

**An Analysis of Patriarchal Culture Portrayed in The
Novel *Kim Ji Young Born, 1982*
Feminist Theory**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor
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AN ANALYSIS OF PATRIARCHAL CULTURE PORTRAYED IN
THE NOVEL *KIM JI YOUNG, BORN 1982*; FEMINIST THEORY

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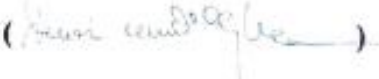
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An Analysis of Patriarchal Culture Portrayed in The Novel *Kim Ji Young Born, 1982* Feminist Theory

Abstrak

Dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan teori feminis untuk menganalisis dan mengkaji isu yang dibahas dalam novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*. Ini adalah novel yang mengangkat budaya patriarki di Korea Selatan yang diilustrasikan oleh pemeran utama wanita, yang ditulis oleh seorang novelis Korea Selatan, Cho Nam Joo yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2016 dan diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Inggris oleh Jamie Chang. Alasan penggunaan teori feminis ini adalah berdasarkan pengamatan yang dilakukan oleh peneliti dan membaca novel ini dengan seksama, teori ini dianggap paling sesuai dengan topic dan berbagai masalah yang berkaitan dengan wanita, yaitu budaya patriarki, yang akan peneliti kaji dalam karya ilmiah ini. Permasalahan tersebut antara lain sistem budaya patriarki, stereotipe gender, dan ketimpangan gender yang dialami oleh tokoh perempuan, dampak budaya tersebut bagi tokoh perempuan, dan alasan novelis mengangkat topik ini untuk novelnya. Jenis penelitiannya adalah penelitian kualitatif, dan objek yang diteliti berupa objek material yaitu novel. Ada dua jenis sumber data dalam penelitian ini, yaitu sumber data primer dan sumber data sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*; sedangkan sumber data sekunder adalah referensi dari jurnal, buku, artikel ilmiah, dan artikel dari internet yang relevan dengan penelitian ini. Dalam mengumpulkan data, peneliti menggunakan metode dokumen analisis; dengan cara: membaca novel ini secara berulang-ulang dan mendalam kemudian mencatat dan menggarisbawahi bagian-bagian yang dianggap penting, kemudian mencari jurnal, kamus, dan artikel yang relevan. Setelah mengumpulkan data, peneliti menggunakan teknik analisis deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisisnya.

Kata kunci: feminis, budaya patriarki, ketidaksetaraan gender, stereotip gender, novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*.

Abstract

In this research the author uses the feminist theory to analyze what issues are portrayed in the novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*. This is a novel that elevates patriarchal culture in South Korea illustrated by the female lead, written by a South Korean novelist's Cho Nam Joo published in 2016 and translated in to English by Jamie Chang. The reason why feminist theory used in this research is because based on observations made by the researcher considered this theory is the best fits with the topic, that is patriarchal culture that the researcher will examine in this research paper. The problems include the patriarchal culture system, stereotype gender, and gender inequality experienced by the female characters, the impact of this culture for female characters, and the reason why the novelist pick this topic for her novel. The type of research is qualitative research, and the object studied is in this form of material objects, namely novels. There are two types of data sources in this study, there are primary data resources and secondary data resources. Primary data resource is a novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*; while the secondary data source is a reference from journals, books, dictionaries and articles from the internet that relevant

with this study. In collecting data, the researcher using document analysis method; with the steps: first reads this novel repeatedly and deeply then taking-notes and underlines parts that are considered important, then looks for journals or articles that are relevant to the topic. After collecting the data, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive analysis technique to analyze.

Key words: feminist, patriarchal culture, gender inequality, gender stereotypes, novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, even though the era is modern, we often encounter the act of differentiating the rights and responsibilities of a person based on gender which then raises gender stereotypical and gender inequality issues. This issue occurs because of the patriarchal culture that has been exist in the past until now. Patriarchy is a system that has existed in society since time immemorial and has become a tradition for certain societies. So close to the community that we ourselves sometimes do not even realize that we have implemented the system in our daily lives. In fact this system causes social inequality between men and women. Men always become dominant and women must obey all orders of men. In other words, it creates a stereotyped gender that increasingly restricts women.

A South Korean novelist, Cho Nam Joo, made a literary work in the form of a novel with the theme of a patriarchal culture that has become a tradition in South Korean society. *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* is her third novel. It has a profound impact on gender inequality and gender stereotype in Korean society, and has been translated into 18 languages. This novel was published in 2016 and has a background in South Korea. It is centered on the life journey of the female lead named Kim Ji Young who was born on April 1 1982, she is an office worker who must be a housewife after she has a child. During her life as a woman who lives in an environment and family that still applies a patriarchal culture, she has to struggle in the face of various unfair treatments and ultimately disrupts her mental health. Not only impact on Kim but also on the other female characters in this novel.

Some previous studies relevant to the theme the writer wanted to analyze the novel *Kim Ji Young Born 1982*. The novel by Cho Nam Joo will be analyzed using the feminist theory because according to the researcher, This theory is very suitable to be used to analyze this novel which raises a lot about women's issues and their attitudes in facing unfair treatment and curbing their freedom due to patriarchal culture. Novianti in her thesis entitled

"Character Analysis of Mary Ashley Based on Feminism Approach in The Novel Windmills of the Gods by Sidney Sheldon" stated that feminism is a movement and belief that believes that women can fight and side with men in politics and economics. And fight for women's rights and improve the status of women (Novianty, 2003).

(Prihantoro, 2020) in his thesis entitled *The Representation of Patriarchal Culture In E.L James's Novel "Fifty Shades Of Grey": A Feminist Study* discusses the patriarchal culture contained in the novel and studies it using feminist studies. The results of this study indicate that patriarchal culture is influenced by 2 factors, namely economic and social factors, and explains the reasons why the novelist raised the topic of patriarchy in his novel. Feminism is a social concept or a type of women's emancipation movement that focuses on gender equality in society. Feminism according to Goefe (Sugihastuti et al, 2010: 93) is a theory about the equality of men and women in the social, economic, and political fields, or in other words this theory aims to fight for women's rights and interests.

Historically feminism has several types, there are liberal feminism, and cultural feminism. Liberal feminism focuses more on women's efforts to obtain legal and political rights. While cultural feminism has a meaning about women-centered perspective, which prioritizes the values and culture of women that comes from the uniqueness of women's experiences (LeGates, 2001). Jayanti stated in her thesis entitled *"An Analysis of Feminism Portrayed In The Main Character, Elizabeth Bennet, In Jane Austen's Pride And Prejudice"* that Marxism feminism is a view that states women have problems within the framework of criticism of capitalism. Women's social status depends on the personal wealth of the woman herself. (Jayanti, 2013: 48)

The second research is about patriarchal culture, patriarchal culture is a culture that showed the dominant of men to women and always places the position of women under men. This culture can usually be seen in a family where father and son will have a higher position and treatment differently from their sisters. Even though the era is modern, we can still see this cultural phenomenon in women, especially in women who live in environments with people who still hold tightly to their local culture or customs. This culture makes women unable to move in fulfilling their rights, both in society and in the world of politics.

Patriarchy according to Bhasin (Christanti, 2016: 13) is a system in society that places men in a higher position than women, men are more dominant in the social, political, and

other aspects of life, and also women are part of men so that men have complete control of women. Patriarchy is a system that develops in society by limiting / reducing the movement of women in the political, social, spiritual, economic, mental, and position in community institutions. This community groups work together to put men in the highest position and strengthen their dominance, by discriminating against women (Facio, 2013).

With the patriarchal culture that still exists today, it also creates gender stereotypes that are also detrimental to women. Gender stereotype is a belief that regulates what is appropriate behavior for women and men (Rokhmansyah, 2016, p. 10). Apart from gender, stereotypes can also be related to ethnicity, or other categories that refer to the image of a particular group. In general gender stereotypes can be divided into two namely feminine and masculine. In addition, gender stereotypes can also be interpreted as a belief held by a group of people in dividing social roles, and beliefs based on their gender (Christanti, 2016).

Hidayah, et.al in their study entitled *"Feminism in Javanese Culture: An Analysis of Gender Inequality in Novel Ocean Senses"* discusses gender stereotypes that are built in society. In this research, it is explained that women should not say harsh words and must always obey their husband's orders, if they deny it, the people who have a relationship with them will consider it to be a bad woman (Hidayah, Subiyantoro, Wardhani, & Saddhono, 2019).

The feminist theory used by the researcher in this study is the feminist theory that was coined by one of the pioneer feminist theory named Simone de Beauvoir in her work entitled *"The Second Sex."* In this book Simone classifies men and women into Subject and Other, "Subject for men and Other" for women. The distinction between women and men only focuses on the biological body, for example, men have a stronger body than women, giving rise to the assumption that women only depend on men. . Simone also mentioned that there are many men who claim the equality of men and women but at the same time they say that women will never be equal to men. Therefore, Simone argued that the equality that she meant was not just sameness but an acknowledgment of the existence of women as individuals who have equality in responsibilities, rights, and obligations (Beauvoir, 1956).

Based on the research background described above, the researchers have made several research objectives, including: (1) To describe the patriarchal culture of female characters including stereotypes and gender inequality in the novel Kim Ji Young, Born 1982. (2) To

explain the impact of patriarchal culture on the main female character in the novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*. And (3) To reveal the reason why the novelist brought up this topic in her novel.

2. METHOD

The type of research is qualitative research, and the object studied is in this form of material objects, namely novels. There are two types of data sources in this study, there are primary data resources and secondary data resources. Primary data resource is a novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* while the secondary data source is a reference from journals, books, scientific articles, and articles from the internet that relevant with this study. In collecting data the researcher using document analysis method with the steps: first reads this novel repeatedly and deeply then taking-notes and underlines parts that are considered important, then looks for journals or articles that are relevant to the topic to be examined. After collecting the data, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive analysis technique to analyze because this technique is most suitable for this research.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

In the novel *Kim Ji-Yeong, Born 1982*, the writer finds many forms of patriarchal culture in South Korea. This experience was experienced by many women in South Korea at that time and even today it still happens. This novel tells the story of the life of a female lead named Kim Jiyeong, a wife and mother of a child who has experienced injustice during her life due to patriarchal culture, starting when she was a child, school student, worker, to a housewife. Based on the explanation above, the following are the results of the researcher's research based on the research question made:

3.1.1 The Types of Feminism In The Novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*

There are 3 form of patriarchal culture that will analyze in this part:

3.1.1.1 Patriarchal Culture

Patriarchal culture in daily life is common in a family. Consciously or unconsciously, every family always applies it, as in the quote below:

- 1) *“As you know, the holidays are a time for families to gather. But they’re not just for your family. They’re for my family, too. Everyone’s so busy nowadays and it’s hard for my children to get together, too, if not for the holidays. **You should at least let our daughter come home when your daughter comes to visit you.**”* (Joo, 2016, p. 9)

The quote above explains about a culture in South Korea according to the setting where the novel is, during the *chuseok* days (thanksgiving days in Korea) it is preferable to visit the husband's family house rather than the wife's family. This culture still exists until now, especially in Asian countries. The sentence in bold above indicates Kim's opposition if the right to visit on the day of celebration is not only the husband's family's house but also the wife's family's house.

- 2) *“This was a time when people believed it was up to the sons to bring honor and prosperity to the family, and that the family’s wealth and happiness hinged upon male success. The daughters gladly supported the male siblings.”* (Joo, 2016, p. 18)

Apart from the quote above which shows the various prides of a family that has a son, below is attached a quote that describes the existence of a patriarchal culture that is too strong so that it is difficult to change.

- 3) *“**Most people still take their father’s last name. People will think that there’s some story behind the kid if they have their mother’s last name.** There will be a lot of explaining and correcting and confirming to do if the child takes the mother’s last name,”* Ji Young said and Daehyun nodded. (Joo, 2016, p. 73)

The quote above explains the discussion between Kim and her husband, Jeong Daehyun, about choosing the last name for their child which finally agreed to use the name of her husband. This is done to avoid people's negative assumptions about their children in the future because in the South Korea it is considered strange if someone uses their mother's name than their father's name for their last name.

3.1.1.2 Gender Stereotype

The issue of gender stereotypes is one of the most striking topics in this novel. Stereotype itself is the act of labeling a person or group of people into a certain group, and in this study it was women who were always considered inferior by men. Researchers find many parts of the conversation or action that lead to the bullying. For example, the assumption that women should not have higher education because later they will only become housewives and take care of children at home, while work outside the home is a part for men (Christanti, 2016). The stereotype in this novel is the grouping of women who, if they want to keep working, can only work in certain jobs because they also have to take care of the house. This can be seen from the following quote:

4) ***“Think ahead. There’s no better job for women than a schoolteacher.”***

“What’s so great about being a schoolteacher?”

*“You get off work early. You have school vacations. It’s easy to take time off. **There’s nothing like teaching for working moms.**”*

“Sure. It’s a great job for working parents. Then isn’t it a great job for everyone? Why specifically women? Do women raise children alone? Are you going to suggest teaching to your son, too? You’re going to send him to a teacher training college, too?” (Joo, 2016, p. 38)

Kim Ji Yeong's mother told Kim's sister - Kim Eun Yeong - that she had to take a teacher course because she thought that the most suitable job for a housewife would be as a teacher. This is because teachers will have shorter working hours than office workers and also because teachers will get the same holiday allowances as school children so that they can spend more time taking care of the family. But these stereotypes also indirectly limit a woman's right to freely determine the future she wants to achieve.

In addition to stereotypes about jobs that are suitable for women, in the novel *Kim Jiyeong Born 1982* the researchers also found a labeling term aimed at South Korean women who had jobs at that time. It can be seen from the following quote:

- 5) *At a business lunch at an upmarket Korean restaurant, the head of the client company said to Jiyoung, who ordered soybean paste sauce with rice, "A young person with a taste for soybean paste sauce! I didn't know you were a **doenjangnyeo**, too, Ms. Kim! Ha ha!" (Joo, 2016, p. 63)*

From the quote, there is the term *doenjangnyeo* in Korean which means "bean paste women" which means women need expensive care. The term is meant to denigrate women among workers because at that time not many women became office workers so those who were still working in that field were considered to have an expensive lifestyle.

- 6) *But that night, Jiyoung got an earful from her father. "Why is your cram school so far away? Why do you talk to strangers? Why is your skirt so short?" Jiyoung grew up being told to be cautious, to dress conservatively, to be "**ladylike**." That it's your job to avoid dangerous places, times of day and people. It's your fault for not noticing and not avoiding. (Joo, 2016, p. 36)*

From the quote above, it explains about Kim Ji Young's father who scolded Ji Young who almost experienced harassment because of her own fault. Ji Young is considered unable to take care of herself because she dresses inappropriately and can't be a "ladylike" who should avoid dangerous places. This assumption is often encountered in real life; society will blame women who do not dress appropriately so that they become victims of harassment.

3.1.1.3 Gender Inequality

Gender inequality in this novel causes discrimination against women so that it causes a lot of unfair incidents between men and women. As follows:

- 7) ***Boys lined up first, boys led every procession no matter where they were headed**, boys gave their presentations first, and boys had their homework checked first while the girls quietly waited their turn, bored, sometimes relieved that they weren't going first, but never*

thinking this was a strange practice. Just as we never question why men's national registry numbers begin with a "1" and women's begin with a "2." (Joo, 2016, p. 24)

From the quote above, it is explained that during Kim Ji Young's school days, boys always got the first chance in all conditions. While women are always behind men in all aspects without being able to do anything. And even this inequality can also be seen from the national registration number, with men always starting with the number 1 while the number 2 for women.

8) *According to Hyejin, business management departments sometimes get unofficial recruitment requests either through the department office itself or individual professors, but only male students are recommended. (Joo, 2016, p. 52)*

The gender gap from the quote above is found at the end where when recruiting new workers the company will ask for recommendations from male students rather than female students. Not seen from the ability per individual but based on gender.

9) *She also learned that the guys were paid better from the very start, but that information stirred very little in Jiyoung, who'd filled the day's quota of shock and disappointment. (Joo, 2016, p. 69)*

Based on the quote above, it implies that the pay or salary of men in a job is more male than female workers even though they are at the same level. This includes gender inequality in the economic field because there is a gap in the amount of pay between individuals not because of their work but because of their gender.

3.1.2 The Impact Of Patriarchal Culture

Based on Facio's paper Patriarchy is a system that develops in society by limiting/reducing the movement of women in the political, social, spiritual, economic, mental, and position in community institutions. This community groups work together to put men in the highest position and strengthen their dominance, by discriminating against women

(Facio, 2013). To answer the second researcher's question, the researcher found some data from the novel *Kim Ji Young Born, 1982* which indicated that Kim and other female characters in the novel were affected by patriarchal culture as long as they lived. Most of these patriarchal cultural practices have the impact on the mental condition, physical, and economical for women. But in this research the researcher just analysis the impact of patriarchal culture on the mental of the female characters. This can be seen in the following quote:

10) *"You still see me as the lovestruck twenty-year-old Cha Seungyeon? Who shook like a leaf in the middle of summer confessing her feelings?"* (Joo, 2016, p. 6)

11) *Her odd behavior continued sporadically. She'd send him a text message riddled with cute emoticons she never normally used, or make dishes like ox-bone soup or glass noodles that she neither enjoyed nor was good at. **Jiyoung was starting to feel like a stranger to Daehyun.*** (Joo, 2016, p. 7)

12) *He told his wife, who didn't seem to be aware of her condition, that he had booked a therapy session for her since she hadn't been sleeping well and seemed stressed. Jiyoung thanked him, saying that she had indeed been feeling blue and enervated, and that she suspected maternity blues.* (Joo, 2016, p. 10)

From the three quotes above, it can be seen that Kim began to change her personality after giving birth and taking care of her child. In data no. 10), Kim's style of speech changes like her husband female friend when he was in college, Cha Seungyeon. Kim also talked about the incident that only her husband and his friend knew about. At first her husband just thought it was a joke but in the following days Kim looked different again by changing some of her habits with things she didn't usually do like in data no.11). And in the data quote no. 12) Kim's husband told Kim to go to therapy but Kim refused because she only felt tired of taking care of children and all domestic work so she had trouble sleeping and was stressed.

3.1.3 The Reason of Raising Patriarchal Culture's Theme In The Novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*

Cho Nam Joo's reasons for bringing up the topic of patriarchal culture can be seen in the results of his interview with a journalist, Alter, which was published in The Sydney Morning Herald media, as follows:

13) *"I wanted to write about issues that women could not speak about before, because they were taken for granted," Cho said during a Skype interview from her home in Seoul. "I wanted to make this into a public debate."* (Alter, 2020)

14) *"I wanted to write about the everyday and common but nonetheless undeserved experience of women around me, about the despair, exhaustion and fear that we feel for no reason other than that we're women," Cho said. "I also wanted this story to not just be a work of fiction, but a very likely true-to-life biography of someone out there."* (Alter, 2020)

From the two quotes above, it can be concluded that the reason Cho raised the topic of patriarchal culture in her novel is to voice the thoughts of women which cannot be expressed freely because of a culture that is ingrained in a community group. Those women also have the right to their own lives, the right to determine their future, and the right to get the same opportunities as men. In addition, to make people aware that women also have the same position as men, women also have the right to work and determine the future for themselves, and also women can have the same position as men in politics and government.

3.2 Discussion

In this part the researcher will discuss the findings above so that the objectives of this study will be achieved. the discussion is as follows:

In this study, to analyze the data above, the researcher used a feminist perspective which was considered the most suitable and in accordance with the results to be achieved by the researcher. The reason the feminist view is very suitable to analyze the data from this novel is because the data obtained from this novel mostly discuss gender issues

which are closely related to women's rights. In the feminist perspective, women and men should have the same rights and equality regardless of the gender of the individual.

In the perspective of a feminist philosopher named Simone de Beauvoir in her work entitled "The Second Sex" it is stated that feminist is about "equality and difference" which results in the framing of women's lives. (Vintges, 1999). According to her, the role of women in this world has been exploited by certain groups since ancient times, causing women to receive unfair treatment and have always been supporting figures in all aspects of life. This is also related to patriarchal culture which always views women as supporting aspects for men, women are weak, and various things that always place women under men.

The first discussion about patriarchal culture which can be seen from the various data presented by researchers in the finding section above. The majority of the data obtained by the researcher explains about boys who are always prioritized by the family. In the patriarchal cultural structure, boys are always in the first place and girls are not expected to be present in a family, let alone become the first child. In data no. 1) it can be seen that the dominance of male power in a family even still affects the life of a woman when she is married. At the *Chuseok* (thanks giving in Korea) celebration, usually every family will gather at their respective parents' homes to celebrate together but in reality Kim must always accompany her husband and celebrate with her husband's family so she rarely celebrates with her own family.

The two others data listed above also describe the patriarchal culture that is still held by families in South Korea, which always prioritizes boys over girls. As stated by Simone de Beauvoir that patriarchal culture also affects the education and freedom of women. In the data above, girls have to give up on boys to work and send their brothers to school while they have to give up their dreams and youth.

In addition to patriarchal culture, researchers also found other forms, namely the stereotype of the female gender. In the novel, Kim's mother stated that the most appropriate job for a woman is to become a teacher (data no. 4). This job is considered the most suitable for women because it has flexible time so that women can still do

household chores and look after children. According to a feminist perspective, this action includes limiting women's rights in the world of work, women should be able to become whatever they want, not just fixate on certain jobs which eventually creates stereotypes in society to divide certain groups.

Gender stereotypes against women can also be seen from how the public names groups or individuals of women with certain names, for example from the data above, referring to Kim as a "*doenjangnyeo*" girl (data no.5). In Korean, "*doenjangnyeo*" means "bean paste women", the term has a negative connotation because it is intended for women who are considered to be too concerned with appearance and require expensive personal style. The words spoken by Kim's male co-worker were a bit offensive to Kim and the other female workers because they didn't know it was meant to praise or insult them. In addition to this word, there is also a nickname for women to be "ladylike" (data no.6), women must dress neatly, be polite and elegant in order to avoid sexual harassment.

With the various kinds of stress that Kim has endured throughout her life, this ultimately affects her mental health. The heaviest impact of this patriarchal culture was felt by Kim when she already had children and had to leave her job. After becoming a housewife, she becomes easily tired due to various pressures given by her mother-in-law so that she can be a good wife. In addition, pressure also arises from an environment that considers housewives a burden to husbands because they only spend their husbands' money. Until finally Kim suffered from depression and developed into postnatal depression with symptoms every time she relapses she will act like someone else. According to Dr. Lucinda Green (2018) *Postnatal depression* is a type of mental illness that is often experienced by mothers who have just had children, the symptoms are almost the same as depression in general, such as extreme mood changes and difficulty controlling themselves. For example being like his mother, grandmother, deceased friend, etc. Based on the researchers' observations, this change occurred in Kim as a form of self-defense, her real self would hide and change into someone else so that she still felt safe and unharmed.

If we look at how the author of the novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*, Cho Nam Joo presents the life story of Kim Ji Young and the women in the 80-90s in the novel, it can be concluded that Cho has a strong reason why she made a novel with a sensitive topic like this. From the implied and explicit messages, it can also be seen that the author of Cho really wants there to be no more patriarchal cultural practices in everyday life. As a fellow woman, Cho has also experienced unfair treatment from society because of her status as a "woman", for example she has difficulty getting a job again when she has children. She wants to make this novel a reminder for both men and women that all humans have the same position and rights, both in government, social, culture, and family. No one has the right to limit the freedom of others just because of gender differences. Also a reminder for fellow women to support each other and unite for a better future.

4. CLOSING

Patriarchy is a culture that always places women under men, in terms of work, politics, society, and family. Based on the findings and discussions presented above, the writer can achieve the objectives of this research, namely: First, the forms of patriarchal culture contained in the novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*, apart from culture itself, are gender stereotypes and gender inequality. The three unfair treatments have the same impact on women, namely detrimental. In addition to material harm, patriarchal culture also has an impact on Kim Ji Young's mental and physical health. Kim was declared to be suffering from postnatal depression after experiencing various bad treatments when she was young and had a family

From this novel, it is clear that the patriarchal culture in South Korea experienced by Kim Ji Young from 1982 to the 2000s put women at a disadvantage. Community tradition factors are very supportive of this practice so that if there are parties who oppose it will receive criticism from the society. It is because of this that Cho wrote this novel with the hope that people will realize that with the patriarchal culture still in effect, equality for women will not be achieved and women will forever be under the power of men.

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