

DISCRIMINATION OF GENDER AGAINST WOMEN IN THE NOVEL KIM JI-YOUNG, BORN 1982 BY CHO NAM-JOO

Nada Firdaus¹, Yulistiyanti²

Faculty of Law and Language, Stikubank University

E-mail: nadafirdaus10@gmail.com¹, yulistiyanti@edu.unisbank.ac.id²

Abstract

Sex-based discrimination includes gender discrimination. The fundamental cause of gender discrimination against women is that patriarchal ideology shapes society's attitudes and behaviors. This study examines how women are treated differently because of their gender in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*. This study aims to find out the types and impacts of gender discrimination against women in the novel. This study is categorized as qualitative research and uses a feminism approach. The feminism theory presented in Simone de Beauvoir's book *The Second Sex* (1949) is used by the researcher to analyze the novel. The researcher discovered two types of gender discrimination in *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*; gender discrimination in domestic spaces and gender discrimination in public spaces. The five different forms of gender discrimination in domestic spaces are; (1) the expectation that women should have male offspring, (2) the favoritism toward sons over daughters, (3) the idea that sons are the ones who ensure the success of the family, (4) woman as a reproducer, and (5) woman as a housewife. The novel also shows three forms of gender discrimination in public spaces; (1) discrimination toward women in school, (2) discrimination toward women in the workplace, and (3) sexual harassment of women. Furthermore, the main character, Kim Ji-Young, experiences gender discrimination against women, and the impacts of the gender discrimination on Kim Ji-Young are feeling inferior and experiencing mental changes.

Keywords: *gender discrimination, feminism, patriarchy ideology, novel*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures requiring interpersonal interaction, whether between an individual, an individual, a group, or a group with a group. Simple encounters like passing smiles, greetings and shared experiences are necessary for human life (Fiske, 2014). However, some aspects of interaction might lead to unintended consequences, such as differences that can lead to interpersonal conflict. In society, there are many differences between person to person, even community to community. Color, race, ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, language, and other factors all differ from one another. Some individuals or societies discriminate against those who are different from them due to those differences. Gender discrimination is one example of discrimination. The fundamental cause of gender discrimination against women is the continued influence of patriarchal ideology on society's attitudes and behaviors. A societal structure or ideology known as patriarchy normalizes the idea that men should have more privilege and power in society than women (Pyke, 1996). People with patriarchal beliefs frequently restrict the movement of women. Women are continually subordinate to males in society because many people think that men are more

dominant than women. As a result, women are unable to expand their space. Here the researcher discusses discrimination against gender in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*.

According to the explanation above, the problem statements of this study are; (1) the types of gender discrimination toward women are reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, and (2) the impacts of gender discrimination toward women on the main character are reflected in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Feminism is the idea or opinion that women should be treated equally and have the same rights, authority, and opportunities as men (Cambridge English Dictionary). Fundamentally, feminism is concerned with questions of power in dominance/subordination relationships and terms of one's capacity, opportunity, and ability to control their conditions. Feminism fights against dominance-based male supremacy relations. According to the idea of male dominance, men represent the human norm at the expense of women's position as human beings. A new society for women, one in which they are considered entirely human, is what feminism aspires to (Thompson, 1994).

In her book *The Second Sex* (1949), Beauvoir argues that males are regarded as necessary subjects, which entails independent, morally responsible individuals. Women are described as dependent beings, implying that they are dependent creatures influenced and controlled by their environment. Men have the power to influence the world, transform it, and give it purpose, whereas women matter in relation to men. Because of this, women are defined not by how they vary from men but rather by how inadequate they are compared to them. As a result, the words "woman" and "other" have similar definitions (Beauvoir, 1949; Tyson, 2006).

By placing such a high value on their husbands' and sons' accomplishments, women, according to Beauvoir, are striving to escape their freedom to realize their potential in the world, a freedom that they frequently avoid out of fear. Beauvoir believed that women should not accept the patriarchal pressure placed on them to invest the value of their life in their husbands and sons. It demands personal accountability but does not assure success or well-being (Beauvoir, 1949; Nugroho & Mahadewi, 2019).

METHOD

The researcher used the qualitative method to collect and analyze the data for this study. No numbers are needed to gather and analyze the data because the researcher would evaluate the data qualitatively. To conduct the research, the researcher will need to follow specific steps. The researcher begins by reading the book "Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982." The second involves categorizing and analyzing the text of the novel in relation to the statements of the problem. The data is then analyzed by the researcher using Beauvoir's feminism theory. After conducting the study, the researcher adds conclusion and suggestion to the findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study has two objectives: finding out the types and impacts of gender discrimination against women experienced by the female characters as it is portrayed in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*.

The Types of Gender Discrimination Toward Women are Reflected in the Novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*

There are two types of gender discrimination according to where the discrimination happens, which are gender discrimination against women in domestic and public spaces.

Gender Discrimination Against Women in Domestic Space

Discrimination against women in the family or the home is referred to as gender discrimination against women in domestic settings. The researcher discovered five forms of gender discrimination against women that the female characters in the novel experienced in their homes: (1) the expectation that women should have male offspring, (2) the favoritism toward sons over daughters, (3) the idea that sons are the one who ensure the success of the family, (4) woman as a reproducer, (5) woman as a housewife.

The Expectation that Women Should Have Male Offspring

The novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982* portrays women's responsibility to have male offspring. It makes the female characters in the novel feel like they are carrying a huge burden while pregnant. Before Oh Mi-Sook, Ji-Young's mother gave birth to a son, Ji-Young's grandmother frequently reminded her that every family should have at least one son, and she hoped that Oh Mi-Sook would be able to have a boy. Here is the quotation,

“You should have a son. You must have a son. You must have at least two sons.”

When Kim Eunyong was born, Oh Misook held the infant in her arms and wept. “I’m sorry, Mother,” she’d said, hanging her head.

Koh Boonsoon said warmly to her daughter-in-law, “It’s okay. The second will be a boy.”

When Kim Jiyong was born, Oh Misook held the infant in her arms and wept. “I’m sorry, little girl,” she’d said, hanging her head.

Koh Boonsoon repeated warmly to her daughter-in-law, “It’s okay. The third will be a boy.” (Cho, 2016, p. 10)

Ji-Young experienced that as well when she got pregnant. Her family still hopes the child will be a boy even though she and her husband do not care what gender the child will be. It is cited in the following quotation,

“The obstetrician with a belly slightly bigger than Jiyong’s smiled warmly and informed her to “buy pink baby clothes.” The couple didn’t have a preference, but they knew the family elders were expecting a boy, and a small sense of dread came over them to think of the stressful situations that might occur the moment the parents found out it was a girl. Jiyong’s mother said, “It’s okay, the next one will be a boy.” Daehyun’s mother said, “I don’t mind.” Jiyong very much minded what they’d said.” (Cho, 2016, p. 75)

The quotes above reflect how most parents prefer to have males over females. Pregnant women may experience anxiety due to the pressure to have male offspring.

According to Beauvoir, parents and grandparents may not always properly hide their preference for a male offspring over a female one. (Beauvoir, 1949).

The Favoritism toward Sons over Daughters

In the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, Ji-Young's childhood is described, including how she shares her home with her parents, grandmother, brother, and sister. When Kim Ji-Young was a young child, she enjoyed her brother's formula, but when her grandmother found out, she slapped and scolded Ji-Young. The grandmother of Ji-Young never allowed anyone to take anything that belonged to her grandson. Here is the quotation,

“Their grandmother wasn't scolding them just because they were too old for formula or because she was worried there wouldn't be enough formula for the baby. The combination of her tone, expression, angle of head tilt, position of shoulders, and her breathing sent them a message that was hard to summarize in one sentence, but, if Jiyoung tried anyway, it went something like this: *How dare you try to take something that belongs to my precious grandson!* Her grandson and his things were valuable and to be cherished; she wasn't going to let just anybody touch them, and Jiyoung ranked below this “anybody.” (Cho, 2016, p. 9)

When Ji-Young's grandmother says, “*How dare you try to take something that belongs to my precious grandson!*” it demonstrates how Ji-Young's grandmother is more loving and favors her brother above Ji-Young and her sister. While Ji-Young and her sister did not receive the same care as her brother, Ji-Young's brother was frequently given special treatment by their parents. It is cited in the following quotation,

“It was a given that fresh rice hot out of the cooker was served in the order of father, brother, and grandmother, and that perfect pieces of tofu, dumplings, and patties were the brother's while the girls ate the ones that fell apart. The brother had chopsticks, socks, long underwear, and school and lunch bags that matched, while the girls made do with whatever was available. If there were two umbrellas, the girls shared. If there were two blankets, the girls shared. If there were two treats, the girls shared.” (Cho, 2016, p. 9)

The quotes above illustrate how most parents prefer to have boys over girls. Parents typically show their sons more love and attention than their daughters because they prefer sons to daughters. According to Beauvoir, parents and grandparents may not always successfully hide their preference for a male offspring over a female offspring (Beauvoir, 1949).

Boys are typically excused from housework to assist their mothers, whereas girls are required to participate in housework (Beauvoir, 1949). In the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, it is demonstrated that Ji-Young and her sister always handle all the housework while her brother never helps. Here is the quotation,

“Yes, me. I do a lot of washing and cleaning around here. I put away laundry when it's dry, and Jiyoung helps out, too. There's only one person under this roof who never lifts a finger.”

Eunyoung glared at her brother, and the mother stroked his head.

“He’s still a baby.”

“No, he’s not! I’ve been taking care of Jiyoung’s bags, school supplies, and homework since I was ten. When we were his age, we mopped the floor, hung laundry, and made ramen and fried eggs for ourselves.”

“He’s the youngest.”

“You mean he’s the son!” (Cho, 2016, p. 29)

The fact that the daughters handled all the housework while the sons offered no help demonstrates how patriarchal ideology creates the idea that men are excluded from helping with home duties and that only women are in charge of them. In these sentences, Ji-Young’s mother says; “*He’s still a baby*” and “*He’s the youngest*” it might be interpreted as Ji-Young’s mother avoiding asking Ji-Young’s brother to help with housework even though he is mature enough to do so by claiming that Ji-Young’s brother was still a baby. When Ji-Young and her sister were the same age as their brother, they were responsible for caring for the housework.

The Idea that Sons Are the Ones Who Ensure the Success of the Family

The novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, demonstrates how society views the son as the family’s primary support. Since they only thank their boys and not their daughters, many parents send their sons for a better education than their daughters. Oh Mi-Sook had to quit school and work with her sister at a young age to support her brothers’ education. It shows in the quotations below,

“Oh Misook finished elementary school and helped out around the house and in the paddies. She moved to Seoul the year she turned fifteen. Her sister, two years older than her, was working at a textile factory on Cheonggyecheon.” (Cho, 2016, p. 14)

“The unbelievably meager wages from working day and night, popping caffeine pills, and turning jaundiced went toward sending male siblings to school. This was a time when people believed it was up to the sons to bring honor and prosperity to the family, and that the family’s wealth and happiness hinged upon male success. The daughters gladly supported the male siblings.” (Cho, 2016, p. 15)

In the book *The Second Sex*, Beauvoir said that because their parents continue to raise their daughters for marriage rather than supporting their independent development, the daughter is frequently less skilled and trained than her brother (Beauvoir, 1949). It can be interpreted as the parents hoping their son will look after them because they think their daughter will eventually get married and reside with her husband. Because they believe their sons are in charge and working to improve the family, they choose to support their sons’ education above their daughters.

Woman as a Reproducer

The patriarchal society’s belief that women are reproductive machines who must care for their uteruses is shown in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*. When Ji-Young experienced her first menstrual cramp and had her first period, period cramps could not be treated then, which disappointed the women who had them even if a cure for other

severe diseases had been found. Here is the following quotation, “You’re right. In a world where doctors can cure cancer and do heart transplants, there isn’t a single pill to treat menstrual cramps.” Her sister pointed at her own stomach. “The world wants our uterus to be drug-free. Like sacred grounds in a virgin forest.” (Cho, 2016, p. 30)

In the quotation above, Ji-Young’s sister says, “*The world wants our uterus to be drug-free. Like sacred grounds in a virgin forest.*” It implies that as their uterus is an essential tool for giving birth to children, women should take good care of it. Additionally, both Ji-Young’s and her husband’s family put pressure on her to have children after Ji-Young and Jeong Dae-Hyeon had already married. It is cited in the quotation below,

“As they made, ate, and cleared lunch, the topic of conversation among the family elders was whether Jiyoung had “good news,” why not, and what they were doing to get pregnant. Jiyoung said they weren’t planning on having children yet, but the elders were convinced, regardless of Jiyoung’s input, that she couldn’t get pregnant, and proceeded to investigate. They concluded the problem was her.” (Cho, 2016, p. 70-71)

From the quote above, it is clear that Ji-Young and Dae-Hyeon’s family accuse Ji-Young of not getting children. In Beauvoir’s book, *The Second Sex*, a woman is a reproducer, whereas a male is a producer (Beauvoir, 1949). It can be interpreted as a woman responsible for becoming pregnant. In a patriarchal society, the woman is typically blamed or even branded sterile when a married couple cannot conceive children.

Woman as a Housewife

The novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, demonstrates how patriarchal society forces women to get married. Here is the quotation that shows that women should get married, “Jiyoung’s lack of response to his lecture prompted the father to say, “You just stay out of trouble and get married.” (Cho, 2016, p. 54)

Before Ji-Young and her father argue before her graduation day, Ji-Young’s father says, “*You just stay out of trouble and get married.*” It reflects his viewpoint that Ji-Young should be able to care for herself and get married. As if getting married is the only happy thing that can happen to women. Moreover, in the book *The Second Sex*, Beauvoir said society typically assigns women the role of becoming married. Women must plan their marriages or suffer the consequences of not doing so. Marriage is the norm for women, regardless of how upset, disgusted, or indifferent a woman may be about it. (Beauvoir, 1949).

When Ji-Young and Dae-Hyeon are planning to have a child, Ji-Young believes that the sacrifices she will have to make will not be worth what Dae-Hyeon sacrifices after having a child. Here is the quotation,

“Still, think about what you’ll be gaining, not just what you’ll be giving up. Think how meaningful and moving it is to be a parent. And if we really can’t find someone to look after the child, worst-case scenario, don’t worry

about quitting your job. I'll take care of us. I won't ask you to go out and make money."

"And what will you be giving up, Oppa?"

"What?"

"You said don't just think about what I'll be giving up. I'm putting my youth, health, job, colleagues, social networks, career plans, and future on the line. No wonder all I can think about are the things I'm giving up. But what about you? What do you lose by gaining a child?"

"Me? Well ... I ... Things won't be the same for me, either. I won't get to see my friends as often because I'll have to come home early. I'll feel bad about attending business dinners or working late. It'll be tough to come home and help out with chores after working all day. And besides, you know, I'll have you and our child. Financial support! As the head of the household. Financial support! That's a huge responsibility." (Cho, 2016, p. 72-73)

We can see that Ji-Young will sacrifice her youth, health, job, friends, social network, career, and future for her child after she gives birth to the child. Because he is the one who supports the family, Dae-Hyeon may continue to see his friends, go to work, and pursue his career.

Dae-Hyeon and Ji-Young discussed Ji-Young needing to quit working to care for their child because Dae-Hyeon's salary is higher than Ji-Young's, and Ji-Young can have the opportunity to start the new chapter by studying something after Ji-Young gave birth to her child. She also looks after their child at the same time. It shows in the quotation below,

"We'll get a sitter once in a while when our baby's bigger, and send her to daycare, too," he said.

"You can use that time to study and look for other work. Think of this as an opportunity to start a new chapter. I'll help you out."

Jiyoung knew that Daehyun was being sincerely supportive, but she still couldn't hold back her anger.

"Help out? What is it with you and 'helping out?' You're going to 'help out' with chores. 'Help out' with raising our baby. 'Help out' with finding me a new job. Isn't this your house, too? Your home? Your child? And if I work, don't you spend my pay, too? Why do you keep saying 'help out' like you're volunteering to pitch in on someone else's work?" (Cho, 2016, p. 76-77)

Ji-Young feels neglected and is angry with Dae-Hyeon since she is the one who has to leave work, take care of the kids, and maintain the house. In a patriarchal society, where males are the ones who work and provide for the family financially, women often leave their jobs to care for the home and children. It can be seen in Beauvoir's theory; that when a man and woman get married, the male is the one who works; he is a producer, and the work justifies his existence. On the other hand, the woman has a domestic duty in addition to being in charge of reproduction and caring for the home and children. He takes care of the family's requirements and serves as the head of the

household. Despite being in charge of the household, the mother emphasizes the father's wishes and uses his name when making demands, rewarding, and punishing (Beauvoir, 1949).

Gender Discrimination Against Women in Public Spaces

Women regularly experience discrimination not only in the home and family but also in public places like the workplace, school, and society.

Discrimination toward Women in School

Kim Ji-Young did not go to kindergarten. Therefore, her first social encounter was in elementary school. Male students at Ji-Young Elementary School usually take turns before female students, including during lunch. The female students complained and eventually gained confidence after having the first turn before the male students after continuing to feel inferior. It is cited in the quotation below,

“They developed a bit of a critical eye and confidence, but even then they didn't see why boys came first on the roster. Number one on the roster was a boy, everything began with the boys, and that felt like the right, natural thing. Boys lined up first, boys led every procession no matter where they were headed, boys gave their presentations first, and boys had their homework checked first while the girls quietly waited their turn, bored, sometimes relieved that they weren't going first, but never thinking this was a strange practice. Just as we never question why men's national registry numbers begin with a 1 and women's begin with a 2.” (Cho, 2016, p. 21)

Men are always given preference in the patriarchal society, with women coming in second. From the quotation above in the sentence, “*Number one on the roster was a boy, everything began with the boys, and that felt like the right, natural thing.*” It shows, Typically, men are the ones in charge; they are the absolute and the leader, whereas women are the subjects and the other. (Beauvoir, 1949). This quotation shows men as the leader: “Teachers were in the habit of saying that girls are smarter. Students also thought that girls were smarter, more mature, and better with detailed work, but they somehow always elected boys to be class monitors.” (Cho, 2016, p. 22)

The quotation demonstrates that male students are still picked to be class monitors despite the fact that female students are routinely commended for being more intelligent, devout, and organized than male students. Men innately take leadership positions while women do not have the same possibilities.

Ji-Young's middle school had strict regulations on uniforms, particularly for female students. Girls must wear dress shoes and are not permitted to wear sneakers, whereas boys can wear t-shirts and sneakers. One of the female students at Kim Ji-school Yeong's once complained to the teacher that it was unfair to permit it exclusively for the male student. Here is the quotation,

“Boys can't sit still for the ten minutes between classes. They run outside to play soccer, basketball, baseball, or even malttukbakgi. You can't expect

kids like that to button their shirts all the way to the top and wear dress shoes.”

“You think girls don’t play sports because they don’t want to? We can’t play because it’s uncomfortable to play wearing skirts, tights, and dress shoes! When I was in elementary school, I went outside every break to play red rover, hopscotch, and skip rope.” (Cho, 2016, p. 26)

Despite the strict uniform regulations that prevent female students from being active, the teacher believes that boys are more energetic than girls, as seen by the quotation above. Students of both sexes participate in the same activities and movements, however, only female students are restricted by dress codes. This is shown in Beauvoir’s theory that girls frequently suffer when allowed to engage in activities like climbing trees, ladders, and roofs provides evidence for this. Girls hate being limited by moral standards and having their clothes bothered by them (Beauvoir, 1949).

Discrimination toward Women in the Workplace

Ji-Young started preparing for the job search during her third year of college. However, Ji-Young starts to feel nervous and insecure about getting a job when she observes that more male than female alumni is present at her university job fairs. It can be seen in the quotation below,

“Why do you say that?”

“Because we didn’t go to SNU, Korea U or Yonsei.”

“What about the alums who come to the job fairs? People from our college do pretty well.”

“The alums are all guys. How many women have you seen at the job fairs?” (Cho, 2016, p. 48)

In Ji-Young’s departments in the college, there are also unofficial recruitment requests for companies, but only male students get recommendations and jobs, while female students rarely get them. It is cited in this quotation, “According to Hyejin, business management departments sometimes get unofficial recruitment requests either through the department office itself or individual professors, but only male students are recommended.” (Cho, 2016, p. 49)

A public relations agency eventually hired Ji-Young after being rejected by many companies. At work, Ji-Young faces a difficult situation. Despite constantly receiving praise for her amazing work, she is not chosen to join the planning team. Ji-Young and other female employees have high reputations and deliver fantastic work results for the company. It’s because her leader believes that having male staff is a benefit. Employees who are female can, however, leave for maternity or marriage. Ji-Young recently found out that her salary and the salaries of the male employees are not equal, which depresses her. It can be seen in the quotation below,

“The head of the company knew that the nature and intensity of the marketing agency job made it difficult to maintain a decent work–life balance, especially if childcare came into play, and therefore he did not think of female employees as prospective long-term colleagues. She also learned that the guys were paid better from the very start, but that information stirred very little in

Jiyoung, who'd filled the day's quota of shock and disappointment" (Cho, 2016, p. 65-66)

The above quotes show Beauvoir's theory that male employees are appreciated more highly than female employees. Male employees earn more money than female employees even if they perform the same job, and female employees' work is also less specialized than male employees (Beauvoir, 1949). In the patriarchal society, many companies view male employees as assets, in contrast to women, who are less likely to leave their jobs for personal reasons like marriage and childbirth. Men are frequently viewed as more trustworthy than women despite having equal skills.

Sexual Harassment of Women

When she started high school, Ji-Young enrolled in a cram school. Due to the distance between her home and the cram school, Ji-Young must take the bus. She was once trailed by a male student from the same cram school as her. In order to get help, Ji-Young, who was frightened, immediately called her father on the phone of a female passenger. The male student who follows Ji-Young after she exits the bus accuses her of flirting with him, but Ji-Young is confused because she feels as though she never does or even notices him. Luckily, the woman who had offered Ji-Young her phone immediately exited the bus, helped Ji-Young, and the male student left. It is cited in the quotation below,

"You always sit in front of me," he said under his breath.

"You always fucking smile when you pass me handouts. Always flirting with your hi's and goodbyes and now you treat me like a predator?"

She didn't know who sat behind her, what face she made as she passed handouts to the person behind her, what she said when she passed by someone blocking her way in a narrow hall. (Cho, 2016, p. 33)

Then, her father arrives to pick up Ji-Young. He scolded Ji-Young and accused her of being at fault, showing little care for what Ji-Young had just gone through. Here is the quotation, "Why is your cram school so far away? Why do you talk to strangers? Why is your skirt so short?" Jiyoung grew up being told to be cautious, to dress conservatively, to be "ladylike." That it's your job to avoid dangerous places, times of day and people. It's your fault for not noticing and not avoiding. (Cho, 2016, p. 33)

There was an incident where a hidden camera was discovered in the women's toilet at Ji-Young's workplace. On an adult website, the camera's pictures have been posted. When the female employees found this, they were horrified and called the police. The male workers who had been setting up cameras and submitting the pictures to the adult website were punished, but the female workers were thought to be being too harsh on the male workers. It is cited in the quotation below,

"The accused male employees blame us for being too harsh with them," she added.

"They say they neither set up those cameras nor took the pictures, they just saw some photos posted on a website everyone has access to, and we are treating them like sexual offenders. They distributed the pictures and were

complicit in the crimes, but they don't understand why that's wrong. It blows my mind." (Cho, 2016, p. 84)

We can conclude that men view women as sex objects from the quotations above. Men regularly sexually assault women while they remain silent. Women are frequently held responsible for men harassing them because of how they dress or act. According to Beauvoir's theory, a woman serves as a man's sexual partner, reproductive partner, the erotic object of desire, and "Other" through which he searches for himself. Since men are sexually subject and women are the only absolute object of want, men are often divided by their desire for an object other than themselves. Women are more susceptible to sexual harassment because of the perception that they are sexual objects (Beauvoir, 1949).

The Impacts of Gender Discrimination on the Main Character in the Novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*

The feelings of inferiority to express Kim Ji-Young's actual feelings are the first result of gender discrimination against the novel's main character. Due to the discrimination, she encounters every day, Kim Ji-Young feels inferior. Because of the effect of patriarchal ideology, she often keeps her opinions to herself and holds in her emotions because she feels uncomfortable expressing her actual feelings. It is shown in the quotation below,

"There were times when she had an inkling of a situation not being fair, but she was accustomed to rationalizing things by telling herself that she was being a generous older sibling and that she shared with her sister because they were both girls. Jiyoung's mother would praise the girls for taking good care of their brother and not competing for her love. Jiyoung thought it must be the big age gap. The more their mother praised, the more impossible it became for Jiyoung to complain." (Cho, 2016, p. 9)

Even though Ji-Young felt that the situation in which her brother received special attention while she and her sister did not was unfair, she maintained her position and believed it was because she and her sister were the oldest siblings. Ji-Young also experiences inferiority feelings at school. When male students always take the first turn and are after that, followed by female students, including during lunch, Ji-Young notices the inequity. However, Ji-Young cannot speak up because she is not used to expressing her feelings. The only thing Ji-Young can do to stop the unfair treatment is that she agrees with her friend, who speaks up to their teacher about how the female students were mistreated. Here is the quotation,

"Jiyoung felt the same way. What the teacher was doing was wrong. She couldn't pinpoint exactly what was wrong about it, but she knew that something was unjust and frustrating. But Jiyoung had a hard time voicing her complaints because she wasn't used to expressing her thoughts. She was just nodding at her friends' protestations when Yuna, who'd been quiet until then, spoke up: "It's unfair." (Cho, 2016, p. 20)

The second impact of gender discrimination on Kim Ji-Young is that she experiences mental changes. Particularly Ji-Young is pressured and goes through mental change due to the unfair discrimination given to the female characters in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*. Ji-Young's husband, Jeong Dae-Hyeon, is the first to see her acting pretend to someone else

without recognizing it. He initially believed that Ji-Young was joking with him, but Ji-Young's odd behaviors continued and worsened. It is cited below,

“Jiyoung returned to the table with her shoulders hunched and, as she sat down, said, “I knew there was a little nip in the air these past few mornings, and today's baengno! White morning dew on fields of gooold, on baengno when the nights grow coold.”

Daehyun laughed at his wife, who was talking like a much older woman.

“What's up with you? You sound like your mom.”

“Take a light jacket with you, Jung seoba-ahng. There's a chill in the mornings and evenings.” (Cho, 2016, p. 1)

On another day, Ji-Young suddenly acts like Cha Seung-Yoon, one of her friends in the hiking club, and she is also Jeong Da-Hyeon's friend. She said that Dae-Hyeon should treat Ji-Young well because Ji-Young is often having a tough day. It is shown in this quotation, “When Jiyoung had almost finished a can of beer, she tapped her husband on the shoulder and abruptly said, “Hey, Jiyoung is having a hard time. Raising a toddler is emotionally draining. You should tell her every chance you get: You're doing great! You're working so hard! I appreciate you!” (Cho, 2016, p. 3)

Ji-Young also frequently acts in behaviors she does not usually do, such as sending texts with a variety of cute emoticons she hardly ever employs and cooking meals she does not even particularly enjoy. Here is the quotation, “Her odd behavior continued sporadically. She'd send him a text message riddled with cute emoticons she never normally used, or make dishes like ox-bone soup or glass noodles that she neither enjoyed nor was good at.” (Cho, 2016, p. 4)

After that, Ji-Young and Dae-Hyeon went to Dae-Hyeon's parent's house to celebrate Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) with their daughter. Ji-Young had to assist her mother-in-law in dish preparation in the early morning hours because visitors were visiting her in-law's house, and the family had to eat. Because Ji-Young must be finding it difficult to assist her mother-in-law in making all the dishes, Dae-Hyeon's sister advises that her mother should avoid cooking frequently and that it would be preferable to buy it. However, Ji-Young's mother-in-law denies it and asks whether she is worn out. Ji-Young's odd conduct first surfaces before she responds to the question. It is cited in the quotation below,

“At this, Jiyoung's expression softened, her cheeks flushed into a gentle pink, and a warm smile emerged in her eyes. Daehyun was nervous. Jiyoung responded before he could change the subject or get her out of there.

“Oh, Mrs. Jung. To tell you the truth, my poor Jiyoung gets sick from exhaustion every holiday!” (Cho, 2016, p. 6)

Ji-Young's father-in-law expressed anger at the statement and stated that they could only come together with their family and kids during holidays. Then Ji-Young responds, still acting like her mother, by saying that she also wishes to spend the holidays with her family and her kids. Here is the quotation,

“Mr. Jung, with all due respect, I must say my piece,” Jiyoung said in a cool tone, pushing Daehyun aside.

“As you know, the holidays are a time for families to gather. But they're not just for your family. They're for my family, too. Everyone's so busy nowadays and it's hard

for my children to get together, too, if not for the holidays. You should at least let our daughter come home when your daughter comes to visit you.” (Cho, 2016, p. 6)

Those quotations above show some strange behaviors by Ji-Young, she is acting as her mother, acting as her friends, and doing things she is not used to doing. When Ji-Young says, “*Hey, Jiyoung is having a hard time. Raising a toddler is emotionally draining. You should tell her every chance you get: You’re doing great! You’re working so hard! I appreciate you!*” It can be seen that while she acts like another person, she is telling her husband that she needs to be appreciated and treated well because she is stressed while acting like Cha Seung-Yoon, a friend of hers and Dae-Hyeon.

Moreover, Ji-Young replies to her mother-in-law’s question about whether she is too exhausted to make the dishes while acting like her mother and unconscious. She says, “*Oh, Mrs. Jung. To tell you the truth, my poor Jiyoung gets sick from exhaustion every holiday!*”. She can only respond to the question while acting just like her mother and not realizing it. Ji-Young responded to her father-in-law’s question as well, acting as though she were her mother., “*As you know, the holidays are a time for families to gather. But they’re not just for your family. They’re for my family, too. Everyone’s so busy nowadays and it’s hard for my children to get together, too, if not for the holidays. You should at least let our daughter come home when your daughter comes to visit you.*”.

Ji-Young’s strange behavior results from the patriarchal ideology supported by the misogynistic society she lives in, which makes her hide her opinions. She struggles to express herself because of the pressure and gender discrimination she has to deal with on a daily basis. She thinks that even if she communicates her thoughts, nothing will change. In a patriarchal society, few women feel empowered to speak up, and even fewer housewives can approach their husbands for support when they feel exhausted from caring for the family and the home. To express her true beliefs and thoughts, Ji-Young often acts like someone else without recognizing it.

CONCLUSION

There are two types of gender discrimination toward women that the researcher found in the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, which are gender discrimination against women in domestic and public spaces. The researcher found five different forms of gender discrimination against women in the domestic space portrayed in the novel: (1) the expectation that women should have male offspring, (2) the favoritism toward sons over daughters, (3) the idea that sons are the one who ensure the success of the family, (4) woman as a reproducer, (5) woman as a housewife. Women also regularly experience discrimination in the home, family, and public places like the workplace, school, and society. The researcher found three forms of gender discrimination against women in public areas reflected in the novel: (1) discrimination toward women in school, (2) discrimination toward women in the workplace and (3) sexual harassment of women.

The misogynistic society in which the female characters in the novel, *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, live supports patriarchal ideology and is the source of gender discrimination against women in that society. The novel’s female characters experience oppression due to male

superiority because society has adopted the patriarchal ideology. They are frequently viewed as weaker than men, sexual objects, and reproducers.

The novel's main character, Kim Ji-Young, endures inferiority feelings and mental changes due to the patriarchal ideology's influence, which leads to gender discrimination against women. She shows odd behaviour, such as behaving like her mother or her friends or doing things that are out of type for her without even realizing that she is doing them. Due to the pressure and gender discrimination she has experienced daily, she shows mental changes and feelings of inferiority because she lacks the power to express her true voice and views. Because Ji-Young wants to share her true opinions and thoughts, this causes her to transform into someone else without realizing it.

REFERENCES

- Beauvoir, S. de. (1949). *The Second Sex*. In *Vintage Books*. Vintage Books.
- Cho, N.-J. (2016). *Kim Ji-young: Born 1982 (2019)*. Minumsa.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11052808/>
- FEMINISM* | meaning in the *Cambridge English Dictionary*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 30, 2022, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/feminism>
- Fiske, S. T. (2014). Social Beings: Core Motives in Social Psychology. In *Being Sure of Each Other* (3rd ed.). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198714064.003.0002>
- Nugroho, N. P. L. M. P. W. B., & Mahadewi, N. M. A. S. (2019). Feminisme Eksistensial Simone de Beauvoir: Perjuangan Perempuan di Ranah Domestik. *Jurnal Ilmiah Sosiologi (SOROT)*, 1(2), 1–13. <https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/sorot/article/view/51955>
- Pyke, K. D. (1996). Class-based masculinities: The interdependence of gender, class, and interpersonal power. *Gender and Society*, 10(5), 527–549.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/089124396010005003>
- Thompson, D. (1994). Defining Feminism. *Australian Feminist Studies*, 9(20), 171–192.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08164649.1994.9994750>
- Tyson, L. (2006). *Critical Theory Today A User-Friendly Guide* (2nd ed.). Routledge.