

**WOMEN'S STRUGGLE TO GET THE EQUAL POSITION
WITH MEN IN SAUDI ARABIA BY CARMEN BIN LADIN
IN INSIDE THE KINGDOM NOVEL (2004):
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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by:

NOVITA AGUS SULISTYOWATI
A 320080317

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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos 1 – Pabelan, Kartasura Telp (0271) 717417 Fax: 715448 Surakarta

57102

Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

Yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini pembimbing skripsi / tugas akhir:

Nama : Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum. (Pembimbing I)
NIP/NIK : 589
Nama : Drs. Sigit Haryanto, M.Hum (Pembimbing II)
NIP/NIK : 567

Telah membaca mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi (tugas akhir) dari mahasiswa :

Nama : Novita Agus Sulistyowati

NIM : A 320 080 317

Program Studi : Bahasa Inggris

Judul Skripsi : Women's Struggle To Get The Equal Position With Men In Saudi Arabia By Carmen Bin Ladin *Inside The Kingdom* Novel (2004): A Feminist Approach

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Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum
589

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Pembimbing II

Drs. Sigit Haryanto, M.Hum
567

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Novita Agus Sulistyowati
A 320 080 317
ovynovietha@yahoo.com
Abdillah Nugroho
abdillah_nugroho@ums.ac.id
Sigit Haryanto
Wongsudi47@yahoo.com

Department of English Education, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

ABSTRACT

The research is proposed to analyze the struggle for women's struggle to get the equal position with men in Saudi Arabia by Carmen Bin Ladin in *Inside the Kingdom* (2004) by a Feminist Approach. The research sets two objectives: the first is to analyze the novel in term of structural elements, and the second is to analyze the novel based on the Feminist Analysis.

This study is a qualitative study using the novel of *Inside the Kingdom* as the object analysis of the study. There are two kinds of data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source is the text of the novel *Inside the Kingdom* and the secondary data sources are some books and articles related to the subject. The method of collecting data in the research is library research by summarizing, paraphrasing, and documenting the data. In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis.

The outcome of the study is as follows: first, structural analysis: *Inside the Kingdom* is a novel by Carmen which is written based on real event in live. *Inside the Kingdom* novel by Carmen translated by Yusdi. M and published in 2006. The theme of this novel is "Freedom is woman's right to get the same position as men". Secondly, an individual psychological analysis: in this novel, Carmen wants to say that women need to struggle to get equal position with men and to get the freedom. Carmen wants to illustrate how women are subordinate in patriarchal society their life and that women's independence is not given but must be struggled for. Carmen wants to assert that in order to get their independence, women should rebel against patriarchal society in the issue of women's position, role, right, and participation.

Keywords: Women Struggle, *Inside the Kingdom*, Feminist approach.

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Inside the Kingdom is written by Carmen Bin Ladin in 2004. It is an intimate account of life, and the journey one embarks on when one truly wishes to “live life”. Carmen wrote about his life story. This book is a Carmen’s live, but it is not about herself but it tells about her environment. The story is so amazing because this novel was written based on the true story from the author, Carmen Bin Laden. It is not fictional novel. It makes the researcher more interested to read.

To reach the gender equality, a lot of women start to enter men’s field. Like that Carmen Bin Ladin in *My Life in Saudi Arabia*. She wants to save her country, and she sacrificed her soul and body. And Carmen tells her struggle to save her marriage and children, her son from life in Saudi Arabia. He does not care how her ex-husband or the bin Laden family members, they still feel kinship and religious ties strong and financially even Osama Bin Laden's residence in Saudi Arabia. He admitted that when he finds it difficult to adjust with Saudi Arabia's society and restrict his lifestyle is one of privilege.

Feminist is a body of social theory and political movement primarily based on and motivated by the experience of women. While generally providing a critique of social relations, many proponents of feminism also focus on analyzing gender inequality and the promotion of women’s rights, interest, and issues.

Based on explanation above, the writer takes a title: **WOMEN’S STRUGGLE TO GET THE EQUAL POSITION WITH MEN IN SAUDI ARABIA BY CARMEN BIN LADIN IN *INSIDE THE KINGDOM* NOVEL (2004): A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

2. Previous Study

Inside the Kingdom is an interesting novel. This novel is one of the best seller books which published in 2004. The research of this novel is not new thing. The writer found a researcher who analyzed this novel

before. But the writer just found one researcher because this novel is rather new.

Munjariyah (2006), conducted a research entitled “Limitation of Women’s Right Reflected in Carmen Bin Ladin’s *Inside the Kingdom* (2004): A feminist Approach”. Based on the analysis, she draws some conclusions as follows: first, the structural element of *Inside the Kingdom* presents unity. As the major character, Carmen has an important role throughout the story. She appears in the exposition, complication, climax, and resolution of the story. Second, there are several limitations of women told in this novel. From the author’s point of view, the reader can get a description of women living in Saudi Arabia.

The second research is Suryatiningsih. This study is aimed to analyze “Women’s Discrimination in Saudi Arabia Reflected in Carmen bin Ladin *Inside the Kingdom* memoir (2004): A Feminist Approach”. Besides, this study is also aimed to examine the structural elements of the novel. The writer draws the result of the analysis. The first, from the structural analysis of the novel shows that Carmen Bin Ladin wants to convey her idea about women’s discrimination. This discrimination has position, role, right, and participant. Carmen wants to point out the society about the discrimination between men and women in position, role, right, and participation.

From literature review above, the present research is different from the previous study. This research focuses on **“Women’s Struggle to Get the Equal Position with Men in *Inside the Kingdom* Novel (2004): a Feminist Approach”**.

3. Problem Statement

In this research, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The problem of the research is “How is women’s struggle to get the equal position with men in *Inside the Kingdom* novel?”.

4. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the women's struggle to get the equal position with men in *Inside the Kingdom* novel based on feminist approach.

5. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside the Kingdom* novel based on the structural elements.
2. To describe the women's struggle to get the equal position with men in *Inside the Kingdom* novel based on the feminist approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of this study are to give contribution the body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside the Kingdom* and to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and others students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other University who have interest in literary study on the novel from Feminist Approach.

7. Underlying Theory

This chapter deals with underlying theory used in this research, feminist approach. This chapter contains of three parts. The first is notion of feminism. The second is basic concepts of feminism, in which consist of women's role, women's position, women's right, and women independent. The third is structural elements of the movie.

a. Notion of Feminism

When discussing woman's problem, the world that always sprung into people's minds is always feminist. In discussing problem related to feminism it is better to understand the world feminism itself. Anderson (1983: 9) also states that, "Feminism is both way of thinking and a way of acting and the union of action and thought is central to feminist program for social change."

b. Major Principle of Feminism

1) Women's Position

Feminist believes that women can reach the same degree with men. Women and men should realize that they live together in society; they must help to each other. The view that woman must be inferior to the men or on the contrary be erasing. The feminist movement tries to change the assumption that women are inferior to men. Actually feminist think that the position of women and men in society are not the result of natural factor but social factor. Feminism begins with the premise that women and men position in society (Anderson, 1983: 9). Basically, men and women are different, but the different should not influence the position of some. Feminist movement tries to change it through social institution and social attitudes, take the women's interest and perspective non inferior to men.

2) Women's Right

In this case, women can express what they want without a restraint from public opinion. Women right is not only to make became a free person, but also it is a process struggle of women to get equality. We know that every person was born equal. Every person has the same right and chance to express their idea. In this case, women can express what they without a restraint from public opinion. The demands of equal right between women and men as a starting point to make women become good as men.

3) Women's Role

There is a stereo type that women are always associated with domestic role. Besides as wives and mother, they can participate in public life. Now, women's role not only in domestic area but also they can show in public area. Women's role is in domestic area, usually they just stay at home and taking care of family. Their roles

in public are limited by patriarchal system and men's domination. There is presumption that woman as weak person and men as strong. So, the women become his minority in public area.

4) Women's Participants

Women generally have fewer participation and opportunities than men do in public life. Murphy (1995:2) stated that "women were generally excluded, as far as possible, from public life. Women's participation means having right to give aspiration in following discussion for making decision in all areas public life, such as making decision in politic, economic and the roles in society. The full attainment of quality will provide women with the opportunity to show their ability and give a supportive effect to protest against the subordination of women.

c. Structural Element of the Novel

1) Character and Characterization

Character means the people told in the story, in movies is constructed as narrative. Narrative of the film and television is balancing the character with the development of the story. According to Kennedy (1983: 45) "A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story – although that simple definition may admit to a few exception".

2) Plot

Plot is one of the important elements in a story. Discussing about the term plot is similar with taking about dramatic structure. Hornby defines that plot is a plan or on outline of the events in a novel. This stresses on the causality of the events (Hornby, 1995: 951).

3) Setting

Setting is important to show where the story takes place. Place is able to show the sense and the story begins. The viewer is able to identify the story based on this place and related to the real world. According to Philips (2005: 11) “Setting is the place where filmed action occurs”. Setting builds what kinds of the story and the character that the audiences will meet and what kinds of conflicts that will be occurred during a play.

4) Point of View

Point of view related to the position of the storyteller in this story and how his side views this story. It is important to find out the underlying perspective which develops in the story. Point of view influences the story in subject matter.

5) Style

Style refers to the individual traits or characteristics of a piece of writing to write a particular ways of managing words that the writer comes to recognize as habitat or customary (Kennedy, 1983:74). The style which is used by the author will influence reader’s view on the fiction. It constitutes one of fiction element which determines the success of author to persuade the reader’s thinking. Style of the novel is including; grammatical Structure, sentence structure, diction structure, diction, figurative language, and symbol.

6) Theme

According to Kennedy (1983: 103), he defines “theme as the central ideas of the story, it is the author’s purpose in writing the story”. Formulating the theme is not easy. The readers can catch it after reading, studying and comprehending the content of the novel, because the writer may not state it clearly. The author may imply it arrangement of the story. Theme gives lesson and lesson

and advice to the readers about the human values, the values of life, courage and strives to achieve the goal of life.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing *Inside the Kingdom* novel, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. It aims at analyzing the novel using feminist approach. The steps of conducting this research are (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 (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the novel of Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside the Kingdom* consists of 206 pages published in United State of America by Warner Books copyright in 2004. It is analyzed by using feminist approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, there are two source of data namely primary and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel itself, *Inside the Kingdom* by Carmen Bin Ladin.

b. Secondary data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other source, which are related to the primary data such as some biography of the author, the website from internet other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used in this study is library research which is conducted by collecting both of the primary and secondary data. Some steps of collecting data applied in this study are follows:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly until the writer gets adequate information

- b. Identifying the topic of the novel
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required
- e. Making notes of the important in both primary and secondary data
- f. Classifying the data into some categories
- g. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity toward the topic of the study

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive qualitative analysis. The structural element of the novel and the collected data will be described and analyzed in detail through feminist approach.

C. Social Background of American

1. Social Aspect

The US in the 20th is often portrayed as a classless and egalitarian society but there have always been social and economic differences between American. Arguably these constitute a class model divided into working, middle and upper classes based on job status, income, capital and (sometimes) birth. Industrialization increased the class and wealth gaps between industrialist, manufacturers, financiers and landowners, on the other hand, and industrial and agricultural workers, on the other.

Socio economic class as cultural groups in the community setting. Class is an important object of analysis for sociologists, political scientists, economic, anthropologist, social and historical. In the social sciences, social class, there are three social stratification in modern western context, namely: a layer of the upper class, middle class and lower class. Each class can be subdivided into smaller sections.

2. Economic Aspect

A hundred years ago, the international economy was entering the 20th century with the freest flow of goods, service and capital in human

history. The previous century had witnessed expansion of global output and trade, and rising living standards in Europe and North America at a pace never before seen in human history.

The 20th century then saw just over a decade of continued expansion, followed by the abrupt disruption of trading and financial ties during the First World War International economy destroyed during World War II after the restoration of the situation prior to the war. The trend toward globalization has been restored and in 1950 and in 1960, the globalization of world economy and the degree of integration is much less than fifty years earlier.

3. Religious Aspect

The religious in America, is very significant in view of his life on the teachings of Islam are very strong. Most said religious in nature, gathering all those who believe strongly in God, whatever the God in which believe on one side and those who do not see the hand of the divinity guiding all human action on the other. If it turns out to be the case, however that religion in America is as much a source of unity as it is of division, then the prospects for a pluribus Unum are significantly advanced (Wikipedia, 2005).

4. Cultural Aspect

Modernism, in its broadest definition, is modern thought, character, or practice. More specifically, the term describes both a set of cultural tendencies and an array of associated cultural movement, originally arising from wide-scale and far-reaching changes to Western society in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The term encompasses the activities and output of those who felt the “traditional” form of art, architecture, Literature, religious faith, social organization and daily life were becoming outdated in the new economic, social, and political conditions of an emerging fully industrialized world.

5. Political Aspect

America is a strong nation with enormous wealth, the country with the military might and global influence. System of government is a government in which the government is responsible for, protects, and preserves human rights. When the government could not perform it is responsibilities to maintain the rights it live, freedom and proprietorship.

6. Science and Technology Aspect

As the 1960s began, American cars showed a rapid rejection of 1950s styling excess, and would remain relatively clean and boxy for the entire decade. The horse power race reached its climax in the late 1960s, with muscle cars sold by most makes. In 1964, launched the compact Ford Mustang, one of the greatest delude success. The “Big Three” American automakers enjoyed their highest ever sales and profitability in the 1960s, but the demise of Studebaker in 1966 left American motors Corporation as the last significant independent. The decade would see the car market split into different size classes for the first time, and model lineups now included compact size classes for the first time, and model lineups now included compact and mid-sized cars in addition to full-sized ones.

7. American Women’s Condition

The period of great transformation in the role of American women occurred in the twentieth century. Women have always worked and keep her family, but, in fact, freedom is the opportunity for the outside world to participate fully in doing things in a certain extent, most of the sound, to controlling their reproductive cycle, to running a Fortune 500 company. This content-rich overview of women’s roles in the modern age is a must-have for every library to fill the gap in resources about women’s lives. Students and general readers will trace the development of American women of different classes and ethnicities in education, the home, the law, politics religion, work, and arts from the Progressive Era to the new millennium (Martha May, 2009).

D. Finding and Discussion

1. Structural Element Analysis

The third chapter of this study contains of structural analysis of *Inside the Kingdom* novel. It is divided into the structural elements and the discussion. The structural elements of the novel consist of character and characterization, plot, setting, style, point of view and theme.

a. Character and Characterization

Character is a person in a narrative work (such as a novel, play, or film), there are two kinds of character in the novel, namely major and minor characters. The major character in the novel is Carmen Bin Ladin. The minor character consists of Yeslam, UmiYeslam, Marry Martha. As major character, Carmen Bin Ladin is the female main character of the novel. Carmen is born Dufour, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Morally Carmen is sociable, impetuous, ompulsive and heedless. Carmen is an optimist person. Beside that Carmen is independent woman. Carmen is ambitious person and motivates herself to change her life to be better in the future.

While as the minor character there are 1) Yeslam, he is husband of Carmen. Characteristics of Yeslam are calm, dan clear-sighted. His eyes were penetrating and gentle. He was slim, bronzed, and handsome man. Attitude of Yeslam is very grow-up, responsible, and leadership. 2) UmiYeslam, UmiYeslam is Yeslam's mother. She is Iranian, UmiYeslam is a soft spoken woman with a sweet, round face and dark hair. 3) Marry Martha, she is the best friend Carmen's when she takes a study in university of Sourthern California in Los Angeles. She always gives to support and spirit, loyalty, respect for Carmen and her family. Mary Martha is thoughtful, gracious, nature, independent but tender optimistic, funny, elegant, and direct in her speech. Martha is principal women.

b. Setting

Setting is arrangement of scenery and properties to represent the place where a play or movie is enacted. It refers to the point in place and time which the events on the plot occur. 1) Setting place, the main places which are start live of Carmen and her conflicts. 2) setting time, Inside the Kingdom novel (2004) which is written by Carmen takes a time in the middle of 1973s until early 2001s.

c. Plot

Plot is whatever happens in the story, more exactly referring to the author's particular arrangements of event plot of this novel consist of exposition, complication climax and resolution (Kennedy, 1993: 824).

1) Exposition

The exposition of the story is begun with the meeting of Carmen and Yeslam. They come from two different cultures. Carmen lives with the west culture which is contrary to Saudi Arabia. Carmen comes from a family scholars and nobles. Carmen comes from dualistic culture and broken family. Her father comes from Swiss and her mother comes from Persian. While Yeslam is from Saudi Arabia It's very thick with the culture of Saudi Arabia. He has a big and rich family.

Carmen was very fascinated with the beauty Yeslam. It's a caring, mature, and are more attracted to be the nature of free Yeslam. Carmen decides to marry Yeslam, and moves from switerland to Saudi Arabia. It is the beginning of the story.

2) Conflict

Conflicts are complication. Generally conflicts consist of two kinds of conflict such as internal and external conflict. 1) Internal Conflict, the conflict of the novel begins after Carmen was married to Yeslam and life in Saudi Arabia. 2) External

Conflict, conflict occurs when Carmen containing Yeslam third child and asked her to have an abortion, but Carmen refuses Yeslam demand and to raise their children at any cost.

3) Climax

Climax in this story occurred on 11 September 2001, when the attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center, which killed many lives. Carmen life changed after the tragedy, because in the event that OSAMA BIN LADEN is a warlord who launched the attacks in New York. Osama is the younger brother of Yeslam, and uncle of the girls.

4) Resolution

Resolution happens the story comes to end. Resolution in the story is when Carmen learned that another woman has Yeslam and Carmen and Yeslam eventually divorced.

5) Causality

In the novel *Inside the Kingdom* is going flash back. It means that the happening of events causes another happening.

6) Plausibility

Novel *Inside the Kingdom* by Carmen flats that Bin Laden showed plausibility which character change as a result of their ability. Side of the dramatic changes in the character of the female lead role in the novel is Carmen Bin Laden in which the narrator and main character. Carmen is the first time the life of Western culture that is free to do anything without any restrictions, and after that he moved to Saudi Arabia, which made him to know about Islam. This makes Carmen a great woman to fight for her life in Saudi Arabia.

d. Style

1) Grammatical Structure

The grammatical structure of the novel *Inside the Kingdom* is very clear that the author uses modern English where words, language, and sentence easily understood standard reader so that the reader can easily understand the story in the novel.

2) Sentences Construction

The sentence construction used in the dialogues, some are short and some are long so it is easy to be comprehended. In this novel, Carmen use in dialogue and narration are combination of short sentences.

3) Diction

Diction is a style of speaking or writing as dependent upon choice of words. It refers to the author's choice of the character word. In *Inside the Kingdom*, it can find combination dialect between English and Arabia.

4) Figurative Language

a) Personification

Personification is a type of metaphor that attributes human traits to objects, animals, or abstract ideas.

b) Simile

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things, usually by employing the words "like" or "as" – also, but less commonly, "if", or "than".

c) Hyperbola

Hyperbole is a type of figure of speech, uses words are exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis.

d) Repetition

Repetition is the repeated use of the same word or word pattern as a rhetorical device.

e. Point of View

Point of view is to identify the narrator of a story, describing any limits placed upon his knowledge (Kennedy, 1983: 19). Point of

view refers to the windows through which the author decides to disclose the explicit, fact that together constitutes the story. They are narrator participant as the point of view of the novel.

f. Theme

The theme of the novel *Inside the Kingdom* is “Freedom is woman’s Right to get the same position as men”. It means that women have the right and freedom in their lives and do whatever they want.

2. Feminist Analysis

In this chapter the writer discusses feminism analysis. The research to analyze Carmen Bin Ladin *Inside the Kingdom* memoir by correlating the underlying theory, the social historical background of American society and also the structural elements of the memoir.

a. Women’s Position

Inside the Kingdom in the novel suggests that the position of women is always under the control of men. It is based on the characteristics of the main character in the novel, Carmen Bin Laden, who is also the author of the novel. She expresses her ideas about the position of women in Saudi society.

b. Women’s Role

The role of women is still under men and they do not have a chance except grant all of what men say. Women just act the simpler role, and they are subordinate while men super-ordinate.

c. Women’s Right

Women’s rights consist of the right to get freedom in family and domestic environment which are suitable with equality right’s movement in the world. Women are naturally also having a life of their own. Women also have some basic rights such as the right to education, property expression, self-determination, employment and reproductive control. They can do what they want, for instance, the

right to live, right to employment, right to achieve happiness, the right to education, and so forth.

As the women of Saudi Arabia, her rights and freedoms is always claimed to accompany the Saudi Wahhabi custom, women were confined to the house and room to develop in the limit. She had a difficult life in the community adjustment strict Saudi Arabia, because she is not the average citizen. Carmen is aware of all regulations is unfair to women and trying to free herself from the situation.

d. Women's Participation

Women have the same participation in every aspect, both in and public life. They must give the chance to manage and intervene their family problem like financial problem. In career opportunity, women must also get the equality with men. They have the same participation to do something like men do. By improving capability and capacity, they are can full express their own experience an all public life because, "feminism is both way of thinking and a way of acting so women needs to actualize themselves as an actor in social institutions" (Humm, 2002: 233).

In Arab Saudi, women have less participation than men. In Inside the Kingdom, Carmen's character demonstrates the unequal participation in the novel. Carmen's participation is expressed in social as the Saudi women. Participation of women in the area is not permitted. It is law "harem" for women who do business or political work

E. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion

Everything will be realized by struggle and effort, such as struggle to getting the equal position with men. Carmen struggles to rescue and protect the her daughter had not paid the price of the most expensive divorce in favor of a very valuable knowledge for the sake of

her three daughters to live in a freedom. Carmen wants to point out the society about the discrimination between men and women in position, role, right, participation.

Restriction of rights - women's rights is in Carmen bin Ladin's novel *Inside the Kingdom*. In Saudi Arabia women is second rate. Way of live in Saudi Arabia using Islamic culture and doctrine are very strict with the rules. It does not give an opportunity to women to express their feelings. Thus, they are always subject to the power of men.

2. Suggestion

Inside the Kingdom is written by Carmen bin Ladin is interesting literary work that gives a very different picture of life. The content of the novel focuses heavily on women. About the struggle of a woman who fought for a freedom in oppression. The novel can also be analyzed with other aspects, such as psychological, sociological and also behaviorism. This novel useful lesson to the readers such as reasonability, freedom and social phenomena.

After doing a research on *Inside the Kingdom* novel using feminist approach, it is interesting for the other researchers to analyze this *Inside the Kingdom* novel by using other approach. They can use an Individual psychological approach focusing on struggle for achieving happiness, because the major character in *Inside the Kingdom* novel, Carmen is independent women. An Individual psychological approach, where there are some aspects that can be analyzed based on the real situation within the novel, because the novel is based on the real event major character, so an Individual psychological approach will be suitable for the analysis. With both different approaches it is hoped that the study will be better than this analysis.

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