

STANDING AGAINST PATRIARCHAL CULTURE

IN EL SAADAWI'S *WOMAN AT POINT ZERO*



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Advisor's Approval

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DECLARATION

I, ARIVIANI DEWI, hereby declare that this thesis is a record of an original research work. I am completely responsible for its content. All of the quotation and references have been duly acknowledged. If my declaration is proved incorrect one day, I am willing to accept all of the consequences.

Surakarta, July 2011

Sincerely Yours,

Ariviani Dewi

S. 200 090 021

DEDICATION

Affectionately dedicated to
MY TOUGH MOTHER, THE BEST MOTHER EVER LIVED!

I am proud of you, mother.

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At last but not least, I realize the thesis is far from being perfect but hopefully, it is useful for the readers to broaden the horizon of knowledge in literature. Any comment, critics and suggestion will be valuable for a better work.

Ariviani Dewi,

July, 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADVISOR'S APPROVAL	i
NOTE OF ADVISOR I	ii
NOTE OF ADVISOR II	iii
DECLARATION	iv
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
ABSTRACT	xiii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
A. Background of the Research	1
B. Literature Review	13
C. Research Question	16
D. Objective of the Research	17
E. Benefit of the Research	17
CHAPTER TWO: UNDERLYING THEORY	
A. Hermeneutics	19
B. Reception Theory	24
1. Conception of Reader and Reading	24
2. The Birth of the Reader	26
3. Reception Theory and Reader's Power	28
C. Feminist Theory	38
1. Radical Feminist Theory	38
2. The Core of Patriarchy	43
a. Marginalization	48

b. Subordination	48
c. Stereotype	49
d. Violence	49
1) Rape and Marital Rape	50
2) Domestic Violence	50
3) Female Genital Mutilation	52
4) Prostitution	54
5) Pornography	54
6) Sterilization	55
7) Molestation	55
8) Sexual Harassment	55
e. Workload	56

CHAPTER THREE : RESEARCH METHOD

A. Type of Research	62
B. Type of Data and Data Source	63
C. Technique of Collecting the data	64
D. Technique of Data Analysis	65
E. Thesis Organization	67

CHAPTER FOUR: EL SAADAWI'S PROTEST IN *WOMAN AT POINT ZERO*

A. Monolithic Interpretation of Religious Teaching	68
1. Gender Role	69
2. Women's Limited Access in Education	81
3. Women's Economic Dependence	89
B. Violence Against Women	94
1. Verbal Violence	96
2. Rape and Marital Rape	101
3. Physical Violence	113
4. Female Genital Mutilation	125
C. Male Dominated Culture	145

D. Discussion	165
CHAPTER FIVE: RESPONSES TO EL SAADAWI'S <i>WOMAN AT</i>	
<i>POINT ZERO</i>	
A. National Response	171
1. Government	171
2. Religious Institution	173
3. Academic Community	173
B. International Response	175
1. Books	177
a. Tarabishi's <i>Woman Against Her Sex</i>	177
1) Battle of the Sex	180
2) Prostitution	186
3) Phallus Envy	190
b. Douglass's <i>Men, Women, and God(s)</i>	195
1) Male-female Relation	198
2) Food is Class Marker	200
3) Prostitution	202
2. Scientific Journals	205
a. Simola's <i>A Journey to Prison of Two Young Women,</i> <i>Lemona and Firdaus</i>	205
1) Connection of Religion with Patriarchy	208
2) Violence Against Woman	211
3) Prostitution	213
b. Firenze's <i>On the Condition of the Colonized Woman: the</i> <i>Nervous Condition of Firdaus in Nawal El Saadawi's</i> <i>Woman</i> <i>at Point Zero</i>	214
1) Patriarchy and Religion	214
2) Prostitution	216
3) A Quest for Identity	217

c.	Babana-Hampton's <i>Literary Representations of Female Identity: Feminism in Arab-Muslim Societies and Clashing Paradigm on Conceptions of Modernity, Tradition, and Selfhood</i>	220
1)	Female Identity	221
2)	The Power of Body	223
d.	Saliba's <i>On the Bodies of Third World Woman: Cultural Impurity, Prostitution, and Other Nervous Conditions</i>	225
1)	Prostitution	226
2)	Rebellion Against Patriarchal Culture	227
e.	Giglio's <i>Talk Like an Egyptian: Applying the Theory of Subaltern To the Works of Nawal El Saadawi</i>	231
f.	Sen's <i>Nawal El Saadawi: Profile of an Iconoclast</i> ...	232
1)	Female Genital Mutilation	233
2)	Prostitution	235
g.	Amireh's <i>Framing Nawal El Saadawi: Arab Feminism in a Transnational World</i>	238
1)	Clitoridectomy	239
2)	Patriarchy's Instrument of Oppression	240
h.	Weatherston's <i>When Sleeping Dictionary Awaken: The Re/turn Of the Native Informant</i>	242
1)	Female Genital Mutilation	242
2)	Prostitution	244
3)	Women Subjectivity	245
3.	Individual Commentaries	248
a.	Ramey's <i>A Bittersweet Story-Woman at Point Zero</i>	248
b.	Wilder's <i>Evaluating Nawal El Saadawi's Woman at Point Zero</i>	249
c.	Aissa's <i>History From Below in Woman at Point Zero</i>	251
1)	Class, Gender, and Sexuality	252
2)	Fact and Fiction	254

3) Subjectivity and Objectivity	255
4. News	256
a. The Guardian	256
b. The New York Times	258
1) Gornick's <i>About the Mutilated Half</i>	258
2) Slackman's <i>Voices Raise in Egypt to Shield Girls</i> <i>From an Old Tradition</i>	260
c. Haaretz.com	262
C. Discussion	265
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION, PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION, AND	
SUGGESTION	
A. Conclusion	278
B. Pedagogical Implication	284
C. Suggestion	286
Bibliography	289

ABSTRACT

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The objectives of the research are (1) to reveal the revolt against patriarchal culture, and (2) to get to know the response of the reader toward literary work.

The method of the research is descriptive qualitative. The data source derived from books, scientific journals, news, and virtual sources. The present researcher uses note taking to collect the data and uses phenomenological approach on literary critics for data analyzing technique. The uses of radical feminist theory and reader response theory will help for a comprehensible understanding.

This study has examined El Saadawi's protest in *Woman at Point Zero* and its effects in the community. It has discovered that El Saadawi's protest against inequality and oppression in Egyptian society has contributed to social change. The portrait of the oppressed women in highly Islamic patriarchal culture as the result of monolithic interpretation of religious teaching calls the world's attention. She portrays the impact of religion to women's subordination whether in economics, education, social, politics and culture.

The finding moves further that women's subordination has led to other oppression which manifest in the violence against women such as verbal violence, rape or marital rape, physical violence and female genital mutilation. The last mentioned is the most polemical issue which last for over decades.

This study has further discovered that the issue exposed in the novel that is responded by national and international institution has significant effect in the society. The effect in its native country is manifest in the government policies, reported news and researches whereas the international effect is the eliminating of violence against women. The issue related to gender inequality which comes from monolithic interpretation of religious teaching becomes a favorite theme in the academic community. Many Muslim scholars conduct a research and the finding is because of misreading of the sacred scripture, thus the scholars suggest people to rereading the holy book for a justice community.

Key words: patriarchal culture, monolithic interpretation, gender role, violence against women, reader response