ABSTRACT

Being dominated by men, society takes patriarchy as its social system. This system exists everywhere even in a modern country like the United States of America. So, it surely exists in Indonesia as well. Since women are living in a world of male domination, women, especially Black women have always been degraded by men. They are regarded as men's property, the other, the object, and the subordinate. This study will do its best in describing the deconstruction of patriarchy and Afro-American women’s lives within rural patriarchal family in the southern part of United States in early 20th century and the Black women’s struggle against patriarchal women’s images. Some of the Black women in Alice Walker’s novel portray women’s struggle against male authority. In examining women’s lives under the roof of patriarchy, I use Feminism, i.e.: Second Wave Feminism of Simone de Beauvoir. Before I go further to her theory, I need to describe Afro-American women’s lives in the southern part of United States in early 20th century to show the oppressed lives they have. Then, in Chapter 3, I illustrate how The Color Purple change or break the traditional patriarchal image on women by giving quotations from the novel. Based on Chapter 2 and 3, I come to some conclusions; i.e.: The Color Purple does portray Black women’s lives as oppressed in a patriarchal family, it illustrates women’s struggle against patriarchy, and the novel breaks old women’s images on patriarchy by describing its characters as human beings, the strong, the economically independent, the equal, and the sexual subject.