
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Representation of Female Characters in the Novel "*Women at Point Zero*" by Nawal EL Saadawi using the Sara Mills Perspective Approach

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the representation of female characters in the novel *Woman at Zero Point* by Nawal El Saadawi in terms of the subject-object position and in terms of the reader's position using the Sara Mills perspective approach. This research is qualitative with a qualitative descriptive method. The data source is the novel *Woman at Zero Point* by Nawal El Saadawi. The research results are as follows. First, the position of the female character as the subject describes the female character who is considered to have committed a rebellion in the form of resistance against men through physical violence. Second, in the position of the character as an object, the female character suffers injustice throughout her life from childhood to adulthood, causing her to fall into the valley of humiliation. Third, in the reader's position, female characters are described as experiencing injustice in the form of stereotypes, prostitution, and violence.

KEYWORDS

Representative, Woman, Approach, Novel

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1. Introduction

Literary works are creative and imaginative works created by authors that originate from the reality of people's lives. Through literary works, the author also wants to express the problems that occur in society. Literary works are a reflection of the social life of society that occurs so as to make a person think about life (Bachri 2007). A literary work is created as a form of expression, expressing ideas and ideas obtained from the experience and appreciation of the author's life.

The problems contained in literary works are not only related to social problems but also the psychological problems of the author (Sukada, 2013: 53). Indirectly, the author, in creating literary works, also inserts a state of his soul in each of his works. It cannot be denied that literary works and their authors have a close inner relationship. The inner relationship referred to here is not only in the sense of the relationship that causes the appearance of an author's literary work but also in the sense of reflecting psychological aspects, educational aspects, social views, and even his philosophy of life and religion view. The psychiatric symptoms are not directly told by the author but are told through the character of the characters.

Many women in the feminist movement want liberation. Economic independence is needed if women are to be freed from male domination. Consumer capitalism drives many women into the workforce. By entering the world of work, their self-esteem increases and they are able to participate positively in society. Jobs that liberate women are not jobs that are equal to men's, not only high-paying but the kind of work that has a comfortable time schedule and a clear and decent salary. In addition to the type of work, women's economic independence can be realized with an alternative lifestyle that is contrary to the image of a good life presented by the white supremacist patriarchal capitalist mass media (Gaviota, 2021: 82). That is, women are able to determine their own standards of beauty.

In Javanese literature, female characters are generally represented as gentle, polite, ethical, doing household chores, and as someone who is physically weak but mentally strong. Men define women as weak creatures both physically and psychologically, and this understanding is passed down from generation to generation to their children and grandchildren. This provides special labeling and treatment for women, which is usually more restrictive and detrimental to women. For example, the novel *Woman at Zero Point* tells of a female character named Firdaus who has never experienced injustice in her life, from childhood to adulthood and fell into the valley of humiliation, turned herself into a prostitute and became a murderer.

The novel *Woman at Zero Point* is one of Nawal El Saadawi's works which will be published by the Indonesian Obor Library Foundation in 2021. Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian doctor. She is known worldwide as a novelist and writer who advocates for women's rights. He is a writer who is sensitive to the problems faced by individuals and society. The novel *Woman at Zero Point* is the eighth novel by Nawal El Saadawi, which has the advantage of telling the lives of female characters. The novel shows a picture of the reality in people's lives.

The researcher's interest in this novel is because *Women at Zero Point* is a very interesting novel. The character that is told is the life journey of a female character, which makes this novel very interesting to study its gender bias. Apart from that, the researcher's interest is in the background of Firdaus, who is forward-thinking, and dares to take a stand to fight for his rights and dignity towards other people, especially towards men.

In the novel *Woman at Zero Point* by Nawal El Saadawi, the researcher uses feminism with Sara Mills' perspective approach. Sara Mills' perspective has a point of concern which shows how the text presents women. In the perspective approach, Sara Mills also emphasizes how the position of the reader and writer is displayed in a text. How does the reader identify and place himself in the text narrative? This position places the reader in a position that will influence how the text is understood and placed by social actors. In the end, the narrative placed and displayed in this text makes one party legitimate and the other party illegitimate (Darma, 2014: 123); based on the explanation above, the problems experienced by the character Firdaus in the novel *Woman at Zero Point* by Nawal El Saadawi

2. Literature Review

There are several studies that are relevant to what researchers do. The first is research conducted by Lestari, Wiwin Triana Indah and Deddy Suprpto (2020) with the research title "Representation of Feminism in the Film 7 Days 7 Cinta Wanita". The results of her research include the value of feminism in films about women who struggle for gender equality in the economic field, such as women in this character working to support their families. The difference between Lestari's research and this research lies in the subjects used. Lestari's research uses the film 7 Hari 7 Cinta Wanita as its research subject, while this research uses the novel *Woman at Zero Point* as its research subject. The similarity lies in the object and theory used, namely both examine the representation of female figures, and both use the Sara Mills perspective approach as the theory used.

The second researcher is research from Yerry Mijianti et al. (2022) with the research title "Sara Mills' Discourse Feminism in the Novel Dewi Lestari Aroma Karsa". The results of his research include that the subject of the story in the novel, *Aroma Karsa* is the author (female). The narrative objects in *Aroma Karsa* are Raras Prayagung, Jati Wesi, and Tanaya Suma. (2) *Aroma Karsa* novel places the audience as women because the author is a woman. This text is intended for female readers. The reader puts himself in the position of a woman. The difference between the research conducted by Yerry Mijianti and this research lies in the subjects and objects used. Yerry's research used the novel *Aroma Karsa*, while this study used the novel *Woman at Zero Point* as the data subject. Then Yerry's research examines Sara's Feminism discourse, while this study examines the representation of female figures as the object of her research. The similarities between the research conducted by Yerry and this research lie in the theory used; namely, both use the Sara Mills perspective approach.

3. Methodology

The study used a qualitative descriptive technique. According to Moleong (2012), qualitative research intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject holistically (whole) and thorough descriptions in the form of words and language in a special natural context by utilizing various natural phenomena methods.

The method used in the study is the descriptive method. Semi (2012) states that the descriptive method means that data is described in the form of words or pictures, not in the form of numbers. This study describes the representation of female characters in the novel *Woman at Zero Point* by Nawal El Saadawi. The technique used is an analysis technique with data sources from Novel. Data analysis was carried out by reading the entire contents of the novel and then analyzing the female characters who did not get it. The novels analyzed in this study and used as data sources are the novels "Women at Zero Point" by Nawal El Saadawi and "Nadira" by Leila S. Chudori.

4. Results and Discussion

1. The position of female characters as subjects in the Novel Women at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi
The female character does not dare to speak the truth and only hides behind fear because she has become a prostitute. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"But because I am a woman, I never dare to raise my hand. And because I'm a prostitute, I hide that fear under layers of make-up on my face."

The subject in the quote above is the character of Firdaus, who hides her fear behind her face, which is covered by her beauty because she is only a prostitute.

The female character who asks the male character to pay her immediately is the same as other male characters who have already paid for the female character. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"After all, you have to pay me like the others. The time you spend with me is predetermined, and every minute counts in money.

The subject in the quote above is the character I (Firdaus), who collects money from men who have used it, so he has to pay for every minute spent with the character Firdaus.

My hero who has sold himself at a high price. Can be seen in the following quote.

"I don't want to shame my body at low prices, especially after I got used to being paid handsomely for any service I have to provide."

The subject in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who never looks down on his body because he sold it at a high price.

A female character who sells herself to a man, and she still feels lighthearted. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"When I sell my body to men, the pain is less painful."

The subject in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who sells herself for a man.

My character countered the man's behavior by hitting and slapping hard on the man's face. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I raised my arms higher than he did, and punched him hard in the face."

The subject in the quote above is the character I, who resists by hitting and slapping the man's face.

The female character who kills a man by sticking a knife into his neck and chest until he draws it back. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I lifted the knife and plunged it deep into his neck, then took it out again and plunged it deep into his chest, pulled it out and plunged it into his stomach."

The subject in the quote above is the character Firdaus who fights the male character by killing him with a knife.

A female character who wants to take revenge on all the men who have stopped in her life by destroying them one by one. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"And simultaneously destroying all the men I have ever known, one after the other in succession; uncle, and Ayah, Marzouk, Di'aa, Ibrahim, and tore them all apart one by one, throwing them away for good, picking up every trace of their piastres left in my fingers, ripping the flesh from my fingers until only the bones remained. —the bones, ensuring that not a single trace of their inheritance remains."

The subject in the quote above is the character of Firdaus, who wants to destroy the men that once existed in her life and throw them away.

The female character says that she is capable of killing anyone, including criminals who spend money on her people to starve them to death. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"Perhaps now you will believe that I am really capable of killing you, for you are no better than a bug, and all you do is spend the thousands you take from your starving people to give to prostitutes."

The subject in the quote above is character I, who kills a respectable man who is willing to spend money on prostitutes to starve his people to death.

A female character who confesses to killing criminals. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I am a murderer, but I have committed no crime. Like you, I only kill criminals."

The subject in the quote above is the character Firdaus who admits that he has not committed a crime like the criminals out there but rather has killed a criminal.

4.1 The feminist side of the character as a subject

The female character rebelled against the male by killing. The female character struggles for contentment and freedom to kill bad men. Therefore, female characters must accept the applicable punishment, namely imprisonment and hanging, because they are considered to be female killers. The courage of the character emerges when she is in a desperate situation, and she clings to the truth, which gives her the power to kill her opponents, whom she perceives as bad people. Her resistance is a response to male domination of her body, namely giving resistance in the form of physical violence.

In addition, the female character does not get injustice from her environment, which makes her fall into the valley of humiliation and turns her into a prostitute and ends with murder.

2. The position of female characters as objects in the Novel Women at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi

The character Firdaus is told as an innocent woman and should not be hanged.

"Murderer or not, she is an innocent woman, and she doesn't need to be hanged; they are the ones who should be hanged."

The object in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who is told as an innocent woman but must receive a hanging sentence.

A prison doctor tells the story of a woman who was sentenced to death for murder, but she looks different from most other killers.

"The prison doctor, a man, told me that this woman had been sentenced to death for killing a man. But she's not like the other female killers in prison."

The object in the quote above is a female character named Firdaus, who is told to have killed a man and was sentenced to death.

A female character who has to exert herself to carry an earthenware jug filled with water and must be carried out by a male or an adult

"Above my head, I carry a heavy earthenware jug filled with water. Because of the weight, sometimes my neck jerks back left or right."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who was forced to carry a heavy burden as a child that adults have to carry.

The female character experiences physical violence from her own mother for asking why she was born without a father, but her mother does not accept the question and tortures the female character

"Then he brought in a woman who had a small knife or maybe a razor. They cut a piece of meat between my thighs."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who says that he had experienced physical violence, namely when his mother took a knife and cut his flesh between the two teachings of the Firdaus character. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"My Galabeya often slipped so that my thighs were exposed, but I didn't pay attention until one day I saw my uncle's hand slowly moving from behind the book he was reading to touch my leg."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who says that he has been abused by his uncle when his hand touches Firdaus' leg secretly.

The female character who feels hopeless with her life will spend her entire life carrying dirt and making flour dough. This can be seen in the quotation below.

"Must I spend my life collecting dung, draping dung over my head, making dough and baking bread?"

The object in the quote above is the character of Firdaus, who wonders whether he will forever collect dirt, add fertilizer and mix flour, whether he will not find a better life than that.

The female character gets physical violence in the form of a punch on her hand when she wants to ask for food. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"One night, I worked up the courage to reach for his plate, but he hit me hard on the back and fingers."

The object in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who reaches out his hand to ask for food but is instead given harsh treatment by hitting Firdaus' finger.

A female character who feels hungry and can only see her father who is eating and waiting for him to finish eating. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I was so hungry I couldn't even cry. I sat across from him, waiting for him to eat, my eyes following the movement of his hand from the moment his fingers reached into the bowl until they lifted and brought the food to his mouth.

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who feels hungry, but his father doesn't want to feed him, so what Firdaus does is waits for his father and pay attention to every movement of his father's hand, putting food into his mouth.

The female character is crying because she feels like she is missing something for the first time. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I cry in my sleep as if I have lost something now; the loss that I experienced for the first time, and not the feeling of losing something in the past."

The object in the quote above is the character of Firdaus, who cries while sleeping and feels like he has just lost something that did not happen in the past.

The female character experiences physical violence because she is beaten by her own husband, even though the female character is innocent. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"After that incident, he had a habit of hitting me, whether he had a reason or not."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who gets harsh treatment from her husband and is beaten by him even though Firdaus is completely innocent.

The female character says that she received physical violence when her own husband beat her, so the female character feels wounds all over her body. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"On one occasion, he hit me with his shoe. My face and body became swollen and bruised."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who gets harsh treatment from her own husband, who beats her all over her body using shoes so that the character Firdaus feels bruises and wounds on her face and body.

The female character who gets unfair treatment from her husband causes blood to come out of her nose and ears. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"One day, he hit me with his heavy stick until I was bleeding from my nose and ears."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who was physically abused by her husband when she was hit with a heavy stick and caused injuries to her nose and ears.

The female character says that she is looked down upon by children who are still at school because of her appearance of the female character. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"They looked me up and down in disgust because of the strong fish smell from my clothes."

The object in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who is hated and belittled because of his appearance and the fishy smell that emanates from his clothes.

The female character is humiliated and humiliated by saying that she is a homeless slut who is not worth fighting. This can be seen in the quote.

"You actually dare to speak loudly when talking to me; you bum, you slut?".

The object in the quote above is the character of Firdaus, who is insulted that she is just a cheap woman who doesn't deserve to speak out loud to men.

Female characters get rough treatment from men to make them hurt. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"Her hand was big and strong, and it was the hardest slap I've ever received in the face. My head swung to one side, then the other."

The object in the quote above is the figure of Firdaus, who received physical violence in the form of a very hard slap on his face.

The female character gets rough treatment until she faints due to the actions of the men.

"The next moment, he punched me in the stomach with his fist so hard I passed out."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who received physical violence in the form of a punch to his stomach, which caused him to faint from a very hard blow.

The female character says that she received violence in the form of sexual harassment by Bayoumi when the female character was sleeping in the room at night. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"He came home in the middle of the night, pulled the sheets off me, slapped my face, and threw himself on top of me with all his weight."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who is abused by Bayoumi at night while sleeping, then Bayoumi slaps the character Firdaus and lays his body on Firdaus's body.

Female characters who get violence in the form of sexual harassment and humiliation by Bayoumi. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"He bit the flesh of my shoulder and bit my breast a few times, then my stomach. I bit him, again and again, and he said bitch".

The object in the quotation above is the character of Firdaus, who was abused and humiliated by Bayoumi by forcing him to bite Firdaus's body while uttering words that insulted Firdaus.

Humiliated and humiliated female characters by paying off female characters and asking them to accompany them while continuously being humiliated. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I will pay you. Don't think I want to use you for nothing. I am not like other police officers. How much do you ask? You're a whore."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who is humiliated by a policeman who wants to pay for the character Firdaus to accompany him by force.

A female character is insulted by an official for being poor and worthless; then, he asks her to come with him. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"You lowly and poor, worthless employees, chasing the bus to get on. I will take you to my car because your female body has aroused sexual desire."

The object of the quotation above is my character, who is insulted and harassed by officials because she is poor and is a despicable woman.

The female character is married to a man who punches and kicks her every day. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"None of them were there to save me when I married a man who punched and kicked me every day."

The object of the quote above is my character, who gets harsh treatment from her husband, and no one helps her.

The female character says that she has been used by men and men have control over her body. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I am just a body machine working day and night so that a number of men of various professions can become very wealthy at my expense."

The object in the quotation above is the figure of Firdaus, who has been enslaved and used by men, humiliated and controlled by men.

A female character who has been treated inappropriately by her own family since she was young and has not experienced injustice as a woman. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I am not a prostitute. But from the start, my father, uncle, and husband all taught me to grow up as a prostitute."

The object in the quote above is the character Firdaus who has never experienced injustice as a woman from childhood to adulthood, and that is what caused her to fall into the valley of humiliation.

4.2 The feminist side of the character as an object

Female characters experience injustice in the form of negative stereotypes or labeling, namely when female characters are called prostitutes, gypsy women, wild women, and so on, which degrades women. Female characters are marginalized with a life full of pressure from the family environment and the surrounding community from childhood to adulthood. In terms of feminism, what happens to female characters is a form of injustice in the form of violence, both physically and psychologically. Physical violence occurs when female characters receive harsh treatment, such as being beaten, slapped, and kicked by their own parents and those around them. Psychological violence occurred when she had never received love from her parents since she was young, to the threats she received when she was an adult so that finally, the female character gives up and makes herself a prostitute.

From a feminist point of view, female characters are depicted as women who are strong, tough, and rebel against customary and religious norms by making themselves prostitutes as a form of women's self-existence against injustice. The female character loses her economic activity and completely turns it into sex to sustain her life.

3. The female character is in the position of the reader

From the reader's point of view, it is said that every book must provide new lessons for each reader. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I started to like books because each book taught me a new lesson."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to readers, what Firdaus said is true that by loving books and reading every page of a book, we can learn a lot from the books we read.

From the reader's position, it illustrates that out there, the majority who have the authority to govern are men. They all agree on gluttony and personality. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I can also tell that all those who rule are men. What they have in common is greed and distorted personalities, unlimited lust for money, sex and unlimited power."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to readers, what Firdaus said is true, that men are indeed currently more powerful than women.

From the reader's perspective, it illustrates that according to Uncle Aku, all husbands do the same thing; namely, they will beat their own wives, and according to him, it is men who understand religion who like to beat their wives. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"But my uncle told me that all husbands beat their wives, and it is men who understand religion who like to beat their wives. Religious recommendations made it possible to carry out the sentence."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is

described in the quotation above is wrong. Does a mistake have to be punished in the form of violence? Is there no other way to punish a mistake without having to injure someone physically?

From the reader's point of view, it is said that the female character refuses to live in the house with a man who is not her husband, and she feels that doing so violates the rules and will make people talk about it. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I can't stay in your house. I'm a girl, and you're a boy, and people are talking about us. After all, you promised to stay here until you got me a job".

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is described in the quote above is true because two men and a woman who are not husband and wife living in the same house is a violation of both religious norms and customs.

In the reader's position, it is told that a man will not know the value of a woman; he will only see women based on what he sees. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"Men don't know the value of a woman, Firdaus. It is the woman who determines the value."

According to the reader, what is said in the quote above is true because only the female character herself can improve her quality of life and determine her self-esteem. Men will only see based on what he sees.

The female character narrates that even though she is a lowly woman, she can only be bought at a high price. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"Of course. No one can touch me without paying a very high price. You are younger than me and more educated, and no one can approach you without paying double my salary."

Based on the explanation above, the reader is not in favor of the female character; the impartiality of the reader toward the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies himself with the character he considers wrong. According to readers, what is described in the quotation above is wrong because women should not be looked down upon and traded even at very high prices because it will reduce their quality as women.

The female character says that no matter what happens, being a respectable woman is a must and must be maintained even though the stake is her life. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"No matter what happens, I must be a lady, even if it costs me my life. I am ready to do anything to stop gossip from ringing in my ears, to keep insolent spies from roaming my body."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is told in the quote above is true; even though a female character has fallen into the valley of humiliation, there is nothing wrong with changing for the better and becoming a respectable woman, even if she has to sacrifice her life.

The female character says that her self-esteem is higher than anything and cannot be paid for with money. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"My body is worth more than a raise."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is described in the quote above is true because no matter how big the salary out there is, one cannot buy a woman's self-esteem, even at a very high price, because basically, a woman's self-esteem cannot be replaced with money.

The female characters say that prostitutes are more honorable than women who work as ordinary employees, and that's why they are more respected. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"That's a prostitute that I consider more respectable and is valued more highly than all female employees, including myself."

Based on the explanation above, the reader is not in favor of the female character; the impartiality of the reader toward the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies himself with the character he considers wrong. According to

readers, what is described in the quote above is wrong because if a woman is truly respectable, then she will not be willing to become a prostitute, and no matter how high the price of a prostitute is, she will still look very low.

The female characters describe how sad it is to see girls out there who are willing to give up their bodies just to eat because they are afraid of being treated inappropriately by men. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I feel sorry for the other girls who so innocently give their bodies and physical labor every night just to get food in return, or to get a good annual report, or just to make sure they don't get mistreated, suffer discrimination, or are transferred".

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the readers, what is depicted in the quote above is true, how sorry it is for women who depend on men, willing to sacrifice just for a mouthful of food and afraid of being mistreated. As a woman, she must be able to have the strength that cannot be underestimated by a man.

The female characters depict that all women are prostitutes; the only difference is how they sell themselves to men, and expensive prostitutes are more respectable than cheap ones. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"I know now that we are all prostitutes selling ourselves at various prices and that an expensive prostitute is much better than a cheap one." Based on the explanation above, the reader is not in favor of the female character; the impartiality of the reader toward the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies himself with the character he considers wrong. According to the readers, what is described in the quotation above is wrong; not all women are prostitutes and no matter how high the price of a prostitute will still be valued low and despised by the surrounding community.

The female character illustrates that women are victims of deception; even though the forms are varied, the aim is the same, namely to bring women to the valley of humiliation. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"All women are victims of deception. Men force deception on women and then punish them for being deceived, oppress them for being deceived, oppress them to the lowest degree, and punish them for falling so low, tie them in marriage and punish them with hard labor all their lives, or beat them up with insults, or with blows."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the readers, what is depicted in the quotation above is true that women are victims of men's deception, both from sweet promises and sweet cradles from men, which in the end bring women to their lowest point, and men can do anything with them.

The female character says that she has chosen a better life than being a prostitute. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"The fact that I rejected their noble attempts to save me from the conviction to remain a prostitute proved to me that this was my choice and that I have freedom, at least the freedom to live in better conditions than life. another woman."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the readers, what is said in the quotation above is true, that the female character should defend her choice, namely to live a better life than before.

The female character says that at every level of the profession, there is always a price commensurate with her profession; the more respectable one's profession, the higher the salary. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"Everyone has a price, and every profession is paid with a salary. The more honorable the profession, the higher the salary, and a person's price will rise as he climbs the social ladder."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is explained in the quotation above is true that the level of profession and salary earned must be balanced; the higher one's profession, the higher one's salary and quality.

The female character conveys that truth will give its own strength to anyone who holds it, and the truth will also make people out there fear. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"My truth is what scared them. This terrible truth has given me great strength."

Based on the explanation above, the reader sided with the female character, the reader's alignment with the female character is based on a mediating factor that aligns or identifies herself with the character she thinks is right. According to the reader, what is described in the quote above is true; as long as we hold fast to the truth, we don't need to be afraid of anything that is out there because the truth will provide its own strength.

4.3 The feminist side of the character in the reader's position

In the reader's position, the female character is marginalized by everyone because she is looked down upon because of her work as a prostitute. Behind his ugliness, there are many factors that are not in his favor. The injustice she experienced from childhood to adulthood made female characters have to obey the wishes of every able man. In addition, female characters are always stereotyped and given inappropriate titles such as whore, whore, tramp, and so on.

In addition to stereotypes, female characters are also involved in prostitution, such as selling themselves by trading their bodies, honour, and personalities to many people to satisfy their sexual desires in return for payment. The female character carried out the rebellion due to economic factors because she chose to leave her family and husband, who often abused her.

Based on the explanation above, from the point of view of the reader, he wants to reveal that crimes are not only committed by bad people but by good people who become evil because of the demands of their lives. Being treated unfairly by men is a problem that often haunts them. This is the implied phenomenon that the author wants to convey as a social critique of women in the eyes of the wider community.

5. Conclusion

In general, the researcher concluded that basically, the representation of female characters in the novel 'Woman at Zero Point' by Nawal El Saadawi, analyzed by this researcher, aims to represent female characters by placing them not only as objects (which are told) but also as subjects (narrators) in the novel. This, through Sara mills' perspective approach, can be explained as follows. The representation contained in the novel Woman at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi using the perspective of Sara Mills is divided into three, namely the position of the female character as the subject, the position of the woman as the object, and the position of the female character as the subject. Women from the reader's point of view; First, in her position as a subject, the female character is the perpetrator of premeditated murder as a result of rebellion against the injustice she has experienced. This is done because the female character fights for satisfaction and freedom to kill the man who humiliated her. Second, in the position of the female character as an object, the female character experiences injustice from childhood to adulthood, which causes her to fall into the valley of humiliation to become a prostitute; this is done because the female character has lost her economic activity and turned her whole into sex to maintain her life. In addition, female characters experience injustice in the form of public violence, where they receive harsh treatment from men, even from their own husbands and parents. Third, in the position of the female character from the reader's point of view, the female character is described as experiencing injustice in the form of stereotypes, prostitution, and violence due to the hard life she lives. No one wants to accept it because female characters are seen as weak and have no position.

The limitation in this study lies in the representation of female characters in the novel Woman at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi in terms of the subject-object position and from the reader's position using the Sara Mills perspective approach.

Based on the conclusions from the research above, the researcher would like to provide the following suggestions.

1. It is hoped that the novel Woman at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi can be used as a subject for further research with different objects of discussion and theory
2. It is hoped that the fortitude and patience described by the author in the novel Woman at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi can be a good example for readers.
3. Research on the representation of female characters in the novel Woman at Zero Point by Nawal El Saadawi can be a source of knowledge for readers

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