over the column, and my mother, fifty-nine years old, has been given the heave-ho." (Shields, 1993:179)

It happens when she lost her valuable job when a man named Pinky Fulham appeared and occupied the position. Daisy's mood declined because of she was extremely decadent. From this case it can be showed that Daisy had no direction and tried to find her own value until she got the job, she did her best to work. She caught the chance of realizing herself and took efforts. She never gave up and was indolent in duty. These attitudes are very significant for a person who wants to be aspirant. People should keep on doing and not just say but practice.

She lost her job when the newspaper office found a male author to take charge of the work. She was fired because of being a woman at that time which is truly unfair to her. As times goes on, Daisy put the sadness behind her and found the other things which she thought were meaningful to fill her mind because she agreed that time is the best medicine to cure the wound. It is important to us to walk out the trough of heartbreak and failure.

CONCLUSION

The role of men and women in society has changed significantly through the years. It is right to say that in old times, women were seeing subordinated to men. Men always had the advantage in certain circumstances and were always given priority. In The stone Diaries, Carol Shields tells about the life of Daisy in the 20th century which at the time man and woman was treated differently in the level of society. The society construction mentions that woman's role is just related to the private area. For daisy gives effect to women's roles. Women were repressed and considered as being a housewife only, except to stay at home, do the housework and care for a husband or children. Thus, the men's position in society is more significant than women's position.

The representation of Woman's roles can be depicted through the woman characters in the story of Daisy. The traditional roles of woman are just in domestic affair including cooking, cleaning the house and taking care the child. The second is being submissive to the husband. She always obeys what her husband orders, and even she does not have the courage to against it. And the last is woman is dependent. Daisy is bounded by some roles constructed by the society that limit her actualization to be herself. She depends all her life on her husband cause. It is because she never gets her rights and always marginalized by man.

Dominating conditions of man's role builds the resistances of women such in society. The condition of this domination constructs the women mindset and leads

them to resist. Women unify to resist themselves not to be defeated by the men but having the same role or even high one than men. These roles make the significant cause in women's side. It affects the construction process of woman's roles. Daisy is marginalized by some roles in the society which are arranged for her. The society attitudes toward women lead into the imbalance and unequal rights between man and woman. It can be seen different level of man and woman, such as woman does not have right to do man's work and woman does not have chance to build a career. One of them is related to the gender role. Women do not have the equal chance as men in almost aspects of life, such as economical, social, and educational aspect.

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