

**CHILD BRIDE IN DELPHINE MINOUI'S  
*I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED* (2010) MEMOIR:  
A FEMINIST APPROACH**

**PUBLICATION ARTICLES**



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**APPROVAL**

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**ABSTRACT**

**MEI TRI UTAMI, A 320 090 193. CHILD BRIDE IN DELPHINE MINOUI'S *I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED* (2010) MEMOIR: A FEMINIST APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA.2014.**

The major problem of this study is how child bride is reflected in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. Delphine Minoui. The objective of this study is to analyze the memoir based on its structural elements and to analyze the memoir based on the feminist analysis.

In analyzing *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* the researcher uses qualitative method and feminist approach. The data sources consist of primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir and the secondary data sources are the other sources related to the analysis such as books of literary theory, the author's biography, the information of Yemen country and the other relevant information to analysis of this research. The method of the data collection is library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.

The outcome of the study is shown in the following conclusions. First, from the structural analysis of the memoir, it shows that Delphine Minoui wants to illustrate and convey his idea about how women are subordinated being exploited in patriarchal culture being. Second, based on Feminist Approach, the conclusion is that there is child bride in the Delphine Minoui's *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. Delphine Minoui creates that the inner strength of women will be more than the strength of men when are shown up. Women's character can break the type of women's position, right, role and participation that are categorized by patriarchal culture.

**Keywords :** Feminism, Child Bride, Yemen.

## A. Introduction

### 1. Background of Study

Child marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18.

*I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir 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.

Nujood Ali of Yemen, whom she was forced to marry when she was only 10 years old. Nujood Ali relates her shocking story with the help of journalist Delphine Minoui, telling how she was forced to marry a man three times her age who had promised not to consummate the marriage until she became an adult. He broke that promise on their wedding night, initiating a vicious cycle of rape and abuse which is all-too-common in a land where laws against child brides existed, but until recently were rarely enforced. Nujood Ali had little idea how hopeless her cause was, even after she somehow managed to seek asylum at the local courthouse, but luckily she was discovered by a compassionate lawyer whose sympathy quickly turned into passion as they fought for her legal freedom. Nujood Ali won her case, and became an international symbol for change, helping to enact a new commitment to enforcing laws against child brides throughout the Middle East.

### 2. Literature Review

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 *The Protest against the domination of the tribal customs reflected in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced memoir (2010) : Critical Discourse Analysis* (Ari Fatmawati, 2012, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta).

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* (Tri Maryati, 2012, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta).

The third research is entitled *Nujood Ali and the Fight against Child Brides in Yemen* (Lief, 2011, Tavaana Case Study)

### 3. Problem Statement

Based on the phenomena mentioned above, the researcher formulates the problem of the study is how the child bride is reflected in *I Am Nujood, 10 Age and Divorce* memoir.

### 4. Limitation of the Study

In this research paper, the researcher focuses on describing child bride that is reflected in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* memoir using a feminist approach.

### 5. Objective of the Study

- a. Describing the child bride reflected in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* memoir based on feminist perspective.
- b. Analyzing the structural elements of *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* memoir.

### 6. Benefit of the Study

#### a. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher hopes this result can be useful as references, contribution and additional information to the larger body of knowledge especially for the literary study on *I Am Nujood, 10 age and Divorce* memoir.

#### b. Practical Benefit

The result of this research hopefully to enrich the researcher's knowledge and her experience dealing with Feminist perspective in deeper. Then, it is also hoped can be useful input for the other researcher in analyzing *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir into different perspective.

### 7. Undelying Theory

#### a. Feminism Literary Critism

##### 1) Notion

According to Mandell and Elliot (1995: 4) feminism emerged at this time as a way to identify individuals who supported not merely an increased public role for women but also women's right to define themselves as a autonomous beings.

##### 2) Major Principle in Feminism

##### a) Women's Position

Along the history, women position is subordinate to men. Their positions are under males. It is difficult for them to enter the college or professions because it is dominated by men.

### **b) Women's Role**

Traditionally 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.

### **c) Women's Rights**

The category of freedom in feminism includes politic, economic, and sexual freedom. "Feminist attempt to gain democratic right, the right to have education and occupation, the right to be the Member of Parliament also the right to divorce ". (Humm, 2002: 53).

### **d) Women's Participation**

Women's participation means women have right to aspire in following discussion for making decision in all areas public life, such as making decision in politic, economy, and law in society (Cruz, 1996: 21).

## **b. Definition of Child Bride**

### **1) Notion**

Child marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18. Most of whom are in poor socioeconomic situations. It is related to child betrothal and teenage pregnancy.

### **2) The Aspect of Child Bride**

#### **a) The Religion Aspect**

The Islamic faith the teachings of Mohammad are so sacred that many behaviors and atrocities are regularly condoned. Because Mohammad stated that it was acceptable for girls of the age of 9 to be married this practice continues even today.

#### **b) The Social Aspect**

- As a child and an adolescent
- As a wife.
- As a Mother

#### **c) The Aspect of Economy**

Young girls, a resource with which their parents can attain greater wealth, are married off a young age, for the bride price and also as a way for parents to lessen their economic burdens.

#### **d) The Aspect Culture**

Culture plays a pivotal role in the subordination of women, as there are requisite implications of power and control mechanisms embedded in culture, which allow for the exploration of gender inequality and inequity.

#### **e) The Aspect of Healthy**

Child brides are more likely than unmarried girls to die younger, suffer from health problems as Premature Pregnancy, Maternal Mortality, Infant Mortality, Health Problems, HIV/AIDS, Illiteracy, Poverty, Abuse and Violence, Mental Health, Isolation and Abandonment.

### **c. Structure Elements**

#### **1) Character and Characterization**

Kennedy (1983: 45) distinguishes character into two, namely major and minor characters. Major characters are important in a story because they take a part in most of the story. While minor characters have a function to make the story more alive and to support the major characters.

#### **2) Plot**

According to Hall (1987: 26) plot is what happens in a story, the story's organized development, usually a chain linking cause and effect. Plot is the first and most obvious quality of a story.

#### **3) Setting**

According to Klarer (1999: 25) the term 'setting' denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops.

#### **4) Point of View**

Point of view refers to the interests, attitudes, and a belief associated with a character's group's particular perspective (Douglass and Hamden, 1996: 31).

#### **5) Style**

Style refers to the individual traits or characteristic 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).

## 6) Theme

According to Barnet (1963: 31) “theme is something that we might call the message or the moral of the story”. The arrangement of making theme, must full predication means consist of subject and predicate.

## B. RESEACRH METHOD

### 1. Type of the Study

In doing this research, the writer uses qualitative research because she intends analyzing the structural element on the *I Am Nujood, 10 age and Divorce* memoir and describing child bride reflected in *I Am Nujood, 10 age and Divorce* memoir.

### 2. Object of the Study

The object of this research is Delphine Minouis’s *I Am Nujood, 10 Age and Divorce* memoir. In conducting the research, the writer is going to analyze it by using a feminist approach.

### 3. Type of the Data & Data Source

#### a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from *I Am Nujood, 10 age and Divorce* memoir that is written by Delphine Minouis and Nujood Ali published on March 2, 2010 by Three River Press, New York. It consists of 11 Chapters, 64 pages. With ISBN: 978-979-3064-87-1. The original language that is used is France.

#### b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis including books and virtual references as documentation.

### 4. Technique of Data Collection

- a. Reading the Delphine Minoui’s *I Am nujood, 10 age and divorced* novel in many times.
- b. Browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- c. Identifying the problem and finding the data. Therefore, research problem statement and objective of the study can be drawn clearly.
- d. Taking the important notes of important data, both primary and secondary data.
- e. Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification.
- f. Occupying the classification into several chapters.

- g. Drawing conclusion and suggestion based on the analysis of the data that is found in the former chapter.

## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this research paper is descriptive analysis. The analysis uses word, phrase, clauses, and sentences as the data research. Then, the data reports will contain dialogues and narrations.

## C. Research Finding and Discussion

### 1. The Structural Analysis of *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*

#### a. Character and Characterization

##### 1) Major Character

##### a) Nujood Ali

Nujood Ali was born 1998 years. She was born in the land of Yemen Khardji exactly in the village.

And in Yemeni homes, of course, the real law is laid down by fathers and older brothers. it was in this extraordinary and turbulent country, barely ten years ago, that a little girl named Nujood was born.

( Nujood, 2010: 3).

##### 2) Minor Character

Shada Nasser, Judge Abdo, Mohammad al-Ghazi, Abdel Waheb, Ali Mohammad al-Ahdel, Faez Ali Thamer, Shoya, Dowla, Jamila, Mohammad, Mona, Fares, Haifa, Morad, Abdo, Assil, Khaled, Rawdha, Mother –in- law, Shoyi .

#### b. Setting

##### 1) Setting of Place

First, in the beginning of the story takes place in the Yemen. Yemen is located on the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, Sharing waters with the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

Second, Khardji described Nujood place where people live together with other families. There are several central problems in the lives of people who live in Khardji.

Third, Sana'a is an ancient town with traditional houses are beautiful. However, making the throat of people who live around it becomes itchy. That is because the streets were filled with cars and almost in every corner of the city largely no parks where children play.

The court is a place for people to justice. This is where the author illustrates through characters I met with the unfortunate and wish to obtain justice and freedom.

## 2) Setting of Time

The setting of time happens during Yemen is taken over by Khardji, Sana'a, and Court It is since February until September 2008. First, the story is begin on February 2008 chapter 4 is entitled " The Wedding" the wedding was in progress.

### **The Wedding**

*February 2008*

With Mona, I'd lose all track of time while strolling along Hayle Avenue. Sometimes we pressed our noses so long against the front window of our favorite shop that the evening clothes disappeared behind the steamed-up glass. The white wedding dress on a plastic mannequin always caught my fancy. A dress for a lady! And what a contrast with all those women in the street, draped from head to toe in black. ( Nujood, 2010 : 15)

Second, On April 2 2008, chapter 1 is entitled "In Court". The story tells in the Court which the process of Nujood to collect her bravery to go to a judge.

Third, on April 15, 2008, chapter 7 is entitled " The Divorce". The process of a divorce between Nujood and Faez Ali Thamer.

Fifth, on June 2008, chapter 9 entitled " Mona ". The story tells how Mona's character was changed, why her sister Jamila and her husband Mohammad was lost.

Sixth, on August 2008, chapter 10 entitled " The Returns of Fares ".

And finally, on September 16, 2008, chapter 11 is entitled " When Become A lawyer..." The story tells the Nujood back to school because Nujood have a dreams to be a lawyer like shada, and she becomes a normal little girl.

### **When Become A lawyer...**

*September 16, 2008*

The wind is blowing in Sana'a, the wind at summer's end that heralds the return of cool evenings and the first sprinkles of rain. ( Nujood, 2010 : 51)

## c. Plot

### 1) Exposition

Exposition is opening portion that sets the scene, introduces the main character, tells what happened before they story opened and provides any other background information that we need in order understand and care about event to follow (Kennedy, 1983: 15).

Nujood is born in 1998 and lived with Mohammad Ali al ahdel father, mother and brother. Shoya his mother married at the age of 16 years. Nujood 's father remarries Dowla

on the pretext of extending the family and the mother Nujood only abide by the decision of her husband .The decision is in the hands of Yemen 's father or brother .

women are not taught how to make choices. When she was about sixteen, Shoya, my mother, married my father, Ali Mohammad al-Ahdel, without a word of protest. And when he decided four years later to enlarge the family by choosing a second wife, my mother obediently accepted his decision.( Nujood, 2010 : 7-8)

## 2) Complication

Complication is the conflict, which leads to the other conflicts (Kennedy, 1983: 15).The Complication when In february 2008, Happiness childhood Nujood suddenly disappeared because nujood father forced to marry a man who is betrothed Faez by nujood.

One cold and gray February evening in 2008, however, that appealing and mischievous grin suddenly melted into bitter tears when her father told her that she was going to wed a man three times her age. It was as if the whole world had landed on her shoulders. Hastily married off a few days later, the little girl resolved to gather all her strength and try to escape her miserable fate ( Nujood, 2010 : 3)

## 3) Climax

A climax is a moment of great intensity in the plot of a literary work, generally bringing events to a head and leading to the conclusion.

When Nujood could no longer bear the misery, nujood finally escaped, instead of his parents home, he just wants to go to court before Dowla gives advice to the court if the court wants to get. with a few pieces of money to buy breakfast, Nujood went to court using the minibus.

## 4) Resolution

The resolution is the out of the conflict (Klarer, 1998: 9). 15 April 2008 nujood won nujood courage divorce process opposes the customs of Yemen to marry children under the age of his own family and drive change in Yemen country. case nujood courage has inspired little girls to defend themselves out of the wedding they want arrives not as nujood 9 years old married with old faez 3 times the age's nujood.

*The divorce is granted!* I can't believe my ears. How curious, this sudden desire to run and scream to express my joy. I'm so happy that I don't even pay attention to the fact that the judge has just announced that my father and the monster will be released, without even a fine to be paid or a signed promise of good conduct. For the moment, I just want to fully enjoy my regained freedom. ( Nujood, 2010 : 39)

## 5) Causality

It is the part of the story. The plot shows that the events in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* memoir have relationship each other. Causality of the novel can be seen from one event to another. It is as Event B is caused by Event A and in turn causes Event C. The

description that the story of *I Am nujoood, 10 Age and Divorce* is built systematically from first event to the last events. Therefore, it proves that the events show causality clearly.

#### 6) Plausability

Plausibility is the sequences of the major character that changes the life. In *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce*, the changing can be seen from the major character, Nujood Ali. Yemen Nujood Ali is the girl who married under age. she was born in 1998 in the family that is less fortunate. The story begins when nujoood's father, nujoood married to men whose age was 3 times that of her age . Nujood was married at the age of 9 years. This wedding is called a legal marriage. Physically, she is beautiful enough, quire, her moral qualities, brave and kind to another people. But in mental qualities, she is uneducated girl and incapable. Actually, she successfully divorced faez. she is back to normal life. She is back to school and could play again.

#### d. Style

According to Barnet (1963: 73), most writers attempt to make use see their choice and argument of words into sentences. . The style in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* can be identified from these following aspects:

##### 1) Grammatical Structure

###### - Standar English

The driver got down from his seat to open the door ,sliding it over to one side.(Nujood, 2010 : 34)

###### - Non Standar English

“*Shokran!* Thank You!”( Nujood,2010: 42)

##### 2) Sentence Construction

###### - Long Sentences

. At that point, the monster announces that *he* is ready to accept the divorce, but on one condition: my father must pay back my bride-price. And Aba snaps back that he was never paid anything at all. It's like a marketplace! How much? When? How? Who's telling the truth? Who's telling lies? Someone suggests that 50,000 rials (about 250 dollars) be paid to my husband, if that would allow the case to be closed. It would take a workman four months to earn that much money. I'm lost. Will everyone just finish up this business and leave me alone, once and for all? I've had enough of these grown-up quarrels that make children suffer. ( Nujood, 2010 : 39)

###### - Short Sentence

“What.” (Nujood, 2010 : 5)

### 3) Diction

Diction refers to the author's choice of the word characters. In *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* it can be found the dialect of Arabia, English and Yemen. There are mixing word in that sentence, English, Arabic, Yemen:

- Shokran is Thank you .(<http://turntoislam.com/shokran>)

It is found in:

When I try to find words to express my gratitude, only one comes to mind: "Shokran! Thank you!"  
And I give everyone a big smile. (Nujood, 2010 : 42)

Then, there are still many borrowing word found in *I Am Nujood. Age 10 and Divorce* : Khat, Baltos, Niqab, Khobz, Shafout, Fatah, Jambia, Sofrah, Bebsi, Shahada, Salat, Hajj, Zakat, Sighar.

The writer, Delphine Minoui also includes the saying of God from the holy Qur'an. It is used in order to make the character aware that they are Muslim, so every action must be based on Al Qur'an.

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe, The Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, Sovereign of the Day of Judgment! You alone we worship, and to You alone we turn for help. Guide us to the straight path, The path of those whom You have favored, Not of those who have incurred Your wrath, Nor of those who have gone astray.  
( Nujood, 2010 : 55)

### e. Figurative language

#### 1) Personification

According to Nordquist (2010) personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.

- When we were breathless from too much running around, we'd dive into the cool grass to be soothed by our little nests of greenery, where the sun caressed our skin and tanned our already dusky cheeks. ( Nujood, 2010 : 7)

Means: The sun began to sting and makes your skin the dark.

#### 2) Metaphor

Metaphor is an implied comparison between two unlike things that actually have something important in common. Metaphor that can be found in the memoir is:

- My lips curve into a little crescent moon. It's been so long since I smiled. ( Nujood, 2010 : 15)

Means : Nujood 's lips slightly smiling.

### 3) Simile

- I struggle, whirling my hands around like propellers--I'm not going to let myself be driven all the way back to where I started, but I'm so close to the shore now, and I've lost sight of Fares.(Nujood, 2010 : 16)

Means : Nujood trying to work the hand to be separated .

### 4) Hyperbole

- Then gusts of wind blow me backward toward the shore. ( Nujood, 2010: 6)

Means : The wind that blows make Nujood participate pushed.

## f. Point of View

Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce* memoir using a first person perspective and third person. Nujood Ali is the main character in the story of this memoir, She involved directly and recognizes as herself as a character. Delphine Minoui in the third person.

## g. Theme

Nujood Ali taught the reality of the life of a woman in a Muslim country, Yemen. Theme I'Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce memoir is about the child bride marriage or child who is a cultural patriarchy.

## 2. Feminist Analysis

Child bride / child marriage is someone who is not emotionally physically and reached to age when one can understand the real meaning, child bride or child marriage is result of patriarchy culture.

### a. Women's Position

The position shows women still below men this is reflected through the characterization of the characters in the memoir , both major and minor characters as well as the conditions that follow The position of women under women .

One February evening in 2008, when I'd just gotten home, Aba told me he had some good news. "Nujood, you are about to be married."  
Nujood's father is set to marry her .( Nujood, 2010: 12)

### **b. Women's Role**

The women's role is portrayed in *I Am Nujood , age 10 and divorce* memoir , the role of women only as wives , women cannot get an education and a job .In Yemen the men ( father or brother who has the right to decide the oldest in the family) .

### **c. Women's Right**

The rights of women are the most constrained. Women go to school and get a job that is aligned with men. Women's rights in Yemen women want to ask to stay in the house as the wife all the time.

In Yemen, women are forbidden to go to school and work, resulting in Yemen country 90 % of women today is illiterate. This is because women are considered weak and not able to keep themselves when outside, so the girls like a little child who cannot read.

### **d. Women's Participation**

In *I Am Nujood , Age 10 and divorce* memoir , women do not get the right to argue an opinion . Underarm nujood married and tortured by nujood husband, her father forbids her husband to leave, but had to endure with these conditions. And Nujood's mother cannot argue the decision of the Nujood's father.

## **D. Conclusion and Suggestion**

### **1. Conclusion**

The researcher presents three conclusions that relate to the result of the analysis. It draws as follow:

First, the literary work entitled *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* that is made by Delphine Minoui is based on the social background and phenomena in Yemen society in the late twentieth and early twenty first centuries. The social, economic, cultural aspects give the contribution to the character and characterization. The political and religious condition in Yemen society give the contributions to the plot of the story. Women condition in Yemen when they have big struggle to make men and women be equal at that time give the contribution to the theme, implicit meaning of the memoir. She also give the great contribution in the characters and characterization, setting, plot, and also the theme in the story.

Second, from the analysis of the structural element of *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. Delphine Minoui makes the elaborations of the structural elements are good in unity. They are namely character and characterization, setting, plot, style, point of view that related to build the theme of the story that 'the inner strength of women will be more than the strength of men when they show up'.

Third, according to Feminist Analysis In this memoir, Delphine Minoui wants to illustrate and convey his idea how women are subordinated and exploited in child bride and how to speak against patriarchy. It is based on the reality in the limitation of women's life. Delphine Minoui wants to convey 'the inner strength of women will be more than the strength of men when they show up'. She makes the paradigm that women are not always weak, incapable and depend on men. Women's character breaks the type of women's position, right, role and participation which are categorized by patriarchal culture.

## 2. Educational Implication

This study is a project research to give contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge particularly in the literary study on *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir. The study of the researcher and other researcher at Muhammadiyah Universitas of Surakarta. Who has interest with literary study on the memoir/novel and feminist approach theory.

## 3. Suggestion

*I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* that is written by Delphine Minoui and Nujood Ali are one of the interesting literary works. It offers different the great value such as the way to get freedom, how to respect each other, be responsibility, etc. Although the content of memoir focuses on women, but it can be read and enjoyed both of men and women.

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