

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Veil of Roses is a fiction novel from the author Laura Fitzgerald which was published in January 2007 by Bantam Dell A Division of Random House, Inc., New York. The cover photos of this novel is by David Steele/Getty Images and Michel Legrou, MPG. The cover design is by Yook Louie. The book design is by Karin Batten.

The author of this novel is Laura Fitzgerald. She lives in Tucson, Arizona with her Iranian-American husband and their two children. She divides her time between Arizona and Wisconsin. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison and now works in Physics R Us. *Veil of Roses* is her first novel and it is sequel from the second novel *Dreaming in England*. The third novel she made is *One True Theory of Love*.

Veil of Roses tells about the Iranian woman, Tamila Soroush. She wants everything but dreams are dangerous thing for a girl in the islamic Republic of Iran. She is twenty-seven years old when she celebrates her birthday party and get a very special gift from her parents. She gets a bottle of sand from San Fransisco. Tami has to revert that sand to the seashore. The other gifts are a ticket and paspor to go to America. Her parents hope that she could go and wake up her luck. If their hope is granted, Tami would not ever go back to

Iran. Tami only has about three months to look for a man to be her husband in order to get a green card to sponsor her to be an American citizen.

Tami downed American freedom as a girl since she sets her foot in the land of Uncle Sam. Encouraged by her interest in photography, she even goes on an adventure into the world of film. She is overshadowed by the fact that she must be willing betrothed by her sister, Maryam, before her visa expires.

Arriving in Tucson, Tamila is greeted by a festive party and introduced by a Persian man who works as a dentist, Mohammed, since the first meeting Tamila convinces her not to marry Muhammad because he is not so decorous and often speak with scorn, he already has a fiance so an arranged marriage to her is instantly fail.

The next arranged marriage is with a Persian man, an engineer named Haroun. He is kind and polite, but "weird". He was too concerned about the cleanliness and health. His hallucinations of bedbugs in the corner of the ceiling in Maryam house and the scorpions crawling and biting his legs make Tami and Ardishir think he is insane. At the time there are little debate about her arranged marriage. Until finally Tami agrees Haroun's application. The marriage is fail because Tami is bothered by Eva with an advertising on her single persian web site that finally brings Tami with Masoud, a single Persian man who lives in Chicago. He is a gay man who pushed his mother desire to get married and have children. Tami wants marriage and becomes an American citizen so she does not have to return to the country of his birth that is so oppressive to women. Until arriving on their wedding day, Masoud asks

Tami to sign a prenuptial agreement that the contents are different from the agreement that has been made. It is aggravating Tami because in the agreement only benefits Masoud and not for Tami. Finally Tami decides not to sign a prenuptial agreement, which means that there is no marriage between Tami and Masoud. During in America, Tami take an English course. In the course Tami finds friends who are very friendly and warm, they are Eva, Nadia, Agata and Josef. Tami has a friend named Ike who met on the way to the an English course. Ike is a young American who is good and helpful. Their friendship has grown even stronger and Tami has difficulty in ignoring her forbidden feeling for him.

After the failure of the marriage Tami prepares her return to Iran reluctantly. Before coming back to Iran she goes to Lake Havasu City with her course friends. Then they continue on to Las Vegas to witness the wedding Agata and Josef.

The arrival of Ike in Las Vegas surprises Tami a bit. At that meeting Ike expresses his feelings of love towards Tami and apply Tami to be his wife. In that evening they get married off by a figure an imitator of elvis.

Finally when Tami visits San Francisco, she fulfills her promise to her parents to return the sand which is located in a bottle of perfume. She thanks to his parents who have given a chance to be happy.

There are many response to this novel. Most of them give a good response, the first is from Kavita Daswani, author of *Salaam*, Paris. She states that “a georgously authentic voice. Fitzgerald’s narrative is infused with wit,

warmth and compassion. If you like cross-cultural books, you won't want to put this down." The second is from Krishna (2009). She states that she enjoys the blend of chick lit and multicultural fiction that she utilizes, as well as the fact that she tackles deep issues within her novels. *Veil of Roses* was a really wonderful read. It's a light book that is easy and enjoyable to read, but that doesn't mean it's fluff. The third is from Jocelyn (2007). She states that she personally did enjoy the book and it is not the most empowering or stereotype-breaking book with regard to Muslim women that she has read, and not the best book ever, but it is enjoyable, and there are some bits of the prose that she found quite wonderful.

The researcher has four reasons why she is interested in this novel. The first is the reflection of the characters in *Veil of Roses* (2007) novel. Fitzgerald tells the story to the readers about how a woman in Iran is very restricted to have just a dream. How a woman in America is very free to express everything she wants, dream seems like very close there. The second aspect is where the story takes place or setting. Fitzgerald takes the setting almost in Tucson America to support the novel. She draws the difference between Iran and America very clearly. Iran is a very unsecured place for women and America is the opposite of Iran. Having a party will be very dangerous in Iran, they will have business with the police if the party is detected but in America it is just ordinary thing, everything is alright, party is going on.

The third is the plot that so simple. The story of this novel is not too difficult to be understood, because Fitzgerald uses easy words. By reading this

novel, the researcher feels like she is an Iranian woman that is very depressed to live in Iran and feels so happy and free when she is in America. The last reason is the story of this novel. It shows how the culture influence the society. Two cultures meet in this novel, between Iran culture and American culture. Both of them are very different and contradictory. Laura Fitzgerald narrated this story well. She brings the reader into her story and it feels like it is real in this world.

Based on the previous reasons, the researcher will examine *Veil of Roses* (2007) novel by using sociological theory as the approach to analyze this novel. In this study, the researcher proposes to conduct a research with the title **“The Meeting of Two Cultures in Laura Fitzgerald’s *Veil of Roses* Novel (2007): A Sociological Perspective.”**

B. Literature Review

The researcher just finds one writer who analyzed this novel before. It is conducted by Tresnadi (*UPI*, 2010) entitled *“The Construction of Freedom in a Novel Veil of Roses by Laura Fitzgerald, An Existentialist Feminist Analysis”*. It is revealed that freedom is constructed upon the comparison between the main woman character’s life in Iran and America. The comparison creates new conception of freedom for the main woman character.

The present researcher is going to analyze this novel from different perspective, entitled *“The Meeting of Two Cultures in Laura Fitzgerald’s Veil of Roses Novel (2007): A Sociological Perspective.”*

C. Problem Statement

The major problem statement of the study is how the meeting of two cultures in Laura Fitzgerald's *Veil of Roses*.

From the major problem statement above can be broke down into:

1. What are the characteristics of two cultures in *Veil of Roses* novel?
2. How is the meeting of two cultures portrayed in *Veil of Roses* novel?
3. Why does Laura Fitzgerald feel necessary to address the meeting of two cultures?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses in analyzing the meeting of two cultures in Laura Fitzgerald's *Veil of Roses* novel using a sociological perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following:

1. To analyze the meeting of two cultures in Laura Fitzgerald's *Veil of Roses* novel (2007) based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the meeting of two cultures in Laura Fitzgerald's *Veil of Roses* novel (2007) based on sociological perspective.
3. To describe the characterictics of two cultures in *Veil of Roses* novel.
4. To describe the meeting of two culture portrayed in *Veil of Roses*.

5. To analyze the necessary of Laura Fitzgerald to address the meeting of two cultures.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes this research will be beneficial for the readers and other researchers generally. The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

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

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer in literary studies.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the writer applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze the novel using sociological perspective. The steps to conduct the research are as follow: 1) determining the type of the study, 2) determining the object of the study, 3) determining data and data source, 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 *Veil of Roses* novel by Laura Fitzgerald and it was published in 2007 by Bantam Dell A Division of Random House, Inc.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data is the form of text which is taken from the words, phrases and sentences in the novel entitled *Veil of Roses* by Laura Fitzgerald. There are two types of data namely primary and secondary data as follows:

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is the novel of *Veil of Roses* published in 2007 by Bantam Dell A Division of Random House, Inc.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the meeting of two cultures that support the sociological perspective.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of collecting the data are:

- a. The researcher collects any data, which are related to the problem statement. She categorizes the data into two groups; they are main data and supporting data.
- b. The main data are read repeatedly and comprehensively.

- c. The supporting data are collected and classified in accordance with the subject matter.
- d. The main data and supporting data are analyzed in order to answer the problem statement.
- e. The researcher describes the conclusions from the analysis.
- f. The researcher selects the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer 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 on sociological perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of the meeting of two cultures.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper organization is elaborated into six chapters. Chapter I is Introduction covering 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. Chapter II explains about Underlying Theory, which contains of Sociological of Literature, Major Principles of Sociology of Literature, Structural Element of

the Novel, Notion of Culture and Theoretical Application. Chapter III contains about the Social Historical Background of the American Society in the late of Twentieth Century and the beginning of the twenty-first century, including social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, religion aspect and science and technology aspect. Chapter IV contains Structural Analysis of the novel. Chapter V discusses the sociological analysis of Laura Fitzgerald in *Veil of Roses*. Chapter VI consist of conclusion, pedagogical implication and suggestion of the research.