

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

The novel entitled *Tapestry of Hope* is the first book in the new LIGHT OF LOWELL series which was published by Bethany House Publishers on May 31st, 2004. This novel was written by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller in 32 chapters. The number of pages is 351. *Tapestry of Hope* novel was translated by Yeri Eko Munajat and published by ANDI (publisher of spiritual books and magazines) in 2007. This novel ships to United Arab Emirates, Australia, Belgium, Bahrain, Switzerland, China, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa.

Tracie Peterson is an author of Christian fiction. She writes many historical novels, with romantic threads in them, as well as writing with other Christian authors on joint novels. Many of her books are published by Bethany House. She is a best-selling author of almost sixty romance novels.

At the beginning of her career, Tracie used the pen name of Janelle Jamison but now she uses her real name. She writes both series and standalone books. Some of her series include, *Ribbons of Steel*, *Westward Chronicles*, *Yukon Quest*, *Bells of Lowell*, *Alaskan Quest*, and *Ladies of Liberty*. Some of her standalone books are *Entangled*, *A Slender Thread*, *The*

Long-Awaited Child, Julotta, Silent Star, Castles, I Can't Do It All, and Where My Heart Belongs.

While Judith Miller is an award-winning author whose avid research and love for history are reflected in her novels, two of which have placed in the CBA top ten lists. In addition to her writing, Judy is a certified legal assistant. Judy makes her home in Topeka, Kansas. She is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, formerly of the *New York Times* Washington bureau. Her coverage of Iraq's alleged Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) program both before and after the 2003 invasion generated much controversy. A number of stories she wrote while working for the New York Times later turned out to be inaccurate or completely false. One of her best novels is *Tapestry of Hope*.

Tapestry of Hope novel tells about a woman named Jasmine Wainwright who lives in a sheltered family in South America. She has a grandmother who lives in North America, two older brothers, a depressed mother, and a father. Her father is a businessman but also dotes on Jasmine. Jasmine is took care by a slave who is called Mammy. Her education is hold at home, but her two older brother are gave the freedom to choose their school. They are also gave an authority to participate in managing business of their family. And than Jasmine, she is forbidden to participate like her brothers do. Moreover, seeing the place of cotton plantation is something that she can not do.

One day, two men come to visit: Bradley and Nolan. Bradley is a businessman, working in Lowell, North America where he helps with the factories. Nolan is his younger brother who is a writer. At the beginning of the novel, you want Nolan and Jasmine together. They are a perfect fit. But Bradley and Jasmine's dad enter into an agreement together and she has to marry Bradley. Bradley is a mean son of a gun and makes Jasmine feel lower than she deserves. As the book progresses, Jasmine grows up both in age and in maturity. She begins to see how wrong owning slaves truly is. She also begins to mature in her faith, even when her days seem too dark to imagine.

In literary work, there are always public responses and so are in this novel. They are positive responses and negative responses from the readers. The researcher will show the reader three of positive responses taken from <http://www.amazon.com/gp/profile>. First Trudy Lynn, he posted his comment on September 14th, 2005. Lynn said that this book started out a little slow with a lot of narration and then picked up pace. He really enjoyed it. For him this book is the first of a trilogy. Second, Jen A Bookworm posted his comment on April 5th, 2006. Based on his opinion, Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller are really wonderful authors and he loves their books. He said that this is a great book to read if the readers love the Civil War like he does. Jen A Bookworm enjoyed this book a lot. The last is from Stephany comes from Saint Petersburg, FL. She posted her comment on June 7th, 2010. Stephany said that Peterson writes more accurately than many historical fiction

romance writers. She feels the characters more real and dynamic. She thinks that everyone should read, especially for girls.

Those are three examples of positive responses, while the negative responses that are taken from <http://www.amazon.com/gp/profile> as followed: First comes from Bothell in USA. He said that this novel is so disappointed. He has really enjoyed both of these authors in the past but was horribly disappointed by this book. For him, there is no romance in this book at all. He really enjoyed learning about the history of the textile/cotton industry and the plight of the Irish and slaves. But he expected some happy or enjoyable moments in a romance book and there were none. He especially had trouble with the fact that jasmine's husband was molesting the servant girl. This comment was posted on August 13th, 2010. The second negative responses is comes from Juliet in Flemington, NJ United States, posted on February 21st, 2008. She said that the first time she bought this series because she miss-read the authors name thinking it was a Judith Pella/Tracie Peterson book, because she is Judith PELLA fan. So, she decided not to read this novel until the end. The third is comes from Rena (USA, October 30th, 2007) who said that she never felt attached to any of the characters. She hated when Jamine's family are so selfish and hated when Jasmine had to marry Bradley.

Based on the writer's opinion, this book is so interesting. This novel has some points of interest such as Characters, Setting, Plot, and also Subject Matters. First, from those characters, she finds the book to be full of different background characters of interest. The main character, Jasmine, goes

through many emotional trials. Jasmine grows from a spoiled daughter to a very intelligent young woman. The characters often made the writer angry with Bradley and Malcolm. A husband who is always sees his wife as a slave. And also a father who is prefers his business to his own daughter. In the half way through the book, the authors introduce several new characters. They quickly make the writer care about these new characters, Kiara and her brother Paddy, orphans who come to the U.S. from Ireland. These two come to the home of Bradley and Jasmine. The writer likes the way Kiara loves her brother, how she can hold out during famine in Ireland, and her patient in overcome Bradley who always force her to have sex. But some goodness comes out of even a bad situation. The writer interested in these two women from diverse backgrounds with two things in common: surviving the abuse of Bradley and turning to God to help them succeed. Separately neither can make it, but together their prayers and their joint courage give both hopes.

The second reason is about Setting. Setting of time in this novel happened in 19th century; and the setting of place takes place in Mississippi, Lowell, and Ireland. The writer gets knowledge about Mississippi, a city that locates in the Southern United States where Jasmine lives. Jasmine's father has a cotton plantation named Willows Plantation. He also has so many slaves. Willows plantation of Jasmine's father in Mississippi represented the cotton plantation and also slavery in that time, exactly in 19th century. Because in that time, Southern United States was still using slave although others country oppose the existence of slavery, included Northern United

States. The authors also give us information about Lowell, Massachusetts Northern United States, the city where Bradley lives. This city was a center for textile in that time. Textile is a field where Bradley works. He joins Boston Association, a link for group of investor in textile companies. The other place is Ireland, the place where Kiara and her brother come from. The writer is given a view about what Ireland was like during the famine that devastated Ireland during that time. From reading this novel, the writer gets knowledge about U.S. state because this novel tells the truth about how does America in that time.

Third, the plot of this novel is very enjoyable. It makes the writer mad, sad, happy, and many more emotions. The time is back when there were slaves, before women voted, and when the North wanted the South to stop trading cotton with England. The book then starts to tell about Ireland and then go back to Lowell again. Something that guessed to be sad ending, then changes into happy ending when Bradley dead and everything be all right.

Fourth, there are two dominant subject matters in this novel, they are: Slavery and Gender Discrimination. The South America, the place where Jasmine live, was a country that still agree with slavery. While in the North was a country that is opposes the slavery. So, while reading this novel, the writer also gets the knowledge about those countries' view about slavery. And then the second subject matter is about Gender Discrimination. As the writer tells before about Jasmine's life, Jasmine is always be discriminated in her entire whole life. Jasmine can represent the women life in that time. From

those two subject matters, the writer decides to analyze the second subject matter, Gender Discrimination. Currently, discrimination based on sex is defined as adverse action against another person that would not have occurred had the person been of another sex. This is considered a form of prejudice and is illegal in certain enumerated circumstances in most countries. In addition, women could not do anything as freely as men could. Their roles were limited only to doing household chores, such as cleaning the house, looking after the children, cooking, etc. Although they had extraordinary potency and ability to be considered as same as men, no men took notice of this. Many women raised their voices for equality, but very frequently it was just ignored by the world.

According to those reasons, the writer tries to analyze this novel about discrimination in gender entitled AGAINST GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN TRACIE PETERSON AND JUDITH MILLER'S NOVEL "A *TAPESTRY OF HOPE*" (2004): FEMINIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

There is no previous study related to Tracie Peterson and Judith miller's novel, *Tapestry of Hope*, at least among university in Central Java, such as UMS, UNS, and UKSW.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is: “How is gender discrimination reflected in *Tapestry of Hope* novel”.

D. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller’s *Tapestry of Hope* novel based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller’s *Tapestry of Hope* novel based on the Feminist approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer has limited the problem to make the research easier. The writer focuses this research in analyzing gender discrimination in Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller’s *Tapestry of Hope* novel based on Feminist approach.

F. The Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Tapestry of Hope* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University that have interest with literary study on the novel from Feminist approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller's *Tapestry of Hope* novel, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research that takes the source data from words and other written text. Qualitative study is concerned with providing description of phenomena that occur naturally. This study attempted to present the data from perspective of the observed subject.

2. Data and Data Source

There are two data source that are needed to do this study:

a. Primary Data Source

The Primary Data Sources of the study are Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller's *Tapestry of Hope* novel and its translation by Yeri Ekomunajat.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are books and other sources, such as the biography of the author, the websites on the internet that support the analysis.

3. Object of the Study

The object of this study is are Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller's *Tapestry of Hope* novel published by Bethany House Publisher in 2004.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are:

- a. Finding the major issue in this novel.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed by reading the summary of the novel.
- c. Reading the novel in English version entitled *Tapestry of Hope*.
- d. Reading the translation of the novel entitled *Puing-Puing Asa* several times.
- e. Taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data.
- f. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- g. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the novel.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The techniques used in analyzing the data are classifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones, then, analyzing data based on Feminist theory.

H. Research Organization

The research paper organization of “Gender Discrimination in Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller’s novel *Tapestry of Hope* (2004): Feminist Approach” is as follows: Chapter I is introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Theoretical Approach; it consists of Notion of Feminism Theory, Analysis, and Structural Elements of *A Tapestry of Hope* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Plot, Setting, Point of View, Style, and Theme. Chapter III is about social-historical background of the American society in the beginning of twenty first century.