

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Back to the Old Testament when God creates Adam, a man, He then creates a woman, Eve, to accompany the man. In reality of togetherness, a man and woman is formed as a pair of lovers and when they are in love they are united in a marriage. The vow says that a man is destined to live together with a woman, helps one another, works hand in hand, shares things of grief and happiness together, thus, they are supposed to live in harmony. They care and love each other, make a family and have children. In order to make those real, they have to work and support each other.

However, in reality, there are still women who suffer great oppression from men. Men place women within their subordination, oppression, harassment, and abuse. As the victim of violence, women eventually realize their improper condition and situation. They are no longer silent when they are beaten down either physically or mentally.

They are aware of their position of being powerless and they try to change their bad conditions of life. They think it is high time to struggle for the embitterment of their life. A group of them organize a movement, known as the feminists, to protest against their subordination by men's hegemony. They use many ways to make their

voice heard and gain acknowledgement for their ideals in life. They make use of education and the sharpness of a pen to write off their anger and rage.

In live of society, people have some deals with a work of human being to reflect their aspects of life. One of the ways is expressing them by literature. Literature is a peace of writing that “expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitude toward life by the medium at language”(Rees 19). Based on the definition of literature, it is understandable that literature is significant in life, because of its function to “bring people into contact more closely with the real life. The use of literature is to help people toward a better understanding of themselves (Rees 11). Thus, a novel is one of many genres of all works of literature. A novel is a world specially made in words by an author. It is exists in the way it does because an author has chosen to put together in that particular way. It means that novels are not a real life. They have been constructed or crafted. However, it reflects to the real life, it is still fictional; that have been made up (Gill 77).

Among the women writers, to mention one, is Alice Walker who writes *The Color Purple*. She uses a woman character to expose the condition of women in the black society in her writing; she draws attention to the awareness of women displacement as a wife, a daughter, and a partner. By combining the force of women bond, she dismantles the masculine attributes: The mastership in the family institution.

The Color Purple is Alice Walker’s third novel, an epistolary novel (a novel that consists of letters) written by sister-characters, Celie, the main character, and

Nettie, her sister. Celie's first and last letters are dedicated to the Holy spirit, God. In between, the letters are sent to her sister, Nettie. They tell about her bad experience since her childhood and her way of marriage. She has to endure sexual abuse from her stepfather and beatings by her husband. Nevertheless, through hard efforts, she succeeds in her struggle to free herself from her independence upon her husband. She gains leadership, takes advantages of her being as a woman, i.e. she earns her own living by making pants and makes a nice life out of it. Thus, the writer chooses this novel to be analyzed for the reasons as follows, this novel is written by a black woman author, since it voices minority among American literature. Secondly, it presents a subordinated black woman against violence and abuses, who becomes independent on her own identity. Last, there is women solidarity that represents as a lesbian relationship.

Alice Walker wrote *The Color Purple* after *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* and *Meridian*. From *The Color Purple* she won a lot of prize such as Pulitzer, because of its best selling and American Book Award. She gets more popularity from Steven Spielberg's film with the same title as the novel. Besides that, *The Color Purple* has its sequel on *Possessing the Secret of Joy* that the novel continue to retells Adam and Olinka (part of the characters) who lives in Africa. It is more to discuss the female genital mutilation. (Danielle 1)

The study of Walker's *The Color Purple*, tries to see how problems are faced and solved by the characters. The first problem tries to identify the kind of struggle committed to the woman in her role as a daughter and a wife as opposed to the men in

their role as a father, a husband, and a son. The second problem searches the women characters effort to survive in their suffering from their counterparts and found the reasons to the main character in choosing of being lesbian.

B. Statement of the Problems

The study of *Color Purple* can be formulated as follows:

1. How does Celie's struggle in her role as a daughter and a wife?
2. How is Celie's efforts in facing the violence in her role as a daughter and a wife?
3. Why does she have a special relationship with her female partners?

C. Objective of the Study

This analyzes is to find out three important things, which are:

1. Celie's dynamic condition in facing her bad experience through her role as a daughter and a wife.
2. Celie's effort in facing the violence during the oppression against her.
3. Celie's reason in having special relationship with her female partners.

D. Significance of the Study

By doing this analysis, the writer hopes that it will give some advantages for the readers, especially the students of English Department. The reader will have better view about feminist critics specifically on women and violence, which is presented by Alice Walker. Next, they will be more aware on women's movement as

it has become a big issue, exclusively on women's struggle in order to find their goal, including identity and independency. So, by reading this analysis the reader will enrich their knowledge about men and women relationship and also the relationship between women itself, in order to make the dream "Men and Women are Created Equal" come true.

E. Scope and Limitation

In order to make objective and systematic analysis, this research is limited to study Celie's character, including her condition and situation along with her relation to other characters that affects her mind. This will be achieved by intrinsic approach and feminist criticisms perspective and ideas.

F. Theoretical Background

In analyzing the problems, the writer tends to use an intrinsic and feminist criticism approach. She uses an intrinsic theory to analyse the main character of the novel. Through the approach of black and lesbianism, the writer tries to discuss about women existence that has been subordinated by men. In this study, the writer tends to write about black woman struggle over domination among her and her existence of being lesbianism, as it says that, "The Black movement and the feminist movement, with all their internal currents and tensions, have presided over recent development in Afro-American women's political and self-consciousness".(Dandridge225) As how Addrienne Rich wrote of lesbian,"It is the lesbian in every woman who is compelled

by female energy, who gravitates towards strong women,, who seeks a literature that will express that energy and strength. It is the lesbian in us who drives us to feel imaginatively, render in language, grasp, the full connection between woman and woman. It is the lesbian in us who is creative. For the dutiful daughter of the fathers is only a hack".(Showalter7)

Black and lesbian criticism approach is chosen to approach the analysis since this discusses a novel written by black woman novelist. Besides, there is relationship between the main character and her girl friend that can be identified as a lesbian relationship. As Cook defined being lesbian is a woman who loves woman, who chooses women to nurture and supports and to create a living environment in which to work creatively and independently. Whether or not her relations with these women are sexual. (Ferguson 5)

G. Method of the Study

1. Technique of Data Collecting

The first step to do in this research, the writer needs a library research the information used to support the analysis, since she uses and applies the library research. It is applied by gaining and collecting the important information from printed materials such as books and dictionaries. Moreover, she needs an internet sources related to the author and the novel *The Color Purple*. The other sources are

also gained from books dealing with the literary theory and approach in the analysis of the novel.

After collecting data, the next thing to do is close reading. The last, third step is doing data classification. After making the classification, the writer determines the data that can be used in the analysis, the data that has supported to the main character in the frame of the problems.

2. Technique of Data Analysis

In this technique of data analysis the writer uses descriptive analysis, which gives descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through the dialogues, events, and actions in the story. In supporting the explanation, the writer also needs to use textual analysis. It is how Roman Ingarden says in the *Literary Work of Art*, for the literary work as aesthetic object to be brought into existence it must be 'concretised' by the reader since the work will inevitably be schematic or indeterminate in many respect. (Newton 74) Thus, in that way, the character in the novel can be described fully.

H. Definition of Key Terms

struggle (n) : Celie's great effort to fight against violence and sexual abuse by her stepfather and her husband until she found a great ideal of her life that is to be free and independent.

**violence (n) : intense physical force that causes Celie injury, either
psychologically or mentally**

**sexual abuse (v): a sexual mistreatment by her stepfather against Celie when she was
a child.**

**lesbian (n) : Celie's sexual deviance to her female partner since she accepts many
bad treatments from her male counterparts**

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK