

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter presents background of research, the statement of problem, research question, and research objectives, research significance, conceptual framework and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Feminism is a knowledge of women's oppression and exploitation in the family, the workplace, and society. Men and women are aware of changing the circumstances lexically (Sa'idah, 2003). Feminism is a movement that seeks complete equality of rights for men and women. The definition of feminism can shift depending on feminists' knowledge or perspectives, founded on historical and cultural realities, and their awareness of perceptions and behavior.

Feminism is an ideology or movement that supports and empowers women. The goal of feminism is to defend women's rights in the social, political, and economic domains. Equal rights for women and men are the goal of the feminist movement. This movement continues to campaign for women's rights, such as the ability to vote, hold public office, receive a fair salary, own property, pursue an education, be granted equal rights in marriage, and take maternity leave, are still being fought for by this movement (Lewis, 2021). Women are the targets of feminists' efforts to protect them from sexual harassment, rape, domestic abuse, and discrimination at work, as well as from violence and social integration.

In early 1968, radical feminism evolved in reaction to a better understanding of women's oppression. Speaking about oppression rather than discrimination represents a fundamental change in breadth and depth. We required a more thorough study of women's oppression than the civil rights approach. (Atkinson, 2013).

Radical feminism was a tendency to understand women's oppression women's oppression on the deepest possible level. This analysis aims to pinpoint the crucial points at which women might attack the edifice of our oppression.

Radical feminists argue that gender or sex equality is unachievable in a patriarchal society. Because the system is rife with repressive patriarchal norms, assumptions, and institutions, these feminists believe that actual emancipatory change can only be achieved through a fundamental societal reordering that removes male domination. Radical feminists introduced the technique of consciousness-raising to women in general. Women gathered in small groups to share their own experiences as women. (Tong, 2018).

Radical feminism is an uncompromising and aggressive approach to women's rights, and her support for it stems from a branch of feminism that tries to address the core causes of gender inequality by confronting and abolishing patriarchal systems. Patriarchy is the primary cause of women's oppression, and genuine gender equality must be established. She also considered conventional institutions like marriage and the family perpetuating women's subservient societal role (Atkinson, 2013).

Women have made significant progress in their fight for equal rights. They seek parity in status with men, respect women's rights and duties, and end violence, discrimination, and harassment. Over the 18th century, the feminist movement has grown.

The phenomena above happened in *The Sun and Her Flowers* anthology poetry by Kaur. She explores the idea that praising women's physical beauty without appreciating their intelligence, courage, or toughness is a form of injustice. He denounced social norms that judge a woman's worth based on her appearance alone.

This poem emphasizes the importance of seeing women as individuals with qualities and potential beyond physical appearance.

I want to apologize to all the women

I have called pretty

Before I have called them intelligent or brave

(source: "In the spirit of intl Women's Day" by Kaur, the Sun and Her Flowers.)

Kaur calls for changing how women talk, valuing and acknowledging their achievements, intelligence, and resilience. Thus, the poem creates a narrative that supports the concept of feminism by challenging the stereotypes and expectations sometimes attached to women in society.

Kaur is also renowned as a feminist due to the nature of her poetry, which frequently addresses abuse and harassment against women. Kaur's other literary works that address abuse and harassment against women include *Milk and Honey*, released in 2014, and *Home Body*, published in 2020. Kaur also shared an Instagram photo in 2015 of herself asleep and bleeding through her clothes due to menstruation. Kaur performed this to emphasize the woman's strength. Rupi Kaur wants to invite women to be allowed to express their thoughts and rights to demonstrate the power of women who can be equal to men.

Poetry is often a platform for writers to express personal experiences, including experiences related to women and feminism. In poetry, writers can explore their feelings on gender issues, the power and injustice experienced by women, and the struggle for justice and equality (Bagchi, 2023). In addition to using techniques like figurative language and imagery, because it allows them to express their ideas more creatively and subtly if they used direct and flat language, they may employ

condensed or compressed forms to communicate ideas or emotion to the reader or listener's mind or ear.

Furthermore, poetry contains fewer words than other literary works but may describe more instances. Poetry is one of their literary works, which may be examined in various ways. Poems are a way for poets to convey their emotions based on their circumstances, condition, or imagination. Every poet has distinct writing qualities. Some of them frequently used nature as the subject of their poems. Some of them even treat love, affliction, and friendship as objects.

On the other hand, some poets infuse their own experiences into their work. Whether it's a positive or negative event in their lives, the researcher chose poetry as the subject of investigation, recognizing it as a literary form that is rich in creativity and imagination. Nowadays, numerous poems have been written about prejudice and segregation, which result from societal conditions. Moreover, several female poets produce poetry with feminist touches.

Poetry can influence a listener positively or negatively. Poetry with instructional themes can be very effective and set an example for the audience (Cohen, 2011). However, it is indisputable that some poems contain offensive themes like racism, violence, discrimination, and murder. If readers apply the poetry's entire vocabulary to everyday situations, it could be detrimental to them. The poetry also addresses personal topics like politics, feminism, women's issues, and gender issues. Up until now, there has been continuous discussion on this issue. Poetry has numerous instances of feminism. Debates about women's issues have been going on for a while.

The researcher is interested in choosing *The Sun and Her Flowers* Poetry in this study for several reasons: first, this poetry is a poem inspired by a true story in

India in the mid-2000s, when gender discrimination was rampant, namely when female workers tried to demand equal rights in the workplace. Second, by analyzing *The Sun and Her Flowers* from a feminist perspective, readers can explore how this poem gives voice to women's experiences and voices issues that are important in women's struggle for rights, freedom, and justice. This analysis can also involve a deeper understanding of how poetry contributes to feminist dialogue and reinforces the role of poetry as a medium of expression and resistance.

Poetry is defined as a literary work that is difficult to grasp due to its use of metaphorical language. The power of language organized in a poem conveys significant significance. Wordsworth wrote, "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling, expression of emotion, and it is always concerned with ordinary human concerns, with the daily matters of one's life." It indicates that a poem is a tool that allows the author to communicate their thoughts, moods, and expressions in natural and spontaneous written language. Figurative language is commonly used in poetry to enhance the lines. Sometimes, figurative language confuses readers because the lines are too unrealistic. Figurative language is not intended to confound readers but to make it plain. Additionally, it sharpens the readers' sensibilities, allows a complete understanding of a pleasure poem, and creates form and meaning.

The researcher has applied two elements to Kaur's *The Sun and Her Flowers* it is figurative language and imagery. In the context of Kaur's anthology poetry, Kaur often uses imagery to describe emotional and spiritual experiences. Through powerful imagery, Kaur creates captivating and colorful poems, allowing readers to feel and understand complex emotional experiences. The imagery also helps connect readers and themes explored in her works, including themes of feminism, identity, and personal growth. The second is figurative language, a form of language use in which

the writers mean something other than literal. The use of figurative language in *The Sun and Her Flowers* helps convey emotions and experiences powerfully, create powerful visual images, add complexity and depth to poetry, express imagination and creativity, and enhance the aesthetic influence of her work.

The Sun and Her Flowers as an Object is Kaur's second collection of poetry, published in 2017. Kaur often addresses social issues, especially those relating to women's experiences, violence, feminism, and self-identity, which are important contemporary issues to analyze in today's cultural context. Kaur's experiences may have influenced her thinking and shaped her feminist views. Many of her poems reflect women's experiences, including her own or those around her. These experiences are most likely the inspiration to raise feminist issues.

There are similar results from previous studies. The first research entitled "Multifaceted Feminist Perspectives: Interpreting Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur" (2020) by Trishna Deka. This study explores the multiple aspects of feminist perspectives in Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur. As a tool to analyze, the researcher uses gaze theory and concepts like 'écriture féminine' and objectification are applied as a medium for the theoretical framework. The object used in this study is the anthology poetry by Rupi Kaur. The War Propaganda Posters were chosen because of the War Propaganda.

The second research is entitled "A Semiotic C.S Pierce Analysis of The Feminist Representation in Enola Holmes Movie" (2020) by Suci Ayu Meilany Putri. This research analyzes the representation of feminism in the movie Enola Holmes. The movie was released in 2020 and is based on the novel Sherlock Holmes by Nancy Springer. This study applied a descriptive qualitative method that describes information in the form of text or transcripts and images from movies as objects of

research. This research used C.S Peirce's semiotic theory to analyze data and the feminist approach as an analysis method.

The third research is "A Semiotic Analysis of Drawing and Their Meaning in Kaur's Milk and Honey" (2023) by Febry Ayu Nur Islamy. This study aims to identify the meaning represented by the signs in Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey and to explain what kinds of feminism they represent. Semiotics, which is the study of signs, is this research's approach. The study's findings include that each image contains signs, icons, indices, and symbols. The image's replicas, likenesses, and imitations of actual objects are considered icons.

The difference between this study and previous research is that this study dissects the construction of his poetry using poetic devices by describing every aspect of the object studied using imagery and figurative language. The previous research examined objects using a portion of Pierce's or other semiotics theories. The differences are also found in the research object. The object of this research is *The Sun and Her Flowers*, while the objects of previous research were other literary works by Kaur or other movies.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

Based on the research background above, the researcher concludes that the following two statements will be the primary focus of this study:

1. To show the figurative language and imagery of the poem in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*.
2. To show how radical feminist concepts are presented in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the research background above, the researcher concludes that the followings three questions will be the primary focus of this study:

1. What is the figurative language and imagery of the poem in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*?
2. What is the description of radical feminism concepts are presented in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*?

1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the purposes of this research are as follow:

1. To analyze the figurative language and imagery of the poem in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*.
2. To analyze the description of radical feminism concepts are presented in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers*.

1.5 Research Significance

Through this research, the researcher will give explanation about the figurative language and imagery of the poem in the selected poetry of *The Sun and Her Flowers* using poetic devices and for those who read this paper can understand the constructs that build poetry include figurative language and imagery and the description of radical feminism concepts are presented. The significance of this research is Academically, Theoretically and Practically.

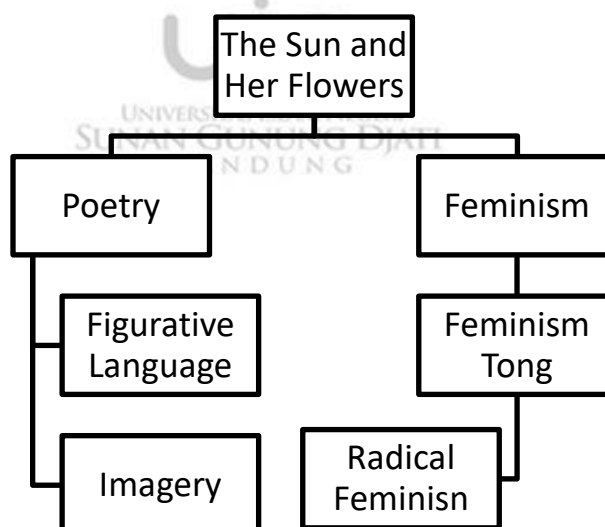
Academically, this research may provide scientific input and contribution to all parties interested in developing research on the subject of poetic devices, as well as deeper analysis and new contributions, particularly in the field of literature that deals with the notion of feminism. This study can provide a solid source that will benefit

future research on the same topic. The findings of this study, which examine how the figurative language and imagery of the poems in Kaur's anthology influence the notion of radical feminism, can provide a more extensive understanding and insight into specific difficulties.

Theoretically, this research employs Tong's notion of radical feminism. The notion of figurative language and imagery related to feminism is included in the development of poetic devices.

Practically, this study uncovers the hidden meaning of Kaur's anthology poetry, *The Sun and Her Flowers*. It indirectly explains the relatability of Kaur's poetry by demonstrating how it has empowered a wide audience, particularly among younger readers. Her writing has sparked discussions about feminism, body image, and self-empowerment, urging readers to explore these themes and find their own voices, thereby contributing to the ongoing discourse on gender equality..

1.6 Conceptual Framework



The purpose of this study was to examine *The Sun and Her Flowers* as poetry and as aspects of feminism. *The Sun and Her flowers* certainly have aspects possessed by poetry including figurative language and imagery where both aspects can be

analyzed which will later be continuous with the big theme raised from the poem, namely radical feminism. In Kaur's work, there are also aspects of feminism in it will be analyzed how feminism is portrayed in it, using Tong's feminism theory which will later be categorized according to the big theme of her poem, radical feminism.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Poetry is a literary work in which thoughts and ideas are expressed with unique intensity via distinctive style and rhythm; poems can be read collectively or as a literary genre.

Poetic devices are a type of literary device seen in poetry. Poetic form relates to how the poem is organized into stanzas, line length, rhyme, and rhythm. Clever use of poetic form can improve the meaning or feeling that the poet is attempting to convey.

Feminism is the belief that all genders deserve equal rights and opportunities. It is about recognizing varied women's experiences, identities, expertise, and talents while working to enable all women to exercise their full rights.

The Sun and Her Flowers is Kaur's second collection of poetry. It explores themes of love and loss, trauma and abuse, healing, femininity, and the body. *Wilting* takes on the themes of sadness and loss. *Falling* focuses on the sad sentiments accompanying the loss of a significant relationship—rooting delves into issues of female infanticide, immigration, and boundaries.

Imagery is the language of poets, novelists, and other authors, is a powerful tool that creates vivid mental pictures for readers. In literary and poetic contexts, imagery is the author's use of descriptive and vivid language to bring the work to life in the reader's mind.

Figurative language is a style of communication that does not adhere to a word's precise or actual definition. Common in comparisons and exaggerations, figurative language is usually used to add creative flourish to written or explain a complicated idea. It refers to words that are meaningful, but not literally true.

