

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In the past, both women and men have studied women from a predominately male perspective largely because until recently, all theories about humans, or nature and behavior, have been “man-made” (Spender in Mandell, 1995:viii). Elliot and Mandell (in Mandell, 1995:x) state that feminist theories emerge from the various explanations of women’s oppression.

“Feminism” as a word gained widespread usage in the western world in the 1890’s. It emerged at this time as a way to identify individuals who supported not merely and increased public role for women but also women’s right to define themselves as autonomous beings. However, throughout the past century, as women’s private and public roles have expanded and altered, the definition of a feminist has also broadened to include political, cultural, economic, sexual, racial, and ethnical dimensions (Mandell, 1995:4).

According to Weedon (in Mandell, 1995:4) feminism is a politics directed at changing existing power relations between women and men in society. Recently, there are many cases in the society about violence to women’s rights such as domestic violence. Feminist theories have a relation to domestic violence issue because domestic violence is an act of usurpation of women’s rights. Whereas, in principle every person was given equal opportunities and civil rights (Anderson in Mandell, 1995:5). Domestic violence can devastate mental health of women. Domestic violence is a criminal behavior which causing trauma on mental. While, as human being deservedly have equal opportunities and rights. The opportunities to make choices, decisions, opinions, and critiques in social, politic, economy in society, and rights to get acknowledgment in society, love from their partner, and have a life better.

Domestic violence is caused by an underlying power imbalance that can be understood only by examining society as a whole. The analysis focuses on

patriarchy or male domination over women and children through physical, economic, and political control. Domestic violence reflects women's inequality in the culture and the reinforcement of this reality by various institutions. (Wolfe and Jaffe, 1999:135).

The researcher is interested to analysis *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. This memoir has relation to domestic violence which happen violence acts to young woman, Nujood. *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir was a true story about Nujood gets domestic violence from her husband after married. She with her courage against the law and the culture of her family and society to get her rights as a woman. In the story, in February 2008, her father told her that she was going to wed a man three times older than her age. Like the other girls, Nujood is a child who has dreams, parents, brothers and sisters. She is not a princess. She likes plays hide and seek and a chocolate. But after her father forced her to marry a man at the age of more than 30 years old, she lost her happiness.

She had to live with her husband and his family in cloistered village in Yemen, a place where the customary law and patriarchy system exists. Yemen is one of small country in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan etc. Child brides in Yemen were not novelties. They allowed marrying with requirement that is not to make physical contact during the bride gets menstruation. But in fact, her husband broke his promise that he would not make physical contact with Nujood, but he did it. Young Nujood lost her virginity at first night.

Having happy family after marriage is every body's desirability, but poor Nujood, she got bad treatment from both her husband and her mother in law. She was as a wife who got physical and sexual violence from her husband every night and her mother in law always gave her a physical and emotional oppression. She prohibited go to school. Because she could not endure the condition for long time, Nujood determined to fight against her marriage with proposed a divorce. The little girl resolved to gather all her strength and try to escape her miserable fate.

*I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* is written by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui. The original language of the memoir was French, published in 2010 and it was translated into 20 languages. The English version was translated by Linda Coverdale and published by Three River Press on March. It consists of 11 chapters, 64 pages. It is a true story of a girl named Nujood Ali who had to wed with a man who was three times older than her age and got domestic violence from her husband after married.

Nujood Ali was born on Yemen in 1998. She is the first figure of Yemen who fights against forced marriage underage. At the age of 10, in April 2008 she obtained a divorce. November 2008, *Glamour* American magazine chooses her as "women of the year" because of her courage tells her full story for the first time honored by Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice.

Delphine Minoui is France's Journalist, 39 years old. She gets an appreciation from *Albert Loudress* for her reports Iran and Middle East since 1997. Besides her book that written with Nujood, the other work is *Les Pintades a*

*Teheran* tell about women's oppression in Iran. She lived in Beirut after finishing her works from Iran.

In the memoir, Delphine Minoui explains two important aspects in Yemen. First, women have not authority to explore their opinion. Such as when young Nujood want to deny her marriage with a man at the age of more than 30 years old, she could not do it and only accepted what decision was made by her father and her brothers. And even Nujood got domestic violence by her husband, she could not do anything, even when she bumped and needed help from her family, they could not help Nujood. Second, the power of the city lies is at the hands of tribal chief. The tribal chiefs attend any affairs such as th arms sales, marriage, or the commerce and culture of khat. In Yemen homes, of course, the real law is at the hands of fathers and brothers.

Later, the researcher is interested in doing the analysis *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*. The researcher has four reasons. *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir was a great memoir. The title of the memoir is really interesting to hear. The title can make everyone who read it will feel sympathy that there is a young child at the age of ten years old has divorced in the world. The researcher hopes through this research can be told. As a result, the reader can solve their problems who are in similar situations in the future.

Second, although in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir Nujood's world may seem impossibly remote to our own, this book has universal appeal. It is the story of courage, human rights, passion and compassion. Young Nujood

with her courage against the culture of Yemen to escape of her miserable. That she went to the court to get a judgment, finally she got her justice. She had divorced. Her success has already inspired a few other young girls in similar situations to obtain justice.

Third, the present researcher will be a teacher later and this project is necessary to be carried out to widen, enlarge, and insert more knowledge to her professional competence as a teacher. The researcher can apply her knowledge to her students later. It is also like an experience to learn which will be used to the future. Women's studies attempts to rectify this appalling lack of knowledge through historical recovery and contemporary investigation.

Finally, the last reason is to supply theoretical framework in the research of literature in English Department. Thus, theoretical framework can be used to learn when study in there. As a orientation to the later when learn them. Woman's studies also produced new bodies of knowledge that both corrected and complemented the established disciplines while slowly constituting itself as a new academic discipline of its own.

As a result, because the reasons above, the researcher is interested to analysis *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. In this research paper, the researcher is encouraged to entitled the research as following: "*Domestic Violence Reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced Memoir (2010): A Feminist Perspective.*"

## **B. Previous Study**

The researcher realizes that this research is not the first research. To prove the originality of the research, the researcher will show the previous studies that deal with the research.

The first research is entitled *Nujood Ali and the Fight against Child Brides in Yemen* (Liefafa, 2011, Tavaana Case Study). In her study, she analyzes Nujood Ali and her fight against child bride. She describes Nujood cases through leadership aspect and civil aspect. She finds up that Nujood focused on escaping her abusive marriage. She was also eager to return to her younger sister in order to protect her from the same fate. In the leadership aspects, she realizes that Nujood's courageous decision to end her marriage was a historic event for Yemen.

The second research is entitled *Protest Against the Domination of Tribal Customs in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced Memoir (2010): A Critical Discourse Analysis*. The objectives of the study are to analyze the structural elements of the memoir and to reveal the dominant ideology reflected in the memoir by using Critical Discourse Analysis approach. The finding of the research shows as follows: firstly, based in the structural analysis, it is evident that in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*, Minuoi protests against the domination of tribal customs as western toward patriarchal culture. Secondly, based on the social cognition analysis, it is apparent that the values underlying the part, includes human freedom, marriage, women's right,

women's role, responsibility, and childcare. The values imply that the dominant ideology is liberal feminism.

Considering the two previous studies above, the researcher wants to conduct the close and almost similar research. The similar with the first and second research is about the object (data) of the study. The difference with the first and second studies is about the type of the study, issue of the study, and objectives of the study. That is why this research is crucial to be conducted.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of the study is “How is the reflection of domestic violence reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010) by using a feminist perspective?”

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

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the reflection of domestic violence reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010) by using a feminist perspective.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are following:

1. To analyze the reflection of domestic violence reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010) based on its structural elements.

2. To analyze the reflection of domestic violence reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010) based on feminist perspective.

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

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is projected to give memoir contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies.

### **2. Practically Benefit**

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the researcher and other students at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

## **G. Research Method**

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

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to conduct the research are as follows: 1) determining the type of the study, 2) determining the object of the study, 3) determining data and data sources, 4) determining technique of data collection, and finally 5) determining technique of data analysis.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir that consist of 11 chapters and 64 pages, the original language is French and the

English version was translated by Linda Coverdale in 2010 published by Three Rivers Press, New York. It will be analyzed through Feminist Perspective.

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

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data, as follows:

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the memoir written by Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* translated by Linda Coverdale published by Three Rivers Press, New York in United States of America.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of domestic violence that supports the feminist analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based in Feminist perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of domestic violence.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization of Domestic Violence Reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010): A Feminist Perspective and it is divided into six chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction that covers the background of the study, literature review, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II covers with the underlying theory that consists of describing feminist theory, aspects of feminism, notion of domestic violence, notion structural element and also theoretical application. Chapter III concerns with social background of Yemen society in late 20<sup>th</sup> until the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Chapter IV deals with structural analysis containing the structural elements of the memoir and discussion. Chapter V presents feminist analysis. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.