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## A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE OF THE WOMAN STRUGGLE IN A NOVEL THE COLOR PURPLE

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**Abstract-** *This study aims to look at injustice, violence, and discrimination from men towards women and their environment with a review of multicultural feminism, and to identify what resistance and struggles conducted by the main characters to defend their rights. This study used descriptive qualitative research. The data of this study was utterances from the characters. The result showed that there are four problems faced by the women in the novel they are; in martial status where the wife must be good wife when they obey what the husband's rule. Race issues to be the second problem, educations environment, and child status in the family. Then, the womens struggles in this novel are doing what she likes to show she can doing something without her her husband and arise from the oppressed to get freedom, and she get a job even though she always discriminated by white people. The understanding of multicultural feminism which emphasizes multicultural aspects, really upholds diversity. There should be no more violence against women, acts of injustice, and discrimination in any form. Everyone should be treated equally and should receive the same respect. And women also have the right to be free and get the rights they deserve as a woman.*

**Keywords:** *female; multicultural feminism; violence and injustice; discrimination, novel*

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### INTRODUCTION

Literary works are not just reading but also a medium for researchers to convey their ideas to readers. This can reflect the researcher views on various trends occurring in his environment. Fictional literary works, which can be constructed as novels, dramas, or poetry, can adapt human life in reality or create illusory events. In a novel, it can also be said that the story contained in it can reflect a human lifetime that can happen at any time. Most novels describe social realities that occur in real life, and any social reality can be

described. Social realities can vary, including social class issues which classify people based on their social status, characteristics and economic standard of living. Social reality can also include the issue of women's rights which tells the story of women fighting for their rights against injustice in social status, including gender discrimination. In this issue of gender segregation, women are placed below men, making them submissive, helpless and taken for granted, while men are the ones who dominate and have power. Due to gender differences, it ultimately creates inequality which is detrimental to one party, namely women. Because society views women as emotional or irrational, this causes women to be unable to appear as leaders, thereby placing women in an inferior or lower position than others. But apart from that, it is also said that women themselves have their own uniqueness and attractiveness.

Related to this, this research focuses on studying the novel written by Alice Walker in 1982 with the title "The Color Purple". The genre discusses a lot of gender issues between men and women. Related issues include problems in the social, cultural, economic and other spheres. "The Color Purple" talks about a young woman named Celie who is struggling for her own survival throughout the gender issues in the novel. In the novel, female characters are dominated by male characters and are looked down upon and racially discriminated against against black people in the United States. However, Celie and other female characters in this novel are still assumed to make various efforts to resist the oppression depicted in the story.

However, the researchers need do more research about problems Celie and other women face and what kind of resistance the main female character in the novel *The Color Purple* faces. The researcher wants to see how these female characters utilize their capacities to survive in a male- dominated environment in society and to face the oppression of women. The same study was also carried out by several previous researchers which described women's resistance to the established patriarchal cultural construction. Similar conditions also often occur in the surrounding community where the role of women is in dealing with social life and various violence experienced both from the family environment and from other people.

There are also other researchers who discuss multicultural feminism, Mustika (2016) "Discrimination Against Some Women in the Perspective of Multicultural Feminism: Study of *Scappa Per Amore* Novels by Dini Fitria. In her research, Mustika

aims to look at discrimination against several women in the novel with an overview of multicultural feminism. Through this research it was also found that discrimination is not only a problem for women, but is also influenced by factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion and child status. In this study, the researcher looks at the same problem from the perspective of multicultural feminist theory in the form of problems regarding proper rights as women in the social realm. The researchers used the novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker as research material. In this novel there are several important parts that can be studied because the problems discussed in it are universal human problems and are a reflection of society's attitudes, views, and ideals. Regarding women's problems in the novel *The Color Purple*, researchers cover the problems of women who want to gain freedom and equal status and live side by side without violence from men. This is characterized by the efforts made by women to achieve these desires, including by equipping themselves with education, work, courage, and a good personality. Based on previous considerations, the researchers were interested in analyzing the problems of the multicultural feminist perspective contained in the novel *The Color Purple*.

Feminism is a movement to fight for equality, positions, and dignity of women with men and also the freedom to control themselves both outside and inside the home. According to experts in *Understanding Feminism*, (Bowden & Mummery, 2014) say that most liberal women's activists agree that material persecution of women depends on examining the relationship between the general public and secret circles. Not only that Bowden & Mummery (2014) also said that the 'activist hypothesis of feminist theory' has been utilized regarding the assumptions that resolve various forms of female activist feedback. One form of assessment that is closely related and also relevant to the current conversation is the way of thinking of women activists, where the point of view, disposition, or direction of women activists is applied to various forms of philosophical feedback. Based on the development of feminist identity and its influence on women's lives, it has attracted the interest of feminist scholars over the past few decades. Feminist identity development itself is taken from Downing and Roush's (1985) five-stage model of feminist identity development, aimed at women, which describes the process by which women learn about feminist values and incorporate them into their lives. Fakhri (1997) explained that one of the causes of the birth of feminism was the injustice caused by gender

differences. Gender injustice is manifested in various forms of injustice, namely marginalization or the process of economic impoverishment, subordination or the assumption that it is not important in political decisions, the formation of stereotypes or through negative labeling, violence, longer and more workloads, and the socialization of the ideology of gender role values.

In *Feminist Thought*, Tong (2010) stated that feminism is not a single thought, but rather has various variations whose emergence and development often mutually support, correct, and refute previous feminist thought. Tong (1998) suggests that there are some types of feminist thought, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist Feminism, socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, gender feminism, existentialist feminism, postmodern feminism, multicultural feminism, global feminism, and ecofeminism. The following is a brief explanation of several streams or types of Feminism according to Tong (1998) in *Feminist Thought*:

#### 1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism focuses on women's ability to show and maintain their equality through their actions and choices. According to Tong (2009, p.20) Liberal feminist believe that personal 'rights' must dominate attention to social goods such as reproductive and abortion rights, sexual harassment, voting, education, wage equality, affordable child care, affordable health care, and reduction of sexual and domestic violence towards women. Liberal feminism defines women by not seeing structures and systems as the main problem. The basic thinking of liberal feminism is based on rationality and separation between the private and public worlds.

#### 2. Radical Feminism

Radical feminist focus on gender, and reproduction in their movements. They argue that women will not achieve the same position as men if the system of male domination and reproduction is not changed. According to Tong (2009, p.75) as revealed by Firestone in *Feminist Thought*, no matter how much educational, legal and political equality women achieve and no matter how many women enter the public industry, Firestone insists that nothing fundamental will change for women as long as natural reproduction is still sticking to habits and artificial reproduction or be helped by exceptions.

### 3. Marxist Feminism

For many countries, women were considered the property of men and a key cog in the capitalist machine from a commodities perspective. According to Ghorfati and Medini (2015, p.9) Marxist feminism argues that the path to gender equality is led by the destruction of our capitalist society. Marxist feminism purports that women can only achieve true freedom when working to end both economic and cultural oppression, in the view of Marxist feminism, even in the family, the private property system is reflected, namely the ownership of the husband over his family.

### 4. Socialist Feminism

According to Mandell (1995), socialist feminism becomes to struggle the women's rights and begins the women's movement that focuses on economic determinism as the primary source of inequality. Socialist feminism gives freedom to females in both the public and domestic spheres can only be researched by working to end women's inequality both the economic and social. Socialist feminism analyzes 'class', political, economic and gender structures.

### 5. Psychoanalytic Feminism

Psychoanalytic feminism originates from Freud's theory of sexuality. However, it maintains that gender is not biological but is centered on the psycho-sexual development of the individual (2000). Freud explained that children experience distinct stages of psychosexual development. In contrast to liberal, radical, marxist, and socialist feminists, psychoanalytic feminism believes that the fundamental explanation for the way women act is rooted in the female psyche, especially in the way women think.

### 6. Feminism Gender

Gender inequality is rooted in childhood experiences, men consider themselves masculine, and women consider themselves feminine, beside that, society's perspective assumes that masculine is better than feminine. Gender can also be used as an analytical concept that can be used to explain something (Nassarudin, 1999, p. 4).

#### 7. Existentialist Feminism

Existentialist Feminism adopts the ontological language and ethical language of existentialism. Beauvoir in Tong (1998:262) suggests that men are called "men" themselves, while "women" are others. If others are a threat to the self, then women are a threat to men. If a man wants to be free, he must subordinate women to himself. It's the same as white people oppressing black people and rich people oppressing white people.

#### 8. Feminism Postmodern

Postmodern feminism tries to avoid every action that would restore phallogocentric thinking, every idea that refers to the word (logos) which has a "male" style (and therefore refers to money). This understanding looks suspiciously at every feminist thought that tries to provide a certain explanation, which women must take to achieve freedom. Postmodern feminism invites every woman who reflects in her writing to become a feminist in the way she wants. Postmodern feminism focuses on the "otherness" of women.

#### 9. Multicultural Feminism

Multicultural feminist thinking is related to multicultural thinking, namely an ideology that supports diversity. In general, multicultural is defined as an intellectual social movement that promotes the values of diversity as the most basic principle, multiculturalism demands that all cultural groups must be treated with respect and as equal people (Tong, 2010: 310, 312).

#### 10. Global Feminism

Global feminism focuses on the oppressive outcomes of policies and practices colonial and nationalist; how Big government and Big Business divide the world into what is called the First World (realm of the Owner) and what is called the third world (realm of the Unowned). Global feminism determined to broaden the scope of feminist thought and committed towards the task of clearing up misunderstandings and building alliances between first world and third world women.

## 11. Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism seeks to show the relationship between all forms of human oppression, but also focuses on human efforts to dominate the nonhuman world, or nature. Because women are cultural associated with nature, ecofeminists argue that there is a conceptual relationship, symbolic, and linguistic between feminist and ecological issues. According to Warren in Tong (1998, p.360), the patriarchal mode of thinking is hierarchical, dualistic, and oppressive have damaged women and nature. Women have been “naturalized” and nature has been “feminized”, then it is very difficult to know when one oppression ends and another begins.

Multicultural feminist thought is related to multicultural thought, which is an ideology that supports diversity. In general, multiculturalism is defined as an intellectual social movement that promotes the values of diversity as a basic principle, multiculturalism demands that all cultural groups should be treated with respect and as equals (Tong, 2010, pp. 310-312). Multiculturalism itself gives rise to various types of new thoughts. The basis of this theory is the issue of diversity. Multicultural feminism questions the idea that women's oppression is "one definition", meaning that it is only seen that oppression of women occurs in a patriarchal society. In fact, according to multicultural feminism, women's oppression is related to race, class, sexual preference, age, religion, education, job opportunities, and so on. Differences in race, class, age, religion, and job opportunities among women can be the main triggers for prolonged conflict. Oppression of women according to multicultural feminism must ultimately be seen as a whole in the sense of the existence of a "system of interconnections" between one element and another, this is because the oppression of women will be related to the role of racism, sexism, classism, and ethnicity.

Woman Struggle the process of releasing women from low social positions and the existence of restraints by social systems that limit their possibilities for development. Wallstonecraft (2004) in her book *A Vindication of the rights of Women* believe that women should be given the equal rights and status as they are not only a commodity, that is to be traded in the marriage instead a significant part of the society. Women's struggle is carried out as a form of emancipation, where the emancipation as a process contains ongoing criticism of existing injustices because

social claims develop in response to changes in social conditions.

## **METHODS**

### ***Research design***

Research design is the strategy to describe the different components of the research. According to Creswell (2009, p.3), research design is plans and the procedures for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. The function of the research question in a valid, objective and accurate manner. In this study, the researchers used qualitative method because this research focused on the analysis or interpretation of written material in context to analyze the problems and the struggle in the novel “ The Color Purple”. According to Payne (2007) qualitative research methods draw on a scope of epistemologies (hypotheses of information) which has suggestions for how information is gathered and from whom, how information is respected during an investigation, and what cases are made for the discoveries and even the way that the various techniques taught to be assessed. In this research, the researchers used a design of descriptive method which is a method of research that attempts to described and interpret the objects by reality. The descriptive method has implemented because the data analysis is presented descriptively.

### ***Data Collection***

The source of data for this research is the novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker. This novel has 294 pages. In this research, the researcher analyzed the novel from the sentences in the form of act, conversation, and point of view of the main character and others. The secondary data was taken from websites, journals, articles, the books of literature and other sources that relate to this research. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009) in collect data, qualitative studies use ethnography (saw the meaning from the the perspective of culture studied), phenomenology (focuses on how people experience a particular phenomenon, that is sine qua non of an experience), case study (a description and interpretations of the case from site and documents), textual analysis (the researcher is the interpreter of selected textor texts) and applied research (individual, group, or organization). So this research used textual analysis where the data was text or conversation and the researcher was an



interpreter (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009). In collecting data, the researcher did some procedures as follows the first step, the researcher focused on the novel “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker. Second, reading the novel several time to understand the story clearly. Third, searching more data about the novel in “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker and the theory from the journal and online. Then, select the data that was dealing with the purpose of the research.

### **Data analysis**

In analyzing data, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the problems and the women’s struggle. Vandersteop and Johnston (2009) state that qualitative research has a purpose of descriptive. Since people’s interpretation is the main element of qualitative research, its products are in the form of description. The first step is observing and understanding the novel of “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker. After observing the researchers identifying and underlying the sentences that reflected the problems and the struggle of Novel “The Color Purple” with finding out the sentences that illustrated the needs that want to fulfil by “The Color Purple”. The sentences will take from the dialogue and description illustrated in the novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker. Then the researcher Classifying the problems and the struggle based on theory about multicultural feminism in the novel “The Color Purple”. The next step is analyzing the celie’s problems and the struggle refelcts the multicultural feminism in “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker considering the utterances. Then, the last step is concluding the result of the discussion.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Findings***

#### **The Problems Faced By the Women In The Novel “The Color Purple Material Status**

##### **Marital Status**

Where also in marital status women cannot be above men, women must obey what their husband says. In this case, it has also become a tradition or habit where the wife (woman) must be obedient and obedient to what her husband wants.

*“Mr. marry me to take care of his children. I marry him cause my daddy made me. I don’t love Mr. and he don’t love me”. (Walker, p.68)*

Based on the statement above, Mr. Albert does not want Celie to be his wife, what Mr. Albert wants is his sister Nettie. Celie was forced to marry Mr Albert. Celie thinks there is no love in her and Mr. Albert's marriage. Celie married Mr. Albert because her father told her to and Mr. Albert married Celie only to look after his children. Even after getting married, Celie suffers because what she does is not just taking care of her children. In this statement, Celie actually wants a marriage according to her wishes and with the person she loves, but because of her father, Celie has to follow everything and obey her father and husband. In her marriage, Celie is always under pressure from her husband, where as a wife she must be able to serve her husband well without Celie's resistance or rejection. It is very unfortunate that this violence and injustice happens to a wife who should have freedom, but this does not happen to Celie. The habit that women cannot be taller than men is what causes a lot of violence to occur in the household.

Next, the researchers found related to about race issue. Because ethnic and cultural diversity gives rise to discrimination and injustice against black people. In the understanding of multicultural feminism itself, injustice or violence against women is not only because she is a woman, but also occurs because of racial differences and other customs which make it a tradition or habit within each tribe. Because of these racial differences, many acts of violence occur, one of which is against women.

*“The mayor’s wife asks Sofia to be her maid when she says: to Sofia, all your children so clean, she say, would you like to work for me, be my maid?” (Walker, p.92)*

Miss Millie's request seemed more of an order than a request. She assumes she's helping Sofia because in all white people's opinion, it's an honor for a black woman to be a white woman's maid. Sofia on the other hand considers it a shortcoming in her honor. So the request itself is an indication of racism. Racism against black women. In this case, white people can also be said to look down on black people because they think that black people should not be above them and can be used as servants or errand boys who work with white people.

Further, education is indeed very important and needed by children, but unlike what Celie experienced in this novel, she never received an education, just because her

father said she was not fit to go to school, which would only make Celie even more stupid if she went to school.

*“the first time I got big pa took me out of school. He never cared that I loved it. You too dumb to keep going to school, pa say” (Walker, p. 11)*

As we know that education is important things for children but in this story the main character as a Celie never got a chance to go to school like her sister. She always stay at home and do all the housework. Her dad even said that celie was very stupid and unfair to go to school. From childhood to adulthood, Celie never received an education, she only learned from her younger sister who, when she came home from school, would bring books and kindly teach Celie to read and other things.

*“I want her to get some more schooling. Make a schoolteacher out of her. But I can let you have Celie. She the oldest anyway.” (Walker, p. 9)*

Eventhough Celie the oldest child but she also must get the education but her father never understand and hear what Celie wants for her life. Her dad always thinking about her sister Nettie to get the good things. So Celie always feels like she is unworthy and always feels stupid and not beautiful compared to her sister.

In a family, a child's status is not only to be used as a tool to do anything, but children also have rights and freedoms and the child's status in the family is to be protected

*“Just say you gonna do what your mummy wouldn't. First he put his things up gains my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grabb hold my titties. Then he push his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying you better shup up and git used to it.” (Walker, p.3)*

In the family system, the status of children is sometimes seen as something that can be used for anything. If seen in the understanding of multicultural feminism, Celie experiences injustice and violence in the family environment where the family should be a place of refuge, but not for Celie. In Celie's family, children are required to obey and are not free to choose whatever they want. In this sentence, it can be seen that children are considered to be the satisfaction of men's desires and a breeding ground, as happened

to Celie who became the satisfaction of her father's desires when her mother was sick and eventually died. Celie often experiences violence, both physical and non-physical, because of this, Celie's psychology becomes disturbed. Within her family, Celie couldn't refuse what her father treated her, only because at that time Celie was still underage and couldn't fight back and reject her father's treatment.

### **The Women Struggle in The Color Purple Novel by Alice Walker**

The violence that Celie experienced caused her to experience various kinds of suffering that were so deep that it had a psychological impact. Celie feels insecure about her qualities, she always feels ugly and stupid and doesn't deserve to be happy. However, Celie felt that she did not want to always be oppressed and treated lightly, therefore she carried out several resistances and struggles for her freedom.

*“At last I git to see Shug Avery work. I git to watch her. I git to hear he. Mr didn’t want me to come. Wives don’t go to places like that, he say. Yeah, but Celie going, say Shug, while I press her hair. Spose I git sick while I’m singing, she say. Spose my dress come undone? She wearing a skintight red dress look like the straps made out of two pieces of thread. Mr. \_\_\_mutter, putting on his clothes. My wife can’t do this. My wife can’t do that. No wives of mines...he go on and on. Shug Avery finally say, good thing I ain’t your damn wife. (Walker, p. 77)*

This sentence shows that there is a solution to the problems that Celie always has because of Mr. Albert. Where Shug will work where his job is singing and everyone will watch his performance. Mr. Albert does not allow Celie to be free or see anything she wants. Mr. Albert didn't want Celie to take part in the event because he thought a wife should not attend a busy event like the one she was going to at that time. However, Shug defends Celie and insists that Celie must come to his event. There was a slight debate between Mr. Albert and Shug regarding whether Celie would come or not. However, in the end Celie came along because Shung insisted on inviting Celie. For the first time in her life with Mr. Albert, she felt that someone cared about her. After a long time Celie fought to get her freedom, she finally got it thanks to Shug's help where she helped Celie to get justice, freedom and her rights as a woman. In that case Celie also proved to Mr. Albert that she could live without Mr. Albert and her life was much better and happier

without Mr. Albert.

Based on the findings on the previous pages, the research results show that the description of the main character can be done in words or shown in action, and through comments given by other characters. Especially regarding the human species, men and women have different characters. From a woman's perspective, it can be seen that men's and women's priorities are also different. Not just different genders or genders. In this world, every human being is created differently, this can be seen from race, religion, education, age, occupation, marital status, status of children in the family and so on. This is also what researchers found in this story, where the point is that every human being is created differently and must be able to respect and respect each other.

### ***Discussion***

Previous research using multicultural feminist theory includes: Mustika (2016) with the title research on "*Discrimination Against Some Women in Multicultural Feminism in the Novel Scappa Per Amore*", where in this research it was found that discrimination occurs not only because of women's problems but also because influenced by several factors. Influencing factors include age, religion, ethnicity and child status.

In this novel, researchers found that there are still many differences and problems where both parties still do not accept the differences that exist in each human being. Apart from that, this statement also shows that differences in character cause women to always be considered weak by men. Not only that, if they have to do something without coercion, their life experience will be very lacking. One of the problems that women often face is men who feel that women have the right to stay at home and take care of the household. However, the feminist perspective believes that women can also leave the house, such as traveling with family, friends, etc. However, this is not because women feel that the home is a natural environment for women, but because it is where they feel confined for a long period of time, this was stated by other researchers (Berges et al., 2009).

Basically, researchers describe forms of multicultural feminism where multicultural feminism argues that humans are not created equal but with various variations. In this case, there are several forms that researchers found in the form of differences or problems in the status of children in the family, educational status, marital

status, and racial differences. This is in line with various multicultural feminist thoughts, that women are not constructed equally. Depending on race, class, as well as sexual tendencies, age, religion, educational attainment, employment, marital status, and mental health conditions. Tong stated (2012. p. 309) There is also a gender gap that causes problems due to some of these factors .

“The Color Purple” has given readers gender inequality throughout the story which is presented to female characters, which only includes women who are always below men and cannot be higher than men. Examples in the novel can be found in the fields of education and marriage. In this novel, there are several women who did not receive a proper education, especially Celie, she never received an education and was always called stupid, so she always thought she was stupid and worthless. She was forbidden to go to school and forced to marry an old man who already had children. In marriage, the status of a wife is only limited to words because in the story the main character only acts as a servant who only takes care of the house, serves her husband, and also looks after her husband's children. The wife's role is not only to take care of housework, but the wife also has the right to do activities she likes and go out or work as she wishes.

In fact, inequality can also be seen from the position of children in the family, where children should be a gift that must be looked after and cared for well, but their meaning has changed to being a means of satisfying one's desires, especially for men, one's own father. In this case, the position of the child in the family becomes unimportant and the differences in the relationship between father and son can no longer be tolerated, because daughters in this novel are seen as very inferior and are only used to satisfy the father's desires and lusts. Breeding sites. The child's position should be protected by the family, especially the father as the head of the family, but in this novel the father is the source of the child's suffering and the child is not considered valuable. In this case, differences in the treatment of children within the family are considered unfair and there are also acts of discrimination and violence simply because children are always considered weak and must obey their parents.

Basically, there are many differences between every human being in this world, and none of them are the same as each other. In this case the author also found that there

were racial differences, both different races and the same race. Basically, multicultural feminism was born in America as a response from black feminists to white feminists. This is where black feminists view the world of women in a different way than white feminists understand it. Because they come from different races, different cultural backgrounds, and different histories. In this case, it also gives rise to a different understanding within the framework of Gafar's women's defense struggle (Utomo, 2012 p.144).

Likewise, in this novel the author finds that there are still racial differences and acts of discrimination between different races and the same race. There are two races in this story, namely black and white. Several examples of acts of discrimination against the black race are found in the main character in this story experiencing discrimination from the same race as him, he received unpleasant words such as you were born ugly, black and fat. People of the same race should help and support each other. This does not happen to the main character. Not only from the white race, but also from the black race, they also experience treatment, actions and injustice where black people are seen as inferior and do not deserve all the facilities as good as white people. In this story, it is women who experience the most violence, injustice and discrimination from men.

There are still many acts of violence and discrimination against Celie as a black person, where when she wants to go to town or to a shop where the owner is a white person, she is always treated unfriendly and looked down upon. In multicultural feminist understanding itself, it sees and upholds diversity, where there should be no discrimination and violence against people of different races. Therefore, Celie's shop wants to prove to white people and also to black people that she is worthy and worthy of being able to get her rights, to get freedom and a decent job and not be looked down upon any more.

The various problems faced by the main character in this novel, there are also actions or struggles and resistance that she carries out to gain her freedom and rights as a woman, it means that basically women have the right to do whatever they want and don't just have to be under men. Women's struggle to achieve gender equality and justice in their lives, women must be able to believe in themselves, and develop their abilities, be themselves, and have the freedom to self-actualize.

The female characters in this novel experience oppression or discrimination not only they are women but also influenced by factors such as race, education, marital status and the status of children in the family. Because he didn't get an education, he was always considered stupid and wouldn't be able to be successful, because he was ugly and black, no one would want to help him. However, this is in accordance with the theory that the author uses, namely multicultural feminism, where all women are not constructed equally. Rather, they are different and within these differences there must be mutual respect and respect and that every woman has the right to herself and to the differences she has. Women are not weak, but they are also strong and can get their rights if men do not commit violence. And basically men cannot live without women and vice versa, therefore unity and mutual respect for each other is very important and prioritized in multicultural feminist understanding. Because differences do exist and each person is created different from one another.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Even though the current era has given women a lot of freedom, the women in the novel "The Color Purple" are not completely free. At a young age, Celie, the main character in the novel, experienced discrimination and violence both physically and psychologically by her parents. Celie and some women are discriminated against because of differences in skin color, the majority of whom are white. There is a relationship between the status of children and the role of parents, women and education and work, and also women and certain races. In other words, several women in "The Color Purple" are discriminated against and treated unfairly not only because they are women, but also influenced by educational factors, the status of children in the family, marital status, and also race or ethnicity.

Multicultural feminist understanding emphasizes the multicultural aspect, which really upholds diversity, so that there should be no discrimination, violence or injustice against women of any status in the family, whether educated or not, of any ethnicity or race, and marital status. Everyone must be treated well and equally and must receive the same appreciation or respect. As in the principle of multicultural feminism which prioritizes aspects of diversity, philosophically it is an effort to criticize the majority



culture which suppresses minority cultural groups following the rules of the majority culture in order to be accepted in the public system. And with this, women must prove and defend their existence as women and declare that women are worthy of all their shortcomings and advantages. The researchers realized that there were limitations in this study. Therefore, it is hoped that the next researchers can explore this novel from the perspective of other types of feminism and other literary theories that relate to the contents of the novel.

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