

ABSTRACT

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South Korea has demonstrated remarkable economic growth over the past decades. However, South Korea ranked as the worst environment for working women by The Economist (2020) and an increasing number of women are choosing to forego marriage and motherhood altogether (The Economist, 2020). Due to this phenomenon, the writer was interested to analyse a novel entitled *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* written by Cho Nam Joo that provides the issue of sexism in South Korea. The novel talks about the life and struggle of Kim Ji Young experiencing sexism from the beginning of her childhood until she reaches adulthood. The writer seeks to draw a clear illustration of the practice of sexism in South Korean society. The writer saw the novel as a great literary work to conduct the study because Cho wrote the novel on the basis of real examples and data of South Korea which can be found in the novel. In addition, the writer found it more interesting to study since the novel depicts complete examples of sexism as the story follows the life of Kim Ji Young from the moment she was born up until she became an adult.

There are two research questions in this study: 1) How is sexism reflected in the novel? and 2) What are the effects of sexism to the female characters? The method applied to conduct this study is library research. The primary source is obtained from the novel, and the secondary sources are found from journals, books, online newspapers, and other relevant sources. To answer the first research question, the writer used the theory of gendered spheres by Pilcher & Whelehan as well as other relevant sources such as Korean journals, books, newspapers, and publications to support the analysis. As for the second research question, the writer described the effects of sexism through a liberal feminism point of view.

The result shows that sexism was reflected both in private and public sphere. There is a strong male preference in South Korean society. In addition, South Korea still firmly holds traditional gender roles which bound women to stay in the private sphere. Sexism then affects their autonomy and self-determination. This research is expected to be useful for society, teachers and researchers in the future. This study also provides recommendations on how this novel can be used as reading enrichments for English learners.

Keywords: *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*, South Korea, sexism, private sphere, public sphere, liberal feminism

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Korea Selatan telah menunjukkan pertumbuhan ekonomi yang luar biasa selama beberapa dekade terakhir. Namun, menurut The Economist (2020), Korea Selatan digolongkan sebagai lingkungan terburuk bagi perempuan yang bekerja dan semakin banyak perempuan yang memilih untuk melepaskan pernikahan dan menjadi ibu (The Economist, 2020). Oleh karena itu, penulis kemudian tertarik untuk menganalisis novel Kim Ji Young, Born 1982 karangan Cho Nam Joo yang mengangkat isu seksisme di Korea Selatan. Novel ini bercerita tentang kehidupan dan perjuangan Kim Ji Young yang mengalami seksisme dari awal masa kecilnya hingga dewasa. Penulis berupaya memberikan gambaran yang jelas tentang praktik seksisme dalam masyarakat Korea Selatan. Penulis melihat novel ini sebagai karya sastra yang bagus untuk melakukan penelitian karena novel tersebut ditulis oleh Cho berdasarkan contoh dan data nyata dari Korea Selatan yang bisa ditemukan di novel. Selain itu, penulis merasa lebih tertarik untuk mempelajarinya karena novel ini menggambarkan contoh seksisme yang lengkap dan ceritanya mengikuti kehidupan Kim Ji Young dari saat ia dilahirkan hingga ia tumbuh dewasa.

Ada dua pertanyaan dalam penelitian ini: 1) Bagaimana seksisme tercermin dalam novel? dan 2) Apa saja pengaruh seksisme terhadap tokoh-tokoh perempuan di dalam novel? Metode yang digunakan untuk melakukan penelitian ini adalah studi pustaka. Sumber primer diperoleh dari novel, dan sumber sekunder diperoleh dari jurnal, buku, surat kabar online, dan sumber lain yang relevan. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian pertama, penulis menggunakan teori ranah publik dan ranah privat oleh Pilcher & Whelehan (2004) serta sumber-sumber lain yang relevan untuk mendukung analisis seperti jurnal, buku, publikasi, dan surat kabar Korea. Adapun pertanyaan penelitian kedua, penulis mendeskripsikan efek seksisme melalui sudut pandang feminisme liberal.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa seksisme tercermin baik di ranah privat maupun publik. Ada preferensi pria yang kuat dalam masyarakat Korea Selatan. Selain itu, Korea Selatan masih memegang teguh peran gender tradisional yang mengikat perempuan untuk tetap berada di ranah privat. Seksisme kemudian mempengaruhi otonomi dan penentuan nasib mereka sendiri. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat bermanfaat bagi masyarakat, guru dan peneliti kedepannya. Studi ini juga memberikan rekomendasi tentang bagaimana novel ini dapat digunakan sebagai bacaan yang digunakan untuk pengayaan Bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982, Korea Selatan, seksisme, ranah privat, ranah publik, feminisme liberal*