WOMEN OPPRESSION AND STRUGGLE IN THE NOVEL MOXIE BY JENNIFER MATHIEU

Cita Hikmah Yanti¹, Dini Anggraini²
Dosen Universitas Bina Darma ¹, Mahasiswa Universitas Bina Darma ²
Jalan Jenderal Ahmad Yani No.3 Palembang
Sur-el: Citahikmahyanti@binadarma.ac.id¹, 181610017@studentbinadarma.ac.id²

Abstract: This study aims to analyze women oppression and struggle in the novel Moxie, this novel tells East Rockport High school because sexism and the patriarchy system act as triggers for sexual violence and sexism in schools. Using Marion Young’s iris theory to find out various kinds of oppressions occurred in novel Moxie and women's resistance using 2 theories of feminism, radical feminism by Alison M. Jaggar is used to analyze how the patriarchy system triggers sexual coercion and multicultural feminism. This theory is used to analyze the patriarchy system that triggers sexual coercion that happens because of race and black skin. The methodology in this research is qualitative descriptive. This research resulted in women oppression such as sexual harassment, intimidation, and rape as a form of sexual coercion contained in the novel. This research also shows how women struggle against oppression that occurs because of the patriarchy system and sexism at school.

Keywords: Feminism, Novel Moxie, Oppression and struggle


Kata kunci: Feminisme, Novel Moxie, Penindasan dan perjuangan

1. INTRODUCTION

In real life, people do not escape oppression. Oppression includes exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, violence, and the use of force, threats, or coercion to abuse or intimidate another person. This behavior can result in a habit and involve an imbalance of social or physical power. Oppression is defined as the abuse of power and authority to achieve personal or group gain (Louis & Dickson, 2018). Young (1990) defines oppression as when people make others less human. It can mean treating them in a dehumanizing way and denying their language, education, and other opportunities that might make them less than human in mind and body. According to Kilas (2017), the oppression of women has been carried out since the days of
hunting and gathering, more precisely in the phase of barbarism. In this phase, the concept of ownership has emerged, which is controlled by the family institution. Men in this phase are the ones who work more and control the means of production. Meanwhile, women are only considered as reproductive machines and take care of the domestic sphere. In the long term, oppression of women has become a common thing in people's lives and women's as male victims continue to be preserved. There are many reasons that give very powerful legitimacy to the unfair treatment of women. These reasons are indoctrinated through various social institutions and traditions that are ingrained in people's consciousness and are carried out by the patriarchy.

Patriarchy means that men are dominant over women. According to Bressler (2007), patriarchy is a social system that employs men as the main central authority figures in a social organization. Fathers have authority over women, children, and property. Implicitly, this system institutionalizes male government and privileges and demands the subordination of women. Otherwise, women seem to be considered weak creatures who need men to get protection from dangers and uncertainties in this dynamic life (Mandrastuty, 2010). According to Yudi and Haryadi (2017), discussing the oppression of women, major cases related to women in the form of sexual violence and identity theft. Women are treated as second-class beings because they are weak and powerless. This discrimination occurs in several countries in the world. For example, discrimination against women in Indonesia means that women in Indonesia are still stuck in the domination of men. The struggle of women occurs as a result of gender inequality in many sectors of society. They are given unequal treatment or discrimination as compared to men. The struggle of women is not only found in the real world but also reflected in literary works. The issue of feminism is found in many modern literary works, which play an important role in determining the fate of gender equality. It is that women are still struggling to live a normal life under a patriarchy system. Women's struggle is the result of women's motivation to achieve women's goals for equality.

Struggle is to make strenuous or violence in the face of adversity or opposition (Merriam-Webster, 1828). There are those who believe that we do not need feminism and that nothing could be further from the truth. Women have fought for equality and against oppression for centuries, and although some battles have been partially won – such as the right to vote and equal access to education – women are still disproportionately affected by all forms of violence and discrimination in every aspect of life. The struggle of women occurs as a result of gender inequality in many sectors of society. They are given unequal treatment or discrimination as compared to men. Discrimination against women leads to unfair treatment and opportunities for women in society.

According to Wollstonecraft (1995), on feminism, she argues that there are social inequalities between the sexes, in terms of education and experience. This gap is an obstacle or barrier in the formation of modern society. According to her, without social justice, there would be no social life. Feminism theory is a
movement for women to get equal status with men in the political, social, and economic fields to fight for women's rights in justice. If it is associated with literature, then literary feminism is a literary study with a feminist theoretical approach. In conducting research in this way, the writer must use the perspective of reading as a woman, so that the writers are aware of gender differences that affect the meaning of literary creations.

The writers defined the complicated relationships among the sexes as often stimulated by their existence in a society that is rooted in the assumption that women are items whilst men are topics. Those assumptions frequently make girls subordinate and suffer. It's mile illustrated inside the novel entitled Moxie as one instance of literature. Moxie is a novel written by an American author named Jennifer Mathieu. Jennifer Mathieu tells us about teenage lifestyles at a high school in a small metropolis in Texas, America named "East Rockport High School". The East Rockport excessive school is a standard American high school in which there is a lot of male tradition that rules and dominates the school. The writers are interested in reading Moxie as it has a connection with one of the branches of feminism, specifically radical feminism. As said by Jaggar, "Radical feminism sees patriarchy as a total machine, a male tradition characterized by violence, domination, and death. The male lifestyle manifests itself in every element of life. The writers identify the patriarchy device or male culture as a lifestyle by way of guys and harm for girls due to the fact it's regularly used violence and domination against women.

In this study, The Women Oppression and Struggle in novel Moxie were using various concepts related to feminism. The writers want to analyze the types of oppression that occur in the novel Moxie using the theory of Iris Marion Young and the women's resistances towards oppression with feminism radical by Alison Jaggar and feminism multicultural by Patrichia Hill Collins. The writers chose to analyze the theory of feminism in the novel Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu. The writers also find an element of oppression of women by men where men want to dominate women. These two feminism theories are women's struggle against injustice and in this novel are caused by several factors such as; multicultural feminism by Patrichia Hill Collins (2000) as the oppression of women related to race, black women, class, sexual orientation, age, religion, education, job opportunities and more. Radical feminism by Alison Jaggar (1983) as oppression of women occurs because of the patriarchy system. In addition, the writers also use the theory of oppression to focus on the types of oppression against women based on the theory of Iris Marion Young (1990). Many literary works that raise the issue of oppression against women, especially sexual violence, realize that this is a case that often occurs. The writers want to analyze the types of oppression that occur in the novel Moxie using the theory of Iris Marion Young and the women's resistance to oppression with feminism radical by Alison Jaggar and feminism multicultural by Patrichia Hill Collins.

Some analyses on women oppression and struggle have been done previously. First, "Women Resistance towards Oppression in Etaf
Rum's A Woman is No Man” by Salvianny and Nurcahyani (2020) which discusses about how women experience oppression and their actions against it which are described by three generations of Arab-American female characters using Patricia Hill Collins' theory of the matrix of domination and self-definition. Second, “Main Characters Struggle against Woman Oppression in “Marlina The Murderer In Four Acts” Movie” by Simanjuntak, Tambunan and Tetty (2021) which discusses the struggle of the main character in the Marlina Murderer in Four Acts movie, the purpose of this study is to find out the oppression experienced by the main character in the struggle against oppression and how the main character struggles against oppression using Young theory and the theory of liberal feminism and radical feminism. Third , “Structural Oppression in Bernardine Evaristo Novel Girl, Women and Other 2019” by Asih and Al-Hafizh (2019) which discusses the issue of structural oppression against black women and the struggle against structural oppression in the novel Girl, Women and Other using the concept of intersectionality from the feminist study proposed by Patricia Hill Collins, the concept of structural oppression proposed by Sally Has Langer and supported by the concept of power by Robert Dahl and Michel Foucault.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the writers used qualitative research methods. Qualitative research can be in the form of descriptive. Data was collected in the form of words as a descriptive method of explanation in the written form of words. Descriptive is: "data collected in the form of words, pictures, and not numbers. This is due to the application of qualitative methods." According to Moleong (2017), qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of spoken words from the person or behavior being studied, such as perceptions, motivations, actions, and so forth. The object of this study is the novel "Moxie" (2017) by Jennifer Mathieu. The writers focused on the oppression of women by looking at the characters, dialogue, and narrative in the novel Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu. After that, the data were be determined or specialized into the oppression experienced by the women characters in the novel. The writers also focused on analyzing the struggles of women characters against oppression by men in this novel. The results of the analysis are combined to obtain good results and conclusions. The writers collected the data by (1) reading the novel "Moxie" by Jennifer Mathieu, (2) underlining the data that shows the types of oppression that happen in the novel and the struggles of the women characters against the oppression. The data were in the form of word, phrase and sentences, (3) Classifying data that relate to the discussions based on the problems of the study. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data, Firstly, the writers classified the data that shows the types of women's oppression that occur in the novel Moxie by using the theory of Iris Marion Young. Secondly, the writers analyzed the data that shows the resistance of women toward oppression in the novel Moxie by using 2 theories: (1)The theory of radical feminism by Alison Jaggar (2) The Theory of Multicultural Feminism
by Patrichia Hill Collins; after that, the writers made a conclusion about the data and made the result based on research findings.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Women Oppression Experienced In the Novel Moxie

Young (1990) defines five faces of oppression experienced by someone. They are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism and violence. Exploitation that occurs when one's efforts are controlled by the oppressed, taking advantage of them to take advantage of the oppressed. Marginalization can be defined as a situation in which a person is used by society because of race or not being defined. Powerlessness occurs when a person who has no status in society has no authority or power. In most cases, those who are powerless do not participate in social decision-making. Cultural imperialism refers to groups who claim their culture is superior to other groups. The last is violence related to people who suffer or are humiliated because of status or class. Moreover, violence against women occurs in three forms: physical, sexual, and psychological.

Discussing the oppression of women, it can be concluded that injustice the condition occurs between women and men. Oppression is carried out by men against women. Oppression itself comes from the patriarchy system or patriarchy ideology especially in dominance of values, expectations, attitudes, and customs. In the novel moxie by Jennifer Mathieu, experienced three types of oppression is violence is physical violence, psychological violence in the form of intimidation.

3.2 Kinds of Violence in the novel

There were three oppressions in the novel. They are sexual violence, physical violence and psychological violence. 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 „n” grab bullshit,” she says. „Only . . . when he grabs me, he just, like, pins me up against the wall and he actually slides his hand up under my shirt. And he, like . . . She pinches up her face, wincing. „He, like, grabbed me. Grabbed one of my breasts and squeezed it.” (Mathieu, 2017, p. 189)

The writers chose the dialogue because it describes sexual violence told in the novel. The conversation is a dialogue between Vivian and Claudia, where Claudia tells Vivian. When she met Mitchell, a male student at East Rockport High School, she was sexually harassed in the school hallway outside the locker room. The form of physical sexual harassment Claudia experienced was known as "bumping," during which Claudia was pinned to a wall and Mitchell fondled her breasts. Because of the abuse, when Claudia told Vivian about it, she was shocked and cried.
For physical violence, the novel refers to 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.” . . . „How did you get away?” I ask. Claudia closes her eyes. „I didn’t. He just stopped, eventually. And he, like, walked off.” Her brown eyes open, and she looks at me again. „And you know what was so creepy? While he was messing with me, he had this look on his face. This dead look. Like I could have been anyone. Or anything.” (Mathieu, 2017, p. 189-190)

The dialogue is a continued dialogue between Vivian and Claudia after the bump and grab incident. Mitchell made the bump and grabbed Claudia so that she would engage in sexual activities with him, only for her to refuse by telling him to stop grabbing her breasts because it hurt her. He then intimidated her by staring at her and giving her a dead look as he walked away from her. The writers classify the above excerpt as a form of intimidation by a man against a woman. It shows that Claudia got intimidated by Mitchell after telling him to stop grabbing her breasts. Mitchell intimidated her by giving her a dead look in his eyes which indicates how angry she was at her for refusing to engage in a sexual activity with him.

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, p. 28)

The dialogue is another dialogue between the characters Claudia and Vivian during a football game. Claudia told Vivian to look at Jason shirt, which had sexual comments against women written on it. The words written on Jason’s shirt read “GREAT LEGS -- WHEN DO THEY OPEN?” are classified by the writer as a form of verbal sexual harassment as these words indicate explicit meaning by men against women. The sexual comment on Jason shirt means that a man adores a woman’s legs solely just so the woman would engage in sexual.

3.3 Moxie Struggle against Women Oppression

In the novel moxie women are oppressed by male students, the oppression of women is clearly unfair and harms them so they need to get their freedom. To be free from oppression, they must carry out a struggle to break the patriarchy system that exists in schools. There are 2 types of feminist movements to fight injustice is radical feminism by Alison Jaggar and multicultural feminism by Patricia Hill Collins. Radical feminism talks about the oppression of women because of the patriarchy system, sexism and sexual violence and multicultural feminism.
talks about the oppression of women because of black women and oppression based on race, class and gender. In this study, the writers have carried out 2 types of feminism is radical feminism and multicultural feminism. The writers were categorized the struggle into two categories. The primary categories is girls struggle towards violence and intimidation. This categories were included the struggle against sexual violence and the patriarchy system in order to gain freedom from sexual violence and both the struggle against gender equality because of black race and women so that black women can be respected and get equal equality with white men and white woman.

3.4 Kinds of Struggle

In the novel Moxie, there are some struggling actions to the oppression. The struggle against sexual violence. This struggle is represented through the following:

“MOXIE WALKOUT!!! THIS FRIDAY. AT THE ATTENDANCE BELL. I am tired of being silent. Mitchell Wilson tried to rape me at a party. I won’t be quiet anymore. Principal Wilson and the administration of erhs refused to listen to me, if you support this walkout you support all girls, you support a movement. That refuses to tolerate. Violence against girls. (Mathieu, 2017, p. 277)

The dialogue shows the phrases on a flyer distributed anonymously at East Rockport High School. Although created anonymously, it makes me clear to the writers that the flyer was made by way of a lady. The flyer consists of an invitation for the scholars to go away come on Friday to your presence. The flyer suggests someone who bore her and stored her quiet because she kept nearly raped by Mitchell Wilson at a party last week. She attempted to inform the main and the college management but they didn't listen to her. From the writers description, the writers classify the above indications as direct coercion, namely, the wording on the pamphlet indicates that an East Rockport high faculty student was almost raped by means of a male student named Mitchel. The flyer is a way of the moxie girl's struggle for justice and she wants to tell the other schoolgirls that Mitchell Wilson has sexually assaulted. Through the word pamphlet on the flyer, the girls at East Rockport High school gathered on the field on Friday when the bell rang to fight together against injustice and wanted to get Mitchell kicked out of school for what he did.

The other kind of struggle against patriarchy and race by the women from the novel moxie can also be seen from the followings:

“MOXIE GIRLS FIGHT BACK!..... and hunt you down ..... and remember your face and take names”...”MOXIE,MOXIE,MOXIE.... MOXIE shines a light on the sexist bullshit at ERHS. Moxie won’t give up!!...Moxie will win!”.....” you ever stop
think…. “that march madness is just one more way for certain boys at ERHS to treat girls like object? Plus it pits up girls against one another. It creates competition where there should be unity. It idealizes one type of beauty (white & thin) over all others. It shame us and humiliates us. It’s sick, gross, and essentially condoned by the school and community.” MARCH MADNESS IS FUCKED UP. DON’T FORGET IT, REMEMBER…. MOXIE IS ALWAYS WATCHING”. (Mathieu, 2017, p. 249-25)

“Marisela posts that she’s tired of boys at east rockport acting like assholes and treating girls like property. People agree with her but some boys start posting that she’s accusing all boys of being jerks and huge debate follows. Kiera posts a picture of Wonder Woman and a quote by a woman named Angela Davis. … “When one commits one self to the struggle, its must be for a life time.” … “I look her up and read about how angela davis was a black feminist who was imprisoned for fighting for her beliefs. It makes a walkout look pretty minor in comparison, to be honest”. (Mathieu, 2017, p. 295)

The conversation is confirmed by words in a flyer that unfold anonymously at East Rockport excessive school. Even though created anonymously, it's far from clear to the writers that the flyer was made by means of a female. The flyer contains threats to schools and boys at East Rockport High School and the flyer shows that someone who is tired of being silent and silent sees the sexism that occurs in schools and differences in skin types and always treats women as objects and desires. To pit students in East Rockport against each other and the flyer itself and remind that what happens in schools because of injustice and sexism will always be monitored. From the writers description, the writers classify the indications above as types of injustice and female beauty based on skin type and race. The flyer is a form of struggle carried out by the moxie girl to fight injustice because of the difference between white and black people. The form of struggle shown by the flyer is by threatening the male students at East Rockport Highschool that the moxie girls will fight and always watch his actions.

The dialogue shows the narration that Marisela posted the behavior and attitudes of boys on social media and in the post, according to the writers point of view, Marisela invites her online friends to be vigilant and fight together against boys at East Rockport Highschool and Kiera posted a Wonder Woman picture of Angela Davis’ quote saying that fighting is a lifelong struggle and Angela Davis is a black feminist. From the writers description, the writers classifies the indications above as types of injustice that occur because of male students and harassment of female students who are only considered property by male students and injustice because of skin type. The words in their posts show that women must not be silent because of this injustice, Women must join forces to fight
injustice because of the patriarchy system and race. In the post, Marisela’s struggle against the attitude of men by telling there has been injustice done at East Rockport High School and invites to fight together against the patriarchy system and Kiera post about Wonder Women is Kiera way of fighting against racial differences because Kiera posted a quote from Angela Davis who is a black feminist who says fighting is a life long struggle. The writers concludes what Kiera post means, that her struggle against injustice is by fighting to get justice because of black people.

There are also some struggle towards oppression on patriarchy in the novel, they are in the following dialogues:

“MOXIE, MOXIE GIRLS FIGHT BACK!!.... These ladies say....“Screw you, dress code checks!!!, “Moxie Girl are Talking....” Hey Moxie girls, are you sick?crazy dress code checks ? or is it just me? "No, its not just you! These checks are bullshit and we gotta do something!. "Dress code checks are sexist because ....”they focus overwhelmingly on girls over boys”....“they’re arbitrary some girl get in trouble and some girls don’t and dress code checks are totally vague/ random!....”they operate on the idea that girls are responsible for boys behavior...”they operate on the idea that boys are helpless creatures with no self control...”they shame girls!!.

"NEXT MOXIE ACTION!!...” on Tuesday come to school in your BATHROBE! Letsw protest the sexist dress code checks at ERHS!! “if you are playing it safe so you don’t distract our poor male students!!.

"TUESDAY BATHROBES MOXIE”....“Moxie Girl Fight Back” (Mathieu, 2017,p.109-112)

“MOXIE, MOXIE GIRLS, FIGHT BACK!!....“ Hey ladies are you tired of certain group of males students, telling you to “make me a sandwich! ” when you voice an opinion in class?....“ are you tired of the football team getting away with anything they want?”.... "are you tired of gross comments & disgusting T-shirt ?....“ THE GIRLS OF MOXIE ARE TIRED TOO!"...."What would East Rockport High look like if moxie was in charge??....”Attention Girrrls of East Rockport High!!...if you words you’re read make sense to you- draw some loves and stars on your hands before school next Friday October 5, Find Girls who feel like you!! (Mathieu, 2017, p.45-48)

The dialogue shows the words in a flyer distributed anonymously at East Rockport High School. Although created anonymously, it is clear to the author that the flyer was made by a girl. The flyer shows the form of struggle carried out by the moxie girl by means of an invitation to fight the injustices that occur at East Rockport High School which always puts boys first and invites other students to realize the injustices that occur. The flyer shows that Moxie next struggle is to get other female students to join in the fight against injustice caused by the patriarchy system and invites them to draw stars and love on their hands at school before October 5th. From the writers description, the writers classify the indications above as a form of struggle against injustice that occurs and opinions that are not
heard in class. By drawing a star and love in
the hand, it means that the woman who draws
the star and love in the hand is a woman who
participates in fighting and fighting the
injustices that occur.

The dialogue shows the phrase in a
flyer distributed anonymously at East
Rockport High School. Although created
anonymously, it is clear to the writers that the
flyer was made by a girl. The flyer contains an
invitation to students to be aware of the unfair
dress code for female students and invites
other female students to wear bathrobes on
Tuesdays when going to school. Flyer points
out that his next course of action is to protest
dress code checks being carried out on girls.
From the writers description, the writers
classifies these indications as a type of
injustice that occurs to female students because
the dress code only applies to female students.
The words in the pamphlet show the form of
the moxie girls struggle against the dress code
and the invitation to wear a bathrobe and on
Tuesday all the moxie girls wear robes to fight
the injustice of clothing that only applies to
women.

The flyer shows the form of struggle
carried out by the moxie girl by means of an
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East Rockport High School which always puts
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indications above as a form of struggle against
injustice that occurs and opinions that are not
heard in class. By drawing a star and love in
the hand, it means that the woman who draws
the star and love in the hand is a woman who
participates in fighting and fighting the
injustices that occur. The narration above also
show that the struggle of women against
injustice has become a feminist and says that a
feminist is the worst.

As a feminist, women must be able to
support each other to get justice in society and
in the school environment. From the writers
description, the writers classify the indications
above as a form of women's struggle to
become a feminist by fighting the injustices
that occur because of male students and
injustice for female students.

Based on the dialogue of the data that
the writers obtained above, things that happen
to women are due to the patriarchy system,
racism and sexuality. Where women are
considered inferior to men. Women are entitled
to their rights and have equal opportunities
regardless of gender differences. Men
shouldn't treat women the way they want. In
addition, men should not force women to do
something that women do not like to do. To
get women's rights or equal opportunities to do something, building women's awareness about their true abilities means that they are not actually defined as inferior. In addition, women must not only have awareness but also have to fight against those that harm them. In the novel *Moxie*, tells the story of what happened at a school where the discovery of women was due to sexism carried out by the school, which prioritized male students. Based on the research obtained by the writers, what happens in nature by women in the novel *Moxie* are sexual violence, psychological violence and intimidation. The struggle of women characters against what is happening is easy, many ways that *Moxie* girls do to get justice in East Rockport Highscool. For example, the female character in the novel struggles by making a player that contains an invitation to fight because of a sexual opponent and the form of her struggle when there is another friend in high school who agrees with Vivian she will make a sign and love to join the *Moxie* group. In this way, the injustices that occur in schools can be countered by having women support women.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the novel *Moxie* provides an example of the way women are oppressed by means of the patriarchy system. Oppression of women that occurs in novel *Moxie*, along with sexual violence, physical violence, psychological violence in form of intimidation. The most frequent oppression of female characters in novel *Moxie* is psychological violence in the form of intimidation because patriarchy system, race and black women. The women experienced various kinds of oppression, such as oppression because of the dress code, intimidation because of her race, skin type and intimidation because the opinion was not heard in class. The writers divides the analysis of the novel *Moxie* into two points the first point is a discussion of the types of oppression that occur to ladies. The second point is the dialogue approximately the warfare of the *Moxie* women against oppression. The forms of oppression skilled by using girl students are sorts of sexual violence and intimidation. The second one point to be discussed is the warfare of ladies's characters towards oppression. As stated above, the kinds of oppression of girls experienced by means of *Moxie* girls contain sexual violence, mental violence inside the shape of intimidation. The struggle of the female character *Moxie* against bullying is to create flayers that threaten male students and school staff and spread them to toilets, classrooms and other student closets. Therefore, the writers found through this research that the oppression of women that
occurs because of the patriarchy system in schools and sexism.

REFERENCES


