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**BLACK WOMEN'S PATRIARCHAL OPPRESSION AND
DOMINATION IN ZORA NEALE HUSRTON'S THEIR EYES WERE
WATCHING GOD**

THESIS



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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul, “**Black Woman’s Patriarchal Oppression and Domination In Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God**” ini membahas tentang perjuangan wanita kulit hitam yang dalam perjalanan hidupnya dia mengalami penindasan dan dominasi oleh dua orang suaminya. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis melihat beberapa penindasan dan dominasi dari kaum pria kulit hitam terhadap wanita kulit hitam kemudian perjuangan dari wanita kulit hitam untuk membebaskan diri dari penindasan tersebut. Penulis menganalisa novel ini berdasarkan sudut pandang feminis dengan menggunakan teori *Black Feminist* oleh Barbara Smith. Dominasi ini dialami oleh wanita kulit hitam dan sipenulis novel sendiri, Hurston adalah wanita kulit hitam. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif, data berasal dari novel itu sendiri dan sumber-sumber lainya seperti buku, pencarian menggunakan internet dan artikel yang relevan. Setelah melakukan penelitian ini, penulis menemukan kesimpulan bahwa pria kulit hitam selalu melakukan penindasan dalam rumah tangga dan memberikan batasan terhadap wanita dalam bidang intelegensi dan kebebasan dalam berekspresi. Sehingga untuk lepas dari penindasan, wanita yang memiliki ras kulit hitam harus berani mengambil tindakan dan berjuang agar mendapatkan kesetaraan hak dan posisi dengan kaum pria dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat.

Key words : *feminism, black people, oppression and domination.*



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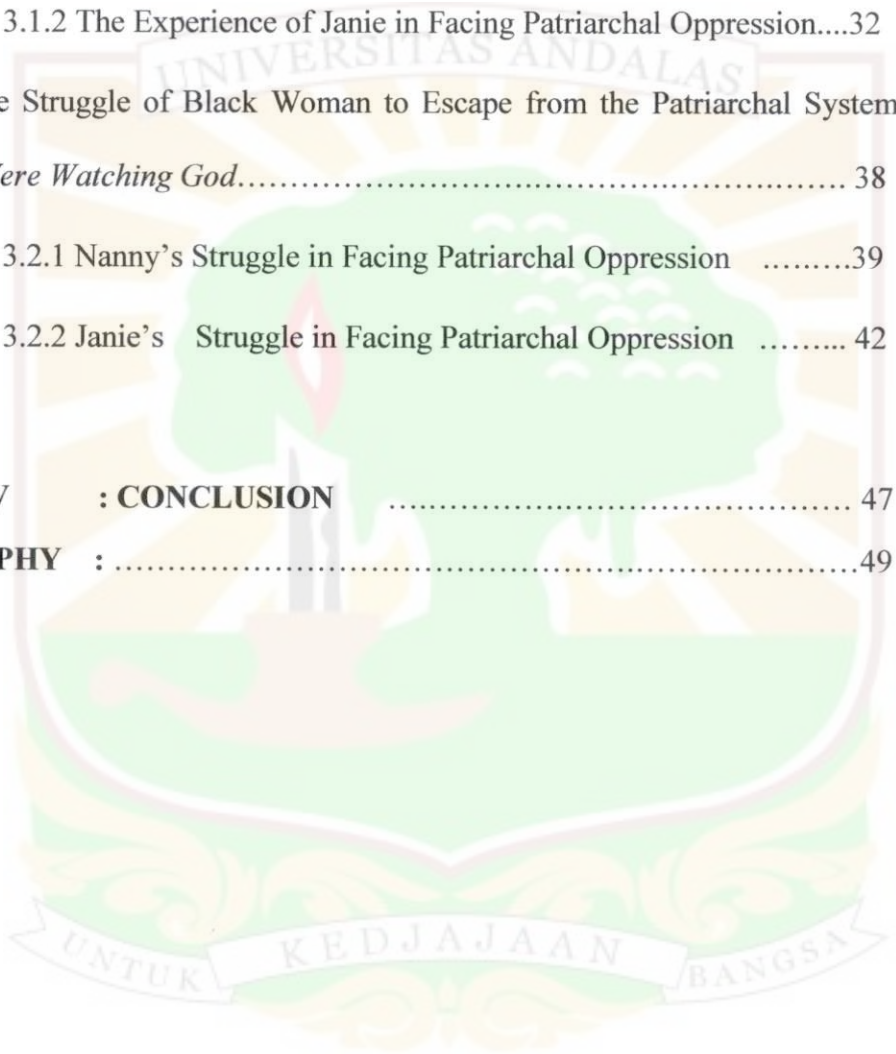
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of The Research

Feminist criticism is one of literary criticism which deals with woman as the object. Sometimes woman passivity considered as a weakness of woman by many circles of feminism, while the matter is considered as natural value by patriarchal system. In essence, there are hidden aspects behind woman passivity. It can be called as woman's strategies to fight against patriarchal system.

Patriarchal ideas have put women aside, both in real life and literature especially until the early nineteenth century. In nineteenth century literary work woman characters are usually described as weak, uneducated and still dominated by male. Women were not to be voted in any social activities and in many cases the right to have their own poverty was tenuous and their place in society was limited.

Tyson (2006) state that, "Women who are inferior in social position always lose their freedom because of the power of men. Men always underestimate women because *traditional gender* roles cast men as rational, strong, protective and decisive, while woman as irrational, weak, nurturing, submissive (85). Feminist criticism appears to support women in fighting for male domination in the society. This research will study the presentation of woman in literary works, and examine how women are described in literature. The goal is to change these degrading views of women so that all women will realize that they

are not an “any significant other”. Each woman is a valuable person possessing the same privileges and rights as every man.

Since racial also become the main issue in feminist movement, this effort becoming harder toward black women. They have to face completely unfair treatment from black men, white men and even white women become an obstacle for them to gain independences. Collins stated in Defining Black Feminist Thought:

The Black Feminist Movement was formed to address the ways sexism, racism, and classism influence the lives of black women whose needs were ignored by the black men of the Black Liberation Movement and white women in the Women's Movement (20).

The quotation above shows strong statement of the unfair treatment toward black women. First is sexism that subordinated person because of their sex, second is racism that subordinated person because of their color. Black women have tried to challenge the tendency to make them the victims of this development of black manliness. Black women have tried to suggest that the strength of the black woman under oppression should be regarded with pride, not humiliation, as a part of the black experience.

In United States, feminist movement started since 1910. For at least two decades the absence of embedding race and racism rationally and irrationally with gender, class, and sexuality has been challenged by black feminist thinkers and activists in that country. Thus, black feminist thinkers have played a major role in

reentering our understanding of race through an intersectional analysis they are gender, sexuality, race, and class.

New York during 1920's was the time of the Harlem Renaissance movement, a major Black literature and cultural movement. During those years, the Southern part of America was well known for slavery. Harlem Renaissance, the full movement of "social revolt against racism", was initiated as a chain reaction result of "the great migration of African-Americans to northern cities" from the South in order to seek a better life. Harlem Renaissance Movement or called new Negro encourages the improvements of black culture especially in literature (22). One of the writers who are well known as the icons of the Harlem Renaissance is Zora Neale Hurston. She was born 7 January 1891 in Notasulga, Alabama.

Their Eyes Were Watching God is Zora Neale Hurston's second novel, which was published in September 1937. That tells the story of Janie Crawford's evolving selfhood through three marriages. Janie grows up expecting better treatment until she meets Tea Cake, a younger man who engages her heart and spirit in equal measure and gives her the chance to enjoy life without being a man's mule or adornment. Though Janie's story does not end happily, it draws to a satisfying conclusion. The writer is interested in analyzing this novel because the novel describes about race and gender discrimination in general ignoring whether they are white or black. And the writer focuses in analyzing the main character Janie Crawford by applying Black feminist theory by Barbara Smith.

All explanation above motivates the writer to make an analysis about patriarchal oppression toward black women. The writer is interested in analyzing

the struggles to survive in a world that has never been kind to Afro-Americans women just because they are black. How they are treated by male, their effort against male domination and keep moving in their own way to be independent women. Therefore, the writer chooses the title “**Black Women’s Patriarchal Oppression and Domination in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God***”

1.2 Identification of the problem

The research focuses on the black women position in the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The story tells about Janie’s experiences in different kinds of love throughout her life. As a result of her quest for this love, Janie gains her own independence and personal freedom. On her teenager’s time, Janie was oppressed by black men, she got unfair treatment in sexual life and she did some effort to fight those discrimination (reaction). From this effort, the writer sees that her struggle has viewpoint of black feminism literary criticism.

This novel is full of dramatic tragedies that show kinds of male domination. For example mental abuse toward black women, oppressed by the mocking and screaming right over their face. Not only the way they mock at, the words are also rude and hurting. They do not have equal rights. This novel describes the reader the suffering of the black women’s life. In contrast, they have to leave husband, and to be more independent to pursuit happiness.

1.3 Scope of the research

In this case, the writer focused on the feminist ideas that Hurston describe through Janie as the main character, Hurston describes the awareness and emancipation to male authority toward Janie's character. The writer sees that Hurston tries to build herself, as what she probably thinks. To be a better woman, she adjusts herself to have social relation in 19th century, as seen from the description of the main character in this novel. The writer limits the study into the following points:

1. What kinds of race and gender oppression experienced by black woman found in this novel?
2. How does the black woman struggle to escape from the race and gender oppression?

1.4 Objective of the research

The aim of this research is to analyze the oppressions from white people and black men experienced by Nanny and Janie. Those oppressions experienced by black women did not just setting them up in a painful life, but in the other side it has raised black women rebellious spirit. For this experience, this can be seen how far the survival of black women towards male, marriage's life and the social life. Besides, the purpose of this research is to describe the struggle of black women in gaining their self-actualization.

That oppression including sexual harassment, abusive treatment, gender and discrimination experienced by Afro-American women, which caused painful life and also causing some movement in black woman's life. They fought against

the oppression to reach their freedom collectively, which strengthen female bonding and sisterhood among them.

1.5 Review of the Previous Studies

Before conducting this research, the writer finds out some articles and essays related to this study. Some of them are about black feminist theory. As a medium of comparison to achieve deeper understanding, the writer compares the analysis conducted by other researcher to find out different point of view, and opinion to enrich this analysis.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston has been analyzed by William M. Ramsey, a student of English Department University of North Carolina. His thesis is entitled "The Compelling Ambivalence of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*". In this research Ramsey observe the logical fallacy draws attention away from the fact that the true purpose of Tea Cake and Janie's harmonious relationship is to both promote equality between male and female viewpoints and showcase the richness and uniqueness of traditional black culture (2004).

Related to the feminist literary criticism, the writer found that another researcher, Agry Pramita, a student of Andalas University, her thesis is entitled "*The Portrait of Domestic Violence and Social Unfair Treatment in Gloria Naylor's The Women Of Brewster Place*". In analyzing the novel, Pramita focuses her analysis on the economic oppression where men use money to control the woman. She also finds harassment and discrimination in social status. She

focuses on two parts: firstly, on the form of patriarchal restriction especially in terms of education and working place. Secondly, she focuses on woman's struggle against patriarchal restriction (2010).

In addition, a research by Tatty Royani a student of English Department Andalas University. She entitled her thesis "The Image of Women based on Feminist and Misogynist Idea in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*". In this thesis, Royani described about the image of women based on feminist point of view and how woman are based on misogynist point of view. In feminist point of view, Royani described the independences, strong, and educated women. On the other hand, in misogynist perspective, she describes Wilde's view about women who are unimportant and unreliable (2007).

At last, a research by Jennifer Agustia. She entitled her thesis "*A Portrait of Domestic Violence Toward Black Women as seen in Alice Walker's The Third Life of Grange Copeland*". In this thesis, Agustia focuses her analysis on the attitude of black men toward black women, how the black men treat the black women cruelly. Her analysis seems to conclude that black women just to be the thing that is blamed for the dying in economic life in their family. Furthermore, Jennifer Agustia creates the understanding about how black women are underestimated by their own community even by their family especially father or husband (2010).

All of the theses have some roles to help the writer to make this research stronger but there is no similar analysis of literary work done by other writers.

The difference between writers' research with the critique above is the writer focuses on the race and gender oppression by male character.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

In conducting this research, the writer uses expressive approach that proposed by Abrams (1976). In his book entitled: *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and Critical Tradition* states he that:

In general terms, the central tendency of the expressive theory may be summarized in this way: A work of art is essentially the internal made external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulse of feeling, and embodying the combined product of the authors perception, thoughts, and feelings. The primary source and subject matter of literary work, therefore, are the attributes and actions of the author's own mind; or if aspect of the external world, then these only as they are converted from fact to literary work by the feeling of the author's mind. (22)

Abrams concluded that literary work commonly has relation to the author. The relation does not necessarily called individual experiences in real life, it could be surrounding; the social condition or even the thought that influenced by perceptions and feelings.

The writer chooses expressive approach because based on the explanation, expression approach discusses about the author's perceptions, thought, and feeling. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* that written by black woman writer, Zora Neale Hurston belongs to this approach because Hurston conveys her ideas about her society in her work. Hurston freely used such incidents from her own life to

inform this novel, which is, at heart, love story inspired by her relationship with Punter, her third husband. But, Tea Cake is Not Punter, and Janie is not Zora Neale Hurston. To be sure, Hurston imbued Janie with some of the questing quality that characterized her own life. In this case, the writer needs external supporting data that describes Hurston's black feminist idea related to the novel. Her thought and feelings about the movement of black liberation agenda will be needed in actualizing this research. Feminism concerns on the position of woman as the second sex in the society. Most of feminist realized that our culture is dominated by patriarchal system where men are a leader in community.

Guerin et all state in A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature, that "feminist examine the experiences of women from all races and classes and cultures, including for example, African American, Latina, Asian American, American Indian, lesbian, handicapped, elderly, and Third World subject" (197). In this research, the writer focuses on Afro-American women, since this topic has been the main issue of unfair treatment in case of racism and also sexism toward the black women. In order to get sufficient analysis, the writer uses black feminist literary criticism. In this analysis, the writer deals about how black women treated and analyze their struggle toward the society (male domination especially). Black Women who participated in the feminist movement during the 1960s often deal with racism. It may be true, as Plain and Sellers say in *A History of Feminist Literary Criticism*:

Contemporary black feminist criticism came into in the late 1960s and early 1970s, fostered by the Civil Rights Movement and developed in

conjunction with the Second Wave of American feminism, which was dominated by white women, and the Black Power and Black Arts movements, which were dominated by black men (154).

It means that this criticism focused on many cases on black men's physical and psychological oppression of black women in the context of white-supremacist domination of all black people. The concerted efforts of black women writers, critics, as well as activists, are essential factors in inscribing race and ethnicity as criteria in feminist criticism. They successfully shift feminism both as a political movement and critical theory from the monolithic structural concept of the 1960s and 1970s to the plural feminisms of the 1990s. The feminist movement which gave impetus to feminist critical theory had been based mainly on the history of white women's experience and gender construction.

In this thesis, the writer analyzes the novel by applying feminist literary criticism proposed by Smith in her Black Feminist theory. The reason is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* wrote by black woman writer which told about the struggle of black women who try to escape from the domination of men. Black feminist theory has its own place in feminist theory because most of white feminism never exactly knows the experience, culture and problem of black woman. Black feminist theory is also a proof to the existence of black women writer in literature and their works can be analyzed using this theory. Smith (1977) in her article *Toward a Black Feminist Criticism* states that:

When black woman's books are dealt with at all, it is usually in the context of Black Literature, which largely ignores the implications of

sexual politics. When white women look at Black Women's works they are of course ill-equipped to deal with the subtleties of racial politics. A black feminist approach to literature that embodies the realization that the politics of sex as well as the politics of race and class are crucially interlocking factors in the works of Black Women writers is an absolute necessity (2).

Based on the explanation above, Smith's main point in this essay lays on a foundation for the explosion of both Black feminist critical theory and creative writing of Black Women in 1970s and 1980s. She suggests that Black women have good position to create an effective criticism that provides an integrated consideration of the roles played by race, gender, class, and sexuality in literature.

The writer concludes that in society black women always get double oppressions, first in side of social gender. Second, in the term of race they are oppressed because of their skin color. It makes black women always get social ignorance in society especially by men. It has been a tradition that black women have the lowest position and this condition is believed in the society. Although they come from the same race, black men always try to underestimate black women and this situation is difficult to avoid. Bethel in Tyson (2006) said that:

Black feminist literary criticism offers a framework for identifying the common socio-aesthetic problem of authors who attempt to fashion a literature of cultural identity in the midst of racial/sexual oppression. Such understanding requires a consciousness of the oppression these artists faced daily in a society full of institutionalized and violent hatred for both

their black skins and their female bodies. Developing and maintaining this consciousness is a basic tenet of Black feminism (106).

Based on the explanation above, the writer can conclude that white mainstream feminism tends to marginalize black woman because of their race. At the same time, the black male community tends to marginalize black women because of their gender. The black men encourage them to prioritize racial issues over gender issues and arguing that black woman are oppressed by racism and sexism.

1.7 Method of the Research

1.7.1 Collecting Data

To conduct the research the writer applies library research to collect the data. The writer divides the data into two parts primary data and secondary data. For the primary data, the writer uses the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, a novel by African American writer, Zora Neale Hurston. The writer also needs the secondary data, such as books and some related articles in the internet as supporting data in order to get better and clearer description.

1.7.2 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data first, the writer read the story to help the writer to understand the whole story. Next the writer relates it to the condition of Hurston's society because the writer uses an expressive approach. After all, the writer will be able to apply to feminist literacy criticism by Barbara Smith in her theory of Black feminist.

1.7.3 Presenting the Result of the Analysis

The data conducted through qualitative research that focuses on the object. Qualitative method is the method that is used to explain the phenomenal in cultural context that is found in the literary work. The writer uses a qualitative method where the research outcome described specifically about the feminist criticism in this novel.



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CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF ZORA NEALE HURSTON'S *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*

In this chapter, the writer analyzed the intrinsic element of the novel. Those elements compose the novel as a unity that cannot be separated from each other. They are: theme, setting, characters, plot and point of view.

2.1 THEME

William Kenney (1996) in his book How to analyze fiction states that "theme is the main idea of the story" (88). This statement means that theme is the main ideas which formulate the story and the ideas from the author which described in the work. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* written by Zora Neale Hurston talked about gender inequality: Men and women occupy very different roles. Women are not only considered the weaker sex but are fundamentally defined by their relationship to men. Women are traditionally confined by men of their passivity and as objects of desire. Men impose these standards on women by silencing their voices, limiting their actions with notions of propriety. It is supported by this statement,

"[Nanny]: "So de white man throw down de load and tell de nigger man tuh pick it up. He picks it up because he has to, but he doesn't tote it. He hand it to his women folks. De nigger woman is de mule ud de world so fur as Ah can see....." (14).

From the statement above, black women tends to receive bad action in their life. While white men are has highest position in the hierarchy and look down on black men. The black men in turn drop the burden on the shoulders of their women. Everyone treats black women like animals.

Race is also the theme in this story, the basic premise is that racism holds white men as superior to black. The novel shows a darker side of the black community, revealing sharp jealousy and racism based on skin color. The most important aspect of race in this novel is that it attempts a holistic look at black southern culture. "These sitters had been tongue less, earless, eyeless conveniences all day long. Mules and other brutes had occupied their skins. But now, the sun and the bossman were gone, so the skins felt powerful and human. They became lords of sounds and lesser things. They passed nations through their mouths. They sat in judgment..."(1). Black people of Eatonville's have lack of confidence during the day, which dissolves by night when the white "bossman [is] gone." After the white men gone, the black people feel more human because they are no longer treated cruelly or belittled. This situation is interesting to see that the passage implies that the black people of Eatonville can only live when they are away from white people and surrounded by their own community.

2.2 SETTING

According to Klarer (1996)“ setting denotes the location, historical period and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops” (24). The actual place where the story takes place is the setting. Basically, the setting depends on

the theme and choice of the places as the author's story may require such as a house, jungle, palace, or workplace. In her novel, Hurston's setting novel takes place during the 1920s and '30s and is set in a series of all-black communities in rural Florida. After the Civil War, former slaves formed a number of towns all over the South, in an effort to escape the segregation and discrimination they experienced among whites. The setting also takes place in West Florida, where Nanny takes Leafy, her daughter, after she runs away from Georgia. She raises Janie in that city even after Leafy runs away from home "mah grandma raised me.mah grandma and de white folks in West Florida..." (8).

The second place is Eatonville, the town that Janie and Joe moved to start their life, and became a Mayor of the town. " what is de real name of de place?, some say West Maitland and some say Eatonville.." (36). Janie Starks, the wife of the mayor, is sentenced to spend her days as a worker in the town store.

Next, another place is Everglades. The place where Tea Cake takes Janie to work on the muck " to Janie's strange eyes, everything in the Everglades was big and new. Big Lake Okechobee, big beans, big cane, big weeds, big everything. Dirt roads so rich and black that a half mile of it would have fertilized a Kansas wheat field.." (129) these are swamplands in Florida which are now heavily protected by environmental protection. They are contained of a significant amount of wildlife.

3.3 CHARACTER

Their Eyes Were Watching God is a novel which has five major characters, and also there are several minor characters that should be analyzed because of their influence toward the story. In *An Introduction To Literary Studies* by Klarer (1996) , stated “ Character is a figure presented in a literary, including main character or protagonist, and minor character of protagonist. Major or protagonist character is a central figure in drama or narrative, and minor or antagonist is opposing character that causes conflict” (134). Protagonist character usually gets the reader sympathy and positive attention, while the antagonist gets the negative image from the reader because of the bad attitude.

2.3.1 Major Character

Janie Crawford

Janie is the protagonist character in the story. Janie is a black young girl, whose beauty and sensuality shine through even during her childhood where she lives with her grandmother, Nanny, and grows up with a white family, the Washburns. Raising with white children, such that she didn't even realize initially she was black and living in an all-black town as she did:

“ so when we looked at de picture and everybody got pointed out there wasn't nobody left except a real dark little girl with long hair standing by Elanor. Dat's where Ah wuz s'posed to be, but Ah couldn't

recognize dat dark chile as me.. Mr. Washburn pointed to de dark one and said, 'dat's you, Alphabet, don't you know yo' ownself?' (9).

Even at age forty and with men's clothing on, Janie seems to be attractive enough to draw the gaze of not only her best friend but also the jealous gossipers on the porch. Pheoby shows the sincerity of her friendship by complimenting to Janie or how good she looks: "Gal, you sho looks good. You looks like youse yo' own daughter." They both laughed. "Even wid dem overhalls on, you shows yo' womanhood." (14)

Nanny

Nanny is Janie's grandmother and the only parent she's ever known. Nanny loves Janie and raises the girl as best as she can, " Ah loves yuh a whole yo' birth pains mah self, Ah loves you a whole heap more'n Ah do yo'mama, de one ah did birth. You ain't got no papa, you ain't got nobody but me" (15). The only problem is that Nanny's hopes for Janie's future are skewed by her own traumatic experiences. Nanny herself lived through slavery and had a child, Janie's mother, by her white master, supported by this statement:

Ah was born back in slavery so it wasn't for me to fulfill my dreams of whut a woman oughta be and to do. Dat's one of de hold-backs of slavery. Ah didn't want to be used for a work-ox and a brood-sow and Ah didn't want mah daughter used dat way neither. Freedom found me wid a baby daughter in mah arms, so Ah said Ah'd take a broom and a cook-pot and

throw up a highway through de wilderness for her. She would expound what Ah felt. But somehow she got lost offa de highway and next thing Ah knowed here you was in de world (16)

Nanny herself was unmarried, but sexually dominated by a man, and similar experience happened to her daughter. As a result, Nanny has high expectation that Janie will marry and be a legitimate wife. This goal seems to be the most important thing for Nanny, and in her quest to push Janie to get married.

Loggan Killick

Logan Killicks is Janie's first husband, he is an old man, Janie is beautiful, Logan seems ugly in terms of all the senses, described in this statement, "...He look like some ole skullhead in de grave yard." (13). Young naïve Janie judges men purely on their looks. Perhaps this comes from a sense of pride over her beauty.

His belly is too big too, now, and his toe-nails look lak mule foots. And 'tain't nothin' in de way of him washin' his feet every evenin' before he comes tuh bed. 'Tain't nothin' tuh hinder him 'cause Ah places de water for him. Ah'd ruther be shot wid tacks tan tuh turn over in de bed and stir up de air whilst he is in dere. He don't even never mention nothin' pretty (13)

Form the statement this can be concluded that, Young Janie's thought that of the beauty extends to more than just the visible. She also takes offense that Logan

does make himself smell pretty either. He is totally ugly in every way possible to Janie, even in his speech he "never mention nothing' pretty". Logan is also emotionally destitute. What little affection he shows Janie at the beginning of the marriage is described as "speaking in rhymes". From the statement ‘

"Janie!" Logan called harshly. "Come help me move dis manure pile befo' de sun gits hot. You don't take a bit of interest in dis place. 'Tain't no use in foolin' round in dat kitchen all day long..." "You don't need mah help out dere, Logan. Youse in yo' place and Ah'm in mine." "You ain't got no particular place. It's wherever Ah need yuh. Git uh move on yuh, and dat quick (31).

Despite her annoyed under Logan's rule, Janie does indeed want boundaries. She likes to think of her "place" in the house. This is her comfort zone. However, Logan's definition of her place is, ironically, far more confining. He says that her place is wherever he needs her. So, in effect, he wants to strip her identity and freedom. After that, he only shows anger and frustration when Janie resists his attempts to command her. Logan seems to have the idea that marriage means dominating a woman and women are objects for men.

Joe Starks

Joe Starks (often called Jody) is Janie's second husband. He is handsome enough and also very smart, "Janie pumped it off until she got a good looking at the men. He talks friendly while he drank" (28) Joe is an ambition man, a lack of

communication, a superior and uncontrollable jealousy over Janie. Joe's entire lifestyle revolves around his high esteem of his manhood. Joe mixes conceptions of manhood with his right to power, wealth, and authority " he has always to be a big voice , but de white folks had all de sayso where he come from and everywhere else, exeptin' dis place dat colored folks was buildin' thierselves. Dat was right too. De man dat built things oughta boss it. He was glad he has his money all saved up (28)

Vergible "Tea Cake" Woods

Tea Cake Woods is Janie's true love. He wins Janie's heart with his carefree, fun-loving nature. He is twelve years younger than Janie " in the first place he looked too young for her. Must be around twenty-five and here she was around forty" (100). From Tea Cake, Janie learns how to love, about her cultural roots, how to live life in a natural way, and to find ways to find happiness. Tea Cake is fun, adventurous, and spontaneous; he is a gambler and a musician. Although he is not a rich man, he proves to Janie that he can always find money if they need it, and they live off his income alone. Tea Cake is a natural leader like Joe Starks, but acquires peoples' admiration and trust just by listening to them, by laughing at their stories and jokes, and by playing guitar for Janie.

Pheoby Watson

As Janie's best friend and confidante, Pheoby can be trusted to listen to Janie's story and tell the townsfolk as much or as little of it as she wishes. In either

case, Janie knows that Pheoby will be honest. Janie trusts Pheoby enough to repeat what she says faithfully to the porch gossips. We can see from her statement, "Ah don't mean to bother wid tellin' 'em nothin', Pheoby. 'Tain't worth the trouble. You can tell 'em what I say if you wants to. Dat's just de same as me 'cause mah tongue is in mah friend's mouf." (6)

3.3.2 Minor character

Mr. and Mrs. Turner

Everglades residents who run a small restaurant. Mrs. Turner prides herself on her Caucasian features and disdains anyone with a more African appearance. She worships Janie because of *her* Caucasian features. She cannot understand why a woman like Janie would marry a man as dark as Tea Cake, and she wants to introduce Janie to her brother.

Leafy Crawford

Janie's mother, Leafy was born shortly before the end of the Civil War and ran away after giving birth to Janie.

Hezekiah Potts

He is the delivery boy and assistant shopkeeper at Jody's store. After Jody's death, Hezekiah begins to mimic Jody's affectations.

Mr. and Mrs. Washburn

Nanny's employers after she became a free woman. Nanny lived in a house in the Washburn's backyard, and they helped raise Janie with their own children.

2.4 PLOT

According to Mario Klarer (1996) in his book *An Introduction to Literary Studies*, plot is the logical interaction of the various thematic element of a text which leads to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative. An ideal traditional plot line encompasses the following four sequential levels: exposition- complication-climax-resolution (15).

2.4.1 Exposition

The exposition introduces all of the main characters in the story. It shows how they relate to one another, what their goals and motivations, and the kind of person they are. The author starts to describe an African American woman in her early forties named Janie Crawford, Hurston tells the story of her life and journey via an extended flashback to her best friend, Pheoby. Her life has three major periods corresponding to her marriages to three very different men. Janie's story begins in the backyard of her grandmother's white employers, where she realizes that she has darker-skinned than the white children in her surroundings. Janie has lived a conservative childhood, for she is being raised by her protective and traditional grandmother.

mah grandma raised me. Mah grandma and de white folks she worked wid. She had a house out in de backyard and dat's where Ah wuz born. They was quality white folks up dere in west florida (8)

When her grandmother worried about Janie's future, and marry to an older neighbor named Logan Killicks he is a man with property who can "protect" her. The marriage is not happy for Janie because she does't love Killicks

Her grandmother dies, and after a short time, Janie escapes from Logan. She marries Joe Starks, and they live at a new black settlement called Eatonville. Joe is an ambitious man. One day after almost twenty years of marriage, Joe humiliates her once again in front of people in the store and she stands up for herself for the first time. Janie tells him a thing or two about his aging self. As a result, Joe shuts her out of his life. Joe soon becomes ill, but still refuses to speak to Janie. One day, when she feels she can take it no longer, Janie burst into his sick room and tells him what has been wrong with their marriage. Joe escapes away from her and dies.

2.4.2 Complication

Complication is started with the introduction of conflict or climax in the story. In this novel the complication occurs when Janie forced into one loveless marriage, and falls into a second in order to escape from her first husband. Janie's first two marriages turn sour. The first one ends in disaster because Janie never had any feelings for the man, Logan Killicks. In the first place and only marry him pressured by Nanny. Logan, a no-nonsense man, doesn't help matters by practicing poor hygiene and concerning himself only with working in the farm. Janie's second marriage to Joe Starks starts out more promisingly, but goes disappointed when Joe proves to be irrationally jealous. After Starks passed away,

Janie finds herself financially independent with suitors. Some of whom are men of some means or have prestigious occupations, but she falls in love with a drifter and gambler named Vergible Woods who goes by the name of Tea Cake throughout the story. While their relationship has its ups and downs, including mutual bouts of jealousy, Janie now has the marriage with love that she had wanted. Logan and Joe's short-lived attempts to please Janie always fell short or turned out to be only pretense. That Tea Cake can find happiness in pleasing Janie helps him winning her love; his actions bring them mutual happiness.

2.4.3 Climax

While climax is the plot's most dramatic and revealing moment, usually the turning point of the story. In this story the climax happens when Tea Cake's pride prevents him from escaping from the hurricane and he gets bitten by a rabid dog. Tea Cake's pride keeps him from heeding the warnings of a coming hurricane. He decides that he and Janie should remain in the Everglades and sit out the storm. However, the hurricane comes strongly, creating chaos and danger. While attempting to reach higher ground, a short time later, Tea Cake and frightened Janie point guns at each other. The black community that knew and loved her so well is dead set against her. They feel that she has betrayed the staunchly loyal Tea Cake. Janie gives her heartfelt testimony and the verdict eventually comes innocent and finally Janie goes free.

2.4.4 Resolution

Resolution is the part of the plot after the climax, when the drama subsides and the conflict is resolved. The resolution of this novel is when Janie is back to Eatonville and feels satisfy with her life. At home, Janie tells Pheoby the whole story. She has learned two life lessons – that people must go out and live their lives (not simply stay home and gossip) and that they must find God for themselves. The novel ends with Janie coming to terms with Tea Cake's death. She thinks of Tea Cake, grateful that he gave her the chance to love and live fully. It is supported by this statement, “ So she was free and the judge and everybody up dere smiled with her and shook her hand. And while woman cried and stood around her like a protecting wall and the Negroes, with heads hung down, shuffled out and way. The sun was almost down and Janie had seen the sun rise on her troubled love and then she had shot Tea Cake and had been jail and had been tried for her life and now she was free” (188).

2.5 POINT OF VIEW

Point of view is the position from which the story is told, as Klarer (2004) says “the term point of view, on narrative perspective, characterizes the way in which the text presents persons, events and settings” (20). Klarer divided this term into three; omniscient point of view, first-person narration and figural narrative situation. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is written using third point of view from the perspective of an omniscient narrator.

Point of view rather than self-explanatory, it can be seen from the quotation below: “Janie did wat she had never done before, that is thrust herself into the conversation” (75). The statement shows that the writer uses the third person as the point of view in this novel. Especially for the first chapter, the author uses the narrator as the first person.



CHAPTER III

BLACK WOMEN'S PATRIARCHAL OPPRESSION AND DOMINATION IN ZORA NEALE HURSTON'S *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*

In this chapter, the writer will show the ideas and feeling of Zora Neale Hurston about her society especially about black woman in facing patriarchal oppression as found in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* through black woman character. She created the portrait of an African American female, Janie, growing into adulthood searching for her identity and fulfillment. Through a series of marriages Janie comes to know and define herself in terms of her relationship with whites. For several years after the novel's publication critics saw this work as a sentimental love story. However, if the novel is read with the understanding that love was the traditional way in which a woman was supposed to find fulfillment, then love can be seen as the vehicle for emotional, spiritual, and intellectual development. The novel also portrays the awakening of a woman's sexuality. With the advent of the women's movement of the 1970s and the subsequent growth of female awareness, many critics cited this novel as the central text in the canon of literature by African American women writers, specifically, and by women writers in general.

The writer focuses on two main problems, which is divided into two subchapters. Firstly, it will explain about kind of patriarchal oppression experienced that focus on the black woman slave and kinds of patriarchal oppression and domination of Nanny and Janie. The analysis focused on male dominations, limitation in Working, and mental Abuse. Secondly, it talks about

the struggle of Nanny and Janie to escape from the patriarchal and domination with the brave way through confrontation by leaving their husband to get the freedom.

3.1 Patriarchal Oppression Experienced By Woman in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

In this research the writer will analyze the kinds of patriarchal oppression toward woman, faced by female character Nanny and Janie in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Patriarchal describes a general structure in which men have power over women. In this novel the two characters Nanny and Janie is getting some oppression in their life, apart from that the world of the whites and the conflict between blacks and whites is mainly faded out. Instead of portrait the black people in the novel as oppressed victims of racism. Hurston portrays the people of Eatonville as independent and self-governing people, who do not suffer from racism, but who have their own community, their own way of life and their freedom.

3.1.1 The Experience of Nanny in Facing Patriarchal Oppression

Nanny is Janie's grandmother she was born into slavery, her flashback memory materializes the matter of what she has been through, both as black slave and as a black woman slave. Along with the moments when Nanny tries to comfort Janie, Nanny shares her experience during slavery:

You know, honey, us colored folks is branches without roots and that makes things come round in queer ways. You in particular. Ah was born back due in slavery so it wasn't for me to fulfill my dreams of whut a woma oughta be and to do. Dat's on the hold back slavery (16).

Based on the statement above, the condition of black people as slaves was so cruel. The black people have nothing to hold on because they practically have nothing to rely on except their own slaveness. Nanny asserts her next feminist idea based on her background. Nanny utters her own wish, "ah didn't want to be used for a work-ox and brood-sow..." as slaves do, including the woman, they are forced to do never ending and back breaking tasks.

In her life, Nanny has worked as a slave in the owned by upper-middle class white families, in the circumstance, she was repeatedly raped and sexually exploited by her white master. This is a normal condition when a Nanny wishes not to be exploited to work like an 'ox' and 'brood-sow'. Furthermore, the feminist thought is well shown when Nanny does not want to do hard work but also refuses to be the slave of black man. The situation has double risk, a common situation which usually faced by black woman, which she has to suffer from the white but also from the black man. As nanny depicts:

Honey, de white man is de ruler of everything as fur as Ah been able tuh find out. Maybe it's some place way off in de ocean where de black man is in power, but we don't know nothin' but what we see. So de white man throw down de load and tell de nigger man tuh pick it up. He pick it up

because he have to, but he don't tote it. He hand it to his womenfolks. De nigger woman is de mule uh de world so fur as Ah can see (14).

The quotation above shows that the behavior of black man to black woman recognized to be exploitative.' The mule' symbolizes a state where the woman does hard work, since usually mules are used in the fields. This novel reveals a social hierarchy based on race and gender. While the fact that black men were often put down and discriminated against white men is common knowledge. Nanny was even victimized group black women.

Second wish that Nanny makes and shares to Janie is that she wishes for woman to be in a high status. Nanny's statements above become the main root of all her wishes toward her granddaughter. Nanny having painful background as a slave, eventually shapes a feminist thought that how colored women should have a better life, opportunity, and equality to men. Nanny ask Janie to get married when she think that Janie is mature enough to have husband.

Later on, however, the reason why Nanny wants Janie to get married is not just maturity, but also about Nanny's sufferings in the past, she is afraid that the same thing might happen to her beloved granddaughter. Slavery, obviously, is confining, it kept Nanny from fulfilling her dreams and taking action to bring black women to be more respected. As a former slave, Nanny Crawford has never been exposed to or acquired any sort of wealth, material possessions, or security.

Nanny Crawford disregards Janie's wishes and marries her to a wealthy farmer, Logan Killicks. This is the catalysts that begin Janie's relationship and independence issues that will haunt her for the rest of her life. These will lead to

violence, verbal and physical abuse, and unhappiness in Janie's life. Janie's marriage to Logan turns into violence and abusive because Logan thinks that Janie "owes" him for all the material items he pampers her with. This painful marriage lead Janie down a long path filled with numerous marriages, heartbreaking, abuse, and sadness.

3.1. 2 The Experience of Janie in Facing Patriarchal Oppression

In this subchapter the writer will analyze the kinds of patriarchal oppression and domination toward woman that is faced by Janie. The domination faced by female character is caused by a system in society called patriarchy. In this novel, Janie as the main character is always oppressed in her two marriages. In Hurston 's *Their Eyes were Watching God* , the main character Janie who got oppression and domination by her first and second husband and finally she meet Tea Cake. She travels from town to town and from marriage to marriage or relationship to relationship. Janie's life is marked with different types of men treating her in different ways. Because of Nanny's background as a slave, she does not want Janie to experience similar thing.

Thus she wants Janie who is still 16 years old, to marry Logan Killick who has the property. Nanny intends that by marrying Logan, Janie does not have to work hard as she used to as well as having a high status. After Janie conscious that her marriage is out of love, she started to notice that her husband has similar feeling. The true character of Logan Killicks as a husband reveals evidently in his treatments to Janie afterwards. For example when Logan ask Janie to do the

wood chopping, even though he knows that is usually done by men and pick all of the woods to the kitchen. We can see from the statement:

Mah fust wife never bothered me 'bout choppin' no wood nohow. she is grab dat ax and sling chips lak uh man. You done been spoilt rotten (26)

Later on in the following statement, when one morning Janie is having her breakfast, Killick yells at her to cut up the potatoes seed because he intends to go out of town. When Janie knows that her husband wants to buy another mule and asks for his reason why, Killick answers:

Taters is goin' to be taters in the fall. Bringin' big prices, Ah aims tuh run two plows, and this man Ah'm talking' about bout is gotuh mule all gentled up so even uh woman kin handle'im".

Loggan held his wad of tobacco real still in his jaw like a thermometer of his feelings while he studied Janie's face and waited for her to say something (27).

The first statement by Killick reflects his patriarchal way of thinking. As it is reflected, obviously he wants to say implicitly that the mule is bought for Janie to run. In other words, he says that he want to harvest the potatoes therefore he needs the soil to be plowed entirely by buying one more mule. By buying the mule, he is intended to make Janie run it, in order to make the land finished faster that he plans. If Killicks can force Janie to pick wood, tells his first wife to chop the wood and even to make Janie to be able to handle the mule, this means that he does not hesitate to treat woman as his property. Properties are categorized as one

of the production assets, Killicks asserts his oppression to impose on Janie the notion of 'wife-as-factor-of production' as he state:

come, move this manure pile before' de sun gits hot. You don't take a bit of interest in this place." Tain't no use in foolin' round in that kitchen all day long (31).

Killick has the notion that Janie is supposed to be a part of the land itself when the land is supposed to be his object of production process. Killicks does not only want Janie to work in the kitchen, but he wants Janie to work anywhere he wants and needs her: " you ain't got no particular place, it's wherever ah need you. Git uh move on yuh, and dat quick. (31).

All Logan expectation from Janie is to be obedience. Logan expects her to stop what she is doing to help him, regardless if Janie believes if it is her place or not. That experience persuades Janie to explore a different route in her freedom. Clearly, Killicks show his dominance by implicitly order Janie to work with the gentle mule and plow.

Although Logan treats her kindly at first, he soon begins to treat Janie as nothing more than another tool on the farm. Because Janie is a young woman and he has given her what he considers to be a perfect life. He thinks he can control her completely. Janie hates the way Logan treats her and the realization that love will never come with Logan slaps her in the face. In this real condition, Janie runs out with Joe Straks who promises her a life of privilege and hope for the happiness.

She meets her future second husband, Joe Starks and runs to marry him. Starks is a black man, full of ambition and of authoritarian ways, but Janie does not realize this until after he sweeps her off to a new town. As soon as they arrive in the place, Starks settles his feet on the ground and starts making movement to develop the town. Building post office and store for the people to show his authority and power.

In addition, he puts his wife there to show that she is the wife of the store builder, represents his power as well as his contribution to the town and therefore he wants his wife to stand in the store all day long to mark that the store owned by Starks. In other words, Janie used as a remark of Starks's possession. Subsequently, things get worse when Starks elected as the mayor of Eatonville after he build the store. He is concentrating upon his aim to be the "big-voice" in the town.

But, eventough Janie is Mrs.Major, Strack does not want to share the authority with her because she feels that Janie being a Mrs. Major because he is Mr.Major. Thus there is nothing, according to Starck, that can allow Janie to give speech like Stark since she is only an "attachment" of Stark's reputation. In addition, Starks denotes that he marries Janie because he wants her to be like other wives whose place is "in de home".

Although Stark gave her material comforts, Janie never felt free to do things she enjoyed explaining," but Jody wouldn't 'lov me tuh. When Ah wasn't in de store he wanted me tuh jes sit wid folded hands and sit dere"(112). Janie was locked away in Stark's world and he kept the key. The most evidence is Starks

forbids her to enjoy the front porch of the store, although Janie is inside the store and keeping it, Jody does not allow her to join or even listen to the conversation near him. In Starks's opinion, a wife of a Mayor should not get along with the people of the town itself, for he considers that his reputation would be regarded. Besides treating Janie as a possession, He practically seals up every change that reveals Janie's own thoughts. For instance, in the first time Starks is elected to be a Mayor, after he finished the speech, everybody also asks Janie to deliver a speech but stark refuses:

Thank yuh fuh yuh compliments, but mah wife don't know nothing' 'bout no speech-makin'. Ah never married her for nothin' lak dat. She's uh woman and her place is in de home (43).

That statement shows the way Starks underestimates Janie's intelligence because she is a woman. In Stark's patriarchal notion, Janie a wife and a woman, and to deliver a speech is not Janie's field. Feeling offended, Janie actually does not care if she can make a speech or not, but the chance to make it is Janie's concerns. She feels Starks does not even give her any opportunity at least to try it just because she is woman. Another example of Stark's act of underestimating Janie's intelligence is where Starks mocks her carelessness in putting the store's bill.

it will be pitiful if Ah didn't. Somebody got to think for women and chillun and chickens and cow. I god, they so don't think none theirsleves." ah knows a few things, and womenfolks thinks sometimes too!" "aw naw they don't . they just think they's thinkin'. When Ah see one thing I understand ten. You see ten thingsand don't understand one (78)

The conversation above show how much Starks regards women as creatures that cannot even think about themselves like cows and chickens. Even though Janie debates the matter that women can think, Starks even insults her harsher by telling her that she is too stupid for thinking.

Joe is just as oppressive as Logan, but in a different way and for different reasons. Although he doesn't do any physical labor to Janie, he doesn't allow her to have her own voice. He interrupts her when she tries to speak and treats her as he wants. He wants her to be nothing but an obedient trophy wife. He also puts her down by pointing out every little thing she does wrongly in the store so that his own flaws won't be noticed. Because of his extreme jealousy, Jody who is also called as Stark forces Janie to wear a rag on her head who does not only hides her hair but suffocates her spirit as well. Although Janie is unhappy in her marriage, she can't get away from Straks as she did from Logan. Only through his death she can move on and retrieve her freedom.

Following Joe Stark's death, Janie's world changed dramatically for the good when she met her third husband, Vergible Woods or usually called Tea Cake. He did not have much to offer Janie in regards to material things, but he offered her freedom to express herself. The first few times Tea Cake visited Janie he taught her to play checkers. Janie was immediately impressed with him and the freedom to play a 'man's game,' she soon let him into her heart. Tea Cake opened Janie's cocoon and let her out by letting her do things she was never able to do. They fished, hunted, danced and did various other activities that Janie had never had the opportunity before. Janie had been with Tea Cake for two years, when

they experienced a hurricane, and Janie surmises under the foul weather conditions, "It's so many people never seen de light at all. Ah wuz fumblin' round and God opened de door"(159). Janie was telling her husband, that under the circumstances of possible death, she was able to see the light, which God had furnished her with an Angel of a husband and she was satisfied with him.

After several years of suppression of her grandmother by two husbands, Janie was on the verge of depression, but Janie was able to begin a new life with Tea Cake. He brought the best out of Janie by letting her to be free. Even after "Tea Cake" died, he was not dead to Janie. "Of course he wasn't dead; he could never be dead until her finished feeling and thinking"(193).

3.2. The Struggle of Black Woman to escape from the patriarchal system in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

In this subchapter, the writer analyzes the struggles of black women in facing the patriarchal oppression. Hurston described a woman who tries to fight and achieve the equality and freedom. Hurston figures the main character as the strong black women that should fight by herself to get happiness. The writer talks about The Struggle of Black Woman, to escape from the patriarchal and domination.

Black woman always underestimated and oppressed by black men. There will be a desire to fight in getting the equality in society. This desire also happens to Nanny and Janie in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The women are described as searching for unconditional, true, and fulfilling love. Nanny and Janie

experienced different kinds of love throughout their life. As a result of her quest for this love, the black woman gains her own independence and personal freedom. They realize that they should escape the domination.

3.2.1 Nanny's Struggles in Facing Patriarchal Oppression

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* a former slave named Nanny's think that an ideal marriage is if the relationship provides both protection and security. Although people always have their own perspectives and standpoints of problems that are different from others, Nanny's view of marriage is influenced by the slavery and her ill-fated life experience. As a former slave, Nanny's idea of marriage is influenced by her social status. In this case, black people have nothing to hold on because they practically have nothing to rely on except their own slaveness. In addition, because of her slaveness status, Nanny feels that her chances have been taken away at that time. Even though her dream as a woman needed to fulfill, she cannot realize it is due to her destiny as a slave.

Therefore, the non-existing element to rely on as well as possessing no chances at all, especially as a woman, makes it one of the supporting factors that "hold back" slavery. We can see from Nanny's statement "But nothing can't stop you from wishin'. You can't beat nobody down so low till you can 'rom em of they will" (31). This also is strengthen by Nanny's statement "you can't beat nobody down", shows that Nanny has been through as a slave. She depicts the situation as she was beaten so hard. She thinks that no matter how harsh the treatment she accept, she feels that the power of hoping or 'wishin' can still exist even if it cannot be realized.

Since Nanny was one of the slaves, of course she is also the owner of her own will and wish or dream. Moreover, throughout the story and its details, Nanny asserts her next feminist idea based on her background. Nanny does not have many choices to improve her life at that time. Therefore, even though she has feminist notion, she refuses to be subordinated by men. Nanny shows some way to escape from that oppression that she thought it should be done by black woman in order to avoid being subordinated by men. Those steps are her unfulfilled wishes when she is still a slave, and she wants Janie to fulfill it. The wishes are the extension of the main feminist notion that Nanny has, having Janie for Nanny to raise as well as the substitute of her lost daughter, she sees that Janie as another chance to continue her wishes.

It sho wasn't mah will for things to happenlak they did. Ah even hated de way you was born. But, all de same Ah said thank God, ah got another chance (31)

Therefore, she manages it somehow for Janie to carry on her wishes after trying to impose her. Nanny wishes Janie to stay away from life which involves a man to exploit Janie. Like the first imposition, the second one regarding the woman 'sittin' on high', Nanny does not leave it remains an expectation but as well as imposes it to Janie in the following statement:

Ah been waitin' a long time Janie, but nothin' Ah been through ain't too much if you just take a stand on high ground lak Ah dreamed (32)

Nanny requires that her granddaughter fulfill her dream, which is to be a woman in high status or 'high ground'. At last, in the end of her sorrowful memory sharing, Nanny again asserts her final prospect to Janie;

Ah wanted you to look upon yo' self. Ah don't want yo' feathers always crumpled by folks throwin' up things in yo' face. And Ah can't die easy thinkin' maybe de menfolk white or black is makin' a spit cup oughta yo' (37)

Because Nanny does not want to be subordinated by men like what happens to Nanny and Janie's mother, therefore Nanny denotes of her wishes. Nanny's main idea is to get Janie out of white and black men subordination and to realize it. Nanny loads her with her demands because Janie's mother and Janie herself were born as the result of rapes, Nanny thinks that marriage is a good for Janie she cannot touched by other men besides her own husband. Marrying a rich husband, having a marriage and a good decent life in term of physical exploitation are things that Nanny does not have and thus she wants Janie to have it.

Back to the years of slavery, African-American couldn't get too much freedom, and they were treated as goods by their white masters. Especially for the African-American women, they were at the bottom of the society which had made their lives even harder. The slavery had anchored Nanny's mind, she believed that the best thing could happen to an African-American woman is to marry a man that has so much money and the purpose of marriage is to find someone who can provide security and social status for her. In addition, the cause of women performing 'femininity' is that she has been treated or doctrine by her family or

society. The gender inequalities usually caused by the cultural background, and the influence of the surroundings as well as the environment in that situation, women has to think that they should be lower than man.

3.2.2 Janie's Struggles in Facing Patriarchal Oppression

Janie the main character in this novel always tries to fight and achieve the equality in her life. Hurston does not always figures the main character as a weak person in the whole story. For example, her first husband asks Janie to do hard working in the field such as picking and chopping the woods like a man. In the following statement is Killicks's utterance that effectively irritates Janie's feeling and makes her to give him even an unkind reply:

Ah'm just as stiff as you is stont. If you can stand not to chop and tote wood. Ah recon you can stand to git no dinner. ' scuse mah frezolity mist' Killicks, but Ah don't mean to chop de first chip (45)

Get snapped directly with Killicks' statement, Janie refuses to chop the wood and threatens him for not making him dinner. Killicks show his dominance by implicitly wanting Janie to work with the gentle mule, and plow, but even though Janie realizes what her husband wants from her. This action shows that indeed the first moment when Janie refuses to chop the wood is only her spontaneous act of reacting against the insult. Yet, the other moment when Janie keeps silent when her husband wants her to handle the mule, that showing her reflective act recognizing her husband's first exploitative act and as soon as possible, Janie rejects it:

You don't need mah help out dere, Loggan. Youse in yo' place and i'm in mine." , "you ain't got no particular place . it's whenever Ah need yuh. Git ah move on yuh, and dat quick."

"mah mama didn't tell me Ah wuz born in no hurry. So what bussiness Ah got rushin' now? Anyhow dat ain't whut youse mad about. You mad 'cause Ah don't fall down and wash up dese sixty acresuh ground yuh got. You ain't done me favor by marryin me. And if dat's what you call yo'self doin' Ah don't think yuh for it. Youse mad 'cause Ah'm tellin' yuh whut you already knowed' (52)

Her refusal above does not only cause by her 'not-loving' feeling to her husband but also caused by her reflection of her Nanny's imposing idea of feminism. Nanny yearns for Janie to have a better life, and she will do anything in her power to make sure that Janie is safe and cared for. With Logan, Janie has attained similar protective love, those provided by Nanny. Logan represents security for Janie, as he owns a 60-acre potato farm. For Janie, however, this protective love does not satisfy her need for the love that she has always desired.

During Janie's disappointment of her marriage, she is seeing another man that offers her promises and sweet talk, Jody Stark. Janie begins to show her refusal of her husband's treatment right after Stark offer her to go to another city with him. And at the same night, Janie intends to talk about her relationship with Killicks. After she released her fear, she becomes more spirited in letting her husband know how much she dislikes her marriage.

Ah'm getting sleepy, Janie. Let's don't talk no mo'. 'Tain't too many mens would trus yuh, knowin' yo' folks lak dey do", " ah might take and fins somebody dad did trust me and leave yuh (30)

At first, Janie only denies her husband's insult and conceals her disappointment, but then she has courage to express her opinion about the core of the marriage problem. Furthermore, Janie's statement successfully hurts Killick's feeling when she treats him to leave and also when Janie talk about 'sow-belly and corn bread' the daily food she gets everyday which makes her boring. Since she feels there is no other reason to stay in her marriage, she rushes to her "front-gate" which always symbolizes her new spirit to a new expectation. In other words, Janie runs away from Killicks and the marriage, then she plan to accept Jody.

The morning road air was like a new dress. That made her feel and apron tied around her waist. She untied it and flung it on a low bush beside the road and walked on, picking flowers and making a bouquet (32).

In addition, because she is seeking for a new expectation, the statement "even Joe was not there waiting for her, the change was bound to do her good" (32). This is displays the idea of Janie's skepticism, Janie does not care whether or not Joe is waiting for her, yet one thing for sure she wants a change in her life. Janie cannot hold the feeling of boring any longer. In her second marriage, Jody does not treat her as a husband usually does. Finally after a few times of disappointment, Janie reaches the point where she recognizes that her dreams are fading away. Janie neither pays respect nor consider him as a husband that she expect. Feeling

nothing to lose since she does not have anything that she desires in her marriage with Jody, Janie does not feel hesitate to react against Jody's next act of patriarchal notion. The first dominance by Jody after Janie realize that her downright emptiness in her marriage takes place when Jody insult her harshly as in front of the porch talkers regarding her looks and people laugh at her.

Stop mixin' up mah doings wid mah looks, Jody. When you git through tellin' me how tuh ah plug u tobacco, then you kin tell me whether msh behind is on straight or not (22)

Janie begins her refusal to Jody, this insult and Janie's courage successfully make Jody shocked and he even tries to defend himself by asserting that he only comments on her old looks because she is not a young girl anymore.

Naw, ah ain't no young gal no mo' but den Ah ain't no old woman neither. Ah reckon Ah looks mah age too. But Ah'm uh woman every inch of me, and Ah know it. Dat's ah whole lot more'n you kin say. You big-bellies round here and put out a lot of brag, 'tain't nothin' ot it but yo' big voice. Humph ! talkin' 'bout me lookin' old ! when you pull down yo' britches, you look lak de change uh life' (122)

Just because she is a woman, it does not mean a man can step over her dignity. Therefore she offends Jody back by saying that he can only brag along to people just to show his superiority. The insults that Janie denotes harshly to Jody successfully convey two intentions which are to pay back what Jody has done to her as an act of defending as well as to show the porch talkers that she is no longer Jody's property. By insulting him, Janie will not ever be considered as his object

of domination anymore. The marriage gets worse after the argument and Jody start to make distance from Janie.

When Jody gets very ill and dying, Janie recognizes this moment as a chance for her to let him know how she feels about him and the marriage. Janie now has the courage to tell him what she actually wants in the marriage and how Jody turns the marriage down. According to Janie, Jody is too busy pursuing his dreams to be a big voice and forgotten to nurture his love to Janie. Instead Janie feels that Jody leaves his love just for his career. In addition, a she gives Jody last statement before he dies expressing how she wants to be loved by him instead being dominated.

All dis bowin' down, all dis obedience under yo' voice, dat ain't whut Ah rushed off down de road tu find out about yu (134)

Through Janie's struggle to be free from the power and control of the men in her life, Hurston narrates the importance of independence for women clear to her reader's. When Janie is alone she becomes a strong and independent woman. Hurston is pointing out the fact that a woman doesn't need a man to get the happiness. In fact she can only shine the brightest when there is no man to dim her spirit. From Logan to Jody, every man in Janie's life suppressed her in some way and she had to struggle to be free from their power and to be strong as she could be.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is an interesting novel, Hurston gives a portrait about the situation of black communities in rural Florida, after the Civil War. In that era, former slaves formed a number of towns all over the South. Hurston tries to describe kinds of patriarchal oppression that are faced by black woman and also shows the struggle of black woman to fight the patriarchal oppression in order to get the equality in society and also to be an independent woman. Janie's life was often related and compared to a mule's life, because she was a hard-working, oppressed and mistreated woman for almost whole of her life.

In this research, the writer focuses on two points; the first is about kinds of patriarchal oppression that is experienced by Nanny and Janie, secondly it talks about the struggles to escape from domination. In this research, the writer observes the ideas of feminism by Janie through her refusal against the oppressions done by her first and second husbands. Janie marries Logan Killick upon the recommendation of Nanny her grandmother. In one way she tries to deal with Nanny's Feminist idea. Nanny attains a good treatment from a man. For owning such a large property, Nanny thinks that Killick will never treat Janie harshly by making her work too hard like her experience when she is a slave. Thus, as reaction for not sensing the love in her marriage, she runs away with someone else as her reaction of her refusal.

In her second marriage, Janie still does not feeling anything about her husband who is an ambition man, lack of communication, superior and have a big authority. Janie completely stands for the opposite. The writer recognizes her action in fighting over oppression from her first and second husbands as the flourishing ideas of feminism. Eventually, Janie does meet the love of her life, Tea Cake. Initially, Janie is worried because she's been hurt in her previous marriages and doesn't want to jump into another marriage until she's sure it will be a true love. Tea cake successfully approaches Janie in a different way from her previous husband, Janie makes decided to run away from Eatonville and than married him.

From all analysis above, the writer concludes that *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has represented feminist idea because it describes black woman to be always underestimated by black men however, black women also have power to escape from the domination of black man to get equality in society.



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