

THE DESTRUCTION OF HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY IN CHETTIAR'S *IS MAN A WINNER OR A LOOSER?*

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Abstract

This study intends to discuss about the destruction of hegemonic masculinity. Based on the problem formulation, the purpose of this study is to explain how the destruction of hegemonic masculinity is seen in Chettiar's *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* This research concerns in discussing the destruction of hegemonic masculinity seen in Chettiar's *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* The researcher scopes the discussion by only focusing the phenomenon of the destruction of hegemonic masculinity happen in traditional patriarchal family. Research is classified into two groups; quantitative research and also qualitative research. In this case, the researcher uses qualitative research as a part of research design. In qualitative research, it produces the data in a form of word or verbal. Moreover the researcher implements library research to find the data. The method of library research is by analysing the historical record or the document. Meanwhile for the technique, the researchers have to take a note on what being analysis are of course by seeing the document or data that will support the research.

Key words: Destruction, Hegemonic Masculinity, Poem.

INTRODUCTION

The awareness of social classes toward their positions and their roles in seizing their success over other classes is called as hegemony (Pustika, n.d.). Hegemony was an expression of ideology, ideology was not merely about the conceptions or ideas shown by people, but it is about how people are able to give an inspiration through it by giving a concrete attitude ((Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), (Sari, n.d.), (Puspaningtyas & Ulfa, 2021), (Sinaga & Pustika, 2021)) or orientation for action. Take the example, by ideology the social classes existed in society become aware of their position (Amelia, 2016) and their role (Muhammad Yuseano Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018), (Sari, 2020), (Mandasari, 2017). Consequently, the group that has more power will exercise the hegemony to other group (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021). The concept of hegemony can be implemented in various organizational practices (Qodriani & Wijana, 2021), such as gender, team based work, ethnicity and identity (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), emotions in organizations, and work life balance. In gender's view the implementation of hegemony is called as hegemonic masculinity. Hegemonic masculinity is about the implementation of the

ideology of man in realizing his position in gender. It has specific characteristics; they are including dominance, competitiveness, assertiveness, physical strength, aggression, risk taking, courage, heterosexuality, and lack of feminine traits.

Domination is the concrete action had by man to prove his hegemony. In a real life, man indeed has more power than woman. For instance, the amount of woman as an officer in governmental side is fewer than man. In family side, the position of woman is only as a domestic labour that always serve her husband and also her children (Saputra et al., 2020). Meanwhile man is as a breadwinner and a decision maker. Moreover, the concept of patriarchy introduced by man is more strengthened his throne in gender. Patriarchal system is one of man conventional politic to guarantee man's dominance within politic of the gender. Even though hegemonic masculinity seems giving a beneficial thing to the man, it needs a risk taking and also competitiveness as the other characteristics of it. In this case man is challenged to be brave in taking a risk. Moreover, in getting his domination he should compete with another gender.

There are many factors happened in society that make other groups have to face a destruction (Mandasari, n.d.), (Sari, 2018). In gender practice, feminist movement that becomes a trend nowadays is the threat of man in holding his kingdom. That movement has reconstructed the system applied in society. The duty of woman is not merely as a domestic labor which hangs her life with her husband. She is more independent and freer to express her feeling. Woman has had similar opportunity to man. In addition there is a woman who becomes as breadwinner meanwhile her husband has a responsible in taking care their home. The issue of the destruction of man's domination can be seen in one of Chettiar's poems entitled *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?*. In this poem, Chettiar's questions the being of man's domination whether it is powerful or powerless.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Hegemonic Masculinity

Hegemonic masculinity is as an ideal of man to get highest position in gender (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021). According to Connell hegemonic masculinity ideologies preserve, legitimate, and naturalize the interests of the powerful – marginalising and subordinating the claims of other groups. The ideology of hegemonic masculinity naturally divides the

groups into two places; as a powerful group and as a powerless group. It authorizes man as a powerful group to exercise his ideology by claiming other group as a part of his structure to support him. Meanwhile woman as a marginal and subordinate group has to support the being of man as the leader in a group. However hegemonic masculinity got by man does not come naturally. He has to compete with others to get it. It sounds paradox since hegemony can make a hegemonic group become so weak in leadership. That condition also may be seen in Chettiar's *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* It portrays the struggle of man to keep his hegemony. He made a violation and coercion in order to keep it (Evayani & Rido, 2019). Unfortunately, the more he challenges to keep it, the more he gets a pain. That is why hegemonic masculinity theory is applicable in analyzing the research that will be done by the researcher because it deals with a struggle of man in holding his ideology.

The Paradox of Patriarchy

As a strategy of man in gender, patriarchy has strengthened the position of man in society. Weirdly, it will give a pain to the man. Man lives in paradox; exactly a paradox of power (M Yuseano Kardiansyah, n.d.). He has social power, but he has to pay a devastating price for it. The source of man's pain is none other than the patriarchal societies. Inside a power of man there will be a pain got by him. Patriarchal system is the source of man's pain because it will estrange man from his main goal. His child is the main goal of patriarchy. His son may be as his next generation to continue his kingdom. Meanwhile patriarchy makes man get busy in outside. Therefore it will make a distance between his children and him (Febriantini et al., 2021). He will get a hard feeling when he realizes that his relationship with his children is not really good.

METHOD

Research is like the activity to prove something scientifically. That activity starts by collecting the data then analysing them. In the process of that activity, the researchers sometime find something new or develop the theory used before. Research is classified into two groups; quantitative research and also qualitative research. In this case, the researcher uses qualitative research as a part of research design. In qualitative research, it produces the data in a form of word (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019) or verbal. In the other word, the process of qualitative research is based on verbal data; the result of this research

is in form of word not numerical. Moreover the researcher implements library research to find the data. The method of library research is by analysing the historical record or the document (Suprayogi Suprayogi, 2021). Meanwhile for the technique, the researchers have to take a note on what being analysis are of course by seeing the document or data that will support the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Being a man is a proud, since he has a duty to be a leader who leads his member in family. Naturally, man is stronger than woman, he is more powerful. The power had by man successfully successes his position in gender (Chavez, 2000), (M Yuseano Kardiansyah, 2017). The wave of feminism come currently does not hurt him deeper, it is only as a bee which makes him shock on its stringe. The politic of patriarchy still has a great influence to the society. Nevertheless, the power of patriarchy has two opposites faces. Beside the power brought by it, it also contains a pain that becomes a paradox of man. The issue above is also seen in Chettiar's *Is Man a Winner or a Loser?* It is about man's voice who is desperate with his identity ((KENDRA, 2015), (Rido, 2020b), (Ayu & Pratiwi, 2021), (S Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020), (Rido, 2020a)). The paradox of his power is as the cause in bringing him into identity crisis that really hurts him. To cover his pain, he does a kind of contradictive way which enlarge more pain to him. His domination is destructed because he cannot survive to adapt with it. He loses his confident to lead his throne because of it. He finally needs a shelter to protect him. The hand of woman is the answer of his need. He buries himself into her. The coolness of woman has made him depend on her, therefore Chettiar questions about the man is he the winner or the loser?.

The Destruction of Hegemonic Masculinity

Hegemonic masculinity is as man's expression of his ideology that motivate him to catch his success in gender practice (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021). It has characteristics such as dominance, competitiveness, assertiveness, courage, aggression, risk taking and lack of feminine traits. By considering those characteristics, man is the appropriate person to have it. Physically, he is stronger than woman, furthermore in solving the problem man uses his rationality but woman uses her emotion to solve it. That is why man is pointed as a decision maker. Hegemonic masculinity assumes the position of man in higher position rather than other gender. It gives man a huge authority to control the system applied in

society. Otherwise it also challenges man to compete with woman to hold the position since hegemonic masculinity's existence do not come automatically but through the competition. Previously man has won the competition for a long time. He feels that no one will break it since he has been succeeded in convincing his politic to woman (KUSWOYO et al., 2013). That is why he relies on the woman who is able to bring the coolness into himself, just like what has been stated in sixth stanza, twenty first line of *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* as follow:

6thIdentity crisis has bored him^{L.21(1)} Water
as she is, man could not cut her Tired of
heat outside, man needed a shade
And sheltered himself in woman coolness

Dealing with the stanza above, the poet uses a diction as a poetic device. The term of diction used by the poet can invest the materials or the messages with a dignity, and elegance but it keeps the purpose on track. Chettiar selects using the word "needed" to indicate that man cannot face his problem alone, he crucially wants someone to help him escaping his problem.

The Paradox of Patriarchy

Patriarchy is one of man's conventional politic to guarantee his position in society. It also divides the class between man and woman, where man as an ordinate meanwhile woman as a subordinate who can support the being of man. Patriarchy is an expression of hegemonic masculinity. To express his domination man has a power to authorize him to control woman (M Yuseano Kardiansyah, 2016). The influences of patriarchy are very wide and they give man more gratitude for his role in society. Take the example the statues of man is as a first class citizens and woman as second class citizens. In patriarchal society, man defines his power, otherwise the paradox of patriarchy comes because inside of this power there is also a pain that may hurt man. Patriarchy built by him brings him to it. He has to pay his social power as the consequence of his paradox live. it can be seen in first stanza of *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* Poem.

1stWoman has a poof that child is hers^{L.1}

Man has no such a proof to claim on the child She is cool with
the child as identity He is desperate for his identity

According to the stanza above, the poet describes that woman has a proof that her child is hers whereas man does not have authority to claim his children. That proof makes her become confident since she has an identity that help her to interact outside. Meanwhile, man who has no proof feel disappointed since he seems like losing his identity, and he does not know where he will get it. That is why he feel desperate for his identity. The stanza above represents the voice of man which reveals his pain as a leader in his kingdom. In first and second line “Woman has a poof that child is hers”, and “Man has no such a proof to claim on the child” show the tone of the poem which reveals man as the speaker feels disappointed since as a powerful person he should have everything he wants, but in fact it does not, his politic not only gives a power to him but also a pain, and it is as a payment form for his social power.

CONCLUSION

The destruction of hegemonic masculinity is the situation where man as the main role cannot adapt with the condition surround him that makes him powerless. The issue of the destruction of man’s domination is seen in Chettiar’s *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* poem. The paradox of patriarchy is a first symptom of the destruction of man’s hegemony. Patriarchy is as a proof of man’s power. The paradox of patriarchy comes as beside a power had by man, it also had a pain. It is seen in *Is Man a Winner or a Looser?* poem when man showing his power by inventing marriage and chaining woman skill, and also by introducing patriarchal system. In the same time, man has to pay his power by getting an identity crisis. Identity crisis happens because when he shows his power, it will give him doubt.

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