

**THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AGAINST
DOUBLE OPPRESSION IN TONI MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE***



A THESIS

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as Partial Requirements to Obtain Bachelor's Degree in
English Literature Study Program

BY

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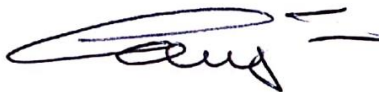
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THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AGAINST THE
DOUBLE OPPRESSION IN TONI MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

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Today, Wednesday, 5th May 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **NURUL ANNISA IBRAHIM** (Student Number: **F041171506**) entitled:

**THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AGAINST THE
DOUBLE OPPRESSION IN **TONI MORRISON'S** *THE BLUEST EYE***

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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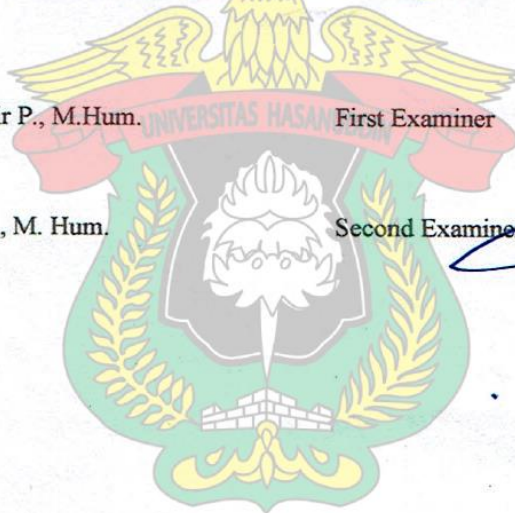
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The thesis of **NURUL ANNISA IBRAHIM** (Student Number: **F041171506**) entitled, **“THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AGAINST THE DOUBLE OPPRESSION IN TONI MORRISON’S *THE BLUEST EYE*”** has been revised as advised during the examination on Wednesday, 5th May 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya tidak terdapat karya yang ditulis atau diterbitkan orang lain kecuali sebagai acuan atau kutipan, dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

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Makassar, 9th April 2021

The Researcher

Nurul Annisa Ibrahim

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ABSTRACT

NURUL ANNISA IBRAHIM. The Struggle of African-American Women Against The Double-Oppression in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. (Supervised by **Herawaty** and **Muh. Syafri Badaruddin**)

The aim of this research is to find out the kinds of double oppression experienced by African-American women in novel *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. This research also aims to analyze how these women in struggle against double oppression.

This research uses sociology and black feminism approach. This research approach focuses on examining the hardship of African-American women in their daily life. The researcher also applies qualitative method to analyze the data which taken from the object. The resource of the primary data is taken from the novel *The Bluest Eye* which is written by Toni Morrison and the resource of secondary data is obtained from several books, journals, articles, and essays.

The result from this research shows that most of African-American women characters in the story experience several oppression both can be classified as racism and sexism. Even though Pecola Breedlove as the main character does not show any opposition towards every oppression that she has experienced, some characters reflect resistance towards it. Pauline Breedlove is a woman who always fights back against her husband whenever she gets oppressed and through her love of organizing and cleanliness, she breaks the stereotype of black people about dirtiness. Meanwhile, Claudia MacTeers hates the white beauty standard and she also reflects a strong sisterhood between African-American women.

Keywords: struggle, double-oppression, African-American women, black feminism, The Bluest Eye

ABSTRAK

NURUL ANNISA IBRAHIM. Perjuangan Wanita Afrika-Amerika Melawan Penindasan Ganda Pada Novel *The Bluest Eye* karya Toni Morrison. (dibimbing oleh **Herawaty** dan **Muh. Syafri Badaruddin**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan jenis penindasan ganda yang dialami oleh wanita Afrika-Amerika dalam novel *The Bluest Eye* karya Toni Morrison. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan menganalisis bagaimana wanita-wanita dalam novel ini berjuang untuk melawan penindasan ganda.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi dan feminisme kulit hitam. Sebuah pendekatan penelitian yang memeriksa kesulitan wanita Afrika-Amerika dalam kehidupan sehari-hari mereka. Peneliti juga menerapkan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis data yang telah dikumpulkan dari objek penelitian. Sumber data utama diambil dari novel *The Bluest Eye* karya Toni Morrison dan untuk sumber data lainnya diambil dari beberapa buku, jurnal, artikel, dan esai.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kebanyakan karakter wanita Afrika-Amerika dalam cerita ini mengalami beberapa bentuk penindasan yang bisa dikategorikan sebagai tindakan rasisme dan seksisme. Walaupun Pecola Breedlove sebagai karakter utama tidak menunjukkan beberapa perlawanan terhadap penindasan yang diterimanya, sebagian karakter mencerminkan beberapa upaya penolakan terhadap penindasan tersebut. Pauline Breedlove adalah perempuan yang selalu melawan balik kepada suaminya tiap kali dia ditindas dan melalui kecintaannya terhadap kebersihan dan kerapian, ia mematahkan stereotip terhadap orang berkulit hitam tentang kekotoran. Sedangkan, Claudia MacTeers membenci standar kecantikan orang putih dan ia juga merefleksikan persaudaraan wanita yang kuat diantara wanita afrika-amerika.

Kata kunci: perjuangan, penindasan ganda, wanita Afrika-Amerika, feminisme kulit hitam, The Bluest Eye

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Literature is a collective organization that uses social development as its middle tongue. In their very essence, such typical literary instruments as symbolism and meters are social. They are conventions and principles that may only have emerged in culture and even the writer of the literature themselves is a part of society. Literature sometimes can be a media for the author to express what they feel or concern about their society. The author often brings up some social issues or concerns that they either know or experience. There are numbers of work in literature, poetry, play, prose, and many more. As for prose, it also can be divided into novel, short story, fairy tales, etc.

Novel is one of the most popular forms of it. Novel is a long fictional story written in prose that originated from the novel and other early narrative styles. It also can contain story based on the actual moment or event that happens in the certain time. By reading a novel, people not only know the information about the events that have happened but they will understand about what the impacts that influence to their idea of reality and history. A novel usually organised by plot or theme with a focus on character development and action.

One of the most influential writers in the world is Toni Morrison. Toni Morrison was born in Lorain, Ohio on February 18, 1931 and died in Bronx, New York on August 5, 2019. Chloe Anthony Wofford was her original name (Thao,

et.al., 1997: 1-2). She can be said as one of the most influential researchers especially in America because she is the first African-American women researcher who received a Nobel Prize in Literature. Tally (2007: 1) says that “it would be more appropriate to say that because of her multi-faceted and untiring work, she has helped change a restricted, predominantly white, and male-centred literary world into a multicultural mosaic”. She is not only a novelist, she is also an essayist, playwright, poet, editor, publisher, college professor. During her lifetime, she has published many well-known works such as *The Bluest Eye* (1970), *Sula* (1973), *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Tar Baby* (1981), *Beloved* (1987), *Jazz* (1992), *Paradise* (1997), and many more (Jimoh, 2002: 1-2)

The Bluest Eye is her first novel that was successfully published in 1970. The story basically contains about racial self-loathing, the loss of identity, and shame. The setting for the story is between 1940-1941 which is known as the beginning of World War II. It is also located in Lorain, Ohio. It is an imaginative narrative of a story of a little African-American girl named Pecola Breedlove. Her childhood was a very vulnerable phase of her life. This little girl has to face so many struggles in her life just because she was born differently from average people. Not only Pecola as the main character receive those unpleasant treatment, other African-American women characters like Claudia, Frieda, and Pauline also felt the same treatment in living as minorities in their society (Suranyi, 2007: 11).

In *The Bluest Eye*, Kuenz (1994: 421) stated that Morrison as the writer tried to make her story to become more realistic and similar to the actual event that happened in real world. She rewrites the specific conditions and histories of

African-Americans whose positive images and stories have been wiped out by commodity culture. In order to do so, she organizes her story uniquely by shifting the novel's perspective and point of view, a narrative tactic that enables her to represent black female subjectivity as a layered, shifting, and complex reality.

In *The Bluest Eye*, the story dealt with mistreatment of African-American women. The researcher finds that those mistreatments can be classified as oppression. Not only a regular oppression, it is a double-oppression. Double oppression consists of two types of oppression, a gender base oppression and racist based oppression because of their skin colour. Sadly, many people are still not aware of this issue. Hence, they have a lack of knowledge about it. Therefore, due to the content of the story and its unique narrative technique, the researcher decides to take *The Bluest Eye* as her object of analysis.

The condition inside the story of *The Bluest Eye* portrayed the actual atmosphere of the life of African-American women. They got bullied, assaulted, harassed by strangers, acquaintances, friends, even their family. Then the African-American women decide to make up their mind to fight this oppression through a movement called Black Feminism. Briefly, black feminism is a term that places consciousness to African-American women who struggle with exploitation caused by patriarchal hegemony and racism. It is ready to end that oppression to build the lives of women and a society based on non-discrimination. Hence, one is also prepared to struggle to redress the situation so as to bring racial, social, sexual and economic equality for the African-American women (Onkareshwar, 2016: 1-2).

Even though, there has a number of campaigns and boycotts happen in order to promote the equality between people by the black feminist activist, sadly some of us still treated in the same way. It seems like many people still ignore or close their eyes and ears about this issue. So that is why this issue is really interesting to discuss, there still few people that interest or broaden their knowledge about this.

The African-American women's irony becomes a very interesting topic to be investigated in the discussion. In this research the researcher tries to analyse the double-oppression that the African-American women face in their life and how they struggle against it. The researcher expects that people can use this research as reflection materials in daily life. The finding of this research is expected to give a better understanding about how the African-American women have to struggle against racism and sexism. The researcher wants that later on, everyone will be more embrace the diversity that exist in our society and treat the minorities equally by ignoring their race, religion, sex orientation, skin colour, ethnicity, and so on.

B. Identification of Problem

After reading novel *The Bluest Eye* written by Toni Morrison, researcher identified some problems that can be analysed:

1. There is a beauty stereotype that make others considered themselves ugly
2. Characters personality that leads to psychological problems
3. There is an everyday racism and social construction reflected in the novel
4. There's gender discrimination and women oppression depicted in the novel

5. The double-oppression that African-American women have to face in their life

C. Scope of Problem

As it has been mentioned above, there are many problems that can be analysed from this novel. However, in this study, the researcher just focuses on revealing how the author presents the double-oppression that African-American women characters which consist of Pecola, Claudia, Frieda, and Pauline have to face in this novel and how they struggle against it.

D. Statement of Problem

- a. What kinds of the double-oppression do the 1940's African American women characters experience in novel *The Bluest Eye*?
- b. How do the 1940's African-American women characters in this novel struggle against double oppression?

E. Objective of The Study

- a. To find out the kinds of double oppression the 1940's African-American women experience characters in novel *The Bluest Eye*
- b. To analyse how the 1940's African-American women characters in this novel struggle against double oppression

F. Significances of the Study

This study is supposed to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies. In addition, the research is expected to bring any benefits for the researcher, the

readers and for another researcher. It is also expected that this research would be useful to improve knowledge about literary matters.

Other than just theoretical significance, this study also expects practical significance which the readers will acknowledge about the double-oppression of African-American women in real life and embrace the diversity that exist in our society.

G. Sequence of Writing

This research is entitled *African-American Women Struggle Against The Double-Oppression in Toni Morisson's The Bluest Eye*, it consists of five chapters.

The first chapter consists of background of research, which contains several explanations of the reasons in choosing the novel and the title of the research, identification of problem, statement of problem, the objectives of problem, significance of writing, and the sequence of writing.

The second chapter presents the previous related studies of the research, theoretical background which consists of the previous related studies and theoretical background. The third chapter involves the reserach methodology, which consists of methodological design, sources of data, method of collecting data, method of analysing data, and research procedure.

The fourth chapter is about the analysis and discussion of the research which consists of description of describe the double-oppression are face by African-American women characters and their struggle against it as the tittle of this research. The fifth chapter is the last chapter which consists of conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the researcher explains about the literature review that the researcher uses in this research. This chapter consists of some previous related study and theoretical background such as theory of double oppression and the concept of black feminism from some experts.

A. Previous Related Studies

The first is *The Oppression Faced by Black Women in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye* written by Rochmawati (2007). This study aim to find the kinds of oppressions and the response of African-American women from those oppressions. To analyse her data, she applies a feminist literary criticism in order to link the story and women oppression in the novel. Later from the research, she finds that there are four kinds of oppressions, namely social deprivation, physical, cultural, and psychological oppression. As for the response, she finds that there are three different responses of women while facing the oppression which includes receiving, imitating, and rejecting the oppression.

The second one is the study about *Marginalization and Oppression of African-American Women in Toni Morrison's Sula* (2013) it was conducted by Nasrin Chegeni. In this study, they try represent the various levels of African-American women's oppression and explore their situation in western racist society and also how they resist against a patriarchal society. In cultivating their data, they use theoretical consideration of feminism and black feminism. Through this study, they found that *Sula* is the chronicle of the life of two African-American women

from their growing up in a small Ohio town to their final clash. Sula, is depicted as a rebel. She rejects the social norms of the community, to live in a small town, to marry and to become a mother; whereas Nel, her childhood friend, has accepted them. After an exile, Sula and Nel embody the fight and survival of African-American women. Such resistance manifests itself in Morrison's emphasis on the discovery and rediscovery of Black life, especially that of the Black women.

The third is *The Struggle of African-American Women Against The Double Discrimination Revealed in Hidden Figures* (2018) written by Tiara Ika Christianingrum. This study aims to reveal the struggles of African-American against the double discrimination in the National Aeronautics and Spaces Administration (NASA). The researcher in this study take a Black Feminism. Later in this research, the researcher found that African-America women faced double discrimination in race and gender. The racial discrimination is shown in the form of getting limited access to facilities, underpaid salary, accusation of black empowerment. The gender discrimination is shown in in the form of limited access to education, minimum access for career advancement, and minimum appreciation and acknowledgment in the work in the work place. The way they respond to this issue is by improving themselves and put some hard works in their job also against the system. They just focusing on themselves.

Those previous tittles that were taken by the previous researcher are very interesting topics to be analysed. Those also help the researcher to apply the theory and to enrich the researcher insight in doing this research. They have similarities

and differences with the topic of *The African-American Women Struggle Against Double Oppression in Toni Morrison's **The Bluest Eye*** that the researcher takes.

The similarity from all of those previous studies is three of them discuss about African-American women who received mistreatment and oppression by the dominance group. There are also differences among all of these researches, one of them uses black feminist approach and none of them reveals the struggle of African-American women against double oppression in *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Here, the researcher wants to reveal and analyse the struggle of African-American women against the double oppression in *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison and uses sociology and black feminist as an approach in doing this research.

B. Sociological Approach

Literature sometimes can be a media for the author to express what they feel or concern about their society. The author often brings up some social issues or concerns that they either know or experience. Thus, it can be concluded that literature cannot be separated from sociology since the fact that the writer themselves are the part of society. Mursalim (2019:270-271) stated that the sociology of literature examines how people respond to their surroundings. Literary works are often linked to people's lives, and people may often decide the importance of a literary work.

Hence, the researcher considers to take sociological approach to do this analysis and examine the object. Sociological approach was admitted by most of scholars that it can be helpful to trace the actual event happened in certain period

of time (Witte, 1941:88). Sociological approach is used by the researcher in order to unveil the sociological event that also happened inside the object.

C. Theoretical Background

1. Black Feminism Approach

In analysing Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, the researcher applies the black feminism approach. According A.R. Keizer's (2007: 154-155) black feminism uses to examine the obstacles every African-American women has to face in their life. The experiences and activities of African-American women have to be analysed in their socially and historically specific contexts (Barbee, 1994: 498-499).

Many creative researchers create works that help to establish the ground for literary critics of black feminist theoretical approaches. These works contain various needs of black women. Such as sexual self-determination and economic empowerment, the struggle against the psychic pain of racism and sexism, the possibility of coalition across the lines of race, gender, sexual orientation and class, and black women's passionate and persistent strategies of self-formation, self-recovery and self-expression (Keizer, 2007: 154-155). Black feminist highlights every obstacle to process of African American women, focusing in many cases on black men's physical and psychological oppression of black women in the context of white-supremacist domination of all black people.

In conjunction to *The Bluest Eye*, Black feminism is also chosen as an approach besides sociological approach in this analysis. Black feminism approach is considered as an appropriate approach to research any detail problem in the novel

regarding double jeopardy or struggle experienced by the African-American women.

2. Theory of Double Oppression

The term of double oppression first introduced to public by Frances Beal in 1972. She is a founding member of the Women's Liberation Committee of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) also a member of the Third World Women's Alliance. She introduced this term to describe the dual oppression that experienced by black women. The black women, especially in America, have to face double oppression which consist of racism and sexism (Howard-Hamilton, 2003: 19). Additionally, Aziza (2016: 6-9) also stated tha it can come from both white or black men and also white women. In depth, double oppression can occur whenever they experienced such inequality from every kind.

A. Racism

Race is defined as social concept where they classified people based on their noticeable appearance. For example, their skin colour, hair texture, eye's colour, and many more. Meanwhile, there is no valid evidence about the certain difference between these races in terms of intelligence or behaviour (Olivier, et. al., 2019:1-2). This classification creates the imbalance stereotype about one race to another. Eventually, there are races which consider to be superior and inferior race.

Smith (1983: 1-3) identified that due to the imbalance stereotype among races, the superior race treats the inferior with a more complex types of discrimination, ranging from the neglect of their rights as a human being to abusive

action that can damage both of their physical and psychological side. These treatment often called as racial discrimination, while a belief that justify these action named racism (Olivier, et.al., 2019:3).

Race and racism was firstly originated and appeared based on the thought of Ancient Greek and Roman (Seth, 2020: 344-345). However, Rogers & Bowman (2017: 3) in their curriculum declared that the term is famously used in America when religion, especially Christian, became the one who justifies a race of someone during the reformation time. This happened when white European colonialization was surrounded by African slavery and Native American in South and North. The Catholic and Protestant church has to decide whether they have soul or not. The Catholic Church was the first one who admit that The African and The Native American has a soul and this also prevent them for get killed randomly by the white people.

Bowser (2017: 572-574) pointed out the earliest stages of this social phenomenon is started by the Native Americans who were under controlled by colonialization in America. During 1960's, the African-American people use this terms in order to fight for their right on Civil War which happened in 1861. This war involved the South side and the North side of America. Unfortunately, due to the lack of strategy, this movement was not successfully set them free from the low of economy condition. Hence, they cannot completely be apart from the racism in U.S.

In 1866, after the end of the Civil War, six former soldiers who also fought in the Civil War established the White supremacy party, the Ku Klux Klan. This party which only consists of white people considered themselves as the best race among the rest. They made this party in order to spread hatred and vanish the inferior group, not only African-American, but also Jews, Muslims, Immigrants, and many more. The Klan has sought to take complete advantage of the media for the past 143 years in order to attract the audience as much as possible to get its message known and extend. Those media sources have included media such as print, radio, videos, and the Internet (Sager, 2010: 1).

Kousser (2003:1) inferred the after effect of Civil War in America is the occurrence of Jim Crow Law made by white people. This is a government racial segregation that was made in order to separate white Americans with African-American where African-American had a limited access to social, economy, politics relationships, and even public accommodations. A historian, Leon Litwack describes Jim Crow as “the machinery of domination”, in order to emphasize that it was a system, with economic, social, and political components working together to oppress black Americans. Violence, and the threat of violence, was an integral component of the system. But Jim Crow was about more than violence, it was a whole system meant to limit black opportunities and advancement. The important part of Jim Crow was the denial of resources for African Americans (Que, 2010:2).

Racism can consist of various form in the society. Tyson in her book (2011:212-213) divided racism into three forms. These forms include institutionalized racism well known as systematic racism, intra-racial racism, and

the last internalized racism. All of the forms that previously mentioned can occur between one race to another or inside the race itself.

From the explanation above, the African-American community has received the numerous of racist treatment from white American people since many years ago. Not only start when they still serve as a slave, it also still continues even after they got independence. They still receiving some unfair treatment as they become minority in America. White American also made Jim Crow law that soon will oppressed the black American even more to live their life.

2.A.1. Institutionalized Racism

According to Jones (2002: 9) racism is not a defect in an individual's behaviour, a particular moral failure, or a mental disorder, instead it is a system which has been made by human. It is a system (made up of systems, rules, behaviors, and norms) that structures opportunity and assigns meaning based on phenotype, or how people appear.

Jones (2002: 9) also defines institutionalized racism as systems, policies, procedures, and norms that result in unequal access to society's goods, facilities, and opportunities based on "race" are referred to as institutionalized racism. Racism is institutionalized, often legalized, and often appears as inherited disadvantage. It is systemic, having been codified in our systems of tradition, practice, and law, so no recognizable perpetrator is needed. Indeed, institutionalized racism is often manifested as silence in the face of adversity.

2.A.2. Intra-racial Racism

Intra-racial racism is also classified as one of form of racism. Surprisingly, prejudice occurs not only between different races, but also within one race. A race can consist of certain groups and they often discriminate a group that they feel is more inferior than them (Busey, 2014: 120-121). Partida (2007:1) argued in his essay that this is primarily due to differences in culture and tradition, location, or even economic status. Outsiders to the culture may be unaware of this phenomenon, but it does occur.

In the same paper Busey (2014: 120) also divides the discrimination of intra-racial inside Black community into two forms which consist of colourism and borderism. Colourism or sometimes known as skin prejudice is a prominent form of intra-racial discrimination among Blacks that mostly influences Black identity. Colourism is linked with skin tone experiences. Borderism is associated with those who "break the colour line" by refusing to identify with perceived Black attitudes or ethnic identification. Even though colourism and borderism is not closely identical, but they do serve as the framework for problems of intra-racial class discrimination.

2.A.3. Internalized Racism

Internalized racism is not simply a self-blaming and feeling responsible in the context of racism. Internalized racism is mostly about cultural imperialism, dominance, structure, and the conformity of our racialized society's "way things are." Moreover, racism lately become more subtle than before, it is enrich with more avoidance than hostility. Racism is has been modified by the dominant group

through media, language, and daily necessities. Hence, the oppressed group unconsciously consider it as something normal and eventually live with it (Speight, 2007: 130).

Bivens (2005: 46) also added that internalized racism has a negative impact on the inner lives of people of colour. Since race is a social and political construct founded on an experience of oppressor-subject relationships based on physical attributes, it provides people of colour with a very restricted sense of self. This restricted sense of self, when combined with internalized racism, can weaken people of colour's confidence in full humanity and cause disrupt the understanding of the inner life of coloured people.

B. Sexism

Pryzgoda and Chrisler (2000: 553-554) on their article stated that the term sex refers to biological feature of someone that can differentiate them from being male, female, or even intersex. People often times misunderstood about meaning of the term sex and gender. Meanwhile, psychologists and people who study about these field coincide that the terms are remain two different things.

While sex refers to biological feature of someone, gender on the other hand is more likely about the behavioural or social characteristics that associates with man and woman (Pryzgoda & Chrisler, 2000: 514). Unlike sex that was originally given to someone since they born and it is hard to change, gender is an assumption that was made by the society on which dictates how you should life and behave based on your gender. As Deaux claimed in book entitled *Sexism and Stereotypes*

in Modern Society (1999)“...gender is complexly constructed by society, the assignments and manipulations of the laboratory are dependent on the larger cultural context”.

Consequently, the assumption from both gender leads to the appearance of stereotype. Stereotype based on gender is various assumptions made by society for a person to behave in a certain way or to have generalized character traits based on the fact that they belong to a certain gender or biological sex. Even though, the stereotype of each gender may appear as something positive or negative, stereotypes inherently disregard within-group variability and exaggerate between group distinctions (Brown, et.al., 2016: 106). The stereotype can form as man should not cry because it is not a masculine act and as for woman, they cannot be involved in a decision making process because they are assumed to be too emotional and neglect the logic side of something.

Moreover, numbers of stereotype have been made up in society forcing man and woman to act in certain way. Those stereotype later created a further assumption and prejudice towards both man and woman, but it mostly affects woman. This phenomenon called as sexism. Sexism was defined by Heather Savigny (2020: 1) as a discrimination based on assumption that man is superior over woman. This is not a recent phenomenon happens in society, however it already rooted since ancient age of humanity. It can be reflected from Emperor Caesar who invaded the Britain and when he got the highest place in kingdom he started to look down after woman (Xu, 2008: 101). As a result in modern world, women are frequently limited to access to coping sources. For instance, salary for

man is more high compare to woman. On some sides of the world, woman cannot get a proper education while man is force to pursue their dreams through education.

Consequently, to respond this mistreatment, women make up their mind and decide to fight against it. Movement was made in order to release woman from the negative stereotype which put them into marginalization from every aspects of their lives. Consistently with the African-American women, as a member of two subordinate group which are being black and woman, they cannot be excluded from the movement. Even though as woman, African-American women have the same interest with White women, they have less power because of their race. White woman still can have the authority or power through the relationship with white men, for example their father, husband, or even their son. Meanwhile, the black women has to deal with numbers of racial oppression along with black men (Lewis, 1977: 339-346).

Sexism is not only exist as a prejudice or assumption, it also can lead to another form of oppression. Nafi'ah (2016:22-23) on her thesis divided the oppression of sexism into two forms such as physical and psychological oppression. Physical wise, it consist of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and slavery. As for psychological oppression, there are verbal abuse, forced marriage (under control of men) and isolating from society.

2.B.1. Sexual Abuse

Wyatt (1985: 150-151) describes sexual abuse is a behaviour where sexual contact happened from including body contact which is consist of solicitations to

engage in sexual behaviour and non-body contact such as fondling, intercourse and oral sex. It can be happened to anyone without any exception from the gender and the age. Sexual abuse is also often happens to children prior to age 18 where they are already considered as a legal adult. The relationship within the perpetrator and the victim is varied, they can be stranger, acquaintance, or even family member. Someone can be defined as a perpetrator if their age was 5 years older than the victim (Jackson, 2007: 148).

Suprisingly, Finkelhor (1977: 105) exposed that numbers of studies which has been done in North America have stated that particular group of children tend to be more vulnerable to sexual abuse. They are children who have experienced parental divorce or separation or mostly lived with one parent, children who live step-parents, children whose parents are violent and hostile or have an addiction towards alcohol or drug.

2.B.2. Domestic Violence

Yaw (2013: 4) claimed that domestic violence is any forms of violence which were done by an intimate partner. Whereas, the domestic violence against women define as every sort of gender-based violence acts including physical and psychological threat or harm towards women both happening in public and private life.

Johnson (2005:1126) also reveals that there is more than one form of intimate partner violence through a major development of the literature on domestic violence. Those forms include (a) intimate terrorism which is violence committed

in the service of general authority over one's spouse, (b) violent resistance that defines as violence used in reaction to intimate terrorism and (c) violence that is not part of a general pattern of power and control but is a result of escalating conflict or a sequence of conflicts called as situational couple violence.

2.B.3. Slavery

Slavery is the status of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised. Even though this definition is short and brief, there is a long history until it was officially confirmed. The definition of slavery was established internationally in 1926 and it was confirmed in 1956 and repeated in essence as the concept of enslavement used in the 1998 Law of the International Criminal Court. (Allain, et.al., 2012: 3).

In history, Young (2005: 144) exposed the fact that African-American people have served white American people as their slave. Most scholars of the American past gave the topic little debate and maybe even less concern. The debate did not thoroughly penetrate the forefront of American historical debate until the mid-twentieth century. Oscar and Mary Handlin's "Origins of the Southern Labor System" ignited a century-long controversy as they proposed that slavery originated in British North America as an alteration to American conditions to formerly widespread modes of forced labor in the motherland. Coerced employment was not a new institution for the English who arrived in the New World, and British officials had devised a variety of methods for harvesting labor, including prosecution for villenage, vagrancy, bankruptcy, and vagabondage. Miscreants were also subjected to obedience as a means of discipline, and children and wives could be sold into

forced labor by the head of a household. In this sense, the British “antithesis of ‘free’ was not ‘slave’ but unfree; and within the condition of unfreedom, law and practice recognized several gradations”

2.B.4. Verbal Abuse

Stark (2015: 1975-1976) describes verbal abuse as a form of violence which happen between one individual to another through verbal actions and it can cause the victim to feel embarrassed, humiliated, insulted, or threatened. It can form as sarcastic speech and also bullying. When it becomes more intense, verbal abuse often times lead to physical abuse. Stark also stated that in order to maintain power and control, abusers will accuse their victims of wrongdoing, divert their attention, or devalue them by ridiculing, criticizing, joking, or countering their statements with correcting, contradicting, disputing, ignoring, interrupting, or refusing outright to listen them.

Gender continues to be listed as one of the causes for verbal harassment on the basis of multiple issues. The distinction of gender is used as the basis for the assignment of social roles, which are not only used as the basis for division of labor, but become a tool for social acceptance and rejection, economic, political, and the sharing of the roles and fundamental rights of both (Arista, 2017: 163).

2.B.5. Forced Marriage

Forced marriage different from planned marriage, in which both partners are likely to agree to the support of their parents or a third party, such as a matchmaker, in selecting and choosing a partner. There is also a spectrum of force

that is used to induce marriage, varying from pure physical aggression to indirect psychological pressure (Sharp, 2017:6).

In a book which United Nation of Human Rights (2014: 3-7) has published, they have been argued about the forced marriage since a long time ago stating that it is violates some of human rights instruments and standards. The United Nations considers forced marriage to be a manifestation of human rights abuses, such that it undermines the concept of the equality and sovereignty of persons. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights notes that the freedom of an individual to choose a partner and to enter freely into marriage is fundamental to their life and dignity and their equality as a human being.

2.B.6. Isolating from Society

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 15% and 71 percent of the world's more than 1.2 billion women have been victims of physical, sexual, or both forms of violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. They also often isolated from the society or the outside world because of the same reason continuously (Netto, et.al., 2017:2).

Netto (2017:7) also stated in the paper that women in intimate partner violence situations had a sociodemographic profile with fragile characteristics, as demonstrated by a lack of economic support for their livelihoods, financial reliance on their intimate partner, and loneliness, fragility, or rupture of relations with members of their social network. A discussion about social network isolation of women in violent contexts can be a first step toward a concerted and determined

intervention of financial, mental, and informational support. Recognizing their inclusion in a diverse and evolving social network of various individuals and organizations, these women are able to coordinate their attitudes in decision making.

To sum up every point that has been stated above, sexism also leads into harassment and violence against women. Woman is constantly thought to be physically weak compare to man. Due to this assumption, man oftentimes harass and violate them both physically and psychologically. This later can lead toward gender-based violence against women. Gender-based violence against women definition is any sort of act that can possibly harm women in every aspect.

3. Black Feminism

According to the *Encyclopedia of Feminism* by Lisa Tuttle (1986: 107-108), ‘feminism’ comes from Greek ‘femina’ means ‘having the qualities of females’. The term ‘feminism’ began to be used in reference to the theory of sexual equality and the movement for women’s right. This term is originated from the perception that there is something wrong with how the society treat women. In other words, this term refers to attempts to analyse the reasons for and dimensions of women’s oppression and to achieve women’s liberation. Safitri (2016: 3) divides things that feminism fight for which they particularly cannot have into two; (1) the gender equality between man and women, and (2) fight for the independence over man in deciding what best for herself.

As for Hooks in her book titled *Feminism is for Everybody* (2000:1-3) she defined feminism as a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. She likes this definition because she thought that definition clearly stated that feminism is not just all about anti-male movement. Instead, this definition give as an insight about society has made us accept the concept of sexist.

Historically, in 1848, feminism was born at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York where a group of 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, a panacea against sexism. This declaration, which mirrored the United States' Declaration of Independence, called for female equality. This meeting would signal the first feminist wave, which primarily addressed women's voting rights (Scott, et.al., 2005:3).

Feminism seeks for equality for women in general. It is extremely unfortunate, however, that the term is often associated with white women's struggle merely. This term is believed to exclude black women and other women of different colours. Simien (2005:534) asserted that feminism is generally associated with white women, and blacks that side with this movement are viewed as less authentic to their race by other African Americans.

After this first wave of feminism in America, the second wave of feminism appeared due to the concern of coloured women that the first wave of feminism did not cover racial prejudice and gender discrimination at the same time. They considered to be excluded in the public influence which was dominated by white

women. Thus, not only coloured women but also all feminists insist upon recognition between the relation of race, class, and gender (Madsen, 2000: 215).

The similar statement also comes from Hooks, she noticed in her book *Ain't I A Woman Black Women and Feminism* (1982: 122-123), in 19th century in America, the social status of black and white women has never been the same. Although they were both subject to sexist victimization, as victims of racism black women were subjected to oppressions no white women was forced to endure.

Then a new form of feminism emerged, claiming that racism, class oppression and sexism are interrelated. The representatives of this is “new wave” of feminism. It is often referred as black feminism. Black feminism argued that feminist ideology is unable to account for the unique experience of black women and that they needed (Madsen, 2000: 213).

Much of the important work on black feminism comes from a small cadre of black female intellectuals outside of political science. The work of some black feminist such as Audre Lorde, Bell Hooks, Barbara Smith, and Patricia Hill Collins among others is both theoretical and qualitative. For instance, through her book named as *Feminism is for Everybody* (2000: x), Bell Hooks tries to show everyone that through feminism we can end racism, class elitism, imperialism, and life in a world equally. She also describing some problem that women or black women can experienced in their life.

Patricia Hill Collin in her books *Black Feminist Thought* (1990) conceptualized context created by race, class and gender. She locates *Black*

Feminist Thought in the unique literary traditions forged by black women such as Bell Hooks, Audre Lorde, and Alice Walker as well as in the everyday experience of ordinary black women. In addition, black feminist thought is based on the intellectual heritage of black women, which is cultivated by the black women's culture. Furthermore, as a critical social theory, Black feminist thought seeks to empower African-American women in the sense of social inequality perpetuated by intersecting oppressions.

In *Black Feminism Thought* (1990: 260) Collins is also discussed about the power of sisterhood among African-American women. They are not unfamiliar with the concept of sisterhood. It has been rooted in their community ever since. African-American women loves to bond with the sisters from their families, churches, and other community organizations both younger and less experienced sisters. Their sisterhood can make them help each other when one of them has to face a harassment, abuse, or oppression anywhere.

For all of those reason, Black feminism has emerged as the needs of black women to fight for their own form of oppression that cannot fulfil in the first wave of feminism. Through this movement, black feminist activists try utter their misery to all over the world. They try to create a world where everyone should life equally without any boundaries.