

**THE REFLECTION OF WOMAN EMANCIPATION IN FATIMA  
MERNISSI'S *DREAM OF TRESPASS* (1994):  
A FEMINIST APPROACH**

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**Abstract**

This study is aimed to show the conditions of women emancipation in Morocco, especially in the harem life by using feminist approach. It is done by establishing two objectives: the first is analyzing the novel based on its structural elements and the second is analyzing the reflection of women emancipation by using feminist approach. The result of the analysis will answer the problem statement. This research is qualitative research. Type of data of the study is text taken from two data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source is the *Dream of Trespass* novel written by Fatima Mernissi in 1994. While the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, journals, and internet related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The result of the study shows the following conclusions. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is indicated that each of narrative elements of the novel is related one and each other. Secondly, the novel illustrates that women emancipation in the harem is mostly ignored. The women live with many rules and restrictions from the men in many aspects of life in the harem.

Keywords: feminist, equality, existence, woman emancipation

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan kondisi emansipasi wanita di Maroko, terutama dalam kehidupan harem dengan menggunakan pendekatan feminis. Hal ini dilakukan dengan menentukan dua tujuan: pertama adalah menganalisis novel berdasarkan elemen struktural dan yang kedua adalah menganalisis refleksi emansipasi wanita dengan menggunakan pendekatan feminis. Hasil analisis tersebut akan menjawab pernyataan masalah. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Jenis data penelitian ini adalah teks yang diambil dari dua sumber data: primer dan sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah *Dream of Trespass* novel yang ditulis oleh Fatima Mernissi pada tahun 1994. Sedangkan sumber data sekunder adalah bahan lain yang diambil dari buku-buku, jurnal, dan internet yang berkaitan dengan penelitian. Kedua data yang dikumpulkan melalui penelitian perpustakaan dan dianalisis dengan analisis deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kesimpulan berikut. Pertama, berdasarkan analisis struktural, itu menunjukkan bahwa masing-masing elemen naratif dari novel ini terkait satu dan

satu sama lain. Kedua, novel menggambarkan bahwa emansipasi wanita di harem sebagian besar diabaikan. Para wanita hidup dengan banyak aturan dan pembatasan dari orang-orang dalam banyak aspek kehidupan di harem.

Kata kunci: feminis, persamaan, eksistensi, emansipasi wanita

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Women emancipation is the achievement of complete economic, social, political and religious equality of women with men, an aspiration that the realization in the course of the twentieth century had been gradual, varied, and incomplete. Women emancipation is the reflection of human right, especially women's right. It is the equal opportunity for women in social, economic, education, politic, and culture. People in the world are created to live together. They consist of man and woman. But in real life, a woman is usually in low position and man in high position from time to time. Man is assumed that he is strong, might and powerful so he can do anything for woman. This is not fair because women have the same right for life as human being. Without men, women can struggle for life by themselves in several ways and every condition.

Related with patriarchal culture, there are many problems arising because of men dominated to the women such as sexual violence, bad treatment to woman, unequal right in education etc. Thus, Indonesia has R.A. Kartini fighting for equality between men and women in society. During imperialisms come to Indonesia, women have no right in education, they just stay at home and do what their husband command. So because of Kartini's struggle, slow but sure women have equal existence with men.

From the phenomena of social life in this society, there is one of the life problems that become the source of literary works which is the position of women in society, since there are still many questions arising because of the unfair treatment toward women. One of the novels that have different opinion about women is *Dream of trespass* by Fatima Mernissi.

One of the problems which are often faced by every human being especially women is how to stand up their rights and not allow their male dominated society to define what it means to be women. Women themselves must show their capability, to prove who they are and what role they will play in society. Most importantly, they must reject the patriarchal assumption that women are inferior to men. Therefore according to Anderson in Mandell (1995: 5) states that every person has equal opportunities and civil rights and they should be allowed to exercise freedom of choice without interfere of public opinion or law.

With regard to the phenomenon above, there are other related previous studies which cover the feminism in novel by Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass*, *Tales of a Harem Girlhood* (1994): A Feminist Approach. First Najikhatul Laili (2011) focuses her study on revealing how is the struggle of the women in harem to cope their misery in there. The differences this study with the second study is in the problem statement and the perspective. The previous study explains how the struggle of the women in harem to cope the miseries while in this study depicts

how the condition of women emancipation in harem is. Although both use a feminist approach but the perspective or the focus of the each study is different.

Second, Wahyu Utomo (2011) he is interested in Gender Inequality in Fatima Mernissi's Novel *Dream of Trespass*. This study focuses to show the gender inequality in the harem life reflected in *Dream of Trespass* by using socialist feminism approach. This study defines that gender inequality is existed in the harem life. The differences the third study with this study is in the focus of the study. The third study focuses on the gender inequality and this study is focuses on the reflection of women emancipation in harem life reflected in the *Dream of Trespass*. So this study is not only describes about the women inequality but also both equality and inequality of the emancipation of women in harem reflected in the Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass*.

This study is different from those previous studies above, because it is establishing How is the reflection of women emancipation reflected in Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass*. So, from the statement, this study is aimed to describe the reflection of woman emancipation in Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass* by using feminist approach.

## B. METHOD

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object. The method of data collection in this study is documentation. The writer reads the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding. Next, the writer takes, compares, and classifies the supporting data into some categories. The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive, researcher uses feminist approach and draws conclusion.

## C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Findings of this study are as follow:

### 1) Social Aspects

The lives of women in harem which is depicted in *Dream of Trespass novel* is always related with the limitation. From the construction of harem building, peoples maybe can understand that harem is a place which is not free to access to go to the outside and inside especially for the women.

Our harem in Fez was surrounded by high walls and, the exception of the little chunk of the sky that you could see from the courtyard below, nature didn't exist. (DoT, 1994:56)

### 2) Economic Aspect

In the other pages, the unequal right of the women about the economic aspects toward the men is displayed. The women concern about the salary or the money which is earned for their work. For example:

she said, both men and women worked from dawn until very late at night. But men made money and women did not. And when women worked hard, and was not making money, she was stuck in a harem, even though she could not see its walls. (DoT, 1994: 63)

The quotation above strengthens the concern of the women about the differentiation of the result for their work beside the men. Although both of the

men and the women are working, but only the men earn money and the women do not.

### 3) Political Aspect

The condition of the political aspect in Morocco which is displayed from the novel is in colonialization period. Morocco is being colonialized by French and Spain.

They put soldiers near 'Arbaoua and said from now on, to go north, you needed a pass because you were crossing Spanish Morocco. To go south, you needed another pass, because you were crossing into French Morocco (DoT, 1994: 3)

### 4) Educational Aspect

The education of the women which is reflected in the novel is forbidden.

She had asked for to go to literacy classes – a few schools in our own neighborhood were offering them – but her demand had been turned down by the family council. (DoT, 1994: 201)

The quotation shows the forbidden for the women to get education. When Fatima Mernissi's mother asks permission to join into the literary school, her permission is rejected by the family. It depicts that the education for women is forbidden.

## D. CONCLUSION

Based on the feminist analysis, which takes an eye about the injustice, inequalities, and the movements of women, it can be seen that the inequalities exists in this novel. The researcher has analyzed some women aspects of life. Those are social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect and education aspect. All those aspects related to the women emancipation.

The social aspect of women in the harem which is reflected in the novel is limited. The women has no more social interaction but in their own harem and their family. In the novel, it is told that women are not allowed to go to the outside of the harem. In other word, women only can interact with the women in the harem and their family. Living in harem is a big problem for the women. The women who live in harem are always found many rules and they feel the rules will never make women become better and growing.

The economic aspect of women in harem which is reflected in the novel is nothing. It is dominated by the men. The central concern of the women related to the economic aspects is the differentiation of the result for their work beside the men. Although both of the men and the women are worked, but only the men earn money and the women do not. This matter occurs caused by the type of the job field. The women work only in the domestic area. Their job field is only in the inside of the harem and they will not earn money as the result of their work. The reverse, the men work in the public sphere and earn the money.

The political aspect of women in harem which is reflected in the novel is also dominated by the men. Moreover, there is no woman who joins in the political aspect. The existence of the women in political aspects is something which is unusual in that era. It is meant that the women in that era do not commonly active in the political aspects. Maybe, it becomes something acceptable for the women

because as far the researcher read the novel there is no meaningful concern from the women about the women existence in political aspect.

The education aspect of women in harem which is reflected in the novel is forbidden, it is meant that the inequalities exists because only the men can get education. Not all women get the rights to get educated. The new view about the right for women to get education is only near different with the older. The family council states only little children who are deserve to get education. It can be summarized that in education aspect, unequal right of education still exists in harem.

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