THE EFFECTS OF PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM ON WOMAN : A SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE APPROACH IN ALICE WALKER'S *THE COLOR PURPLE*

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F022202006

Submitted to the Post-Graduate Program in Faculty of Cultural Science of Hasanuddin University as a Partial Fullfillment of the Requirements for the Master Degree in English Language Studies

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY
2024

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A Thesis

as one of the requirements to achieve a master degree

English Language Studies

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Register Number: F022202006

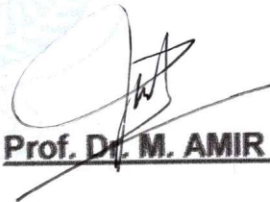Has been defended in front of the thesis examination committee

on August 16th, 2024

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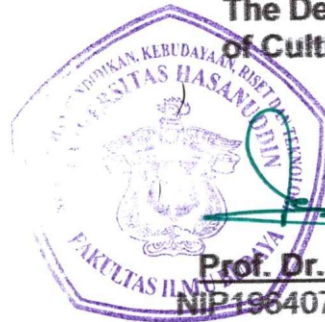
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Makassar, August 19th, 2024

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F022202006

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Bismillahirahmanirrahiim

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalamin, first of all, the researcher gives him uppermost gratitude to Allah SWT who always gives him health, spirit, patience, and strength to complete this thesis. Then , shalawat and salam go to the last prophet Muhammad SAW and all who follow him in righteousness.

Furthermore, this thesis could not be accomplished without any supports from some people who surround the researcher with their help encouragement and advises. On this opportunity, the researcher would like to express his profond gratitude, more than he can express to :

1. Prof. Dr. Ir. Jamaluddin Jompa, M.Sc, as the rector of Hasanuddin University, he has given his best in leading this university.

2. Prof. Akin Duli, M.A as the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University, the researcher appreciates his efforts to be a good leader for Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

3. Dra. Herawaty Abbas, M. Hum., M.A, Ph.D, and Prof. Dr. Amir P, M.Hum. as the first and second supervisor for their guidance, knowledge, experiencess, and advices in correcting his thesis.

4. Prof. Dr. Harlina Sahib, M.Hum, Prof. Dr. Noer Jihad Saleh, M.A. and Prof. Dr. Fathu Rahman, M.Hum, as the examiner who have given important comments on this thesis, they help a lot to improve the study of this thesis.

5. Pak Mullar, Kak Satria, and Kak Winnie for their invaluable help during the researcher's journey as an ELS student, I appreciate all of your assistance and generosity. Thank you for all the help and kindness you have given,

6. His beloved parents Muh. Sayuti and St. Nadira, and his sister Wahyuni for their supports and pray for the researcher.

7. Thanks to Andi Riswan Mohamad, S.S., M.Pd and Sri Nuriana, S.KM., M.KM. for their help in correcting this thesis.

8. Thanks to Muh Iqbal Rasyid, S.Sos, Adhyaksa Prananda, S.Stat, and Aditya Prananda, S.Ked who had supported the researcher.

Makassar, August 19th 2024

The researcher

Wandi

ABSTRAK

WANDI. *Pengaruh Sistem Patriarki pada Wanita dalam The Color Purple Karya Alice Walker: Pendekatan Sosiologi Sastra* (dibimbing oleh Herawaty Abbas dan Amir Pattu).

Patriarki adalah sistem sosial yang menempatkan pria sebagai pemegang kekuasaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan menemukan bentuk-bentuk dan efek patriarki dalam novel *The Color Purple*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini diambil dari novel karya Alice Walker berjudul *The Color Purple* yang diterbitkan pada tahun 1982. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan terhadap novel secara intensif. Peneliti menganalisis data menggunakan teori patriarki dari Silvia Walby. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat enam bentuk patriarki dalam novel *The Color Purple*, yaitu patriarki dalam pekerjaan, patriarki dalam rumah tangga, patriarki dalam budaya, patriarki dalam seksual, patriarki dalam kekerasan, dan patriarki dalam negara. Selain itu, peneliti juga menemukan tiga efek patriarki, yaitu marginalisasi, diskriminasi gender, dan opresi.

Kata kunci: efek, bentuk, patriarki, *The Color Purple*

ABSTRACT

WANDI. *The Effects of Patriarchal System on Woman: A Sociology of Literature Approach in Alice Walker's The Color Purple* (supervised by Herawaty Abbas and Amir Pattu).

Patriarchy is a social system that puts men in charge. The aim of this study is to find out the form and the effects of patriarchy in *The Color Purple*. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data used by the researcher in this research were taken from Alice Walker's novel entitled *The Color Purple* which was published in 1982. The data were collected through intensive reading of the novel. The researcher analyzed the data by using theory of patriarchy by Silvia Walby. The result of this study showed that there are six forms of patriarchy in *The Color Purple*, namely patriarchy in paid employment, patriarchy in paid household, patriarchy in culture, patriarchy in sexuality, patriarchy in violence, and patriarchy in state. Furthermore, the researcher also found three effects of patriarchy, namely marginalization, gender discrimination, and oppression.

Keyword : Effect, Form, and Patriarchy, The Color Purple

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains the research background, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, and scope of the problem

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, men and women undoubtedly receive different treatment, both in the public and private sphere. People believe that women have fewer opportunities to participate in social life (Farid, 2019). In general, women have only limited responsibilities in limited spaces, such as in domestic area, where they are limited to become mother who exclusively take care of their children, and serve men needs (De'Beauvoir, 1949). This relates to Wardani's (2016 : 7) statement that women have nurtures and diligent, and are not suitable for being the head of household. In contrast, men are perceived as being stronger and more rational than woman, which allows them to carry out their activities in a wider range of social life. In society, this issue is known as the patriarchy system.

Patriarchy is a social system concept based on the dominance of men over women, and has been present in the world. Patriarchy sets social, political, economic, and cultural life, and gives men the power to control all aspects of women's lives. This social system is supported by some factors, such as religion, power, law, and social norms. Patriarchy views men as a leader, while women are the follower of the men. Patriarchy also creates gender inequality, which makes women will get a violence, harassment, and discrimination (Sakina, 2017).

Patriarchy has a negative impact on women's lives, such as difficulties in accessing education, health, employment, and difficulties in achieving equality and justice in various aspects of life. Patriarchy also causes many women experience psychological and emotional pressure because they have to fulfill the expectations and social norms is set by the patriarchal system. This relates to Wijayanti and Rusdianti's idea (2019), that patriarchy gives some serious problems to the woman such as double burden,

subordination, marginalization, stereotype and exploitation. One of the impacts of patriarchy today can be seen on the case of 13 students are raped by their teacher in Java (Kuwait Times, 2022). National Commission on Violence Against Woman of Indonesia recorded 338,496 cases of gender violence against women in 2021 (Antara News, 2022). This number is an increase of 49.7% from 226,062 cases in 2020. According to Nur Yasmin (2021), Commission on Violence Against Woman of Indonesia also recorded 36,356 cases of domestic violence against women over the past five years.

Many effects of patriarchy to women live today causes the study of patriarchy is important. Many studies have been conducted to uncover the impact of patriarchy and find solutions to overcome this system. Literature is also an effective medium to illustrate solution of patriarchy on women's lives and provide different views on how to overcome this system.

One of the literary works that can be used as a medium to illustrate the effect of patriarchy is a novel. The researcher chooses a novel which is entitled *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker as the object of the study. The novel was published in 1982 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1983. This novel tells the story of the life journey of an African-American woman named Celie, who lives in the United States in the early 20th century. Celie is a teenage girl who lives in very difficult conditions. She grew up in a violent family and suffered sexual abuse.

The novel is written in the form of letters written by Celie to God, in which she expresses all her feelings, experiences and hopes. As the story progresses, Celie marries a man named Mister, who treats her with violence and torture. He was separated from his sister, Nettie, who became his only loved one. Despite living in terrible conditions, Celie finds support and friendship from Shug Avery, a strong and independent blues singer. Through meeting Shug, Celie begins to understand the meaning of love, strength, and self-liberation.

This novel explores many strong themes such as racism, sexism, harassment, domestic violence, and the search for identity. Through Celie's experiences and transformations, the novel teaches about the importance of forgiveness, gender equality, sisterhood, and the power of women.

This research used sociological approach and theory of Patriarchy by Walby. In the literary sociology approach, analysis of patriarchy involves examining how social structures based on male dominance are reflected and maintained in literary works. It involves observing the characters, narratives, themes, and depictions of gender relations in literary works.

Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested to analyze *The Effects of Patriarchal System on Woman: A Sociology of Literature Approach in Alice Walker's* **The Color Purple.**

1.2 Identification of Problem

The Color Purple by Alice walker is a novel that has a lot of aspects that can be analyzed. The aspect which Walker shows in this novel such as sexism, rebellion, oppression, acknowledgment, love and also patriarchy. In this novel, the researcher sees one aspect which is more dominant in this novel, that is patriarchy. It can be seen when the woman character is dominated by men.

1.3 Scope of the Problem

The novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (1982) shows some issues such as, marriage, education, economy social class, gender inequality and patriarchy system in America. In this research, the researcher focuses on the effect of patriarchy system on woman condition in the novel.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the statement of the problems above, the formulation of the problem in this study are:

1. What are the forms of patriarchy in *The Color Purple*?
2. To what extent does patriarchal system impact to women characters in the novel?

1.5 The Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objectives of the research is:

1. To find out the forms of patriarchal system in *The Color Purple*.
2. To describe the effects of patriarchal system to woman characters in the novel.

1.6 The Significance of Study

The result of this study is expected to offer theoretical and practical

significances. Theoretical and practical significance are explained as follow:

1. Theoretically, this research will enrich contribution on using sociological approach to dig out patriarchal system in *The Color Purple.*
2. Practically, this research will be a model for the future researchers in analyzing a literary work.

CHAPTER II
LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter includes of previous studies, sociology of literature, Silvia Walby's theory of patriarchy, and the conceptual framework.

2.1 Previous Studies

The previous study is one of the references used by the researcher to support this research. After reading several research, the researcher found some researches that have analyzed the novel *The color Purple* by Alice Walker. They are Jessica Lewis (2017), Amir (2020), Yuni Nurbayani (2021), and Biswas (2021).

The first research is Lewis (2017) on her research *Gender, Race, and Violence: A Critical Examination of Trauma in The Color Purple*. She focuses on the roles of gender and race play in relation to trauma in Alice Walker's novel.

The next is Amir (2020) on her research *The Analysis of Woman Resistance in Walker's The Color Purple*. This research focuses on the woman's resistance with use feminism theory. The result of this research showed that woman characters do a passive and active resistance against various forms of oppression.

Another research is written by Nurbayani (2021) entitled *Celie Suffering In The Novel The Color Purple By Alice Walker*. This study focused on the psychology of the main character in the novel. This thesis used psychology of literature. The result of the study showed that the main character Celie experiences various kinds of suffering ranging from physical, psychological, even sexual suffering.

The last research belongs to Biswas (2021) who wrote a thesis entitled *Deconstruction of the racist-sexist stereotypes in Alice Walker's novels*. He describes the stereotype of women in Walker's novel. This thesis adopts Collins' deconstructionist methodology to examine the stereotype. For analysis, it also relies on Hooks' concepts of Western double-edged standards and Hall's ideas of stereotyping the 'other' and politics of representation. It uses content analysis method, limiting itself to look into relevant parts of the studied novels.

After the researcher learns the four researches above, the

researcher found the similarity and the difference in this research. The similarity among the current proposed research and four research above, is seen on the object in which the researcher talks about novel *The Color Purple*. The differences among this research and four research above can be seen on the issues of this research. The issues of this research are the effects of patriarchy system on woman condition in the novel. While the issue of previous research are the roles of gender, woman's resistance, psychology of the character, and the stereotype of women.

2.2 Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature is an interdisciplinary field of study that examines the relationship between literature and society from a sociological perspective. More specifically, Sociology of literature addresses how literary works are reflected by society, how literary works influence society, and how society produces literary works. the sociology of literature helps in understanding literary works as cultural and social products, as well as understanding the role and influence of literary works in society. Sociology of literature also addresses social, cultural, and political issues related to literary works, such as gender, identity, social class, conflict, and social change.

In this research, the researcher uses theory of Wellek and Warren who state that there are three kinds of the sociology of literature. It consists of the sociology of the researcher, the sociology of the literary work, and the sociology of the reader or audience (Juan Jr : 1987).

First, the sociology of the writer focuses on the author's social status, social ideology, the profession, and some factors that related to the author in writing his work. The author as the element of the population can be as the object of the study by seeing the author's biography.

Second, the sociology of literary work focuses on the social content of the literary works, implication and social purposes. Wellek and Warren (1956: 102) states that "much the most common approach to the relation of literature and society is the study of works of literature as social documents, as assumed pictures of social reality. It means that a literary work cannot be separated to the social condition of the citizens.

Third, the sociology of the reader related to the actual social influence of literature on society. It is related to the function of literature in giving knowledge and entertaining the reader as a member of society.

Based on the explanation above, the writer can conclude that there are three types of sociology of literature. The first is the sociology of the author. This type focuses on the issue of the author's work as the product of a literary work. The second is the sociology of literary work. It focuses on the literary work itself. And the last is sociology of the reader. It focuses on the reader.

Related to this research, the researcher used sociology of literary work in analyzing the phenomenon of patriarchy system in the Novel *The Color Purple* (1982).

2.3 Patriarchy

One of the thinkers that give the definition of Patriarchy is Silvia Walby. She is sociologist who defines "*patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women*" (Walby 1990:20). She explains patriarchy as a system because this system helps to reject the notion of biological determinism, which says that men and women are naturally different because of their biology or bodies and, are, therefore assigned different roles.

2.3.1 The Form of Patriarchy

Related to the research, the researcher chooses theory of patriarchy by Silvia Walby in analyzing the effect of patriarchy in the color purple novel. Below the researcher will explain six structures of patriarchy by Silvia Walby (1990: 25-150).

1. Patriarchy in Paid Employment

Human capital economists argue that women are paid less than men because they have fewer skills and work experience than men and are better suited to household activities (Walby, 1990 : 29). Two distinct strategies of patriarchy in keeping women away from equality are exclusion and segregation.

Exclusion aims to prevent women's access to get a job. Manual engineering unions successfully excluded women from engineering jobs until the mid-20th century. Segregation aims to separate women's work from men's work, giving it lower value and pay than men. In administration work, men were never able to pursue a strategy of exclusion. With segregation, competition between men and women can be minimized while allowing women to become a cheap source of labor. In this working world, women will be given rules

that will lead to segregation strategies. These rules will put women in a narrow position and have no power to resist these rules.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the indicators of the dominance of patriarchy on paid employment in a word such as authority words, and words that take the form of rules.

2. Household Production

According to Billing and Alvesson, patriarchy in the household occurs when the father does dominance to his extended family and controls all household economic production (Walby, 1990 : 69). Patriarchy reflects the father's rule and applies to all family members, but this does not mean that women have no power Women can have power but that power remains under the control of men.

Parsons revealed that men in the family perform instrumental roles and women perform expressive roles. Men have tasks oriented to the outside world to earn a living, while women meet the internal needs of family members as housewives who are fully responsible for caring for children (Walby: 92). In the household, men directly exploit by utilizing women's labor such as cooking and washing. Women are bound by men who take their labor until they die.

According to Firestone, family reproduction is central of women's subordination. These things related to reproduction such as pregnancy, menstruation, childbirth, breastfeeding, and childcare make women weak in the household. In an effort to control women in their households, men as fathers or husbands' express words related to women's biology. (Walby: 96). Men package words that symbolize their power as the head of the family.

Based on the explanation before, it can be concluded that the indicators of the dominance of patriarchy in household production in a word such as words that are cornered, and words that are coercive in nature.

3. Culture

Walby believes that patriarchal culture has differentiated between men and women for a long time. Culture shapes masculine and feminine identities as a result of the socialization process in

society. Socialization primarily occurs during childhood when boys and girls learn about appropriate behavior for their gender. (1990:135).

The cultivation of gender attributes begins from the moment they are born, such as when baby boys are dressed in blue and baby girls in pink. In childhood, boys are given shooting toys while girls are given doll toys. In children's books, girls are shown helping their mothers with domestic tasks while boys are busy with various adventures. In television commercials, women are shown as sexually glamorous or as housewives while men are rulers. Masculinity entails assertiveness, wisdom, rationality, and activeness while femininity is more cooperative, emotional, irrational, and passive.

Furthermore, Bhasin revealed that what is faced by society today is male dominance and superiority. Men are positioned higher than women and women must be controlled by men as a manifestation that women belong to men. (1996: 4).

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the indicators of patriarchy domination in culture through a word, such as words that lead to things that are considered feminine.

4. Sexuality

Freud revealed that sexuality is conceptualized as a drive or instinct that every human being has based on biological nature. This sexual drive underlies social concepts as a powerful force. Humans do not realize that sexual urges shape behavior since they are born, not during puberty. (Walby,1990 : 166).

In heterosexual relationships, women serve men emotionally, materially and sexually. Men are less emotionally responsive because they are educated to be masculine with their dominant position, while women are more responsive who are willing to respond to men fully. Men place women as their sexual objects. (Walby, 1990: 180). Women are required to be more feminine, whereas femininity is often associated with their attractiveness to men.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the indicators of patriarchy domination in sexuality through a word, such

as words that emphasize that women are used as sexual objects for men and have an emotional nature.

5. Violence

According to Walby, violence is a form of male control over women. Men are raised to be macho and allowed to resolve disputes with violence. (1990: 203). With violence, women will be in a place where they do not resist patriarchy. Violence is any form of action that causes physical or psychological harm. There are different types of violence includes physical violence, psychological violence, economic violence, and sexual violence. Violence usually occurs in unequal relationships because there are parties who have more control over other parties such as fathers and children, employers and employees, husbands and wives (Annisa, 2022 : 2).

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the indicators of patriarchy domination in violence through a word are: harsh words with loud intonation, and words that insult and demean.

6. State

Within a country, women are relatively absent from positions of power and central decision-making places. Kirk Patrick explains that women's exclusion from politics is due to psychological factors, culture, roles, and male conspiracies. (Walby, 1990: 229). Macintosh argues that the state reinforces the oppression of women by supporting the division of labor in the household that places wives in the domestic sphere. State policies also seem to direct women to be in the domestic sphere by providing less wages. (Walby, 1990: 34).

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the indicators of patriarchy domination in the state through a word such as words that direct women to the private area.

The six basic structures of patriarchy can influence each other but can also stand alone. In different times and places, some structures become more dominant than others.

In addition, Walby (1990: 197) divides patriarchy into two forms.

They are:

a. Private Patriarchy

Private patriarchy originates in the household as the first and main area of male power over women, which is limited to the home. In the household, power is in the hands of the individual (man). An individual patriarch as a husband or father position directly acts as an oppressor to benefit from women as wives and children. Men with their power can provide all forms of rules that must be obeyed by women in a family.

In private patriarchy, women are dispossessed by an individual. Dispossession is carried out with a strategy of marginalization. The home is where the initial socialization of patriarchy takes place. Parents "gender" their children for the first time by giving them names. Boys are given names like Roni, and Rahmat while girls are given names like Nia, and Lusi. Boys learn to be masculine while girls learn to be feminine with their toys. Parents will be anxious if their children do not behave according to the social construction of how boys and girls behave in general.

b. Public Patriarchy

Public patriarchy takes areas such as public places and workplaces. In public areas, power is in the hands of individuals or collectives (many men). In the workplace, women tend to be segregated in certain occupational groups with lower pay and status than men. (Walby,1990: 34).

Sylvia said that access and rights for women in the public sphere also add new problems for women. Women are faced with a wider oppression, namely a capitalist structure with a strong patriarchy. Capitalists mobilize and exploit women who are clearly cheaper than men, but on the other hand, there is also a strong patriarchy which seeks to maintain the exploitation of women in the household or private sphere. Nor does public patriarchy simply exclude private patriarchy. Men in the public sphere do not fully exchange roles with women. (Walby, 1990: 175).

In the public sphere, men give power to women that they can still control with the higher power they have. For instance, In the world work, women have limited power and discretion. Forms

of public patriarchy in the world of work include: first, recruitment of new employees is generally prioritized for men, because companies consider the leave that may be taken by women when pregnant and giving birth. Second, women are generally placed in administration with lower pay and no prospect of promotion.

Women as wives, mothers, single parents and workers can all be victims of male dominance. It can happen in public or private areas, on the street, at home, at work, and on public transportation. Violence and pain are closely associated with women (Davies, 2011: 133).

Violence against women is a typical form of patriarchy. Women's bodies are the locus of violence while the focus is on sexuality, biological production, and the workplace. Violence is influenced by economic, political, cultural and even religious interests.

The Differences between Private and Public Patriarchy (Walby, 1990: 25-150).

The Form of Patriarchy	Private Patriarchy	Public Patriarchy
The Dominant Structure (Out of Six Structure)	Household Production	Employment/State
The wider structure of patriarchy	• Employment • State • Sexuality • Violence • Culture	• Household Production • Sexuality • Violence • Culture
Period	19th Century	20th Century
Assault Mode	Individual	Community

The Form of Patriarchy	Private Patriarchy	Public Patriarchy
The Strategy of Patriarchy	Marginalization	Segregation

2.3.2 The Effects of Patriarchy

Patriarchy effects to some aspect such as economy, education. According to Walby, patriarchy effects to some aspects. Some of the impacts of patriarchy. First is gender inequality. Patriarchy creates gender inequality and puts men in a more advantaged position and women in a lesser position. Second, oppression. Patriarchy is also associated with violence against women, including sexual violence, domestic violence, and other violence. And other forms of gender oppressions toward women.

Third, Patriarchy also creates marginalization. Affecting stereotypical gender roles and limits choices and possibilities for individuals who do not conform to those gender roles. Fourth, unequal decision-making. Patriarchy also tends to create unequal decision-making, where men are more likely to hold leadership positions and make important decisions. And the last, Patriarchy can also have economic impacts, including in the payment of unequal wages between men and women, women's difficulties in obtaining education and employment, and lack of support for the work done by women.

Based on the explanation above, patriarchy gives some negative impact to the woman, such as gender inequality, violence, and marginalization.

2.3.3 The Resistance of Patriarchy

Woman will do reaction to fight patriarchy. According to Walby (1990: 180-190), there are several ways to fight patriarchy and create a more gender-equal and just society, including:

First, promoting gender equality in all aspects of life. includes promoting gender equality in employment, education, decision-making and in all other aspects of life. Second, eliminating gender discrimination includes fighting gender discrimination in the law and in the court system, as well as eliminating gender stereotypes in the

media and popular culture. Third, encouraging women's participation in politics and leadership at all levels, including in civil society organizations, political parties and government. Fourth, promoting gender education and awareness includes educating the public about gender equality and making gender awareness part of the education curriculum at all levels.

Next, promoting legal protection for women. includes pushing for stronger law enforcement in cases of violence against women and fairer law enforcement to ensure that women have the same rights as men. Then, promoting inclusive economic development includes encouraging economic development that accommodates the needs and interests of women, including in the payment of wages and employment opportunities.

Based on explanation above, it can be concluded that the way of to fight patriarchy is collective efforts of communities, organizations, and governments are essential.

2.4 The Conceptual Framework

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