

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Research

In past time, women in patriarchal culture are portrayed as weak creature. They lack of education, they also have to work at home and care for children. As the time goes by women cannot be underestimated, especially the dignity of women in patriarchal culture. Women's dignity is the thing that makes the women can survive in society. Furthermore there are over half a billion women in the Middle East. They are in environment that does not support their role as human beings. Their social status is low and they are not respected by men. Women in the Middle East are not paying attention to health, disadvantage and often experience violence and sexual abuse. Women in the Middle East are discriminated against by men, religion and law. They do not get good education and they are often considered weak. The only function of women in Middle East is producing children. Nowadays the condition has improved considerably. Some of the women in the Middle-East are standing up and try to fight for their rights.

*A Pair of Jeans and other stories* is a collection of short stories written by Qaisra Shahraz published by Hope Road London, United Kingdom, 1988. Qaisra Shahraz is a Pakistani who lived in the United Kingdom. Qaisra Shahraz was born in Pakistan in 1959 and grew up in England. She lives in Manchester at nine years old. She started her debut as a writer when she was very young. Shahraz studied English

and European Literature at the University of Manchester and Scriptwriting at the University of Salford. A fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Royal Society of Literature, Shahraz is a writer, educator and consultant, college and university inspector, teacher trainer, journalist, and scriptwriter. Most of her work is based on her experience of living and growing up in the United Kingdom. She wrote about the Muslim woman issues living in Western society, women who fought against the patriarchal culture, the people who live in Pakistan.

Most of her work raises issues that are experienced by women. *A Pair of Jeans* explores the issue of clothing, female modesty, multiple identities and cultural clashes. Some of her novel became a best seller and translated into several languages such as *The Holy Woman* (2002) is a powerful sage of love & family politics, set in five countries, *Typhoon* (2007) is a tragic tale of three young women demonized by their past and *Revolt* (2013) is a multi-layered, multi-faceted story of love and loss, finding and losing, and mixed-race marriage. In 1989, *A Pair of Jeans* was picked by a German Professor/Editor, Dr. Liesel Hermes, as a literary text to be used in German schools for the German Abitur examination. She has been active in Kochi (also known as Cochin is a major port city on the South-West coast of India) for inaugurating the DC international book fair.

Qaisra Shahraz received many awards for her masterpiece in 2012 she was named one of the 100 influential women on the *Pakistan Women Power 100* list, (2004) she won the Pakistan Television Awards, Jubilee Award and the Muslim News Awards for Excellence (Arts category) in (2003), at (2002) *Asian Women of*

*Achievement Awards* (Arts category) and for *The Muslim News Awards for Excellence*, (1994) Ian St James Award and (1988) Common word Prize and many more awards she got. The collection of stories *A Pair of Jeans* is composed of several collections of short stories. The writer chose three titles short stories from *A Pair of Jeans* and other stories are *Zemindar's Wife*, *A Pair of Jeans* and *The Elopement*. The author chose three pieces of this story because the writer found similarities of story ideas. The similarity of this story is a female character that can survive and resist in a patriarchal culture in cultural tradition in Pakistan. *Zemindar's Wife* is the story of a wife the ruler of the land named Noor (Chaudharani). Her husband is the ruler of the land and would like to have all land certification of residents of the country to gain valuable crops, namely bauxite. Noor realized and she must stop that, if the land was an exploration then the land not fertile anymore and it makes them lose their job. Noor (Chaudharani) as a Zemindar's wife decided to give back the land documents to the society. Noor is one example of a courageous female character.

Miriam is a woman character in *A Pair of Jeans*. Miriam is a protagonist, Pakistani woman who studied at a British College. One day she met her future mother-in-law. At that time she was dressed in Western fashion, by wearing a pair of jeans with short tops and leather jackets. The future mother-in-law immediately surprised to see Miriam, they do not want Muslim women use jeans and leather jackets. Their future in-laws decided to cancel the engagement with their son.

. She is Rubiya, the female character in the story *The Elopement*. She runs off with a young man. Rubiya decided to elope with a man. She left the house without

telling her father, mother and her sister. After knowing Rubiya is away from home, her mother and sister tried to conceal Rubiya. They are afraid if he knows Rubiya left the house with a young man. Her father is recover from stroke and she does not want the bad news killed Rubiya's father. They make excuses that Rubiya had a headache and need a rest to sleep in her room. Rubiya's mother and sister are afraid of what Rubiya did was a taboo in their tradition.

Three stories provide an example of women who are fighting against the patriarchal culture. These women prove that they too can be brave like a man. Although the actual condition of Pakistani culture upholds that men have power. However these three female characters can strive to become a brave and intelligent woman. The writer sees many aspects that can be analyzed in the novel are based on the feminist criticism. The writer uses feminist critique, the female character in the story above is a strong female figure that holdout in patriarchal culture.

From the description, the writer applies feminist literary criticism proposed by Cheri Register uses prescriptive feminist criticism. In prescriptive feminist criticism the writer focus to see the women characters struggle in patriarchal culture. The aim of this research is what effort they will do so they can be free to express their opinions with their dignities. Also how they can adapt themselves to this patriarchal culture. Therefore, the writer entitled this research as **“Pakistani Women's Dignity in Patriarchal Culture Reflected in Qaisra Shahraz's: *A Pair of Jeans and other stories*”**

## 1.2 The Identification of the Problem

In this research the writer would like to focus on the female characters effort to fight against the patriarchal culture. These female characters Noor, Miriam and Rubiya have established their dignity in facing the patriarchal culture. Noor (Chaudharani), Miriam and Rubiya are the example that women can be brave. They can survive and fight the patriarchal culture. They come from a different background. Chaudharani is the wife of a wealthy landowner. She is woman and can make a decision when her husband makes a mistake. Miriam fights for justice for herself. She ventured herself to meet her fiancée and tried to ask what she had done so the mother future in-laws decided to unilaterally break off the engagement. Rubiya is a brave woman and she left the house with a young man. Rubiya's families do not know why Rubiya go with a young man and decided to elope with a man. Three female characters despite patriarchal culture also reveal to dignity of the women.

The dignity of women can make this main characters survive in patriarchal culture. Also they have problems in their lives such as having a patriarchal husband, being a modern woman, and being dominated patriarchal minded father.

From the summary above, the writer focuses on analyzing women character and the dignity of women in patriarchal culture in collected stories *A Pair of Jeans*.

### 1.3 The Scope of the Research

In analyzing the selected of stories *A Pair of Jeans*, the writer makes some points to limit the research, they are:

1. What are the problems shown from the women in *Zemindar's Wife, A Pair of Jeans* and *The Elopement*?
2. How are the dignities shown from Noor, Miriam and Rubiya?
3. Prescriptive Criticism based on Cheri Register in *A Pair of Jeans & other stories*.

### 1.4 The Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to analysis the problem of female characters Noor (Chaudharani), Miriam and Rubiya. The writer also wants to show the dignity of the female characters. Also the writer will show the perspective of Shahraz regarding the issue of women's dignity in her stories *A Pair of Jeans and other stories*.

### 1.5 The Review of the Previous Studies

In conducting the research the writer uses the collected of short stories entitled *A Pair of Jeans and other stories* written by Qaisra Shahraz as the primary data. The writer also needs supporting data to analyze the collected of short stories. The writer provides some previous researches related to the research.

The first previous study is the journal entitled *Subalterns Can Speak: Shrahras's Message of Hope for Human Equality in Zemindar's Wife* (2015). Sabah Zaib and Ghulam Mustafa Mashori describes about a critical approach to uplift this

downtrodden and browbeaten, challenge dominant discourse for social justice. The aim of this article is the author's social agenda to represent the narrative of a feudal lord Sarfaraz Shangir (the elite) and his poor villagers namely Younis and Kaniz (the subaltern). The study explores that Shahraz creates the character of Noor, the Chaudarani Sahaba, to dismantle the feudal system. This analysis of the story shows that by attacking the roots of feudalism, Shahraz delivers a message of human equality against class, cast, and gendered subalternity. In this article, the author describe the *Zemindar Wife* (Chaudharani) is intelligence and philanthropy weaken the roots of feudalism. This article is useful for the writer because in this article the author provides the information about the character of Noor as a *Zemindar Wife*.

Ghulam Mustafa Mashori and Sabah Zaib also describe the codes that contained in *A Pair of Jeans*. The journal entitled *Five Codes of Barthes in Sahraz's story A Pair of Jeans: A Post Structural Analysis* (2014). *A Pair of Jeans* under the implementation of Barthesian five codes theory. The five codes namely: proairetic, hermeneutic, semantic, symbolic and cultural, on it. The application of five codes on the selected story discusses it into five different voices. The semantic meaning of the words "Jeans" and "tradition" give in-depth understanding to the ironic representation of Miriam's modern dress which ruptures the traditional concept/dreams of Begum and Ayub. The antithetical code helps reader to understand the psyche of characters. It gives a clue of thought that how cultures represents the identity of man. The cultural code gives light to the embodied Eastern and Western cultures, especially Pakistani and Indian marriage system, and their baseless ideology of patriarchy. This

article is useful for the writer because in this article the author provides the information about Pakistani marriage culture.

A thesis by Fariha Chaudhary from the University of Huddersfield (2013) entitled *Hiding and Seeking Identity: The Female Figure in the Novels of Pakistani Female Writers in English: A Feminist Approach*. In this research, Fariha explore and analyze the struggle and resistance of female figures against patriarchal structures as presented through the fiction of female writers. She has analyzed the works of Pakistani Anglophone women writers, Bapsi Sidhwa and Qaisra Shahraz. She concerns to the women in patriarchal society. This article is useful for the writer because in this thesis Fariha explore more about patriarchal society.

Tajul Mafakhir from State Islamic University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim (2016) has written an undergraduate thesis entitled *The Struggle of Zarri Bano Against Patriarchy in Qaisra Shahraz's "The Holy Woman"*. In this research, Tajul discusses a woman named Zarri Bano. She fights against the oppression of women. Tajul describes how Zarri Bano faced oppression from men. He used radical feminist theory to analyze the story. This article is useful for the writer because the author provides information about patriarchy.

Stenofi from Binus University (2014) has written an undergraduate thesis entitled *A Postcolonial Feminist Analysis of Female Characters in Short Stories by Qaisra Shahraz and Everyday Use by Alice Walker*. In this research, she compared the two short stories *A Pair of Jeans* by Qaisra Shahraz and *Everyday Use* by Alicia Walker. She uses feminist analysis and the specific feminist theory that she used in



this research is the postcolonial feminism theory. Stenofi concern with how people with hybrid identity react in their society with different tradition and culture between theirs and their living society. This article is useful for the writer because in this article the author provides the information about the different tradition and culture in Miriam living society.

### 1.6 Theoretical Framework

In this research, the writer analyses the dignity of female characters in this story *A Pair of Jeans and other stories* by Qaisra Shahraz by applies feminist literary criticism proposed by Cheri Register uses prescriptive feminist criticism.

Walby in the book of *Theorizing Patriarchy* (1990), has explained the patriarchal concept: "I shall define patriarchy as a system of social structures and practice in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women...the use of the term social structures is important here, since it clearly implies rejection both of biological determinism, and the notion that every individual man is in a dominant position and every women is subordinate one...patriarchy is composed of six structures: the patriarchal mode of production, patriarchal relations in paid work, patriarchal relation in state, male violence, patriarchal relations in sexuality, and patriarchal relations in cultural institutions..." (Walby 1990:2)

In Tyson, patriarchy is thus, by definition, sexist, which means it promoted the belief that woman are innately inferior to men (2006 : 85). This patriarchal system makes the image of women weak from man perspective. Tyson mention "...in

patriarchy, everything that concerns men usually implies something (usually negative) about women” (2006 : 88).

“Feminist criticism is concerned with ...the ways in which literature. (and other cultural productions) reinforce or undermine the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women (2006 : 83)”.

Feminist criticism is also concerned with less obvious forms of marginalization such as the exclusive of women writers from the traditional literary canon: “...unless the critical or historical point of view is feminist, there is a tendency to under represent the contribution of women writers” (Tyson 2006 : 82-83).

The domination system is called Patriarchy. Bell Hooks in her essay entitled “Understanding Patriarchy” states that:

Patriarchy is a political system that insist that male are inherently dominating, superior to everything and everyone deemed weak, especially females and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence (2013).

In prescriptive criticism Cheri Register mentions that feminist criticism has four distinct subdivisions that she forms:

Prescriptive criticism is best defined in terms of way in which literature can serve the cause of liberation. To earn feminist approval, literature must perform one or more of the following functions: (1) serve as a forum for women; (2) help to achieve cultural androgyny; (3) provide role-models; (4) promote sisterhood; and augment consciousness-raising (quoted in Donovan 1989: 18-19).

Serves as a forum for women means women are free to speak and share their experiences and feelings without having to meet the standards set by men. Help to achieve cultural androgyny, the point is that basically the feminist movement wants to create a social life that the values of women have not been appreciated. The creation of female characters which is too masculine and use physical strength is not feminist because this still originates from the nature of masculinity. Provide role-models are providing space for women to explore new things, and start from themselves and end by themselves. Promote sisterhood; and augment consciousness-raising that is giving women the possibility to realize their differences with others, respect similarities with other women and decide to take political action.

### **1.7 The Method of the Research**

In conducting the research the writer follows three steps. They are collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the result of analysis.

#### **1.7.1 Collecting the Data**

In collecting the data, the writer used library method as the main tool. The writer collected the data from library and selected documents. Next the writer divides the data into two categories which are primary data and secondary data. First, the primary data which is taken from literary work itself in collected stories *A Pair of Jeans and other stories* (1988) as the object of the research. Then, the secondary data are taken from several sources by gathering some books, study guide, journal, articles and sites related to this research. The data has been collected by using library research method.

### **1.7.2 Analyzing the Data**

In analyzing data, the writer starts from analyzing the primary data, then the writer analyzing some of part of the collected stories which supports the analysis by using book, the theory and the application of literary criticism especially deals with feminist approach which support the analysis. The writer analyzes these stories by using feminist prescriptive criticism. In the end, the writer mentions the problems faced by the main character and relate it to the theory.

### **1.7.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis**

The last step will present the result of analysis. The result of analysis is presented descriptively using the prescriptive criticism. The writer describes the dignity of the woman and the problem they face in patriarchal culture.

