

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to discuss the issues raised in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. This study focuses on Mariam and Laila's life as the victim of women's oppression. This study also portrayed Mariam and Laila's struggles to end the oppression. Therefore, this novel portrays the women's strength.

The writer uses feminist criticism which raises the issues of patriarchy. This theory is used to analyze the issue about women's oppression. Almost in everything, women are 'oppressed' by men and are placed in the subordinate position. Mariam, Laila and Aziza suffered the oppression when they are married. Their husband never treats them like a human being. They become the victim of Rasheed's ill-treatment. As a wife, Mariam and Laila have to be passive and submissive toward Rasheed's authority. Mariam and Laila's struggles to end the oppression show women's courage. They are aware of their self-worth that has been ridden over by their husband. By applying the theory, the study finds out that the patriarchy system is the main root of the women's oppression.

Keywords: *domestic violence, patriarchy, oppression, victims and gender*