

## **Chapter IV.**

### **Conclusion**

Through the analysis, it is depicted clearly that the major male characters' oppressions in the frame of patriarchal ideology as seen in Catherine Lim's collection of short stories The Woman's Book of Superlatives as the cause of the major female characters' suffering; as a result, the major female characters suffer a lot. The suffering brings psychological and physical effects on its victims. The male characters exercise their status, authority, and power to oppress women. In fact, men's oppression as it is understood, is defined as a situation where every opportunity of power within the society is entirely in male's hands.

After I analyze the major male characters' oppressions toward the female characters in the frame of patriarchal ideology as seen in Lim's short stories, I find out that the ideology of patriarchy is used to justify men's oppressions, namely in

male-female relationship, men oppress female. As a matter of fact, men have special authority so that men tend to oppress women. Therefore, the male characters' oppressions in the frame of patriarchal ideology dominate and control in every aspect of life, namely in the domestic and the public domains.

All of the male characters above oppress the female characters that lead the female characters to their sufferings. All of the major male characters in the frame of patriarchal ideology as seen in Catherine Lim's collection of short stories The Woman's Book of Superlatives oppress the major female characters. There is inequality relationship between men and women so that men dominate women in the domestic domain and the public domain. Men's oppressions happen in the relationship between father and daughter, boyfriend and girlfriend, husband and wife, and even boss and secretary. A father who is really holds the power and authority, tends to oppress and exercise his power to his daughter. In the patriarchal tradition, there is an assumption that a woman is weak, submissive, and subordinate creature; consequently, she is considered as unimportant, and unworthy creature too. Because of these reasons, many parents dare to sell their daughters into servitude in order to fulfill their needs as seen in "The Song of Golden Frond". Besides that, in order to get a biological satisfaction, a stepfather in "The Enemy" dares to rape his stepdaughter, Pei-Yin when she is alone at home. The other short story that portrays the life of man's oppression that has been done by a father is in "Bina". In "Bina", a father oppresses his daughter through the marriage arrangement since it brings a grand of bride money for him so that he can have a new business, motorcycle, even a better education for his son. It seems that a father does not really care about his daughter's feeling since

he just cares about his own needs. In the personal relationship, a young man can oppress his girlfriend since a man chooses and decides every thing in their relationship, but a woman just waits to be chosen by man. Therefore, in "The Revenge", a man oppresses his girlfriend since he is not responsible with what he has done to her, namely taking her virginity. Besides that, in the marriage, men also oppress their women as seen in "The Paper Women" and "The Rest is Bonus". The way of their oppression is different since in "The Paper Women", the oppression uses gentle way, namely through the government requirement about family planning. The way of the government to minimize the number of population indirectly brings men's oppression toward women since this requirement is just focused on women not men. Even though according to medical research, man can have sterilization operation too, there is not a requirement to order men to do that (Bhasin, 1996). Men never become objects since men have made the tradition, regulation, and law based on every thing that suits for them but it does not suit for women (Bhasin, 1996). In "The Rest is Bonus", a husband uses his physical power to batter his wife if she displeases him. The last is in the office. The boss oppresses his secretary as seen in "For the Gift of a Man's Understanding" since he thinks that she economically depends on him who pays and supports her needs. The evidences above clearly portray that the major female characters in the Catherine Lim's collection of short stories The Woman's Book of Superlatives are oppressed by the major male characters. Therefore, the major male characters' oppression leads the major female characters to the psychological and physical sufferings in their lives.

After I analyze the female characters' suffering as the result of the male

characters' oppression in the frame of patriarchal ideology. I find out that all of them have miserable lives. Not only psychologically but also physically. The major female characters have to bear a great suffering in their lives as seen in Catherine Lim's collection of short stories The Woman's Book of Superlatives since they are oppressed by the major male characters that may affect psychological and physical conditions. They cannot live normally and have idea since every thing is decided by men. Because of their oppression, women have to pass many tribulations that are really tough and uneasy to be solved since the society still use and believe that the patriarchal ideology is the best ideology that they have ever had. Women cannot release from the sufferings since the relationship between men and women are still unequal. It means that a good relationship does not put any group of people, race, and sex to the special and higher position, but it puts them in equal position, so no one will dominate and oppress other weak groups, and the other group will not suffer also from the oppression. The trade of poor female infant makes Golden Frond suffers since she feels helpless and frustrated to escape from the trap of forced marriage. She cannot escape from this trap so that she comes to the peak of her suffering. She commits suicide. Besides Golden Frond, Bina suffers psychologically since her parents and society hate her as a rebellious girl. She feels that she is exiled by them. The suffering is also experienced by Pei-Yin psychologically. She distrusts any male, has the change of behavior, and even has gloomy future. Besides in the childhood, suffering is experienced by a girl who has a personal relationship with her boyfriend. Her virginity is taken away by her boyfriend, so she feels ashamed, anxious, and even angry so that she takes a revenge. However, it leads her to a

greater suffering, that is, spending her life five years in jail. Suffering is also experienced by the female characters in the marriage. Man's oppression inflicts suffering on woman as seen in Larry's wife's life. She suffers from the loss of freedom since she does not have a right over her own reproduction. Besides that, Meenachi has to suffer psychological and physical condition because she has to bear her husband's immoral attitude and his physical abuse that make her unconscious and hospitalize in the hospital. Suffering is also experienced not only in the domestic domain but also in the public domain. It is experienced by Helen since she feels inconvenient in her job, afraid of her husband's knowing about her boss' insolent attitude, and even humiliated effect.

Helplessness, frustration, suicide, exile, distrust of male, change of behavior, gloomy future, humiliation, shame, anger, physical injure, inconvenience in the job, and others can be considered as women's psychological and physical suffering. Even though they resist against male's oppression, they still cannot win and come out from the oppression since they are weak. They have to bear the present and the future as all of their sufferings are portrayed clearly in Catherine Lim's collection of short stories The Woman's Book of Superlatives.