

ABSTRACT

Wulan Astri (207 500 294): *The Struggle of Woman to Change Their Cultural Life in Sue Monk Kidd The Secret Life Of Bees*

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd is the novel tells us some several discrimination about men and women and life's struggle of women. This problem can be related to the argument that men and women are created in equal, in fact no similar treatment among them. I found that the character in this novel describes the women position in their relationship between another characters both of their family or their environment. After reading of this novel can be understood that there is one character of a woman who gets hardness, while there are some women characters whose get several discrimination from the people around them. For all those reasons, the woman characters have to struggle to get a freedom from their cultural life.

This research discusses two problems, why did the women characters keep struggle to change their cultural life and how did the struggles of life fought by the women characters described in this novel to change their cultural life. The purposes of this research are to know the background of women characters to change their cultural life and to find out the way of women struggles to change their cultural life shown in the novel. Feminist criticism is used as a medium to solve the problem in this research.

Qualitative and the documentation method are used as a method. The data are collected from novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Then, I categorize those collecting data into a background and the way of women characters to change their cultural life. Then the data are analyzed based on gynocritics theory.

Finally, the result of this research that there are four reasons of women characters to change their cultural life; *the first* patriarchal culture as Lily's social background, *the second* racial issues as Lily and Rosaleen's political background, *the third* Lily's educational background, and *the last* T.Rays pressure as Lily's psychological background. And there are four ways of women struggle to change their cultural life. *The first* struggle to keep live in patriarchal culture is by her acceptance for all T.Rays rule. *The second* is lily is looking for education as her struggle to change her cultural life. Lily's rebellion is a response to the injustice treatment of men in the patriarchal culture. *The third* struggle is Lily shows her protest when she is forced to follow an Afro-American culture. *The last* struggle is Rosaleen's rebellion as her struggle to get their right. Her rebellion is described by doing an extraordinary thing. This thing shows that Rosaleen can do what the other people do because she has the same right. All of women struggle which are done shows that women should get a happiness.