

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In daily life, we are surrounded by evidence of the position and role of women in society. In general, women's natural roles are still regarded as caretaker, caregivers, and housewives. In fact, the phenomena of gender inequality that is formed by the custom positioned women in the second position. Men "are appropriate all superior social roles and keep women in subordinate and exploited" (Mandell, 2003: 14). The men are socialized into competitiveness, rationality, and independence that are appropriate in public sphere. Here, men handle economic and social aspect. Whereas, women are identified rational, contextual, integrative that is appropriate in domestic sphere (Mandell, 1995: 12).

Everyone wants to get equality but about gender is neglected. Equality is not a minority concern; it matters to everyone. At some points in our lives, all of us face barriers that may prevent us full filling our potential, of participating fully in society (<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/cehr/index.htm>). Many types stereo that woman must be inferior to the man. Women traditionally had been regarded as inferior to men physically and intellectually. (<http://www.answer.com/feminism>). It means that men domination in all

field or in superior place and become a measure for the perfect men. Women are regarded as a complement.

Struggle means some efforts to reach something. The struggle varies, such as struggle for justice, struggle to get a higher position on their profession, struggle for freedom, and struggle for love, struggle for live, and struggle for get the equal position with men. Many ways are used to make struggle necessities come true. They can do everything to struggle something they need. Although struggle to get or reach something is hard, at least the better condition is able to reach.

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. Feminism is a collection of movements that aim to define, build, and maintain political rights, economic, and social are the same and equal opportunities for women. Feminism is primarily focused on women's issues. Some feminists argue that men are an important part of liberation for women and that man are also disadvantaged by sexism and gender roles. Feminists are "beliefs and behaviors are based on feminism". Feminist theory emerged from the feminist movements, aiming to understand the nature of gender inequality by looking at women's social roles and life experiences, to develop theories in various disciplines in order to respond to issues such as the

social construction of sex and gender. Feminists have fought to protect women and girls from domestic violence, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

At first this movement is aimed to end the deprivation of those times against women's freedom. In general, women feel disadvantage in all areas and under-emphasized by men in social, employment, education, and politic, especially in a patriarchal society. Disadvantaged position of women than men in social reality. In a traditional society-oriented agriculture, men tend to be placed in front, outside the home, while women are in the house. Hence, the position of women is not equal with men before the law. But, every person has his or her right to be free from fear, free to decide what he or she wants and everything that he or she has decided that is not inverted by another man who has stronger power. All human beings, actually, have some right, but, every human being does not have right to disturb other human's right.

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 her life story. This book is a Carmen's live, but it is not about herself but it tells about her environment.

Carmen Bin Ladin (also known as Bin Ladin, born Carmen Dufour 1954 in Geneva, Switzerland) was a member of the bin Laden family. She was raised in Lausanne, Switzerland by her mother along with three other sisters (Salomé, Béatrice, and Magnolia). Her father was Swiss, hence the

name Dufour, and her mother was Persian (Mirdoht-Sheybani). Carmen was married to one of Osama bin Laden's older brothers, Yeslam bin Ladin, until 1988. They were married in 1974 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She has three daughters, Wafah Dufour, Najia and Noor. Published in 2004, *Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia* is a personal account of her life as a Saudi Arabian wife and mother. The book contains insights into life in the bin Laden family and her relationship with them and her former husband. She claims that no matter how westernized her ex-husband or other Bin Ladin family members may be, they still feel strong familial and religious ties and would financially support and shelter Osama bin Laden if necessary.

She admits that while she found it difficult to adjust to the restrictive Saudi Arabian society, her lifestyle was one of privilege. She later moved to Geneva with her then husband and three children, and finally left her husband in 1988, asking for a divorce in 1994. She alleges that her ex-husband engaged in emotional blackmail including threatening to kidnap her children, adultery, and forced her to undergo an abortion. She finally obtained a divorce 15 years later in January 2006. Yeslam bin Ladin is reportedly uninvolved and uninterested in the lives of his former wife and daughters. He is quoted in Carmen Dufour's book as saying that he wished he had sons and not daughters. Yeslam has obtained a Swiss passport supposedly for the purpose of pursuing a relationship with his children.

In her book she wrote that she had only seen Osama on two occasions and that they did not really speak. She emphasizes that the bin Laden family is a large one, and not all family members are directly associated with Osama.

For more than a dozen years during the 1970s and '80s, Carmen Bin Ladin lived a shadowy and increasingly threatened existence as the problematic foreign wife of a junior member of Saudi Arabia's powerful Bin Laden clan.

That she escaped (along with two young daughters) a veiled and psychologically suffocating life in the most restrictive Islamic nation in the world, and choose to tell about it so many years later, is remarkable in itself. Even today, although legally divorced and financially independent, she alludes to live under the pressure of periodic harassment by Bin Laden clan operatives.

Lured by what seemed to be true, youthful love and (at first) an extended "honeymoon" of affection, respect, and material indulgence from husband Yeslam whose elusive sibling is the notorious Osama the half-Swiss, half-Persian Carmen had fewer illusions about her new role than most Saudi outsiders. But even she didn't imagine the full impact of living in a rigidly patriarchal regime where internal family politics proved every bit as onerous as the heavy, tent-like *abaya* all women must wear if they dare set foot outside the home.

Viewed through the often humbling lens of perfect hindsight, life in Saudi Arabia a quarter-century ago looked full of promise. Young Carmen and her equally idealistic husband lived a cosmopolitan and sophisticated life, sustained effortlessly on the abundant resources of old family wealth and the sudden influx of vast new oil revenues. In Europe and North America, they lived as Westernized jet-setters; in Saudi Arabia, they slipped through a kind of Alice-in-Wonderland looking glass, where everything was in flux, where an ancient Islamic society was struggling with seemingly opposite demands of theocracy and modernity.

And for a while, as Carmen poignantly recalls through personal anecdotes and several dozen black-and-white family snapshots, it seems as if the forces of liberalization and openness were gaining the ascendant. There were more opportunities for women to study and work, more freedom of chaperoned association, more personal autonomy in conduct and apparel. But this tantalizing taste of freedom and equality, this crack in the door of religion-based oppression, abruptly slammed shut with the Kuwait invasion and 1990 Gulf War.

By then, her volatile marriage to the increasingly distant, extremist and hypochondriac Yeslam Bin Ladin had been emotionally over for some time, which made Saudi Arabia's accelerated rush back to the Middle Ages even more onerous for Carmen and daughters Wafah and Najia. With almost no genuine friendship to draw on from among the passive, materialistic and often self-absorbed wives, sisters, mistresses or daughters

of the vast Bin Laden household, Carmen (while pregnant with a third daughter who would be born in Europe) orchestrated a meticulous plan of escape. Not surprisingly, many details of that plan are not divulged, except that it succeeded in giving the former abaya prisoner and her children a new lease on life in a world where women can speak, move, dress, and believe for themselves.

Carmen Bin Ladin didn't start out as a feminist, social activist, author, or even a student of applied religion. But her passionate and often breathlessly told story says much about her commitment to genuine transcending love; as a mother, daughter, even (however briefly) as a wife. Just critics will find here no opportunistic infidel (of which she's been accused numerous times), nor an opponent of true Islam. She is by no means alone in contending that the Wahhabist sect that rules Saudi Arabia according to its own interpretation of Shari'a Law is in fact a perversion of the faith revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, and is in dire need of reclamation and reform. But perhaps that's the substance of another book.

When I closed the cover on Carmen Bin Ladin's fast-paced but often gut-wrenching *Inside the Kingdom*, it didn't even matter to me that the rather sensationalist hook of the "Osama connection" never amounted to more than a name in the background, nor that she never apparently even met the alleged perpetrator of the catastrophes of September 11, 2001. Like her, all I wanted to do was rush outside into the sunshine, breathe unveiled air, and thank God for creating a world whose beauty still

manages to transcend the terrible things human beings keep doing to one another.

This is a very interesting tale from the sister-in-law of Osama Bin Laden, who was married to one of his many brothers until the mid-1990s. While the author does comment on Osama from time to time, the real interest of the book is her insider's perspective on how the Saudi Arabs behave, the women as much as the men.

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.

The researcher is interested to analyze this novel. The first reason is because this novel was written based on the true story from the author, Carmen Bin Laden. It is not fiction novel. It makes the researcher more interested to read it. The author is also explaining clearly every event in his live. The story is so amazing.

The second reason is *Inside the Kingdom* novel story about women's struggle to get normal life, Carmen tells the story of his life that

survive under the domination of men. Carmen explain show woman's struggle in love with her husband and her children in her husband's limitations and oppression against freedom rights-rights. But it is a victory for her love, personal freedom and the future of his children in which the authors find true power.

The third reason, because the novel includes many aspects of life. There are several aspects which are told in this novel. This novel tells about religion, love, family, society, and especially, it tells about the women's problem of life. *Inside the Kingdom* is full of theme and it makes this novel be the one of the best seller book.

The last reason is the researcher gets much knowledge from this novel. It improves the writer's knowledge of Saudi Arabia. The researcher is eager to know about these. Saudi Arabia is country which has strict roles in their societies. There are many tights and conservative traditions and cultural in this country. This novel gives the writer more knowledge if Saudi Arabia's culture and tradition by telling these in detail. It tells all aspects of the country from the point of view of Carmen bin Laden.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher 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.**

B. 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.

Esti 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 Nova 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”**.

C. 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 reflected in *Inside the Kingdom* novel?”.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. Benefit of the Study

From this research, the writer hopes that this study has the benefits that are divided into theoretical and practical benefits, they are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give contribution the body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Carmen Bin Ladin's *Inside the Kingdom*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is hoped 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.

G. 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. Types of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, there are two sources 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 are described and analyzed in detail through feminist approach.

H. Research Organization

The writer divides this research paper in to five parts, they are: Chapter I is Introduction, Background of Study, Previous study, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II presents Underlying Theory, which present notion of Feminist Approach, Structural Element of the novel, and theoretical Application. Chapter III is social historical of Saudi Arabia in the late twentieth century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and regional aspect. Chapter VI is Structural Elements of Character and Characterization, Plot, Setting, Point of View, Style, Theme, and Discussion. Chapter V is Feminist Analysis of *Inside the Kingdom* novel. Chapter VI contains conclusion and Suggestion.