

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE FEMINISM IN THE NOVEL KIM JIYOUNG,
BORN 1982**

A RESEARCH PAPER

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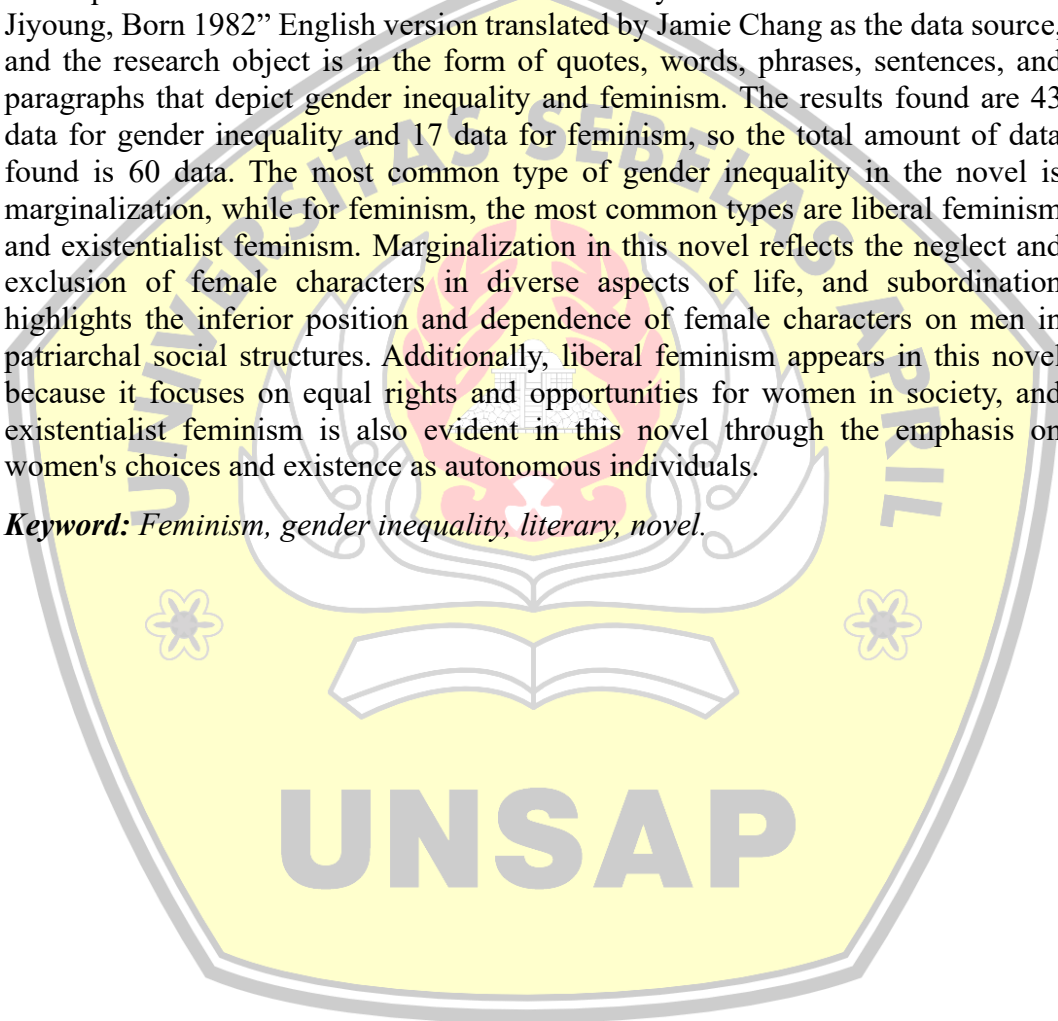


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ABSTRACT

This research is entitled “**An Analysis of The Feminism in The Novel Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982**”, with the aim of knowing the type of gender inequality with theory from Fakih (1996) and the struggle of female characters represented with the type of feminism according to Tong (2009) that appears in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”. The research method in this study is descriptive qualitative with three steps of data analysis according to Miles & Huberman (2014) as data analysis technique. This research choose A Korean novel by Choo Nam-Joo entitled “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” English version translated by Jamie Chang as the data source, and the research object is in the form of quotes, words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs that depict gender inequality and feminism. The results found are 43 data for gender inequality and 17 data for feminism, so the total amount of data found is 60 data. The most common type of gender inequality in the novel is marginalization, while for feminism, the most common types are liberal feminism and existentialist feminism. Marginalization in this novel reflects the neglect and exclusion of female characters in diverse aspects of life, and subordination highlights the inferior position and dependence of female characters on men in patriarchal social structures. Additionally, liberal feminism appears in this novel because it focuses on equal rights and opportunities for women in society, and existentialist feminism is also evident in this novel through the emphasis on women's choices and existence as autonomous individuals.

Keyword: *Feminism, gender inequality, literary, novel.*



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the research and is followed by a research question. The scope of the research is made to limit the focus of the problems to be discussed in this study. In addition, this chapter also contains the purpose of the research and the benefits of the research for the readers.

A. Background of The Research

Feminism is currently one of the hot topics that is often discussed among the public. Until this day, there are still many people who think that women are weak people who depend on men. As is well known, most of married women tend to stay at home and doing household jobs, while men work outside the home to earn money and support their family. Not a few people think that women are not suitable and not worthy enough to work in a company and have a high position compared to men. According to Suryamah (2019) in a family, a husband is indeed the most dominant in holding power as the head of the household, and a wife is usually the party that has to obey the decisions made by her husband.

With this thought, a movement emerged to fight for women's rights and eliminate all kinds of gender inequality in society. This movement is called feminism. Feminism is a movement that strives for justice, emancipation, and women rights for those who are equal to men (Wilany, 2017). Feminism rejects gender oppression and discrimination to the women. As explained by Laswaniyah

(2021) feminism demands changes that lead to gender equality in the family, society, work and education.

So far, the position of women has always been considered lower rather than men, and this has become a stereotype in society. Therefore feminism occurs because there is a desire to change society's opinion of women (Suryamah, 2019). Women deserve to the same rights as men, such as getting a proper and equal job with men regardless of gender. In the household, a wife also has the right to voice her opinion freely without having to feel afraid of the power of a husband as the head of the family. This is what the feminist movement wants to achieve.

Nowadays, the portrayal of feminism has been done a lot, one of them is through literary works. Literary work is a written art that can be enjoyed and understood by people. A literary work is created because of an inner war experienced by an author, then from those events and problems, an imaginary idea emerges which is expressed in the form of a piece of writing (Suryamah, 2019). Literary works are made with the aim of re-describing the reality of people's lives so that people can identify themselves to live a more meaningful life. A literary work is also able to provide benefits in the form of moral values for its readers, even though some of the literary works are fiction.

Feminism that emerges from literary works can be in the form of films or novels. With the rapid development of technology, film has become one of the media choices to raise issues that are currently happening in society. According to Klarer (2004) film creates the perception of a moving image by presenting a series of individual shots in rapid succession to the human eye. It can be said that film is

one of the media for conveying messages that is able to attract audiences to convey a special message.

Novel has a role that is similar to film. A writer will express their ideas or thoughts about an issue that is currently being discussed among the public in a form of text. The novel is one of the most popular written literary works. A message that is conveyed to the audience by the author through the words that make up a story in a novel, allowing the readers to use their own imagination.

According to Taylor (cited in Mandey, 2019) novel is a form of complex literary work that generally considered to contain around forty-five thousand words or more. Novels can describe a place in detail so as to provide a clear, concrete and definite description of a story. Novel as a literary genre offers a model that contains life values. Novels are imaginative prose narratives of a certain length, usually dealing with human experience and social behaviour.

Novels with feminism aspect have been written by many novel authors which cannot be separated from the understanding that women are soft person and men are strong person (Asih, 2018). This concept is considered interesting to note because women are frequently portrayed as a weak, while men are always portrayed as a strong one, and women are always being the object of oppression. Based on this explanation, a lot of novel writers voiced their ideas about gender equality or it is often called feminism.

One of novels that raises the issue of feminism is the Korean novel entitled "Kim Jiyong, Born 1982" by Cho Nam-Joo. The author, Cho Nam-Joo, clearly wants to show people that gender discrimination occurs every day. When she asked

about the origins of sexism, Cho Nam-Joo said that when the people born, boys are welcomed, while girls are not.

Through the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” by Cho Nam-Joo, we will learn more about the struggles faced by a woman from a young age to adulthood to get the life they dream of. In society, there are still stereotypes about women who are considered cannot be better than men. In South Korea itself, which may seem bright, there is still a problem of gender inequality.

Research on feminism in novels has been done before. First is research by Ramdani, Munawaroh, and Dinata (2021) entitled *An Analysis of Feminism in The Movie “Maleficent” by Robert Stromberg* which focuses on discussing about the kind of feminism in Maleficent film by Robert Stromberg included in ecofeminism and the factors causing the appearance of feminism in Maleficent film by Robert Stromberg. Second, the research entitled *Women’s Emancipation in Movie: A Feminism Analysis in Birds of Prey by Cathy Yan* by Ni’mah (2022). This research focuses the emancipation of Harley Quinn as a main character that contained in the movie Birds of Prey. Third, a research entitled *An Analysis of Feminism in “Moana” Movie* was conducted by Patimah (2018). This research focuses on the role of women in Moana. Vega (2018) also conducted a research with the title *The Portrayal of Women in Selena Gomez’s Selected Song Lyrics (Feminism Concept)*. The purpose of this research is to analyze the feminism meaning in Selena Gomez’s selected song lyrics.

This research has differences with the previous studies that have been mentioned. Although the theory used is the same as the studies above, this research

has differences in the aspects of the research object. This study was made to find out the forms of gender inequality, gender oppression, and how the struggle of the female character in Novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* in facing the patriarchal world that they experienced before and after marriage using theory of gender inequality from Fakhri (1996) and feminism theory from Tong (2009).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in discussing the feminism in the Korean novel “*Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*” English version by Cho Nam-Joo and translated by Jamie Chang.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of writing this study, the focus of the problem will be raised by the researcher in this study are:

- a. What kind of gender inequality in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*?
- b. How are the struggles of the female character in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*?

C. Scope of The Research

The scope of this research is feminism in the novel “*Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*”. In this discussion to limit the analysis the researcher focuses on the gender inequality and the struggles of the female character facing the patriarchy that occurs in their life in novel “*Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*” using theory of gender inequality from Fakhri (1996) and feminism theory from Tong (2009).

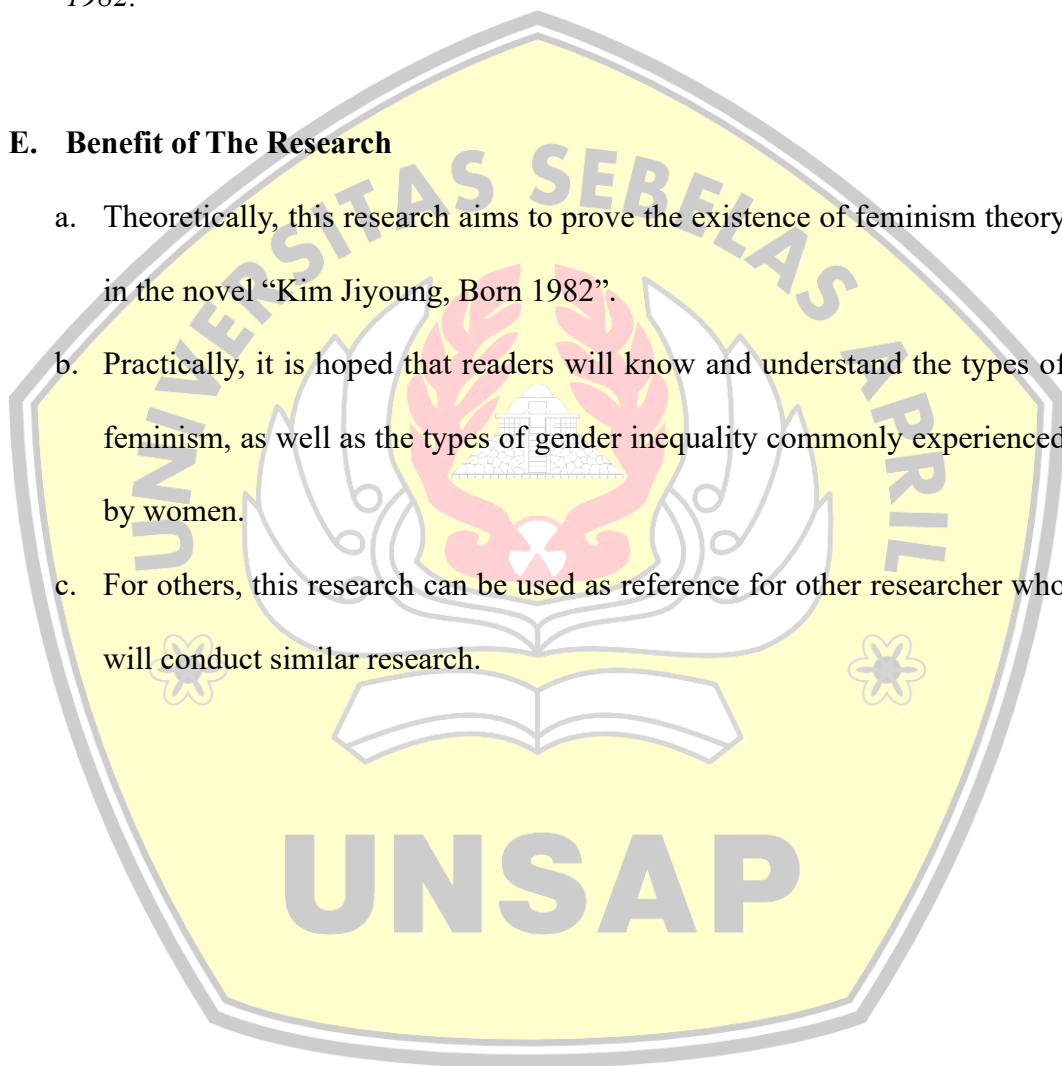
D. Purpose of The Research

Based on research questions, in this research have several purposes below:

- a. To find the kind of gender inequality in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*.
- b. To know how the struggles of the female character in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*.

E. Benefit of The Research

- a. Theoretically, this research aims to prove the existence of feminism theory in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”.
- b. Practically, it is hoped that readers will know and understand the types of feminism, as well as the types of gender inequality commonly experienced by women.
- c. For others, this research can be used as reference for other researcher who will conduct similar research.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methodology used in this study. They include the research design, the research object, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

A. Research Design

Based on the research questions, descriptive qualitative method is used in this study. Qualitative research is characterized by an extensive research inquiry focused on delving deep into the complexities of problems that emerge within social settings. Its primary purpose is to examine and understand the multifaceted aspects of these issues within the broader context of social life (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Furthermore, the descriptive method is used to obtain the results of a qualitative analysis, which produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the object being observed.

In this study, a qualitative approach is used to describe the gender inequalities in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, and to describe the struggles of the female characters in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”.

B. Research Object

A novel that raises the issue of feminism entitled “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” English version by Cho Nam-Joo (translated by Jamie Chang) was chosen as the

data source. The novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” is a best seller Korean novel which had been translated into 18 languages in the world, including English. Retrieved from the National Book Foundation and Amazon website, the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” was added to the long lists for both the U. S. National Book Award for Translated Literature and French Emile Guimet Prize for Asian Literature in 2020, The 41th Today’s Writer Award in 2017, and the book of the year by bookstore employees in 2017 (<https://library.ltikorea.or.kr/writer/200129>).

The data used in this study are in the form of quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs which show the feminism aspect in the term of gender inequality and the struggles of the female characters in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” by Cho Nam-Joo.

C. Data Collection Technique

Technique of collecting data is one of the important aspects in writing a research. This study use documentation and material analysis as technique of collecting data (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This step is undertaken to complete the process of analyzing the problem in this research. The researcher involves three methods, they are:

- a. Choosing the novel entitled Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982 as the data source.
- b. Reading the novel and take a note from quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs which show the feminism aspect in the form of gender inequality and the struggles of the female character in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”.

- c. Find out relevant books and read some material from the books and articles as well as from the internet to get the data to support this study.

D. Data Analysis

This study use three steps according to Miles & Huberman (2014) as the technique of analyzing data, they are: (1) data condensation, (2) data display, and (3) conclusion drawing from quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* by Cho Nam-Joo which show the feminism aspects in the form of gender inequality using theory from Fakih (1996), and the struggles of the female characters using feminism theory from Tong (2009).

1. Data Condensation

Data condensation is the step of selecting data according to needs (Miles & Huberman, 2014). In this study, the data obtained from the quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” are then classified using a table to simplify the analysis process. In data condensation, the quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” which are further analyzed are data that contain aspects of feminism.

2. Data Display

According to Miles & Huberman (2014), data display is the step where the selected data is displayed in an organized and structured manner. In this study, the data from the quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” that has been selected at the data condensation

process is then analyzed based on the aspects contained in the theory of gender inequality by Fakih (1996) and feminism theory by Tong (2009).

Each data that has been obtained will be given a code. First code is represent the kind of gender inequality from Fakih (1996) with the codes as follows:

- a. **GIFM** for gender inequality in the form of marginalization
- b. **GIFSub.** for gender inequality in the form of subordination
- c. **GIFSt.** for gender inequality in the form of stereotypes
- d. **GIFV** for gender inequality in the form of violence
- e. **GIFDB** for gender inequality in the form of double burden

Table 3.1 Analysis of Gender Inequality in The Novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”

No.	Novel Excerpt	Kinds of Gender Inequality				
		GIFM	GIFSub.	GIFSt.	GIFV	GIFDB

Second is represent the feminism from Tong (2009) that occurs in the novel “Kim Jiyoung. Born 1982”. The following codes are:

- a. **LF** for liberal feminism
- b. **RF** for radical feminism
- c. **MSF** for Marxist and socialist feminism
- d. **PF** for psychoanalytic feminism
- e. **CFE** for care-focused feminism
- f. **MGPF** for multicultural, global, and postcolonial feminism
- g. **EF** for ecofeminism
- h. **PMF** for postmodern feminism

Table 3.2 Analysis of Feminism in The Novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”

No.	Novel Excerpt	Kinds of Feminism							
		LF	RF	MSF	PF	EF	MGPF	ECF	PMF

For gender inequality codes, the 3 capital letters used at the beginning are **G, I, F** which means "**Gender Inequality in the Form of...**", and followed by the initials of each type of gender inequality, for example **GIFM** (Gender Inequality in the Form of Marginalization). However, for the types of gender inequality in the form of subordination and stereotype, several letters are used afterwards which serves as a differentiator because both types of gender inequality start with the letter **S**. **GIFSub** for Gender Inequality in the Form of Subordination and **GIFSt** for Gender Inequality in the Form on Stereotype.

Furthermore, for the code of feminism, the researcher uses the initials of each type of feminism. For example, Liberal Feminism is abbreviated as **LF**. However, for psychoanalytic feminism and postmodern feminism, because both types of these feminism begin with the letter **P**, postmodern feminism adds the letter **M** to distinguish it from psychoanalytic feminism. **PF** for psychoanalytic feminism, and **PMF** for postmodern feminism. As with existentialist feminism and ecofeminism, because both begin with the letter **E**, the author distinguishes them as **EF** for existentialist feminism and **ECF** for ecofeminism.

Code numbering is done to determine the numbers of data. For this study, the researcher uses three numbers that will be placed at the end of the code. The

following are the example of data code: **GIFM-001** for gender inequality data sample, and **LM-001** for feminism data sample.

The results of data analysis is presented in the form of table and description. The following is an example of a table containing the numbers of gender inequality and feminism used in this study:

Table 3.3 The Number of Gender Inequality Kinds in The Novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”

No.	Kinds of Gender Inequality	Numbers
1	Marginalization	
2	Subordination	
3	Stereotype	
4	Violence (Verbal and Non-verbal)	
5	Double Burden	
Total		

Table 3.4 The Number of Feminism Kinds in The Novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”

No.	Kinds of Feminism	Numbers
1	Liberal Feminism	
2	Radical Feminism	
3	Marxist and Socialist Feminism	
4	Psychoanalytic Feminism	

5	Care-focused Feminism	
6	Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial Feminism	
7	Ecofeminism	
8	Postmodern Feminism	
Total		

3. Conclusion Drawing

Drawing conclusions is the result of research that answers the research focus based on the results of the data analysis carried out (Miles & Huberman, 1992). The conclusions from the results of the analysis contain of the quotations of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from the novel "Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982" which contain aspects of feminism, and the conclusions is stated descriptively.

E. Data Validity

Researcher need to explain what will be done in the research to check the accuracy and credibility of their findings (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Furthermore, they explain that qualitative validity means that the researcher checks the accuracy of the results through specific methods. One of the strengths of qualitative research is validity, which is based on assessing whether the research results are accurate from the perspective of the researcher, participants, or readers of the report.

According to Creswell & Creswell (2018) in their book, there are eight strategies that can be used by researchers to improve the ability to evaluate the

accuracy of the research results and convince readers of the accuracy of those results, namely triangulate, member checking, rich and thick description, clarify the bias also known as self-reflection, present negative or discrepant information, prolonged time, peer debriefing, and external auditor.

From the eight strategies mentioned above, this study uses four strategies as data validity process. They are:

- a. Prolonged time: re-read the novel for twice to find out feminism in the novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*. In addition, this strategy is used to ensure that no data is missed. The researcher also read the theory of gender inequality from Fasih (1996) and feminism theory from Tong (2009), also other relevant journals to avoid mistakes in answering the two research questions in this study.
- b. Peer briefing: discussed the data with the supervisors and several friends who understood the topic of this study to ensure that the data analysis is in accordance with the theory.
- c. Rich and thick description: describes the data analysis in detail in presenting the findings to add the validity of the data in this study.
- d. Self-reflection: the findings in this study are clearly displayed to facilitate application in other studies.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter describes significant conclusions about feminism and gender inequality that emerge in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, as well as recommendations for the future.

A. Conclusion

Based on the analysis conducted on the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, this study has answered the following research questions: (a) What kind of gender inequality in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*? dan (b) How are the struggles of the female character in novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*? Furthermore, 43 numbers of data on types of gender inequality and 17 numbers of data on feminism were found, thus the total amount of data found is 60 numbers of data.

Out of the total 60 data, the most common type of gender inequality revealed is marginalization, which appears 15 times, indicating how often women in this novel are placed at a disadvantage in society. Meanwhile, stereotype only appears twice. Further analysis reveals that other types of gender inequality also appear in the novel, including subordination with 13 numbers of data, violence with 8 numbers of data, as well as double burden with 5 numbers of data. This provides a more complete picture of the different forms of inequality experienced by the female characters in the story.

Marginalization is the most dominant type of gender inequality in the novel as it reflects the neglect and exclusion of female characters in diverse aspects of life. This can be seen in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” where the characters Kim Jiyoung, her older sister, her mother, and several other female characters are always at a disadvantage due to gender. Meanwhile, subordination highlights the inferior position and dependence of female characters on men in patriarchal social structures. This type of gender inequality is seen in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982” when female characters tend to be considered unimportant, and society prioritizes men first. Both are ranked as the most prevalent types of inequality as they effectively reflect the roles and limitations of women in the analyzed context.

In the context of the characters’ struggle against gender inequality, different types of feminism are reflected in the novel. Liberal feminism and existentialist feminism are the most represented, each with 6 numbers of data. Meanwhile, radical feminism is represented by 5 numbers of data. Although some types of feminism, such as marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, multicultural and global feminism, ecofeminism, and postmodern feminism, are not found in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, the diversity of feminism representations still provides insight into the spectrum of women’s struggles to achieve equality.

Liberal feminism appears in this novel because it focuses on equal rights and opportunities for women in society. Through Kim Jiyoung’s character, readers can see how women experience gender discrimination in various aspects of life, such as education, career, and family. Second, existentialist feminism is also evident in this novel through the emphasis on women’s choices and existence as autonomous

individuals. Kim Jiyoung's character searches for her personal meaning and identity amidst the social pressures and roles imposed on her as a mother and wife.

B. Recommendation

In an attempt to deepen the understanding of the representation of feminism in the novel "Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982", readers are expected to continue the literature search and more in-depth studies related to the theory of feminism, gender, and the social issues raised in this work. Through further exploration, it is hoped that readers will be able to relate the findings in this study to a broader social context and be able to identify the potential impact of this kind of narrative on modern society. In addition, it is also hoped that readers can see the potential of this novel as an entry point to broaden their horizons regarding the role of literature in criticizing and reflecting gender dynamics.

It is important to compare the novel "Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982" with other works of feminist literature, both in the Korean and global contexts. This will help in understanding the novel's unique contribution to the representation of feminism as well as how the author responds to wider feminist debates. For female readers in particular, it is important to recognize that women's experiences are diverse. Although the novel depicts one particular narrative, not all women have the same experiences. This can encourage a deeper understanding of the complexities of gender.

Additionally, it is necessary to instill the understanding that feminism is about equality and not domination. This recommendation encourages the formation of

correct perceptions of the feminist movement, so that women do not feel the need to dominate or suppress others in the pursuit of equality. As such, it is hoped that these recommendations will help women navigate their way through the feminist movement without distorting essential attitudes or values. Ultimately, the ultimate goal is to create a generation of women who are strong, confident and able to contribute positively to social change towards gender equality.

For researchers who intend to further research the theme of feminism in the novel “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, it is recommended to involve an interdisciplinary approach that combines literary analysis, gender studies, sociology, and possibly also psychological aspects. The use of more in-depth analytical methods such as discourse analysis or case studies of characters and situations in the novel can provide richer insights into the nuances of feminism presented by the author. In addition, comparison with other literary works that raise similar themes can also be an important step to identify the uniqueness and characteristics of this novel in raising gender issues. Exploring how people have responded to the novel, both in South Korea and abroad, could be an interesting area of research. This approach could involve analyzing critical reviews, reader responses, as well as the social and political impact that the novel’s reception in various circles may have had. As such, further research will help enlighten our understanding of how literature can play a role in stimulating conversations about gender issues in contemporary society.

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