

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will consist of the basic details that become the foundation of this creative writing thesis report. This chapter has three parts; the first part is a background, the second part is the project's objective, and the third part is the originality and significance.

1.1 Background

The issue of early marriage has always weakened the core concepts of gender equality and women's empowerment in civilizations around the world. Early marriage defined as the union of individuals before they reach the legal age of consent, is a deeply ingrained social and cultural phenomenon that continues to affect the lives of millions of girls and young women. Early marriage is a complex issue that overlaps with many elements of human development, including social, economic, and cultural dimensions. It is frequently the result of profoundly embedded gender inequities, discriminatory attitudes, and limited access to education and economic possibilities for girls and young women. Furthermore, early marriage reinforces a cycle of poverty and gender inequality, impeding progress toward the Sustained Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5-Gender Equality.

The case of early marriage in Indonesia is not something new, because several regions and tribes in Indonesia still apply the tradition of early marriage. One of the tribes in Indonesia that still applies early marriage is Madurese. Most people in Indonesia has already aware that the majority of Madurese, at the young age around 13-14 years old—most of them have already got married and if there's

a young people who haven't gotten married until 20 years old, they think that they are late. The Madurese cherish their norms and values and adhere to their traditions, it also included the tradition of early marriage. Madurese stated that marrying girls at a very young age was considered normal and there was no sense that a young girl in Madurese society had the right to choose their marriage right (Yunizar, 2020). According to the National Women's Commission, in 2019-2020 there are 23,126 child marriages in 2019 while in 2020 there are around 64,211 cases. They also stated that since the emergence of COVID-19 early marriage cases are getting higher than in past years (Hasudungan, 2022)

It didn't stop in 2020, since the COVID-19 pandemic ended, the writer has often encountered a lot of social media content about underage married women. Not infrequently many of them are seen holding their children with pride feeling like a winner. The younger they're having a baby, the more superior they are. Not only through social media, but the writer also reflects and observes one of the incidents of several of the writer's high school classmates. One of them is a clever girl and she can be said to have great potential if she goes to college/in career though. But unfortunately, she decided to marry young right after high school graduation—rather than continue to learn and develop herself.

This problem has already bothered the writer, the writer feels that not all women should only be able to depend on and surrender their whole life and every aspect to their husbands. Women are able and possible to be independent with themselves and stand for their whole life. Even women can prosper financially if they want to work. Things that should be reminded is women don't have to wait for a man to support them, they can support themselves if they have a will. Apart from

these problems, the writer is quite sad to see that many young people on social media decide to marry young without knowing the basics, principles, concepts, and the real purpose of marriage. Not infrequently they are still not that ready mentally and physically. This makes it seem as if marriage is something trivial and divorce is the solution to all household problems. It is not uncommon for several couples who are not ready but have already built a household, to end in divorce due to cases of infidelity.

A short story is a short piece of fiction that focuses on a single incident or character. Despite its brevity, a short story can have a significant impact and elicit a wide range of emotions. The short stories frequently try to capture a certain moment or explore a specific issue, giving a snapshot of reality or diving into the depths of human nature (Mahdi, 2014). The limited length of a short story could involve a brief plot framework in that every word of detail counts, resulting in focused storytelling that frequently leaves room for interpretation and creativity.

Through these social problems, the writer decided to write a paper about these social problems. The writer decided to make a short story about this social problem to support women's empowerment among young women in every country but specifically in rural areas in Indonesia. The writer decided to make a short story about this social issue. The writer is eager to emphasize to women out there that they can and are capable enough of being independent and responsible for their own lives and reaching the lives they wanted.

1.2 Objectives of the Project

Through this creative writing project, there are some goals that the writer used as objectives.

A. Independence

Independence is a point that describes the message the writer wants to convey in the story. Where the writer wants to remind women out there; Even though women are physically weak and hierarchically women are inferior to men, that does not mean that women cannot stand on their own feet. In this point, the writer emphasizes that women do not have to wait to have a rich husband to be rich, because women can be rich by themselves too.

B. Survival

Survival, this point focuses more on the strength of women who can survive even if they have to fend for themselves. Some so many women can survive and support their children, even without the hands of their husbands. Here it shows that women are not that weak and continues from the previous point, that women can be independent and survive because women originally have the ability and strength.

C. Smartness

Smart is an important point that the writer tried to emphasize in this story because the writer wants to remind women there that being a woman is not only being able to look beautiful but also have a brain.

1.3 Originality and Significance

1.3.1 Originality

This paper is the writer's authentic work and is made based on her knowledge, experience, and imagination. It's confirmed that the creative writing that she made uses the intrinsic elements of short stories and theoretical theories combined with the experience of the author, to strengthen and become the basis for making short stories. In making this short story, the author can guarantee that everything contained in her creative work is fully derived from the writer's imagination. The writer also guarantees that creative works have not been made by other writers.

1.3.2 Significance

As for the significance, this creative writing is intended for:

a. The Significance for the Society

The significance of this creative writing is as a medium of reminder for all young women in the world to be able to stand and fight for women's dignity, equality, and rights. By using this creative writing, the writer hopes that this work can help and support the development of women's empowerment.

b. The Significance of the Universitas Ma Chung

The significance of this creative writing for the Universitas and the Art and Language Faculty is a form of success for the Universitas and the faculty in educating their students. Besides that, this report and creative

writing can also be a reference or guideline for other students who are interested in making a short story.

c. The Significance for the Writer

The significance of this creative writing for the writer—this creative writing might become the first creative writing that the writer made. Where the writer has eager to convey this to the public and with this creative writing, the writer has the opportunity to encourage and support young women out there to be independent. Besides that, this creative story will be one of the works to fulfill graduation requirements and get a bachelor's degree in English Literature.