

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The novel *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem* written by Fatimah Mernissi in 1994 tells about limited freedom of women's life in Harem. Every chapter in this novel shows so many frontiers which make the women lose their happiness/ freedom. The frontiers are from the traditional rule itself. The frontiers make the women get unfair condition, loses their freedom and differentiated with men. There are many rules which tie the women cannot be free. One of them is patriarchy system. This system influences the women's freedom because this system believes that men are the leader of family. Men manage all the life condition of women.

One of women's problems is how to get equal position, right, and respect in the society. It means, to get a better life they need to struggle in order they can get their position, right, and respect as well as the men. Women themselves should show their capability to prove who they are and what role they play in society. Women can take an active part in creating their own lives and exercise in choosing their freedom (Anderson in Mandell, 1995:5).

The setting is a "domestic harem" in the 1940s city of Fez where an extended family arrangement keeps the women mostly apart from society, as opposed to the more stereotypical "imperial harem," which historically

provided sex for sultans and other powerful court officials. Moroccan sociologist Mernissi (Islam and democracy) charts the changing social and political frontiers and limns the personalities and quirks of her world. Here Mernissi tells of a grandmother who wants that the world is unfair to women, watches family members debate what children should hear, wonders why American soldier's skin doesn't reflect Moroccan-style racial mixing and decided that sensuality must be a part of women's liberation. With much folk wisdom happiness, the author's mother told her, "there was a balance between what you gave and what you took" this book not only tells a winning personal story but also helps to feminize a much-stereotyped religion.

In 1940, harems still abounded in Fez, Morocco. Though born into this tightly sheltered world, Fatima Mernissi is constantly urged by her rebellious mother to spring beyond it. Worried that Mernissi is too shy and quiet, Mernissi's mother tells to Mernissi, "You must learn to scream and protest, just the way you learned to walk and talk." In *Dreams of Trespass*, an enjoyable weave of memory and fantasy, it is clear that Mernissi's fertile imagination let her slip back and forth through the gates that trapped her restive mother. Mernissi spins amiable, often improbable tales of the rigidly proper city harem in Fez and the contrasting freedoms of the country harem where her grandmother Yakima lives. There, one of Yakima's cowives rides like the wind, another swims like a fish, and Yakima relishes twitting the humorless first wife by naming a fat, waddling duck after her.

Fatima Mernissi was a Moroccan sociologist and writer. Born in Fez to a middle-class family, Mernissi studied at the Mohammed V University in Rabat and later went to Paris, where Mernissi worked briefly as a journalist. Mernissi pursued her graduate education in the United States and in 1973 obtained a PhD in sociology from Brandeis University. Returning to Morocco, Mernissi joined the sociology department at Mohammed V University.

As one of the best known Arab-Muslim feminists, Mernissi's influence extends beyond a narrow circle of intellectuals. Mernissi is a recognized public figure in her own country and abroad, especially in France, where Mernissi is well known in feminist circles. Mernissi's major books have been translated into several languages, including English, German, Dutch, and Japanese. Mernissi writes regularly on women's issues in the popular press, participates in public debates promoting the cause of Muslim women internationally, and has supervised the publication of a series of books on the legal status of women in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Mernissi's work explores the relationship between sexual ideology, gender identity, sociopolitical organization, and the status of women in Islam; her special focus, however, is Moroccan society and culture. As a feminist, her work represents an attempt to undermine the ideological and political systems that silence and oppress Muslim women. She does this in two ways: first, by challenging the dominant Muslim male discourse concerning women and their sexuality, and second, by providing the "silent" woman with a

“voice” to tell her own story. Mernissi’s book *Doing Daily Battle* (1988) is a collection of annotated interviews with Moroccan women who present a lucid account of the painful reality of their lives as they struggle against poverty, illiteracy, and sexual oppression.

For Mernissi, Islamic sexual ideology is predicated on a belief that women's inherent sexual power, if left uncontrolled, would wreak havoc on the male-defined social order, hence the necessity to control women's sexuality and to safeguard Muslim society through veiling, segregation, and the legal subordination of women. Mernissi's work explores the impact of this historically constituted ideological system on the construction of gender and the organization of domestic and political life in Muslim society today. One book, *The Veil and the Male Elite* (first published in French in 1987), critically examines the historical context of Muslim law and tradition and argues that the original message of the Prophet Muhammad, which called for equality between the sexes, has been misrepresented by later political leaders and religious scholars. Turning her attention to the Arab world today, Mernissi situates the woman question within a more inclusive framework that links it to problems of political legitimacy, social stagnation, and the absence of democracy. Another book, *Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World* (1992), is an impassioned plea for Muslims to reclaim the best of their tradition and to cast off their fear of the West. This can be accomplished, she maintains, only through a radical overhaul of the political, ideological, and social structures that have for generations conspired to deny the majority of

Muslims, men and women alike, the modern benefits of equality, democracy, literacy, and economic security.

The writers of *Dreams of Trespass*, Fatima Mernissi tries to memorize her life experience, especially the contrast of the freedom which is got by her when Mernissi was child and gets the limiter freedom when she was adult. This novel also tells about living of the women who live in harem, Morocco. The writer tells about their life behind the frontiers gates of a domestic harem. She talks about confusion of getting freedom, equality and well rights.

Harem is a place which the building is very big, beautiful, and there are many beautiful furniture, etc. This place is for the people who have life middle until high class. This place for the women is separated from men. The building for men is on the front part but the women's place is on the back of the part of the building.

The freedom of the women who live in a harem is very limited. They can go out if they have got special permission, of course they cannot go out alone, they must be accompanied by another men who live in harem too. They are very limited in speaking because they must be careful with their saying. It is sure that they cannot speak freely as they want. The women who live there must obey that go out of a harem alone are very dangerous. The women must realize the rules that have been made. According to the rules a girl does not travel. Travel is dangerous and women cannot defend actions than men. The women chafe at traditional restrictions. The family of the women is not allowed outside the gates of the courtyard without permission.

Not all the people who live in harem pro with harem. There are some people who are pro and anti harem. Both they have many arguments why they love and hate harem. Harem is a place where there are many opinions about it. Actually harem is not a place to live. There still so many rules which not let the freedom fully implicated. There is polygamy in harem. The chief of the house has many wives. Harem is a place to live the women whom become the wives of the chief. All families of the chief also live there. They are separated from public society's life and stranger people.

In harem, the people don't necessarily ask questions to get answers. They ask questions just to understand what is happening to them. They are protected from the foreign standing of a few meters away, at the other equally busy and dangerous frontiers. A harem is a place where the women lose their freedom. A harem meant misfortune because a woman had to share her husband with many others. They cannot fully get their husband and must to share with other women. It is a place where is very unfair to the women. A place was thrown out so many dreams of the women.

The novel remembers about the women's effort to get the freedom. They have the freedom but it is very limited. People must remember the women's effort.

The novel *Dreams of Trespass*, is very important for the reader. This novel shows how to get full freedom. Because of the limited freedom of the women in Harem, it can increase the women's courage struggle, effort, etc.

People will know exactly that the freedom must be given both to women or men.

The novel gives a message that limited freedom which happens to the women must be lost. People must realize that the freedom is not only given to men but also women too. Women must get the same freedom as well as men. The limited freedom will make the women lose their opportunity. Directly, women will get so many disadvantages from this limited freedom. They cannot get what they want like women who live out of harem. It does not fair if it must occurs to the women. They have feel, they will feel something which is uninteresting.

This novel is very interesting, people can fell that freedom is something which is special. The women are separated, and they cannot get their freedom of anything. They only can dream about the freedom. They can easily move everywhere.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher uses feminism approach in analyzing the novel with the title in this research paper “PRICE OF FREEDOM IN FATIMA MERNISSI’S *DREAMS OF TRESPASS TALES OF A HAREM GIRLHOOD (1994)*: A FEMINIST APPROACH”.

## **B. Literature Review**

The research paper as reference for completing her work, first, research paper by Dr. Valérie Orlando (2004) Associate Professor of FrenchIllinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL 61972 with her research entitled “Femin(ine)ist Dialogues: Women and the Role of the

French Language in Contemporary Morocco as part of a semester-long course entitled: Contemporary Issues in Francophone Women's Writing of the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco)." This research attempts to assess to what extent Moroccan women use the French language; both in everyday life and for more formal settings, i.e. creative writing, journalism and university study. Since the end of France's influence in the country in 1956, French has continued to be used by authors, journalists, professors and academics both in and outside of the country. However, Arabisation programs of the 1960s-present have, however, caused a decline in the use of French. English has also been promoted in schools nationwide and has gained in popularity among young people.

The researchers above are different from the writer here, because the data are different. The writer analyses the price of freedom especially women's freedom lived in Harem while Dr. Valerie Women and the Role of the French Language in Contemporary Morocco. The other differences of the research are from francophone authors such as Fatima Oufkir and her daughter, Malika have chosen French as their language of choice to recount their stories (and these are very political and written in exile), the writer Leila Abouzeid first wrote *Year of the Elephant* and later novels such as *The Last Chapter* in her native Arabic. *Year of the Elephant* was the "first novel by a Moroccan woman to be translated from Arabic to English." The novel received critical acclaim in the West and eventually gained praise in



Morocco. Female ethnologists and sociologists such as Fatima Mernissi have chosen to write in French and Arabic, depending on the audience.

### **C. Problem Statement**

In this research, the researcher only proposes a single problem statement. The problem statement of this research is “How is the price of freedom reflected in *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood* novel?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher only focuses in how the price of freedom especially women’s freedom in *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. The analysis of the women’s freedom is based on the feminist approach.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statement that has stated above, the researcher formulates objective of the study as follows:

1. To describe the novel based on the structural elements.
2. To describe the women’s freedom in *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood*.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. The study has an important role for contributing to literature, particularly to the large body of knowledge, structural elements and feminist analysis on *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood*.
- b. It can be used as the reference for the next researcher.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

This research will give a contribution for other researchers who are interested in analyzing the structural elements and feminist approach and to get more understanding about the novel, especially *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood*.

## **G. Research Method**

The researcher will describe the methods that use on the research.

There are four elements to support in research method, they are:

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing the conclusion.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The researcher divides the data source into two categories: primary data and secondary data source.

**a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source of the study is *Dreams of Trespass Tales of a Harem Girlhood* novel which is written by Fatima Mernissi and published by Wesley Company.

**b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data source of the study includes reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

**3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The methods of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- b. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
- c. Making notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- d. Classifying the data into categories.
- e. Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

**4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

Technique of the data analyzing is descriptive analysis. In which the data are collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the relationship between the novel and the feminist theory to show how women's freedom is reflected in the story.

## **H. Paper Organization**

The writer organizes this research in order to make it easy to read. Chapter I is introduction. It covers the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. In Chapter II presents underlying theory. It deals with the notion of feminism, the basic concept of feminism, structural element and theoretical application. While in Chapter III contains the research method. It deals with the social background of nineteenth century. Chapter IV is the analysis of the novel. It includes narrative and technical element. For Chapter V is feminism analysis deals with the problem in the novel. And the last is Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.