

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Getting equality is a human right to live life in society. It is believed that all races and genders have the same right to be accepted. People should be treated the same as human beings regardless of their gender. For example, people have the same right to express their opinions, decide things, and be free from fears regardless of their gender. However, gender is often a topic of debate within the community and within the family. This debate about gender makes people have different views and concepts so it creates various kinds of problems and creates inequality and injustice that has an impact on humans themselves.

Talking about gender will automatically lead to talking about the relationship between women and men. The relationship between women and men is an issue that is quite interesting and is discussed quite often, even though there is no end in sight. Gender is defined as the nature that culture and society have associated with women and men since birth. Basically, gender is not a distinction between men and women because the only difference between the two is biological. However, these biological differences are given cultural expression, resulting in the assumption that women are weak creatures who require protection. Men then take advantage of women's weaknesses. Men outnumber women in a variety of life activities (Abdullah, 2001).

According to Holmes (2009), "*gender describes the ideas and practices that constitute femininity and masculinity.*" Holmes also says that women and men are treated and taught differently from birth. This treatment can be seen in how women and men dress and how women and men should behave according to their respective genders. Women and men are described in different ways in every way, such as women being more sensitive and men having to be strong and independent. All of that is created by social institutions or social constructions. As

a result, the distinction between men and women eventually gives birth to injustice and inequality in gender.

In social life, the relationship between women and men can be seen through the marriage relationship. In marriage, inequalities between women and men are seen, where one person influences and is influenced by the other. However, when people have power and dominance, it will be difficult to enforce that equality. This dominance structure is known as patriarchy, and it asserts that men and women have different roles. Men are in charge and in control at all times. Men will always have the upper hand over women. Women, on the other hand, are the weaker party and are constantly treated as second-class citizens, resulting in women's becoming victims of injustice and discrimination as a result of society's patriarchal system (Holmes, 2007).

Patriarchal culture is a way of life that emphasizes men's authority over women. Patriarchal society gives absolute priority to men and to some extent limits women's human rights also. Patriarchy refers to the male domination both in public and private spheres. In this way, feminists use the term 'patriarchy' to describe the power relationship between men and women as well as to find out the root cause of women's subordination (Sultana, 2010). The fate of women's lives is decided by patriarchal culture, which discriminates against women. Women are discriminated against, and women unconsciously acquiesce to the things that have been tied to them and tucked in by their families.

The power of patriarchy is also seen in the family, where a man is a leader. A wife must respect her husband and devote herself to her family. Marriage, which was once thought to be something beautiful and capable of bringing women happiness, is now thought to be a woman's worst nightmare. Marriage is not as sacred and beautiful as they imagine, but rather a place where patriarchy thrives. Marriage has now devolved into patriarchal cultural practices and rituals, which have then been incorporated into religion. A marriage that was supposed to be sacred and beautiful for domestic life has now devolved into a disaster. Women's

bodies are destroyed as a result of societal and cultural practices or traditions (Chakrabarty&Pandey, 2008).

This paper attempts to analyze the novel *One Part Woman*. *One Part Woman* is a Tamil novel written by an Indian author named Perumal Murugan. This novel has the original title, namely *Madorubhagan*, and was published in 2010, then translated into English in 2013 with the title *One Part Woman*. The novel is about a husband and wife who have been married for twelve years but have not been blessed with children. Because they have not been blessed with children, this husband and wife often get ridiculed by society and even by their own families. Ponna was always subjected to societal discrimination. Kali, who is always advised to remarry, and Ponna to attend a chariot festival where any woman and any man are allowed to sleep together in order to have children. The chariot festival at the temple of the female god Ardhanareeswara is a kind of party where any woman and any man are allowed to sleep together. Until one day, Ponna succeeded in participating in the festival and ruined their marriage.

The reason for choosing the novel *One Part Woman* as the object of *skripsi* is the problem of a strongly patriarchal culture that appears and is reflected in the novel. This novel clearly shows how women are treated in a patriarchal culture. Every decision is in the hands of the man, and everything that happens is the fault of the woman. Not only by men but injustice against women is also caused by groups such as in the family. In the novel, the main character becomes a victim of the patriarchal culture and without realizing it she accepts what is attached to her. In this novel, it is also explained that the strong impact of patriarchal culture destroys their marriage. The impact of patriarchy alienates couples who want to be like others. The issue of discrimination that occurs in the novel is described through the main character, Ponna.

1.2 Statement of the Study

Based on the research background, this research seeks to provide responses to the following questions:

1. How is the patriarchal culture portrayed in the novel?
2. How is the main character portrayed in the patriarchal culture in the novel?
3. What is the effect of patriarchal culture on the main character in the novel?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problem statement, this research aims:

1. To show the portrayal of patriarchal culture in the novel.
2. To show the portrayal of the main character in a patriarchal culture.
3. To show the effect of patriarchal culture on the main character.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Through this *skripsi*, the researcher hopes this *skripsian* provide information about the discrimination against women; this research can make the reader aware of how women face gender discrimination. This *skripsi* also covers information involving feminism as an approach to equalizing women's rights and getting equal treatment between men and women. This research can expand the knowledge of readers or other researchers about the study material being carried out. Furthermore, from this *skripsi*, the reader will realize that there are many types of discrimination that occur in society, such as gender discrimination. By reading the results of this study, the reader knows how much impact patriarchal culture has on society, especially for women, and that patriarchal culture should be eliminated. This *skripsi* is also expected to have a positive impact that will cause people to open their minds and be more concerned with situations that are often experienced by women.

1.5 Methodology of the Study

In writing this *skripsi*, the researcher uses the qualitative research methods. The researcher uses qualitative research methods because in this *skripsi* the data is in the form of words, phrases, and sentences written in the novel *One Part Woman*. The main source for this *skripsi* uses the *One Part Women* novel as its source. *One Part Woman* is a Tamil novel written by an Indian author named Perumal Marugal. This novel has the original title, namely *Madorubhagan*, and was published in 2010, then translated into English in 2013 with the title *One Part Woman* and has 183 pages. The data for this *skripsi* is some words, phrases, and sentences from the novel *One Part Woman*. The data is information that relates to the effect of patriarchal culture faced by women in the novel.

The researcher read the novel carefully, in order to understand the whole story. After reading the novel, the problems in the novel *one part women* were examined using patriarchal theory to analyze the problems that arise in the novel. Then the researcher classifies the data from the novel as the main data. After classifying the data, the researcher provides an explanation of the data discovered and matches up it to the theory used. The researcher then analyzed the data found in the novel *One Part Woman*, discussing and drawing conclusions based on the findings and supporting analysis.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this *skripsi* focuses on analyzing the portraits of the main character in patriarchal cultures in *One Part Woman* 2013 novel written by an Indian author Perumal Murugan. In this *skripsi*, the researcher focuses on the main character of the woman in the novel to analyze the effect of patriarchy and how the main character is portrayed in a patriarchal culture in *One Part Woman* novel. For the limitation of the study, the researcher uses the theory of feminism and patriarchal culture.

1.7 Status of the Study

The status in this *skripsi* is a portrait of the patriarchal culture of women in the novel, *One Part Woman*. To support this *skripsi*, the researcher has obtained several previous studies related to this *skripsi*. Previously, no one has analyzed the novel *One Part Woman* by Perumal Murugan. However, there are several studies related to topics that will be studied by the researcher, namely patriarchal culture and gender inequality. This *skripsi* also has a different research object from previous studies.

The first study is a study by Rosida and Rejeki with the title "Woman in Patriarchal Culture: Gender Discrimination and Intersectionality Portrayed in *Bob Darling* By Carolyn Cooke (2017)". The study conducted by Rosida and Rejeki uses a descriptive qualitative method applying the concept of gender discrimination by Mansour Fakhri and the concept of intersectionality by Kimberlé Crenshaw about the connection of multiple dimensions, such as gender and class in making discrimination. The similarity of the research conducted by Rosida and Rejeki with this *skripsi* is to show how women are portrayed in a patriarchal culture. In their research, they found that the stereotypes, subordination, and violence against women experienced by women were the result of gender discrimination. The difference from this *skripsi* that research conducted by Rosida and Rejeki uses a short story from Carolyn Cooke as the object of study, while this *skripsi* uses the novel *One Part Woman* from Perumal Murugan as the object of study. Also in this *skripsi*, the author found that women's suffering stems from not being able to give birth

The second study is an undergraduate thesis from Wibisono with the title "The effects of Patriarchal Culture on the Female Characters in Family life as seen in Jane Smiley's *Thousand Acres* (2010)." The study conducted by Wibisono uses the theory of character and characterization, the theory of patriarchy, and the theory of women's sexuality. Wibisono's study is similar to this *skripsi* because it discusses the effects and portraits of patriarchal culture on women. However,

Wibisno's study also discusses character and characterization in his study, while this *skripsi* only focuses on the impact of patriarchal culture on women. In Wibisono's study, he found that the impact of patriarchal culture on female characters is women's inferiority and trauma.

The third study related to this *skripsi* is a thesis by Sari titled " Patriarchal Oppression to the Main Characters in Etaf Rums's a Woman is No Man (2020). The similarity with this *skripsi* is that Sari uses radical feminism and Sylvia Walby's patriarchal theory to analyze the problems that arise in the novel. The purpose of the research conducted by Sari is to examine the forms of patriarchy that always threaten women. In the research conducted by Sari, she found four discoveries of patriarchy, namely the patriarchal mode of production, male violence, patriarchal state, and patriarchal culture. The difference from this *skripsi* is that the research conducted by Sari uses the novel A Woman is No Man by Etaf Rum as the object of research, while this *skripsi* uses the novel *One Part Woman* by Perumal Murugan as the object of research to be analyzed.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of four chapters:

1. Introduction: This chapter contains the background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, the significance of the study, methodology of the study, the status of the study, and organization of the study.
2. Review of Related Literature: This chapter describes a review of related studies and the type of analysis used in terms of the method.
3. Finding and Discussion: This chapter will discuss and answer the research problem and show how the research objectives are achieved. In this stage, all findings will be analyzed.
4. Conclusion: This chapter will discuss the results of the research and suggestions to the readers