

GENDER INJUSTICE AGAINST WOMEN IN NOVEL *MOXIE* BY JENNIFER MATHIEU

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Abstract: This research was conducted to describe gender injustice towards women as depicted by female students, male students and school regulations in the novel *Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu. This research used a qualitative research where instead of using numbers, the data collected is in the form of words and quotations. In conducting this research, data was taken from the novel by Jennifer Mathieu entitled *Moxie* as a primary source and was also supported by other relevant references such as journal documents and web sources about gender injustice towards women which were considered secondary sources. In conducting data analysis, researchers used a feminist approach. From this research it can be concluded that there are three acts of injustice experienced by women in the novel *Moxie*. Acts of gender injustice are marginalization, stereotypes and violence against women.

Keywords: *Gender injustice, Women, Jennifer Mathieu, Moxie.*

INTRODUCTION

The existence of a negative label that women are weak, rational, and emotional comes from the myths that have been built up in society. From the society's assumption that women are rational and emotional, make women the number two human being, and are unable to appear as leaders, women are considered unimportant. This assumption has made women victims of gender inequality which lead to discrimination. According to Sjahrir (2000:18) in (Hayati, 2012) Women are judged as only suitable to be administrative staff, nurse, secretary, housekeeper, dancer, or even just proper to work within the domestic scope. Women practically become second class citizens (Subordination) in life of society, namely citizens who accept destiny which is decided in the patriarchal hierarchy.

Gender talks are often associated with sex, nature, and feminism. Their understanding of the three is often confused (rorintulus,2018a). Gender comes from the Latin, namely "genus", meaning type. In addition, the term gender is a visible difference between men and women when viewed from their values and behavior

attached to men and women that are socially and culturally shape (Rorintulus et al., 2022).

Gender injustice is manifested in several forms, namely marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and workload. Various forms of injustice due to gender discrimination have occurred in society. Feminism demands that women be equal in all fields as a manifestation of their desire to prosper themselves or perhaps it is also a general reaction of hatred towards men or certain parties because it suppresses their interests as women who want to be more advanced and want to defend themselves self-truth. According to Mansour Fakhri (2008) in (Astuti et al., 2018), gender is a sex difference that is not biology and not the nature of God. Gender (gender) and different gender, sex is a natural characteristic of God so permanently male and female have differences. Whereas gender is the difference between behavior social men and women construction, meaning gender difference is not it is natural or not created by God, rather it is created by society through long social and cultural process.

Gender injustice refers to differences attitudes, roles and behaviors between women and men very socially constructed characterize masculinity and femininity to society. Such a difference creates inequality equivalent to male dominance over women. Gender difference between women and men distinguish between positions and roles society is irrelevant just. In fact the difference is this role limits men's freedom of movement and give birth to women injustice. Gender inequality caused by social inequalities unequal in many respects life, especially education an economy that leads unfairly and one by female or male feel disadvantage. According to Fakhri (2008) (Astuti et al., 2018), gender is a sex difference that is not biological and not the nature of God. Gender (sex) and gender is different, sex is a biological characteristic ordained by God so permanently male and women have differences.

Moxie is the story of a group of young women at a school in the United States who want to talk about the gender injustice that is going on around them and even what happened to themselves. Moxie is a portrait of a woman in the past, but also a woman today. Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu is a novel that describes the position of women and the feminist movement.

This research is entitled "Gender Injustice Against Women in The Novel Moxie". This research is structured using qualitative research methods. According to (Adlini

et al., 2022) Qualitative research is to better understand reality by using an inductive approach to thinking. In this research, the researcher is involved in the situation and setting of the phenomenon being studied. Researcher are expected to always focus attention on reality or events in that context researched.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

In this study, researchers used a qualitative approach in conducting this research. According to Creswell (1994) (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) "A qualitative study is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting. In addition, to examine the behavior of gender injustice in the novel, the researcher uses a feminist approach, because this approach is considered appropriate to analyze the practice of gender injustice in the novel *Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu and its relation to real phenomena that occur in women.

Data Collection

This research used library research because most of the data included theories and information that supports the researcher, are taken from the library. The data collection processed will be carried out through several steps. First, the writer read the novel regularly and thoroughly. After explored the contents of the novel, the researcher then marked the data related to the research topic. Next, the writer added some information related to gender injustice against women that the writer got from several books, e-books, journals and articles. All secondary sources are taken to support the primary sources.

Data Analysis

In this research, the feminist approach applied as the approach of this research. Feminist criticism analyze the male/female power structure that makes women the other (the inferior), and they reject it. They work to abolish limiting stereotypes of women. They seek to expose patriarchal premises and the prejudices They create. Often, they challenge traditional, static ways of seeing gender and identity. In short,

by changing the literature that people read and the ways that they read it, feminist critics hope to change the world so that everyone is valued as a creative, rational being. That makes a feminist critics, as a group, highly ideological, even visionary (Pollingug & Williams, 1995).

After collecting data from several sources, the researchers analyzed the data. At this stage there are several steps that researchers used. First, the writer read Jennifer Mathieu's novel *Moxie* many times and watched the film adaptation of the novel with the aim of getting a better understanding of the storyline in the novel. After understanding the storyline in the novel, the writer chooses the most interesting part in the novel which can be used as a research topic.

After finding a topic, the writer then began to developed the research background and also the problems related to the topic. As a reference material in research, the author has looked for previous research that can help the writer understand the research topic. Likewise with theory and information related to research topics. The approach that the writer used in this research is feminist approach. The last step that the researcher did is answer the question in the problem formulation based on the theory and facts on the information that has been collected and will make a conclusion at the end of the discussion. The final step that the writer will do is answer the questions in the formulation of the problem based on theory and facts from the information that has been collected and will make a conclusion at the end of the discussion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussion of the study would present in this chapter, Base on the story, researchers found that there was gender injustice toward women. According to (Derana, 2016) Gender injustice is a structural system where men and women are victims of this system, in this story it happens to women. Basically, women are adored and sometimes pampered. On the other hand, negative attitudes arise because many people think that women are weak creatures, women are synonymous with the colonized and women are sometimes not given the opportunity to make decisions or prove themselves capable of being equal to men, so women are dependent on men.

As happens in the story of this novel, there are three forms of gender injustice against several female characters, namely marginalization, stereotypes and violence. Like the women's soccer team which received marginalization treatment by the school by always prioritizing the men's soccer team while the women's soccer team was ignored because they thought they would not be as capable as the boys, Lucy, who was oppressed by being labeled as a woman, could only work or was in the kitchen and Claudia was sexually assaulted by her classmate at school. The following are forms of injustice that occur in the novel *Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu:

Marginalization toward women

Scot defines that Marginalization is the process of marginalizing community groups by other community group which resulted in one marginalized groups, in this case between groups of men and women (Demartoto, 2007: 21) in (Aisyah, n.d.).

At East Rockport High School, there is a football club that allows boys and girls, the men's football club is always prioritized and facilitated, while the women's football club is always ignored, so that the women's football club is marginalized because it is considered incapable of becoming a like a boys soccer team and at the school there is also a check on the way women dress which is considered disturbing to the men around them and will be changed by the school while the men are free to wear whatever they want, such as clothes that say insulting women but are considered normal by those around them. As quoted from the conversation below:

"I have never even seen the women's soccer team's uniforms replaced with new ones since I entered this school."

The excerpt from the conversation above is a conversation between Claudia and Vivian on the soccer field, watching the men's soccer club playing and realizing that their costumes were always replaced with new ones, realizing that the women's soccer costumes were never changed and were never noticed by the party school. So the female students decided to raise funds to help the women's soccer team buy new costumes as in the conversation excerpt below:

"What's the fund-raiser for?" she asks. When I tell her about the girls' soccer team and how no one supports them."

The excerpt from the conversation above is Vivian's answer to her mother when asked what she was doing the fundraising for, then Vivian answered to support the women's football club where no one or the school was paying attention to them. This is marginalization of women where women are always limited, reducing or even eliminating women's rights in life so that women's position becomes marginalized.

Stereotype toward women

Differences and divisions gender also shapes labeling or stereotypes against women which results in oppression towards them. Stereotypes are labeling certain groups that has a negative connotation so often gives rise to injustice. Labeling associated with certain gender differences, for example women, will creates a negative impression he is carrying (Aisyah, n.d.). As seen in the following quote:

"Lucy?"

"Well,"

"if you think about the reference the speaker makes in line 8, what I'm wondering is if the light doesn't indicate, a, um, what would you call it... like a shift in the speaker's understanding of..."

"Make me a sandwich."

"Wait, what did you just say?"

make ... me ... a ... sandwich."

"That's not funny." (Mathieu 2017:1-2)

The conversation excerpt above shows the existence of stereotypes or labels towards women that were said by a man. A conversation occurred in class during the lesson where Lucy answered questions from Mr. David's, and while Lucy was

answering, Mitchell shouted the words "Make me a sandwich", which was an insinuation that a woman's place was in the kitchen. Actions from mislabeling can result in discrimination as a form of inequality that can be detrimental to both men and women. The stereotype view is labeling about individuals or groups that are considered inconsistent with the behavior of society in general. With the existence of this labeling shows that there is an unbalanced relationship and the aim is to control or conquer one gender (Hartati, 2022).

Violence Toward Women

Violence arises as a result of the above factors and also the assumption that men are the holders of supremacy and domination of various sectors of life so what happens is unequal power relations between men and women (Aisyah, n.d.) There were three oppressions in the novel. They are sexual violence, physical violence and psychological violence (Yanti & Anggraini, 2022). The sexual violence was represented from the following narration:

"You know that hallway, right outside of the locker room?" Well, Mitchell walks up to me, just, like, comes right at me, and does that fucking bump and "grab bullshit," she says. (Mathieu, 2017:189)".

The exchange was chosen by the researcher because it discusses sexual violence as it shown in the book. According to Rorintulus (2023); Wuntu & Rorintulus (2022); Sari (2017) Sexual violence is any act in the form of forced sexual intercourse in an unnatural way or unwelcome, forced contact with another person for a particular purpose. Sexual violence includes actions that lead to sexual advances/urges such as touching, touching, or kissing. Vivian and Claudia are having a chat in which Claudia is telling Vivian. She was harassed sexually in the corridor outside the locker room of East Rockport High School when she first encountered Mitchell, a male student. For physical violence, it can be seen in the following dialogue:

"I told him to stop it. That he was hurting me. And he just, like, laughed off, you know? He just made me stand there like that for what felt like forever, just

pawing at me. I could feel his hot breath on my neck. And it hurts. It hurts so much.

Following the bump and grab event, Vivian and Claudia are still talking in this exchanged. In an attempt to get Claudia to have sex with him, Mitchell gave her the bump and grasped her breasts; however, she refused, urging him to stop since it hurt. Then, as he turned to go, he gave her a menacing face and stared at her, intimidating her. according to (Purwandari, 2000:11) in (Sari, 2017) Physical violence is every acts that cause pain, injury, injury or disability to someone's body and cause death. Physical violence is carried out by slapping, biting, twisting hands, stabbing, strangling, burning, kicking, threatening with objects or weapons, and killing. Then, for the psychological violence were noticed from the following dialogues:

“Oh, shit, look at what he has on, “Claudia mutters. Another one of his gross shirts. Under his football jersey, Jason is wearing a white T-shirt with big black letters. It “Reads Great Legs – When Do They Open?” (Mathieu, 2017: 28).

The exchange takes place during a football game and feature Claudia and Vivian as characters. Vivian was instructed by Claudia to look at Jason’s shirt, which was written with derogatory remarks about women. The researcher classifies the word “Great Legs – When Do They Open?” that are printed on Jason’s shirt as an example of verbal sexual harassment because they convey an explicit message from men to women. according to (Poerwandari, 2000:11) in (Sari, 2017) Psychological violence is an act that results in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, feeling of helplessness. And/or severe psychological suffering for someone. Psychological violence includes threats, humiliation and harassment, coercion, and other actions cause fear.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analysing the novel moxie, the researcher reveals gender injustice towards women in Jennifer Mathieu's Moxie. In analyzing the problem, researchers used library research methods and prepared them using qualitative research methods.

Apart from that, researchers also use a feminist approach. As a result, researchers found that there were four forms of gender injustice towards women in the novel, namely: marginalization, stereotypes and violence. The first is marginalization, namely an attempt to limit, control and disrupt women by reducing or even eliminating women's things. Apart from marginalization, there is also subordination in the form of injustice in which there is differential treatment of certain social identities. Then stereotypes or labeling certain groups that has a negative connotation so often gives rise to injustice. Lastly, violence is any act against someone, especially women, which results in physical, sexual, psychological or physical misery or suffering. Following the conclusion of the research, researcher suggests that future researchers who use the same novel as a research object or have the same topic as this research, namely gender inequality, can carry out a more complete and comprehensive analysis. Analysis from other points of view such as Sociological is also very in line with the themes in Moxie which describe a lot of social life specifically at school. The researchers really hope for the existence of further researchers who can complete this research. Regarding existing shortcomings, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly welcomed.

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