

WOMEN DISCRIMINATION IN NOVEL *GINKO* BY JUN'ICHI WATANABE

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Abstract: *This study analyzes the discussion of women in the Ginko novel. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method designed to describe women's conversations in the Ginko novel. The feminist view used in the Ginko novel by Jun'ichi Watanabe, feminist Women must have the same money as men to succeed in society. This study found that women must have money, where at that time (Meiji era) there were clear boundaries between men and women. The difficulties and debates that occur are due to Ginko's ideals being considered, because he wants to become a doctor. His ability and intelligence are hampered only because he is a woman. It can be concluded in the Meiji era, there were those who opposed women in the Ginko Novel.*

Key words: *Women Discrimination, Novel Ginko, Feminism*

INTRODUCTION

As cultural documentation in complete a literary work reflection cultural of documentation in literature is a relationship between men and women and their respective roles in the culture that surrounds them. Male and female relations are a issue that never ends, but it continues to grow. The relationship between them becomes a phenomena because of the system patriarchy dominates in society. Society recognizes that men have a higher position than women. This construction continues and form a culture that preserves and legalizes.

Patriarchy is defined as a system that considers men destined to govern women. Then it was clarified by Walby's (2014) paradigm, which states that patriarchy is a system of social structures and practices that position men as the dominant party, oppress and exploit women. The use of the term social structure to show rejection of biological determinism and the idea that each male individual is in a dominant position and every individual woman in a subordinate position. Based on these definitions, the researcher concludes that patriarchy is a social system applied in society which perpetuates male

domination of women.

Japan is one country that is still strict with the system patriarchy. The patriarchal system causes a lot of discrimination experienced by women, discrimination refers to services that are unfair to certain individuals, and this service is based on the characteristics represented by the individual. Forms of discrimination against Japanese women are seen among Japanese women who are always talking to men. The first to fight, then after marriage with discussion, and after his son grows up to be his son who needs a family head (Okamura, 1983). Japan has a gender stereotype construction as follows: *Otokowamatsu, onnawafuji* (A man is a pine tree, a woman is a wisteria; a woman depends on a man just like a wisteria, a climbing plant with white or purple flowers that winds around a pine tree); and *Otokowadokyo, onnawaikyoo* (Men should be daring, women should be charming).

From the two expressions above, it can be seen that in terms of linguistics and history, the idea of gender in Japan has constructed as a 'dependent' party even roughly only as 'burden' for men and only needs to be charming life. Patriarchal culture whose ideas about gender made this inequality exist in Japan for centuries, even the spread of Japanese beliefs, namely *Shintoism* and *Buddhism*, actually made gender inequality spread among Japanese society at the end of the Heian era. The reason is because the two beliefs associate women with impurity and sinfulness from birth, because women's blood is considered to be impure (blood when they come during the month and during childbirth). This expression was finally used to promote the inferior status of women who were forever considered 'lower' than men. There was even an expression of superior men superior, inferior women in the Meiji era. And the state in this case actually made this belief a state religion in the Meiji era. Furthermore, the Japanese government issued an education policy aimed at reducing the role of women and train women as the "good wife, wise mother".

The novel, *Ginko*, was written by Jun'ichi Watanabe. The novel *Ginko* as a result of the translation of the novel "*Hanauzumi*" translated by PT. The Serambi Ilmu Universe in 2012 with Istiani Prajoko's translator. The novel was also published in Indonesian titled *Beyond the blossoming field* by Deborah Iwabuchi and Anna Isozaki with publishers Alma Books Ltd, England in 2009. The novel tells story of a woman's life journey from Tawarase village named Gin, the youngest daughter of the upper class family of Ogino famous for being beautiful and smart. This story begins with the return of Gin from home her husband's family suddenly and without permission from her husband. Not long after Gin's return, word got out about Gin's divorce. Reasons proposed by her husband's family Gin is

too weak and can't give off spring. Few people know the cause actually the divorce is because gonorrhoea contracted Gin (disease sex) of spring. Even though it had been seduced so that Gin returned to the family agree.

Gin opposes being rejected. It was unusual at that time. Gin who was embarrassed by the divorce got worse when the disease he considered a disgrace was only handled by a male doctor because at that time there were no female doctors in Japan. However, that event also triggers Gin to rise from sadness. Gin is determined to be doctor so that other Japanese women do not suffer like himself.

Jun'ichi is a writer born in Hokkaido in the year 1933. He began to be interested in the world of writing while going to school middle class. When he was a medical student at Sapporo University, he was experimenting with writing and starting to publish the writing on a number of literary magazines. After graduating as a doctor, he opened the practice as a orthopedic surgeon, but then he resigned and moved to Tokyo to pursue the world of authorship. He started his career as a full author. Some of his works are biographical novels and sometimes medical background. Besides *Hanauzumi*, the popular novel is *Shitsuraken* (A Lost Paradise) which became a best-selling book in Japan and various countries Asia. Jun'ichi Watanabe has produced more than 50 works of literature, and in many of which have been filmed. Watanabe also won a number of awards in the field of literature and writing, including the Naoki award in 1970 for the *Hikari to kage* (Light and Shadow) novel and Eiji Yoshikawa award at in 1979 for *Toki rakujitsu* and *Nagasaki roshiayukan* novels.

Ginko was chosen by the author to become the object in this study because the novel was considered to be discrimination of women issues. The novel set in the life of Japanese people at the beginning of the Meiji era which is still very strict with patriarchal culture. The author then tries to explain all kinds of discrimination women from the patriarchal culture contained in the novel, while explaining feminist ideas contained in it. Feminist literary criticism was then chosen as a theory to uncover all problems women and gender in *Ginko* novel because feminist literary criticism is considered as the right theory to uncover all women's problems inside a literary work. Liberal feminism is considered the most appropriate theory for analyze Jun'ichi *Ginko* novel, considering the novel tells the story of the struggle of a woman to get the same opportunity as a man in education, namely medical education, the profession, and also opportunities the same in politics.

In the 18th century liberal feminism appears in the form of ideas about a just and supportive society self-development of women who are the same as men. Tong (2008).

Ideas of thought then it is more focused on equal education. The eighteenth century, the economic and social position of European women was declining, productive work (income-generating work from which families could live) then the power of industrial capitalism began to draw power out of private homes and to the public. In the workplace, this industrialization moves slowly and unevenly, giving the strongest impact on married bourgeois women. Where women in the century are considered only allowed to do work inside the house and only become a means of fun for her husband. What Wollstonecraft wants most for women is personality. He claimed that a woman should not be reduced to "a man's toy, his toy," who "had to jingle in his ear every time, ignoring the reason, he chose to feel comforted. "In other words, a woman is not a mere means, "or an instrument, for one or more men's pleasures or happiness. Instead, he is "inner-self," a rational agent whose dignity consists of having the capacity for self-determination.

To treat someone as a mere means is to treat him as someone who is less than someone, as someone who is not for himself but as a complement to others. Wollstonecraft insists that rationality is the capacity that distinguishes humans from animals, so unless women are mere animals (descriptions rejected by most men apply to their own mothers, wives, and daughters), women and men have this capacity. So, society owes girls to education that is the same as that of boys, only because all humans deserve equal opportunities to develop their rational and moral capacities so that they can achieve full personality.

This thesis entitled *Women Discrimination in Novel Ginko by Jun'ichi Watanabe (feminism approach)*, the author is interested in how this novel is discrimination against women in the main role in the novel *Ginko*. The study attempts to analyze women discrimination using the theory cultural studies is feminist approach because the theory is relevant to analyze women discrimination in this novel.

METHOD

This research uses the qualitative method. Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The qualitative method used in this thesis is more directed to descriptive research (Tjahyadi, Andayani, & Wafa, 2020). Data source is collection this research, this research uses primary and secondary data as data source. The primary data of this research takes from the *Ginko* by Jun'ichi Watanabe. Primary of the data source here was comprised all movement, gesture, facial exp. In this study, the researcher had chosen

Ginko novel by Jun'ichi Watanabe as the source of the data. The data of this research were taken from the novel of *Ginko* by Jun'ichi Watanabe was published in 1970. Secondary data source is obtainable from some source, from literature research (library research) such as: articles, books, thesis, by studying and reviewing the literature that related to the problem of study to support the assumption of the theoretical basis for the subject matter covered. Another source from internet as the other source to complete the research.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Discrimination is a form of attitude and behavior that violates human rights (Ihromi, 2007: 7). Discrimination can also be interpreted as a treatment of individuals differently based on racial, religious, gender factors. Any harassment, restriction or exclusion of race, religion or gender is considered discriminatory. Discrimination against women violates women's human rights. Recommendation No.19 of the 1992 session of the Committee on Violence against Women contained in the Act states that discrimination includes violence based on sex, that is violence directed at women because she is a woman or has disproportionate influence on women (Ihromi, 2007 : 54). Women discrimination is an injustice by differentiating attitudes and treatment of fellow human beings based on gender.

Japan is one country that is still thick with the system patriarchy. The patriarchal system causes a lot of discrimination experienced by women. Guardian launch news about the disclosure of cases of fraud committed by Tokyo Medical University. In that case, Tokyo Medical University deliberately cheated female applicant entrance test scores so that more male applicants were accepted. Riko Miyauchi, one of the applicants, said that initially he considered the news about the campus that deliberately thwarted female applicants was just a rumor, but in fact the case did occur and was revealed in August 2018 ago.

The research would present the result of the research, the data from novel *Ginko* by Jun'ichi Watanabe. The *Ginko* novel is a biographical novel about Ginko Ogino, Japan's first female doctor. Ogino was born into a rich farming family in 1851, when Japanese society was still heavily male-dominated. She married into a family that was equally rich but divorced when she contracted gonorrhoea - a venereal disease that was difficult to cure at that time. The disease she got from her husband. Gin, who lives in a rural area, does not receive appropriate medical treatment. It was only when she went to Tokyo she was examined by a midwifery doctor. She embarrassment was examined by a male

obstetrician who made her determined to become a midwifery doctor too, so that the shame she suffered from being examined by a male doctor was not experienced by other women.

Ginko figures experience discrimination in the form of subordination, which is a belief that the position of women is lower than the position of men (Muchdi: 2001). This form of subordination is seen at Ginko marriages. Not once was he asked about her marriage; she was forced to just marry a future husband chosen by the family. The problem arises when Ginko contracted a venereal disease (Gonorrhoea) from her husband, and finally returned to her biological parent's home with the disease. She return brought a stir for residents in the small village of Tawarase, as shown in the following quote. Ginko figures experience discrimination in the form of subordination, which is a belief that the position of women is lower than the position of men (Muchdi: 2001).

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“Ketika pertamakali dibujuk untuk segera menikahkan putri bungsunya itu, Kayo langsung setuju. Tak satu kali pun Gin ditanyai. Gin pun melakukan apa yang diperintahkan dan seluruh prosesnya dijalankan sesuai adat istiadat yang berlaku”.
(Watanabe, 2013:14)

“When she was first persuaded to immediately marry off his youngest daughter, Kayo immediately agreed. Not once was Gin questioned. Gin also did as she was told and the whole process was carried out according to the prevailing customs”.
(Watanabe, 2013:14)

During the Meiji period where the Japanese imperial throne was dominated by men because of the strong influence of Confucianism. The teachings of Confucius as a patriarchal heritage show maledomination, limiting women's freedom and coercion they submit to men. In the teachings of Confucius, among others, said that the wife must respect her husband, a wife is expected to devoted himself without thinking about his own interests for welfare the husband's family, and wife are more important to bear children and objects of love.

In the previous stage, Ginko experienced discrimination before he entered medical school: the impossible desire of a woman. At this stage, the discrimination experienced by

the Ginko figure will be outlined during his schooling in medical school. A professor named Ishiguro is a person who realizes that female obstetrics is highly needed. Her experience as an obstetrician gives an illustration that women are ashamed if their female condition is examined by male obstetricians:

“Aku setuju denganmu. Secara umum perempuan itu pemalu dan terutama tidak suka jika diperiksa kondisi keperempuannya. Aku sendiri bingung tentang bagaimana menangani masalah tersebut. Akan sangat bermanfaat jika ada dokter perempuan untuk mengatasi masalah semacam itu. Tidak ada mata kuliah di fakultas kedokteran yang tidak dapat dipelajari perempuan sehingga tidak ada alasan bagi perempuan untuk tidak diperbolehkan menjadi dokter.” Watanabe, 2013:147)

“I agree with you. In general, women are shy and especially do not like being examined the condition of her woman. I myself am confused about how to deal with the problem. It would be very useful if there were female doctors to deal with such problems. There are no courses in medical faculty that cannot be studied by women so there is no reason for women not to be allowed to become doctors”. (Watanabe, 2013:147)

Conditions such as those expressed by Professor Ishiguro were not accompanied by changes in the system or the addition of facilities for women attending medical schools. The Ginko case, for example, although the Chancellor of the University was indeed willing to accept Ginko, he did not provide special accommodation for a student, not in terms of facilities, equipment, or adjustments to the rules. If Ginko wants to come in, his presence will be tolerated, but that's all. Since the first day, nothing, except for harsh treatment.] (Watanabe, 2013: 150).

Ginko graduated from medical school right when the first licensing regulations were enacted. Every doctor before doing practice must get a license, through a difficult exam. Ginko registered for the licensing exam but was refused

“Tanpa ragu Ginko mengirimkan surat permohonannya. Seperti yang diduga permohonan itu ditolak dengan ketus bersama sebuah pesan”Belum ada preseden seorang perempuan menerima lisensi kedokteran.” Tahun berikutnya Ginko kembali mendaftar. Lagi-lagi ditolak. (Watanabe, 2013:199)

“Without a doubt Ginko sent his application. As expected, the request was rejected with a curt message "There is no precedent for a woman to receive a medical

license." The following year Ginko re-registered. Again rejected". (Watanabe, 2013:199)

CONCLUSION

Finding and discussion of the research *Women Discrimination in novel Ginko by Jun'ichi Watanabe (feminist approach)* on the issue of gender equality and education for women is not only a problem in the realities of life, but also an issue illustrated in literary works to date. This is because literary works are a socio-cultural phenomenon. In a literary work the real world and the fictional world are intertwined; one is meaningless without the other. The existence of literary works side by side with the world of reality; what happens in reality often inspires writers to reflect it again in the literary works they create.

The Ginko novel written based on the story of the first female doctor accompanied by all the contradictions about it could become the first female doctor in Japan. This study found the sex experienced by Ginko, because the sex was female, which at that time (Meiji era) there were clear boundaries between men and women. Difficulties and successful discrimination due to Ginko's ideals are considered, which is to become a doctor. She abilities and abilities only collide because she is a woman. Confucian ideology that teaches women must consider men and the patriarchal system was also a cause of debate in the Meiji era. Seeing the description experienced by Ginko figures, it can be concluded at the time of Meiji Placed against women, which was discussed in the Ginko novel.

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