

The Analysis of Gender Inequality in Two Dramas

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rickha.galuh@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

*Gender inequality is the term used to describe how men and women are treated differently. The target individual or group typically suffered or is disadvantaged as a result of inequality. This study's goal was to describe several types of gender inequality seen from Mansour Fakih's theory of gender inequality. Aside from that, considered how female characters approach gender inequity. Using data from the dramas *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry and *Heart in the Ground* by Douglas Hill, this study adopted a feminist methodology and Mansour Fakih's concept of gender inequality. Literary criticism is the technique employed. Then, information was gathered by reading and documenting information that was pertinent to the theory and research issues. The results obtained from this study are First, the two dramas each have three types of gender inequality. In *Heart in The Ground* there are subordination, violence and double burden. Three different types of women's inequality such as subordination, stereotypes, and marginalization are present in Hansberry's second play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Second, Four ways to achieve their rights: rebelling, threatening, and talking about it, focusing on their goal. Both of the female characters represented how women addressed inequality in modern drama. Karen by her loud vocal to fight her rights, while Beneatha silently worked hard to prove her competence. Further researchers might look at different angles while using the same subject, theory, or approach. Aspects might took the shape of research from different angles, including psychoanalysis, reader response, sociology of literature, and others.*

Keywords: drama, feminism, gender inequality

INTRODUCTION

When men and women are treated differently, it is referred to as gender inequality (Dewi & Nugroho, 2017). This argument was supported by statement that stated in higher education institutions (HEIs), male and female employment fields and the evaluation of men and women in those areas can be considered as examples of gender inequality

(O'Connor, 2020). Although it is not a particularly recent occurrence in the present day, gender inequality was equally widespread in ancient times mostly to women.

This research is utilized as a resource to help students comprehend literary criticism, particularly as it relates to gender inequality against women. It may be simpler to comprehend the many forms and instances of gender inequality against women. In order to this topic to continue to be helpful and enhance literary criticism, it is also anticipated that future scholars will be able to explore it in more depth. The scope of the issue, which explored, are limited to gender inequality in *A Raisin in The Sun* and *Heart in The Ground* by focusing on analysing female characters, Beneatha and Karen to find out their struggles against it.

There are several previous studies that were categorized into two first is theory. Kartini, N., Suarka, N., Cika, W., and Putra, I. B. R. (2020), Hidayah, S. A. N., Subiyantoro, S., Wardhani, N. E., and Saddhono, K. (2019), Jacobs, J. A. (1996), Rosida, I., and Rejeki, L. (2017), Noviana, F. (2020), Efendi, A. S. (2022), Putri, O., and Hariani, S. (2021), Juhana, J., Qalbi, N., and Arfani, S (2021) discovered five different types of gender inequality. The major female character in society experiences stereotypes, subordination, and violence against women, double burden, marginalization as a result of gender inequality. While in object Saraswati, A. M. (2018) and Hadia, A (2014) analyse *A Raisin in The Sun* that stated Strong, black women were portrayed as having an impact on the choices made by the male characters in *A Raisin in the Sun*. Haleem, H. A. (2021) stated the racial difficulties exacerbate the feminist ones, it is revealed how women battle to preserve their identity and how this dual otherness tends to influence even the most minute details of their lives.

From previous studies above the researcher found that two dramas have not been discussed yet. So, the researcher explored deeply and found the answer of the research question. First is how women address inequality. Second, the researcher would explain types of inequality in *A Raisin in The Sun* and *Heart in The Ground* and How female characters address inequality in both of drama. These two question has not discussed yet in the previous study. Moreover, the researcher would use Mansour Faqih's gender theory to discovered gender inequality happened in these dramas.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a literary criticism. Literature was evaluated objectively through literary criticism. Literary criticism is a study of literary works which covers three fields, namely literary theory, literary criticism, and literary history in these literary works (Wellek & Warren, 1993). To collect the data, the researcher did read, classify, and highlight. This research would apply feminism literary criticism to analyse gender inequality in literary work. The data sources are *A Raisin in The Sun* by Hansberry and *Heart in The Ground* by Hill.

The researcher categorized the data using Mansour Fakih's theory (2013). The researcher first classified gender inequality into five categories by Mansour Fakih's theory of gender inequality (2013). Those are subordination, violence, double burden, stereotype, and marginalization. Then, the researcher interpreted the data that has been obtained. Furthermore, at the last step, the researcher concluded.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

There are five types of gender inequality portrayed in Hansberry's *A Raisin in The Sun* and Hills's *Heart in The Ground*. Also, there are four ways of female character's address gender inequality.

Types of Gender Inequality portrayed in Hansberry's A Raisin in The Sun and Hills's Heart in The Ground.***Subordination***

Subordination is a belief or assumption that places women behind men in order to make them appear less important and capable than men in their actions. Due to biological differences and sociocultural aspects of the family environment, men and women had various roles to perform in the home.

Datum 1

Lee: I've got a meeting with my...you remember my meeting next week, don't you? [Silence.] You know, I tore the pocket out of my shirt climbing over that fence. [LEE takes a slice of bread, cuts a square of butter, and starts to butter the bread. He keeps watching the kitchen doorway. The butter is hard and it tears the bread. Finally, the bread is destroyed and he tosses it to the table, rises, and crosses to the doorway. Immediately KAREN ENTERS with a pitcher of iced tea. They almost collide. She says nothing and crosses past him to the table. She pours his glass and then sits down at her spot. LEE sits down again and drinks half of his glass.] I was hoping you might be able to sew up the pocket on my shirt. [Beat. No response from her.] I saw that the kitchen needs to be swept. The laundry did get folded but it didn't get put away—" (p.1)

Men and women had different obligations in this case for Karen and her husband, Walter, which was why this occurred. Lee asserted that Karen's responsibility was to maintain the home, which included the kitchen. Lee seemed unsatisfied with Karen's work such as "It is time to sweep the kitchen." Even though she folded the laundry, she failed to put it away and neglected to get the butter out again, Lee unsatisfied because Lee thought that Karen only needed to focus on the same chores everyday but still did not do it right.

Datum 2

Lee: "And you forgot to take the butter out again."

Karen: "I didn't forget."

Lee: "The point is, you're needed here at the house of an evening. It's your responsibility, Karen, and I'm not going to—" (p.1)

The quotation above again talked about Lee said that Karen's neglected to remove the butter from the container. Lee made clear that Karen had to remain at home because she was responsible for it. Karen, as a wife, everything she did has to be approved by her husband, Lee, also had the right to demand her. Gender inequality was manifested in the home environment as well. In many daily household activities like decision-making, work allocation, and interactions amongst family members, gender bias was assumed (Fakih 2013: 24). Lee expected that Karen must obey what he said without questioning him whether it was good choice or not.

Datum 3

Lee: "Karen, let me handle it. All you have to do is finish your supper and go upstairs for a while."

Karen: "What are you gonna do—Invite him in? Let him walk all over us and take whatever he wants? Is that how you'll—"

Lee: "Karen, I'll handle it."

Karen: "I know, but he's got no right to tell us how to—"

Lee: "I SAID! [Beat.] We're not gonna break the law. I won't do it." (p.1)

This quotation displayed Lee and Karen at disagreement. Bill, in Karen's opinion, had terrible intents toward her. He desired to seize control of his home and remove Catherine's body. Lee did not want to confront Bill because he was simply breaking the law and might go to jail, but Lee believed that Bill was only performing his duty as a sheriff and did not want to take anything.

It appeared that the gender perspective contributed to the subjection of women, according to Fakhri (2013). Women were prevented from appearing to be in positions of leadership and foster a mindset that considered them as insignificant when it was assumed that they were unreasonable or emotional. That was why Karen was not allowed to talk by Lee.

Violence

Gender-related violence is the term used to describe violence motivated by gender bias. Basically, power disparities in the public are what lead to gendered violence.

Datum 4

Karen: "If you don't fight him, Lee, then you're not on my side. If you're going to be partners with Bill, then you're not good enough to be my husband or Catherine's father and you deserve everything that you get from Bill instead! And I hope all that dirt from Catherine's grave gets caught in your throat and you both choke to death on it!"

Lee: "Get out. [She turns around, surprised.] I said, get out! Go on. You're not going to blame me for this. [Lee throws a handful of food at her.] What kind of mother are you that you don't even wake up— [Karen ducks and EXITS into the living room. Lee throws another handful of food.] —To check on a baby not even three weeks old!" (p.1)

Lee in this case did both verbal and physical violence. Verbal violence was when Lee blamed Karen for being a bad mom because Karen fell asleep and did not check their baby while screaming. While physical violence was presented when Lee threw food to his own wife. According to Fakhri (2013: 19) imbalances in power in the public are what lead to gendered violence. Include domestic violence, which was the beatings and physical assaults that took place in the home and was one of the crimes that could be classified as gender violence. Another quotation that was included in violence is presented below.

Datum 5

Lee: "You're gonna make me tie you up in your room so we can at least look like a decent family out here?"

Karen: You do and I'll scream loud enough—I swear it—the floor will just rip open beneath your feet." (p.1)

The two were shown threatening one another in the quote above. Karen insisted on having a conversation with Bill and intended to find a solution on her own, so, Lee threatened to tie her up and lock her in the room. In the quotation above showed how

different the power between men and women. Women only threatened to shout while men could do anything to women such as tie their up and lock them in this case.

Datum 6

Lee: "Put her down, Karen! I mean it. [LEE aims away from her and fires a shot. She instinctively drops the box to the ground and covers it with her body. There is a sudden silence.] You want Bill to find us like this? You want him to see you . . . Just go inside where you belong. Bill and I are going to take care of it. We don't need your help—you've got no reason to be out here like this. [Beat.] Get inside before Bill gets here." (p.1)

The quote mentioned above described the conflict between Lee and Karen. Karen, who yearned to leave and was hurried to get their child's box. Lee shot a bullet while his emotions were at their highest. He scared her by shot his gun and shouted at her and said that Karen was not needed in there.

Double Burden

There was an assumption that women are nurturing and diligent by nature, as well as unfit to take the position of head of the household, which led to all the labor related to household duties were done by women.

Datum 7

*Karen: "No, I was awake. I saw it. I know about farming. I've been doing it since I was twelve. Except for those two years. But I know about putting seeds in the ground. You put a seed in good, rich dirt, you can grow anything."
Lee: "Hmm. Your food's getting cold."
Karen: "It's what I'm best at. Farming." (p.1)*

According to the quotation above, Karen told her husband that she had been farming since she was a young child and continued to do so today. Karen continued to complete all the duties. In short, Karen who was a housewife still did the farm with her husband while she also taking care of the house. According to Fakhri (2013) the belief that women were caring, hardworking, and unfit to occupy the position of head of the household led to the women answering for the entire household.

Stereotype

Numerous instances of gender inequality that mostly affected women were caused by the labels placed on them. For instance, tagging, which began with the presumption that women grooming herself was an attempt to attract the attention of the other sex, then every incident of violence or sexual harassment is always connected to this stereotype.

Datum 8

*Ruth: "Walter, leave me alone! (She raises her head and stares at him vigorously—then says, more quietly) Eat your eggs, they gonna be cold.
Walter: (Straightening up from her and looking off) "That's it. There you are. Man say to his woman: I got me a dream. His woman says: Eat your eggs. (Sadly, but gaining in power) Man say: I got to take hold of this here world, baby! And a woman will say: Eat your eggs and go to work.
(Passionately now) Man say: I got to change my life, I'm choking to death, baby! And his woman say—(In utter anguish as he brings his fists down on his thighs)—Your eggs are getting cold!" (p.14)*

The good intentions of his wife, however, infuriated Walter. Walter's conversation expanded when he mentioned that his wife would still make him eat even in an emergency situation like choking. The quotation above showed the different priority but Walter disrespected that. Walter said that men had more important jobs than women. Walter thought women only care about little things while men had to take hold of the world.

Datum 9

Asagai: (Shaking his head negatively but gently) "No. Between a man and a woman there need be only one kind of feeling. I have that for you ... Now even ... right this moment ..."

Beneatha: "I know—and by itself—it won't do. I can find that anywhere."

Asagai: "For a woman it should be enough."

Beneatha: "I know—because that's what it says in all the novels that men write. But it isn't. Go ahead and laugh—but I'm not interested in being someone's little episode in America or—(With feminine vengeance)—one of them! (ASAGAI has burst into laughter again) That's funny as hell, huh!"

Asagai: "It's just that every American girl I have known has said that to me. White—black—in this you are all the same. And the same speech, too!"

Asagai: "It's how you can be sure that the world's most liberated women are not liberated at all. You all talk about it too much!" (p.36)

Beneatha stated that she could not give him the same feelings but Asagai believed that Beneatha as women only need love. Beneatha then defended herself by saying that statement was from literary work that men had written. So, it became stereotype women. Asagai still laughs it all by saying that all women he ever met said the same things. He stated explicitly that women only required love especially the need of attention and a sense of belonging. Asagai's assertion was corroborated by dialogue from Beneatha, who claimed that Asagai had obtained this viewpoint from a men's author's literary work. In Fakhri (2013) specific stereotypes derived from a gender perspective. Numerous instances of gender injustice that mostly affected women were caused by the labels placed on them. According to social norms, women's primary responsibility was to serve and follow their husbands.

Datum 10

Ruth: "You mean graft?"

Walter: (Frowning impatiently) "Don't call it that. See there, that just goes to show you what women understand about the world. Baby, nothing happen for you in this world 'less you pay somebody off." (p.13-14)

According quotation above, we could see how Walter described Ruth as women. Walter was disrespecting Ruth. When Ruth called Walter's actions "graft," Walter took it personally. Walter also assumed that the woman was still a child at heart. Women, according to Walter, were ignorant of how society functions. Walter described women as a clueless and unimportant human. Walter was an example of how men perceived women. They contended that women were incapable of comprehending the issues and elements of this world. They believed women lack of competent, thus they tended to stay at home. Fakhri (2013) asserted that supposing women were irrational or emotional stops them from appearing to be in leadership roles and fosters a mentality that regards women as unimportant.

Marginalization

As a result of marginalization, which was the practice of denying marginalized groups their legal rights, poverty existed in communities in developing countries and only affected one gender.

Datum 11

Walter: "Who the hell told you you had to be a doctor? If you so crazy 'bout messing 'round with sick people—then go be a nurse like other women—or just get married and be quiet ..." (p.17)

The quote above showed Walter disapproving of his younger sister's choice of job. Walter did not like how Beneatha chose her dream so he yelled at her. He preferred Beneatha to be nurse or even just become housewife than became doctor. Walter's opinion showed how he thought that women were useless. He thought Beneatha would not be a great doctor. The maximum she could get was become a nurse or she could be housewife.

Datum 12

Ruth: (A wisdom-of-the-ages manner. To MAMA) "Well, she'll get over some of this—"

Beneatha: "Get over it? What are you talking about, Ruth? Listen, I'm going to be a doctor. I'm not worried about who I'm going to marry yet—if I ever get married."

Mama and Ruth: "If!"

Mama: "Now, Bennie—"

Beneatha: "Oh, I probably will ... but first I'm going to be a doctor, and George, for one, still thinks that's pretty funny. I couldn't be bothered with that. I am going to be a doctor and everybody around here better understand that!" (p.26)

Ruth and her mom thought that the best idea was to get married and take care of the house and let the men did his part to work. While Beneatha strongly rejected the idea because married right now was not her top priority. Beneatha made it very clear. The guy friend of Beneatha, George still opposed women practicing medicine. Beneatha did not care about his opinion and she was absolutely certain of her life's mission.

How female Character Address Inequality

By Rebellng

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Datum 13

Karen: [Beginning to tremble.] "I know well enough how to take care of my house and I know what to do with my food when I'm not hungry anymore. And I know what goes on out there in that field better than you do. Don't think you have to give me any advice in those areas." (p.1)

Karen showed her frustration towards Lee because he always commenting on what she did. Lee used to point things out to Karen what she did and Karen already tired of it

because Karen thought that she could handle it well on her own. Rebelling when he did not understand Karen's point of view was one of the Karen's resistance.

Datum 14

Karen: "You think that what I'm doing is wrong because Bill says it is. You think that everything that comes out of his mouth is gospel law. But for your information, my brother is wrong, and you're wrong, and the whole county is wrong. And if it takes all of you to gang up on me It still doesn't prove that I'm not right." (p.1)

The quotation above told when Lee insisted that what she did was wrong. Digging her daughter's grave was the main problem everyone against her. Even though she was alone Karen would not give up. Karen strongly and confidently said that everyone was wrong even she was against all of the people in the country she would not go down. It was proven how Karen tried so hard to keep her daughter and her house from her brother even she had no one beside her

Datum 15

Lee: "You're gonna make me tie you up in your room so we can at least look like a decent family out here?"
Karen: "You do and I'll scream loud enough—I swear it—the floor will just rip open beneath your feet." (p.1)

Based on the quotation above, Karen did not want anyone not even her own husband to disregard her opinion in order to maintain their house and her daughter's grave. Despite knowing she was out numbered, she did not give up. She was furious that Lee had ignored her viewpoint. Lee quickly voiced his judgment. Karen was fighting gender inequality by rebelling in order to receive what she deserved. When Fakih (2013) said that the assumption of gender bias was used in the process of decision-making, labor allocation, and interactions between family members in many daily household activities.

Datum 16

Walter: "It ain't that nobody expects you to get on your knees and say thank you, Brother; thank you, Ruth; thank you, Mama—and thank you, Travis, for wearing the same pair of shoes for two semesters—"
Beneatha: (Dropping to her knees) Well—I do—all right thank everybody! And forgive me for ever wanting to be anything at all! (Pursuing him on her knees across the floor) FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME!" (p.17)

The quotation above showed Walter sarcasm and expected Beneatha to say thank you to her family because Walter thought that for the sake Beneatha's dream all of the family member did sacrifice such as Travis for wearing shoes for a long time. Frustration could be seen in Beneatha's tone because her brother always tried to pick on her. Her brother did not like how their mother always do anything for Beneatha. Walter felt that Beneatha did not feel grateful because all of the family have sacrifice while Beneatha did not. Sarcasm served as Beneath's method of addressing when she complied with Walter's wishes. Beneatha apologized for ever wanting to be anything at all in her discourse, which was written in all capital letters.

By Threatening

Datum 17

Lee: "What are you gonna do—shoot out the window again?"

Karen: "I won't be aiming at the window."

Lee: "What you're doing is wrong. The courts aren't gonna—"

Karen: "What I'm doing is not wrong. I know the difference, Lee."

Lee: "But you're still breaking the law."

Karen: "Then the law is wrong. So, throw the law in jail. But stay out of my way."

Lee: "You're gonna make me tie you up in your room so we can at least look like a decent family out here?"

Karen: "You do and I'll scream loud enough—I swear it—the floor will just rip open beneath your feet." (p.1)

The quotation above showed how Karen would act in any situation that no one could imagine. It could be seen that Karen had been shooting the window when she was stopped by her husband. The conversation between Karen and Lee showed what would Karen do. She threatened that she will shoot anyone this time who were trying to stop her.

By Talking It Out

Datum 18

Lee: "You had a baby before Catherine? [Beat.] Why didn't you...You never—"

Karen: "That's why Momma gave the farm to me. After Marshall Valley. [Silence.] Please don't leave me."

Lee: "No. [Pause. LEE nervously looks around himself and then up at the sky. Finally, he crosses down the steps and pulls a toolbox out from underneath. He motions for her to come to him as he kneels down.] I promise. Catherine won't leave here. Ever. [She crosses toward him.] I need you to go pick as many ears of corn as you can carry."

Karen: "It's not ripe yet."

Lee: "I know. I promise. She'll stay here with us." (p.1)

Quotation above showed Karen finally being opened up to her husband. Her husband did not know that Karen had a child before Catherin. Finally, her husband understood why Karen became so possessive to her daughter even though she already dead. Talking it out to her husband was a successful address to fight gender inequality.

By focusing to her goal

The researcher found this attempt in drama *A Raisin in The Sun*. Beneatha was a smart girl that she was aware that she only had to prove that women could be doctors in order for the idea to become accepted.

Datum 19

Beneatha: "Oh, I probably will ... but first I'm going to be a doctor, and George, for one, still thinks that's pretty funny. I couldn't be bothered with that. I am going to be a doctor and everybody around here better understand that!" (p.26)

The quotation above, the researcher could get information that George, man who currently close to his thought that it was funny how Beneatha wanted to be a doctor. That did not make Beneatha loose hope. She did not care George and other people' opinion. She

stood on her own to achieve her dream and no one going to stop her. Focusing on her own plans was Beneatha addressing gender inequality so Beneatha could prove that she could be success.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

The researcher discovered three different types of gender inequality in Hill's, *Heart in the Ground*, including subordination, violence, and double burden. Three different types of gender inequality such as subordination, stereotypes, and marginalization were present in Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. *Heart in the Ground*, there was no marginalization and stereotype. While there was no violence and no double burden in the second drama, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Both of the drama had similarities in subordination. Karen tried three ways to achieve her right: rebelling, threatening, and talking it out. Beneatha rebelled against her brother. Second was focusing on herself and when she did not do anything. Karen success in talking it out while Beneatha succeeded in focusing on her goal. Karen was strong woman that fight for her rights and no one can stop her. While Beneatha was a young woman who did not fight but she silently works hard to prove the others that she could be a doctor. Both of the female characters represented how women addressed inequality in modern drama.

While reading and examining the dramas *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Berry and *Heart in the Ground* by Douglas Hill, the researcher discovered a lot of information. The primary female character suffered gender inequality in these dramas were the researcher's only two key areas of interest. It sought to focus the investigation and narrow it. Further researchers might look at different angles while using the same subject, theory, or approach. Aspects might took the shape of research from different angles, including psychoanalysis, reader response, sociology of literature, and others.

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