

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Prof. H. Horne, *“education is a perennial process of adjustment is higher for the creatures that have evolved physically, mentally free and conscious of God as manifested in the environment, intellectual, emotional and willingness of humans.”* (Horne, 1904) Through this statement, it can be concluded that education is a process that continues and never stops throughout our lives, the process of education development is not only through school, but a life full of struggle can also be an important lesson in shaping one's personality structure. The education received, which grows along with increasing age and maturity, will picture how a person behaves in their environment.

Through the "Problem Posing Education" method introduced by Paulo Freire, education is not just information or knowledge transferred through the teacher to students and stored in mind. However, more than that, the information received through the education system must make students have a critical mindset, especially In dealing with problems in life. The best education system is not only used by the student to survive and be responsible for their lives, but more than that, it can give a person the strength to act and fight the oppression they may experience in society in this current time or the future.

Responding to the importance of education especially for children's, will positively impact the child survival instinct in society, it takes not only the role of parents, but also the role of the government in providing facilities for shaping the personality and character of children through adequate facilities in the realm of education.

Through the provisions organized by the UNCRC, few government agencies still ignore the interests of the right to an education that children should accept. One of those countries is Pakistan, labeled as "the world's worst-performing countries in education," at the 2015 Oslo Summit on Education and Development. The new government, sworn in July 2018, stated in its manifesto that nearly 22.5

million children were out of school. Girls are very affected. 32% of girls of primary school age are out of school in Pakistan, compared to 21% of boys. By sixth grade, 59% of girls have dropped out of school, compared to 49% of boys. Only 13% of girls are still in school up to the ninth grade. Both boys and girls lose an unacceptable amount of education, but girls got the worst impact among all the conditions.

According to the latest news from BBC, in 2018, Pakistan's turbulent state of affairs caused by political instability, problems with the security forces, repression of civil society and media, violent insurgency, and rising ethnic and religious tensions are all poisoning Pakistan's current social landscape. The government seems to ignore the basic needs considered crucial as a form of civil rights, the issue of the importance of equitable basic education, especially for girls and women in Pakistan. The description of the lack of access to adequate education for girls is also evidence of gender inequality in Pakistan. A girl's birth is considered a disadvantage because women's role in Pakistan is only as a housewife, even though they are forced to marry at a young age. The rampant sexual violence that occurs illustrates how the government does not take serious steps in protecting girls and women from crime.

With the series of problems that occur in the occurrence of injustice between equal rights of children, especially girls, in pursuing education, the present writer decided to investigate the reflection of the case by choosing one of the distribution media for literary works. This novel represents the current problem as the material for this *skripsi*. The present writer chooses one of the literary novels written by the author Aisha Saeed entitled *Amal Unbound* (2018).

Aisha Saeed is a Pakistani American woman is a children's book author whose one of her works with the renowned New York Times entitled *Amal Unbound* as one of the bestsellers. Although the works written by Aisha are categorized as children's and youth reading, the meaning contained in each of her works contains many deep messages that all ages can accept. Apart from being an author, Saeed own one of the grassroots, non-profit organizations, *We Need Diverse Books* campagne.

Inspired by the story of Malala, Saeed create and describe *Amal* which has a similar problems and conditions as any other Pakistan girls. Malala is a young woman who became the victim of a Taliban shooting in 2012 because of her courage in expressing her desire for equality in education, especially for girls in Pakistan. The regulation made by the Taliban in 2008, prohibiting girls from going to school, was the root of the shooting against her. Malala continues to speak out openly about the right to study for girls, both verbally to fellow women in Pakistan, and on international media platforms. This provoked the Taliban terrorists to target Malala for assassination. In 2012, one of the Taliban terrorist envoys broke into Malala's school bus and shot her three times in the head. After being rushed to a Pakistani military hospital and transferred to a hospital in Birmingham, England, Malala managed to wake up from after ten days from coma and began the recovery process. Malala wrote a book about what she experienced and won a Nobel Prize for her heroic actions in fighting for education for girls. (Malala Fund, 2021)

Through Malala life journey, Saeed drew inspiration for the character *Amal*, who has a strong desire to learn and resonates in Malala's life stories, from the battle that Malala fought for, especially with relation to girls' rights to an education. *Amal* represents many other Pakistani women who are often treated unfairly when fighting for their rights and against the inequality in Pakistan.

As the strong and brave characer, Amal has big dreams to become a teacher in the future, when suddenly the nightmarish event encounter and took away all she had from her life. Twelve-year-old Amal's accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate.

Amal is distraught but has faced setbacks before. So she summons her courage and begins navigating the complex rules of life as a servant, with all its attendant jealousies and pecking-order woes. Most troubling, though, is Amal's increasing awareness of the deadly measures the Khan family will go to in order to stay in control. It's clear that their hold over her village will never loosen as long as everyone is too afraid to challenge them—so if Amal have any chance of ensuring

her loved ones' safety and winning back her freedom, she must find a way to work with the other servants to make it happen.

With the description of a fictional figure created by Aisha Saeed in her novel, this research will focus on how Amal's struggle to pursue an education and life learning. The research will focus on several factors within Amal and her surrounding environment, so her character becomes so prominent and different from other Pakistani girls who live with limitations and disabilities.

Through her life's journey, Amal will gain so much meaning about various life learning skill. Beginning with her study habits in school, and moving on to how she handled chores after being compelled to drop out, also how she overcoming her situations where she was forced to work as a servant at the Sahib's estate. Through the data collected, The present writer will illustrate how Amal's character was shaped by her knowledge, which set her apart from other Pakistani girls and ultimately led to her liberation.

Amal Unbound illustrates the importance of learning and reading, which will be the pioneer in writing this *skripsi* by quoting series of things that happened in Amal's life that reflected in the slice of events about the role of women in dealing with inequalities and pressure of modern-day slavery, as a servant to pay her parents debt. The present writer choose the intrinsic element of theme raised by Saeed, and will make education as a highlight. With a sociological approach to literature, Sapardi Djoko Damono, in the book *Sociology of Literature* (2020:5), states, "this approach to literature that considers social aspects, by some writers, is referred to as the sociology of literature." everything related to the novel circumstances and the real world, will be used as the basis analyze. Through the theme analysis, it is hope that readers will more aware with the issues that occur in society written by the author.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

1. How is Amal's struggle as a Pakistani girl in pursuing learning?
2. What are the impacts of Amal's self motivation of her pursuing in learning?

3. What messages are obtained through Amal's pursuit of learning?

1.3 Purpose of The Study

1. To find out Amal's struggle as a Pakistani girl in pursuing learning.
2. To find out the impacts of Amal's self motivation of her pursuing in learning.
3. To find out messages are obtained through Amal's pursuit of learning.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The results of the research will provide an overview of the context of Pakistani women, especially in obtaining the right to education, both for the present writer and readers to see the meaning of the struggle of the main character Amal, who did not give up on her education, despite having various limitations that occurred in terms of culture, family and also financial condition. Through the analysis of the theme of education and sociology as a theoretical basis, it is hoped that it will be able to compare the struggle of Amal and the real situation of Pakistani women, especially in the field of education. Seeing the magnitude of the struggle that Amal's doing, it seems that she can provide a perspective in terms of building self-motivation, to place the importance of education and its impact on changing a person's life and the environment.

1.5 Methodology Research

The research methodology used in this works is descriptive qualitative. The present writer will analyze the novel through the themes, characterizations, and settings contained in the novel which relate to Amal's struggles in pursuing learning and reading. The present writer will focus on Amal's perspective through a problem, about what she does, and a series of decisions she makes especially in her struggle to keep on learning in every conditions.

The present writer will collect the data on how the any other characters will responds to Amal that relate to her struggle and self motivation in obtaining her education in both formal and informal situation and how her actions affect both her

and those around her. The present writer will use sociological literary theory to compare the correlation of events in the novel and in real life to identify the message of a strong desire to pursue a learning.

1.6 Scope And Limitation of the Study

This novel, in general, is full of various themes such as, the power of education, family, courage, gender discrimination, and child labor. In this *skripsi*, the present writer will focus on the theme of education. Through various female characters in the novel, the present writer will focus on Amal, as one of the main female characters in the novel who are struggling to get her right in education as a girl, student, daughter, and servant.

1.7 Status of the Study

Previous studies about Aisha Saeed' Novel *Amal Unbound* have been conducted. They are as follows:

First, the research paper entitled "*Reconceptualization of Gender Relations in Saeed's Amal Unbound*" created by Dr. Muhammad Asif (Corresponding Author), Nimra Zafar, and Tahreem Iftikhar. This research focus on gender relation, reconceptualizing women status, women and environment, Proliferation of conscious and unconscious objectification of women.

Second, the research paper entitle "*Rethinking gender discrimination: the restriction of Pakistan women's rights through cultural and political interests as portrayed in Aisha Saeed's Amal Unbound*" (Elah Patimah, 2021) created by Patimah, Tri Septa Nurhantoro, Dwi Lisa Susanti, student of Respati Yogyakarta University. This research focus on restriction of Pakistan women rights through cultural and political interest, gender bias issue, and gender discrimination.

Both of the previous studies have conveyed gender relation and discrimination occurred by Amal in the novel. However, none of them focuses on Amal's struggle and journey to survive in her life, especially in pursuing her education. Therefore, this research will fill the gap by analyzing Amal's struggle in pursuing her education.

1.8 Organization Of The Study

This paper will present in several chapters, noted as follows:

Chapter 1 : Introduction

In chapter one, the present writer will focus on the background of the study, statements of the problem, purposes of the study, the significance of the study, the methodology of the study, scope and limitation of the study, the status of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter 2 : Review of Selected Literature

In chapter two, the present writer will focus on a literature review that provides information to investigate research problems. The theme analysis will become the center of the main character, Amal, in pursuing her dream and fighting for her right to get an education. Research would start from the theme, characterizations, and setting analysis contained in the novel. Sampling will be quoted directly and analyzed according to events in the novel as the reflection of the real world using the sociological theory approach.

Chapter 3 : Findings and Discussions

In chapter III, the present writer will describe the findings from the analysis carried out and begin to analyze the events that occur to the main character in pursuing her education. The conflicts that occurred in the book will reflect the reality that occurs in Pakistani society, where the presence of women in society is very disadvantaged and is rarely taken into account. Amal's struggle to obtain education will highlight the research that goes into chapter three.

Chapter 4 : Conclusion and Suggestions

In chapter IV, the present writer will present the conclusions of the research conducted and provide the answers to the problem statement, also suggestions for future writers.