

SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF *KEMBAR MAYANG* IN JAVANESE WEDDING CEREMONY AT *DESA MEDAN* *SINEMBAH KECAMATAN TANJUNG MORAWA* *KABUPATEN DELI SERDANG*

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Abstract

This study is aimed at analyzing the symbolic meanings of *Kembar Mayang* conducted at Desa Medan Sinembah Kecamatan Tanjung Morawa Kabupaten Deli Serdang predominantly by Javanese ethnic. *Kembar Mayang* in this study is concerned with the Javanese wedding ceremony. Descriptive qualitative method is applied in the study describing social phenomena occurring naturally aiming to help us to understand the world in which we live and why things are in the way they are. The main theory to support the study is the theory of Semiotic. The results show there are five forms of symbolic meanings in *Kembar Mayang*: *Manuk-Manukan* as symbol of Loyalty; *Uler-Uleran* of Struggle; *Walang-Walangan* of Persistence; *Pecut-Pecutan* of Optimism and *Keris-Kerisan* of Wisdom. The five forms of rites are compulsory in the wedding ceremony with the main objective to achieve a happy, harmonious and peaceful life for the bride and the bridegroom and this is in line with the general concept of marriage.

Keywords: loyalty, struggle, persistence, optimism, wisdom

1. Introduction

Jawa ethnic, as one of the largest ethnic groups in Indonesia has diverse cultures. Some people assume that what is meant by *Jawa* ethnic are people born in and inhabiting the area of West Java, Central Java and East Java and speaking Javanese language. However, in reality in addition to those three provinces, many Javanese people are found in other regions of Indonesia, including Medan, the capital of the province of North Sumatra. (Suryadinata in Hidayati: 2018)

The study is Symbolic Meanings of *Kembar Mayang* in Javanese Wedding at Desa Medan Sinembah, Kecamatan Tanjung Morawa, Kabupaten Deli Serdang. There are five symbolic meanings to be analyzed under this title: symbols of loyalty, struggle, persistence, optimism and wisdom.

Kembar Mayang is an object which has symbols and meanings. Every symbol has sound advice for the bridegroom and the bride. *Kembar Mayang* is originally made exclusively for a royal wedding but later it becomes mandatory for Javanese wedding of all classes. *Kembar Mayang* serves as a message to newlyweds, that they shall be able to

maintain their marriage despite obstacles and challenges. It is related to the process of 'making *Kembar Mayang* wherein the maker must be sincere and use only the best materials. While making it, one must allocate time and avoid procrastination. It stipulates that marriage is a once in a lifetime event and that the making of *Kembar Mayang* must be done in the best place available. It also signifies that marriage is performed with a loving heart. Prayer typically precedes and follows the making of *Kembar Mayang*.

Kembar Mayang, besides being a decoration has a lot of meanings. *Kembar Mayang* is a guidance or advice in wading new life. "*Kembar Mayang* is *sekar manca warna paring ing dewa* or various kinds of flowers as the gifts from God, and cannot be bought with money, but should be gained with determination and courage; *bekti ing men* or devoted to the husband, *manut miturut* or obedient to the parents" (Suwardi, 1993: 111). "*Kembar Mayang* is the arrangement of flowers that has meaning to eliminate all dangers, so the bride and groom will get easiness in running the marriage life. (Widagda, 2003: 14).

Kembar Mayang or in other words known as bouquet is a series ornaments made of *janur* (coconut leaves), *Mayang* (areca flowers), and some types of foliage (various kinds of leaves) which all are plugged in pieces of banana stems. *Kembar Mayang* has a form like *hayat* tree symbolizing the tree of life which gives everything desirable.

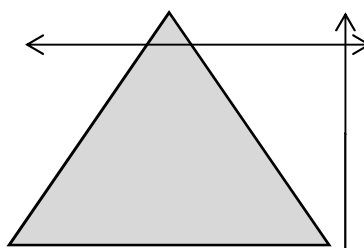
Janur derives from *ja'a* means come, *nur* means light. And *kuning* derives from Javanese term *wening* (*sing wening*) means Almighty. *Wong urip iku tansah eling marang Seng Wening* (human beings always have to remember God, the Almighty. So human beings have to know who creates them and to whom they will come back.



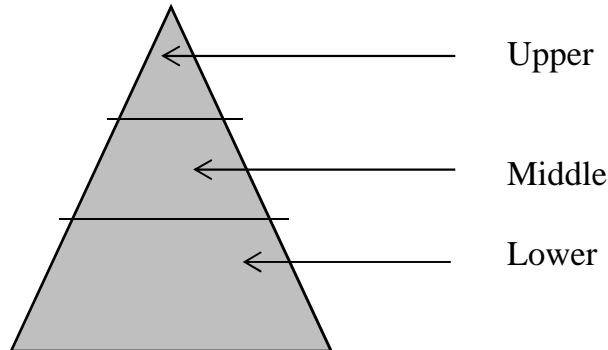
Figure 1. *Kembar Mayang*

In Javanese wedding, *Panggih* ceremony is a representative of Javanese philosophy of married life. One of the symbols included in *Panggih* ceremony is *Kembar Mayang*. *Kembar Mayang* derives from the words *Kembar* and *Mayang*. *Kembar* means equal (*podho*) and *Mayang* is heart (*ati*). So *Kembar Mayang* means to unite two different having the same goal.

Many kinds of colours are there in *Kembar Mayang* describing that human beings cannot live without colours as colours are the atmosphere of life. According to Suwardi (1993: 57) all forms of *Kembar Mayang*, can be viewed as follows:



Vertical line shows that human beings always look for the Almighty to worship, and ask for lawful sustenance. Horizontal line indicates the relationships among people in society, as shown by symbolic meanings in *Kembar Mayang*.



The upper part, shows that man must be careful, thrifty, trustworthy, and he must always pray to God, the Almighty. The middle part, the colour of life in society, is the full of variations, which must be faced, and achieved with high motivation. The bottom, is the foundation of life, always growing, being sturdy, and resistant from the shock of life.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Semiotics

As the study is concerned with meanings, then semiotics becomes the base of interpreting the objects of research. Semiotics is the study of the properties of signaling systems, whether natural or artificial. It refers to the study within philosophy of sign and symbol systems in general. Pierce (1990: 78) sees the field as divisible into three areas: the relationship between linguistic expression and the objects in the world which they refer to or describe, the relation of these expressions to each other and the dependence's meaning of these expression on their uses.

This study has a reference to Peircean theory of sign. The peircean sign has been defined as something that is related to something else for someone in some respect or capacity. (Cobley, 2000: 28). In addition to this, Thornbury (2011) states that conventional sign, based on an arbitrary association with its object and governed by a rule for its use, is just one of three categories of sign.

Peirce develops triad concept of sign as seen below.

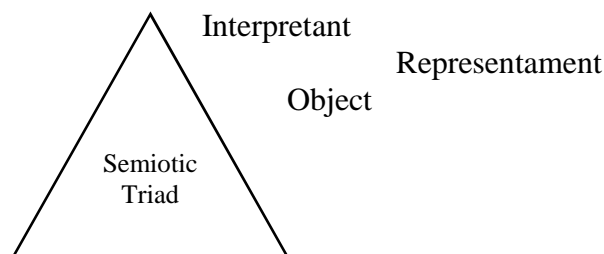


Figure 5. *Concept of sign*

The above concept of sign is called triadic.

1. Triadic concept of sign: Representamen (the thing that represents), Object (concept that is represented), Interpretant (what the sign means for someone).
2. Three modes of representation: Iconic (by miming, simulating), Indexical (by pointing, indicating), Symbolic (by convention)

The theory of sign can be analogized below:

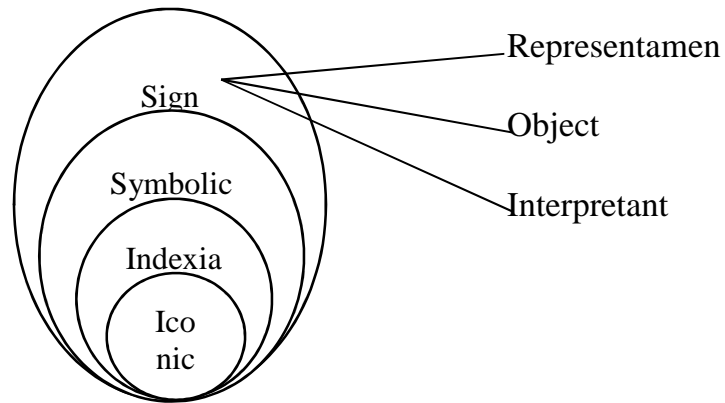


Figure 3. *The analogy of Peirce's theory*

I define a sign as anything which is so determined by something else, called its Object, and so determines an effect upon a person, which effect I call its interpretant, that the later is thereby immediately determined by the former. (Peirce, 1990: 43)

3. Research Method

This study is conducted by means of descriptive qualitative research to find out the symbolic meanings of “*KembarMayang*” in Javanese traditional wedding ceremony. Qualitative research is concerned with the opinions, experiences and feeling of individuals producing subjective data. It describes social phenomena as they occur naturally. No attempt is made to manipulate the situation under the study as is the case with experimental qualitative research. (Hancock, 1998: 98)

4. Discussion

A wedding is a ceremony where two people are united in marriage. Wedding tradition and customs vary greatly between cultures, ethnic groups, religions, countries, and social classes. Most wedding ceremonies involve an exchange of wedding vows wedding vows by the couple, presentation of a gift (offering, ring(s), symbolic item, flowers, money), and a public proclamation of marriage by an authority figure or leader. Special wedding garments are often worn, and the ceremony is sometimes followed by a wedding reception.

Jawa ethnic strongly adheres to tradition or customs that they have and always carry them out well. For Javanese people, if there are some Javanese people who do not do the Javanese traditions or customs, they will be considered weird and often get reproached from the surrounding communities. The term for the Javanese is more identical for the people who adhere to the philosophy of customs. (Hidayati: 2018) Music, poetry, prayers or readings from religious texts or literature are also commonly

incorporated into the ceremony and following this, symbolic meanings of loyalty, struggle, persistence, optimism and wisdom are commonly found in Javanese wedding.

4.1 *Manuk-manukan* as symbol of loyalty



Figure 4. *Manuk-manukan*

According to Ruth (2011: 34) loyalty is based on the principles of truth and conscience. Loyalty is not hypocritical. Loyalty is also based on a proper understanding about what should be done to realize the truth when faced with a hesitation. Related to family life, loyalty is the main foundation to make a harmonious family. No suspicion of what has been done and trust each other.

The first symbol in *Kembar Mayang* is *Manuk-manukan*. As a human being, the lesson can be learned from the character of the bird. The character of the bird is loyal to its mate, especially pigeon. Pigeon is an animal which has a number of uniqueness, one that stands out is the loyalty to the couple, a pair of pigeon promise to be faithful until death. Usually a male pigeon will not change partners with another female pigeon. The character of pigeon is a symbol of loyalty. By learning the character of a pigeon, a person is expected to instill loyalty in his life, especially in carrying out married life. As known that loyalty in the marriage is important as a basic line to carry out the household. It is said like that because loyalty is a mandate and responsibility from married couples to the permanence of marriage. The prayer in *Manuk-manukan* is as follows:

*Manuk kutut meniko alit tapi manggung angeng dados sri penganten
kaleh meniko saiki sampon berumah tangga sageto biso lulut rukun
rumah tanggae pun sri pengangen anyar kaleh menik.*
(Koentjaraningrat: 1984: 90)

There is a mention of zebra-dove, a bird, in the above lines. The zebra-dove belongs to the family of pigeon and this pigeon has already been known for its loyalty to the mate. So it is expected that the newly-married couple should also be loyal to each other and loyalty is surely to become a shield in marriage preservation. Next to this they are also expected to lead a harmonious married life as disharmony is a trigger to any conflict. When loyalty combined with harmony is present in the midst of the newly-married couple, there will be no impediment anymore for them. So loyalty is the main foundation to make a harmonious family.

4.2 *Uler-Uleran* as a symbol of struggle



Figure 5. Uler-uleran

In the world, it is not possible for someone who experiences a success without starting with struggle. In the struggle, there are various obstacles. So the more various problems that someone gets, the more powerful his character will be. Life cannot be separated from struggle. It is not easy to build a household. A lot of marriages fail because the couple do not have any spirit of struggle. They have to fight hard against all the obstacles and if they pass, then they will be given a reward in the form of harmonious marriage life. (John, 2010: 87)

*sri penganten kaleh meniko sakniki sampon berumah tangga sageto
pados sandang pangan nggremet slamet kados uleran*
(Koentjaraningrat: 1984: 89)

The couple should learn from the caterpillar's life. It is hatched from a very small egg stuck on the leaves or branches. Then as time goes by, the caterpillar starts to look for food. After its body becomes big and grown, it begins to eat much for the preparation process of metamorphosis, and when it is considered quite enough for its stomach, then the process of metamorphosis begins. At first the caterpillar will approach a branch of the tree, then the caterpillar ejects mucus threads from its mouth to form a pupa / cocoon.

Caterpillar seems to have no time at all. The time available for the caterpillar is valuable to fatten its body as a preparation to pass a process and it needs big energy to become a cocoon and the caterpillar never rests to eat the leaves of plant. The caterpillar, motivated by the running time, has a clear goal to achieve a cocoon period. After a while finally the caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly. Extraordinary struggle is experienced the new butterfly. It has to struggle again to come out of the cocoon. The wings are still wet and it cannot fly. It has to be patient waiting till all the wings get dry and then the flying will start. All needs time, patience and struggle.

A message that can be taken from the caterpillar is a struggle to become a butterfly and it is not easy. It also takes time to become a beautiful butterfly. The same thing will happen to a newly-married couple. They have to work hard and at the same time they have to maintain patience. When all the difficulties could be faced with a high spirit, only then the couple will taste a happy and harmonious life.

4.3 Walang walangan as a symbol of Persistence



Figure 5. Walang-walangan

Persistence is the ability, capability, and self-compulsion to do the work or action continuously, regardless of any situation. Persistence is one of the factors to make someone successful. When we have goals and strive hard to achieve it, all will be running well. Persistence is a skill that can help a person achieve the goal, and to get what is wanted. Actually, lack of persistence or "too quick to give up" is the most common cause of failure in the attempt. (Lawrence, 2009: 142)

This the third symbol in *Kembar Mayang*, *Walang walangan*. Symbol of *Walang-walangan* means the husband and wife should be enthusiastic, quick on thinking, and acting to save the family. The character of a grasshopper or *walang-walangan* is keenness, nimbleness, and quickness in moving from one place to another.

In marriage, both the couple should be enthusiastic, keen and nimble to any situation and only by this the family will be saved. *Walang-walangan* simply means thinking and acting quickly. All the problems should be settled quickly.

If the couple is able to think and act quickly, then the family will be strong family they could survive until the end of their life.

sri penganten kaleh meniko saiki sampon berumah tangga sageto pados sandang pangan lincah kados walangan. (Koentjaraningrat: 1984: 88)

There is a symbol of smartness and ease represented by a grasshopper. So the couple are expected to have a bright future by working hard and showing responsibility in running their household. Each of them should support their togetherness and only by this way a married life could go towards success. Success does not merely depend on financial standing but also spiritual satisfaction. Above all the couple are expected to have persistence in any step taken. They should not be overcome by obstacles as obstacles are the sign of living. When a man fears to face obstacle, this means that he fears to face life.

4.4 Pecut-Pecutan as symbol of Optimism



Figure 6. Pecut-pecutan

Optimism is like a chain that cannot be separated. Human beings living in this world have a hope, and without a hope a man has no a meaning as a human being. Hope is often equated with ambition. Although both seem to have similarity, they are different in the application. A hope is a desire that is not materialized, while ambition is a desire in one's heart. Ambition can be achieved, so ambition can be granted by God. (Walgito, 1997: 94).

This the fourth symbol in the *Kembar Mayang* named *Pecut-pecutan*. Symbol of whip In *Kembar Mayang* means optimism. *Pecut pecutan* is interpreted as a symbol to be optimistic.

Pecut-pecutan used as a symbol of optimism shows that a marriage will be not eternal and complete without optimistic attitude possessed by both husband and wife. Because the meaning of a whip in its function is "whipping". Whipping here is an attitude to have spirit in working and not to be easily influenced by obstacles.

Pecut; namung setunggal dados sri penganten anyar kaleh meniko sakniki kaleh ngge meniko sampun dados setunggal berumah tangga sageto biso menunggalipun rumah tanggae pun sri penganten anyar kaleh meniko (Hamidin, 2012: 88)

The word *pecut* is whip and this whip consists of two ropes or threads twisted together to form a strength in striking something. The newly-married couple consists of a man and a woman twisted together in the bond of marriage and they have to work together to form a strength to face all the storms of life. In other words, they have to be optimistic in doing things.

Optimism is an attitude that will encourage the couple to keep trying and never give up in order to reach the ambition and goals, regardless of how serious are the problems faced by the couple. So optimism must be balanced with great effort and faith in God.

4.5 *Keris-kerisan* as symbol of Wisdom



Figure 7. *keris-kerisan*

Wisdom is the character and the ability to use knowledge, understanding, experience, common sense and deep insight. Wisdom is an accumulation from the science, knowledge and enlightenment. The wise man has the quality of knowledge, and also having the capacity to use it. Someone who knows good input and can process it into a good result is wise. He has a sharpness of intellect, fair, intelligent and proficient about a particular science. (Rice, 1998: 152)

This is the fifth symbol in *Kembar Mayang*, *Kerisan-kerisan*. Symbol of *Keris-kerisan* at *Kembar Mayang* means wisdom. Wisdom is an accumulation of science,

knowledge and enlightenment. The wise man has the quality of knowledge, and has the capacity to use it.

Keris meniko tajem adem dados sri penganten anyar kaleh meniko sakniki sampon berumah tangga sageto biso tajem pikirane adem lan tentram rumah tangga ne sri penganten anyar kaleh meniko (Hamidin, 2012: 89)

This explains that *Keris-kerisan* means wisdom. *Keris* is a traditional Javanese short knife and is used for self-protection and this is the physical meaning of *Keris* but philosophically a knife can only be used if it is sharp and a man can only be relied upon if the man has a sharp mind meaning that the man can use his mind to solve a problem. Man is man only if he could become a problem solver instead of a problem maker.

Wisdom is an action corresponds with mind, and common sense to get a good, appropriate and right attitude. The meaning of *Keris-kerisana* in Javanese culture is flexibility in understanding something this also depends on the horizon of thinking and the person's life experience. So, it depends on "*Kadhewasa ning Jiwa Jawi*", someone's adulthood in thinking and acting wisely.

The richer someone in spiritual experience and knowledge, the stronger he is in problem solving. Here the symbol means that every person must have a patient and wise attitude in facing any situation in life.

5. Conclusion

Marriage is very important and it is a sacred social institution. One of the most important parts of a Javanese traditional wedding is *Panggih*. *Panggih* ceremony is a meeting ceremony between a groom and a bride after doing *Ijab* and *Kabul* and the ceremony is held in the bride's family. In *Panggih* ceremony there is *Kembar Mayang*. *Kembar Mayang* is made from as flowers arranged using *janur* (young coconut leaves) and some other leaves, and the function is to give guidance and advice to the bride and the groom to undergo a new life.

Kembar Mayang derives from the words *Kembar* and *Mayang*. *Kembar* means equal (*podho*) and *Mayang* is heart (*ati*). So *Kembar Mayang* means to unite two different hearts to have the same goal.

Kembar Mayang is a kind of bouquet made of different kind of leaves mainly coconut leaves and others stuck into a banana trunk. It is indeed a very beautiful decoration with a broad symbolic meaning. *Kembar Mayang* is often called *Sekar Kalpataru Dewandaru*, a symbol of happiness and salvation. This thing is common to decorate the throne or *sasana wiwaha* that will be occupied by the bride and the groom. *Kembar Mayang* is used in *paneusing sekar mayang* step and *ritual panggih*. When the wedding ceremony is finished, *Kembar Mayang* twin will be removed at the crossroad of the road, river, or ocean so that the couple always remember their origins.

The research result shows that *Kembar Mayang* has got some symbolic meanings: loyalty, struggle, persistence, optimism and wisdom, all of which become the base of a harmonious marriage.

Most of the people in Medan Sinembah are Javanese. As the time goes by, *Kembar Mayang* is always neglected in a marriage ceremony. Even some do not understand all the symbolic meanings found in *Kembar Mayang*. They simply perform the ceremony without sensing the real meanings of *Kembar Mayang*.

Through this study it is expected that the revitalization of *Kembar Mayang* could be done and by this the tradition of making *Kembar Mayang* in Javanese tradition

marriage could be preserved. *Kembar Mayang* is also a self-identity of Javanese people so if this is lost then the self-identity will also be lost.

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SUFFERING IN CHRIS GARDNER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS*

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Abstract

This research is to reveal The Protagonist's Suffering Depicted in Chris Gardner's Autobiography: **The Pursuit of Happyness**. The research adopts qualitative research method in its analysis. The main theory used in this research stated that suffering can be defined as a state of severe distress associated with events that threaten the intactness of the person. It can occur in relation to any aspect of the person in the realm of his social role, his group identification, his relation with self or body, or in relation to family or relation with a personal or transcendental source of meaning. The experience of being hurt since he was child makes the protagonist grows with wisdom and maturity. He considers that all the suffering he faces is a part of life that he must pass. It is also found that the protagonist passes his suffering patiently and thinking positively without blaming other people or the situation which make him suffer.

Keywords: protagonist, suffering, attitude, wisdom, maturity

1. Introduction

There are many stories of single mothers struggling to raise their kids against incredible odds, and with little help. Still, it is rarely to hear the story of single fathers going through the same struggle. Christopher Gardner is one of those fathers.

The Pursuit of Happyness is about Christopher Gardner, a man who went through many trials and tribulations to be successful. He was born to a mother who experienced abuse. He did not know who his father was; his mother's abusive boyfriend threw his face in every chance he got. The experience of having no father allowed Chris to be a good father to his son at all circumstances.

Chris Gardner's life story is so impressive, although he has never gone to college, and after a period of being homeless, he became a wildly successful stockbroker and wrote his memoir, *The Pursuit of Happyness* in 2006. *The Pursuit of Happyness* tracks this happy, rags-to-riches story, including his unhappy childhood and his adult progression through a few different careers.

The misspelled "Happyness" of the book's title comes from when Gardner was looking for daycare for his son so Gardner could pursue his career. He rejected one facility because it misspelled "Happiness" in its name, but gained insight into what happiness meant to him personally when he explained the literal meaning of the word to his curious son.

The memoir, both a New York Times and Washington Post #1 bestseller, has been translated into over 40 languages and was the inspiration for the acclaimed movie, *The*

Pursuit of Happyness. Gardner is the main actor in this movie. He acts as Will Smith, who received Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and Academy Award nominations for his performance.

Gardner has also been honored by the NAACP Image Awards with awards for both the book and the movie versions of *The pursuit of Happyness*. They are Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women's (LACAAW) 2006 Humanitarian Award, The Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce's 2006 Friends of Africa Award, The Glaucoma Foundation's Kitty Carlisle Hart Lifetime Achievement Award, and by The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) among others.

The reseacher is interested to choose this novel as the source of the subject matter in her thesis because this novel has some good messages and moral lessons. The best message in this novel is for not giving up quickly when things get difficult because success can be gained by hard working. So it is okay to fail in the beginning. Beside that, this book is a good book for teenagers who want to know where they want to go in their life. This book also can be a great motivation for some people who have not really been through anything in their life, and they will realize how fortunate they are compared to Chris Gardner who must work hard to change his life become a better one.

Precisely, the researcher chooses the *Protagonist's Suffering* as the topic to be analyzed. This book tells about how a homeless single father becomes a successful stockbroker. To get his success, Gardner must experience many forms of suffering, whether it is mental suffering or physical suffering. From that point, she realizes that suffering is the most often shown in the book.

After reading the novel, *The Pursuit of Happyness* by Chris Gardner, the researcher found that the protagonist has many forms of suffering. From that facts, the writer found that there are four forms of suffering which are faced by the protagonist, such as; *Childhood Stress, Racial Discrimination, Divorce, and Homelessness*. These four points are the subject matter of this thesis. Furthermore, she also would like to analyse the way how the protagonist passes his suffering.

For this research, the writer concerns with the forms of suffering that exist in the novel. Even though, there are many of interesting theme or topic in the novel, but it is important to limit the subject matter in a research. The researcher only focuses on the topic which deal with the protagonist's suffering as described previously. In other words, other topics that are not related to this research will not be discussed.

By making a research on the subject matter presented above, hopefully, this research provides enough information for anyone to know about suffering and to face it. Generally, to reach the dream, every person must experience many kinds of suffering. This research gives a great motivation about dream and how to reach that, of course with hard working and great efforts. In addition, this study gives contributions especially for others writers who want to do a research which is relevant with the topic of this research.

2. Literature Review

A protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the readers or audiences emphasizes with (Fowler, 1987: 32). Wiley (2010) says that "Protagonist is a person who plays a leading or active part". Other expert tells that if protagonist in ancient drama is the first actor to enggage in dialogue with the chorus, in later dramas playing the main character and some minor character as well (Harcourt, 2013: 187)

Based on the understandings of the protagonist above, a protagonist can be defined as the first actor in one literary work. Protagonist is a character who pushes the action forward. Since the protagonist is the central character of a story, she or he is the one who has to work as an emotional heart of the story. Some stories weave many characters into an ensemble story but even in such stories there is one character that is more important in the story than the rest. Moreover, a protagonist should not always be a man, but a woman has the same opportunity to be protagonist in one story. It tells how important the protagonist in the literary work such as novel, short story, play and others. Furthermore, protagonist is usually seen as a good person or hero and heroine. She or he is usually round and dynamic. A protagonist sometimes described with bad personalities. As in some of William Shakespeare's works such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear* and many more.

Suffering represents a dimension of personal distress that goes far beyond physical, or even emotional, pain. There is no consensus on a single, precise, and comprehensive definition of human suffering (Wilkinson, 2005: 97). Cassel (2004: 43) said that suffering can be defined as a state of severe distress associated with events that threaten the intactness of the person. It can occur in relation to any aspect of the person in the realm of his social role, his group identification, his relation to self or body, or in relation to family or relation to a personal or transcendental source of meaning. Suffering never affects only one part of a person but it affects the whole being; i.e. physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and social aspects. Nobody has ever expected having a suffering. A person can suffer enormously at the distress of another, especially a loved one. That's why, suffering is a unique personal experience and can only be defined by the person who suffers (Oreopoulos, 2005: 17). Suffering is the experience of distress or disharmony caused by the loss, or threatened loss, of what we most cherish. Suffering involves dissolution, alienation, loss of personal identity, and/or a sense of meaninglessness. It results from the stripping away of beliefs and symbols by which we construct a meaningful narrative of human life in general and our own lives in particular. Suffering is often compounded by a sense of threatened or lost dignity.

Stress is often described as a feeling of being overloaded, wound up tight, tense and worried (The Australian Psychological Society, 2012). Stress can mean different things to different people. For some persons, it can threaten to take over their lives while for others, once they are aware of its causes and effects, stress can add excitement and challenge to their lives. Meanwhile, childhood according to Macmillan Dictionary is the age span ranging from birth to adolescence. Thus, childhood stress can be defined as a pressure that occurs to a child under the age of 14.

United Nations (2001) defines the term discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life".

Race is a social construct that artificially divides people into distinct groups based on characteristics such as physical appearance (particularly skin color), ancestral heritage, cultural affiliation, cultural history, ethnic classification, and the social, economic, and political needs of a society at a given period of time. Racial categories subsume ethnic groups. Racial discrimination is one type of discrimination that often exists in the society. The belief that some races of people are better than the others makes discrimination exist in the society. Racism or racial discrimination usually happens by discriminating people

by their race or their skin color. Furthermore, racial discrimination refers to the separation of people through a process of social division into categories not necessarily related to races for purposes of differential treatment.

In a marriage life, no married couple wants to end their relationship with divorce. Divorce (or the dissolution of marriage) is the termination of a marital union, the canceling and or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country and or state.

Some experts also give definition about divorce. Milne (1986: 54) defines divorce as a legal process that begins at the point of separation. Another definition from Kaslow, (1979-1980) he defines divorce as a legal process to a more integrated view of divorce as a multi-dimensional process involving both legal and psychological matters. Divorce can be a stressful experience: affecting finances, living arrangements, household jobs, schedules, parenting and the outcomes of children of the marriage as they face each stage of development from childhood to adulthood. If the family includes children, they may be deeply affected. Some of the effects associated with divorce include academic, behavioral, and psychological problems. Although this may not always be true, studies suggest that children from divorce families are more likely to exhibit such behavioral issues than those from non-divorced families.

As a common thought, homelessness is the condition of people without a regular dwelling. People who are homeless are most often unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure and adequate housing, or lack "fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty, or, in the case of unaccompanied people, the lack of a safe and stable living environment. Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, health care, and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities. Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. Being poor means being an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets. The combination of the high cost of living, low-wage jobs, and high unemployment rates only exacerbate these problems and force them to choose between food, housing, and other expenses.

3. Research Method

This study adopts qualitative method by Sandelowski (2000:337) as the outlined. He explains that qualitative method is suitable when detailed descriptions of phenomena and a focus on the presentation of participants' dialogue with the researcher are desired. Qualitative research is a research that relies on qualitative data to investigate the research problem. In as much as the research problems should drive the method of qualitative research (Speziale and Carpenter, 2007:80), a qualitative method matches my research problems because this study is discussed about the protagonist suffering as the phenomena in someone's life.

4. Discussion

The focus of this study is the analysis of the protagonist's suffering in Chris Gardner's novel *The Pursuit of Happiness*. The forms of suffering that has been experienced by the protagonist are Childhood Stress, Racial Discrimination, Divorce and Homelessness. Basically, Suffering is the experience of distress or disharmony caused by

the loss of what we most cherish. Suffering involves dissolution, alienation, loss of personal identity, or a sense of meaninglessness.

4.1 Childhood Stress

Intensive and prolonged stress can lead to a variety of short- and long-term negative effects mentally and physically. It can disrupt early brain development and compromise functioning of the nervous and immune systems. Childhood stress can lead to health and mental problems later in life including alcoholism, depression, uncommunicative, introvert, eating disorders, heart disease, and other chronic diseases.

The protagonist named Gardner in this novel has experienced suffering since he was a child. Young Gardner lived with his sister at a foster house or sometimes at their family houses. Gardner who was still three years old had no idea where his parents were. It can be seen in the following quotation.

What I did know by the age of three or four was that Ophelia was my older sister and best friend, and also that we were treated with kindness by Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, the adults whose house we lived in. what I didn't know was that the Robinsons' house was a foster home, or what that meant. Our situation—where our real parents were and why we didn't live with them, or why we sometimes did live with uncles and aunts and cousins—was as mysterious as the situations of the other foster children living at the Robinsons'. (Gardner, 2006: 9)

The quotation proves that lately, the protagonist knew that his mother was in jail, as a prisoner. His mother was sent away to the jail unfairly by his cruel stepfather.

No one ever laid out the sequence of events that led my mother being prosecuted and imprisoned for alleged welfare fraud. It started out with an anonymous tip, apparently, that somehow she was a danger to society because she was earning money at a job—to feed and care for her two children (Ophelia and me) and a third on the way (my sister Sharon)—and was receiving assistance at the same time. That anonymous tip had come from Freddie, a man willing to do or say anything to have her locked up for three years because she had committed the crime of trying to leave his sorry ass. (Gardner, 2006: 12)

From the two quotations above, it can be seen that the protagonist faces a difficult situation. It must be hard for a child to live without a mother, even though it is just for several months or years. Gratefully, he is surrounded by kind people like his sister and his uncle.

After his mother was released from jail, he asked her some curious questions about his father. Still, his mother refused to answer the questions. His mother seemed uncomfortable to talk about his husband who was Gardner's father. We can see his curious expression from the quotation below.

Later on in my adolescence there was one occasion when I pressed her about just who my father was and why wasn't in my life. Moms gave me once of her searing looks, the kind that got me to be quiet real fast. "But..." I tried to protest. She shook her head no, unwilling to open up. "Why?"

“Well, because the past is the past,” Moms said firmly. Seeing my frustration, she sighed but still insisted, “Ain’t nothing you can do about it.” She put a stop to my questions, wistfully remarking, “Things happen.” And that was all there was to it.

(Gardner, 2006: 13)

It is normal that Gardner feels curious to know some information about his father. It must be painful for a child who never knows who his father is. Living without a father makes young Chris feel distressed. This situation also makes him get bullied by his cruel stepfather. His hard life is seen in the following quotation.

My hunch was confirmed when launched the line he loved to throw at me every chance he got, which killed me every time he said it, stirring up the sediment of anger and resentment that would later erupt. Unprovoked, out of nowhere, he turned to me that first time I can recall seeing him and proclaimed in no uncertain terms, eyes blazing and voice blasting, “I ain’t your goddamn daddy!” (Gardner, 2006: 17)

Normally, other children will cry or angry when they are treated like that. Gardner may be different from other children of the same age. We can see how patient he is confronting the situation. He even does not give any reaction for any ill-treatment he receives. Probably it is because he is a sensitive and introvert boy. He always keeps all of the pains he gets in his heart without telling anyone. His stepfather also hurts his feelings by mocking his physical appearance.

Freddie had just made his point one too many times, on top of his incessant commentary about the size of my ears.

Even when I was standing nearby, whenever anybody asked about where I was, he answered with a roar, “I don’t know where that big-eared motherfucker is.” (Gardner, 2006: 20)

In such a young age, Gardner cannot do anything to avenge the bad treatment. Even if he wants to resist his stepfather, he is not strong enough to repulse his stepfather because his stepfather must be ten times as strong as he. Forcefully, he chooses not to do anything and keeps silent.

Gardner’s stepfather often releases his anger to him and his family without any reason. He often beats him and sometimes it makes him almost killed as seen in the following quotation.

All I know is the clubhouse is being chopped down with me in it, Terry has split. Not only does Freddie not give a damn that I’m inside, he seems uninterested in the fact that splintering wood has slashed into one of my legs, which is now bleeding a small river onto our structure-turned-woodpile as I shriek from pain. Freddie is impervious, like a human buzz saw, demonically possessed with turning our annoying noisy project and me into mulch. (Gardner, 2006: 29)

But by the time we returned home, he was back to his old self, beating Moms, me and my sisters, going for his shotgun, waking us all up in the middle of the night to get out of his “goddamn house”. (Gardner, 2006: 62)

The quotations above describe how rude his stepfather treats him. It is a nightmare for Gardner to have a rude and cruel stepfather like him. He always craves for the loves and cares from a father. He also yearns figure of a father that he never met in his life.

However, the reality is different from what he has imagined. His stepfather often berates, bullies, beats and yells at him.

4.2 Racial Discrimination

Racial discrimination is a situation when an individual is subjected to unequal treatment or violence against people because of their race. The belief that some races of people are better than the others makes discrimination exist in the society. Racism or racial discrimination usually happens by discriminating people by their race or their skin color.

Gardner who was born as an African American and has black skin, often gets some forms of discrimination, not only in his childhood, but also in his adulthood. It can be seen in a situation when his mother was beaten by his stepfather. He was looking for a help from someone he met. However, he was refused harshly and called with a racial calling.

“Mister, look,” I say, dashing toward him, out of breath, “can you please give me a dime? I gotta call the police, ‘cause my stepfather’s about to beat up my mother.”

This cat, he doesn’t blink an eye, saying only, “You can’t hustle me, nigger.”

Now I want to kill this motherfucker in addition to Freddie. (Gardner, 2006: 31)

Discrimination also happened when he wanted to be close with a girl in his school. The girl showed her racial behaviour toward him because of his physical appearance.

For years I had hated Smokey Robinson for being the epitome of the kind of guy that ever girl I knew wanted. Slender, light-skinned, green-eyed, with his wavy “good” hair and lilting voice, he had no idea how he ruined life for tall, muscular, dark-skinned, “nappy”-haired baritone guys like me. Even to this day, I swear, if he came in the room I’d have to challenge him to a damn duel for pain and suffering-including the time a girl I liked turned her nose up and told me, “You just a big black *ugmo*.” (Gardner, 2006: 53)

He also got another racial treatment when he joined army as a navy student. One day at a gas station, the owner who was a white person chased him away and told him that she would not sell gas to him because he was a black man.

The local gas station didn’t roll out the red carpet. In fact, no sooner had we pulled in than a skinny-ass old white woman came bearing down us with a double-barreled shotgun, beady eyes blazing death as she announced, “I don’t sell gas to niggers! I sold gas to a nigger once, and he tried to burn my place down! So y’all just get out of here right now!” Nothing that overt had ever happened to me. Even pretty Willie was as stunned as I was. (Gardner, 2006: 79)

Another example of racism experienced by the protagonist was when he became a doctor assistant in his navy class (in medical section). He was treated discriminatively by a patient.

That Monday he and his wife marched into the ward, demanding to speak to my superior officer. Both looked at me with disdain, as if to say, *Who are you anyway? You’re not a doctor and you’re black!* Though I didn’t know what I’d done wrong, I could see that he intended

to write me up. Finally, he bellowed irately, “You don’t know what the hell you’re doing! You’re dangerous! You shouldn’t be here! And for all the good those pills did me, I may as well have been sticking them up my ass!” (Gardner, 2006: 83)

The quotation above shows that Gardner wisely calms the patient down and handles the situation even though the remarks of the patient are painful.

From those above racial treatments, it is revealed that some people treat him rudely just because his physical appearance, which directly tells his identity as a black man. They give bad attitudes toward him even though he does not do anything wrong. They hate him just because of his skin color. Getting some discrimination treatments must be so painful for him. Fortunately, Gardner is wise enough to handle those kinds of racial situation.

4.3 Divorce

Divorce is a legal process that begins at the point of separation. Divorce means the failure of the “original family” as a viable entity. The protagonist in this novel experienced divorce and separation as a form of suffering. Gardner made a mistake when he enthusiastically proposed Sherry by a phone call. He never imagined that married life did not always end happily like in a fairy-tale story. We can see his regret about his hasty action from the quotation below.

In a romantic rush, out of the blue, almost just to hear myself say the words, I change whatever subject we’re on and ask, “All right, so when we gonna get married?”

Without skipping a beat, Sherry says, “Well, how about June 18?”
(Gardner, 2006: 108)

Ironically, the safe, stable home that I’d wanted since childhood turned out to be too structured, too orderly, too rigid. Later I was able to take the long view and realize that I had gone from one institution, the Navy, to another, marriage, with barely a break in between. At the time, I didn’t stop to think about it in those terms, except to realize perhaps that I’d learned the classic lesson: *Be careful what you wish for because you might just get it!*

(Gardner, 2006: 112)

The above quotations describe that Gardner regrets his rush action. They both are still not ready to face the marriage life. They cannot adapt well with their different personalities, and with reality that they are married now. As a life partner, they must understand each other for their different characters and behaviours.

Gardner feels uncomfortable with Sherry and their marriage life. He finds another excitement outside and has an affair with a girl named Jackie.

The real turning point that changes everything in our marriage and our lives comes shortly after that day on the pier when we go out to a party together and my future-in the form of an exotic black goddess named Jackie-sees me checking her out and gives me a look. She is five-ten, statuesque, stacked, wearing a shimmering dress like she’s poured into it, just oozing sexual energy.

(Gardner, 2006: 117)

He should not make a mistake when his marriage is in trouble. However, he makes a fatal mistake by having an affair with Jackie, which makes his marriage completely broken.

He thinks that there is nothing he can do anymore with his marriage so that he chooses to leave Sherry and begins a new life with Jackie.

Sherry soon moved to Oakland, and though we had little contact, it took nine years to be legally divorced, partly because of how painful it was and partly because of the other drama that was going on.

(Gardner, 2006: 120)

We can see that Gardner actually regrets his decision to leave Sherry. However he also cannot continue their marriage because they still cannot give tolerance for their own different behaviours and personalities. In fact, his second marriage also does not run successfully. He does the same mistake like in his first marriage. He decides hurriedly without thinking it deeply. For the result, he and Jackie often fight for unimportant matters.

Sometimes it's me getting frustrated; sometimes it's her. Jackie runs hot and cold, giving and withholding. She works me; I call her on it. I shut down; she gets defensive. I yell; she punishes. Then it passes, we make love, we move on. Everything's okay again

(Gardner, 2006: 121-122)

One day, he was involved in a strict arguments with Jackie. He intended to clear their problem, but Jackie refused to talk and went away. He grabbed her wrists and she pulled back, trying to get away. Slowly he released his grip and let her go. Jackie who was unstable fell back into the rosebushes.

Jackie who was really annoyed left the house. After a moment, she was back again with two police officers. She told them that she was beaten by his husband.

The first cop asks how she happened to have scratches on her body, so I point to the rosebushes, explaining how she fell. But the second cop says, "No, sir, she said you beat her, and the State of California treats domestic violence as a serious offense."

(Gardner, 2006: 137)

In a state of total disbelief, he followed the two police to the prison. However, actually they arrested him because of his unpaid parking ticket. After all of his problems solved and his punishments ended, he returned to his house. But how surprise he was when he saw his house was already empty. In a really tired and shocked condition, he finally realized that Jackie had run away and took their baby with her.

So I tell the truth, minus the part about going to jail, but including pretty much everything that's happened recently; Jackie emptying the house, taking everything, including my car, and especially how she has my son and I don't know where either of them are. (Gardner, 2006: 142)

One day, Jackie came to Gardner's apartment, carrying their son in her arms. She gave their son to Gardner since she was a single parent now, and she was not able to grow his son alone.

Slowly it dawns on me that this isn't a visit but that she's actually leaving him in my care. Though she says little, I know her well enough to realize that this is it and just can't do this anymore. (Gardner, 2006: 150)

By giving her son to Gardner, it means that she cannot bear all the pressure she has as a single parent, and also she wants to insist that their marriage be ended. Gardner is really happy that he lives together with his son now, but he is also sad because he cannot defend his second marriage.

4.4 Homelessness

Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty, or in the case of unaccompanied youth, the lack of a safe and stable living environment.

The protagonist in this novel began his new job as a stockbroker. He only earned little amount of money as the salary. After he had been released from the prison, his wife and his son left him and vacated the house. This situation made him homeless since he had no place to live in. It was hard for him to find a place to stay just a night because he just had a little money. Finally, some of his friends in the same office kindly offered a help by inviting him to sleep over.

But that worry raised the ongoing problem that I had nowhere to live other than at Latrell's, at her mother's back house, where I had a room to myself; at Leon Webb's crib, where I crashed on the floor; at the apartment of my childhood friend Garvin's briefly; or occasionally with a couple of different women who didn't mind sharing their beds and their cookin, though I didn't have much to offer in return other than my lasting appreciation. (Gardner, 2006: 144)

We can see that he survives for several days by his friends' helps. Some of them allow him to come over and sleep for a night, others even lend him some money and share their meals and beds with him. It explains how difficult his life is because he just has limited amount of money. He is of course thankful for all forms of helping, but he cannot depend on them any longer. He feels bad begging for a place to stay, meals and even money, so he decides to stay some nights at his office, under his desk.

One evening when at work when I hadn't lined up a place to stay the night, it occurred to me that since I was usually one of the last to leave the office, no one would be the wiser if I slept under my desk. After all, I was usually the first one there in the morning too. (Gardner, 2006: 144)

He is so worried and affraid of being caught by other officers; however, nothing he can do. His strong wishes to be succesful make him do anything and throw away the thought that he will be embarrassed if someone sees him sleep at the office and others will know that he is homeless.

However, he could not deny that he was affraid of being punished or even fired by his manager. Therefore he could not stay longer at his office. He finally found a flophouse that served a room and meals for a homeless, with any background such as a person with mental problem, a drug addictions, ciminal and others. Of course this was a hard situation for him since he was not accustomed to it. But he forced himself to accept the situation.

For all intents and purposes, it was a flophouse, though decently kept up, that included three meals a day or whatever I could eat while I was there. This was a different world than any I'd lived before, with people just barely scraping by, some with mental problems or addictions, one stumble away from falling through the crack. Not that I was judging, but I couldn't relate. (Gardner, 2006: 146)

At that situation, his wife visited him and gave his son to him. Surely it became a dilemma for him. The fact that he was so happy to meet his son again and he could fulfill his promise to become a good father for his children at any circumstances. But it was also a trouble because he had no place to live in, and now he must live together with his son. This was surely a hard situation for him who was homeless and only had a little money.

Whatever is going to happen, two things I know are true. First of all, I have my son back with me and nobody on this world is going to take him away from me again. That's a principle of the universe now. Second—and I already know this to be a fact – we have just become instantly fucking homeless.

(Gardner, 2006: 161)

We all know that being homeless is a thing that no one expects. No one in this world wants to face the experience of having no place to live. But this must be faced by Gardner. He really wants to give a better life to his child. He believes that one day he can change his life and give a bright future to his child. Although he himself knows how hurt it is for being homeless. He cannot do anything except finding some safe places to stay for a night with his son. We can see the situation from two quotations below:

Your memory changes when you're homeless. Always moving around, changing geography, having no address, no anchors to tie to when events take place. It becomes hard to recall whether something happened a week before or a month before, yesterday or three days ago.

(Gardner, 2006: 161)

How did I become instantly homeless, especially now that I was a stockbroker working for Dean Witter? Because children were not allowed at the rooming house. No exceptions. The days of crashing on the couch at my friend's homes were over too. I'd imposed enough when I was in the training program, but to ask to stay for a few nights and add, "Oh, by the way, and my baby too?" – that wasn't going to fly. The ladies I was seeing may have been fond of me in the sack but weren't going to be pleased about me showing up with an inquisitive, active toddler.

(Gardner, 2006: 161)

From the above quotations, we can see how hard it is to find a place to live since he is with his son now. His friends may be gladly allow him to come over at their house when he is alone, but it is hard to find a friend that does not mind allowing him to sleep over for a night and bring along a baby. Furthermore, it is impossible to rent a house or pay for a hotel because he does not have enough money. Forcefully, Gardner takes his son to go to work with him and stays at night at his office, sleeping together under the desk, like he used to do.

To my knowledge, no one there knew that I slept under the desk with Christopher on those nights when I didn't have anywhere to go – whether I took him to the babysitter early in the morning, picked him up in the evening, and came back to the office that same nights, or whether he stayed with me in the office that day. What they did know was that I was that I was hungry for success. How literally hungry they didn't imagine. (Gardner, 2006: 154)

Actually he feels guilty because he cannot provide a proper house for his son. He is sad because he is forced to involve his son in his difficulties. But he has no choice since he has no money whether to pay for a babysitter to look after his son or to pay for a hotel.

One day when his son began to cry asking for a drink, he said that he would buy him that drink next time because he did not have enough money. But his son did not want to stop crying, he finally gave up and bought him that drink.

“No drink, Christopher.” I try to calm him down as he starts to cry.

“We’ll have a drink and popcorn next time.” This kills me.

The next time we have the same dilemma, I buy him what he wants, unable to say no this time. That’s one of the nights that’s balmy enough that we sleep, try to sleep, on a grassy corner of Union Square, not far from the same spot where the guy who tried to pick me up once called San Francisco “the Paris of the Pacific.” (Gardner, 2006: 155)

Since he bought that drink for his son, now he did not have enough money to rent a hotel room. He finally took his son to the Union Square to relax, and to sleep there because the weather was good at that day. But of course he cannot sleep there for nights because the weather cannot be predicted.

One day he met a Reverend named Cecil Williams at Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin. Cecil Williams and activists had been feeding the homeless and hungry down in the church basement, at Moe’s Kitchen. He followed the line to get some meals for him and his son, he was even given sermons by the kind-hearted Reverend, Cecil Williams. For a while, that sermons settled his heart down.

After several times meeting with Cecil Williams, he encouraged himself to ask an information about where he could get a comfort and cheap place to live.

When I talked to the Reverend, I acknowledged that obviously I wasn’t a woman, but I was homeless and I did have a child. Most importantly, I had a job. I just needed someplace to live until I could put together the money to get an apartment

“Fine,” he said, not thinking twice. He had been watching me with Christopher. He trusted me. “Go on down there,” he reassured me, letting me know who to see and what to say.

(Gardner, 2006: 157)

He finally arrived at the place that Cecil Williams told. It was a small hotel with cheap costs. But there were some requierments for the customers to rent the hotel room, as explained in the following quotation.

The deal was this. No one was admitted into the hotel before 6:00 p.m., and everyone had to be out by 8:00 a.m. No one received a key. No going out once you were in for the night, and no leaving your things in the room because they’d be gone when you returned. When you left the room, you took everything you owned with you. No one was assigned the same room two nights in a row.

(Gardner, 2006: 157)

For the first time, he luckily came on time to the hotel and got a room for him and his son. But it was a hard challenge for Chris to always come on time in order to get a room, since he had to work and look after his son. Unfortunately, he came too late and there was no room left for him.

The worst of this period takes place in approximately March, right when I know things are really about to bloom at work, and this one night I roll in to the front desk at the shelter, where they all know me, and I hear, “Well, Chris, we’re all full, sorry.” (Gardner, 2006: 160)

Hopelessly, he walked along with his son leaving the hotel. He only had limited amount of money. He could only use the money to buy food for his son and him. So he thought hard to find a place to stay at least for a night. Suddenly he asked his son a question.

What can I do? Out on the street, I head to the BART station, asking Christopher, “You want to go look at the airplanes at the Oakland airport?” (Gardner, 2006:160)

They went to the BART station and sat for a moment. His son told him that he had to go to the bathroom. He took his son to an individual bathroom at the station which enable him to lock the door from the inside. As soon as they were in, he realized that they did not have to leave immediately. They could rest, wash up, take their time, even sleep, as described in the following quotation.

“We’re gonna wait,” I explain to Christopher, “‘cause it’s rush hour right now. So we’re gonna wait in here and be quiet, all right?” I make up a game called “Shhh” – I tell him that no matter how loud someone knocks on the door, the objects is not to say a word. No matter what. (Gardner, 2006: 160)

We can see how Gardner calms his son down by saying that they are playing a game. He certainly does not want to involve his son in all this sufferings. That situation is his worst condition ever, where he does not have any money whether to rent a hotel room or to buy a dinner. He feels that he really fell into his deepest failure at that time. He thinks he is a bad father who let his son sleep in an inappropriate place.

With no windows, no ventilation, no natural light, the bathroom was tiled from floor to ceiling and wasn’t more than ten-by-five, with one toilet and one small wash basin and a mirror made out of reflective stainless steel. By turning off the light, it was completely dark – dark enough that if I was really tired I could sleep. Christopher had a gift for sleeping everywhere and anywhere. I couldn’t bring myself to stay in there for too long, only once or twice staying the night, but for a short period maybe a little more than two weeks, the blessed mercy of BART’s public facilities gave me needed shelter during the darkest part of homelessness. (Gardner, 2006: 161)

Even though he knows that he should not take his son to all his problems, he also cannot leave him by giving him back to his mother. He has already promised that he will be a good father for his son since he does not ever feel the love from his father. He is so thankful because Christopher is not a rebellious kid, he never whimpers to his dad. He seems to understand about the hard situation faced by him and his dad.

A question now pulsed maniacally in my brain. Why was I putting myself and my kid through this? Why couldn’t I slow down, take longer to get out of the rut, dig into my savings, and put us up back at The Palms? Why did I refuse to break the \$20 bill that could have bought us a night at the tucker hotel? I followed my gut, which told me that breaking that \$20 bill meant we might not eat. (Gardner, 2006: 161)

The reason why he is not able to return to the hotel because he just has \$20 in his wallet. If he uses that money to rent a room, they will not be able to eat. Gardner's condition is really tragic. He has a financial problem where he only has limited amount of money and he must use that money wisely. He even must acquiesce himself and his son sleep in a bathroom at the station. The only reason he does this is to be able to buy food for his son. It will be sadder to see his son hungry.

5. Conclusion

The protagonist named Gardner has experienced suffering since his childhood, which has affected his adulthood. Instead of growing as an introvert and vengeful person, Gardner becomes a smart, wise and mature person. He chooses to face his suffering calmly and wisely. He positively considers that suffering is the lesson of life that can make him a better person. Because of that, all of the suffering he got makes him maturer and stronger. Besides, it can also be concluded that.

1. Stress in childhood stage can affect the behaviour and personalities of the children in the future.
2. Racial discrimination is prevalent to occur everywhere; it may occur in society, school, campus or working place.
3. An early marriage can destroy a household if the couple do not have enough preparation to build a happy marriage life.
4. Economics factors is one of the main causes of homelessness. The high cost of housing and limited amount of money make the protagonist unable to buy an affordable house.
5. The protagonist has good attitudes to face the hard times. He is able to pass his suffering because of his wisdom, patience and positivity.

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STRUGGLES IN SUZANNE COLLINS' NOVEL *THE HUNGER GAMES*

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Abstract

This research is the result of qualitative research on the protagonist's struggles named Katniss Everdeen depicted in Suzanne Collins' novel **The Hunger Games**. Burleson (1964) says that struggle is one of ways to reach the better life in the future and also to increase the prestige. It means that any hope will be achieved through struggling. Katniss Everdeen is a strong as well as a resourceful sixteen-year-old girl who is far more mature than her age would suggest. Katniss is the main provider in her family, which consists of Katniss, her mother, and her younger sister, Prim Everdeen. She must struggle hard to make herself and her family stay life. Therefore she always keeps on struggling in her life. The finding of this research shows that the protagonist is succesful in her struggles to fulfill her family needs, to protect her sister and to win in the Hunger Games.

Keywords: struggle, prestige, protection, hunger games

1. Introduction

The Hunger Games, published in 2008, is a science novel by Suzanne Collins, an outstanding American writer. It is written in the voice of 16-year-old, Katniss Everdeen, who lives in Dystopian, post-apocalyptic nation of Panem in North America. The Capitol, a highly advanced metropolis, exercises political control over the rest of the nation. The Hunger Games is an annual event in which one boy and one girl aged 12–18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the Capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle to the death.

The novel received mostly positive feedback from major reviewers and authors. It is praised for its storyline and character development, though some reviewers have noted similarities between Collins' *The Hunger Games* and Koushun Takami's *Battle Royale* (1999). In writing *The Hunger Games*, Collins drew upon Greek mythology, Roman gladiatorial games, and contemporary reality television for thematic content. *The Hunger Games* won many awards, including "The California Young Reader Medal", and was named one of the Publishers Weekly's "Best Books of the Year" in 2008.

The Hunger Games was published in September 2008 and quickly found critical success by reviewers and authors. Among the features that received the most attention were the plotting and pace. Collins has attributed her skill in these areas to her background as a playwright and her time spent working in television, where there is little downtime allowed and character development has to occur simultaneously with the storyline constantly moving forward. The book also rose to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller

list and subsequently spent more than three consecutive years on the list. The other books in the trilogy, published over the next two years, followed the same pattern, all becoming huge commercial successes. Then, in March 2012, *The Hunger Games* movie was released. It had the third-highest opening weekend in history, and the highest opening weekend ever for a movie that was not a sequel. There are now more than 18 million copies of *The Hunger Games* in print, and with the trilogy now available in fifty languages, the books have genuinely become a worldwide phenomenon. (<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-hunger-games/context.html>). The novel is the first in *The Hunger Games* trilogy, followed by *Catching Fire* (2009) and *Mockingjay* (2010). *The Hunger Games* is one of Suzanne Collins' masterpieces, and constitutes one of the best novels in 2008. This novel portrays the differences of life between the situation of the districts and the modern life. The novel is concerned with struggles, suffering, threats of war, authoritarian governments, obsession with fashion trends, etc.

2. Literature Review

This research analyzes the struggles of the protagonist named Katniss Everdeen depicted in Suzanne Collins's novel, *The Hunger Games*. According to Paulo (2011: 3), the term struggle is defined as "to try extremely hard to achieve something, even though it is very difficult and impossible." While, Collins (1987: 1658) defines struggle as "to try hard to do something". Based on the definitions of the struggle quoted above, it can be inferred that struggle is to try very hard to do or to achieve something no matter how difficult it is. Struggle usually brings positive effects for people because without it, people cannot run a good life, and will not be able to find the ways to reach whatever they dream of.

The word "protagonist" comes from the Greek word "protagonistes", meaning "first combatant" and refers to the leading character, aided by the chorus, in classical Greek tragedy. It means that the protagonist is the leading character in a work, often playing the role of the hero or heroine.

Abrams (1981: 212) defines that "protagonist is the chief character in a plot, on whom our interest centers (or alternatively, the hero or heroine)." Originally, in ancient Greek theatre, the protagonist was the principal actor in drama. Wiley (2010: 33) defines that "protagonist is a person who plays a leading or active part." Hull (2013:5) says that "protagonist is who the story is about." He also states that "protagonist pursues the goal of the story who, sometimes, is played by the main character. The protagonist represents the audience's eyes into the story because he or she will effect the audience emotionally."

It is in line with what is said by Fowler (1987: 32), who claims that "the protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with." According to Beckson and Ganz (1990: 217), in Greek drama, a protagonist is the first actor, who played the leading part and doubled in some minor roles. Basically, a protagonist refers to the most important character, usually a hero or heroine in a story. A protagonist is the central character or leading figure in poetry, narrative, novel or any other story. A protagonist is sometimes called a "hero" by the audience or readers. (<http://literarydevices.net/protagonist>).

Based on some definitions of protagonist above, a protagonist can be defined as the first character in a literary work, who is always prioritized by audience or the reader of literary work that can cause sympathy for the audience or the reader. A protagonist is a very important tool used in developing a story. There are different terms used for a protagonist such as a hero, focal character, central character, the first character, etc.

Regardless of what title you give a protagonist, she or he remains the key ingredient in the development of the story, which is why the story revolves around him or her.

In this world, people of every race, color, and culture all share something in common even without knowing it; that is they all have struggles in the way they live their lives. No one can deny the fact that life in the world is one continual struggle. The one who does not know the struggle of life is either an immature soul, or a soul who has risen above the life of this world. The object of a human being in this world is to attain to the perfection of humanity, and therefore it is necessary that man should go through what we call the struggle of life. Frederick Douglass says that “if there is no struggle, there is no progress.” Further, Junethea Crystal Centeno states that:

“Sometimes, struggle are exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance, leave no room for regrets.”
(<http://thinkexist.com/quotations/struggle>).

Burleson (1964: 30) says that “struggle is one of ways to reach the better life in the future and also to increase the prestige. It means that any hope will be achieved through struggling.” To support Burleson, Collins (1978: 1451) defines that “struggle is not easy, sometimes it also needs sacrifice in order to get purpose. Although, happy ending will not always come as the result of the struggle.”

Sri Swami Krishnananda (1989: 5) says that struggle might be fulfilled by various ways. It is due to different barriers and limitations faced by everyone in his or her life. In addition, someone who has different dream may have different struggle. However, one who really wants to achieve his or her goal in life, he or she will struggle hard to face any obstacles coming to him or her.

Human life may be regarded as a process of successive achievements, and every movement in this process is a step taken towards the actualization of the ideal which beckons one to itself. All beings, whatever be in the cosmos, are comprehended by this single law, the law of a striving for higher achievements. In this struggle to achieve the higher, one realizes pleasure. It is well said that man never is; he is always to be. We do not entirely live in the present. There is an element of the future in what we do, and we never confine ourselves to the present merely. This means to say that we identify ourselves, though in a covert manner, with an ideal to be achieved in the future, which, we hope, will bring us a larger satisfaction. If the future is not ingrained in the present, how could there be such a thing as hope? That we cannot keep quiet, that we always feel a duty before us, is enough indication that we are wound up with a future. It is also not true that we wholly live in the future, because the future cannot be contained in the consciousness of the present. Time cannot take a jump beyond the present, which is its core. We might hope for the future, but we cannot live in the future. Life is always a present.

If, then, it is impossible to have a real satisfaction in the future, and we cannot also live without a future, there will appear to be a tension, or contradiction, in our life. Life is a battle between the present and the future, between our affairs of today and our future hopes. The present and future cannot join in time, and yet there seems to be a superhuman element, transcending human understanding which somehow connects the two together. With all this, still, we know that the present and the future never come together. All this may look like a logical untenability, but logic is not all, and science is not everything. What, to us, seems a possibility, need not exhaust all wisdom. We cannot understand how

it is possible to reconcile our present difficulty with our longings of the future. We seem to be wanting something which is not within our present perception, and feel happy about what we know not. We seem to be fighting with time itself, which bifurcates the present from the future. And what we want is not bifurcation but union of the present and future.

Struggle is to progress with difficulty, to make a strenuous effort or to be strenuously engaged with a problem, task, or undertaking (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/struggle>). Effort and struggle are directed towards the achieving of an end which is realized as one's ideal and which mostly remains as a future to the reality of the present state of affairs.

Life's struggle has been, at least at its lowest level, for the overcoming of difficulties in the form of hunger and thirst, heat and cold and the fear of death, all whichever remain as the invariable concomitants of life in general. (Krishnananda, 1989: 1)

Struggle is done for overcoming our own and other's difficulties. First, we struggle with other people. That means that every relationship is broken by sin, and because nothing works perfectly because we have competition, we have conflict, and we have misunderstandings. You get disappointed by other people and other people are disappointed in you. Secondly, we struggle with ourselves. Your biggest battle in life really is not with other people. Our biggest battle is inside us. We struggle with our fears, struggle with our flaws, struggle with our temptations, struggle with our insecurities, struggle with guilt, struggle with regret and struggle with resentment, compulsions, weaknesses, sins, addictions and struggle to make sense life.

Roehm (2011: 11) describes that life is a struggle and the rewards you get are from meeting your difficulties head on, face to face, overcoming them and moving onto your next struggle along your stepping stone to success. The details of struggles of human in their life are of some kinds. The first struggle is human works in effort for man to obtain or work for salvation of the human soul. Human works defy God's grace. Human works oppose the Grace of God. In the eyes of God it is impossible for man to find salvation of the soul by human works. The second struggle is the "inner struggle" that some people encounter after they are saved. This is a struggle that forms from a conflicting carnal nature those wars with the Divine nature received in the new birth. The struggle caused from the carnal nature feeds on man's interests, strange doctrines, traditions, imaginations, and religions that teach that man cannot get rid of such nature. The third struggle is the "outer struggle" that men encounter in life. This struggle can stem from economic problems, domestic problems, doctrinal problems, or any other outer conditions that men are subjected to in life.

Life struggles come in many kinds. Some struggles may be regarding money, love, careers or about things we cannot fathom, at cetera. Our life struggles know no age, race, and religion or where you are located in this vast world.

Struggle means any personal goal achievement accompanied by discomfort and resistance. This leaves out struggles of an interpersonal kind. There are many forms of struggle, but for simplicity's sake, Maizler (2012: 67) divides struggle into four kinds. They are negative, positive, inevitable, and chosen struggles.

- (a) Negative struggle is goal achievement to eliminate a deficit state. This occurs when you are attempting to get back to the norm, such as mastering a life limiting phobia.
- (b) Positive struggle is goal achievement that involves transformation from your steady state into a more evolved, grown, or developed state of being. Positive struggle, in contrast to negative struggle does not involve overcoming pathology. Examples of

positive struggle are going to graduate school or writing a book. Positive struggle may still certainly involve overcoming resistance and discomfort.

- (c) Inevitable struggle deals with the necessary losses and attendant discomfort that are conditions of your life in this world. As your mother struggled to birth you, you struggled to adjust to a new and less comforting world. During your life, you will struggle with sadness and loss when your friends, parents, or partners die or go elsewhere. These struggles are an automatic condition of your life.
- (d) Chosen struggles are the product of personal choice and are not automatic conditions of life. Simple examples of chosen struggles are climbing a mountain, going to graduate school, or becoming a body builder.

3. Research Method

The researchers are interested in this topic because in *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins describes the struggles of a very young woman who is only a lay girl from the lower society. Besides, this subject matter is also pregnant with moral lessons. It can inspire girls in general that girls can do things appropriately done by man, and even can perform responsibilities better than man can. It also inspires us to be brave to encounter any obstacles in this life, and to have undefeated wills to struggle for everything in order to materialize the dreams as well as objectives in this life.

Furthermore, this research is aimed at revealing the struggles carried out by the protagonist and how the protagonist carries out her struggles. Therefore, the scope of the research focuses on the protagonist's struggles. The struggles of the protagonist analyzed in this research covering the protagonist's struggle to fulfill her family needs, to win in the Hunger Games, and to protect her sister.

In finishing the analysis in this research, the researchers adopt qualitative research method. Qualitative research method is conducted by studying the organized material in order to discover inherent facts. The content analysis, inductive analysis, and logical analysis are mostly used in the analysis of qualitative material (Koul, 1984: 1990).

4. Discussion

One of the common cases that can be seen often in life, history and even literature is those of struggle. People struggle against things on both a superficial level and an actual level. For example, one could be constantly struggling against the opinion of others, or the pressures of society, or maybe even time. On the other hand, one can experience physical struggle with a person, a group, an illness, etc. Actual struggles often are with things that cannot be stopped or experienced with the senses. These kinds of struggles are the most common in literature. In Suzanne Collins's Novel *The Hunger Games*, the protagonist of the novel must struggle to fulfill the family needs, to win in the Hunger Games, and to protect her sister from the risks that may cause death to her sister.

4.1 To Fulfill the Family Needs

The protagonist of the novel named Katniss Everdeen lives in a life filled with anxiety, fear and tears, such as the reaping, the food shortages and the hunger games. In Panem, all districts are ruled by the Capitol. When Katniss was eleven years old, her father was blown to bits in a mine explosion that there was nothing even to bury. Since the death of her father, her mother is falling into a deep depression so Katniss must struggle to fulfill her family needs. Katniss must perform the function of a father because

her mother has failed to do so. As the oldest child in her family, Katniss feels that it is her responsibility to fulfill the needs of her family.

Actually, Katniss feels irritated as well as disappointed with her mother because her mother continuously dissolves in grief. However, Katniss must pretend to be steadfast as well as unwavering in order to keep his family live especially her sister, Prim. Katniss' disappointment is seen in the following quotation:

I try to remember that when all I can see is the woman who sat by, blank and unreachable, while her children turned to skin and bones. I try to forgive her for my father's sake. But to be honest, I'm not the forgiving type. (Collins, 2009: 8)

The above quotation shows Katniss' disappointment to her mother because her mother constantly melts into sorrow due to the death of her husband. Since the death of Katniss' father, her mother does nothing for the family needs. She is unable to think normally that she does not care of the condition of her children that her children turn to skin and bones.

The condition of her mother makes their lives worse that Katniss must struggle herself to fulfill her family needs. She fulfills her family need by hunting, doing barter and doing exchange for tesserae. In order to get food for her family, Katniss must go hunting to the wild wood which is inhabited by wild dogs, loncougars and bears.

I swing my legs off the bed and slide into my hunting boots. Supple leather that has molded to my feet. I pull on trousers, a shirt, tuck my long dark braid up into a cap, and grab my forage bag. ...

Our house is almost at the edge of the Seam. I only have to pass a few gates to reach the scruffy field called the Meadow. Separating the Meadow from the wood, in fact enclosing all of District 12, is a high chain-link fence topped with barbed-wire loops. In theory, it's supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day as a deterrent to the predators that live in the wood-packs of wild dogs, loncougars, bears-that used to threaten our streets. (Collins, 2009: 4)

The above quotation tells us that Katniss' struggle to fulfill her family needs is not easy and full of risks. She must encounter many obstacles in the wood. Katniss must have sorts of ways to get some hunted animals in the wood. Before she could reach a meadow in which she can hunt the expected animals, she must pass a high chain-link and electrified fence topped with barbed-wire loops. She must be able to take a good moment and listen carefully for the hum showing that the fence is equipped with electricity. At the time when the hum stops, she must jump the fence. Katniss has to fulfill her family needs by hunting illegally beyond the boundaries of District 12.

Although hunting is illegal in Panem, Katniss has no choice but to do that for the sake of the family needs. Through her skill with a bow and her ability to track and snare rabbits and squirrels, her family has been able to survive.

Inside the woods they roam freely, and there are added concerns like venomous snakes, rabid animals, and no real paths to follow....

Even though trespassing in the woods is illegal and poaching carries the severest of penalties, more people would risk it if they had weapon. But most are not bold enough to venture out with just a knife. My bow is a rarity, crafted by my father along with a few others that I keep well hidden in the woods, carefully wrapped in waterproof covers. My father could have made good money selling them, but if the officials found

out he would have been publicly executed for inciting a rebellion.
(Collins, 2009: 5)

The above quotation tells that Katniss has his ways to get food by hunting in the wood. Although it is illegal and the severest penalties are awaited for those who are captured, she takes the risks. She is lucky as before her father passed away, her father had taught her some techniques to hunt. Her father is a skillful man in crafting a bow that Katniss now has an extraordinary one.

Katniss has a best friend who becomes his hunting partner, named Gale Hawthorne. He is also from District 12 and his father was killed in the same mining accident as Katniss's. They always hunt and gather some fresh fruits and vegetables together and then they exchange or barter some of them with other people.

On the way home, we swing by the Hob, the black market that operates in an abandoned warehouse that once held coal. ...

We easily trade six of the fish for good bread, the order two for salt. Greasy Sae, the bony old woman who sells bowls of hot soup from a large kettle, takes half the greens off our hands in exchange for a couple of chunks of paraffin.

.....
When we finish our business at the market, we go to the back door of the mayor's house to sell half of the strawberry. (Collins, 2009: 11)

The above quotation shows what Katniss and Gale do when they have finished their hunting. On their way home, Katniss and Gale call at a black market and the mayor's house to trade and exchange a portion of their hunting results and the fruits and vegetables they have gathered in the wood with other things that they need, such as bread, salt, paraffin etc, because in the district 12 they are more in need of useful things compared with money.

Katniss also signs up for the tesserae to fulfill her family needs, a ration of grain that is given in exchange for placing your name in the lottery for the reaping, the ceremony that determines who will be the district's representative in the Games. It is seen in the following quotation:

Say you are poor and starving as we were. You can opt to add your name more times in exchange for tesserae. Each tesserae is worth a meager year's supply of grain and oil for one person. You may do this for each members as well. So, at the age of twelve, I had my name entered four times. Once, because I had to, and three times for tesserae for grain and oil for myself, Prim, and my mother. In fact, every year I have needed to do this. And the entries are cumulative. So now, at the age of sixteen, my name will be in the reaping twenty times. (Collins, 2009: 13)

The quotation above shows the other way of Katniss's struggles to fulfill her family needs. She should exchange her name for the tesserae since each tesserae is worth a meager year's supply of grain and oil for one person. As the result, the possibilities of being the one whose name is called increase. Katniss does it to fulfill her family needs so that they can get some food and other needs, but she will get more chances for the reaping in the hunger games.

In district 12, all forms of stealing are strictly prohibited. Anyone who breaks the rules will be sentenced to death. The punishment is so scared that Katniss is scared to do

it. She should not steal but she also does not want to see her mother and sister die of starvation. She really feels uneasy but she should find food for her family.

All forms of stealing are forbidden in District 12. Punishable by death. But it crossed my mind that there might be something in the trash bin, and those were fair game. Perhaps a bone at the butcher's or rotted vegetables at the grocer's, something no one but my family was desperate enough to eat. Unfortunately, the bins had just been emptied. (Collins, 2009: 29)

The quotation above tells how Katniss who feels distressed to return home because she does not get any food to take home. She cannot bear to see the faces of her mother and sister who have been waiting for her at home. She knows well that her family is desperate enough to eat now, but it is impossible for her to steal because all forms of stealing are forbidden in District 12 and the punishment is death. She seeks something in trash bin but it has just been emptied.

4.2 To Protect Her Sister

Katniss has a sister, named Prim Everdeen whom she loves above all others. Katniss knows that Prim will not be able to survive the reaping so that she does everything to protect her sister. Katniss exchanges her name for tesserae, and does not allow her sister to exchange her name for tesserae.

I hug her, because I know these next few hours will be terrible for her. Her first reaping. She's about as safe as you can get, since she's only entered once. I wouldn't let her take any tesserae. But she's worried about me. That the unthinkable might happen. I protect Prim in every way I can, but I'm powerless against the reaping. The anguish I always feel when she's in pain wells up in my chest and threatens to register on my face. (Collins, 2009: 15)

The quotation above tells that Katniss and Prim love each other. In Prim's first reaping, Katniss does not feel so worried because Prim's chance to be elected in the reaping is so remote since her name is only entered once. Katniss has promised to himself to protect her sister in every way she can.

But at the reaping for the 74th annual hunger games, when Effie Trinket reads out the name in the slip of paper in a clear voice, Katniss is shocked and disappointed. The name of her sister, Primrose Everdeen is in fact elected to the hunger games among the thousand slips of paper. It is really beyond her expectation that the name of her sister is chosen to the hunger games.

There must some mistake. This can't be happening. Prim was one slip of paper in thousands! Her chances of being chosen so remote that I'd not even bothered to worry about her. Hadn't I done everything? Taken the tesserae, refused to let her do the same? One slip. One slip in thousands. The odds had been entirely in her favor. But it hadn't mattered. (Collins, 2009: 21)

The quotation above tells how Katniss feels shocked when Prim's name is pulled by District 12 chapereone, Effie Trinket. The hunger games is the same with the death, and Katniss will not let her sister die. Whereas Prim never exchanges her name for tesserae and she still twelve years old so that her name is only one slip of paper in the drawing. Katniss really cannot believe what has happened.

When Katniss hears that Prim becomes one of tribute in the hunger games, she feels so sad and weak. However, she regains her spirit soon and plans to protect her sister. It is seen in the following quotation:

“Prim!” the strangled cry comes out of my throat, and my muscles begin to move again. “Prim!”

.....
“I volunteer!” I gasp. “I volunteer as tribute!” (Collins, 2009: 22)

The quotation above tells that Prim is walking with stiff and small steps up toward the stage, but Katniss immediately walks to the stage too. Katniss pushes Prim behind her and states that she volunteers to take her sister’s place as a tribute from District 12 to the hunger games. Katniss thinks that it is a right decision to protect her sister from the hunger games, because Katniss does not want to let her beloved sister be a tribute in the hunger games. Katniss knows that her sister will die if she becomes a tribute in the hunger games, and she does not want to lose her sister. She does not care of her own safety in order to protect her sister.

4.3 To Win in the Hunger Games

Hunger Games is a compulsory annual death match which is a kind of punishment for the uprising all of Panem’s 12 districts. The twelve districts in Panem must provide one girl and one boy, called tributes, to participate for over a period of several weeks in the hunger games. The competitors must fight to the death, and the last tribute standing is declared as the winner who will be showered with prize. The hunger games will be watched on the television by all of the twelve districts, and this is the capitol’s way of reminding the districts how totally they are at the Capitol’s mercy.

Katniss must use many tricks in his struggling to be a winner in the hunger games. She and Peeta, Katniss’ fellow tribute from District 12, are to be mentored by Haymitch Abernathy, the only alive tribute of the District 12, who has ever become a winner in the hunger games. Katniss must hear all of her mentor says. It is seen in the following quotation:

“One thing at a time. In a few minutes, we’ll be pulling into the station. You’ll be put in the hands of your stylists. You’re not going to like what they do to you. But no matter what it is, don’t resist.” Says Haymitch.
(Collins, 2009: 58)

The quotation above shows how Haymitch explains and informs any things dealing the hunger games to Katniss and Peeta. Haymitch reminds Katniss to follow all done by her stylists, Cinna. During the presentation of the tributes, Cinna includes live flames in Katniss’ costume with a little synthetic fire. It is specifically designed by Cinna because in the opening ceremonies, the tributes supposed to wear something that suggests their district’s principal industry, and in District 12 the principal industry is coal. The sythetic fire custom worn by Katniss makes the audiences easy to recognise her when she is in the arena. Katniss will be recognised as a girl with fire custom. Furthermore, Katniss will get some sponsors that give her a little extra help, some food, the right weapon in the Cornucopia or battlefield of the hunger games.

Katnis makes some special tricks to get some sponsors in the hunger games. She does her utmost to get eleven points in the training centre with excellent shooting from her bow, and makes the dramatic love with Peeta so that they are remembered by the audience as “the star crossed lovers from District 12”. It is seen in the following quotation:

Back in the center of the gymnasium, I take my initial position and skewer the dummy right through the heart. Then I sever the rope that holds the sandbag for boxing, and the bag splits open as it slams to the ground. Without pausing, I shoulder-roll forward, come up on one knee, and send an arrow into one of the hanging lights high above the gymnasium floor. A shower of sparks bursts from the fixture. ... Suddenly I am furious, that with my life on the line, they don't even have the decency to pay attention me ..

Without thinking, I pull an arrow from quiver and send it straight at the gamemakers' table. I hear shouts of alarm as people stumble back. The arrow skewers the apple in the pig's mouth and pins it to the wall behind it. (Collins, 2009: 101-102)

I dig my fingernails into my palms as my face come up, expecting the worst. Then they're flashing the number eleven on the screen. (Collins, 2009: 108)

Now they all do. You're all they're talking about. The star-crossed lovers from District Twelve!" says Haymitch. (Collins, 2009: 135)

The quotation above tells that Katniss searches some ways to get many sponsors to help her in the battlefield. There is a private session with the Gamemakers in the training centre and all tributes must get a good score because the score can give the audience a starting place for the betting that will continue throughout the games, and the number of scores will influence the sponsors to support the tributes. The number, which is between one and twelve, one being irredeemably bad and twelve being unattainably high, signifies the promise of the tributes. In her efforts, Katniss succeeds to make a excellent shooting but the Gamemakers ignore her. It drives her angry so that she shoots her arrow at the Gamemaker's table. Actually it is one of the dangerous actions which would threaten her life but finally she is lucky, Katniss succeeds to get eleven for her score and she gets the top training score. On the day of the tribute interviews, Peeta, a boy from District 12 reveals that he has had a crush on Katniss ever since he can remember, and Haymitch, a mentor of District 12 has a plan to make a dramatic love so that all people know them as "The star-crossed lovers from District 12."

The seventy-fourth hunger games begin in Cornucopia, in the mouth of a giant golden, spilling over with the things that will give the tributes life in the arena. Katniss moves out immediately, puts as much distance as she can between herself and the others, and finds a source of water. Katniss wants a silver sheath of arrows and a bow but she only gets a bright orange backpack. She must struggle to get them from other tributes.

There, resting on a mound of blanket rolls, is a silver sheath of arrows and a bow, already strung, just waiting to be engaged. That's mine, I think. It's meant for me. (Collins, 2009: 149)

And I've missed it! I've missed my chance! ...

I sprint in twenty yards to retrieve a bright orange backpack that could hold anything because I can't stand leaving with virtually nothing. A boy, I think from District 9, reaches the pack at the same time I do and for a brief time we grapple for it and he coughs, splattering my face with blood...

Already other tributes have reached the Cornucopia and are spreading out to attack. (Collins, 2009: 150)

From the quotation above, it is seen that Katniss must struggle hard to stay alive in the games. She must be faster than other tributes to win. Although she only gets a bright orange backpack, but there are a few things in the backpack that she can use to help and defend herself in the arena.

In the hunger games, Katniss makes an ally with Rue, a girl tribute from District 11 that reminds her with Prim. Rue has helped Katniss when she is nearly killed by the Careers. Katniss and Rue have a plan to destroy the Careers' supplies.

And for the first time, I have a plan. A plan that isn't motivated by the need for flight and evasion. An offensive plan. (Collins, 2009: 207)

Besides, I'm distracted by my latest idea about the Careers and their supplies. Somehow Rue and I must find a way to destroy their food. I'm pretty sure feeding themselves will be a tremendous struggle. (Collins, 2009: 208)

The quotation above tells that the Careers are the bright tributes who are not easy to be defeated. They also never know how to be hungry because the Careers tributes have a quick strategy in the games. They first get hold all the foodstuff so that they have all the supplies needed. Katniss and Rue have an offensive plan to destroy their supplies first, then to attack them. Katniss and Rue must do a tremendous struggle to carry out their plan.

After Katniss and Peeta work together, they are eventually successful to save their life from the mutts and kill the last tribute, Cato from District 2. However, instead of being announced as the winners, the rule is revoked and only one winner is to be allowed. Katniss thinks hard to find a way so that she and Peeta can become the winners. Eventually they do dramatic love to get the sympathy from the Capitol. Their dramatic love can be seen in the following quotation:

We stand, our backs pressed together, our empty hands locked tight.

"Hold them out. I want everyone to see," he says. I spread out my fingers, and the dark berries glisten in the sun. I give Peeta's hand one last squeeze as a signal, as a good-bye, and we begin counting. ...

The frantic voice of Claudius Templesmith shouts above them. "Stop! Stop! Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present the victors the Seventy-fourth Hunger Games, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark! I give you-the tributes of District twelve!" (Collins, 2009: 344-345)

The quotation above shows how Katniss and Peeta decide that they should eat poisonous nightlock berries that will kill them and leave the games with no winner. At the very moment when Katniss and Peeta are about to swallow the poisonous nightlock berries and are bidding farewell to the audiences, Claudius Templesmith shouts above them to stop their action. The Capitol's people do not want if there is no winner in the games and they see Katniss and Peeta as an act of undying love so that they are declared as the victors of the Seventy-fourth Hunger Games.

Katniss' struggle is not vain in the long run. She succeed to fulfill her family need, to protect her sister and to be a winner in the hunger games. She can receive a life of ease back home, and District 12 will be showered with prizes, largely consisting of foodstuff.

5. Conclusion

The above discussion leads to the conclusion of this research that the protagonist's struggles are to fulfill her family needs, to protect her sister from the hunger games and to win in the hunger games. Her protagonist's struggles are not easy and full of risks that

endanger her own life. She must struggle to fulfill her family needs because her father died in a mine explosion which cause her mother to fall into a deep depression and be unable to think of taking care her family. She must also struggle to protect her sister because she loves her sister deeply and her sister is elected to be a tribute in the hunger games while she knows well that her sister will die if she becomes a tribute in the games. Therefore, she protects her sister life by substituting her sister to be a tribute in the game. Besides, she must struggle to win in the hunger games because if she does not become a winner, she will die. She has no choice but to be a winner because it is a match in which the competitors must fight to the death. By winning in the Hungger Games, she not only saves her life, but also gets her family needs fulfilled since the winner of the games will be showered with prizes, particulary foodstuff.

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MOTIVES OF STRUGGLES IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S NOVEL *A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS*

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Abstract

This study is an analysis of the aims of the protagonist's struggle in Khaled Hosseini's novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The novel tells about a wife, the protagonist of the novel, who should live hard with a husband with bad temper. However, the protagonist by the name of Mariam keeps being a good wife for her husband. Furthermore, her husband has another wife. Unfortunately, the husband with his bad temper almost kills her. The protagonist should struggle to protect her husband's another wife as well. The analysis is conducted by descriptive qualitative method, in which the data are analyzed descriptively. Some theories, concepts and notions of struggle are applied in this study to support the analysis and finding. One of the theories adopted in this study is proposed Flexner and Fitzpatrick (1996: 9) who said that the concepts of struggle is permeated from the history, the labor movement, and the place of working woman. It implies that the struggle of woman is rooted from the history, the labor movement, and the place of working woman.

Keywords: motive, struggle, ambition, dreams, aims

1. Introduction

Struggle is something that is always found in human life. As human beings, everybody has to own an ambition or goal in his life, and to reach his goal he must struggle. No normal person lives without struggle. Nate (2012: 29) says that struggle is something that changes people. She emphasizes that struggle will make people develop in their life. To change means to be different from one condition to a better one related to any aspects in life. Commonly, struggle is done to achieve one's ambition in his or her life or to get out from difficulty or to survive. In other words, there must be an aim in one's struggle.

The novel *A Thousand Splendid Sun* is written by Khaled Hosseini who was born on March 4, 1965 in Kabul, Afghanistan, the oldest of five children. The novel talks about the struggles of a wife who is the protagonist of the novel. She is a woman who should live in suffering that she should struggle in her life. The struggle of the protagonist is done dominantly in her household. A household is the togetherness among husband, wife, and children. As it is said by Clark (1997: 16) that there must be an unavoidably struggle under difficulties by being obliged to support the expenses of a wife and children. Therefore, the problem revealed in this study is related to the struggle of the protagonist named Mariam in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The writers

would like to reveal the aims of the protagonist's struggles in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. Then, this study focuses on the aims of the protagonist's struggle depicted in the novel. Hopefully, this study can be beneficial either for the writers herself or the reader of this study. The benefit of this study is in the form of moral lessons in our life. This study adopts descriptive qualitative in its analysis. In other words, the data and the conclusion of this analysis are presented in the form or description.

2. Literature Review

Aim is "something that you are dreaming of and you are working so hard to achieve it" (Ouspensky, 2014: 76). In other words, aim is something that we are going to achieve in our life. However, he also emphasizes that an aim will only be formulated when someone exactly his or position is in a certain time. Someone should realize his or her condition or position in a certain time, then he or she is able to formulate certain aim related to his or her position. For example, at certain time, someone has much money but he or she has no certain thing to do with the money. Then he or she will be able to formulate a new aim. There might be a lot of aim that can be formulated by such a condition. It can be going abroad, shopping, travelling, etc.

Aim is absolutely fulfilled by any efforts. Aim as described above refers to aim that is determined by certain condition and position at certain time. It means that certain condition of someone will determine his or her aim at that time. For example when someone is healthy and happy at certain time she or he might dream a traveling or other ones. Traveling as his dream is called aim. Then she or he will try to achieve it. On the other hand, when someone is in a bad condition or being sick. Then his or her ambition is to be recover from his or her sickness, they he or she will go to see a doctor to achieve his or her aim.

In educational field, aim is defined as "A general statement that provide direction or intent to educational action" (Wilson 1990: 92). Aim in this case is usually written in amorphous terms using words like: learn, know, understand. Thus, aim in this educational field refers to a target of learning and understanding. This definition has close relationship to the understanding of aim as described above. However, it is in an educational field. When someone is in her or his education, in other words, someone in studying at school or college, then he or she has an aim on it. The aim is to get knowledge. Then he or she will learn to know and to understand to achieve his or her aim. It knowledge.

Talking about struggle, we will be faced by many perspective of thingking about it because struggle must be there in any aspect of life. For example, human beings will struggle in their life for their ambition or for other purposes; animal will struggle to survive; and plants will struggle to grow in any natural condition. Nate (2012: 30) says:

"Some of my friends and I have been saying for a while stuff like "struggle changes people" and about what we've called "developing" people.....in struggles, in terms of how people develop.I try to lay out some ways that people in struggle can change.about some ideas about action and struggle changing people but how those changes are not automatic."

Nate clearly says that struggle changes people. We can capture the intention of the statement that struggle is an effort by human beings to change their life or to develop. The word develop means that persons will get better condition or an achievement in their

life. In other words, struggle is a positive action to achieve good condition or good ambition.

Other understanding of struggle is given by Lenin (1920: 79) who claims:

“It was, however, different with Bolshevism’s other enemy within the working-class movement. Little is known in other countries of the fact that Bolshevism took shape, developed and became steeled in the long years of struggle against *petty-bourgeois evolutionism*, which smacks of anarchism, or borrows something from the latter and, in all essential matters, does not measure up to the conditions and requirements of a consistently proletarian class struggle.”

Lenin emphasizes that struggle is related to labour or proletarian class. It happened long time ago when there were any action that had made the proletarian class threatened of living in discrimination because of the rules made by the superior class. This understanding of struggle has relationship to the protagonist’ life among the rich people.

Noaman (2013: 125) says:

It’s time for Muslims to use Ramadan to intensify the struggle for human liberation, not just from temptations of the flesh, but also from oppression and exploitation. - Couldn’t a deeper form of empathy involve struggling against the conditions that produce poverty? This wouldn’t come from a place of charity but from a place of solidarity, from a sense of oneness rooted in acknowledging our differences, but seeking to overcome them through struggle against structures of oppression and exploitation.

Noaman emphasizes struggle in a term of religious effort. Struggle means how human’s ability in facing any temptation of the flesh, oppression and exploitation. In other words, struggle is the way how human beings face any temptation that might disturb their devotion to the Almighty, and how human beings avoid making any oppression or exploitation to other creature, aspecially to other people. This understanding of struggle may have little relationship to what is going to be analuzed in this study. However, this is quoted to be the comparison to the other definitions of struggle in this study.

Widyo et.al (1996: 164) say that struggle is a hard work to materialize dreams. Everyone in this world must have dream in his or her life. One’s dream must be different from others. Then, one person will have different from other struggle to achieve the dream. However, struggle might be so hard, and so simple. It is called so simple because sometimes someone will get his or her dream undeliberately. While struggle is also so hard because someone will face many challenges either physically or mentally that need physical power or mental power such as bravery. It is in line with what is said by Krishnananda (1989: 69) that struggle might be fulfilled by various ways. In other words, the same dream might be realized with diffferent ways. Of course, it depends on the owner of the dream.

Dealing with struggle of woman, the writers adopt the theory of Flexner and Fitzpatrick (1996: 9) who claim that the concepts of struggle is permeated from the history, the labor movement, and the place of working woman. It implies that the struggle of woman is rooted from the history, the labor movement, and the place of working woman.

3. Research Method

This research uses qualitative method. According to Sandelowski (2000: 337), qualitative method is suitable when detailed descriptions of phenomena an a focus on the

presentation of participants' dialogue with the researcher are desired. Qualitative research relies on qualitative data to investigate the research problem. Speziale and Carpenter, (2007: 80) state that a qualitative method matches my research problems because this study is discussed about the protagonist suffering as the phenomena in someone's life.

4. Discussion

As described previously that the protagonist by the name of Marian in this novel should live in suffering that she should struggle in her life. Mariam is married to a man named Rasheed who later marries another woman named Laila. However, Rasheed is not a good husband, and he is very cruel to both of them. Therefore, Mariam should struggle in her life.

4.1 To Be a Good Wife

As a wife, Mariam realizes that to be a good wife is gift to a husband. Therefore, Mariam tries her best to be a good wife for Rasheed. However, it is not easy for Mariam to be a good wife for Rasheed. It is hard for her to fulfill her duty as Rasheed's wife. It starts when Rasheed asks her to behave like a wife. It is seen in the following quotation:

Then one night he crushed his cigarette and instead of saying good night leaned against the doorway.

"Are you ever going to unpack that thing?" he said, motioning with his head towards her suitcase. He crossed his arms. "I figured you might need some time. But this absurd. A week's gone and... Well, then, as of tomorrow mornin I expect you to start behaving like a wife, *Fahmidi*? Is that Understood? (Hosseini, 2007: 63)

The quotation above shows that Rasheed wants Mariam to behave like a wife. Still, the way he tells his wife is too rough. It implies his anger. Actually, it is normal for a husband to have his wife behave well like a wife, but Rasheed must express his will in a good manner. Knowing this, Mariam feels so afraid.

The next day, Mariam starts to behave like a wife as her husband wants. She does what her husband has told her.

The next morning, after Rasheed left for work, Mariam unpacked her clothes and put them in the dresser. She draws a pail of water from the well and, with rag, washed the windows of her room and the windows to the living room downstairs. She swept the floors, beat the cobwebs fluttering in the corner of the ceiling. She opened the windows to air the house. She set three cups of lentils to soak in a pot, found knife and cut some carrots and a pair of potatoes. Left them to the soak. (Hosseini, 2007: 64)

The quotation above shows that the protagonist starts her struggle by cleaning up the house and cooking. However, it is still a strange activity for her, but she does it. What comes to her disappointment is when her husband comes home from work and says nothing as if she does not fulfill her duties as a good wife. She hopes that her husband sees what she has done. Therefore, she feels so unhappy with her husband's ignorance. It is seen in the following quotation:

When Rasheed came home that night, he brought with him a brown paper bag. Mariam was disappointed that he did not notice the clean windows, the swept floors, the missing cobwebs. (Hosseini, 2007: 67-68)

The quotation above shows that the protagonist feels disappointed with her husband because he does not notice what she has done as his wife.

Unfortunately, the more Mariam lives with Rasheed, the worse his temper is. Still, she should try her best to be his wife. Rasheed is really bad husband for her because he behaves badly to her. The following is one of the proofs of her husband's bad temper:

Rasheed didn't observe the fast. The few times he did, he came home in a sour mood. Hunger made him curt, irritable, impatient. One night, Mariam was a few minutes late with dinner, and he started eating bread with radishes. Even after Mariam put the rice and the lamb and okra qurma in front of him, he wouldn't touch it. He said nothing, and went on chewing the bread, his temples working, the vein on his forehead, full and angry. He went on chewing and strating ahead, and when Mariam spoke to him he lokked at her without seeing her face and put another piece of bread into his mouth. (Hosseini, 2007: 77-78)

The quotation above is one proof of Mariam's husband's cruelty. His bad temper is not physically hurt, but it breaks Mariam's heart. It happens in the fasting month. It is said that Rasheed gets angry because of Mariam's lateness for dinner one night. Then he behaves as if he is not an adult man. He treats Mariam badly because of his hunger. However, there must be good solution for such a kind of simple mistake done by a wife.

Mariam's husband has made her live in fear and torture because of his bad temper. The following is other proof that shows Rasheed's rough gabit towards Mariam:

It wasn't easy tolerating him talking this way toher, to bear his scorn, his ridicule, his insults, his walking past her like she was nothing...But after four years of marriage, Mariam was clearly how much a woman could tolerate when she was afraid....She lived in fear of his shifting moods, his violate temperament, his insistence on steering even ...he would resolve with punches, slaps, kicks, ... (Hosseini, 2007: 97-98)

The quotation above shows that it is hard for Mariam to be Rasheed's wife. She should live with fear. Therefore, she struggles hard to tolerate her husband's bad temper. Even they have got married for four years. She tries to keep her marriage with Rasheed although she is punched, slapped, and kicked by her husband when he is in bad mood.

Rasheed is really a bad husband for Mariam. He gets angry easily for a nut mistake. It happens when he shakes the rice angrily from his fingers and pushes the plate away. Consequently, the rice is scattered on the floor. It is seen in the following quotation.

He shook the rice angrily from his fingers and pushed the plate away, spilling sauce and rice on the *sofrah*...

Mariam kneeled to the ground and tried to pick up the grains of the rice and put them back to the plate, but her hands were shaking badly. (Hosseini. 2007: 102)

Furthermore, the most irrational thing has been done by Rasheed to his wife is when he tries to force Mariam put some pebbles into her mouth. It is caused by something mistake according to Rasheed. It is about rice cooking. Rasheed says that Mariam does not cook the rice well eventhough it is done as it is usually made. What makes the protagonist surprised is that Rashed comes back after she finished collecting the grain of the rice. He takes the pebbles and force his wife to put it into her mouth. What on earth Rasheed has done to his wife. The following is the quotation.

Then she heard the front door opening, and Rasheed was back in the living room. "Get up," he said. "Come here. Get up." He snatched her hand, opened it, and dropped a handful of pebbles into it. "Put these in your mouth."

"Stop it Rasheed, I'm..." His powerful hands clasped her jaw. He shoved two fingers into her mouth and pried it open, then forced the cold, hard pebbles into it. Mariam struggled against him, mumbling, but he kept pushing the pebbles in... "Now chew." He said. (Hosseini. 2007: 102)

The quotation shows that Mariam struggles to face her husband's anger. She takes the grain of the rice spilled by her husband from the ground and put them back to the plate. Rasheed just leaves the house after such action to his wife. Mariam as a wife just struggles to stop it without any attack to her husband. It is because she just wants to be a good wife.

However, Mariam still fulfils her duty as a wife. She wants to be a good wife. She serves her husband well in the time of dinner or lunch, although her husband treats her as a servant. The following the quotation to prove it:

He motioned impatiently with his hand, still looking at the girl, and Mariam passed him a napkin.

For years, Mariam had looked on as he ate, the muscles of his temples churning, one hand making compact little rice balls... For years, he had eaten without looking up, without speaking, his silence condemning, as though some judgment were being passed, then broken by an accusatory grunt..., a one-word command for more bread, more water. (Hosseini. 2007: 205)

The quotation above shows that Mariam keep fulfilling her duty as a wife by serving what her husband needs and wants in eating time. It has happened for years, but she still does it as she can.

Other proof that proves Mariam's struggle to be a good wife is the following quotation showing that she obediently does what her husband orders her to do:

"Sit down," he said. He was lying on his bed, back to the wall, his thick, long legs splayed on the mattress. "Sit down before you faint and cut your head open."

Mariam felt herself drop onto the folding chair beside his bed.

"Hand me that ashtray, would you?" he said.

Obediently, she did. (Hosseini, 2007: 207)

Mariam is seen too obedient to her husband. It is done because she is struggling to be a good wife for her husband, although her husband has done many cruel things to her. To obey husband is something that should be fulfilled by a wife, if she wants to be called as a good wife. It is what is done by Mariam, the protagonist in the novel.

Another quotation that proves Mariam's service to her husband is the following:

Brushing past Mariam, he said in a brusque voice, "I'm hungry. Get Supper ready."

Mariam turned around and went to the kitchen to warm Rasheed's meal. (Hosseini, 2007: 230)

The above quotation shows that Mariam serves her husband well although she has received many bad treatments from her husband. It is just to realize her wish, to be a good wife for her husband.

4.2 To Protect Her Husband's Another Wife

The protagonist does not only struggle to be a good wife for her husband as described above, but also to protect her husband's co-wife. Actually, a co-wife is someone who has taken her husband because she has been her husband's second wife. Her husband's co-wife's name is Laila. However, their husband gets angry to Laila. He has hit her with his belt many times in front of her. It is seen in the following quotation:

She went to stop him, but he shoved her back and blew by her. Without saying a word, he swung the belt at Laila. He did it with such speed that she had no time to retreat or duck, or even raise a protective arm...

Rasheed swung the belt again.

This time, Laila shielded herself with a forearm and made a grab at the belt. She missed, and Rasheed brought the belt down again. (Hosseini, 2007: 337)

The above quotation shows that Laila is treated so bad by their husband. What has been done by her husband is inhuman. A husband should not treat his wife like an animal.

The protagonist witnesses what has been done to her husband's co-wife by their own husband directly. Even she could not count how many times Laila has been hit by a belt by their husband.

Mariam lost count of how many times the belt cracked, how many pleading words she cried out to Rasheed, how many times she circled around the incoherent tangle of teeth and fists and belt. (Hosseini, 2007: 338)

Even when Laila has tried hard to avoid her husband's bad temper, Rasheed has no intention to release her. Knowing this, Mariam tries to help her husband's co-wife. She struggles to uncurl Rasheed's fingers from Laila's neck when Rasheed wraps around Laila's neck. The following is the quotation:

They crashed to the ground, Rasheed and Laila, thrashing about. He ended up on top, his hands already wrapped around Laila's neck.

Mariam clawed at him. She beat at his chest. She hurled herself against him. She struggled to uncurl his fingers from Laila's neck. (Hosseini, 2007: 339)

The above quotation shows that the protagonist struggles to protect her husband's co-wife from death threat from their husband because her neck is wrapped by his fingers tightly.

Finally, the protagonist comes to her ultimate way to protect her husband's co-wife. She takes a shovel and hits Rasheed's head at his temple. Then he dies. It is seen in the following quotation:

In the tollshed, Mariam Grabbed the shovel.

Rasheed didn't notice her coming back into the room. He was still on top of Laila, his eyes wide and crazy, his hands wrapped around her neck. Laila's face was turning blue now, and her eyes had rolled back. Mariam saw that she was no longer struggling. *He's going to kill her, ...* And Mariam could not, would not, allow that to happen. He'd taken so much from her in twenty-seven years of marriage. She would not watch him take Laila.

Mariam steadied her feet and tightened her grip around the shovel's handle. She raised it. She said his name. She wanted him to see.

“Rasheed.”
He looked up.
Mariam swung.
She hit him across the temple. The blow knocked him off Laila.
(Hosseini, 2007: 339)

The quotation above shows that finally Rasheed dies because he is hit by Mariam by a shovel. It shows how hard the protagonist struggles to protect her husband's co-wife.

5. Conclusion

After the analysis of the aims of the protagonist's struggle in Khaled Hosseini's novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is conducted, it can be concluded that:

1. The protagonist, Mariam, has struggled in her life to be a good wife and to protect or save her husband's another wife's life.
2. The protagonist has done her best in her struggle although it is quite hard for a wife to fulfil it towards such a kind of husband.

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THE EFFECTS OF FOOT BINDING CUSTOM IN LISA SEE'S NOVEL *SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN*

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Abstract

This study constitutes an Analysis of The Effect of Foot Binding Custom from Lisa See's novel **Snow Flower and The Secret Fan** published in 2006. The Positive and Negative effects are the topics to discuss. This analysis uses the data taken from the novel applying descriptive qualitative research. One of the significant theories of the custom used in this study is that a person who claims that the essence of a culture having a custom in it is not its artifacts, tools, or other tangible cultural elements but how the members of the group interpret, use, and perceive them. It is the values, symbols, interpretations, and perspectives that distinguish one from another in modernized societies; it is not material objects and other tangible aspects of human societies. People within a culture usually interpret the meaning of symbols, artifacts, and behaviors in the same or in similar ways. The findings show that Foot Binding Custom gives women positive effects such as high statue in the society, and symbol of beauty. Besides the positive effects, there are also negative effects such as infection, and even death. The conclusions of the study are Foot binding, as the time goes by, is not persevered anymore as it gives more negative effects than the positive ones. However, health is the most important part of human life. Health is the pivot upon which a man's whole personality and its well-being depend. An ailing and aching body saps the enthusiasm for pursuit. Unwholesome feelings and sensations retard the pace of functional activity, economic development and spiritual uplift.

Keywords: culture, custom, foot binding, modernism, beauty

1. Introduction

The novel entitled *Snow Flower and The Secret Fan* written by Lisa See is a novel about love, a delicate story of two women in nineteenth-century China, who pledge themselves to be soul-mates for life at the young age of seven. Although the truth is stretched to accommodate the relationship, they are supposed to have seven "characters" that match; the girls are born in the same month and have their feet bound at the same age, but it turns out that there are differences between them discovered when adults. Binding their lives is their continuous learning of women's writing called "nu shu" which is a secret, a minimalist variation of "men's" writing, and one which can only be known by female.

The culture of Hunan during this period of history was dictated by very strict rules and customs, including that of binding the feet of young girls before they entered puberty. After the binding, girls were restricted to the women's upstairs parlor, where they would remain, primarily, throughout their lives. Only as young children in their "milk years" were they allowed to see the outside world and to explore nature. Their lives were devoted to creating embroidered clothing and quilts and building their wardrobes and those of their future husbands to create a dowry. Women were considered "worthless branches" in the family tree, and their sole purpose was to produce sons for their husbands. Since feeding a family was a major challenge, a female mouth to feed was simply a liability.

Foot binding (known as *Lotus feet*) is the custom of applying painfully tight binding to the feet of young girls to prevent further growth. The practice was possibly originated among upper-class during the five dynasties and ten kingdoms in imperial China (10th or 11th century). Foot binding became popular as a means of displaying status (women from wealthy families who did not need them to work could afford to have their feet bound) and was correspondingly adopted as a symbol of beauty in China culture.

Besides, the goal of this custom is to achieve a pair of perfectly bound feet with seven distinct attributes: they should be small, narrow, straight, pointed, and arched, yet still fragrant and soft in texture. Of these requirements, length is not more important. A perfect foot should be shaped like the bud of a lotus. It should be full and round at the heel, come to a point at the front, with all weight born by the big toe alone. This means that the toes and arch of the foot must be broken and bent under to meet the heel. Finally, the cleft formed by the forefoot and heel should be deep enough to hide a large cash piece perpendicularly within its folds.

All the various circumstances which emerge in this world can be explained through the law of cause and effect. Where there is no cause, there can be no effect. Effects are produced precisely because there are causes. The law of cause and effect is widely known and commonly accepted in today's world. Effect in this study will be related to foot binding custom in the novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. Thus, there will be two effects. They are positive effect and negative effect of foot binding custom in this novel.

In all, this novel tells us about women's life in foot binding custom. This custom is a parameter to man to get marriage. According to Chinese custom, a woman with a small foot will have the greatest love and joy in her life. Therefore, this novel can be as a means to expose how the custom is, what effects are given to the followers of the custom, and whether this custom gives good effects to the people.

The effects of Foot Binding Custom in Lisa See's novel *Snow Flower and The Secret Fan* is very interesting to analyze because the topic discusses the effects of foot binding which are useful for the readers.

2. Literature Review

Culture is defined as the shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs, and affective understanding that are learned through a process of socialization. These shared patterns identify the members of a culture group while also distinguishing those of another group.

In *Multicultural Education*, Banks and McGee (1989: 1) explains,

"Most social scientists today view culture as consisting primarily of the symbolic, ideational, and intangible aspects of human societies. The essence of a culture having a custom in it is not its artifacts, tools, or

other tangible cultural elements but how the members of the group interpret, use, and perceive them. It is the values, symbols, interpretations and perspectives that distinguish one people from another in modernized societies; it is not material objects and other tangible aspects of human societies. People within a culture usually interpret the meaning of symbols, artifacts, and behaviors in the same or in similar ways."

Custom is a usage or practice common to many or to a particular place or class or habitual with an individual. For example, it is the custom for the bride to wear a white dress on her wedding day. Then, habit is often referred to a regular behavior that is recurrently repeated. Moreover, a habit is also considered to subconsciously happen. The person showing habitual behavior is often unaware of his actions. This is due to the reason that a person performing routine tasks will not bring himself to take on self-analysis.

A tradition is a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. Common examples include holidays or impractical socially meaningful clothes (like lawyer wigs or military officer spurs), but the idea has also been applied to social norms such as greetings. Traditions can persist and evolve for thousands of years—the word "tradition" itself derives from the Latin *tradere* or *traderer* literally meaning to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping.

Foot binding (known as "Lotus feet") is the custom of applying painfully tight binding to the feet of young girls to prevent further growth. Suffering for beauty is a concept familiar to most women, who have die, plucked or shaved their hair, squeezed their feet into uncomfortable high heels or even surgically enhanced parts of their anatomy. Millions of Chinese women went even further — binding their feet to turn them into the prized "three-inch golden lotuses." The procedure for Foot Binding generally involved tightly wrapping a strip of cloth that is similar to a bandage around the smallest toes and the rest of the foot. The big toes were likely to be the only parts of the foot that were free. The cloth was tightened daily to make the foot more slender and shorter. This process eventually broke the toes, and the tight binding raised the arches of the girls' feet. Other definition of Foot Binding is a practice of wrapping the foot in cloth to form its shape and size into that which is socially deemed beautiful or fashionable. The practice involves forcing all the toes but the big toe under the sole of the foot with cloth bandages, stunting the foot's growth and increasing the arch. (Emily Laurel Smith, 2008: 201-202) Foot Binding was first banned in 1912, but some continued binding their feet in secret. Some of the last survivors of this barbaric practice are still living in Liuyicun, a village in Southern China's Yunnan province. Wealthy Chinese women with bound feet pose for a photo, circa 1900-1920.

Legend has it that the origins of foot binding go back as far as the Shang dynasty (1700-1027 B.C.). The Shang Empress had a clubfoot, so she demanded that foot binding be made compulsory in the court. But, historical records from the Song dynasty (960-1279 A.D.) date foot binding as beginning during the reign of Li Yu, who ruled over one region of China between 961-975. It is said his heart was captured by a concubine, Yao Niang, a talented dancer who bound her feet to suggest the shape of a new moon and performed a "lotus dance."

During subsequent dynasties, foot binding became more popular and spread from court circles to the wealthy. Eventually, it moved from the cities to the countryside, where

young girls realized that binding their feet could be their passport to social mobility and increased wealth.

Prestige refers to the reputation or esteem associated with one's position in society. A person can earn prestige by his or her own achievements, which is known as achieved status, or they can be placed in the stratification system by their inherited position, which is called ascribed status. For example, prestige used to be associated with one's family name (ascribed status), but for most people in developed countries, prestige is now generally tied to one's occupation (achieved status). Occupations like physicians or lawyers tend to have more prestige associated with them than occupations like bartender or janitor. An individual's prestige is closely tied to their social class – the higher the prestige of an individual (through their occupation or sometimes, their family name), the higher their social class.

Prestige is often related to the other two indicators of social class - property and power. A Supreme Court justice, for example, is usually wealthy, enjoys a great deal of prestige, and exercises significant power. In some cases, however, a person ranks differently on these indicators, such as funeral directors. Their prestige is fairly low, but most have higher incomes than college professors, who are among the most educated people in America and have high prestige.

Prestige is a strong element in social mobility. On the one hand, choosing certain occupations or attending certain schools can influence a person's level of prestige. While these opportunities are not equally available to everyone, one's choices can, at least to a limited extent, increase or decrease one's prestige, and lead to social mobility. On the other hand, certain elements of prestige are fixed; family name, place of birth, parents' occupations, etc., are unchangeable parts of prestige that cause social stratification. (Boundless Sociology, 2014: 1)

The definition of beauty, which in the terms of successive analysis and narrowing of the conception is value positive, intrinsic, and objectified. In less technical language, Beauty is pleasure regarded as the quality of a thing. Beauty is a value, that is, it is not a perception of a matter of fact or of a relation: it is an emotion, an affection of our volitional and appreciative nature. An object cannot be beautiful if it can give pleasure to nobody: a beauty to which all men were forever indifferent is a contradiction in terms.

... Beauty is therefore a positive value that is intrinsic; it is a pleasure.
(Santayana, 1995: 50–51)

It is worth saying that Santayana's treatment of the topic in *The Sense of Beauty* (1896) was the last major account offered in English for some time, possibly because, once beauty has been admitted to be entirely subjective, much less when it is held to rest on a sort of mistake, there seems little more to be said. What stuck one's treatments was the subjectivity, not the heroic attempts to temper it. If beauty is a subjective pleasure, it would seem to have no higher status than anything that entertains, amuses, or distracts; it seems odd or ridiculous to regard it as being comparable in importance to truth or justice, for example. And the twentieth century also abandoned beauty as the dominant goal of the arts, again possibly in part because its trivialization in theory led artists to believe that they ought to pursue more real and more serious projects.

Wounds are injuries that break the skin or other body tissues. They include cuts, scrapes, scratches, and punctured skin. They often happen because of an accident, but surgery, sutures, and stitches also cause wounds. Minor wounds usually are not serious, but it is important to

clean them. Serious and infected wounds may require first aid followed by a visit to your doctor. You should also seek attention if the wound is deep, you cannot close it yourself, you cannot stop the bleeding or get the dirt out, or it does not heal. (Medlineplus, 2014: 1)

Good health starts from the very infancy. It is here that protection and care is needed, so that each organ functions well, each organ develops naturally, and there are no deformities, disabilities and diseases but often the health of children remain neglected, with the result that they grow unhealthily and that affects their education as well. Health cannot be achieved merely by taking one or two pills every day or by observing a few restrictions. It can be achieved only by understanding what health is, on what it depends and then applying this knowledge in every-day life. The care of the body regarding food, cleanliness, exercise, rest and protection against disease, are essential for the preservation of sound health. Life is for living. Without health, life is deprived of not only much of its usefulness but also its joys and pleasures. The stream of life will be rich and lasting in proportion to the sources which nourish it. These sources belong to every person. They are food, exercise, and proper posture, care of bodily functions, avoidance of alcohol and tobacco, and wholesome mental and emotional attitudes.

3. Research Method

Research designs are plans and the procedures for research that span the decisions from broad assumptions to detail methods of data collection and analysis (Creswell, 2009: 3). This research uses qualitative descriptive method which explores and understands the social or human phenomenon reflected in the novel. Interpretation of the data elaborate in Discussion session to make the meaning of the data clear.

4. Discussion

In this research, the analysis is focused on the data available in the novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. The data taken from the novel are mostly about the effects of foot binding custom discussed in this research; foot binding custom, social prestige, symbol of beauty, and value of health. Then, the effects of foot binding custom are analyzed with reference to the modern theories of custom. Therefore, the sayings of many contemporary custom experts are found in this research. The sayings are taken from many different sources.

Foot binding (known as *Lotus feet*) is the practice of wrapping the foot in cloth to form its shape and size into that which is socially deemed beautiful or fashionable. The practice involves forcing all the toes but the big toe under the sole of the foot with cloth bandages, stunting the foot's growth and increasing the arch. This practice was possibly originated among upper-class during the five dynasties and ten kingdoms in imperial China (10th or 11th century). Foot binding became popular as a means of displaying status (women from wealthy families who did not need them to work could afford to have their feet bound) and was correspondingly adopted as a symbol of beauty in China culture.

Besides, the goal of this custom is to achieve a pair of perfectly bound feet with seven distinct attributes: they should be small, narrow, straight, pointed, and arched, yet still fragrant and soft in texture. These requirements, length is not more important. A perfect foot should be shaped like the bud of a lotus. It should be full and round at the heel, coming to a point at the front, with all weight born by the big toe alone. This means that the toes and arch of the foot must be broken and bent under to meet the heel. Finally,

the cleft formed by the forefoot and heel should be deep enough to hide a large cash piece perpendicularly within its folds

The foot-binding ritual traditionally begins with the clipping of the toenails and the soaking of the feet either in hot water or in a concoction of ingredients ranging from various herbs and nuts to less desirable substances such as urine and warm animal blood. This is allegedly to soften the tissue and bones of the foot to facilitate manipulation. After the feet are massaged and doused with alum. All the toes on the foot, save for the big one, are *broken* and *folded* under the sole, and then the toes are *bound* in place with a 10'x2" silk or cotton bandage. These wrappings are removed every two days to allow the washing and meticulous manicuring of the toenails to avoid infection. This is no act of kindness - immediately after this pedicure, the bandages go back on and tighter. Eventually the arch of the foot is also broken and the foot is pulled straight with the leg. The process of Foot Binding Custom seen in the following:

Mama washed my feet and rubbed them with alum, to contract the tissue and limit the inevitable secretations of blood and pus. She cut my toenails as short as possible. During this time, my bandages were soaked, so that when they dried on my skin, they would tighten even more. Next, Mama took one of end of bandage, placed it on my instep, then pulled it over my four smallest toes to begin the process of rolling them underneath my foot. From here she wrapped the bandage back around my heel. Another loop around the ankle helped to secure and stabilize the first two loops. The idea was to get my toes and heel to meet, creating the cleft, but leaving my big toe to walk on. Mama repeated this steps until the entire bandage was used. Finally, Mama sewed the end tightly shut so the bindings would not loosen and I would not be able to work my foot free. (Lisa See, 2006: 32)

The quotation above shows how the process of Foot Binding custom is done. Lily is one of the main characters who bind her feet with this process. Though her feet are broken, she does not mind for the sake of getting a better life in future.

4.1 The Positive Effects of Foot Binding Custom

Social Prestige

Prestige refers to the reputation or esteem associated with one's position in society. A person can earn prestige by his or her own achievements, which is known as achieved status, or they can be placed in the stratification system by their inherited position, which is called ascribed status. Prestige is usually used to be associated with one's family name (ascribed status), but for most people in developed countries, prestige is now generally tied to one's occupation (achieved status).

Pertaining to this custom, any woman who has done foot binding will surely get a prestige in the society and generally life will be better off. This is seen in the following quotation:

“A high family will bring you better connections, a better bride-price, and long-term political and economic protection. Though I appreciate the hospitality and generosity that you have shown today,” she said, emphasizing the meagerness of our home with a languid movement of her hand, “fate-in the form of your daughter- has brought you an opportunity. (Lisa See, 2006: 25)

The process of Foot Binding shows that the followers of this custom will get a high statue when the process is perfect. Then the family of this custom followers will get a great opportunity when their daughter gets golden lotus feet, and a good husband.

Symbol of Beauty

In this novel, the concepts of beauty is seen in the society if only the women make a binding to their feet. It is described in this quotation:

And, though I knew nothing of this at the time, my feet would be something that would hold my husband's fascination during the most private and intimate moments between a man and a women. His desire to see them and hold them in his hands never diminished during our live together. (Lisa See, 2006: 43- 44)

From the quotation, it is shown that the man will get a certain fascination to a woman who has small feet (golden lotus). So the foot Binding gives a positive effect, that is a symbol of beauty.

4.2 The Negative Effect of Foot Binding Custom

Apperently, foot binding custom can cause injury on the feet of its practitioners. The injured feet may also get infection due to the binding.

Mama scrubbed at those feet, trying to remove the infection. Third sister fainted. The water in the bucket became murky with noxious discharge. Finally mama pulled the broken appendages from the bucket and patted them dry. (Lisa See, 2006 : 40)

In the quotation above, it is shown that the negative effect of foot Binding is the cause the infection of the feet of the followers of this custom. Futhermore, it can also cause the death. It is described in the quotation:

Baba went out into the storm and brought back the village doctor, who looked at third sister and shook his head. It was a first time I saw that gesture, which means that we are powerless to stop the soul of a loved one from leaving for the spirit world. (Lisa See, 2006: 41)

It is described that when the process is not perfect, it may cause injury or even death.

After the effects of Foot Binding Custom are analysed in the novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, some findings can be stated as the following:

1. Foot Binding Custom makes the women in this custom get many positive effects, such as: high statue in the society and symbol of beauty.
2. Beside the positive effects, there is also one significant negative effect that is injury. This injury may cause irritation and infection and if this is not well treated, it may cause death.

5. Conclusion

After the effects of Foot Binding Custom in the novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See are analysed, some conclusions can be drawn as the following.

1. Foot binding is a custom that is used by women in China.
2. Foot binding may cause positive and negative effects to the followers of this custom.
3. Foot binding custom makes the women in this custom get positive effects, such as: high statue in the society, and symbol of beauty.

4. Beside the positive effects, there is also negative effect. The negative effect is clearly seen in the form of infection on the feet, which may disturb health.
5. Foot binding, as the time goes by, is not persevered anymore as it gives more negative effects than the positive ones.

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OBSTACLE IN J. R. R TOLKIEN'S NOVEL *THE HOBBIT*

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Abstract

This article is about the protagonist's obstacles and the solutions for the obstacles in John Ronald Reuel Tolkien's novel **The Hobbit** which is published in 1937. The Hobbit is about adventure in searching of dragon guarded gold. The protagonist's name is Bilbo Baggins. On his journey, he undergoes some obstacles such as being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblins, falling down to the dark cave, being pursued by the wolves, and fighting with the spider. There are two solutions which are needed in solving the obstacle; ingenuity and physical endurance. This analysis uses the data taken from the novel applying Descriptive Qualitative Research. One of the dominant concepts of obstacle used in this study is proposed by Brian Kariger and Daniel Fierro (1998) who state that obstacle is something that obstructs or hinders progress. The conclusion from this analysis shows that the protagonist, Bilbo Baggins faces some obstacles and there are two solutions to solve the obstacles.

Keywords: protagonist, obstacle, solution, ingenuity and physical endurance

1. Introduction

The Hobbit is one of the famous novels written by J.R.R Tolkien. It is the prelude to *The Lord of The Ring* published in September 21st, 1937, and has been sold many million of copies, establishing itself as one of the most beloved and infrantial books of the twentieth century.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (3 January 1892 – 2 September 1973) was an English writer, poet, philologist, and university professor. He was known as the author of the classic high fantasy works *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Ring*, and *Silmarillon*.

The Hobbit is the story of how a Baggins had an adventure, and found himself doing and saying things altogether unexpected. Bilbo Baggins is one of the protagonist character in this novel, where central role is understood by his appeal. He is not only the most important but also the most likeable and honorable character. He is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable unambitius life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit hole in Bag End. But his contentment disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day, to whisk him away on a journey. They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug; the magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Thus, they will face many obstacles in their journey, such as Bilbo and his friends run into the goblins, wicked and savage creatures, who pillage all who tend to be in their destructive range. They come upon a crowd of scrawnier individuals

(the dwarves and Bilbo), in great numbers. They steal the food as well as destroy all things that intervene with their plundering. Bilbo escapes from the goblins' terrible onslaught of rage and destruction through a big cave in the side of the mountain, only to get lost deep within the massive walls of the dark and dreary caverns. The next obstacle, that Bilbo has to overcome is his confrontation with Gollum, whom he meets after he escapes from the goblins. Way down deep in the caverns of misty mountain, Bilbo finds himself telling riddles in pitch darkness for his freedom.

Based on the statement above, the writer is interested in analyzing the novel *the Hobbit* which focusses on the protagonist's obstacles. It is so interesting to discuss the problem on it, that is why the writer wants to identify two things in his study as follows: the protagonist's obstacle and the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles.

Thus, the objective of this study is to analyze what become the research problem in this study. They are to reveal the protagonist's obstacles and to reveal the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles.

In writing this study, the writer makes a limitation about what is going to be analyzed. Therefore, this study focuses on the protagonist's obstacle in this novel, such as being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblin, falling down to the dark cave, being run by the wolf, fighting with the spider and also the solutions for the obstacles above. The writer does not include the discussion about other problems, such as bravery, strength and skill, sacrifice, suffering, power, etc.

The significance of the study is to give more information about this novel. Theoretically, the writer hopes that after reading this novel the readers can take the moral lessons from this story because the writer himself feels many experiences that he gets many useful things such as the meaning of faithfulness and togetherness in facing the problem. *The Hobbit* is very recommended for the readers that like adventure story very much as he did. Practically, this novel can also become a new reference for those who have the same research with this study.

2. Literature Review

Protagonist is one of the objects of this study. The word *protagonist* was derived from the *proto* (main) and *agonist* (a character in a work of fiction). The "*Protagonist*" came from the Greek language and in a Greek drama which refers to the person who led the chorus. Over a period of time, the meaning of the term protagonist has changed. The word protagonist originated in ancient Greek drama and referred to the leader of a chorus. Then it was changed to represent the first actor on stage. Thus, it can be said that protagonist is the most important character in a literary work.

Protagonist is considered to be the first character or the leading figure in a novel, play, or a poem. It may also be referred to as the hero of a work. The definition is supported by some theories. According to Wiley (2010) "Protagonist is a person who plays a leading or active part". The definition is similar to Arthur Ganz (1990: 217), protagonist is first actor, who plays the leading part. Ginny Wiehardt (2005) explains that the protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with. While, Hull (2013) says that "Protagonist is who the story is about". He also stated that protagonist pursues the goal of the story who, sometimes, is played by the main character. In other word, protagonist and main character are commonly played by the same actor, although they are different. Main character represents the audience's eyes into the story because he or she will effect the audience emotionally. It is in line with what is said by Fowler (1897: 32), "The

protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with". Gagan Raj (1991: 134) said that protagonist refers to the first actor in a play; thence the principal actor or character. Other source tells, if protagonist in ancient drama is the first actor to engage in dialogue with the chorus, in later dramas playing the main character and some minor character as well (Harcourt, 2013).

According to Altenbernd and Lewis (1966: 59), protagonist character is a character that is admired by reader, and well-known as a hero. Protagonist shows a character that is appropriate with all reader's expectation. The readers would feel that the protagonist's problem is the readers' one. Moreover, Reaske (1966: 45) says that the main character of any drama is known as protagonist the tragic hero and protagonist are same in tragedy for about terms describe the central character. It could be seen in a novel of J. R. R Tolkien's *The Hobbit* in which the protagonist becomes the first actor that has important role in a story.

Based on the definition above, theory of Gagan Raj and Hull can be said as core of protagonist and easy to understood, it could be concluded that protagonist is the first actor in a literary work and he has a very important role to build a story. Hence, we can also say that a protagonist is the first actor in one literary work. Moreover, some people said that the protagonist should not always a man, a woman has the same opportunity to be a protagonist in one story. Eventually, a protagonist might be said to be the man actor in one literary work that is commonly a hero or an opponent of an antagonist. Furthermore, a protagonist is not always the role of a man but women as well.

An obstacle (also called a barrier, impediment or stumbling block) is an object, thing, action or situation that causes an obstruction. There are many kinds of obstacle or barrier in this world. They are different type and meaning, the sense of the obstacle or barrier is according to their own sector. Therefore, there are many types of obstacles, such as obstacle in sports, economic, biopsychosocial, cultural, political, technological or even military obstacle or barrier.

The definition about obstacle is supported by some theories. Mario Pei and Prof. Emeritus (1971) said, obstacle is anything that stands in the way of progress, an obstruction or impediment of any sort, a hindrance or obstruction in either a physical or a moral sense. From this definition he tells us that obstacle made for influence someone to give up to do something and make their unlucky or make us lose. The obstacle does not only occur outside but also inside, that means the obstacle also be barrier for our soul and mind, where its influence our emotion. This theory can covering the other theories and definitions about obstacle.

The similar definition, Webster's new International Dictionary (1963: 1982) stated that "Obstacle" is anything that hinders progress. It means that in getting success or something we must get an obstacle, even in our daily life, we usually have obstacles that can make our job or work stopped or disturbed, and it will cause the feeling of lazy and stress. Brian Kariger and Daniel Fierro (1998) explain that obstacle is something that obstructs or hinder progress. George Merriam (1831), obstacle is something that makes it difficult to do or an object that you have to go around or over something that blocks your path.

According to William E. Gortney (2007); Obstacle is any natural or man-made obstruction designed or employed to disrupt, fix, turn, or block the movement of an opposing force, and to impose additional losses impersonnel, time, and equipment on the opposing force. This ordinary used for strategy war, in the story the protagonist used the

strategy for face his or make his enemy be confused or trick to bear down the enemy. Obstacles can exist naturally (existing), be man-made (reinforcing), or be a combination of both. (C3, FM 3-34.2, Headquarters Department of the Army Washington, DC, 11 October 2002, *Combined-Arms Breaching Operations*). From this definition, he wants to say that the nature has already be obstacle and in military sector more difficult the obstacle more better the soldier can get. Obstacle is also made by man for practice, not just for making the body stronger but in mental and soul too. Hinkhoj (<http://dict.hinkhoj.com/words/meaning-of-OBSTACLE-in-hindi.html>) explains that obstacle is something immaterial that stands in the way and must be circumvented or surmounted; "lack of imagination is an obstacle to ones advancement"; "the poverty of a district is an obstacle to good education"; "the filibuster was a major obstruction to the success of their plan", or an obstruction that stands in the way (and must be removed or surmounted or circumvented).

Furthermore, it can be said also that "Obstacle is something in the way that either stops progress or makes it difficult" (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary). The definition shows that obstacle is something which troubles someone to achieve his or her ambition. It might come from someone, or something, or certain condition. Obstacle often comes to someones when she or he is doing an effort or an activity to get her or his ambition. It will usually be found in life because it cannot be separated from our life.

3. Research Method

In carrying out this research, this written applies descriptive qualitative method in which the qualitative data collected would be analyzed and interpreted descriptively this method will help analyze the obstacle found in this novel. According to Nazir (2005: 54), descriptive method is done to make the description of facts, characteristic, and relationships between phenomena investigated systematically, factually, accurately. This definition is supported by an opinion of Nawawi (1955: 63) that defines descriptive method as a procedure of problem solving by describing the subject or the object of the study based on the visible facts. Meanwhile, qualitative research is a research dealing with description, not numbers and the data collected could be observed, not measured.

In this study, the writer gets the data from the novel itself and other related sources. In a scientific research, data collection is an important element to be considered. It shows how the writer collects the data that would be analyzed systematically. There must be some procedures done by the writer to gather the data wholly. The following are the procedures conducted in this research:

Reading the novel carefully several times, underlining and taking the principal points that are related to the protagonist's roles, making some important notes based on the points that have been found, collecting the theory and the data related to the analysis, classifying the quotation based on the subject matter used to be analyzed.

Furthermore, data analysis is needed in giving the answer for the research problem in this study. This research is concerned with the obstacle which are found in J.R.R Tolkien novel *The Hobbit*. The data analysis will be conducted by several steps as follows: finding the relevant quotation with the title, collecting the data, classifying the data into respective categories related to the research problem after they are collected, analyzing the data carefully, and making conclusion from the data analyzed.

4. Discussion

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the protagonist's obstacle that are found in the novel *The Hobbit*. The name of the protagonist is Bilbo Baggins. This analysis will describe his obstacles and the solutions for the obstacles. Thus this chapter will be divided into two sub chapters, they are the protagonist's obstacles which contains *being arrested by the trolls, being attacked and arrested by the goblin, falling down to the dark cave, being run by the wolf, fighting with the spider* and the solutions for the protagonist's obstacles which divided into *Ingenuity and Physical endurance*. With these two sub chapters, this study will reveal the protagonist's obstacles and the solutions for his obstacles.

4.1 Protagonist's Obstacles

4.1.1 Arrested by the Trolls

The protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, never imagines that he will undergo an adventure with the wizard, Gandalf and the thirteen dwarves. They plan to take the treasure of Smaug, a very large and dangerous dragon. However, they face many obstacle in their journey. One of the obstacles happens when he meets the trolls; Bert, Tom and William. The dwarves ask him to investigate the firelight which they see between the trees and they ask him to get some food and drink for them. The dwarves ask Bilbo because they know that he was a thief, that is why they call him as a thief. But he is unlucky because he is arrested by the trolls. It can be seen from the following quotation:

"It was! Trolls' purses are the mischief, and this was no exception. "Ere, 'oo are you?" it squeaked, as it left the pocket; and William turned round at once and grabbed Bilbo by the neck, before he could duck behind the tree." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 43)

The quotation above shows that Bilbo is arrested by the troll because he tries to take William's purse, one of the trolls. Unfortunately William knows about it and immediately sees him and blocks Bilbo's neck before he can escape from the troll. After that the trolls ask him some questions but Bilbo is dishonest in answering their questions and it makes Bert gets angry and gets hold of Bilbo's hair. Look at the following quotation:

"What d'yer mean?" said Bert, holding him right way up, by the hair this time." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 44)

Actually William agrees to release Bilbo but the others do not agree. They thought that he is not alone. There are many other creatures with him, but William said that he is the one that arrest Bilbo, so he has the right to let him go. It is because he is full and he takes a pity on Bilbo. The following is the quotation:

"poor little blighter," said William. He had already had as much supper as he could hold; also he had had lots of beer. "Poor little blighter! Let him go!"

... "I won't have it," said William. "I caught him anyway." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937:44)

The following quotation shows that Bilbo tries to persuade the trolls for not to cook him and saying that he can be the good chef for the trolls.

"What I say," said Bilbo gasping. "And please don't cook me, kind sirs! I am a good cook myself, and cook better than I look, if you see what I mean. I'll cook beautifully for you, a perfectly beautiful breakfast for you, if only you won't have me for supper." (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 44)

From the quotation above, it shows that Bilbo persuades the troll not to cook him for their supper. He said that he can cook some meals for the trolls. He wants to be their chef if they stop their plan to make him as their supper.

4.1.2 Attacked and Arrested by the Goblins

The protagonist also deals with another obstacles when they meet goblin. Goblin is an enormous and ugly creature. It happens in the cave when Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves walk through the lane. When he feels asleep, suddenly the wall behind the cave is opened become a wide lane. There are so many goblins jump from inside of the cave.

“Out jumped the goblins, big goblins, great ugly looking goblins, lots of goblins, before you could say *rocks and blocks*. There were six to each dwarf, at least, and two even for Bilbo; and they were all grabbed and carried through the crack, before you could say *tinder and flint*.”

(J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 71)

From the above quotation, it shows that Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves are being attacked by the goblin. Each dwarve should fight with the six goblins and even Bilbo should fight with the two goblins. But, it does not work. All of them are arrested. The goblins take them to meet their leader walk through the gap of the wall of the cave before doing anything.

The following quotation shows when they arrive at the room which is full of goblins, all of the goblins laugh, stamp their feet and clap their hands when all the prisoners get in the room. While the goblins that have already attacked and arrested them keep in cheering and whipping the back side of the prisoners.

“ They all laughed and stamped and clapped their hands, when the dwarves (with poor little Bilbo at the back and nearest to the whips) came running in, while the goblin-drivers whooped and cracked their whips behind.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 73)

4.1.3 Falling Down to the Dark Cave

After being attacked and arrested by the goblins. The protagonist, Bilbo, comes at another obstacle. When they try to escape from the goblins, Bilbo and the dwarves run as fast as they can. Bilbo is carried by Dori, one of the dwarves at that time. When Dori carries Bilbo, he feels that someone holds his ankle from behind. Then he lets out a scream and fell down. Bilbo is thrown away from his back and rolls into the darkness. His head is crushed the hard rock and he cannot remember anything. It shows in the following quotation:

“Quite suddenly Dori, now at the back again carrying Bilbo, was grabbed from behind in the dark. He shouted and fell; and the hobbit rolled off his shoulders into the blackness, bumped his head on hard rock, and remembered nothing more.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 80)

Bilbo felt down to the dark cave. It is a very dark cave because there is no light in the cave. It is seen in the following quotation:

“When Bilbo opened his eyes, he wondered if he had; for it was just as dark as with them shut. No one was anywhere near him. Just imagine his fright! He could hear nothing, see nothing, and he could feel nothing except the stone of the floor.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 81)

The above quotation shows that when Bilbo opens his eyes, he feels doubt whether he has opened his eyes or not because it is very dark. No one is around him. It is only darkness around him. He feels afraid because he cannot see, cannot hear, and cannot feel anything except the floor which is made of the stone.

However, he does not give up because he has a knife in his pocket. The knife can give a light in the darkness although it is not so bright. He tries to find the way for getting out from the dark cave. He keeps to walk in the culminate tunnel. It seems that the tunnel follows the same direction, once there is the small turn, and there are so many crossroads. It can be known not only from Bilbo's hand that touch the wall of the cave but also from the light which comes from the sword. But Bilbo does not care about it. He keeps in walking as fast as he could because he is afraid that goblin or other creatures will appear from the dark cave. Still he cannot hear anything and he feels that he has already walked for days, the following day, the next following day and the day after it. It is shown in the quotation below:

"I should not have liked to have been in Mr. Baggins' place, all the same. The tunnel seemed to have no end. All he knew was that it was still going down pretty steadily and keeping in the same direction in spite of a twist and a turn or two. There were passages leading off to the side every now and then, as he knew by the glimmer of his sword, or could feel with his hand on the wall. Of these he took no notice, except to hurry past for fear of goblins or half-imagined dark things coming out of them. On and on he went, and down and down; and still he heard no sound of anything except the occasional whirr of a bat by his ears, which startled him at first, till it became too frequent to bother about. I do not know how long he kept on like this, hating to go on, not daring to stop, on, on, until he was tired rather than tired. It seemed like all the way to tomorrow and over it to the days beyond." (J.R.R. Tolkien, 1937: 83-84)

4.1.4 Being Pursued by the Wolves

Another obstacle which is faced by the protagonist, Bilbo, when Bilbo and the thirteen dwarves arrive at esplanade. Esplanade is a field where there are no pine trees. At that moment, the moonbeam brightens the esplanade, and they feel that there is something wrong with that place. Look at the following quotation:

"All of a sudden they heard a howl away down hill, a long shuddering howl. It was answered by another away to the right and a good deal nearer to them; then by another not far away to the left. It was wolves howling at the moon, wolves gathering together!" (J.R.R. Tolkien, 1937: 115)

The quotation shows that suddenly they hear the howls of the wolves. It is long and awful. They feel afraid because the wolves' howl is shouted down from the other wolf at the right side and at the left side. They howl to the moon because there will be a meeting between the wolves.

All of a sudden, Bilbo and the dwarves got panic and cried about what is going to be done to keep away from the wolves. Bilbo said that after escaping from the goblin, and now being caught by the wolves. It has the same meaning with the proverb: *out of the frying pan into the fire*. It is shown in the quotation:

“What shall we do, what shall we do!” he cried. “Escaping goblin to be caught by wolves!” he said, and it became a proverb, though we now say “out of the frying pan into the fire” in the same sort of uncomfortable situations.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 115)

The following quotation shows that Bilbo and the dwarves try to avoid the wolves by climbing the tree. Still they are not safe, because all of the wolves walk around the tree. And Bilbo have to rescue one of the dwarves, Dori because Dori is in the lowest branch so they fell afraid that Dori will be caught by the wolves.

“He’ll be eaten if we don’t do something,” said Thorin, for there were howls all round them now, getting nearer and nearer. “Dori!” he called, for Dori was lowest down in the easiest tree, “be quick, and give Mr. Baggins a hand up!” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 116-117)

4.1.5 Fighting with the Spider

The protagonist, Bilbo, does not stop facing other obstacles. At this time, he tries to defeat a spider that has caught him. The spider came when Bilbo and the dwarves are sleeping. It is a giant spider. It traps and tides Bilbo by wrapping a rope to his body. Luckily, he is awake, so he can release himself from the spider. However, the spider is still trying to bite Bilbo with his poisonuos mouth so that Bilbo in an unconcious condition. Then Bilbo remembers his sword, and he uses it to fight with the spider. It is seen in the following quotation.

“Then the great spider, who had been busy trying him up while he dozed, came from behind him and came at him. He could only see the thing’s eyes, but he could feel its hairy legs as it struggled to wind its abominable threads round and round him. It was lucky that he had come to his senses in time. Soon he would not been able to move at all. As it was, he had a desperate fight before he got free. He beat the creature off with his hands—it was trying to poison him to keep him quiet, as small spiders do to flies—until he remembered his sword and drew it out. Then the spider jumped back, and he had time to cut his legs loose. After that it was his turn to attack.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 180-181)

From the quotation above, it shows that in fighting with the spider, Bilbo is accompanied by his sword.

4.2 The Solutions of the Protagonist’s Obstacles

4.2.1 Ingenuity

Ingenuity is the ability to think creatively about a situation or to solve the problems in a clever way. In solving the protagonist’s obstacle, ingenuity is one of the important aspect in the novel, although it does not only come from the protagonist himself but also from other character in the novel. In this case, it comes from the wizard, Gandalf. He is the one who always helps Bilbo if Bilbo faces the obstacles on his journey. When Bilbo is arrested by the trolls, he helps Bilbo. He knows that the trolls will be the stone at dawn. One of the Gandalf’s ingenuity is in imitating other’s voice. So in extending the time, Gandalf imitates the William’s voice, one of the troll, and it makes them quarelling and Gandalf knows about it. It can be seen from the following quotation.

“Dawn take you all, and be stone to you!” said a voice that sounded like William’s. But it wasn’t. For just at the moment the light came over the hill, and there was a mighty twitter in the branches. William never

spoke for he stood turned to stone as he stopped; and Bert and Tom were stuck like rocks as they looked at him and there they stand to this day, all alone, unless the birds perch on them; for trolls, as you probably know, must be underground before dawn, or they go back to the stuff of the mountains they are made of, and never move again. That is what had happened to Bert, Tom and William.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 49-50)

From the above quotation, it shows that the trolls; Bert, Tom and William, change into stone at dawn. They quarells to each other because of the Gandalf’s voice which duplicate the William’s voice, and finally the three trolls become stone again. At first, Bilbo himself does not know that he is saved by Gandalf but at last he knows that because of Gandalf’s voice, the trolls quarell to each other until the light comes and change them into stone. Look at the following quotation.

“Excellent!” said Gandalf, as he stepped from behind a tree, and helped Bilbo to climb down out of a thorn-bush. Then Bilbo understood. It was the wizard’s voice that had kept the trolls bickering and quarelling, until the light came and made an end of them.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 50)

Besides that Gandalf’s ingenuity can also be seen in helping Bilbo to escape from the goblin. He has an idea to blow out all the lights in the cave, include the camp fire and change it into the blue smoke and spread the white sparks. The white sparks can burn and hollow out the goblin’s body. All the goblins start to bite, to kick and to fight each other because of the white sparks. They become crazy and finally fell down to the cave’s floor. Look at the following quotation.

“Just at the moment all the lights in the cavern went out, and the great fire went off poof! Into a tower of blue glowing smoke, right up to the roof, that scattered piercing white sparks all among the goblin.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 76)

Suddenly a sword which has the light comes out from the Bilbo’s pocket and kills the great goblin. The great goblin fells down and deads at once. It shows in the following quotation.

“Suddenly a sword flashed in its own light. Bilbo saw it go right through the Great Goblin as he stood dumbfounded in the middle of this rage. He fell dead, and the goblin soldiers fled before the sword shrieking into the darkness.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 76-77)

Bilbo hears a voice which guide him to go out from the cave. Of course, it is Gandalf’s voice. Gandalf helps Bilbo and the dwarves by flashing on his magic wand. It can be seen in the quotation below.

“Then Gandalf lit up his wand. Of course it was Gandalf; but just then they were too busy to ask how he got there.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 77)

When Bilbo and the dwarves is pursued by the wolf, Gandalf also shows his ingenuity by asking them to climb up the tree as high as they could so that the wolves cannot catch them as in the following quotation.

“Up the trees quick!” cried Gandalf, and they ran to the trees at the edge of the glade, hunting for those that had branches fairly low, or were slender enough to swarm up. They found them as quick as ever they could, you can guess; and up they went as high as ever they could trust the branches.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 116)

Moreover, in keeping away from the wolves and the goblin, Gandalf uses his magic wand to burn all the trees around them so the wolves and the goblin will be burned.

Gandalf thinks that all the wolves and the goblin will be destroyed by the flames. And Gandalf asks the eagles to help him, Bilbo and the dwarves just in time. It is because Gandalf ever rescue the eagles once. The eagles rescued them by flying them away from the flames. See the following quotation.

“Now far below the goblins and the wolves were scattering far and wide in the woods. A few eagles were still circling and sweeping above the battle ground. The flames about the trees sprang suddenly up in crackling fire. There was a sudden flurry of sparks and smoke. Bilbo had escaped only just in time.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 77)

The quotation shows that some eagles is still flying over and striking over the battle field. Bilbo can see it from above when he was rescued by the eagle just in time.

Moreover, it is not only Gandalf who has ingenuity to solve the obstacles in the novel but also the protagonist, Bilbo. It can be seen when he tries to find out the way to leave the dark cave. He has an idea to utilize the little sword (blade) that he has found in the throll’s cave. Actually he forgets about the blade. He wants to use matches at first but when he tries to get the matches from his pocket, he touches the blade and he has an idea to abuse the light from the blade as his guidance in the dark cave. The blade can send out a dim light so Bilbo fells amused. He can use the light which comes from the blade to discover the way out from the dark cave. Look at the following quotation.

“....Still at the moment he felt very crushed. But in slapping all his pockets and feeling all round himself for matches his hand came on the hilt of his little sword—the little dagger that he got from the trolls, and that he had quite forgotten; nor fortunately had the goblins noticed it, as wore it inside his breeches .”

“Now he drew it out. It shone pale and dim before his eyes. “So it is an elvish blade, too, “ he thought; “and the goblins are not very near, and yet not far enough.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 82)

From the quotation above, it shows that Bilbo has thought to use the light from the blade in finding the way out from the dark cave.

4.2.2 Physical Endurance

The second solution for the protagonist’s obstacle is physical endurance. Physical endurance is the ability to continue doing something physically difficult or continue dealing with an unpleasant situation for a long time. It deals with the endurance in the body.

The protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, shows his physical endurance in facing the scuffle with the trolls when his friends, the dwarves come to help him, and the incredible fighting happens.

“O! Are they?” said Thorin, and he jumped forward to the fire, before they could leap on him. He caught up a big branch all on fire at one end; and Bert got that end in his eye before he could step aside. That put him out of the battle for a bit. Bilbo did his best. He caught hold of Tom’s leg- as well as he could, it was thick as a young tree trunk, but he was sent spinning up into the top of some bushes, when Tom kicked the sparks up in Thorin’s face.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 46)

From the above quotation, it shows that the dwarves intends to help Bilbo and then they get involved in fighting the trolls, but some of the dwarves get caught and hurted by trolls. Bilbo also fights with the trolls but finally they are caught by the trolls.

Another physical endurance can be seen in the following quotation.

“The spider evidently was not used to things that carried such stings at their sides, or it would have hurried away quicker. Bilbo came at it before it could disappear and stuck it with his sword right in the eyes. Then it went mad and leaped and danced and flung out its legs in horrible jerks, until he killed it with another stroke; and then he fell down and remembered nothing more for a long while.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 181)

The above quotation shows that Bilbo fights with the spider by using his sword. He hurts the spider's eyes with the sword. The spider becomes crazy and finally he kills the spider with once more beating. Then Bilbo collapses himself and does not remember anything for a long time. Thus it is obvious that Bilbo has a good physical endurance in fighting with the spider although at last he is in an unconscious condition.

After awaking from his fainted, Bilbo and his friends, the dwarves, continue again their journey. On his journey, his friends, the dwarves walk ahead and Bilbo walks behind. Then they meet another spider again but at this time, Bilbo has a plan to attack the spiders before they attack him. He asks the dwarves to straight ahead. He jumps here and there. He cuts all the ropes in the spider's feet and also stabs the spider's body that comes near him. It can be seen from the quotation below.

“Things were looking pretty bad again, when suddenly Bilbo reappeared, and charged into the astonished spiders unexpectedly from the side.”

“Go on! Go on!” he shouted. “I will do the stinging!”

And he did. He darted backwards and forwards, slashing at spider threads, hacking at their legs and stabbing at their fat bodies if they came to near.” (J.R.R Tolkien, 1937: 190-191)

5. Conclusion

Having analyzed the topic about an analysis of the protagonist's obstacle in J.R.R Tolkien's novel, the writer would like to draw some conclusions.

First, on his journey, Bilbo, the protagonist, undergoes some obstacles such as being arrested by the trolls, attacked and arrested by the trolls, falling down to the dark cave, being pursued by the wolves and fighting with the spider.

Second, there are two solutions in facing the obstacles they are; ingenuity and physical endurance. These are very important as the solutions for the obstacles. Based on the story, ingenuity which is used as the solutions for the protagonist's obstacle is not only comes from the protagonist itself but also from the wizard, Gandalf. The protagonist's ingenuity can be seen when Bilbo Baggins falls down to the dark cave. At that time, he has an idea to use the light as his guidance in the dark cave to find out the way out from it. Actually, most of the protagonist's obstacle is solved by Gandalf's ingenuity. Here are Gandalf's ingenuity:

1. When Bilbo Baggins is arrested by the trolls, Gandalf imitates William's voice, one of the trolls, and because of that the three trolls; Bert, Tom and William becomes quarrel to each other and it can extend the time until dawn and the trolls will be stone.
2. He has an idea to blow out all the lights in the cave, include the camp fire and change it into the blue smoke and spread the white sparks when Bilbo Baggins is attacked and arrested by the goblin. The white sparks can burn and hollow out the goblin's body.

All the goblins start to bite, to kick and to fight each other because of the white sparks. They become crazy and finally fell down to the cave's floor.

3. When Bilbo Baggins and the dwarves are pursued by the wolves, he asked them to climb up the tree so that the wolves cannot attack them. And then he burns the bottom of the tree by using his magic wand and asked the Eagles to help them from the fire.

Besides ingenuity, another solutions for the protagonist's obstacle deals with physical endurance. Physical endurance is one important aspect in solving the protagonist's obstacle. It deals with the endurance of the body which is owned by the protagonist himself in fighting with the spider. Bilbo Baggins cannot defeat and kill the spider if he does not have the physical endurance. Although he fells down and fainted after that.

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STRUGGLE IN JUN'ICHI WATANABE'S NOVEL *BEYOND THE BLOSSOMING FIELDS*

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Abstract

This research is about the struggle of the first character named Ogino Ginko in reaching her dream to be a female doctor and help other women who have the same illness as she suffers in a novel, ***Beyond the Blossoming Fields***, written by Watanabe Jun'ichi, published in 1970. This research is conducted by descriptive qualitative method, and one of the significant theories used in this research is proposed by Centeno (2014: 136) who claims that struggles are exactly what we need in our life. It means struggle is something crucial in our life. The finding of this research shows that the protagonist is successful in her struggle to be a doctor. She becomes the first female doctor in Japan, and after she opens a clinic, there are so many woman patients coming to her clinic, and most of them are contracted with the illness as she suffers. She also becomes the inspiration for other women in Japan to become woman doctors.

Keywords: protagonist, struggle, ambition, gonorrhea, orthopedic surgeon

1. Introduction

Beyond the Blossoming Fields, written in 1970, is a novel of Jun'ichi Watanabe, a novelist who was born in Hokkaido in 1933. He was interested in literature when he was in high school. After graduating from Sapporo Medical University, he worked as an orthopedic surgeon, but in 1969 he resigned his post and moved to Tokyo to pursue a full-time career as a writer. His novel, *Beyond the Blossoming Fields* is successful to receive the recognition as "International Best Seller". This is based on the label inclusion on the top of the cover of the novel published in Indonesia with the title "Ginko". He received some prestigious literary awards such as "The Naoki Prize" and "The Yoshikawa Eiji Prize". Watanabe has written numerous scientific texts as well as biographical books and works of fiction, many of which have been made into films, and one of them is *Lost Paradise* which became best seller in Japan and over Asia.

Beyond the Blossoming Fields itself tells about the struggles of the protagonist named Ginko to become a doctor and to help other women having the same illness as she suffers. Ginko Ogino, the first woman doctor in Japan, married in her late teens to the son of a wealthy neighboring family, and she contracts gonorrhea from her husband, whom she has divorced. Suffering, humiliation and pain at the hands of male gynecologists,

Ginko determines to become a doctor for women. Her family finds this unacceptable within Ginko's social class so that Ginko leaves her family, finding her parents' value at odds with her own. Determined to gain an education, she pursues her goals as she struggles in school for many years. She enters a medical school where she is the only woman, and she must endure ridicule and abuse in order to succeed. Brilliant, she establishes her own clinic in Tokyo, becoming a renowned mentor to inspire woman doctors, and a strong figure in the Japanese Christian Women's Organization. Despite suffering chronic symptoms of gonorrhea, she becomes famous—from far and near the Japanese public seeks her out for her leadership in medical and political causes. She remarries Yokiyoishi Shikata, a protestant minister and eventually follows him to the northern island of Hokkaido to build a utopian Christian settlement.

A person may have some dreams and purposes in life. Sometimes, dream can be regarded as a guidance of life for a person. A person needs struggle to make it come true. The struggle is done to obtain a good result and to get happiness. However, not every person wants to make the dreams come true. There is a person who just regards a dream as an imagination which has no need to make it come true, there is also a person who wants to struggle to materialize the dream. But in fact, by means of struggle, a person does not always get what he wishes even though how strong the struggle is done. It may happen because it also involves a luck or fate element.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2000: 1343), the term "struggle" is defined as "to try very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are a lot of problems". While, Collins Cobuild English Dictionary (1987: 1658) defines "struggle" as "try hard to do something". Based on the definitions of struggle quoted above, it can be inferred that struggle is to try very hard to do something when there are such kind of difficulties or problems.

According to Nugroho et.al (1996: 141) struggle is a hard work to materialize dreams. Half of human life contains of effort or endeavor. If a person has a desire to be rich, he or she must work hard. The hard work might be done by using science and strength, or even both. Then, whatever a person does to fulfill his or her dream is called a struggle.

This research will uncover the struggles of the protagonist named Ginko Ogino in Jun'ichi Watanabe's novel, *Beyond the Blossoming Fields*. What makes the writers interested to carry out their research on struggles is that struggle is a must in our life. We cannot materialize our objectives in this life without struggle. Prayer without struggles is like hunting using rifle without bullets. It means we must struggle to materialize our objectives as wise words say life is struggle. Besides, this topic contains moral values which inspire us not to feel hopeless in this life. We must keep on struggling in order to materialize our dreams and to get happiness as well as success in our life. We must also keep on doing good things since we will reap what we sow.

The subject matter that is analyzed in this research is struggles of the first character in the novel entitled *Beyond the Blossoming Fields* written by Jun'ichi Watanabe. There are two struggles of the protagonist; they are her struggle to become a doctor, and her struggle to help other women who have the same illness as she suffers. Then, this research focuses on the protagonist's struggles in Jun'ichi Watanabe's *Beyond the Blossoming Fields*. The research covers the protagonist's struggle to become a doctor and to help other women who have the same illness as she suffers. Other matters having no relation to the research will not be included.

2. Literature Review

Literature cannot be separated from the cultural elements. The culture that is created is the result of the society's thinking about the moment and also the event that occurred at that time, so that the author took an initiative to write on various interpretations (Warren and Wellek, 1995: 11). The events which took place in the society are taken and expressed imaginatively by the author, so it will produce a valuable literary work. The imaging of sadness, pain, happiness, misery, and love - grief which are experienced by people in the society are interpreted with full appreciation. Those make the reader feel and come into the literary work (Yani and Mumun, 2005: 253). So, literary work is the interpretation of the facts and events which are taken and expressed imaginatively by the author to produce a valuable literary work and all the aspects in literary work that lead the reader to enjoy it. A literary usually has some important elements, such as plot, theme, setting and character. Character can be of some kinds, i.e. antagonist, deutragonist, tritagonist, and protagonist. Since this research deals with the protagonist, the writer would like focus her description on the protagonist. However, she would also like to put the definitions of antagonist, deutragonist, and tritagonist.

- a. **Antagonist** is the major character in opposition to the hero or the protagonist of a narrative or drama. (Beckson and Ganz: 1990: 14)
- b. **Deutragonist** is the second actor in Greek drama, often synonymous with antagonist although the deutragonist could, when necessary, assume more than one role. In subsequent usage, the term has been applied to the character of second importance (Beckson and Ganz: 1990: 61)
- c. **Tritagonist** is the three actors assumed by various roles in the play by changing masks and costumes (Beckson and Ganz: 1990: 289)
- d. **Protagonist** is the chief character in a plot, on whom our interest centers (or alternatively, the hero or heroine) (Abrams. 1981: 212)

As stated previously that protagonist is one of the variables that would be presented with more understanding to make the writers clear enough of what would be done in their research. Protagonist is the chief character in a play or story who may also be opposed by an antagonist. Originally, in ancient Greek theatre, the protagonist was the principal actor in a drama (Baldick: 2001: 157). Abrams (1981: 212) and Baldick (2001: 196) are in line in their definitions about protagonist. They claim that protagonist is a main character either in a plot or play, or a story and it becomes a limelight of the audience. Basically, a protagonist is always a hero or a heroine in a story. A protagonist always becomes the opponent to the antagonist as well as it is said by Beckson and Ganz (1990: 217) that a protagonist is the first actor who plays the leading part. The term now refers to the most important character, usually the hero, in a play or story. This definition is in line with Raj (1991: 134) who said that protagonist refers to the first actor in a play; thence the principal actor or character.

Based on some definitions of the protagonist above, we can conclude that a protagonist is the first actor in a literary work. Moreover, there are some people saying that protagonist should not always a man, a woman has the same opportunity to be a protagonist in a story. Fuentes (2014: 67) is one of them who claims that we need to write a novel with a woman protagonist. He says: "I always felt a little worm inside me: 'Now you need to write a novel with a woman protagonist.'" This idea is supported by the statement stated by Ann Beattie (2014: 98). She says, "Quite often my narrator or protagonist may be a man, but I am not sure he is the more interesting character, or if the more complex character is not the woman." Ann's statement implies that it is not only a

man who has interesting character; still a woman always has more complex character. Therefore, woman is also possible to be a protagonist in a literary work.

One's life cannot be separated from struggle, because struggle is needed whenever he or she wants to achieve his or her dreams in his or her life. To know what is meant by struggle, in this subchapter the writer gives some accounts theories about struggle. Nugroho et.al. (1996: 94) said that "struggle is a hard work to materialize dreams. Half of human life contains of effort or endeavor. If a person has a desire to be rich, he or she must work hard. The hard work might be done by using science and strength, or even both. Then, whatever a person does to fulfill his or her dream is called a struggle." Based on this definition, one's life cannot be separated from struggle. Whatever he or she wants to achieve in life, he or she needs to struggle to get a satisfying result. On the other hand, struggle is aimed at achieving a dream which should be realized by everyone in his or her future to make it real.

Furthermore, Krishnananda (1989: 79) says that struggle might be fulfilled by various ways. It is due to different barriers and limitations faced by everyone in his or her life. In addition, everyone has different dream in his or her life and every dream has its own way to realize. Therefore, different dream may have different struggle. However, one who really wants to achieve his or her goal in life, he or she should struggle hard to face any obstacles coming to him or her.

As human beings, we should not be hopeless with the obstacles coming to us when we are struggling in achieving our goal in our life. However, obstacles in our life will make us to be a strong man or even stronger. Centeno (2014: 74) says:

"Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacle, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance, leave no room for regrets."

It is clear that there should be no regret in one's life. Whatever comes to one's life must have a certain meaning and benefit for his or her life. This idea is in line with Napoleon Hill's statement which said that "strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle." It emphasizes that effort and of course struggle will create strength in life. Therefore, whatever obstacle we face when we are achieving our goal, it will become a means for us to make us strong or even stronger.

It cannot be denied that someone who has got what he or she wants usually will easily become lazy and satisfied, and even refuse to struggle. This is in line with what Pope Paul VI (2014: 57) says:

"All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are ready."

As human beings, we should not feel enough or satisfied of what we have got. We still must keep on struggling for everything in our life, so we can appreciate our life. Everyone who does not want to keep struggling cannot be regarded as human, because a half of human life is struggle and endeavor. There is no human who does not struggle in life, everything he or she wants to reach, he or she must struggle to get it.

According to Maizler (2012: 67), there are some kinds of struggle. They are as follows:

1. **Negative struggle** is done to eliminate a deficit state. This occurs when you are attempting to get back to the norm, such as mastering a life-limiting phobia.

2. **Positive struggle** is done to involve transformation from your steady state into a more evolved, grown, or developed state of being. Positive struggle, in contrast to negative struggle, does not involve overcoming pathology. The examples of positive struggle are going to graduate school or writing a book. Positive struggle may still certainly involve overcoming resistance and discomfort.
3. **Inevitable struggle** deals with the necessary losses and attendant discomfort that are conditions of your life in this world. As your mother struggled to birth you, you struggled to adjust to a new and less comforting world. During your life, you will struggle with sadness and loss when your friends, parents, or partners die or go elsewhere. These struggles are an automatic condition of your life.
4. **Chosen struggle** is the product of personal choice and is not automatic condition of life. The simple examples of chosen struggle are climbing a mountain, going to graduate school, or becoming a body builder.

3. Research Method

The method adopted in this research is descriptive qualitative method because the analysis as well as the conclusion is accomplished in a descriptive form.

4. Discussion

The focus of this research goes to the struggles of the protagonist in the novel *Beyond the Blossoming Fields*, named Ginko Ogino. The protagonist's struggle to be a doctor and the protagonist's struggle to help other women who have the same illness as she are the subject matters of this research. A person may have some dreams and purposes in life and to make it come true a person needs struggle, because without any struggles, a person cannot get what he or she wants to achieve, and the dream will become just as an imagination forever. The struggle is done to obtain a good result and to get happiness.

4.1 To Be a Doctor

The protagonist, Ginko Ogino, comes from a wealthy family. She is the fifth daughter of Ayasaburo Ogino, the village headman in their village Tawarase in Northern Saitama. Ginko had married Kanichiro in sixteen years old. She contracts gonorrhea from her husband which causes her to suffer the ignominy of divorce. Forced to bear the humiliation of being treated by male doctors, she resolves to become a doctor herself in order to treat fellow female sufferers and spare them some of the shame she had to endure. The following quotation shows her dream to be a doctor:

If only the doctor were a woman and not a man. This is it! If I were being seen by a woman, I would gladly undergo any form of treatment!

If there were women doctors, I and countless other women like me would be saved from such terrible shame. Then another idea occurred to her. Why don't I become a doctor? (Watanabe, 2008: 46)

The quotation above shows that Ginko feels shameful with the male doctor who checks her. She thinks if there is a woman doctor, she will not feel disgraced to be checked. Such a shamed experience motivates her to be a doctor.

After two months Ginko spends her days in hospital with some examinations every day, she always thinks about her dream. Even the dream which is planted in her mind has begun to take root. The following quotation shows that Ginko wants to be a doctor:

By now, the dream that had been planted in Gin's mind had begun to take root. To begin with, she had wistfully aspired to becoming a doctor, but now she was absolutely determined to become one.

Indeed, it was all she thought about. (Watanabe, 2008: 46)

The quotation above shows that Ginko really wants to be a doctor and it is only her dream which inspires her, and it is only that which she always thinks during her stay in hospital.

When Ginko is released to go back home to Tawarase, she really wants to make her dream come true. She realizes that there are only few paths to a medical degree, especially when the field is limited to western medicine. As a young girl and widow, it is really hard for her to be a doctor. Ginko should go through some obstacles and torture.

4.1.1 Losing Her Family

After Ginko comes back from hospital, she is always in her room along day to think about what she wants to be. Finally, she decides to tell her mother about her dream. When she tells her mother about her dream to be a doctor, her mother so angry that she prohibits her.

Kayo looked sharply at Gin. "You do not live alone and there is more to consider than your own personal desires. There is your family to think of, along with all of the people we come into contact with. There may be no law preventing from doing as you please, but there are social customs. Think of how the villagers would laugh if they ever heard that you planned to go to Tokyo to research and become a doctor. They'll point their fingers at you, and talk about 'that madwoman'." (Watanabe, 2008: 57)

The quotation above shows that Kayo, Ginko's mother is very angry at her. She scolds her and prohibit her idea to be a doctor. She reminds Ginko to think about the good name of their family, in which her father is a headman in their village. Her mother warns her that other people will laugh about Ginko's dream, and it will also make her family become bad in villagers's eyes.

Ginko is a smart girl, and her hobby is reading. Although it is unusual for woman even to open a book, Ginko always studies herself by reading books. Because of that Ginko is a girl who never gives up making her dream come true. Although her mother forbids her to raise her dream, she is resolute in her dream. She really wants to make her dream come true. Therefore she goes to Tokyo with or without permit from her family, as drawn in the following quotation:

When the palanquin reached the main road, Gin took out the purse she had tucked away in the breast of her kimono. Yasuhei had given her thirty yen in his capacity as head of the Ogino family, indicating that he considered it enough to live on for about a year – the extent, he intimated, of any remaining responsibility he felt for his sister. Gin was leaving home under the assumption that she would never return. (Watanabe, 2008: 64)

The quotation above shows that Ginko should go to Tokyo to raise her dream to be a doctor. Although her family members do not permit her to go, she secretly goes. Yasuhei, Ginko's brother is the only member of the family who supports her. He gives her thirty yen to support her life in Tokyo. He considers that thirty yen will be enough to support her sister's life for about a year in Tokyo. When Ginko decides to be a doctor

and goes from her house without permit from her family, it means that Ginko will never return or she is considered not one of the Ogino family's members anymore.

4.1.2 Rejected

When Ginko arrives in Tokyo, Ginko rents a room in the Hongo Kanazawa districts. It is not far from the school of Yorikuni Inoue where Ginko is accepted as a student to be a sort of scholar before she tries to study in medical college. In Tokyo, Ginko is not accepted in University directly. She must study as a student and become a teacher in the school where she gets a chance to develop her skill to get standard education, before she starts studying to be a doctor. It is six months since she leaves her house that finally she graduates as a sort of scholar. Then Ginko wants to continue her study in medical University, but there is no medical colleges which are ready to accept a woman as their students, as verified in the quotation below:

The first public universities were being established, and there were a few private medical colleges as well, but all of these were closed to women.

With a mind like yours you probably could become a doctor. It's a shame that you happen to be a woman. (Watanabe, 2008: 99-100)

The quotation above shows that it will be difficult for Ginko to be accepted in University. Although there are a few medical colleges but Ginko cannot study in there because she is a woman. Woman is not permitted to study in University at that time.

Following this, the headmaster of Ginko's school, professor Nagai, helps Ginko to actualize her dream to be a doctor, after he hears Ginko's statement to be a doctor. Ginko graduated as the best student in her class, so Professor Nagai is sure that she can be a doctor. Then Professor Nagai makes a letter to his friend Ishiguro, the Director of the Army Surgical Hospital and an influential person in the medical world of the day, to help Ginko look for a University which wants to accept her, as shown in the following quotation:

“But I do know one person who might be able to help. I'll arrange an introduction for you—would you go to meet him if I do?” “Would you really do that for me” “I'll have a letter of introduction ready for you by tomorrow. I don't know if it'll be of any use, though.” “I'm very grateful, thank you. I'll definitely try.” (Watanabe, 2008: 100)

The quotation above shows that Professor Nagai wants to help her to be a doctor. He wants Ginko to actualize her dream, although he is not sure if the letter of introduction will be of any use for her to be accepted as a student in medical university. However, Ginko is happy enough because there is someone who wants to help and support her to be a doctor.

Furthermore, Ginko visits Ishiguro in his private residence. Then, she gives the letter of introduction from Professor Nagai to him who immediately reads the letter of introduction. He says that he agrees if there must be a woman as a doctor. Because, generally, woman feels shy, and particularly uneasy being examined for gynecological conditions. He promises to do his best to find universities which will be ready to accept her as a student in their universities, as indicated in the quotation below:

“As you know at the moment, all medical schools are closed to women. I don't know that I can find you a place quickly, but I will check around.” It was a week later, at the beginning of March, when Ginko heard back from him. She went straight to meet him, and in his usual

booming voice he told her, “I tried a number of places but none would accept a female student.” (Watanabe, 2008: 101)

The quotation above shows that Ginko’s attempt to materialize her dream to be a doctor is really hard, because in Japan at that time, universities are closed to women.

After Ginko passes through the long ways to look for the medical universities which accept a woman, Ginko gets the university which wants to accept her in the long run. She does her best that eventually she graduates from the medical college. After she graduated from the medical college, she must follow the medical licensing exams. Then, she sends off her application to follow the licensing exams, but her application is rejected. She sends her application many times, but it is always rejected, as verified in the quotation below:

The examinations were held in two parts, the first in the spring and the second some weeks later, in the summer. With nothing to lose, Ginko sent off her application. As expected, it was curtly refused with the note: “No precedent of a female receiving a medical license”.

...

The next year she reapplied. Again she was rejected. The following year she reapplied to take the examination in her native Saitama prefecture, enclosing a formal her qualifications and stating that her reason for wanting to become a doctor was to help women who might otherwise avoid seeking treatment. However, this application was rejected as well. (Watanabe, 2008: 133-134)

The quotation above shows that Ginko cannot follow the licensing exam because the government rejects her application. She gets trouble not only to look for the medical college, but also to follow the licensing exams. Although she has been so enduring to apply and reapply to take the examination, and even she does it for years by stating her reasons why she wants to be a doctor, her application is still rejected.

4.1.3 Abused

Ginko is eventually accepted in Kojuin Medical College, not far from Juntendo, where she had been hospitalized. This area certainly holds many memories for Ginko. The President has agreed to accept Ginko because he cannot reject Ishiguro’s request as an influential person in the medical world of the day. However, there are no special accommodations for a single female student, as shown in the following quotation:

The President had agreed to accept Ginko, but he made no special accommodations for a single female student – nothing in the way of facilities, equipment or adjustment to the rules. If she wanted to attend, her presence would be tolerated, but that was all. From day one, Ginko was in for nothing but rude shocks. (Watanabe, 2008: 102)

The quotation above shows that Ginko is actually accepted with perforce by the university and the university does not give the facilities for woman. Therefore, Ginko must use all the facilities for man. During Ginko studies in the university, she gets some bad treatments from other male students. Male students do not agree with the existence of a female students in their university.

“Gentlemen, it is truly unbearable – unspeakable – that our glorious medical college, run by the Imperial Court’s designated physician no less, has today admitted a female medical student. Why? Our honourable profession is being degraded to the work of women and

children. It's not enough that educated women are breaking up the home – now they are proceeding to crush the medical profession. It's outrageous!"

...

"Gentlemen, today we are faced with a female student. We will have to study medicine with women, listen to lecturers and do experiments alongside women. In other words, we have been demoted to the level of women. Who's to blame?"

(Watanabe, 2008: 104)

The quotation above shows that the male students complain to Ginko's coming to their university. They consider that her presence is just to make their status as a man degraded, and to crush the medical profession.

A month and a half after Ginko has started attending lectures, she hurries as usual to the bathroom at the end of the midday lecture. When she is in the bathroom, there are some men who want to disturb her until she is shocked.

Ginko quickened her steps to pass them and head for the stall, when suddenly one of the men turned to face her. Nothing the movement, she looked up and found him exposing himself. "Oh!" she gasped involuntary and covered her eyes with both hands, dropping into a crouch on the spot. "No, look! I'm a man!" The man's vulgar laughter filled the bathroom. "Oh my, it seems to have upset Miss Female Scholar." So saying, he waved his penis in front of Ginko's face and tightly shut eyes. (Watanabe, 2008: 106)

The quotation above shows that how hates the male students to Ginko until they do not feel shy to show their penis. They never feel bored and guilty to disturb her. Even, they feel satisfied and happy to make Ginko suffer. They want to make Ginko drop out from the university so that they always do something that makes Ginko uneasy as well as uncomfortable in the university.

One day, when Ginko goes home in the evening through a field, suddenly her path is blocked by three men. Ginko recognizes the men as Kojuin students. The man in the middle spread his arms to block her way. They have a bad plan to Ginko, as verified in the quotation below:

They planned to assault her like common thugs. "We're asking to take turns, got it?" She turned again, but they were blocking the path behind her. "We won't tell anyone, so there's no need to play hard to get." She looked past them as far as she could, but there was no one in sight. "Take your clothes off!" roared Walrus Moustache, his eyes bloodshot. They were going to gang-rape her. "Hurry up!" "NO!" she screamed as she was yanked back. The men had become beasts, and fought to pin down her flailing limbs. (Watanabe, 2008: 108)

The quotation above shows that the men want to gang-rape Ginko and Ginko knows that the men are from Kojuin Medical College. They really want to make Ginko give up of her choice to be a doctor; therefore, they always disturb Ginko with some bad deeds and even sometimes dangerous. However, the men cancel their plan to gang-rape her, because Ginko tells them about her illness, gonorrhea which is infectious. Ginko should encounter such bad treatments from female students for some months but she can pass them and remain with her firm obsession to be a doctor.

When Ginko wants to follow the practical seminar, she must get a patient as her observation in practical seminar. The man who will become her patient does not want to show his wound to her. He does not want to be examined by a female doctor.

“I have to examine you now to prepare your treatment in time for tomorrow. Please bear with me.” This did elicit a reply, and the man growled, “I’ve no need for a woman.”

...

“Please, that’s all I’m asking,” she bowed her head once more. “Leave me alone, you stupid woman!” shouted the man, hurling the cakes at her feet. “I said I won’t show you and I won’t. Leave me alone now!” (Watanabe, 2008: 114-115)

The quotation above shows that Ginko always gets abused in her step to be a doctor since she studies in her college. Not only do the female students in her college treat her roughly but also the patient who will be examined by her in the practical seminar does not want to be examined by her and even he chases away and curses her.

4.2 To Help Other Women Having the Same Illness as She

Finally, Ginko can follow licensing exam and she passes it. Ginko is a doctor now. She is successful to make her dream come true. She becomes the first female doctor in Japan at that time. Ginko becomes famous because many newspapers and magazines publish her story.

The first woman to receive a license to practice medicine, Ginko became a celebrity overnight as her story was carried in newspapers and magazines, all praising her academic talent and effort. Ginko had hitherto been widely derided as an eccentric and a woman who did not know her place, so this sudden shift in public opinion was slightly alarming and the praise rang somewhat hollow. (Watanabe, 2008: 167)

The quotation above shows that Ginko can achieve her dream to be a doctor. She has opened the eyes of people in Japan, especially those of female in Japan that a woman can be doctor, and can receive a license to practice medicine from government. Even though many have derided her as an eccentric woman who does not know her place, those who praise her academic talent and effort are not less in number.

When Ginko opens her clinic, one of the people who does not like her terrorizes her clinic with sarcastic words in all over the wall by a caricature. It happens some days since Ginko opens her clinic.

The owner of this house is a wanton woman who revels in blood. The words scrawled all over the walls were accompanied by a caricature of Ginko with a scalpel in one hand and a demonic face half-obsured by long, disheveled hair. The graffiti was duly removed, but two days later there was more. The end is near when a woman takes your pulse. Doctoring is not an occupation for a woman! (Watanabe, 2008: 169)

The quotation above shows how Ginko is terrorized when she opens her clinic. All over the walls are scribbled by mocking words accompanied by a disdainful caricature of her. However, she ignores the words and does not care about it. She has always encountered such a bad treatment when she was still in her college. Therefore, she regards it as a trivial trouble. She does not want to consider the words as she believes that it will just make the people who dislike her satisfied. Therefore, she just cleans the words and continues her practice in her clinic.

From the first time, Ginko's dream to be a doctor is to help other women especially those who have the same illness as she suffers. She is sure that there are many women out there who suffer the same illness as she, and who feel shy to get treatment from doctors since all the doctors are men. Consequently, they hide their symptoms until their illness becomes worse. Therefore, within a month since she opens her clinic, many patients, especially women, come to her clinic to get treatment.

Indeed, within a month of opening, the Ogino clinic was overflowing with patients. Ginko was astonished at the prevalence of venereal disease. It was as if all of the women who had been silently bearing their symptoms until now had come forwards at once. In morning the waiting room was full of women with the pale complexion characteristic of gonorrhea, including some whose disease had progressed so far that they had difficulties walking. Familiar as she was with their agony, Ginko gave each patient a gentle but thorough examination. (Watanabe, 2008: 170-171)

The quotation above shows that there are many women in Japan who bear the characteristics of gonorrhea, and even many of them whose diseases have progressed so far. It means that they have been infected by the disease for a long time, but they are reluctant to check it to a doctor since no woman doctor in Japan before. It also means that they actually need a female doctor to check them, but they feel shy to be checked by male doctors so that they should suffer from the illness without getting treatment from a doctor.

One day, there is a woman patient called Sue Imura in Ogino Clinic. From Sue's description of her symptoms, it is clear to Ginko that she has gonorrhea. Therefore, Ginko asks her to rest and drink medicines for five days. However, Sue looks like hesitate and just wants to buy the medicines only for three days. Then, Ginko lets her take the medicines for five days, and does not need to pay for it.

"Twenty-five yen for five days' worth." This was half of what Ginko normally charged. Sue thought for a moment, and then answered, "I'll take three days' worth." "You can pay me later. Go ahead and take enough for five days," said Ginko, jotting down "No payment required" on the woman's chart. "Now, do you understand? Keep the infected area clean, and gets as much rest you can." "Thank you." Sue bowed to Ginko, grabbed her son's hand, and rushed out of the examination room. (Watanabe, 2008: 174)

The quotation above shows that Ginko really wants to help other women. When she finds out that her patient is not lucky enough in economy, she is even ready to treat her without payment. She does not care how much the patient pays her, she just cares about the health of her patient.

Ginko really cares to her patients especially those who are contracted with gonorrhea, because that illness must do a routine control. After the first time Sue comes to Ogino Clinic, she never comes back again. Ginko worries about her and her illness. Therefore, she plans to come to Sue's house to know her condition.

"Hello?" Ginko called out as she slid the front door open, but there was no answer. She called out again and waited. "Who is it?" she heard Sue's voice from inside the house. It sounded as though she had been asleep. "Is this the Imura home?" "Yes. Who's there?" Ginko saw the shadow of someone coming to open the door. "Oh!" Seeing who the

caller was, Sue shrank back and quickly tried to straighten her clothing. Ginko could see that she was clad only in a grubby slip, the kind worn under a kimono, and her hair was disheveled. "I was in the neighborhood making house calls, so I thought I'd drop by and see how you were." (Watanabe, 2008: 181)

The quotation above shows that Ginko really cares to her patient. When her patient who is supposed to come back to get checked by her does not come back to her clinic, she takes initiative to come to her patient's house to check her condition.

5. Conclusion

It is found that the protagonist named Ginko Ogino has great struggles to reach her dream to become a doctor in order that she can help other women who have the same illness as she does. She struggles hard to look for a medicine college which wants to accept her as a woman student because she is the first woman who wants to be a doctor at Japan, whereas at that time, no woman is permitted to get the education or to be a doctor. She also struggles hard to obtain the practice medicine in order that she can open her own clinic. Although she must reapply the licensing exam for many times and even should be patient to wait for years, she does not feel hopeless to obtain the permit for her practice medicine from the government. Besides, she proves that she wants to help other women who contract the same illness as she. After she becomes a doctor and opens a clinic, many female patients come to her clinic to get treatment from her, and most of them contract the same illness as she suffers, that is gonorrhea.

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