

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence is a prominent issue in the world. This negative treatment gives an immense impact for every victim. According to Michelle Rise, an American psychiatrist who joins in National Centre of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, domestic violence is defined as the use or the threat of using of physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse with the intent of instilling fear, intimidating, and controlling behavior. It occurs in variable type of relationship. Family, intimate relationship, and even parent and their children are the possible sphere for this violence (Rise, Michelle. "Domestic Violence".23 May2002. 14 June 2008. <<http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/doclist.jsp>>). Based on American Medical Association in 1995, the most victims of domestic violence are women and children. Both women and children have different effects toward this case. For pregnant women or mothers who get domestic violence, it brings a momentous shock and makes an awful consequence. Domestic violence has wide ranging and sometimes long-term effects on the victims. The effects can be both physical and psychological. Long terms effects of domestic violence on women may include anxiety, chronic depression, chronic pain, self neglect, sexual dysfunction, an inability to adequately respond to the needs of their children and even death.

Domestic violence as the common violence has a great number of women as its victims. Both west and east women are recorded as the victims of this

current issue. In a statement to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995, the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that violence against women is a universal problem that must be universally condemned; nevertheless the problem continues to grow. In the United States, a woman is beaten every 18 minutes. Indeed, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of reproductive age in the United States. Between 22 and 35 per-cent of women who visit emergency rooms are there for that reason. And in Peru, 70 per-cent of all crimes reported to the police involve women beaten by their husband (“women and violence” .Sept.1999. 15 Aug.2007. <http://www.pdhre.org/rights/women_and_violence.html>). According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, there are 400 cases of domestic violence reported in 1993 in the Province of Punjab, nearly half ended with death of the wife.

The violence emerges lots of solution forms in society, from education, medicine, fashion, literature and etc, with one absolute goal to save women. The emphasize goal toward this problem bring some women to participate. Many women try to criticize it through some ways, such as writing because this certain way is a possible and an easy way to aspirate women’s rights. Hence, today there are many women author for short stories, novels, movie scripts, articles and etc that describe about many issues on women

Souad is one of Palestinian women who try to describe a domestic violence. She was born on 1958 in West Bank Palestine, which currently it becomes Israel territory. Her traditional customs and all the impacts have driven her to cover her own real name and identity in order to save herself from her past

life terror. She becomes the author of novel and book, especially women genre. With a husband and two daughters and son, she lives in France now, far away from her past life land. Through her novel, *Burned Alive* (2004), she describes her past as a woman who lives in daily frightens. Her novel is a great shocking story. It is not an ordinary literary work, because it is a true story of her life. She wants to repackage her past through this novel. Hence, she uses her own name and the other true name characters in this novel. This work is her enormous achievement. *Burned Alive* is her long past journey, because she has to open back her own terrible experience to make this story line. this novel is phenomenal work, because it becomes a best seller novel in 29 countries and a controversial discussion matter. Another great work of hers is *A Victim of the Law of Men* in 2005. Her real identity is still covered until today.

Burned Alive is a novel that has two big part of it. The first is about Souad's past life, then her life after all. In her first section of her novel, she portrays her past almost clearly. She lives in a small village name, West Bank. Being born as a female in her society is a curse. With five sisters and one brother, she passes her life under the pressure of the society's customs. Woman does not have a right; it does not even exist for woman. Obedience to the men is the faith of her customs (Souad, 52).

In her first life, a girl must walk fast, head down, as if counting the number of steps she is taking. She may never stray from her path or look up, for if a man were to catch her eye, the whole village would label her as a *charmuta* or a whore. All they have to do is caring the house and pets. Education is about domestic knowledge, without books and social life. A girl must stay at home and obey to

the law of her father. Being lashed, kicked and yelled are her daily life. She said that a day without beating is unusual (13). Bad treating toward women is a common thing for Souad's society. They are all just the same. No woman has a better treatment from her family or her neighbor in her village. All they can do is only receiving and doing what the traditional rule said. As I have mentioned before that woman is a curse for her family, hence being marriage is only one way to be free. Free means a woman can walk out from home alone, use make-up, wear a shoes and better clothes. It means that marriage is something that is expected tremendously by women. As a girl, marriage is the goal of life. Therefore, Souad does anything to achieve her dream. She gives her virginity to Faiez, a man who only promises to marry her.

Virginity is a very sacred thing for her society's construction. She states that a woman is supposed to bleed with her husband that is all she learned since her childhood. Being pregnant without a legal husband is a terrible sin (Souad, 91). And finally her family recognizes that she is pregnant before married. It streaks her family dignity. If her neighbors know about this dreadful thing, her family will be mocked and they will never be trusted anymore. The only common solution for this problem is killing her. Therefore, her family's dignity will be back.

Souad knows her family meeting's result. She recognizes her own death sentence from her own parents and her brother and sister. Souad is decided to be burned by her brother-in-law, Hussein (Souad, 101-103). It is considering honor killing for her society when there is a daughter who scrapes her family's dignity.

Unfortunately, she is still alive after that shocking moment. Jacqueline, a France woman who works in humanitarian organization saves her life. She brings her and her son, Marouan, to Europe, and gets a better medical treatment. Realizing that she still remember her past life, she decided to let Marouan to be adopted in order to give him a good life without any influences from her past life.

Her second life begins in Europe. For the first time, it is a very surprising experience for her, because she learns something that she absolutely does not know about. She becomes a new woman, with her past life haunts. Although she understands that she lives in a different community, her past life gives a certain effect to hers life. After several years in Europe she decided to have her own family, but she also begins confuse about her own life. She cannot forget her past. And some parts of her life are affected by her experience from her past life. It drives her to try to commit suicide. The possibilities of those actions are caused by the domestic violence in her society.

According to Emily Patterson, a shelter worker who takes a Women Studies major at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and studies Arabic and Arab culture said that male domination and the violence are not more common in Arab community than in anywhere else (Patterson, Emily. "The Arab American News". 7 August 1998. 14 April 2007. <www.arabamericannews.com/newsarticle.html>).

The writer is interested in writing about this study since she is curious about the rising number of domestic violence toward women, especially who live in Palestine. The domestic violence is portrayed in many types, such as physical abuse, psychological (verbal and non verbal) abuse and sexual abuse. The forms

of domestic violence will be discussed further to know about the position of women in private and public spheres. The position of women is determined in several aspects of life such as, marriage, education and the right to live. Beside that, domestic violence drives the position of women to be the victim and the actor of it.

I.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, there are several questions that could be raised.

1. How is domestic violence presented in the novel?
2. How are women in the novel positioned in private and public spheres as they are related to domestic violence?

I.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to answer the statement of the problems, using the chosen theories as the tool to analyze it. There are several objectives that I want to achieve.

1. To know the domestic violence that is presented in the novel
2. To know the position of women in the novel in private and public spheres as they are related to domestic violence.

I.4 Significance of the Study

The study has two significances. The first is to identify deeper upon the domestic violence that is presented in the novel and to know the position of

women in the novel in private and public spheres as they are related to domestic violence. The second is to give contributions to the students of Airlangga University English Department, especially the students who are taking literature as the major of their study.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The study will only concentrate on the forms of domestic violence toward women that are presented in *Burned Alive*. The various forms of domestic violence will be determined in three aspects: physical abuse, psychological (verbal and non verbal) abuse and sexual abuse. The position of women will be discussed further by analyzing the role of women in the private and public spheres. It will be described in the three aspects of life, which are: education, marriage and the right to live. The women's role in private and public will be related to women participation in domestic violence too, as the actor or the victim of domestic violence

1.6 Theoretical Approach

This study is analyzing the domestic violence portrayed in Souad's novel *Burned Alive*. The writer wants to know how is the position of Palestine women in their society. In analyzing this novel, the writer applies feminist literary criticism, especially by Kate Millet. Her *Sexual Politic* is the main reason for gender issues and other social problems. This theory is used to know how women are oppressed by the traditional custom so that they get domestic violence. In *Sexual Politics*, Millet says that "Patriarchy's chief institution is the family. It is both a mirror of

and a connection with larger society; a patriarchal unit within a patriarchal whole” (23).

The analysis will be discussed deeper to identify the position of women in the novel. Millet says that, “In terms of activity, sex role assigns domestic service and attendance upon infants to the female, the rest of human achievement, interest and ambition to the male. The limited role allotted the female tends to arrest her at the level of biological experience (5).

1.7 Method of the Study

The method which is used in this study is library research. The main source is taken from the novel itself *Burned Alive* by Souad. This study uses the method of the data collection from the novel by having a closer reading to the novel, making data classification, and determining the data based on the criteria. The criteria contain the portrayal of domestic violence toward women in terms of physical abuse, psychological abuse and sexual abuse, including the women role in private and public sphere as they are related to domestic violence.

On the other hand, the writer also uses other information from other sources dealing with domestic violence toward Palestine women to support the analysis. The other data about any information related to the novel is also used during the analysis.

In order to make a complete analysis, the qualitative method is also used well. Qualitative research methods are a complex, changing, and contested field a site of multiple ideology and research practices. As Punch says that qualitative research is not a single entity, but it is an umbrella term, which encompasses

variety (139). The qualitative data can therefore be defined as empirical information about the world, not in the form of number (Punch 159). It means in doing the analysis, the writer uses descriptive analysis and explanation through the events and actions in the story related to the domestic violence toward Palestinian women.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Domestic Violence : an emotional abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse and/or decreasing one's right between people who have at some time had an intimate or family relationship.

Physical Abuse : a physical attack which is given to the victim of violence in various types, such as pushing, shoving, hitting, slapping, punching, biting, kicking, holding down, pinning against the wall, choking, etc.

Psychological Abuse : an abuse toward someone emotion and left some psychological scratch. It occurs in many types, such as name calling, coercion and threats, criticizing, yelling, humiliating, isolating, economic abuse (controlling finances, preventing victim from working), threatening to hurt children or pets, stalking.

Sexual Abuse : an abuse that relates to the sexual relationship between two people or more. It also occurs in several types, such as unwanted touching, sexual name calling, false accusations of sexual infidelity, forced sex, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV transmission.