

BEAUTY'S STRUGLES AGAINST GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY DEPICTED IN JACQUELINE WILSON'S *COOKIE*

By: Jehna Mayafani,
Yogyakarta State University
jehnamf@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aimed to (1) identify kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty in patriarchal society found in Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie*, (2) explain the struggles that Beauty does to fight against gender discrimination in patriarchal society in the novel, and (3) find out the impacts of struggles that Beauty does to gain independence in the novel. The researcher used qualitative descriptive content analysis. The data of the research were significant expressions related to kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty in patriarchal society, the struggles that Beauty does to fight against gender discrimination in patriarchal society, and the impacts of struggles that Beauty does to gain independence which are embedded in Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie*. The result of this research showed: *first*, there were three kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty: violence (physical and psychological), subordination (women's look are determined and women's ways of dressing up are determined) and stereotyping (women are stereotyped as inferior, submissive, timid, emotional, artsy, clumsy and domestic); *second*, there were five kinds of struggles that Beauty does: gaining consciousness (leaving the house, making decision and expressing her opinion), being bond in sisterhood (helping and encouraging her mother), optimizing the opportunity to be educated and working; and *third*, there were three impacts of struggles to gain independence which are boosting her self-esteem, improving her pride and strengthening her friendship..

Keywords: Beauty, struggle, gender discrimination, patriarchal society, *Cookie*

INTRODUCTION

Gender discrimination becomes one of the big issues in many histories of human societies. It occurs as the problems for all members of society consisting of men and women because they are treated differently. Most cases of gender discrimination place women as the victims because women are seen as inferior creatures. The discrimination towards women happens because of the culture or the perspective of the society that sees women as weak and dependent to man. Society differentiates women and men by giving different rights and roles to them. As a result,

women get unfair treatment and different rights in the society.

Gender discrimination occurs in many life aspects such as in economic, politic, education and social. It is presented in the form of slavery, religious intolerance, racism, economic disparity, societal reservation, and many other forms. These kinds of problems give detriment to women because the area where women can access is very limited. Men determine the house as the only place for women and the role for women is only to be wife and mother. It shows that gender discrimination limits women's rights and positions to be involved in the society.

The practice of discrimination toward women has existed since many centuries ago until today even though the forms may vary in different era and place. Therefore, it is very important to give understanding to women that they need to struggle if they want to free themselves from discrimination because only women that can end the discrimination. Women are the one who experience and understand the feeling of being oppressed by men. As stated by Morris (1993: 2) men can identify and criticize the form of gender discrimination, but they cannot experience them as women.

Gender discrimination toward women occurs in many different forms. Fakhri (2012: 12-13) categorizes form of gender discrimination into five kinds; marginalization, subordination, stereotype, violence and work load. All of them are interrelated and cause misery to women lives. Unfortunately, discrimination brings impact not only toward female adult but also female children. Both of them are the most potential objects of discrimination because they are seen as weak and dependant creatures that are easily oppressed by men. Therefore, the understanding about gender discrimination issue is very prominent for them. They need to understand their rights as human beings and to be treated equally in any aspects of lives. They also need to realize that women's struggle against gender discrimination is important to do if they want to survive from discrimination.

The society places female adults and female children in inferior position because they judge them for having inferior traits such as weak,

dependent, irrational, vulnerable and incapable of independent thinking. The society that unfairly judges them this way is called as patriarchal society. Patriarchal society exists because of male domination and false judgment toward women. Men have power and authority to oppress and exploit women. Men discriminate women to show their power because men believe that they are more valuable.

Patriarchal society exists because people believe in patriarchy system. According to Walby (1990: 20), patriarchy is a social structure where men dominate, oppress and exploit women. Therefore, patriarchy system is constructed in the social structure and unconsciously believed by both men and women as the part of the society. Men believe that they have the rights to oppress and exploit women since they are more superior to women.

Gender discrimination that happens in a patriarchal society triggers women to take real actions to fight against it. The way women fight against gender discrimination becomes the cause of the emergence of women's movement, which tries to erase the issues of gender discrimination. The movement is called as feminist movement. Feminist movement reacts based on the idea of feminism. Feminism has been constructed as an ideological category that "promotes gender equality and emancipation" (Gamble, 2001: 47). Feminism tries to help women to get equal treatment as well as provides support and power to trigger them to struggle. The struggles are the important thing to do to help women gain equality.

Gender discrimination and women's struggles are such heavy issues to be understood by children since they have less experienced and understanding than adults. Therefore, the best source offers to children to give understanding about gender discrimination and women's struggles is from children's literature. According to Lukens (1999: 10), "literature is more than a piece of writing that clarifies; it gives the child pleasure as well as understanding." Literature makes a heavy issue such as gender discrimination becomes more understandable. However, a good children's book that tells about gender discrimination and women's struggles should has a strong central female character. The portrayal of a strong female character becomes very important because it can inspire and give understanding to female children about the power that female children and female adults have to survive from gender discrimination and also it is suitable with one of the feminism agenda which is to depict the image of strong women character that has positive traits. Morris (1993: 7) emphasizes positive images of female experience and qualities can be used to raise women's self-esteem and lend authority to their political demands. In other words, the strong female character is needed to be presented in order to make female adults and female children become more confident and encourage them to take part in social activities.

One of the examples of children's books that depicts a strong female character is *Harry Potter* series through the character of Hermione Granger. In the novel, she is portrayed as a female heroine who helps and saves the hero to fight

against the villains. Hermione Granger has positive personal traits such as strong, smart, brave, responsible, reliable, and independent that are usually depicted in hero character. Therefore, children's literature not only provides pleasure, understanding, or experience to children but it can also empower children to believe their ability and capability that they can do something with their own power to fight against any discrimination.

Therefore, the researcher tries to explore further regarding to the topics of gender discrimination and women's struggles in children's literature. Thus, the researcher is interested in analyzing a novel entitled *Cookie* by Jacqueline Wilson. This novel is chosen based on several reasons. First, there are still gender discrimination issues faced by women and female children in every life aspect and social class. Second, female children understanding about gender discrimination issue is more challenging and difficult compared to female adults. Third, gender discrimination is very harmful for both female children and female adults because it can make them suffering in their life. From above explanation, it is necessary for the researcher to conduct the study to find and to analyze women's struggles against gender discrimination in patriarchal society depicted in Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie*.

This research has three aims that are (1) to identify kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty in patriarchal society found in Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie*, (2) to explain the struggles that Beauty does to fight against gender discrimination

in patriarchal society in the novel, and (3) to find out the impacts of struggles to gain independence in the novel.

This research is significant to give insight and knowledge in English literature study especially to give understanding and knowledge about gender issues, especially gender discrimination in children's literature including the causes, effects and struggles to fight against it for these following groups of people such as to the society, students, and future researchers in getting knowledge, providing references and guiding for further analysis in the relevant topics.

THE RESEARCH METHOD

To make a research becomes reliable and scientific, it is important to create a research design. Research design helps the researcher to accomplish the aims of the research. This research used qualitative research design instead of quantitative research design because this research does not deal with calculations and measurements.

The approach of qualitative and quantitative research are quite different, while quantitative research relies on statistic measurement on one variable to another variable, qualitative research focuses more on the interpretation of the research participants who are the researchers and other people who are involved in the research. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 167) state that the purpose of qualitative research is *descriptive*. People's interpretations about the problem become the main element in this research therefore, the data are in the form of descriptions.

To analyze the data, content analysis method was used by the researcher. According to Neuman (2007: 20), content analysis is a technique to study the information from 'written and symbolic materials'. It means that content analysis is a method to analyze the data in the form of text. Since the data in this research were presented in the form of text, content analysis was the best method used to collect and to analyze the data regarding female children's struggles against gender discrimination in patriarchal society.

The data source refers to Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie* which provides the researcher with the significant expressions in the forms of words, phrases, clauses and sentences related to (1) kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty, (2) the struggles that Beauty does against gender discrimination and (3) the impacts of Beauty's struggles to gain independence. *Cookie* was published by Penguin Random House in 2015. It is consisted of 358 pages with 18 chapters.

The primary instrument of this research is the researcher herself. As stated by Creswell (2007: 38) in qualitative research, the researchers collect the data themselves by "examining documents, observing behaviour, and interviewing participants." The researcher is the one who has to gather, collect and interpret the data. The secondary instrument is any supporting tools and devices that supported the data collection and the data analysis. These instruments used as the help for the researcher to identify and to analyze the data.

In this research there were two steps in collecting the data done by the researcher. The first step was the process of reading and rereading the data source to get deep understanding in analysing the data. The second step was related to the data sheets where the researcher was collecting, classifying and analyzing the data into the data sheets.

In a scientific research, data trustworthiness is important to make sure the data in the research are reliable and credible. Therefore, to gain the data trustworthiness, triangulation was used in this research. According to Lather (in Lincoln and Denzin, 2003: 141), triangulation is the method used to obtain trustworthiness from various data sources, methods and theoretical schemes. Triangulation is necessary to make sure that the research and the data are original and different compared to other researches.

In this research, the first and second advisors helped the researcher checking and examining the credibility and reliability of the data. In addition, there are two friends under the same study program who also helped the researcher in checking and rechecking the data. These friends were chosen because they were in the same concentration; literature and used children's literature analysis in their thesis.

There were some phases of data analysis done by the researcher. Those phases are listed in the following: (1) read and re-read line by line Wilson's *Cookie* novel to get comprehensive understanding about the issue; (2) identified the data by highlighting and note taking the important

words, clauses, phrases and sentences; (3) categorized the significant expression in the form of words, clauses, phrases and sentences based on the objectives of the research; (4) classified the significant expression of words, clauses, phrases and sentences which have related ideas; (5) sorted the data to get more relevant data in the classification and excluded the irrelevant data; (6) interpreted and analyzed the data and relate it to the theories, and (7) implemented data trustworthiness by doing triangulation.

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher finds that Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie* contains three important things. They are kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty in patriarchal society, kinds of struggles that Beauty does and the impact of struggles to gain independence by providing various data. These data are distributed into three categories in the table which are explained further in the following.

Kinds of Gender Discrimination faced by Beauty in the Patriarchal Society

Kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty are divided into three categories: violence, subordination and stereotyping. Gender discrimination through violence can be categorized into two. They are physical and psychological violence. First, physical violence is an attempt to attack the physical condition of women. It usually leaves evidence that can be seen obviously such as wound and scar. In this novel,

physical violence refers to Beauty's father action that hurts Beauty by shoving her body. This situation is reflected in this quotation below.

The last jab shoved me right off his lap onto the carpet. I tried to scuttle out of Dad's way but he caught hold of me by the wrist.

'Don't, Gerry!' Mum said, darting back into the room.

'I'm not hurting her,' said Dad. **He deliberately loosened his fingers so that they were just like fleshy pink bangle on my arm. 'Am I hurting you, Beauty?'**

No, Dad,' I said. (Wilson, 2016: 23)

This quotation shows that Beauty's father attacks Beauty's physical condition cruelly. It creates fleshy pink bangle on Beauty's arm as the evidence of his violence behavior. Beauty's father also intimidates her to say that he is not hurting her even though the fact shows that he hurts her.

Second, psychological violence refers to the way men hurt women which affects the dignity of women. Men use their power to hurt women's psychological condition by humiliating, threatening and insulting women using harsh words. This situation is reflected in the quotation below.

My voice tailed away when I saw the expression on Dad's face.

'Are you thick, Beauty?' he said.

'I – I don't know, Dad,' I said, not sure whether he wanted me to say yes or not. It didn't look as if I could win whatever I said.

'You come on like Miss Smarty Pants but I SAY YOU'RE THICK,' said Dad, jabbing me in the back at every word.

(Wilson, 2016: 22-23)

The datum above shows that Beauty's father humiliates Beauty by saying that she is thick. Thick is an idiom that means unintelligent. Therefore, Beauty's father humiliates her using

cruel and harsh word because he feels unsatisfied with her actions. The word hurts Beauty's self-esteem and it makes her giving up to say something she wants. In this case, Beauty's dignity being hurt by her own father who should be the one who support and love her.

Meanwhile, subordination is classified into two categories namely women's look are determined and women's ways of dressing up are determined. First, subordination happens because men think that women are not capable to make decision. Therefore, men determine anything for women including in the look that women should have

'You girls have to suffer a bit for your looks,' he said, chomping, his tongue and teeth coated with tomato sauce. **'I know! Take her to the hairdresser's Saturday morning, get them to primp and twiddle with her hair, do it up fancy-like.'**

'Well. . .' Mum saw my desperate expression. 'I don't think we'd be able to get her an appointment at the hairdresser's at such short notice.'

'Oh, Dilly, why are you always so hopeless? Look, get Beauty along there when they open and insist on an appointment. You could do with getting your hair done yourself, it's a bit' – he made wobbly gestures with his hands – 'sort of *tired*.' (Wilson, 2016: 60)

This datum shows that Beauty's father decide Beauty's new hairstyle to attend Rhona's birthday should has primp and twiddle. He says that women need to suffer to look beautiful. Moreover, he insists to make Beauty and his wife to get a hairdo even though his wife says that they do not need it. Beauty's father wants to show his power upon

Beauty and his wife to make them doing something he wants.

Second, subordination can be seen through the actions of Beauty's father who determine the way Beauty dress up when she is invited to Rhona's birthday party. This condition is revealed in this following quotation.

'Not my pink dress!' I blurted. Dad stopped eating too. And Mum.

'What's the matter with your pink dress?' said Dad. 'It cost a small fortune from Harrods. Don't you like it?'

I forced a smile.

'Oh I love love love it, Dad,' I said. My voice went high and squeaky I was trying so hard. 'That's precisely the problem. It's so ultra-gorgeous and glamorous that I'm terrified of getting it spoiled at the party. I could easily spill juice all down it or tear one of the frills.'

'Not if you're careful,' said Dad, but he nodded approvingly all the same. 'I'm glad you want to look after it. ***Still, no jeans, you don't want to look like a dirty scruffy tomboy at this party. How about your pretty blue blouse and your little white pleated skirt? You look sweet in that.***'

It was my second-most-hated outfit. They would still sneer and snigger at me – but it was marginally better than the pink eiderdown outfit. (Wilson, 2016: 60)

The datum explains the way Beauty's father determine the outfit that Beauty should wear in attending Rhona's birthday party. He wants her to wear something classy such as an expensive dress he bought from Harrods. He wants to show off his wealth and power to other people through Beauty. The belief that men are more capable in independent think make women are subordinated by men including in women's private lives.

The last discrimination experienced by Beauty is stereotyping. Stereotyping labels women with certain traits. It can be categorized into seven kinds; inferior, submissive, timid, emotional, artsy, clumsy, and domestic. First, women's are stereotyped as inferior. Women are stereotyped as inferior because men think that women belongs to inferior groups who are weak and dependent. It makes women do not feel confident with their appearance and their own ability.

I ran upstairs to my bedroom. I put my hands over my ears so I couldn't hear them arguing about me. I saw myself in my Venetian glass mirror. ***I tried brushing my hair. It stuck limply to my head. I looked at my big face and my fat tummy and my ridiculous clothes. Dad was right. I did look a sight.*** (Wilson, 2016: 97)

The datum above explains Beauty's inferior feeling towards herself. When her father insults her by saying 'look a sight' which means her appearance is awful or unsuitable, she believes what her father says. Inferior stereotype that can be found in Beauty's character occurs as the effect of women's beauty standard made by the society. It means that men's perceptions upon women have strong impact on women's feeling because women tend to believe in them.

Second, women are stereotyped as submissive. In a patriarchal society men want women to be submissive who obey every rule and order that men say and ask. Gender roles which are socially constructed keep believing in men's power. Therefore, women get lower position than men and they should always obey every men's commands. Stereotype is believed by the society

affecting women's behaviour. Women tend to behave like what the society wants, instead of behaving like they personally want to do, although it gives them some negative impacts.

I liked reading when I was by myself but you couldn't really read together. **I liked painting but I had to do it in the kitchen with newspaper spread everywhere, long before Dad came home. I wasn't supposed to do any painting whatsoever in case I spilled paint on the carpets. Dad didn't even allow felt-tip pens in case I got marks on the cream sofas. I was always very careful but Rhona was a giggly girl who never sat still. What if she flung her arm out when she was painting and accidentally spattered the wallpaper? If Dad saw he'd get into a rage whether Rhona was here or not.** (Wilson, 2016: 18)

The datum above shows Beauty's submissiveness where she obeys her father's rules. She is not allowed to do something she likes; painting, by her father because it can make the carpet, sofa and floor dirty. The rules made by her father prevent Beauty from doing something that she likes. It makes her unable to enjoy her hobby and doing other things that she likes. Thus, Beauty's submissiveness limits Beauty's rights and freedom to do something that she wants in her own house.

Third, women are stereotyped as timid. Timid is one of the stereotypes that labels women as being shy and lack of confidence. This stereotype believes that women tend to be shy compared to men that are more confident and courageous. Timid stereotyping limits women's participation in the public, because they feel shy and insecure to do something seen by other people.

They are afraid of being judged or prohibited by the society.

Most of the girls had similar cool glamorous swimsuits. Arabella had a red halter-neck bikini and she looked very grown up in it, though she had to keep tugging at the top to keep it in place. **I had a silly baby costume, pale blue patterned with ice-cream cones. It was last year's costume, because I hardly ever went swimming. It clung to me, emphasizing my tummy. I sucked it in as far as I could. It felt as if they were all staring at me. I felt incredibly self-conscious padding across the carpet and out into the hall.** I clutched the tiny teddy for comfort. (Wilson, 2016: 84-85)

The quotation above indicates Beauty's feeling about her appearance. When she swims together with her friends, she does not feel confident because she wears a silly old fashioned costume which expose her big tummy and it makes her feel ashamed. Therefore, she limits her interactions to other people. Timid stereotype labels women as having lack of courage and confidence than men to involve in any public participation. Women feel shy and afraid of not being able to fulfil people expectation or not doing something as most people do.

Fourth, women are stereotyped as emotional. People assume women as more emotional than men, because they think women more frequently use their heart and feeling rather than their logic. In the novel, Beauty is depicted as a child character who is emotional.

I dived until my eyes streamed and my heart thumped. I was desperate to find little Nicholas. **I'd only owned him for twenty minutes but I already loved him with all my heart.**

'Don't look so upset, sweetheart,' he said to me, popping two extra marshmallows into my mug. 'I'm sure we'll be able to find you another little teddy.'

He was so kind I felt tears pricking my eyes.

'Oh, lordy, look at old Ugly. She's blubbing just because she's lost her little teddy-weddy,' Skye muttered. (Wilson, 2016: 90)

The quotation above explains the emotion that Beauty feels when she loses the teddy bear. First, she feels very sad because she loses the teddy bear that she loves very much even though she just own it for 20 minutes. She tries hard to find the teddy bear because she feels the close connection with the teddy bear. Second, Beauty feels touched by Mr. Marshall's kindness because he tries to comfort and help her. She expresses those emotions through crying in front of other people. It means that Beauty shows her emotions explicitly and it makes people think she is emotional.

Fifth, women are stereotyped as artsy. Patriarchal society believes that women are soft and use their emotion and feeling more often rather than their logic. It makes the society believes that women have kinds of artistic skill to create something beautiful. However, the patriarchal society considers artistic skill that is own by women as something unimportant and useless. Their artistic skill does not make them become respected by men or get equal treatment. In a patriarchal society, men do not appreciate art works made by women because they believe only men who are able to produce a great art work.

'You have to send it in to Sam, Beauty,' she said.

'No, Mum, I'm too old – and my picture's too weird,' I said, closing my drawing book. **'You're so artistic, Beauty.'** Mum hesitated. **'Shall we show it to Dad when he comes in?'**

'No!'

'He'd be ever so proud.'

'No, he wouldn't. He'd go off on a rant. I puffed myself up and put on a deep Dad voice. 'Why don't you do a proper drawing of a teddy rather than this damn daft cartoon rubbish.' (Wilson, 2016: 114)

Beauty's mother admires the painting that Beauty creates, but Beauty thinks that her painting is childish because she draws cartoon instead of realist painting. He father thinks that a good painting should be realist contains proper figure of object instead of cartoon like what Beauty draws. Therefore, Beauty does not want her mother to show her picture to him. Thus, artsy stereotype that Beauty has does not make her father likes her and make her being treated equally.

Sixth, beauty are stereotyped as clumsy. Patriarchal society believes that men are more capable than women in many aspects. Men think that women are not good in doing anything besides doing domestic works. It makes them attributed with one of the stereotypes that is women are clumsy.

'Whoopsie!' said Dad, catching me. **'Dear goodness, Beauty! You're so clumsy! I think we'd better send you back to those dancing lessons.'**

...

'Please don't make me do ballet again, Dad!' I said.

'Don't you want to learn to dance like a little fairy?' said Dad.

'Fairy elephant, more like,' I said. (Wilson, 2016: 14)

The datum above maintains to say that Beauty's father thinks she is clumsy because she is not capable in managing her figure to stand properly. She almost falls when she dances with her father. Then, her father insists to send her to a ballet class even though that mishap is happened accidentally. The stereotyping that labelling women as clumsy makes women are easily blamed for something that they improperly do.

Seventh, women are stereotyped as domestic. Patriarchal society determines the role of women are only to be wife and mother. Therefore, the place for women is in the house to do domestic works such as cleaning and cooking. In the novel, domestic stereotype becomes one of the stereotypes that can be found in Beauty's character. It can be seen in the datum below.

'Don't worry, don't worry, I'll be back long before then, fusspot. **You two girls get the living room in spit-spot shape.** The caterers are arriving at eleven. OK, my darlings. Ready to show off our Happy Home?' (Wilson, 2016: 150)

The datum above maintains to say that Beauty's father asks Beauty and her mother to clean up the living room and to make sure the house looks neat and clean before the party starts. It shows that Beauty's father gives the burden of domestic works to women which are Beauty and her mother. He does not share the burden in the domestic sphere with him. He thinks he is only responsible to gain money by working outside the house. Therefore, Beauty receives domestic burden even though she is still a child.

Kinds of Struggle that Beauty does against Patriarchal Society

The researcher found four kinds of struggles done by Beauty namely gaining consciousness, being bond in sisterhood, optimizing the opportunity to be educated and working. In gaining consciousness, there are three kinds of actions that Beauty does; leaving the house, making decisions and expressing her opinions.

First, Beauty decides to leave the house because she realizes that her father oppressed her. House which is the domain of domestic sphere, becomes a dangerous place for women because it can be the source of gender discrimination. Therefore, if Beauty and her mother leave the house they can be free from the discrimination since they stay far away from the oppressors.

'Ready, babe?' said Mum. She'd got her suitcase packed too. She carried them both out to her car.

'Let's go now, Mum, while Dad's still round the back.' 'No, we'll say goodbye properly,' said Mum. (Wilson, 2016: 188)

Beauty shows her consciousness by agreeing to leave the house with her mother. She packs her clothes and her favourite things in the suitcase and tells her mother to go immediately. Beauty becomes conscious that her father is an oppressor who makes her and her mother suffering. Realizing that her father is the oppressor, Beauty understands the way she can gain her freedom is by leaving the house.

Second, making decision is another kind of struggles that Beauty does. Patriarchal society

treats women by giving unfair treatments to them. Men create certain kinds of rule that should be obeyed by women, one of them is preventing women to make decision because men see women are not capable of having an independent thinking. Men have the role to make decision for themselves and also for women. This condition prevents women to be independent because women should wait and obey for every decision made by men because they are not allowed to make their own decisions. Therefore, if women make decisions for themselves it indicates that women break the false belief upon them and prove that they are capable to decide something.

'So have you thought where we can go?'
'I've thought and thought and thought, but I haven't come up with anything just yet,' said Mum.

'I think I know where we can go!'

'Where, darling?'

'The seaside!'

'But we don't know anyone at the seaside, do we?'

'It doesn't matter, does it? We could pretend we're going on holiday. We haven't had a holiday for ages. We've got a bit of money. Let's just go to the seaside and paddle and sunbathe and it'll all feel easy and normal. We'll just be like everyone else, on our holiday.'

I was cuddled up so close to Mum I could feel her heart beating fast.

'OK,' she said. 'That's what we'll do. For tomorrow, anyway. Well done, Beauty, it's a great idea.' (Wilson, 2016: 208-209)

The datum above shows Beauty's ability in making decision. She suggests to her mother to go to the seaside. She explains her reason and plan in choosing that place. They can pretend that they are on a holiday and spend the time they have to play

on the beach. Her mother likes her idea and she agrees to follow her decision. Beauty uses her effort to make decision even though it is hard for her. She used to be very dependent on her father decision. Therefore, her attempts to make decision prove her struggle to survive from discrimination.

Third, the last kinds of struggle that Beauty does is expressing her opinion. Patriarchal society does not give opportunity for women to express their opinion because they think women do not have any rights to express their thought or opinion. It makes the society does not realize the problems and the feelings that women have while they suffer living under patriarchy control. In the novel, Beauty used to obey what her father says. She rarely expresses her own opinion because she is afraid it will make her father angry. After she decides to leave the house, she has the opportunity to express her opinion.

'What shall I put?'

'I don't know. Dilly's Cookies?'

'That sounds too much like those cookies you can buy, Millie's Cookies. People will think you're copying. How about Bunny Cookies? Then I can draw little white rabbits scampering round and round at the edges of the sign.'

'OK, then, Bunny Cookies it is,' said Mum. (Wilson, 2016: 292)

The datum above maintains to say that Beauty has a brilliant idea in helping her mother to choose the brand for their cookie. She says that her mother's choice with "Dilly's Cookie" is too common and not special. She suggests a new brand that she thinks more special and suitable with the the cookies that is Bunny Cookies. Her mother thinks

her idea is good and she agrees the brand that she proposes.

Meanwhile, being bond in sisterhood is the next kinds of struggle done by Beauty. Sisterhood is a strong feeling of support among women who share the same feeling and experience in a patriarchal society. It consist with two categories which are encouraging her mother and helping her mother. First, Beauty use her effort to encourage her mother to fight against gender discrimination because she has strong bonding in sisterhood with her mother. Beauty encourages and supports her mother when she feels hopeless and confused in making cookies.

Oh dear,' said Mum. She took the oven glove and pulverized her own cookie.

'They're horrible, aren't they?'

'Yep.'

'Your dad's right. I can't cook for toffee,' said Mum, drooping.

'Yes, you can,' I said. I hesitated. 'Well, maybe you could learn.'

'I'm useless at learning stuff. I was always bottom of the class at school,' said Mum.

'Thick as a brick, that's me.'

'No, you're not. You're . . . pretty and witty,' I said. (Wilson, 2016: 110)

The datum shows that Beauty's mother feels useless, because when she tries to change Beauty's nickname that Beauty get from her friends, "Ugly" to "Cookie", by making cookies she fails. The cookie the she makes is horrible in taste and look. Before, she never gets support from her husband to learn cooking because he thinks she does not have any skill including the skill in cooking. It makes her believe in what her husband says. Then, Beauty encourages her by saying that she can cook if she wants to learn. As a result, Beauty

successfully encourages her mother not to give up in making cookies.

Second, Beauty struggles by helping her mother to survive from her father oppression. He oppresses Beauty's mother by saying she has no skills including skill in cooking. Moreover, he says that he chooses her not for her culinary skills, but for her look (Wilson, 2016: 95). When her mother tries to make cookies to change Beauty's nickname at school, Beauty helps her to make it tastes delicious.

'Maybe we need a proper recipe book? I said, scraping the cookie crumbs into the wastebin. 'I think we need to get all the ingredients right. Maybe this is the wrong sort of flour? And perhaps we've left out something important? What would make the cookies softer and sweeter?'

'Butter and sugar!' said Mum. 'OK, I'll look for a recipe book tomorrow. (Wilson, 2016: 110)

The above quotation signifies that Beauty helps her mother in the process to make delicious cookies. First, she gives an idea to her mother that she needs a recipe book to make delicious cookies. Second, she helps her by giving suggestion to get the right ingredients for the dough. Third, she helps her mother by suggesting the possibility that causes the failure of the cookies. Beauty helps her mother to make her able to make delicious cookies instead of judging her and blaming the mistakes that she has.

The next kinds of struggle that Beauty does is optimizing the opportunity to be educated. Women need to be educated to make them equal to men. Education will help women realize about

their problems and other women's problems who live under oppressions. It also makes women have the same opportunity like men to get knowledge and skill through education.

'I think we'd better get you into a school here, Beauty,' said Mum, as we had a cup of tea together after serving breakfast. I stared at Mum, appalled. **'I don't want to go to school!' I said. 'I can't! I've got to do my share of the guest-house work – and then I paint with Mike. I'm working, Mum.'** 'Don't be such a noodle, you know you've got to go to school.' **'Yes, some day, but not now. It'll be the summer holidays soon anyway. I can start school in September, if I must.'** **'You'll start now. I want to do everything properly. What if your dad starts suing for custody of you and it comes out in court I didn't send you to school. I don't want to be declared an unfit mother! No, you're going, sweetheart, and that's final. We'll ask Mike where the Rabbit Cove primary school is.'** (Wilson, 2016: 271)

The quotation above shows that Beauty does not want to go to school in Rabbit Cove. She reasons she need to work to help her mother. Nevertheless, her mother insists that she wants to send her to school because she does not want Beauty's father sues her for not sending Beauty to school. She wants to prove she can take care of Beauty by making her to be an intelligent and independent girl. Therefore, it explains that education can be a way for Beauty to struggle against discrimination because it will prove that she can be and an educated girl who is brave and independent.

The last struggle done by Beauty is working. The opportunity for women in the work

field will make them become more independent. However, women are not allowed to participate in working fields because men think that women are not capable to work outside of the domestic area because they are physically weak and have no skill and capability to work. Therefore, men take the position as the breadwinner to work and to gain money for the family. In the novel, Beauty works together with her mother as cookies makers and cookies seller to get money.

She made cookies all afternoon, all evening and half the night. I made too, mixing and rolling and cutting alongside Mum. Mike helped too, finding endless tins to store them. He came with us on Saturday to help Mum set up the stall. (Wilson, 2016: 292)

The struggle through working that Beauty does by making cookies, make her has the capability to live independently. Her efforts significantly changes her life. Before, she is seen by her father as a dependent and weak child, but she proves that female child can be independent without men's help. Beauty works together with her mother to prove that women and female children are not weak and they are capable to work to gain money to support their life independently.

The Impacts of Beauty's Struggles to gain Independence in Patriarchal Society

Beauty's struggles against gender discrimination in patriarchal society has a purpose to free herself and her mother from discrimination. Her struggles have significant impacts towards herself and her mother. The impacts of her struggles are the significant effects

that she gets after she fights against gender discrimination. The impacts include boosting her self-esteem, improving the sense of pride on herself, and strengthening her friendship.

The first impact of Beauty's struggles to gain independence is boosting her self-esteem. Self-esteem is a feeling confident about the actions and decisions that are chosen by every individual. In Wilson's *Cookie*, Beauty experiences many kinds of discriminations towards women and female children. Those unfair treatments towards them are very dangerous and harmful because it makes them lose their confidence. Fortunately, her struggles against discrimination help her to get her self-esteem back.

She held up her powder-compact mirror so I could see for myself. I stared at the face in the mirror. I didn't look a bit like me. I stuck my tongue out just to make sure it was me, and the mirror girl stuck her tongue out too. **I looked so different. My face seemed so much smaller with its smooth cap of honey coloured hair. I didn't look especially fashionable or grown up, but for the first time ever I felt I looked like me.** (Wilson, 2016: 278)

The datum above explains Beauty's feeling when she realize that her hairstyle gives a positive impact on her appearance. Her decision to cut her hair gives a good impact on her way of seeing herself where she really feels like herself. Beauty feels confident with her new appearance because she chooses the hairstyle based on her own choice. It gives impact on boosting her self-esteem to be what she really is.

The second impacts of Beauty's struggles to gain independence is improving her pride.

Pride is a feeling of satisfaction for achieving good results after doing something. This feeling can be achieved only after someone uses their efforts to get their goal. Beauty's struggles make Beauty feels pride with herself that she can help her mother to survive and to gain money by making cookies. She tells the public from the TV show that she and her mother are great in making cookies.

'Hey hey, stop messing about, you two,' said Miranda. 'OK, Beauty, tell us how to make your special bunny cookies. I hear they've become ever so popular where you live, in Rabbit Cove. That's a lovely name!'

'It's a lovely place. It's the seaside and it's so special,' I said, suddenly not shy at all. 'My mum's great at making all sorts of cookies and I'm her number-one helper. Now we specialize in making these bunny cookies with this special cutter.' (Wilson, 2016: 315)

The quotation above illustrates how proud Beauty is living in Rabbit Cove and able to make special bunny cookies. She is very proud with her mother and herself to be able to make such delicious and phenomenal cookies that have cute and unique Bunny's shape. Fortunately, her efforts to struggle and to encourage her mother to not give up in making cookies has great result to make their life better. It makes her feel proud with all the things she does to help her.

The last impact of struggles to gain independence is strengthening her friendship. Friendship is a condition where two people are friends. Beauty's struggles give a lot of impacts in the development of her character. At first, Beauty always feels inferior whenever she meet

people, especially her friends. Therefore, she cannot make any friendship because she limits her interaction with her classmates. However, after she struggles against many discriminations, she has more courage to strengthen her friendship. It makes her able to interact and to make friends in her new school.

I started off just sharing cookies with my best friend and fellow UNCLE, Princess, but soon I started taking a little bag of cookies each day and handing them round to anyone who seemed left out or lonely. Then the whole school got involved in raising money for some poor children in Africa. We were told to bring in cakes and biscuits to sell to each other at lunch time. (Wilson, 2016: 291)

The above datum signifies Beauty uses her ability in making cookies to share happiness and to make her friends accept her. She wants all of her friends accept her without judging her physical appearance or other things on her. Her efforts make Beauty's classmates like to be friends with her. As a result, Beauty does not have any inferior feeling towards herself anymore because her new friends like her just the way she is. She also successfully strengthens her friendship with all of her classmates in Seahaven Primary and even she has a best friend namely Princess.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie* using feminism, postfeminism and children's literature theory combined with children's empowerment theory, the researcher found several kinds of discriminations and children's empowerment. This issues are explored into three classification in line with research

objectives: kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty, Beauty's struggles against gender discrimination and the impacts of struggles to gain independence in Wilson's *Cookie*.

The first is that there are three kinds of gender discrimination faced by Beauty in patriarchal society. They are classified into three big categories: violence, subordination and stereotyping. These discrimination occur because men think that women are weak and dependent. Therefore, men can easily oppress them to show their power and authority over women.

The second one is Beauty does four kinds of struggle to fight against gender discrimination. The struggles done by Beauty found in the novel namely gaining consciousness, being bond in sisterhood, optimizing the opportunity to be educated and working. These struggles are important to do to make Beauty survives from discrimination. It also shows that female children have capability to solve problems using their own efforts.

The third one refers to the impacts of struggle to gain independence. The researcher finds three kinds of positive impacts. These three impacts are namely boosting her self-esteem, improving her pride, and strengthening her friendship.

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