

3. SAYURI'S PROBLEMS

In this chapter, I want to analyze the problems, which make Sayuri have an eagerness to be a successful geisha in geisha's society. Moreover, I will use literary theories that are characterization and conflict to analyze the thesis. Besides that, I need the history of Japanese geisha in order to give a background support and a description that is related to Sayuri's eagerness to be a successful geisha in geisha's society. So, I will know the problems that are related to Sayuri's decision to achieve her eagerness to be a successful geisha in geisha's society.

3.1. Sayuri's Problems

Many factors can cause someone wanting to be a successful person. Some of the factors are financial, love, and oppression. All of the factors happen to Sayuri's life since she enters the geisha's community. In her new community, Sayuri must face many problems that can make her suffer and depressed. The first problem or factor is the financial problem that she gets since she enters the *Okuya* or geisha's house. The second factor is the love factor that is when she experiences failure in love relationship toward her lover. The third factor is the oppression factor that is when she gets bad treatment from Hatsumomo. Therefore, in order to solve all her problems, Sayuri decides to be a successful geisha in geisha's society.

3.1.1. Sayuri's Financial Problem

Financial problem is the first factor that makes Sayuri have to achieve her eagerness to be a successful geisha. From the beginning, money becomes Sayuri's problem. Sayuri is sold into a geisha's house or *Okuya* because of money. It can be seen from Sayuri's opinion toward the reality of her destiny,

“I could not stop thinking about Mr. Tanaka. He had taken me from my mother and father, sold me into slavery, sold my sister into something even worse. I had taken him for a kind man. I had thought he was so refined, so worldly. What a stupid child I had been! I would never go back

to *Yoroido*, I decided. Or if I did go back, it would only be to tell Mr. Tanaka how much I hated him.”(Golden, 2000, p.94)

From this description, I assume that Sayuri’s family has a financial problem. That is why, Sayuri and her sister named Satsu are sold into a geisha’s house or *Okiya*. According to Kyoko Aihara, the author of *The World of the Geisha*, as stated in Chapter Two, to get money the family may sell their girls or daughter to a geisha’s house. Through the analysis, I find out that Sayuri is very angry when she finally knows that Mr. Tanaka has sold her. Actually, Sayuri admires him, but because of his action, Sayuri becomes angry and hate him very much. As written in this quotation, “Well, if I hated anyone in this world, I hated Mr. Tanaka; I had to remind myself of this...Actually, I’d thought of Mr. Tanaka very little these last few years. But still I owed it to myself not to be kind to him...” (p.229). in facing the reality, Sayuri must ignore her own feeling. She tries to change her past mind about the figure of Mr. Tanaka.

At the moment, when Sayuri is sold into a geisha’s house, it becomes the moment of the beginning to all of her financial problems, because since Sayuri enters the geisha’s house or *Okiya*, Sayuri has already have debts that she must pay. In addition, the debts come from Sayuri’s self-transaction by her father’s friend named Mr. Tanaka in *Yoroido*. Based on the geisha’s rules, after the girls become geishas, they must repay all the money to *Okiya* as seen in this quotation: “But I’d never imagined that I myself would have to repay it” (p.88). From the quotation, I see that, Sayuri does not know about the debts until the owner of the *Okiya* called Mother, tells her about the debts. Sayuri only knows that Mr. Tanaka is the one who earned money by selling her to the *Okiya*, as seen in “Mr. Tanaka had made money by helping to sell us and how mush we had cost” (p.88). Therefore, Sayuri looks surprised and does not realize that she must repay the cost of herself to *Okiya*.

From the analysis, I find out that Sayuri also has other debts that must be paid too. First, the debts that are closely related to Sayuri:

“When you begin working as a geisha, you’ll pay the *Okiya* back for it, along with everything else you’ll owe-your meals and lessons; if you get

sick, your doctor's fees, you pay all of that yourself...you owe the *Okiya* even for the money it cost to acquire you" (p.88).

This quotation shows that Sayuri has a responsibility to pay all the money which *okiya* has spent for her life, even though Sayuri never enjoys her life in *okiya*. I see that Sayuri does not enjoy her life in *Okiya* because she feels uncomfortable with the situation in which she cannot be free in doing something she likes, for example, when she is still in her hometown, *Yoroido*. Sayuri can play, eat, and work freely. In addition, she also gets many problems in *okiya* especially from Hatsumomo and it makes her turn to another debt that she must pay. Therefore, the second debt is not being done by Sayuri, as seen in the following quotations:

...so Hatsumomo instructed me where to mark the fabric and what sorts of marks to make...

"As for the kimono, some one has to pay for it. I do not know what happen last night, but there is no dispute about who was holding the brush. The maid was the girl doing it. The girl will pay," said Mother...

"Chiyo has enough debts. I do not see why she should pay Hatsumomo's as well"...

"Already she's burdened you with so much debt you never work it off"
(pp. 83-88)

The quotations above show how Sayuri can get the debt. This is the first debt that is caused by Hatsumomo. I think that Hatsumomo can threaten Sayuri like that because Sayuri has no position and power in *okiya*. So, Sayuri has no choice, except to obey Hatsumomo's command. It can be seen from Sayuri's opinion toward Hatsumomo: "I won't say that I believed her; but of course, Hatsumomo had the power to make my life miserable in any way she wanted. I had no choice but to obey" (p. 81). From this quotation, I see that Hatsumomo has power to ruin Sayuri's life if Sayuri does not obey Hatsumomo's command. In addition, Sayuri also has no right to defend herself toward this accusation. As a result, Sayuri must pay the *okiya*, the debt of the broken kimono. Sayuri's sufferings have just begun. After the kimono's case, which has cost a lot of money to her debts, Sayuri must face another debt again from Hatsumomo:

"She's sold my emerald brooch to..."...

“Search the girl,” Mother said.

I could nothing to explain the cash I was carrying beneath my sash. When she drew it out, Mother took it from her and counted it. “Particularly since it will cost you...”

...and to have the cost of an obi brooch I’d never seen or even touched added to my debts...(pp. 103-106)

From the quotations above, I see that Hatsumomo still uses her tricky way to put Sayuri into trouble. Now, Hatsumomo uses her position and power to convince the owner of the *okiya* and other people in *okiya* that Sayuri steals the emerald brooch and sell it. That is why Sayuri must pay the debt.

This problem increases the amount of Sayuri’s debts from day to day and makes Sayuri more suffer and depressed. From the analysis, I find out that Sayuri is unable to face this condition anymore. It can be seen from Sayuri’s opinion about the condition: “...I’m sure I would have been terrified to think of the suffering that probably lay in wait for me in *Gion*...” (p.108). Therefore, Sayuri decides to run away from *okiya*. While she is thinking about this decision, she faces the dilemma:

I wasn’t sure what I would do once I reached the roof, but if I could succeed in finding my way down from there, I might meet Satsu after all... However much life in *Gion* was a struggle, life after running away would surely be more of a struggle. The world was simply too cruel; how could I survive?...

I won’t pretend I wasn’t frightened...

I wasn’t at all sure the next roof would be better; and I began to feel a bit panicky. (pp. 107-110)

From those quotations above, I see Sayuri’s dilemma. Sayuri has to choose the best thing for her future. She must choose to run away or to stay, even though, both of them do not give any advantages toward Sayuri’s life. Because whatever the choices, Sayuri still has to face the difficulties in life. At last, Sayuri chooses to run away but she fails. As seen in the quotations below:

As a final act of desperation, I did the most foolish thing of all- I slipped the shoe from my other hand and tried to stop my self by pressing my two

palms against the roof tiles...I turned as I fell, and landed on my side on the ground...I fell out of the sky...(p. 112)

From the quotations above, I see that Sayuri has already chosen to run away from *okiya*. However, Sayuri cannot fulfill her plan because she fails. Because of her foolishness, she must turn to face other debts again:

“I paid seventy-five yen for you, that’s what I paid. Then you went and ruined a kimono, and stole a brooch, and now you have broken your arm, so I will be adding medical expenses to your debts as well. Plus your meals and lessons and just morning I heard from the mistress...that your older sister has run away. The mistress there still hasn’t paid me what she owes...I’ll add that to your debts as well...You already owe more that you’ll ever repay.” (p. 114)

From the quotation above, I assume that this must be all of the debts that Sayuri must pay in that time. In addition, Sayuri’s decision to run away has turned her into a new financial problem. Here, I see that this case is different from other cases that have happened in Sayuri’s life. This case can change Sayuri’s destiny from being a geisha to be a maid. It can be seen from Mother’s statement toward Sayuri: “I suppose you could repay it after ten or fifteen years as a geisha,”...“If you happened to be a success. But who would invest another *sen* in a girl who runs away?” (p. 114). I see that Mother’s statement has made Sayuri understand about her dangerous position in *okiya*. Because of her mistake of running away, she cannot be a geisha anymore. Therefore, Sayuri must earn her own money to pay her debts by working hard as a maid in *okiya*.

As I have mentioned in Chapter Two, geisha’s life depends on *Okiya*. *Okiya* will pay everything that is related to geisha’s daily needs, lessons, and bills. It means that *Okiya* must invest money for a geisha. In addition, if *Okiya* stops the investment to a geisha, the geisha’s career will end because she cannot continue her lessons to be a geisha anymore. Therefore, if this happens to a geisha, she must realize that her career will change into a maid. In addition, I see that Sayuri has gotten into troubles in the investment thing. So, she will never become a geisha anymore until someone wants to be her patron. If nobody wants to be her patron, she has to work hard as a maid in *Okiya* until she can pay all of her debts.

Through the analysis, after Sayuri hears this statement, she becomes worried about her future that is related to her debts because Mother does not want to spend money on Sayuri again. It is shown in this quotation, “Now Mother won’t invest another *sen* in my training, since she’s afraid I may run away again” (p.144). Based on Sayuri’s statement, I can see that Sayuri does not want to be a maid in her whole life. So, she tries to find an alternative way that can help her come out of this financial problem.

This accident has changed Sayuri’s personality. As I learn from the beginning, Sayuri is a person who always follows her own feeling and a little bit stubborn. In addition, she is also kind of person who never think about the bad effect of her decision. As seen in this quotation, “At the moment, I didn’t much care how I spent my future” (p. 88). However, after all that has happened, Sayuri feels guilty and tries to change her bad behavior. She tries to hear and accept other people’s word. As seen in this quotation, “This was what Mameha had taught me...so I obeyed her...” (p. 204).

Related to Sayuri’s case, I find out that while she is still being a maid, she cannot be a geisha again. She can be a geisha again if someone comes to help her by becoming her patron. Like what Sayuri has said to Mameha, “oh, ma’am... I’d give anything to undo my mistakes”, I said. “It’s been more than two years now. I’ve waited so patiently in the hopes that some opportunity might come along” (p. 144). Here, I see that Sayuri tries to convince Mameha that she really wants to change her mistake. In addition, Sayuri also wishes that she can get a patron for her training, so, she can be trained to be a geisha again.

As additional information, I will give a brief explanation about Mameha. Mameha is one of the successful geishas in geisha’s society. Mameha is a person who will help Sayuri to be a successful geisha. Mameha has an authority, power, and position in geisha’s society. Therefore, she can protect Sayuri’s life and help Sayuri to solve her problems. In addition, she also has already become an independent geisha. Therefore, Mameha can easily helps Sayuri run her career and achieves her status to be a successful geisha.

From the analysis, I see after Sayuri shows her eagerness to change all of her mistakes, one of the successful geisha named Mameha comes to help

Sayuri. Mameha comes to the owner of the *okiya* called Mother to ask her permission to make Sayuri become her younger sister. It can be seen from the following quotations:

Mameha said: “She’s really quite a lovely girl, Mrs. Nitta. I must say, at times I’ve thought of coming to ask your permission to make her my younger sister. But now that she’s no longer in training...”

“...I just couldn’t afford her training any longer! However, if you feel she has potential, Mameha-san, I’m sure any investment you might choose to make in her future would be amply repaid” (p. 155)

Based on the quotations above, I believe that Mameha finds difficulties in asking permission to adopt Sayuri to be her younger sister. The difficulties are related to money matter. As I mentioned before, Sayuri does not get investment anymore from the owner of the *okiya* because she tries to run away. Therefore, it makes Sayuri unable to join the lessons or training to be a geisha. That is why, Mother tries to make some agreement that is related to financial matter with Mameha.

Through the analysis, I can see that Sayuri looks very worried about the negotiation between Mameha and Mother. It can be seen in this quotation, “All that afternoon, I felt as agitated as a pile of rocks in an earthquake; because, of course, I had no idea how things would turn out. If mother and Mameha couldn’t come to an agreement. I would remain a maid all my life just as a turtle remains a turtle” (p.157). Sayuri looks very worried because she knows that this moment is a dangerous moment. If she cannot be Mameha’s younger sister then she will remain as a maid in her whole life.

Based on the analysis toward Sayuri’s cases. I find out that Sayuri can be a geisha again because of Mameha’s help. It can be seen in Mother’s statement towards Sayuri, after she makes an agreement with Mameha. “And then today, along comes a geisha like Mameha, to say she wants to be your alder sister!...” (p. 159). From this statement, I believe Sayuri’s destiny can be better. She can join the training again start from now on. In addition, I think that this privilege is very useful for Sayuri because she can repay all the debts to *okiya* by becoming a successful geisha. Nevertheless, she cannot run her career by herself. She still needs Mameha’s help. That is why she must change her bad behavior such as,

being headstrong, stubborn, and disobedient. Through the analysis, I find out that Sayuri will do everything for her own benefit. Therefore, Sayuri must obey all Mameha's commands in gaining her success.

In analyzing the novel, I find out that Sayuri has an eagerness to be a successful geisha because she wants to come out from her financial problems that make her suffer and depressed. In addition, I also find out that being a successful geisha is a tool for Sayuri to solve the problems.

As it is mentioned in Chapter Two, success here does not only mean to become popular but she must also be adopted by Mother and have a wealthy *danna* or patron. Therefore, in my analysis toward Sayuri's eagerness, I find out that Sayuri needs Mameha's efforts to help her gaining her status to be a successful geisha. So, the owner of *Okiya* will adopt Sayuri to be her daughter. In addition, being adopted is the final destination for some geishas, because she as a geisha does not need to worry anymore about her position and debts in *okiya*. Besides that, being adopted by Mother can guarantee her next position to be the owner of the *okiya*. Then, another benefit that I find out is a geisha can choose her own way in doing her jobs such as, becoming an independent geisha, a freelance geisha or run her own teahouse.

After the analysis, I see that financial problem is not the only problem that can make Sayuri want to be a successful geisha. Another problem that also makes her want to achieve her status as a successful geisha is her failure in maintaining her love relationship with her lover.

3.1.2. Sayuri's Feeling of Love towards Her Lover, Chairman

Many factors can make someone want to be a successful person, like what has happened to Sayuri. Through my analysis, I find out that Sayuri has a desire to be a successful geisha because she tries to maintain her love relationship with the one she loves. Why Sayuri has a desire to maintain her love relationship with Chairman, the one she loves, is because Sayuri has already failed in maintaining her love relationship with her sister. Therefore, she does not want to lose the person she loves anymore.

Based on the novel of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Sayuri grows up in a poverty condition and she gets less love from her family. Besides that, she is also sold into a geisha's house or *okiya* by her father, as seen in this quotation: "...my father, who'd been so willing to sell us.." (p.177). That is why, Sayuri becomes depressed and suffered when she knows that her own father has sold her in order to get money.

Therefore, the only hope is by maintaining her love relationship with her sister named Satsu. However, Sayuri's effort in maintaining her love relationship with her sister fails because her sister ran away. It can be seen in this quotation, "...I heard from the mistress...that your older sister has run away", Mother said. So Satsu had escaped...I wanted to feel happy for her, but I couldn't' (p.114). As I have mentioned before, Sayuri has planned to run away with her sister named Satsu, but she fails. Therefore, she is alone now. As a result, this moment becomes her failure in maintaining her love relationship with her sister.

I think through this moment, when Sayuri feels the sadness and the loneliness, Sayuri can rise to be mature. As seen in this quotation below:

The swirling in my mind stopped...and now I understood the thing that had puzzled me all morning. The stale air had washed away, the past was gone. My mother and father were dead and I could do nothing to change it. But I suppose that for the past year I'd been dead in a way too. And my sister..., she was gone; but I wasn't gone...I'd turned around to look in different direction, so that I no longer faced backward toward the past, but forward toward the future...(p. 124)

From the quotation above, I find out that the reality has taught her to be mature. The condition urges Sayuri to face the reality of her life. Even though, she is still a child, she cannot stand in her childhood anymore. She has to think and act like an adult, for example, she must think seriously about her own future; what she should do or not to do in life.

Based on the background of Sayuri's life related to this point, I find out that Sayuri needs love. Therefore, Sayuri tries to fulfill her love needs in her new community called *Okiya*. Nevertheless, she never feels the love from the other people in *okiya*. In *okiya*, nobody cares and gives any attention towards Sayuri's

life or problems. As seen in, “In the months after my failed escape, I come to understand just what life must have been like...because no one spoke to me at all unless it was to give me an order. Mother had always treated me as though I were only a puff of smoke...now all the maids, and the cook, and Granny did the same” (p. 116). Because of that, Sayuri always feels empty, lonely, friendless, and rootless.

That is why, after Sayuri fails in maintaining her love relationship for the second time, she tries not to fail again. Based on the situation that happens to Sayuri in the novel, I assume that Sayuri always feels empty, lonely, friendless, and rootless because nobody cares and gives attention to her. That is why, when Iwamura Ken usually called Chairman, who is the chairperson of Iwamura Electric, comes and gives his attention towards Sayuri, Sayuri is touched by his attention and she falls in love with the Chairman.

The meeting with Chairman has changed Sayuri’s life from rootless or instability to stability. It can be seen in here, “From the moment the Chairman had first spoken to me, I’d forgotten that I was watching for a sign about my future. But when I saw the bundle he hold in his hand. It looked so much like the shrouded moth, I knew I’d come upon the sign at last” (p. 130). From this quotation, I can see how influential the figure of Chairman in Sayuri’s life is. It is like a child who gets her favorite toy or thing. Sayuri looks very proud and happy.

I also find something when analyzing Sayuri’s feeling toward Chairman. It is Sayuri’s feeling that she has found her power of life again. It is shown in this quotation, “I had changed from a lost girl facing a life time of emptiness to a girl with purpose in her life” (p.131). From this description, I know that because of the meeting with Chairman in *Shirakawa River*, Sayuri looks like a person who has arisen from the darkness of her life in which she always suffers, feels rootless, lonely, and empty.

Although, Sayuri is eager to meet and stay closer with Chairman, she cannot do it. Because according to geisha’s tradition, there should be no ‘true love’ in their rule especially for a junior or a dependent geisha, because she must give her love, which is her attention, and care to all of the customers without any

exception. However, if a geisha can succeed in career or life and become an independent geisha, she can choose her own future.

That is why, Sayuri feels worried and stressful in facing this problem. Because in this moment she is still in punishment and she cannot be a geisha because of her mistake to run away. However, as I see in the novel, she never gives up in facing this problem. Just like what Sayuri says in her statement:

If I were a geisha like the one named *Izuko*, I thought, a man like Chairman might spend time with me, I'd never imagined myself envying a geisha. I'd been brought to Kyoto for the purpose of becoming one of course; but up until now I'd have run away in an instant if I could have. Now I understood the thing I'd ever looked; the point wasn't to become a geisha, but to be one. To become a geisha...well, that was hardly a purpose in life.

I prayed that they or gods permit me to become a geisha some how. I would suffer through any training, bear up under any hardship, for a chance to attract the notice of a man like the Chairman again (pp.131-132).

Here, I can see that Sayuri is eager to stay closer to the Chairman. Nevertheless, because of her status as a maid, she can just dream because she is not a geisha anymore. As I mentioned before in early point, Sayuri cannot be a geisha because Mother, the owner of *okiya* does not want to spend any money for her training again. It happens because of her foolishness to run away. That is why, if she wants to be a geisha again, she must get a patron for her training.

I find out that when Mameha comes to help Sayuri by adopting her to be Mameha's younger sister, Sayuri looks very happy because she can join the training and become a geisha again. Then, after Sayuri becomes a geisha, Sayuri hopes that someday she will meet Chairman again in her new status as a geisha. According to the story, finally, Sayuri can meet Chairman again when she starts her debut as a geisha.

Mameha told me...attending a sumo exhibition as the guest of Iwamura Ken...

I had seen the Chairman during only one brief moment in my life; but I'd spent a great many moments since then imagining him...

When I saw him, I had flicker of uncertainty whether, he was really the Chairman; but I felt so soothed, I knew without a doubt I had found him... (pp.226-230).

From the quotations above, I see that Sayuri looks very happy when she meets Chairman. Although, Sayuri's dream to be a geisha comes true and she also has met Chairman, Sayuri still cannot stay together with Chairman because she is still a dependent geisha and works under *okiya's* wing.

Therefore, Sayuri tries to learn from Mameha about being a successful geisha in geisha's society. In order to help Sayuri solving her problems, Mameha tries to give the explanation about being a successful geisha as seen in this quotation: "...When I say successful, I mean a geisha who has earned her independence. Until a geisha has assembled her own collection of kimono- or until she's been adopted as the daughter of an *okiya*..." (p. 170). From this quotation, I see that Mameha tries to make Sayuri understand about the word 'success' in geisha's society. Because in geisha's society, the meaning of 'popular' is different from the meaning of 'success'. The meaning of 'popular' is a geisha who is known by other people who are related to geisha's society but she is still in someone else's power. Then, the meaning of 'success' is a geisha who is known by other people that are related to geisha's society but she is not in someone else's power anymore because she can choose her own future.

As it is mentioned in Chapter Two, by becoming a successful geisha, a geisha can be an independent geisha and can choose her own future or way to continue her career. That is why, after Sayuri knows that by becoming a successful geisha, she can get many benefits such as, becoming an independent geisha where she can choose her own future, she decides to become a successful geisha in order to maintain her love relationship toward Chairman.

Finally, after several years, Sayuri's dreams come true. She becomes a successful geisha and stay together with Chairman. Based on the analysis, I see that actually both of them, Sayuri and Chairman, have a same feeling. As seen in these several quotations:

"Didn't you ever wonder why Mameha become your older sister?",
Chairman asked me.

“Sayuri, I am the one who asked Mameha to take you under her care. I told her about a beautiful young girl I’d met...”

In all my years as a geisha, I’d never been able to convince myself even for a moment that the Chairman felt any special regard for me...

Since my girlhood, I’d dreamed that one day the Chairman would tell me he cared for me; and yet I’d never quite believed it would really happen...

(pp. 480-485)

From this description, I find out that the destiny of love really exists. Even though, both of them are separated in earlier, but at last, both of them stay together and maintain their love relationship. And the important thing here is they love each other.

There is another problem that makes Sayuri has to fulfill her eagerness to be a successful geisha. It is the oppression factor in which she always gets bad treatment from Hatsumomo.

3.1.3. Hatsumomo’s Oppression towards Sayuri’s life

Besides financial problem and love factor, Hatsumomo’s oppression also includes in the causes of Sayuri’s eagerness to be a successful geisha. Since Sayuri enters the *okiya*, Sayuri gets a lot of oppression especially from Hatsumomo, one of the famous geishas who lives in a same *okiya* with Sayuri. Because of that, I try to analyze Sayuri’s decision to be a successful geisha in relation to Hatsumomo’s oppression.

First, I will give a brief explanation about Hatsumomo. At that time, Hatsumomo is a famous and beautiful geisha in *okiya*, yet she has a bad habit, for example Hatsumomo does not want another geisha become more famous, successful or even more beautiful than she is. If Hatsumomo finds a geisha who is more famous, successful, or beautiful than her, she must threaten or ruin this geisha’s life until the geisha gives up. Therefore, Hatsumomo hates Sayuri. It is because Sayuri has a beautiful face and eyes. It is shown in the following quotations:

“Heavens! What startling eyes! You are a lovely girl, aren't you?
Mother will be thrilled”

“She has a good deal of water”

“With so much water in her personality,” Mother said, “probably she’ll be able to smell a fire it has begun. Won’t that be nice, Granny? You won’t have to worry any longer about our store house burning with all our kimono in it”

“Anyway, she’s rather pretty, don’t you think?” Mother added.(pp. 43-49).

Based on several statements above, I find out that a geisha still believes in destiny that is written in the almanac. That is why, Sayuri’s personality is needed in *okiya* because she has some water elements. Besides that, Sayuri also has beautiful gray eyes and a face that can make someone likes her. Therefore, Hatsumomo becomes jealous and hates Sayuri very much. Hatsumomo tries to oppress and ruin Sayuri’s life.

First oppression is related to physical abuse, as seen in this quotation:“She drew back her hand and slapped me” (p. 55). I see that it is a way that Hatsumomo uses to abuse Sayuri physically. Sayuri always gets this kind of oppression from Hatsumomo. Actually, Sayuri does not know her guilt that can make Hatsumomo always gets angry to her. As seen in this quotation: “I promise you, Auntie, she’s treated me this way since I arrived. I don’t know what I ever did to her”, said Sayuri (p. 87).

Next, Hatsumomo uses her dirty tricks to oppress Sayuri such as, lying, blaming etc. Hatsumomo’s dirty tricks can be seen in several cases. The first is the kimono’s case:

“Oh Mother, I know just what you’re going to say. I feel terrible about the kimono, I tried to stop Chiyo before she put ink on it, but it was too late. She must have thought it was mine! I don’t know why she’s hated me so from the moment she come here...to think she would ruin such a lovely kimono just in the hopes of hurting me!,” Hatsumomo said.

“The girl should be beaten and made to repay the cost of the kimono... where’s the bamboo pole?” Granny said.

“Hatsumomo’s little trick with that kimono is going to cost you more money that you’ve ever imagined in your life...”(pp. 83-88)

From the description above, I see that Hatsumomo tries to oppress Sayuri's position by slandering. Finally, Sayuri, who has no position or even power in *okiya*, gets the punishment. As seen in this quotation: "part of my punishment for ruining Mameha's kimono was confinement in the *okiya* for fifty day" (p. 90). This shows that Sayuri has no choice except to submit and obey the punishment from Mother. However, she is not purely accepting this punishment. She makes a plan to repay their cruelty, as seen in, "In the meantime, I put my efforts into findings ways to repay Hatsumomo and Granny for their cruelty..., it did give me satisfaction..." (p. 91). Therefore, Sayuri looks very happy and satisfied with her action toward Hatsumomo and Granny.

After the kimono's case, Hatsumomo tries to ruin Sayuri again in obi brooch's case:

"Look", Hatsumomo said, and opened her hand. Hatsumomo was holding a number of folded bills- more money than I'd ever seen, though I don't know how much. "I've brought this from my room for you. You don't need to thank me. Just take it. You'll repay me by getting yourself out of Kyoto so I'll never have to see you again..."

Soon Hatsumomo come out and said she was missing a brooch used for decorating the front of an obi. . .

"...It was my brooch! Who does she think she is to steal such a thing from me!" (pp. 102-104)

From those quotations, I see that Hatsumomo easily changes the fact and blames Sayuri for what is going on there. Actually, Sayuri is blameless because she does not know that Hatsumomo's kindness is no other than her plans to run her dirty tricks that can make Sayuri's position become worse.

At that time, Sayuri's position as a beginner geisha cannot give any benefits to safe her life from Hatsumomo's oppression because she has no power to refuse Hatsumomo's command just like what Sayuri thinks when Hatsumomo gives command:

"I won't say that I believed her, but of course, Hatsumomo had the power to make my life miserable in anyway she wanted. I had no choice but to obey..."

“So I could do nothing but step into my shoes and follow her” (pp.81-83)

The quotations above show the submission of Sayuri in order to obey Hatsumomo’s command. Through my analysis, I see that Sayuri does not understand why Hatsumomo always uses Sayuri to fulfill her plans. Because of that reason, Sayuri tries to find a way to come out from this oppression.

In addition, the more Sayuri tries to avoid, the more she gets the oppression. As seen in here: “... Hatsumomo was going to blame her troubles on me” and “I’ve spent days trying to decide exactly how I ought to ruin your life,” Hatsumomo said to me’ (p. 115). From both statements, I find out that Hatsumomo does not like Sayuri very much. Therefore, she always tries to find a way to ruin Sayuri’s position in *okiya*.

Besides that, not only Sayuri’s position is in danger but also Sayuri’s reputation in geisha’s society, as seen in Sayuri’s statement:

“Thanks to Hatsumomo, however, my lessons got off to a very bad start... Teacher Rump hated Hatsumomo as much as anyone in Gion did. Hatsumomo knew this quite well; and so what do you think she did?..Teacher Rump blamed me for the outburst, and sent me out of the classroom in punishment...” (pp. 175-1 76)

From this quotation, I can see how Hatsumomo’s bad reputation in school can give bad effect to Sayuri’s reputation too. Hatsumomo knows that one of the geisha’s teachers named Teacher Rump does not like Hatsumomo very much. That is why Hatsumomo tries to show her kindness toward Sayuri, “Teacher, may I permitted to ask you a favor?...Her name is Chiyo, and I’m very, very fond of her. I’d be greatly in your debt for any special help you might give her” (p. 175). From this quotation, I find out that Hatsumomo is clever in using chance. Hatsumomo knows that if she shows her kindness to Sayuri, then Sayuri will get trouble. Based on the quotation above, I assume that Hatsumomo tries to ruin Sayuri by saying something about Sayuri to other people who do not like Hatsumomo well. So, those people will think that Sayuri is the same with Hatsumomo. As a result, those people also hate Sayuri. Therefore, this kindness becomes trouble for Sayuri. At last, Sayuri is treated badly by Teacher Rump.

After this trouble happens to Sayuri, Sayuri cannot enjoy her lessons because Teacher Rump always treats her badly in class. Based on the rules in geisha's tradition, if a geisha cannot accept the lesson well or if the teachers cannot accept a geisha, then a geisha cannot perform or practice what she should learn in school. That is why, Sayuri needs someone to help her to come out from this trouble. Here, Sayuri needs Mameha's help to save her reputation in school especially from Teacher Rump. As I have mentioned before, Mameha has an authority, power, and good reputation in geisha's society. That is why, Mameha can help Sayuri solve the problems and save the reputation.

In addition, Hatsumomo's oppression has not finished yet. She still oppresses Sayuri by ruining Sayuri's reputation in front of her customers:

"...Hatsumomo told him or Dr. Crab there was a young man who lived near the *okiya* and that Mother had a strict policy against boyfriends. Hatsumomo said you and this boy were fond of each other.. Hatsumomo said she even let the two of you spend time together alone in her room when Mother was out,...., after all the work I've done to keep Sayuri's secret! But the Doctor said he was grateful for what Hatsumomo had told him..."

I could just imagine how much Hatsumomo must have enjoyed her little scheme.. (p. 277)

From those quotations above, I can see that Sayuri's reputation is dangerously threatened. A Doctor, who has already talked with Hatsumomo, is a person who has an authority in *mizuage* patronize. That is why, when Hatsumomo tells that Sayuri has already spent time together with a boy, which means Sayuri is not a virgin anymore, Sayuri's reputation becomes worse and it can makes no one is willing to be her *mizuage* patron. Then, her career will end soon.

I find out that after Sayuri feels all the oppression and suffering, Sayuri becomes worried and fears about her future whether she can come out from Hatsumomo's oppression or not. That is why, Sayuri needs a protection so she can freedom from fear. In addition, to fill up these safety needs, Sayuri tries to find a protector or a stronger person whom she may depend on.

Based on Sayuri's problems, Sayuri needs Mameha to fill up her safety needs because Mameha has an authority, power, and reputation in geisha's society. Based on the novel, one of Mameha's efforts is to make Sayuri to be the daughter of Mother. As seen in, "...until I began slowly to realize that as Mother's daughter, I would no longer have to struggle under Hatsumomo's tyranny. This had been Mameha's plan all along..." (p. 320). Because Mameha and Mother can help Sayuri to come out from Hatsumomo's oppression and protect Sayuri's life. From the analysis, I find out the benefits of being adopted by Mother are that a geisha does not need to worry and fear anymore about her future, debts, and especially her safety because she will automatically get a protection from other people in *okiya*. That is why, Sayuri has an eagerness to be a successful geisha in order to solve this problem.

After several explanations about the problems, which make Sayuri eager to be a successful geisha such as, financial factor, love factor, and oppression factor, I realize that Sayuri really suffers and feels stressful in facing all the problems, especially in oppression factor, because she is still in trauma with this condition,

"I'd already become the *okiya*'s principal asset, but even I took sometime to weed out all the peculiar habits that had taken root because of Hatsumomo. Every time a man looked at me strangely, I found myself wondering if he'd heard something unkind about me from her, even long after she was gone... I still kept my eyes lowered for fear that Hatsumomo would be waiting... the realization that there was no Hatsumomo and there never would again. I knew she was gone..., I sometimes have the briefest flicker of thought that I may find her there in the glass, smirking at me" (pp. 386-387)

This description shows how strong the effect of Hatsumomo's oppression towards Sayuri's life. Although, Hatsumomo has gone and cannot oppress Sayuri anymore, Sayuri is still afraid.

Finally, after I analyze this novel, I figure out that Sayuri has an eagerness to be a successful geisha because of her financial problems, her feeling to maintain her love relationship with Chairman, and her eagerness to come out from

Hatsumomo's oppression. In addition, being a successful geisha is only a tool or Sayuri to solve all her problems.