

Relevancies of Gender Equality in the Novel by Nawal El Saadawi with Literary Works in Indonesia

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Keywords: Gender equality, Nawal el Saadawi, Semiotic approach, Charles Sander Peirce, Literature works DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.21093/ijeltal.v9i1.1694 How to cite: Fadhillah, D., Hikmat, A., & Sukardi, E. (2024). Relevancies of Gender Equality in the Novel by Nawal El Saadawi with Literary Works in Indonesia. <i>Indonesian Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics</i>, 9(1), 199-218	The topic of gender equality in literary works is still a hot topic of discussion. Starting from awareness of the importance of gender equality in the context of social life, this research aims to examine the issue of gender equality in four novels by Nawal el Saadawi, an Egyptian feminist figure. Qualitative methods were used in this research, with the help of the semiotic approach of Charles Sander Peirce's trichotomy model, to analyze aspects of gender equality contained in literary texts. The research results show that the dominant aspects of gender equality that emerge from these novels are subordination, stereotypes and violence. There is a dominant role of men in the public sphere and in decision-making in a household, cultural stereotypes and societal habits that are biased towards women, and the occurrence of physical, sexual and verbal violence, whether perpetrated by men or fellow women against women. This aspect is relevant to Indonesian literary works with a gender theme published in the period 2017 - 2021. The implications and recommendations of research for contributions to learning activities on the subject of Literary Appreciation in Higher Education are also discussed in this research.

1. Introduction

Gender equality is a matter of social justice; every woman has the right to have the same rights as men and the freedom to progress without normative stigma (Hardies, 2022). Gender equality in the social and educational fields is still something that women are fighting for to this day, discrimination and marginalization still occur in the social and even educational domains. The right to education is still prioritized for boys; for less well-off families, they will

choose boys to continue their education while girls give in and take on the role of helping the family's economy by working (Sulistyowati, 2020). The gender gap in educational attainment in the Czech Republic also shows strong gender differences in the number of students attending secondary primary schools, which are geared towards girls (Smith & Sokolová, 2022).

Patriarchal culture in Indonesia still dominates in various aspects, apart from the educational and social aspects that have been discussed, equality also invades the world of work. The stigma that arises in society influences the equality that women do not get in the world of work. Stigmas that still exist include several fields of work that are considered unfit for women to enter, women's experience is considered inadequate compared to men, and women's education level is far below that of men. Things like that prevent women from getting equal rights, as shown in research (Nuraeni & Suryono, 2021). In fact, gender equality can be achieved effectively if pedagogical activities and learning spaces are designed to support the maximum development of students' potential (Rastrygina & Ivanenko, 2023).

The patriarchal culture in Indonesia is so strong in various aspects, including the economy, that the government made regulations in the 1993-1998 GBHN that women have the same rights and obligations as men. This regulation was also strengthened by presidential instruction No. 9/2000 concerning Gender Mainstreaming, followed by the ratification of Law No. 7 of 1984 concerning the elimination of forms of discrimination against women and the position of women that needed to be improved. The government's efforts to fight for gender equality and justice have become increasingly serious, as revealed in Indra's research (Kusumawardhana & Abbas, 2018). Even though, officially and internationally, there have been many declarations and documents regarding the struggle for gender equality, there are still many contradictions that hinder it (Mercan Küçükakin & Engin-Demir, 2022). One of the factors in gender inequality is that cultural factors are the reason for the gender injustice experienced by women.

There are several obstacles to gender equality in Indonesia, the first is physical barriers. Women have natures related to the physical, namely conceiving, giving birth and breastfeeding. The condition of women is considered weak to be able to equalize their rights with men. It is not uncommon for women to often be exploited, whether on social media or in films, women's bodies are always easy targets for exploitation. Many film genres display women's bodies in a vulgar manner, for reasons of scenes and storylines (Pal et al., 2021). The second obstacle is theology or the value of divine existence. In Islam, it is explained that women were created from the ribs of men, but that does not mean that women have a rank below men. Women have several roles that cannot be replaced by men, and women have the same rights as men without any differences (Hanim, 2020). Women have a role that is no less important from a religious perspective, women have enormous potential to create the next generation of Islam in the future because women are the first madrasa for children and will oversee their children's education (Nurlina, 2019; Chojimah & Widodo, 2022).

Written texts, whether in the form of literary or non-literary works, can be an option to introduce gender and its elements to students from primary education to higher education. Research regarding the introduction of gender and its elements in the textbook for grade 3 elementary school students, namely "Grow with English", shows that there is a balance in terms of social roles between women and men, but it is still stereotypical in terms of depicting domestic activities for women (Maesaroh et al, 2022). Research on textbook content in

Georgia also shows that there is no space to discuss gender and social justice issues (Tabatadze & Gorgadze, 2023).

Several reasons why Nawal el Saadawi's novels were chosen as research material are, 1) All of her novels focus on and consistently highlight the struggle to obtain gender equality and justice for women; 2) Many of the stories in the novel originate from real stories of people the author met, some even originate from the author's own stories; 3) The novel by Nawal el Saadawi is not only printed in Egyptian as the author's country of origin, but is translated into 12 languages, one of which is Indonesian; 4) The world-famous Nawal el Saadawi novel can broaden students' insight into getting to know world feminist figures, apart from that, Egypt as the setting of the story can provide new information from a cultural perspective for students; 5) This novel can enrich student reading material other than domestic writers; 6) Nawal el Saadawi is also often asked to be a speaker at conferences in various countries to inspire women writers and activists.

Previous studies of the novel by Nawal el Saadawi have also colored research in the realm of gender and feminism. This study includes feminist themes in Nawal el Saadawi's novel, which focuses on the themes of education, domestic work, and family institutions (Kamis & Ismail, 2015). The novel *Woman at Point Zero* has also received the attention of researchers who focus on discussing feminist psychoanalysis on the emotional empowerment of victims to break the chain of violence and male domination (Atiyat et al., 2022). The repeated oppression, violence and sexual harassment depicted on a female character makes the struggle movement to achieve women's emancipation stronger (Abdulwaheed et al., 2018). Discussion about the representation of women in a patriarchal culture, which is synonymous with being gentle, submissive, experiencing psychological violence, sexual violence and domestic violence experienced by characters in novels, are studied using a feminist approach (Maulida, 2019). Other research examines violence and women who are dominated by men in several ways, including in the field of education, the field of work and the field of law (Sabariah, 2020).

The description above explains that the issue of gender equality and justice is still an area of interest in literary works. The novelty in this research compared to previous research is gender equality and justice which focuses on physical, socio-cultural aspects, attitudes, violence and double burdens. The research focus in this study is gender equality and justice in novels by Nawal el Saadawi. Charles Sander Peirce's semiotic approach which is used as a theory to analyze data is also novel in this research. If you look at other research on gender equality and justice, it does not use a semiotic approach and most of it only uses a feminist approach. This is reinforced through the results of relevant research analysis using the Vosviewer application. The data taken comes from several metadata sources, including Google Scholar, Garuda Portal, Proquest, and Open Knowledge Maps. It is hoped that the results of the study in this research can be compared and find out their relevance with current Indonesian literary works, used as a way to achieve gender equality and justice for women and become interesting teaching material in literature learning. The research questions are:

1. What aspects of gender equality and justice appear most dominantly in Nawal el Saadawi's novels?
2. Are the results of research on aspects of gender equality and justice in Nawal el Saadawi's novels still relevant to literary works in Indonesia as an alternative consideration for literary appreciation learning materials in universities?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Gender Equality

Gender justice is an effort to create a sense of fairness between men and women with treatment that may not be the same, there are several forms of gender injustice including subordination, marginalization, stereotypes, violence and double burdens (Dalimoenthe, 2020). Gender injustice can also be interpreted as an inequality that occurs in society, resulting in discriminatory actions experienced by one of the genders. These discriminatory actions can take the form of violence, double burdens, subordination, marginalization and stereotypes (Amalia et al., 2014). Gender justice in Bingley, Britain is also influenced by several aspects including succession, administrative authority, heredity, and family clan (Longkumer & Bokth, 2021).

Stereotypes or society's views are one of the aspects felt by women, in the form of not receiving justice or being differentiated from men. Not only in Indonesia, North African women who are involved in the world of art also receive a different view of traditional gender. Songs created by North African female artists about resistance demanding gender, social and economic justice are still bad stereotypes from a traditional gender perspective (Tazi, 2022). Not only in North Africa, women in India are also trying to make breakthroughs in changing the representation of women in literature. Literature is used as a tool to change society's paradigm or view of women. With the help of literary media, women try to increase their visibility in society so that they are not excluded and suffer injustice (Hari & P, 2022). Viewed from an educational perspective, stereotypes are not an obstacle to the teaching and learning process. Even textbooks, teaching materials, general subjects can be accessed by students without the influence of gender stereotypes (Darsul et al., 2023).

Subordination or secondaryness is an aspect of gender justice, not only experienced by women in Indonesia but this is also experienced by Roma women, Gypsies, as well as European women. The subordination experienced is triggered by race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, economic level, low education, or living in a conflict country (Corradi, 2021). Other forms of subordination experienced by women can include discrimination, neglect, degradation, control, exploitation and oppression. Subordination can be experienced by women in the family, workplace, school and community environment (Mishra et al., 2021).

Violence is an aspect of gender inequality, because women tend to be weak and under the control of men. Violence against women is also caused by cultural attitudes. Gender violence is even experienced by trans women who were originally born male, they experience violence because their position in the same position as women is considered weak (Tanupriya & Pannikot, 2022). Violence experienced by women includes being beaten, being forced to serve as sex slaves, and being subjected to harsh treatment throughout their lives. Victims of female violence will have a serious psychological trauma (Mukuka, 2022).

The double burden experienced by working women is a form of gender injustice that women accept. For women who work or have jobs outside the home in the industrial, educational, government and commercial sectors, they still have a double burden, such as taking care of children, taking care of the house and cooking (Rustina, 2017). In almost all sectors, including health, education, industry, economics, government and law, there are female workers who

have the right to gender equality, especially in the double burden aspect. To overcome the problem of the double burden experienced by women, a way to overcome this is found through affirmative action or a special action towards gender justice. Affirmative action can be carried out by providing maternity leave, special rooms for breastfeeding mothers, lighter burdens and work risks for female employees (Khomisah, 2017).

Marginalization of women is a form of gender justice that often occurs in society. The gender justice perspective according to Diana J. Fox in (Karmakar, 2022) reveals that marginalization of marginalized people can be defeated by the strength of education possessed by women and a strong understanding of human rights in the realm of feminism. Japan is one of the countries in Asia that has a history of women's awakening due to oppression. Fiction and literature become a bridge in the fight against the power of hypermasculinization and the marginalization of women in a society (Goswami, 2022).

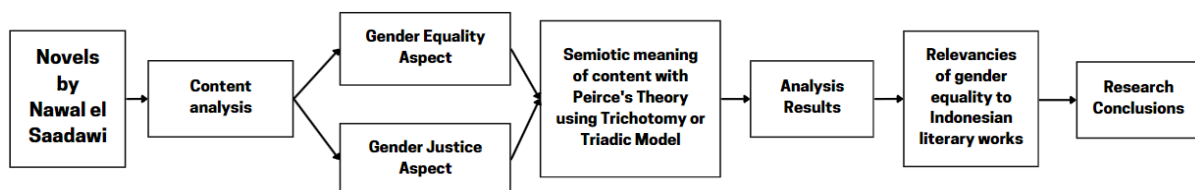
2.2 Nawal el Saadawi's Literary Works

The depiction of gender inequality in real life is a theme that colors literary works. One of the feminist figures who actively produces literary works with the theme of gender equality is Nawal el Saadawi, an Egyptian novelist who grew up in Egypt in a respectable and well-off family. Her father was an official in the Egyptian Ministry of Education, but Nawal still received different treatment from her brother. Egyptian women receive very unfair treatment and are far from equal in terms of their roles in various public spheres. Based on this background, teenage Nawal studies diligently and always excels so she is able to complete her medical studies. The history of her medical education was not always smooth, because Nawal was the only woman in the medical field and was always discriminated against by the majority of male students.

Egyptian culture, especially in education and legislation for the Magi, places women in a lower position than boys (Fiizha et al., 2020). Not only that, Egypt is recorded as the country with the most cases of gender inequality and subordination violence out of 142 countries, Egypt was ranked 129th in 2014 based on data from The Global Gender Gap Report (Ritonga, 2015). These things are the basis for the movement to achieve gender equality and justice for Nawal el Saadawi as an Egyptian woman who wants to defend her people through her work.

Novels by Nawal el Saadawi which highlight the struggle for equality and justice for women and are the subject of this research include, 1) "Women at Zero Point" in 1977; 2) "Memoirs of a Woman Doctor" in 1990; 3) "God Dies by the Nile" in 1989; 4) "Love in the Kingdom of Oil" in 2001. The gender equality and justice experienced by the characters in the novel are still related to and experienced by women today, although in a different context.

2.3 Research Framework



Picture 1: Research Framework

A complete description of the research design used enables the reader to evaluate the appropriateness of the research methodology.

The novels studied in this research are *Woman at Point Zero*, *Memoir of a Woman Doctor*, *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*, and *God Dies by the Nile*. These novels consistently highlight the struggle for gender equality and justice for women. Gender equality and justice raised in Nawal's novels are packaged against the background of different women's objects in fighting for gender equality and justice in Egypt.

Text content analysis was carried out on the novel by identifying the elements of gender equality and justice contained. The technique regarding analysis steps refers to Mayring's theory. Charles Sander Peirce's semiotic approach is used to see the meaning contained in the texts that have been collected using the concept of Peirce's semiotic trichotomy, including 1) Icon, 2) Index, and 3) Symbol.

Texts that have gone through a semiotic meaning process will be classified into several aspects of gender equality and justice based on a synthesis of the theories previously cited. Aspects of gender equality and justice consist of subordination, stereotypes, marginalization, double burdens, and violence.

The results of the analysis of the novel text obtained through a semiotic process using the triadic or trichotomy model from Peirce's theory along with the findings of aspects of gender equality and justice will be studied for their relevance to Indonesian literary works in the period 2012 - 2021. Next, the relevance comparison will be concluded as material consideration for being used as a learning resource for the course "Literary Appreciation in Higher Education", specifically theories about feminism in literary works.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This research was carried out using qualitative methods which were analyzed descriptively based on theories that can strengthen the facts in empirical data (Anggito & Setiawan, 2018). The research design used was Philipp Mayring's content analysis, with text interpretation procedures (Mayring, 2000). This research uses the development of deductive categories with analytical aspects derived from the theory that has been formulated connecting it with the text. The way to analyze the novel in this research uses Charles Sander Peirce's semiotic approach sequence.

3.2 Data Sources

The data for this study were taken from the contents of the novels by Nawal El Saadawi, the titles of the novels studied are: *Women at Zero Point*, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*, and *God Dies by the Nile*. These books highlight the stories and life journeys of female characters in Egypt. The content in the book also discusses how women are viewed and treated as a gender.

3.3 Instruments

Data collection techniques were carried out using focused discussions and using literature studies to obtain secondary data as complementary data in the form of studies of gender equality and justice in literary, educational, economic, political and cultural works.

The research instrument used is a tabulation column which is filled in using a checklist to assist the analysis process. The tabulation column will contain the elements needed in the research as follows (Amalia et al., 2014).

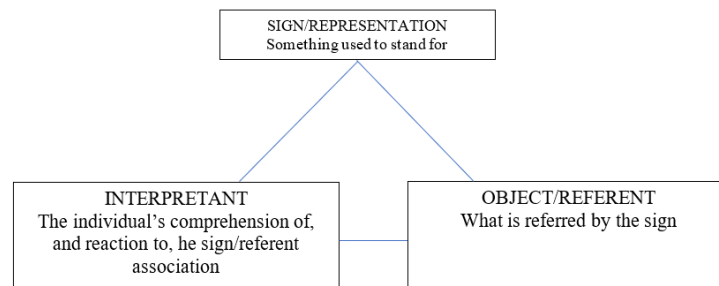
1. Subordination
 - a. Dominance in the public sector.
 - b. Domination in decision-making rights.
 - c. Domination in the fields of politics, education and economics.
 - d. Weak laws and women's legislation.
 - e. Male leader in the household.
2. Stereotypes
 - a. Views are influenced by culture and habits that exist in society.
 - b. Views influenced by feminist ideology.
 - c. Lack of knowledge and views about the position of women and how to treat women.
 - d. Women are seen as weak and accepting of the situation.
3. Marginalization
 - a. The marginalization of women's position with the strength and experience of men in the world of work.
 - b. Differences in the amount of wages earned by men and women.
 - c. The monopoly of power exercised by men over women.
 - d. The difficulties for women to develop their potential.
4. Double Load
 - a. Women do not have the opportunity to work in the public sphere.
 - b. The domestic area is the woman's full responsibility (cooking, washing, looking after the house).
 - c. Caring for and educating children at home.
 - d. Unlimited time for women in charge of the public sector.
5. Violence
 - a. Sexual violence or harassment received by women.
 - b. Verbal violence (harsh remarks, insults and shouting) that women receive.
 - c. Physical violence (causing injuries to the body).
 - d. Domestic violence (cases of violence perpetrated by a husband against his wife or vice versa).
 - e. Psychological violence (in the form of mental trauma) received by women.

3.4 Data Analysis Procedures

The data analysis procedure steps in this research use Charles Sander Peirce's semiotic approach in the following order.

1. Read and understand the novels by Nawal el Saadawi with the titles *Women at Zero Point*, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, *The Fall of the Ruler*, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* in sequence.
2. Identify by marking the texts in the novels by Nawal el Saadawi with the titles *Women at Zero Point*, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, *The Fall of the Ruler*, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* based on elements of gender equality and justice.
3. Analyzing data that has elements of equality and justice through a semiotic approach, the data to be analyzed is text. The semiotic study initiated by Peirce has as its center point the trichotomy of relations between signs (representamen) which can be detected

through the five senses and objects through interpretants so that they can produce a meaning (Albar, 2018). Charles Sanders Peirce's trichotomy concept is known as the triadic model (1) representant is a form that functions as a sign or is sometimes interpreted as a sign, (2) interpretant as meaning, (3) object in the form of thoughts produced by humans or something that looks real outside the sign (Yuwita, 2018).



Picture 2: Triadic Model by Charles Sanders Peirce

Looking at the relationship between a sign and its reference, Peirce divides it into three things (1) the relationship between a sign and its reference which has a similarity relationship called an icon, (2) the relationship between a sign and its reference can arise because of the close existence of a relationship called an index, and (3) a third relationship. is a relationship that has been formed conventionally because of an agreement in society called a symbol (Zoest & Sudjiman, 1992). In practice it is as follows.

- a. Semiotic studies begin by analyzing texts based on the relationship between signs and their similar references, called icons.
 - b. The second data analysis looks at the relationship between signs and the existence of relationships that emerge (index) based on texts in novels by Nawal el Saadawi with the titles *Women at Zero Point*, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, *The Fall of the Ruler*, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* which has been identified and has elements of gender equality and justice.
 - c. The third data analysis looks at relationships that have been formed conventionally because of an agreement in society which is called (symbol) from a text that has been identified as having elements of gender equality and justice.
4. Using library research to obtain secondary data as complementary data.
 5. Create a description of the results of the data analysis that has been processed.
 6. Discuss the research results based on the research focus and subfocus.
 7. Draw conclusions.
 8. Report research results.
 9. Checking the validity of the data uses a triangulation model and peer checking.

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1 Aspects of Gender Equality and Justice Appear Most dominantly in Nawal el Saadawi's Novels

The findings in this research were produced through the process of obtaining data by reading novels by Nawal el Saadawi with the titles *Women at Zero Point* as data 1, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor* as data 2, *The God Dies by the Nile* as data 3, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*

as data 4. To find text quotations, it is necessary to read the novel not only once but four times, so as to find text quotations in four novels by Nawal el Saadawi.

Text quotations that have been found in Nawal el Saadawi's novels are further classified based on five aspects of gender equality and justice. The five aspects of gender equality and justice used in this research consist of subordination, stereotypes, marginalization, double burden, and violence. Each of the aspects above has more specific elements which have been mentioned in the instrumentation section. Apart from aspects of gender equality and justice, the text quotations that have been obtained are also classified based on three semiotic aspects.

Table 1: Recapitulation of Gender Equality and Justice Data

Nawal El Saadawi's Novel	Gender Equality and Justice Aspect					Sum
	Subordination	Stereotype	Marginalization	Double Burden	Violence	
Woman at Zero Point	4	3	0	1	9	17
Memoir of a Woman Doctor	5	11	1	4	1	22
God Dies by the Nile	2	7	1	0	7	17
Love in the Kingdom of Oil	4	8	1	2	9	24
Sum	15	29	3	7	26	80

Table 2: Recapitulation of Semiotic Data

Nawal el Saadawi's Novel	Semiotic Aspect			Sum
	Icon	Index	Symbol	
Woman at Zero Point	3	6	7	16
Memoir of a Woman Doctor	8	12	0	20
God Dies by the Nile	8	4	4	16
Love in the Kingdom of Oil	9	2	11	22
Sum	28	24	22	74

Table 1 displays the amount of data on aspects of gender equality and justice that emerge from the text in the novel Nawal el Saadawi. Table 2 displays the semiotic aspects initiated by Peirce. The aim of this semiotic aspect is to analyze the meanings in the text which lead to aspects of gender equality.

Based on table 1 and table 2, the results show that the dominant aspects of gender equality and justice emerging from four works by Nawal el Saadawi include aspects of subordination, stereotypes and violence. Aspects of marginalization and double burden are only slightly displayed in these four works. Even in the novel Women at Zero Point there is no element of

marginalization of women, and in the novel *God Dies by the Nile* there is no element of the double burden that a woman must carry.

Stereotype

There are four stereotypical elements in gender equality and justice in this research. Elements of stereotypes that dominantly appear are: 1. Views of women that are influenced by culture and habits in society, 3. Lack of knowledge and views about the position of women and how to treat women, 4. Women are seen as weak and accept the situation. The stereotype that appears in Nawal's novel is the general belief in society that women are weaker in physical capacity. Women as "the weaker sex" have historically been entrenched in society for a long time, thus ultimately giving rise to unfair judgments and problematic consequences for women (Brussino & McBrien, 2022).

Violence

There are 26 data on the aspect of violence in gender equality and justice spread across four novels by Nawal el Saadawi with the title *Women at Zero Point*, there are 9 data, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, there is 1 data, *God Dies by the Nile* has 7 data, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* there are 9 data. There are five elements of violence as aspects of gender equality and justice in this research. The most dominant element of violence is physical violence (which causes injuries to the body), followed by sexual violence or harassment received by women, and verbal violence in the form of harsh words or shouting.

Perpetrators of violence can be people who are related or not, between employers and subordinates, or even people who have just met for the first time (Sugihastuti & Saptiawan, 2019). In these novels, women experience physical violence in domestic and public environments. Violence and sexual harassment are experienced by female figures in the public sphere, for example, where they work by men who are not related or married. The harassment occurred in the form of shouting at female characters with the word "woman", secretly viewing women's private activities through door gaps, and forcing them to have sex without the woman's consent. The violence experienced takes the form of physical acts, and coercion and exploitation of women's labor.

Subordination

Subordination or secondaryness is the first aspect of gender justice and equality in this research. The four novels by Nawal El Saadawi depict very diverse subordination. The aspect of subordination in this research is categorized into five elements, including: 1. Domination in the public sector, 2. Domination in decision-making rights, 3. Domination in the political, educational and economic fields, 4. Weak laws and regulations that protect women, 5. Men are leaders in the household.

The aspect of subordination is contained in four of Nawal El Saadawi's novels, the four novel titles studied consist of: *Women at Zero Point*, there are four subordination data, *Memoirs of a Female Doctor*, there are five subordination data, *God Dies by the Nile* has two subordination data, and *Love in the Kingdom of Oil* has four subordinate data. Nawal El Saadawi tries to fight for justice and gender equality through her works. Subordination in Nawal's work is a strong aspect of showing the justice and equality that women are fighting for.

Double Burden

The double burden shown in Nawal el Saadawi's novel is that women are depicted as always having the role of taking care of the house, serving the men in the house, whether they are husbands or brothers. It is Egyptian culture that women are responsible for the domestic area even though they help their husbands in the fields. In *Memoir of a Woman Doctor*, it is found that female characters who work as doctors are not considered as superior as men because of their role and nature, which is to serve men at home. Likewise, men do not need to be responsible for household affairs even though they work outside the home. The role of taking care of household needs is described as a woman's obligation, so that there is an inequality in the roles between men and women who work in particular (Rustina, 2017).

Marginalization

The marginalization experienced by women in *Memoir of a Woman Doctor* is shown in a text which states that,

"Karena kaum laki-laki yang memegang kendali dan kedudukan penting dalam kehidupan, tak menginginkan para wanita tumbuh menjadi pribadi lain kecuali sebagai hewan-hewan yang cantik tapi tolol, tetapi yang dapat memenuhi keinginan mereka bila mereka menghendaki. Lelaki tak menghendaki perempuan sebagai makhluk sesalam atau mitra sejajar, mereka menghendaki mereka sebagai orang bawahan mereka dan yang melayani mereka (p. 56-57)."

In line with the quote in *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*,

"Perempuan itu mengisi formulir lamaran kerja dengan mesin ketik. Ia mengisi kotak-kotak untuk nama, umur, dan agama. Dalam kotak jenis kelamin, ditulisnya 'perempuan'. Kepala departemen memandangnya dengan mata terbelalak, 'Bagian ini hanya menerima laki-laki. Pekerjaan yang kami lakukan, maksudku, menggali tanah, tidak cocok untukmu.' (p. 35)"

There is a marginalized position of women in aspects of life especially for jobs that require strength and experience, women are considered not to be equal partners for men in the world of work, women are only seen from their physical appearance, as servants and fulfilling men's needs if they want them. This exploitation of women's physicality is also found in works such as films (Pal et al, 2021). This impoverishment in the economic sector shows the existence of gender marginalization which is contrary to the provision of justice and independent roles for women in the Islamic perspective (Mulia & Anwar, 2001).

4.2 Relevancies Aspects of Gender Equality and Justice in Nawal el Saadawi's Novels to Current Conditions as an Alternative Consideration for Literary Appreciation Learning Materials in Universities

The aspects that emerged most frequently from the novel were then sought for their relevance to Indonesian literary works.

Stereotypes

Table 3: Relevancies of the Stereotypical Aspects of Nawal el Saadawi's Novel to Indonesian Literary Works

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Stereotype Elements			
3.3.2.1	Views towards women are influenced by culture and	Egypt is an Islamic country that has a strong patriarchal culture. The culture that developed in Egypt created different	Views on women that are influenced by culture and habits in society can also be seen in the novel "Yuni"	Still relevant as learning material.

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Stereotype Elements			
	habits in society.	treatment or views between men and women. Men have the main opportunities and positions in the family and society. This is different from women who have the lowest position in the family and society which is influenced by society's view of women. To fight this, many feminist figures were born in Egypt. Nabawwiyah Musa (1890-1951) was the first woman to obtain a high school diploma when Egypt was still under British rule, and Malak Hifni Naseef (1868-1918) was the first female writer to publish her work in the Al-Jarida newspaper. Apart from that, Naseef was active as a speaker and teaching.	by Ade Ubaidil, published in 2022. The story in the novel depicts a female character named Yuni, Yuni rejects the proposal of two men because she wants to pursue her dreams. -his dream. She must accept the negative stigma from the surrounding community, society views that women do not have to be highly educated to be wives and mothers. There is also a belief in society that if a woman refuses a proposal after being proposed to twice, then she will never get married.	
3.3.2.3	Lack of knowledge and views about the position of women and how to treat women.	Egypt is a country located in the Middle East with a very strong patriarchal culture. The majority of Egyptian women experience discrimination and marginalization, Egyptian women have limited movement because they only have freedom in the domestic sphere. The domestic domain in question is taking care of children, doing housework such as cooking, washing and so on. Meanwhile, for men, they have complete freedom in all sectors, starting from education, economics, industry, politics and others. Because these differences can trigger differences in treatment of women. Women are considered not to have the same power as men, so men who are treated special will act arbitrarily towards women.	The lack of knowledge and views about the position of women and how to treat women can be seen in the novel "Kartini" published in 2017 by Abidah El Khalieqy. The novel Kartini depicts the figure of Kartini who tries to elevate the dignity of women, especially Javanese women, who are heavily shackled by patriarchy. Kartini tried to raise the status of women so that they could be treated well by men. Kartini provided women and girls with education, so that they could have knowledge and avoid abuse towards women.	Still relevant as learning material.
3.3.2.4	Women are seen as weak and accepting of the situation.	For centuries, Egyptian women have lived in a strong patriarchal culture and are supported by the customs of their society, so the rules that have been adhered to, even though they	Women are seen as weak figures and accept the situation as depicted in the novel entitled "Hati Suhita" by Khilma Anis, published in 2019. The	Still relevant as learning material.

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Stereotype Elements			
		are considered unfair to women, have become commonplace. Acceptance of rules for women that have been passed down from generation to generation makes Egyptian women accept the situation or be seen as weak because they do not have the ability to fight against habits that have been passed down from generation to generation. Examples of these rules include, Egyptian women are not allowed to receive higher education, usually they are married off by arranged marriage at a young age, after marriage their life is devoted to taking care of children and the house (domestic sector).	novel Hati Suhita tells the story of a Javanese female character, the daughter of a Javanese cleric who has been betrothed since childhood and her future has been arranged. (determining where to board and study) by his future father-in-law, a kyai who owns a boarding house with thousands of students. After getting married, Alina Suhita received treatment that did not match her expectations, she was ignored by her husband because she did not accept the arranged marriage. But Alina Suhita accepted it patiently and even devoted herself to taking care of her in-laws' Islamic boarding school.	

The relevance between the stories of women in Egypt and the women depicted in literary works in Indonesia shows that this novel can be used as a source of teaching material in the field of literary criticism and introduction to gender aspects. Novels with the theme of gender justice provide a didactic function so that readers can get messages from the characters depicted in the story (Agustien & Mulyani, 1999). Representations of gender from primary and secondary school in the context of textbooks in Northern Iraq have also received attention from researchers. A finding shows the existence of stereotypical expressions which is supported by the fact that dominant men are used in most examples of texts and illustrations due to cultural issues, and women are depicted as having a passive and domestic role (Ismael & Mohammadzadeh, 2023).

Violence

Table 4: Relevancies of the Violence Aspects of Nawal el Saadawi's Novel to Indonesian Literary Works

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Violence Elements			
3.3.5.1	Sexual violence or harassment received by women.	90% of Egyptian women report experiencing some form of sexual harassment. Around 20,000 rape cases are reported each year. The number of cases of sexual violence experienced by Egyptian women is so high, 3	Sexual violence or harassment received by women is also depicted in the novel entitled "Perempuas (Women's struggle in seeking justice)" by Mochammad Alfiansyah published in 2019. The novel	Still relevant as learning material.

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Violence Elements			
		out of 10 Egyptian women have experienced violence by their partners. There are too many cases of sexual violence against Egyptian women, the National Council for Women initiative provides access to medical care, psychosocial support, forensics at no cost.	examines the phenomenon of sexual harassment or violence received by women. There are two main female characters, namely Maryati who experienced sexual violence from her biological father and Murniyati who became pregnant out of wedlock and was abandoned by her lover. The novel tries to show the efforts to obtain justice that the victim fought for, but it does not meet expectations.	
3.3.5.2	Verbal violence (in the form of harsh remarks and shouting) that women receive.	The violence experienced by Egyptian women is not only physical violence and sexual violence. Verbal violence is often experienced by Egyptian women. Verbal violence that is usually received by women and girls is in the form of harsh remarks and shouting. This is considered normal for perpetrators of verbal violence because based on culture and customs in that country, victims who are women are at a level far below men.	Verbal violence in the form of shouting and harsh remarks received by women is depicted in the novel entitled "Perempuan Kamar" by Agus Subakir, published in 2020. The main character in the novel, a woman named Sebreika, is locked in a room because she is considered crazy and a disgrace to the family. Sebreika often experiences verbal violence such as shouting or harsh words. The reason he was like that was because he was raped by his maid who apparently secretly liked him, Marjoko.	Still relevant as learning material.
3.3.5.3	Physical violence (causing injuries to the body) that women receive.	More than 60% of women in Egypt have experienced physical violence, data obtained from UNWomen. There is physical violence based on the culture of female genital mutilation, which the Government, the National Women's Council and the National Committee for the Eradication of Genital Mutilation are trying to combat. Girls and women who are victims of physical violence experience difficulties in accessing justice due to economic barriers and threats and	The physical violence experienced by women is also depicted in the novel entitled "Kupu wengi Mbangun Swarga" by Tulus Setiyadi, which was published in 2020. In this novel, the story tells of a female character named Raminten, a village girl who tries to try her luck in the city. Raminten experienced physical violence from men and fellow women. Apart from Raminten, there are other female characters who also experience physical violence in the novel.	Still relevant as learning material.

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Violence Elements			
		attacks from perpetrators and their family members.	Violence occurs because women are in a weak and helpless position.	

The violence that occurs in Nawal's novel in the form of sexual, physical and verbal violence also appears in literary works in Indonesia. The introduction of forms of violence in novels also occurs in Indonesia. Based on Annual Notes data recorded by the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women during 2023, it shows that there has been a decrease in reports of violence against women by around 12% from 2022. However, this does not rule out the possibility that unreported cases of violence could be greater and the recognition of victims' experiences to obtain protection and recovery are still far from expectations even though policies to protect women from various criminal acts are available (Amiruddin et al, 2024).

The existence of women's awareness of sexual harassment as a form of sexual violence is also an increase in awareness of gender equality and self-recognition among Indonesian women. The availability of legal guarantees for perpetrators of sexual harassment, both non-physical and physical, and support for victims are also an improvement. Although the increase in victims' understanding of sexual harassment is not directly proportional to law enforcement officers' comprehensive understanding of the forms and types of sexual violence (Amiruddin et al, 2024).

Subordination

Table 5: Relevancies of the Subordination Aspects of Nawal el Saadawi's Novel to Indonesian Literary Works

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Subordination Elements			
3.3.1.1	Subordination in the public sector.	Subordination in the public sector is very visible in Egypt. The public sector is controlled by men, while women are limited to activities outside the home. Even in the 70s this was still happening in Egypt. Women are limited to taking care of the domestic sector only. The strength of culture in Egypt is the reason to preserve this.	Subordination in the public sector is also seen in the novel "Gadis Kretek" by Ratih Kumala, which was published in 2012. The novel tells the story of a rebellion against subordination in the public sector carried out by the character Jeng Yah who has the ability to work in the public sector which is controlled by men. man. The public sector, especially the kretek cigarette business, does not have female workers, everything is dominated by men. However, because Jeng Yah's kretek concoction has a unique taste that cannot be produced by men's concoctions, Jeng Yah can promote and maintain the kretek cigarette business in his	Still relevant as learning material.

Discussion Points		Connection of Past Events	Interrelationship of Current Events	Conclusion
Element Number	Subordination Elements			
			area. Because this novel is still a best seller until this year, it will be made into a film in 2023. Apart from that, the discussion about subordination is still interesting.	
3.3.1.3	Domination in the fields of politics, education and economics.	There is an Egyptian figure named Qasim Amin who thought about the Emancipation of Qasim Amin. Qasim Amin fights for gender equitable education for women. Qasim Amin's thoughts as a figure who is concerned in the world of Islamic thought and reform, women as creatures created by Allah are obliged to seek knowledge. Meanwhile, Nawal El Saadawi, as one of Egypt's feminist figures, fought for the right to education for women through literature with her novels.	Male domination in terms of education is still a topic of discussion in the novel "Laut Bercerita" by Leila S. Chudori, which was published in 2017. In her novel she tells the story of female students who have competence in academics and organizations on campus. The abilities possessed by this female character enable her to be equal to men both in terms of academics and organizations on campus. Not infrequently this figure becomes an inspiration for his friends because of his advanced thinking.	Still relevant as learning material.
3.3.1.4	Weak laws and regulations that protect women.	If we relate it to the year of the novel by Nawal, it was around 1975 when the situation in Egypt was fighting for rights and justice for women in the legal field. The struggle to propose laws on marriage, polygamy and inheritance that favor women is still hampered by rejection by the Egyptian government.	The weakness of the law which is wrapped in culture is also still being fought for by female writer Dian Purnomo with the novel entitled "Perempuan yang Menangis kepada Bulan Hitam" published in 2021. It tells the story of the victims of the captive marriage culture which is a Sumba tradition. This takes away women's freedom and rights, but it remains normal because it is covered by culture.	Still relevant as learning material.

The subordination depicted in Nawal's novel is in the form of secondaryness to women. There is relevance found in Indonesian literary works, namely in the form of taking away women's freedom and rights which are considered normal by culture. Secondaryness can arise because women do not have a good bargaining position in determining what should be done and obtained as a result of domination and control by men. (Sugihastuti & Saptiawan, 2019). Apart from the spotlight on women being secondary in the domestic and public spheres, Nawal's works and Indonesian novels also depict women's struggle to obtain an equal place

with men. This struggle was carried out by women figures in the field of education. Analytical skills as a reflection of women's intelligence become an opportunity for women to appear successfully, women's intelligence and roles become an opportunity to show their dignity, potential and existence (Hearty, 2015).

Good practices carried out by educators at the formal basic education level can also be an active part of changing stereotypes that have existed so far. For example, efforts to encourage male and female students to take part in certain activities as an effort to approach gender-responsive learning, teacher development, and provide textbooks that are not stereotyped as curriculum implementation (Balitbang, 2013).

5. Conclusion

The most dominant aspects found were stereotypes, violence and subordination. The subordination that emerges is that there is still dominance in the role of men in the public sphere, including crucial fields such as politics, economics and education, as well as the dominance of men in making decisions about domestic life, as well as weak laws and regulations that protect women. The stereotype that emerges is that there is still a strong view of women which is influenced by culture and habits in society, a lack of knowledge and perspective in treating and determining the position of women, and women are seen as figures who must accept the situation. The most dominant elements of violence are elements of physical violence, sexual violence or harassment, and verbal violence in the form of harsh words or shouting.

The aspects of gender equality and justice that dominantly appear in this novel by Nawal el Saadawi are still relevant to the context that appears in Indonesian literary works in the period 2017 - 2021. This trend of relevance can be used as a reference for the values of gender equality and justice contained in Nawal el Saadawi's work can still be used as a reference teaching material for students in high schools on the subject of Literary Appreciation in Higher Education. Although not all of Nawal el Saadawi's works depict resistance from oppressed women, the tragic stories experienced by female characters trigger the importance of awareness of understanding justice and gender equality. Women also have their own rights and capacities which make them have an important role in the public sector.

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