HOW I LIVE NOW BY MEG ROSOFF: WOMEN STRUGGLE IN PATRIARCHY

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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled "How I Live Now" by Meg Rosoff, Women's Struggles in Patriarchy." This study discusses women's struggles and how the protagonists overcome them in Meg Rosoff's novel How I Live Now (2004). Daisy is a teenager from the city who falls in love with her cousin on a farm. However, Daisy has to split up and fight to meet her cousin because of the third world war. After a long struggle, Daisy was finally able to visit her cousin at her home in London. Therefore, this study uses the descriptive method. Qualitative methods are used to describe, analyze, and interpret narrative elements to build an understanding of women's struggles and how women manage them. In further research, the data were analyzed using the theory of Simone de Beauvoir (1949) and Judith Butler (1993) as the basic concepts and framework. This study reveals some of the problems of women's struggles in dealing with issues that gradually change in line with the events in the novel. The problem that raises the patriarchal issue experienced by women in their social life, such as at work and during activities in society, leads to the disclosure of the efforts made by the main character to be able to change the patriarchal treatment received.

Keywords: Social system, Women's struggle, Simone de Beauvoir, Gradual change, Main power

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul "*How I Live Now*" by Meg Rosoff, Women's Struggles in Patriarchy." Studi ini membahas perjuangan perempuan dan bagaimana para protagonis mengatasinya dalam novel Meg Rosoff *How I Live Now* (2004). Daisy adalah seorang remaja dari kota yang jatuh cinta dengan sepupunya di sebuah peternakan. Namun, Daisy harus berpisah dan berjuang untuk bertemu sepupunya karena perang dunia ketiga. Setelah perjuangan panjang, Daisy akhirnya bisa mengunjungi sepupunya di rumahnya di London. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif. Metode kualitatif digunakan untuk mendeskripsikan, menganalisis, dan menginterpretasikan unsur-unsur naratif untuk membangun pemahaman tentang perjuangan perempuan dan bagaimana perempuan mengelolanya. Dalam penelitian selanjutnya, data dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Simone de Beauvoir (1949) dan Judith Butler (1993) sebagai konsep dan kerangka dasar. Kajian ini mengungkap beberapa permasalahan perjuangan perempuan dalam menghadapi isu-isu yang berangsur-angsur berubah sejalan dengan peristiwa-peristiwa dalam novel tersebut. Masalah yang mengangkat isu patriarki yang dialami perempuan dalam kehidupan sosialnya, seperti di tempat kerja dan selama beraktivitas di masyarakat, mengarah pada pengungkapan upaya yang dilakukan oleh tokoh utama untuk dapat mengubah perlakuan patriarki yang diterima.

Kata kunci: *Sistem sosial, Perjuangan perempuan, Simone de Beauvoir, Perubahan bertahap, Kekuatan utama*

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The women's struggle is an attempt by the author to inform the public, especially women, to provide a fighting spirit in achieving their rights as human beings. Women's struggles can also be categorized as gender group empowerment against patriarchal practices. Women are frequently placed in lesser positions in patriarchal settings. According to Sultana (2010, p. 1), patriarchy is defined as male dominance in public and private spheres. According to Sultana (2010, p. 3), it "is characterized by authority, domination, hierarchy, and practices in which men rule, oppress, and exploit women."

Women have been the subject of social problems since the beginning. Violence, sexual harassment, racial discrimination, economics, and even social status are examples of this in our daily existence. It is inextricably linked to the impulses of women, who are constantly portrayed as helpless creatures that need to be protected. Moreover, it is often heard in our environment that women are the most common victims of the events that have been mentioned. As a result, many literary works are centered on women's lives, and female characters often face issues such as violence, sexual harassment, racial discrimination, economics, and even social class that occurred at the time the writer was writing.

Literary works cannot be separated from society, and literature is born from the process of an author's imagination and his reflection on the social phenomena around people. Literary works are not only judged as works of art that contain values that are wrapped in the imagination and emotion of the author's appreciation. Bressler (1994, p. 7) states, "literature is work of imaginative or creative writings." According to the author of The Second Sex, Beauvoir (1949, p. 374) says 'that Men have the rule in writing creative works in classical literature". She further claimed that women are second-class citizens who are denied the right to speak for themselves. They are written about as objects, not as subjects. Women could only openly speak and write for themselves once a wave of feminism swept the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Women's liberation is the term for this phenomenon.

Talking about women in literature cannot be separated from the fundamental issues, namely gender and sexuality.

Hughes (2002, p. 12) argues that "gender is a term denoting socially produced meanings, and gender is a term used to refer to biological constructs. Thus, gender is a naturally given social and sex upbringing." Based on the feminist perspective, men and women must have equal opportunities, such as equal opportunities in education. Not only men can get an education, but also women, and it is called women struggle. Rosenstand (2006, p. 566) states, "she is likely to respond yes, as are most men, that women and men should have equal chances, that women should not be discriminated against based on their sex, and that women and men should be paid equally for equal work." Nyoman (2014, p. 126) "feminism is a feminist movement in which women reject all that the dominant culture marginalizes, subordinates, and degrades in economic, political, and other aspects of life."

This study analyses the work A novel How I Live Now (2004), a story by Meg Rosoff, to find and identify the problems of women's struggle against patriarchal practices. Meg Rosoff, in her work, implies the issue of women's struggle to implant the behavior accepted by women who unknowingly carry out patriarchal actions

where everything puts women's position second. According to Goldman (2007, p.70), "patriarchy comes from the word patriarchate, which means a structure that places the role of men as the sole, central, and everything ruler." Therefore, this study emphasizes the struggle of women in patriarchal practice in the novel *How I Live Now* (2004).

RELATED STUDIES, REVIEW OF LITERATURE, AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Related Studies

Literary experts have carried out the analysis of women's struggles in the previous study with various problems. Moreover, this time the author will continue to reveal the struggle of women in the novel as a study that will be a reference for students or prospective literary study, especially novel study. It can be seen from several analyses that have been carried out at various other universities. They are Rahayu (2018), Putra (2016), and Fauzia (2019), who have analyzed the same problem. Therefore, this study can help other studies uncover issues in researching a literary work.

This study's first reference was from a study thesis conducted by Rahayu (2018)

entitled "An Analysis of Woman Struggle in Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women*." She used a qualitative method using the theory of characterizations of John Peck and Martin Coyle. This study aims to find the main character's struggle in the realm of feminism in the story of Little Women. This study also shows that the main character or woman in this story has the abilities and intelligence to exceed men. The main character here is a strong and independent woman and has critical thinking in various ways. This study also helps the author understand the characters and their relationship to the issues of formalism raised. Some similarities are revealed, such as female characters trying to balance the power of men. She also said that the main character has an essential role in other people. Characters in the series can be used as a reference in analyzing characters with various problems.

Review of Literature

As a guide for further discussion, the author will discuss things that can be found in his literary works, such as novels. It can be seen from intrinsic elements such as character, setting, plot, point of view, and theme. In addition, the writer will discuss the definitions and theories of this research.

Novels & 5 Narrative Element

A novel is a work of prose fiction written in a narrative and usually written in the form of a story. Abrams (2015, p.11-12) reveals that "literally novella means a small new item, and is then interpreted as a short story in prose." In general, a novel is an extended prose essay containing a series of stories from a person's life with the people around him by highlighting the character and nature of each actor. Generally, in novels, it starts from a critical event experienced by the character in the story that later changes his life's fate.

A narrative is made up of five basic but essential aspects. Characters, setting, storyline, conflict, and resolution are the five elements that make up a story. These vital features keep the story moving smoothly and allow the action to unfold logically and understandably for the reader.

Women Struggle in feminism:
Beauvoir's perspective

According to existential feminism, women's struggle is how women can directly fight the perpetrators who do

catcall. It is the struggle of individual women in the social sphere through face-to-face resistance.

As Beauvoir (1949, p. 664) states, "many women have sought and continue to pursue their liberation. They attempt to justify their existence through immanence, i.e., achieving consciousness. A woman sometimes incarcerates ludicrous, often pitiful last option to turn her prison into a paradise of glory, her slavery into sovereign freedom."

Beauvoir feels that due to the various social limits of the experience, even a woman who strives to determine her purpose in life without the help of a man ends up stuck and incomplete. Some women try to justify their existence by extolling the splendor of their presence rather than their commitment to males. Based on Beauvoir's theory, several views are described, namely:

The first Stereotype In his theory, Beauvoir (1949, p. 680) explains, "Her position is symmetrical from an economic one to that of a married woman. The only difference between those who sell themselves through prostitution and those who sell themselves through marriage is the price and duration of the deal." Through this theory, it is known that the situation of women in terms of gender has little difference in marriage and wild marriage. Women have always been considered the second gender, the gender reserved for humans. This point of view creates the superior stereotype that the male is always higher than the female gender. More than that, women in the household arrangement are only the second member who is only in charge of taking care of the housebound by marriage or tied to the status of other family members.

Theoretical Framework

In connection with the previous explanation, the studies apply the theory of Simone de Beauvoir, with his book entitled *The Second Sex (1949),* which is the benchmark in this study. *The second sex* itself discusses what women and men should do, such as women cannot have the same education as men, making men the gender that must continue to dominate.

In addition, to strengthen this study, Judith Butler's theory is also used in his book entitled *Gender Trouble: Feminism*

and the Subversion of Identity (1993). The freedom and equality of rationality are the basis of this paradigm. Since women are logical beings with the same abilities as men, they should be given the same rights. This problem stems from the results of gender-biased government policies. The author uses Simone de Beauvoir's theory by following its theoretical roots, such as equivalence analysis. Analysis of the distribution of strengths and abilities and socio-cultural factors that influence. Therefore, this study collects data in the form of quotations and summaries of novels that have been taken and observed.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Approach of the Study

In conducting the study, the author uses qualitative methods to collect data from the points analyzed and carefully considers the aspect of the issue's character, environment, and elements. According to Arikunto (2002, p .6), "Qualitative study is usually descriptive, meaning data is processed, and the conclusions are presented as descriptive phenomena rather than numerical values or correlation coefficients between parallels." The information gathered is in words or visuals rather than numbers.

According to Creswell (2016, p. 204), "Qualitative study is a sort of study that looks into and examines the meaning of several people or groups of people due to societal issues."

Based on the right approach to the novel *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossof is a descriptive qualitative method. For this reason, the approach is a study procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written words. According to Moleong (2005, p. 6), "Qualitative study aims to comprehend phenomena such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, and actions experienced by study participants holistically, using descriptions in the form of words and language, in a specific natural setting, and through various natural approaches." The qualitative method is a study analysis technique describing and explaining the data collection. It has many benefits where qualitative study can deepen ideas beyond the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the issues of women's struggle represented in Meg Rosoff's novel *How I Live Now* (2004). These issues are expressed through narrative elements using Simone de Beauvoir's theory. The issue of women's

struggle is divided into two parts, the first part is how it is described, and the second part is the Protagonist's Efforts to Survive.

The Depiction of Women Struggle in *How I Live Now*

This section discusses women's struggles represented in Meg Rosoff's novel *How I Live Now* (2004). These issues are revealed by examining the narrative elements using the feminism theory by Simone de Beauvoir. Some of the problems based on Beauvoir's theory are related to internal issues in the novel. These problems are divided into three aspects based on the location of the problem, namely, at home, at work, and in society. Butler (1993, p .129) "femininity is a practice of imitation, both by men and women. Determinant of reality effect is the ability to produce naturalization effect."

Women Struggle at Work

In the work environment, women are considered weak creatures and become objects for men. Women perceive their social environment as masculine, so they determine that the universe in which they live belongs to men. In the depiction of women's struggles, the world of women is very different from the world of men, as

happened to Daisy. In her daily life, they faced the crisis of world war Daisy struggled to survive where most of the world war conditions were surrounded by soldiers and male workers. Daisy experiences various threats and pressures in her struggle. Therefore, Daisy thinks the world or universe she lives in is only filled with male power.

> One of the guys who worked with us was a few years older than me, and I didn't like him much, but unfortunately, the feeling wasn't mutual. He was called Joe, and he started hanging around trying to get my attention by telling stupid jokes while we worked and asking totally duh questions like What's it like being a Yank. (Rosoff, 2004, p. 101)

The description of the situation in this novel is precisely on page 101 when Daisy tries to survive by working to survive in a war situation. Still, the situation in her work environment slightly reduces her freedom of activity. Daisy gets a distraction that makes her feel uncomfortable with her surroundings. Like a diversion that Joe gave to Daisy, who kept teasing Daisy with his jokes, this kind of situation is what

Daisy tries to avoid. According to Daisy, this situation bothers her, makes her unable to work optimally, and adds to the problems she is currently facing. Therefore, events in women's work environment are often used as objects for men to entertain or distract men, such as the example that happened to Daisy, who was disturbed by workers. It concludes that men control all life and the environment, as explained in Beauvoir's theory (1949, p. 725) "Women admit that the universe is masculine, it is men who have formed and controlled it and who still dominates to this day."

Women Struggle in Society

In cases such as gender and gender equality, the depiction of society becomes an inseparable part of the attention of women's struggles to defend themselves in certain situations. The depiction of social problems in the family occurs in Daisy's father, who has a new girlfriend and has relationship problems with Daisy herself.

> He asked how my dad was and said he hadn't seen him in years, and I told him he was fine except for his taste in girlfriends, which wasn't very good at all, but he might be feeling a lot better now

> that I'm not. around reminded him of it day and night. (Rosoff, 2004, p. 14)

Daisy's social life is informed by Daisy's feelings for her family relationship. The relationship between father and son, which a new person in their life attends, makes Daisy's social life very complicated. Additionally, Daisy says she "feels so much better now that I'm not around to remind her day and night" (Rosoff 2004, p. 14). Things like this change the social life in a family, where there will be feelings of discomfort and mutual suspicion, thus allowing some problems to occur in Daisy's social life with her father. Moreover, Daisy's position as a child in the family is coupled with women who will find it challenging to contribute because of the stereotypes and subordinates she receives.

The Protagonist's Efforts in Breaking Patriarchy

After analyzing the description of the problems and struggles of women's lives described in the novel How I Live Now (2004) by Meg Rosoff, this section continues the previous discussion by describing the struggles of women in dealing with the problems they faced

during the last issues. In this study, there are several things the protagonist does to break the patriarchy: become a leader in his community, get work done, and become an independent woman. The problem is revealed by examining the elements of the narrative setting.

In the first case, Daisy becomes a leader in her group, a substitute for aunt Peen, or a mother for her younger sibling. In this case, Daisy looks after and is responsible for Piper's safety when in a war situation that is going on.

> Anyway, we got into this open van, and as we started, I thought about Ding, but I didn't say anything in case Piper was more worried than she seemed. I tried to calm myself down because I'm Piper's guardian now, and I think I should act like that and explain to him that he is safe with me no matter what. (Rosoff 2007, p. 71)

Daisy says, "because I'm Piper's guardian now, and I think I better act that way and explain to her that she's safe with me no matter what" (Rosoff 2007, p.71); in these circumstances, daisy tries to be a mature person, a woman who piper can rely on, this thought triggers Daisy's desire to return and reclaim her house, as described in the discussion on page 77. Therefore, Daisy becomes an independent figure to be able to fight the subornation behaviors of the male soldiers who previously took the house where Daisy lived with her cousin.

Daisy's statement, "Then we did a little dance and shouted and laughed and hugged each other" (Rosoff 2004, p. 129), is one of Daisy's attempts to build a family relationship with her cousin. Because Daisy is aware that she only has cousins in the current war situation, maybe this is Daisy's way of treating her complicated family relationship with her father. Daisy built a stronger relationship with Piper and the other cousins as if she was trying to build a small family that made her feel better. Apart from that, as the leader of his small group, Daisy also made her group feel happy and, for a moment, forgot about the horrors of the world war that had occurred. It is done so that the plan to get back together with other friends can run properly. As Bouverie stated (1949, p .664), "Many women seek their freedom. They seek to explain their existence through their immanence. The imprisoned woman attempts to turn her prison into a paradise, and her servitude into sovereign freedom."

In conclusion, to place her status in the social structure as a woman in the social environment and society, Daisy tries to become an independent woman so that Daisy no longer needs to depend on men to live her life. Beauvoir (1949, p. 813) states "that through work most women can close the gap that separates them from men, working alone can guarantee their concrete freedom. The system based on her dependence breaks down as soon as she stops being an independent woman. There is no longer a need for a masculine mediator between women and the universe. Related to Beauvoir's theory, several things that Daisy did to become an independent woman, such as working to become a group leader, could cover the gender stereotype gap against her as a woman

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that there are several aspects and underlying categories based on the four depictions of gender equality issues and the faces of the main characters: stereotypes, social life, situations, and subordination. In this case, everything is experienced by Daisy, starting from the stereotypes received from home, work and social environment, social life which makes her quite depressed, the world war situation she experienced and pressure from male soldiers, views about her abilities, and thoughts. Of course, some have been passed down for her efforts to become an independent woman.

These problems make Daisy have to fight hard to solve their problem. There are four types of struggles carried out by Daisy, categorized based on the setting of the place, namely: the struggle against stereotypes, the struggle against social life, the struggle against the situation, and the struggle against subornation. As part of the fight against stereotypes, Daisy defends her right to be able to show in society that she can survive a war situation, and Daisy also defends her right to her status as a woman. Daisy tries to build a new family bond with her cousin on the social side.

The struggle against Daisy's situation worked after being affected by the war conditions. Daisy works to survive in a world war situation as Daisy also struggles with taking care of Piper's smallest cousin with her. Daisy proves to readers that women can survive even under the pressures of their problems. In the second

case, Daisy is confronted by soldiers who took their home; therefore, Daisy has to think and devise a plan to get together and take her home back.

Next is the struggle against subordination; Daisy tries to convince him to continue fighting against the views of the soldiers who consider him inferior by holding on and trying to reunite with his family. Daisy manages to survive by working and trying to make plans to return. Next is the result of the struggle of women that Daisy did so that she became an independent woman. Daisy worked and became a mother figure to Piper in certain situations and was in charge of everything.

Suggestion

This study has explained Daisy's struggle as a woman in the novel How I Live Now (2004) by Meg Rosoff. The study suggests that new researchers interested in analyzing this novel have a broader perspective in using different theoretical approaches. The study also recommends further studies interested in feminism, especially women's struggles to use other novels. The study hopes that the readers can provide corrections to this study.

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