

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Humans are social creatures who need to interact with each other, whether the interaction between an individual, individual with the group, or a group with a group. All that is required in human life begins with simple interactions such as passing smiles, greetings, and even shared life moments (Fiske, 2014). Nevertheless, there are things in the interaction that can cause something unwanted, for example, the differences that can be caused conflict between each other.

In society, there are many differences between person to person, even community to community. The differences are color, race, ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, language, and others. Those differences made some people or communities discriminate against others who differ from them. One of the examples of discrimination is gender discrimination.

Gender discrimination is a form of discrimination based on sex. The main reason gender discrimination toward women happens is that the patriarchal ideology still influences society either in their mindsets or actions. Patriarchy ideology is an ideology or social structure that normalizes thought in which men have more privilege and power in society than women (Pyke, 1996). Those people who hold patriarchal beliefs tend to limit women's movement. Women cannot expand their space because, in society, many people believe men are more dominant than women; hence women are always under men.

We can see many actions that reflect gender discrimination toward women because of patriarchal ideology in the novel "Kim Ji-Young, born 1982" by Cho Nam Joo, "Take it As a Compliment" by Maria Stoian, "The Trouble with Women" by Jacky Fleming, and others. *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982* by Cho Nam Joo, is the main object of this research. The novel shows how hard it is to live in South Korea as a woman. The main character of this novel is Kim Ji-Young, she is thirty-four years old and has a husband, and his husband's name is Jeong Dae-Hyun; he is thirty-six years old. She also has a daughter, and her name is Jeong Ji-Won.

This novel is based on Kim Ji-Young's memories since she was a child. When she was a child, she and her sister tended to get discriminated actions by their grandmother. Their grandmother only cares about their brother, and she thinks men are more important than women and believes there should be a man in every family. Kim Ji-Young experienced sexism and misogynistic treatment in her family and social life. Even when she became an adult, she still experienced gender discrimination because of patriarchal ideology.

From the story of Kim Ji-Young, the researcher finds some exciting topics, which are gender discrimination toward women. The researcher wants to prove and tell the reader how patriarchal ideology has a significant part in causing gender discrimination and made the main character have a severe issue.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study, the following problems can be formulated as follows:

1. What forms of gender discrimination toward women are reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*?
2. What effects of gender discrimination toward women on the main character are reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study is conducted to respond to the research questions stated in the statement of the problems. The objective is formulated as follows:

1. To find out the forms of gender discrimination toward women reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*.
2. To find out the effects of gender discrimination toward women to the main character reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This research focuses on gender discrimination toward women in *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*. The researcher will limit the analysis to two areas: the forms of gender discrimination toward women because of the patriarchal culture in South Korea and the effects of gender discrimination on the main character.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The results of this research are expected to inform the reader about gender discrimination, the forms of gender discrimination, and the patriarchal culture that must be left out. The researcher hopes this research will reference further studies using gender discrimination as the main topic.

### **1.6 Approach of the Study**

The researcher uses feminism theory as the approach and the main theory of this research. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, feminism is the idea that women should have the same rights and power and be treated equally as men ([dictionary.cambridge.org](https://dictionary.cambridge.org)). The feminism theory that the researcher uses is Simone de Beauvoir's theory in her book "The Second Sex." In her book, de Beauvoir's primary argument is that society usually oppresses women by characterizing them as 'The Other.' Women are the object that is inessential and incomplete, while men are essential and absolute. (De Beauvoir, 1949). The researcher uses the qualitative method to gather and analyze the data on this research. The researcher will interpret the data qualitatively, so it does not need numbers to collect and analyze the data.

The researcher will require some procedures in order to do the research. First, the researcher read the novel '*Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*'. The second one is classifying and analyzing the text of the novel related to the problem's statements. Then, the researcher analyses by applying feminism theory through

the gathered data. After the analysis, the researcher takes conclusion and suggestions to the result.

### **1.7 Organization of the Paper**

This research will be organized into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study. Chapter two consists of the synopsis of the object, a novel by Cho Nam Joo entitled *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, and followed by the biography of Cho Nam Joo. Chapter three consists of the review of related literature. Chapter four consists of the findings and discussion; in this chapter, the research will explain and answer the question in the statement of the problem from chapter one. And the last is chapter five, which consists of conclusions and suggestions.