

## ABSTRACT

Jalalludin Sayuti. 1210503073. *The Portrayal of Subaltern's Suffering in Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Graduating Paper, English Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati. Advisors: 1. Dedi Sulaeman, M. Hum. ; 2. Udayani Permaludin, S.S., M.Pd.

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The discourse that places women as the second sex tends to regard them as the victim of patriarchal system. They can be identified by Said's orientalism which considers the East as "the other" which can be colonized and tortured. They can also be mentioned as subaltern group which cannot speak. Moreover, in the colonial context, women as subaltern are in difficult situations, because they are not only as the victim of men patriarchal system, but also as the victim of colonizer's savage.

This research is aimed to identify and analyze the suffering of subaltern characters depicted in Khaled Hosseini's Novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* as well as their process in solving or overcoming the problem or suffering. Therefore, it focuses on the description about subaltern's suffering and also their process in overcoming it. And in the novel, the characters, Mariam and Laila, are as the representative of subaltern characters.

In this research, the researcher uses postcolonial approach, exactly postcolonial feminism by Spivak about subaltern as well as Said's orientalism as the supporting theory. Both of them are as the theory of literary criticisms that is constructed as theoretical standpoint as well as the approach to solve the research problems.

The result of this research shows that the characters Mariam and Laila as subaltern in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* suffered in various aspects of their lives. Those are the suffering in education aspect, economic, medical service, physical violence, mental (psychological burden) and law and politic aspect. Those six aspects of suffering come from their husband and the colonizer of the country they lived in. Furthermore, there are differences of process done by Mariam and Laila in overcoming their sufferings. Unlike Mariam who tends to defend and be patient toward her suffering, Laila tends to rebel against it. However, at the end, both of them agree with rebellion against the violence that makes them suffers for the sake of their own next life.

Finally, this research can be concluded that women as subaltern, in this case represented by Mariam and Laila, in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are portrayed as the most suffering victims because of double dominations and controls, those are from the colonizers and men patriarchal system.