

**KYRA'S RESISTANCE TO WOMEN'S OPPRESSION IN *THE
CHOSEN ONE* BY CAROL LYNCH WILLIAMS**

THESIS



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dominant group. Oppression and discrimination can be caused by differences in gender, social class, and power (Rosida, 2017: 1). According to Thio and Taylor (Cited in Rosida, 2007, p. 1) Gender discrimination is dangerous for women and makes women feel oppressed. Gender is the difference created by norms, habits, and beliefs in society (Suwarti, 2009: 15). Women are considered weak and powerless compared to men (Novena, 2017: p.3). Women's oppression is carried out by men who dominate a place or community (Novena, 2017: p.1).

One approach that can be used is the feminism approach that focuses on studies of women. Yudiono (1990, p.51) states that the basic view of the position of women who are considered weaker than men. A lot of authors wrote the novel feminist ideas concerning women struggle to fight their rights in the novel for criticizing an injustice that women get from rules in a society. The fight against the rejection of coercion choose a partner in marriage (matchmaking) and pay attention to equality women's rights, triggers a lot of authors to make several literary works as support the abolition of matchmaking and changing the perspective of a woman in society such as *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) by Jane Austen, *The Holy Woman* (2001) by Qaisha Shahraz, *Siti Nurbaya* (1922) by Marah Roesli, and the most famous novel in the world, *Romeo and Juliet* (1597) by William Shakespeare, etc.

In this research, the researcher uses Novel *The Chosen One* to analyze. Carol Lynch Williams wrote *The Chosen One*. Carol had written and published thirty literary works. *The Chosen One* was published in 2009 by St. Martin Press. *The Chosen One* tells the story of a teenager named Kyra. She lives in society using

The Prophet and her uncle because, in the rules made by the Prophet, a man who has power can reject a woman who will be arranged to marriage. A woman underage must accept an arranged marriage and, when refusing, will get a ruthless punishment. Women are a force to get married, forbidden from reading books, and abandoning their dreams. So far, there has never been a researcher using *The Chosen One* to be analyzed. The researcher is interested in using this novel because the researcher wants to analyze Kyra dealing with the problem in her life.

The focus of this study is to analyze Kyra's struggle to resist women's oppression in her society, which is related to how Kyra is against her own family, especially her uncle and The Prophet. The researcher focuses on Kyra resist women's oppression because it has a relation with the concept of matchmaking and polygamy between Kyra as the main character, her family, and The Prophet. The researcher also focuses on Kyra to get the freedom for herself to choose her husband because she does not approve of her matchmaking with Uncle Hyrum to get married to her uncle itself, who already has six wives and sixty years old, and at the time, she wants to get an education not married with her uncle.

There are some studies about the struggle of women. The first study is Eka Wiliany (2017), the title "Feminism Analysis In The Novel Woman at Point Zero". The study discussed the women's movement to demand equality and justice, fight for sexualist exploitation and women's oppression. The object of this study is *Woman at Point Zero*. In the study using qualitative methods. The researcher found that there is a main character doing everything to be able to fight for his rights in life and marriage. She got physical violence from her husband,

and she fights for her rights, but in the end, she was sentenced to death for defending himself.

The second study is Erliska (2017), the title is “Power and Gender Oppression in Lauren Weisberger’s *The Devil Wears Prada* and Seth Graham Smith’s *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.” This study aims to analyze represented of women’s oppression in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Seth Graham Smith. In the study using qualitative methods. The researcher found that the main character in *The Devil Wears Prada* experienced women’s oppression in the workplace while in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* the main character experienced women’s oppression in her society. The main characters of both novels are equally oppressed based on gender and social class.

The third study is Ikhtirina Putri (2018), the title is *The Struggles of The Female Protagonist Against The Oppression in Room* a novel by Emma Donoghue. This study discusses women’s oppression represented by the character *Room* Novel. This study using a qualitative method. The main character experiences oppression in society. Ma, as the main character, chose to go and live a new life.

All previous study is to analyze the women’s oppression and exploitation that is represented in the novel. The previous study uses the feminism approach to understand and explain how the struggle of the main character related to feminism and her resistance to women’s oppression or fight her rights. But here, the researcher uses different novels as the object, and for this reason, The researcher

feminine is socially constructed. Tyson (2006, p.102) explain gender becomes the concept of a culture that can make a difference in terms of the role, behavior, mentally, and differences that blossomed in the society.

Rosenstand (2006, p.566) states, The position of women in a society considered lower than men, and even a girl regarded as the second sex. Women and men should have rights and equal opportunities. Gender roles make portrayed women considered helpless, weak, and unreliable. Women should not get discrimination from anywhere and in the field of anything. The purpose of the movement of feminism is women also get equal rights the same as men (Tyson, 2006: 105). Women's rights and women's suffrages movement became a crucial topic in social, economic, and political (Woolf, 1929: 36). Feminists have a desire to improve the position and degree of women to be equal or equal to men. The struggle and feminist effort to achieve this goal can be done in various ways. One way is to try to get the rights and obligations that are equal to men (Suwarti, 2009: 3).

So, feminism is a women's movement that demands the emancipation or equality of women and men. There is no significant difference between men and women, all the same. Feminism does not want to make women control but wants the same rights as men. Women realize that they have the power to be able to live freely, just like men. The status of women as equal to men.

boys dug holes and mixed concrete and set the chain-link fence at the front of our property” (Williams, 2009: 122).

The Prophet also warned the Compound people that they should never make relations with people outside The Compound because they were Satan. Satan, who wanted to destroy the minds of saints like The Compound community, “When you see them, with their all-seeing eyes, with those cameras, you run,” Prophet Childs told us during meetings. They are Satan, here to try and steal you from us. To take babies from their mothers’ breasts. To teach you the ways of the world. To lead you all to hell” (Williams, 2009: 122).

After The Prophet broke ties and made boundaries with people outside of The Compound, then came various rules and weird lifestyle established by The Prophet. In the Compound, there is a day called The Day of Cleansing, "I pulled Hop on Pop from the shelf and remembered Prophet Childs and the Day of Cleansing. The day was the first of many cleansings, but of course, I didn't know it then. The memory floods right through me. That smell of smoke” (Williams, 2009: 68). The day of Cleansing is the day when everyone must bring all the books, magazines, novels, etc. that they have and then burn it. Everyone is not allowed to read a book or maybe about knowledge of the outside world because, according to The Prophet, the writing is a demon's word. After The Day of Cleansing incident, there were no books or novels in the community area.

When people in the community read a book, it will be considered a sin, and everyone must be obeyed because The Prophet will lead to heaven, “MY SINS. A plan. Books. And a boy. There's a boy. Oh, I am carrying the weight of what I

when their husbands meet other wives or when their husbands act unjustly, "I'VE SEEN WOMEN screaming at each other—fighting over their husbands. It's true. Not often. But once it happened right outside the Temple. Three women married to Brother Smythe. He stood there between them, trying to keep one wife from hitting another" (Williams, 2009: 112-113).

The Prophet usually sent boys around the age of seventeen to leave and then let them die in the sand like Adam, Kyra's Brother, "And they've sent a lot of the boys away." I wonder if Father's thinking of his oldest boy, Adam. He is seventeen. But Father's tried hard to keep all his sons quiet and obedient. "They drop some of the boys off in the desert," Mother Claire says. She stands, leaning against the dining room wall, her arms folded over her belly. "They leave them out there to die." Mother Victoria says nothing. Just keeps her face down" (Williams, 2009: 166). That reason makes it very rare for a young man in The Compound because when they are sent to leave, they will not come back again.

The limitations of the young man make The Prophet and His Apostle arbitrarily match young girls with older men who have many wives. "Sometimes, two or three sisters will marry the same husband, one after the other. Brother Nelson, one of the God Squad, married all five of Brother Hennessy's daughters" (Williams, 2009: 127). Matchmaking rules that lead to polygamy are also inherent in The Compound. The practice of marriage in The Compound often creates injustice for women. Men here always marry many women, even there are more than seven. Not a few also men married to his wife's brother in this community as happens to

Kyra considers Uncle Hyrum to marry her based on lust and greed, "Uncle Hyrum has six wives of his own. Six! What does he need one more for? Why? He's greedy" (Williams, 2009: 92). Uncle Hyrum is almost sixty years older and already has six wives and many children. Kyra also felt uncle Hyrum abuse her power as an apostle because of how an uncle could marry the child of his own younger brother. Kyra still did not accept how could his own uncle marry with her.

According to Gamble (2001: 22-23), patriarchal society has a view that women are categorized as weak people, while men are stronger, in any case, it makes women oppressed. Thus, a social construction that arises as control over women and men has full power to control it. All men can control women in social, political, until marriage. Not a few cases of polygamy based on coercion. This causes women to get adverse effects. The practice of polygamy that occurs in society raises social problems resulting in the rise of unregistered marriages. Polygamy can add to the number of neglected wives and children who are willing to illegally polygamy to be recognized by the state. Mulia (1999, p.33) states that polygamy should be abolished because it conflicts with equal rights between men and women.

According to Karimah (2017: 11), The unequal treatment that happened to women has been occurred since a long time ago, people who thought that women being treated unfairly; they create the ideology against the unfair treatment or disadvantage situation to liberate women. They call it feminism. Many thinkers or feminists define feminism differently. According to Bashin (cited in Karimah,

2017, p.11), feminism is the awareness of women to change a patriarchal control, exploitation, and pressure at the material, ideological level of female labor, and sexuality that occurs in the family, at work, and in society.

Feminism has a lot of types such as liberal feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, marxist and socialist feminism, existential feminism, postcolonial feminism, eco-feminism, radical feminism, and postmodern feminism (Nailah, 2007: 3).

Marxism feminism discusses women's oppression—Marx (cited in Mojab, 2015: 5). Marxism Feminism arises for the elimination of gender and control of power carried out by men. Here, related to the novel *In The Chosen One*. After analyzing the process of matchmaking and polygamy in the story of *The Chosen One*, the researcher gets to know if The Prophet and His Apostle carried out women's oppression actions to Kyra and other women. Kyra was forced to marry and had to accept polygamy with Uncle Hyrum, Kyra's uncle itself, who has sixty years and has six wives.

Kyra rejected her polygamy based on matchmaking determined by The Prophet and His Apostle. The Kyra case and the cases of other women in *The Compound* powerfully illustrate how women experience forms of exploitation and oppression led by The Prophet, His Apostle, and member a God Squad. Underage women must accept when they are forced to marry and become exceed four wives. The Prophet uses his power to make rules, especially matchmaking and polygamy, which makes women victims. So, because we Muslim, we must look polygamy in perspective Islam.

The quotation above shows that Kyra feels the impact because of her resistance. Kyra, a teenager who has thirteen years, has a severe problem in her life. She was forced to marry her uncle. Kyra received threats from various parties, especially Uncle Hyrum. Kyra experienced fear, but Kyra did not give up and finally decided to run away. Kyra escaped from The Compound in two ways. First, with Patrick but was thwarted by Kyra running away by driving a library car owned by Patrick, and she succeeded. Kyra began to feel an extraordinary impact on his life. Losing the people around him made him very sad. Kyra also felt a mental burden when she must realize to start a new life without a family that she loved at a young age. Kyra's family and Kyra's Boyfriend also felt psychological violence. They felt fear and doubt after they received threats from The Prophet, Uncle Hyrum, and members of God Squad.

who will be married someday, Joshua Johnson, Kyra feels that marriage must be voluntary and should not be forced. The second reason is that Kyra feels that this matchmaking is unfair to him. Kyra is still very young to be matched by Uncle Hyrum, which is Kyra's Uncle itself, who has sixty years and has six wives. Kyra also wants to reach her dreams and plans.

The third is about The impact of Kyra's resistance is physical and psychological violence to Kyra and her closest people. Physical violence occurs against Baby Mariah, who is placed in ice water several times. Beating to Kyra and Joshua Johnson. Death of Patrick and Baby Abigail's. Psychological violence occurred to Kyra's father in the form of threats from Uncle Hyrum. Psychological violence occurs to Kyra. Before Kyra decided to run away from The Compound, Kyra got pressure and threats from Uncle Hyrum and Kyra's Father. After she managed to escape, she experienced extreme trauma and sadness. Kyra realized that she must now live alone without her family anymore. Abigail's death, her brother and Patrick made him very sad and guilty.

Polygamy that happened in The Compound is very incorrect in Perspective Islam. Islam does not tell Muslims to polygamy but does not forbid it, but Islam gives the maximum amount to polygamy. In the An-Nisa verse: 4, Allah told his servants to polygamy at most four times and should not be more for any reason. Islam also requires only to have one wife because the requirement for polygamy is to be able to do justice to all his wives and not to cause jealousy (Surat An-Nisa: 129). Islam respects women not reflected in *The Chosen One*. The Prophet

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