

The Analysis Patriarchy and Feminism of Katherine in The Taming of Shrew

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to explain the main female character and the social circumstances experienced by the main character in the play *The Taming of the Shrew*. The main female character is Katherine, a woman full of courage and strength to fight against the circumstances that occur in the environment. The data used comes from the text of the play *The Taming of Shrew* and additional data from several articles and books related to the topic. The researcher also used a descriptive method to explain the data that has been researched sourced from the text of the play *The Taming of Shrew* and additional data from several articles and books. The results found that with this method, it was concluded that there were things that happened such as patriarchy, feminism and gender experienced by Katherine in the play. William Shakespeare indirectly portrayed the character of Katherine. The main character is perfectly portrayed as a woman in the struggle against patriarchy and gender through her feminist movement. William Shakespeare portrays the character of Katherine indirectly and creates an environment that criticises the patriarchal system and through Katherine can blind women to the feminist movement without fear. The social phenomena of patriarchy, gender, and feminism are inseparable from William Shakespeare's time to the modern day.

Keywords: *patriarchy, feminism, gender, Katherine, The Taming of Shrew*

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Taming of the Shrew* was written by the famous writer William Shakespeare in the 1590s. The *Taming of the Shrew* was only published in 1623 in the First Folio, which is a collection of William Shakespeare's works after his death. William Shakespeare is a famous writer and dramatist in the history of the English language, his works are widely made or staged into many languages. In this case, Shakespeare also has a high contribution to the historical

development of the English language because he can create new words and phrases that are popular. Shakespeare's famous works such as Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, King Lear, Macbeth, Othello and The Taming of the Shrew will be analysed. The object of observation is the Analysis Feminism of Katherine in The Taming of Shrew, which has a background story about the norms of society and psychology. This analysis aims to provide an understanding of the social conditions that occurred in the 1590s which were very high in patriarchy compared to today who already understand that all genders are equal and free to determine what they choose. It will also discuss the female protagonists who acted and fought against the patriarchy of the time, this will be referred to as feminism.

The main character in this story is Katherine, a young woman who is smart, independent, strong, sharp-tongued, and not afraid to fight for what she believes in. Katherine's character is viewed by society at the time as very bad because of the patriarchal system. Under these conditions, Katherine refused to act as expected by most people at the time. For this, researchers can improve on the previous journal and add better information to find out the movements and resistance Katherine made to be free from the patriarchy that occurred in the 1590s. During Shakespeare's time, English society was highly patriarchal, and there was a rigid hierarchy with women considered inferior to men (Smith, 2013: 3). Patriarchy (Christian, 2016: 13; Facio, 2013) is a system that has men at the top in political, social, spiritual, economic, mental and other aspects. Shakespeare moulds Katherine's character as a woman who is fearless and free-spirited to say what she wants to do, but it is her environment that makes her even more rebellious so as not to experience or change the views of people at that time. Her character is shaped very hard because Katherine also feels oppressed by the patriarchy carried out by her family and people in her neighbourhood. This also happens because Katherine's father is a respected person in their place of residence. Katherine's father is a pastor, so there are a lot of expectations and demands that Katherine must do to keep her father's name good. And Katherine tries to fight to win her right to opinion and expression as a woman without being distinguished by men, while still maintaining her father's good name.

By way of William Shakespeare creating a male character who will be Katherine's husband, Petruchio, who attempts to tame Katherine. In doing this Petruchio uses a lot of physical and verbal violence, this also assumes that patriarchy often uses violence to maintain its power or superiority. Katherine is conflicted and continues to argue with Petruchio. Katherine is conflicted and continues to argue with Petruchio. However, at the end of the story Petruchio manages to tame Katherine into a submissive and obedient woman, but what happens

is that Katherine hides her anger and dissatisfaction with what is happening in her environment. Despite her changing attitudes, Katherine is still able to voice her opinions and rights against patriarchy.

Gender

Gender is concerned with thinking about the stereotypical roles of women and men in society. This thinking refers to the many gaps and things that women cannot do so women's scope is limited because they do not fit into these thoughts. In social thinking about gender is not only from men to women but this thinking can also occur from women to women, this happens because of the influence of the environment that affects it. As a result, if women do not conform to their roles or natures, women will be ostracised, insulted, and compared and will continue to be forced to follow what people think. According to Rokhmansyah, 2016, p. 10, a gender stereotype is a belief that regulates what is appropriate behaviour for women and men. Sarah Gamble (2001)[1998] says to improve women's educational, professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes by fighting against gender stereotypes.

Feminism

Feminism is related to movements or actions to gain equality between women and men in social, educational, political, and legal rights (Christanti, 2016: 13; Sugihastuti et al, 2010: 93). Feminism is also related to patriarchy, patriarchy is a gender inequality behaviour that requires women to only be at home to take care of the house and children. In this patriarchal principle, it blocks many opportunities that should be obtained by women such as the right to opinion, education to work and growth to hone their abilities. According to Salamah (2013), feminist groups, if united by thoughts about the real conditions of women in society, have a different position from men, and women in the community are distinguished from men (ordinate and subordinate), this causes problems that are detrimental to women.

Feminism has theoretical stages in its movement that are based on the journey of the views of feminist theorists, which are related to their opinions and theories put forward by these experts. First, is the First Wave Feminism Theory, which occurred in the 18th-19th centuries. The first wave of the problem of equal rights between women and men, namely equal legal status in the household, this thought came because of the revolutions that occurred in America (1775-1783) and France (1789-1799). After this beginning, feminism developed continuously until the end of the 19th century, because this first wave produced and coined the word feminism to be used in the movement or action to gain equality between women and men. The

First Wave Feminism theory also produced liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist feminism and socialist feminism. After that, Second Wave Feminism occurred after World War II in the 1960s or 20th century. Feminism was carried out by white feminists from the United States, Britain and France who researched women in the third world, namely Asia, Africa and South America. The figurehead of feminism in this second wave was Betty Friedan who published a book entitled *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) which contained equal opportunities for women in the public sphere. The book had such an impact that Betty Friedan founded the women's organisation National Organization for Woman (NOW) in 1966. After this, many figures began to research the feminist movement and social conditions that occurred until the 1970s.

The results of the research opened up insights into gender, such as Kate Miller who wrote a work on *Sexual Politics*, there was also Shulamith Firestone with the title of the book *The Dialectical of Sex* and finally, there were two figures from England, Germaine with a book entitled *The Female Eunuch* and Eva Figes with a book entitled *Patriarchal Attitudes*. The theories that emerged in the second wave were existential feminism (feminism carried out on women's oppression due to the burden of reproduction) gynocentric feminism (feminism that views women's oppression due to physical differences that make women inferior to men) and socialist feminism (feminism that struggles to abolish and criticise social class belonging, which wants a society without gender differences). And finally, third-wave feminism and postfeminism, in this third wave also refined the idea of feminism in the second-wave. In this third wave, a genre of science was formed, namely the idea called feminist science by looking at the latest issues in society related to women's oppression by considering aspects of multiculturalism and plurality.

In this science of thought, three theories are formed, namely multicultural feminism (feminism based on the rejection of racial, religious, national, class, age and educational oppression of women from the first world to the third world), global feminism (feminism that emphasises the elimination of women's oppression in the developing world to the developed world) and ecological feminism/ecofeminism (feminism based on anti-exploitation and egalitarian women's values). Finally, the adherents of liberal feminism are the most moderate group among adherents of other theories, because adherents of this theory want women to be integrated into total in all roles, according to their abilities and potential, with this there is no longer a dominant gender because reproductive organs are not a barrier to women in the public sector, but rather emphasise the abilities, attitudes and skills that are by their respective fields

of work, added according to Ratna in Yasa, (2006): 184 also states that feminism is associated with ways of understanding literary works, both about the process of reproduction and reception. Therefore, femininity is a cultural psychological understanding, a person is not born "as" a woman but "becomes" a woman. This has also led to many organisations being formed to support women to get their rights in all aspects of life.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In descriptively using the method, namely by reading the entire story of *The Taming of Shrew*, journals and several articles related to the analysis, gender, feminism and the story text of *The Taming of Shrew*. This method does not produce numbers or is called qualitative research because it produces or presents methods in the form of data that has been collected and in the form of words, phrases or sentences in the form of writing that has been observed. It was added that “Qualitative research is a research process to understand human or social phenomena by creating a comprehensive and complex picture that can be presented in words, reporting detailed views obtained from informant sources, and conducted in a natural setting” (Walidin, Saifullah & Tabrani, 2015: 77).

The researcher did the 5 methods, namely reading, observing, understanding, examining and analysing. The first thing the researcher did was to read the text of the play *The Taming of Shrew*, to find out the characters in the story. The way the researcher reads the text of the play *The Taming of the Shrew* is also related to being able to find the feminism that Katherine did in the middle ear to get out of this patriarchal system. Second, the researcher observed things in the surrounding environment, which turned out that there were still many women who received patriarchal treatment from those closest to them. Thirdly, we continued to understand things in articles, journals, books and the environment to be able to make one idea that can be conveyed. After that, it continued with analysis to find what things affect patriarchy and to examine how feminism helps to eliminate this patriarchal system. Finally, after doing the four ways, the researcher analyses to process all the data that has been obtained and makes it the form of phrases, words or sentences that will be presented properly and easily understood.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The result of this research is the presentation of some data that has been analyzed to be presented in an easy-to-understand form along with evidence of dialogue in the text of the play *The Taming of Shrew*. In this study, the researcher took the character of Katherine to be

analysed by taking the topic of feminism that existed during the 1590s. The evidence shows that Katherine is a representation of a woman who is a feminist in this research, the researcher took the character of Katherine to be analysed by taking the topic of feminism that existed during the 1590s. In this study, the researcher took the character of Katherine to be analysed by taking the topic of feminism that existed during the 1590s. The evidence shows that Katherine is a representation of a woman who fights injustice between women and men at that time, the character formed by Shakespeare towards Katherine is perfect because the male playwright can criticise and defend women from the injustice that occurs. Although the play has many contradictions with different points of view, the researcher analyses that this play is extraordinary in how Katherine the main character managed to change the views of the patriarchy to change her mind, fight with her verbal intelligence, and not afraid to voice whatever she wants, strong in getting resistance from the patriarchy and independent in everything she does. The feminism in this play is how Katherine fights the patriarchy that exists at that time, this is based on Katherine's sense of revenge for the unfair treatment of her and her sister (Bianca). Her sister is the embodiment of women who are always in the mind of the patriarchy, thus making Katherine even more vengeful and replying to everything that women are capable of and can stand on their own and are not easily humiliated.

Feminism in *The Taming of the Shrew* is shown in act 2 scene 1, act 3 scene 2, act 4 scene 3 and act 5 scene 2. The dialogue in this section not only illustrates feminism but also depicts Katherine's strong character and is not easily afraid to fight against anyone who limits women's rights in all aspects.

Example in dialogue act 2 scene 1 sentence 34:

Katherine: "What, will you not suffer? No, now I see She is your treasure, she must have a husband, I must dance barefoot on her wedding day And, for your love of her, lead the apes in hell" This explains that Katherine is against marriages that are only based on wealth and not on love between partners.

Example in dialogue act 2 scene 1 sentence 302:

Katherine "Calling you my son? Now I promise you, You've shown me gentle fatherhood, To want me to marry a half-mad, A mad rascal and a swearing Jack, Who thinks with an oath to face the matter."

Contoh dalam dialog act 3 scene 2 kalimat 8:

Katherine: "No shame but mine. I must, forsooth, be forced To give my hand, opposed against my heart, Unto a mad-brain rudesby, full of spleen, Who wooed in haste and means to wed at leisure....." Dua dialog diatas menjelaskan penolakan menikahi Petruchio karena memiliki perilaku yang kasar dan merasa superior sebagai seorang laki-laki yang bisa merubah sifat Katherine.

Example dialogue act 3 scene 2 sentence 225:

Katherine: "Gentlemen, forward to the bridal dinner. I see a woman may be made a fool If she has not a spirit to resist." Katherine speaks that indirectly a woman may be made a fool if she does not have the spirit to resist what is not right.

Example in dialogue act 4 scene 3 sentence 78:

Katherine: "Why, sir, I trust I may have leave to speak, And speak I will. I am no child, no babe. Your betters have endured me speak my mind, And if you cannot, best you stop your ears...." This dialogue is Katherine voicing what she wants to say freely and if people don't want it, it doesn't mean Katherine will be silent but asks people who don't want to hear her to close their ears.

Example in dialogue act 5 scene 2 sentence 177:

Katherine: "I am ashamed that women are so simple To offer war where they should kneel for peace, or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway When they are bound to serve, love, and obey." Katherine expresses her frustration with social norms that emphasise the role of women as servants and submissive.

In the dialogue that Katherine always says, it is very clear how the condition of women at that time was to always obey and obey everything. The results obtained are also not only that what Katherine has done to fight everything but sometimes what she gets is not appropriate because many people adhere to this patriarchal system. But it would be different if Katherine was in the present there would be many women who supported her for her actions.

The researcher analysed that differences in time also affect how people think about the roles of women and men. The period when many people still did not understand that women also had to have a higher education and the same position as men made many women who felt it would experience a lot of pressure, injustice, limited scope and would always be humiliated or underestimated by men. Now with a lot of information and people starting to understand that women also deserve the same rights and obligations as men, there are many women who can pursue all their dreams, goals and desires to achieve. And today many women are leaders in any sector or field and women are free to express whatever they want.

3.1. What does the character of Katherine have to do with feminism?

The relationship between Katherine's character and feminism is very related. With Katherine's movement and resistance be able to voice her opinion to many people even though she had to get a lot of harsh treatment, especially from men. This action is also based on the attitude of men who feel stronger and dominant in everything that makes them demean women

so that women only work at home and take care of things related to the house. As well as men assuming women to always be meek, obedient and obedient to authoritarian men, men can bring happy things to women, especially in terms of finance. But this only makes women unable to choose their life path, which makes women will always be humiliated continuously. The existence of feminism helps women to be able to fight against the injustices that are obtained in the environment to change people's views that the position, position and work of women and men are equal and can help each other in all matters regardless of the work of women and men.

3.2. Would Katherine's behaviour or actions be different in modern times?

Katherine's actions would be a little different in modern times. Women like Katherine would have a lot of support from fellow women as well to get justice for their rights. In modern times or today, many organisations voice movements or actions against patriarchy and lead to gender equality justice or equal rights between women and men. Feminism is done now by campaigning down the street when commemorating important days related to women both nationally or internationally and it is also done by providing socialisation through seminars to provide knowledge of what to do when experiencing or seeing incidents of women being humiliated or belittled, usually the first action is to fight back with words that are logical, critical and easy for men to silence or feel that what they are doing is wrong. According to the researcher, Katherine's character is a representative of a brave and resilient woman who fights all forms of violence and injustice that she gets, which can be an example of always fight injustice even alone if it is on the path of truth.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that the story of *The Taming of the Shrew* is a description of how social life is still a lot of people adhere to the patriarchal system. The figure of Katherine is a picture of a character created by William Shakespeare that is perfect, with her behaviour, actions and traits that are very enough to have a huge impact in changing the point of view of people at that time towards women. Katherine's feminism also provides an example that women can fight against all injustices in roles or positions that are not equal to men. In some of the dialogues in the story Katherine fights back a lot that she gets unfairly in her environment, she is also underestimated by women, namely her sister because her sister is always praised for representing the perfection that others think of women at that time. The movement or action

that Katherine took was a reply to her revenge against those who opposed her to what she did. The results of this research also further open the insight that patriarchy, gender and feminism are a unity that has existed since the time of William Shakespeare. Patriarchy itself is a social system that places the position of men always above or dominant compared to women, as well as for gender is a stereotype of how women must have a role by their nature finally there is feminism which is a movement or action against injustice to be equal to men in social, educational, legal, mental, spiritual and other aspects of life.

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Silvia Putri Anjani is a student in English Literature majoring in STBA Technocrat, Tangerang. This research collects data through articles, journals, books and the text of the play *The Taming of the Shrew*. By means of five methods (reading, observing, understanding, examining and analysing) all things related to feminism, gender, Katherine, *The Taming of Shrew* and patriarchy, involving social and psychology. Research by observing is done by looking at the environment around the researcher's own life. It is hoped that this method will make it easier to collect the data needed to write this journal.