



Reflection on Feminist Issues in 2015-2016 in Kim Ji Yeong's Novel, Born 1982 and Lesson Plan

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe: 1) reflection of feminism issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 with a focus on the 2015–2016 setting; 2) the condition of feminism in Indonesia in 2025; 3) relevance and critical reading of feminism issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982; 4) components of a comparative literature lesson plan on reflection of feminism issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 with a focus on the 2015–2016 setting. The method used is descriptive qualitative with a literature study approach. The primary data of this study comes from the novel, while secondary data is obtained from articles, journals, and reports related to feminism. The research instrument was developed in the form of an analysis guide based on Simone de Beauvoir's theory. Observation guidelines were used to collect data including in-depth reading, recording, and documentation of secondary sources based on validation with source triangulation and time triangulation techniques as information verification methods. Data analysis used thematic and comparative analysis. Research results: 1) reflection of feminism issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 with a focus on the 2015–2016 setting is gender inequality which is very relevant to the challenges of contemporary feminism, including the issue of Online Gender-Based Violence (KBGO); 2) Indonesia in 2025 shows progress through the enactment of the TPKS Law, increased digital activism, and the expansion of the feminist agenda; 3) the novel remain relevant for reading contemporary feminist phenomena; the domestic burdens, work inequality, and social pressures experienced by the main characters parallel the experiences of Indonesian women; 4) lesson plan reflection of feminism issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 with a focus on the 2015–2016 setting using a constructivist approach.

Keywords: feminist issues, novel, review, teaching materials

Refleksi Isu Feminisme 2015-2016 dalam Novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 dan Rencana Pembelajaran

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan: 1) refleksi isu feminisme dalam novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 karya Cho Nam-Joo pada fokus latar tahun 2015–2016; 2) kondisi feminisme di Indonesia tahun 2025; 3) relevansi dan pembacaan kritis isu feminisme dalam novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982; 4) pemanfaatan sebagai materi ajar resensi novel di SMA tentang refleksi isu feminisme dalam novel *Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982* karya Cho Nam-Joo. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan studi pustaka. Data primer penelitian ini bersumber dari novel, sementara data sekunder diperoleh dari artikel, jurnal, dan laporan terkait feminisme. Instrumen penelitian dikembangkan dalam bentuk panduan analisis berbasis teori Simone de Beauvoir. Pedoman observasi digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data meliputi pembacaan mendalam, pencatatan, dan dokumentasi sumber sekunder berbasis validasi dengan teknik triangulasi sumber dan triangulasi waktu sebagai metode verifikasi informasi. Analisis data menggunakan analisis tematik dan komparatif. Hasil penelitian: 1) Refleksi isu feminisme dalam novel karya Cho Nam-Joo, Kim Ji Yeong, Lahir 1982, dengan fokus pada latar tahun 2015–2016 adalah ketidaksetaraan gender yang sangat relevan dengan tantangan feminisme kontemporer, termasuk isu Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Daring (KBGO); 2) Indonesia pada tahun 2025 menunjukkan kemajuan melalui pemberlakuan Undang-Undang TPKS, peningkatan aktivisme digital, dan perluasan agenda feminis; 3) Novel ini tetap relevan untuk membaca fenomena feminisme kontemporer; 4) Rencana pembelajaran refleksi isu feminisme dalam novel karya Cho Nam-Joo, Kim Ji Yeong, Lahir 1982, dengan fokus pada latar tahun 2015–2016 menggunakan pendekatan konstruktivis.

Kata kunci: isu feminisme, novel, komponen rencana pembelajaran

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1951

INTRODUCTION

Literary works offer a freedom of expression that allows writers to express themselves without being constrained by rigid rules. This expression is expressed in writing with themes and plots that often reflect social conditions. According to (1999), a theme functions as a central idea that describes the entire story. In writing, writers do not simply tell a story, but rather strive to convey information to readers. This information can encompass a life problem, their perspective on their surroundings, or a commentary on life in the world (Hermawan & Shandi, 2019). In developing a story, there is a plot that serves as a transitional situation to achieve the author's stated goal. The plot generally begins with the introduction of a character, develops into the problems surrounding the character, and continues sequentially to the problem-solving stage undertaken by the character (Hermawan & Shandi, 2019). Therefore, each writer has the freedom to choose the topic, genre, characters, setting, plot, and message that will be interpreted by the reader.

Kim Ji Yeong's novel, "Born 1982," published in 2016, explicitly addresses feminist issues, highlighting discrimination against women. This novel depicts the daily life of an ordinary female character, Kim Ji Yeong, who since childhood has experienced various forms of gender-based discrimination, both within her family, school, workplace, and even in her domestic life. The narrative shows how a woman struggles to find work and, despite working for a company, ultimately decides to become a housewife, ultimately leading to depression (Nam-joo, 2019; Juniartini et al., 2022). What makes this novel stand out is its unique approach of combining fictional narrative with data and excerpts from official reports. This approach creates both a documentary and emotional impact for the reader. The use of footnotes referencing real-life statistics and reports effectively emphasizes that Kim Ji Yeong's experience is not an isolated case, but rather a representation of the plight of women in South Korea.

The novel, "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982," uses a mixed narrative (both flashback and forward-looking) to depict Kim Ji Yeong's life from childhood to adulthood. The story opens in the fall of 2015, the year Kim Ji Yeong's unusual behavior was first identified (Nam-joo, 2019; Rismawati & Setyawan, 2021; Ratri, 2022). The 2015 setting specifically depicts the Korean Chuseok celebrations, where Kim Ji Yeong and her husband return to her parents' home to celebrate. During this time, Kim Ji Yeong feels a sense of injustice. She is constantly working to support her mother-in-law, while her husband, as a man, has more time to rest. This feeling is further heightened by the fact that her sister-in-law, who is married, has the opportunity to return to her parents' home. Responding to this injustice, Kim Ji Yeong expresses her feelings by asking her husband to also visit her parents' home during the next holiday, arriving early. Kim Ji Yeong explains that her parents are also eagerly anticipating a reunion with their daughter, which can only happen on such a festive day. Set in 2016, Kim Ji Yeong, a housewife and young mother, had to stop working after giving birth. This condition caused her to experience psychological stress and depression due to the ongoing gender-based injustices in her life, both within her family, workplace, and society. Kim Ji Yeong then underwent counseling with a psychiatrist twice a week for 45 minutes per session. The initial suspicion that emerged was that Kim Ji Yeong was experiencing postpartum depression that developed into parenting depression. However, this suspicion was not strong because Kim Ji Yeong's demeanor remained calm and she tended to deliver in-depth and logical arguments, rather than sharing her emotional wounds.

Psychiatrist Kim Ji Yeong reveals that a female doctor at her clinic with a year of experience decided to resign because she became pregnant after six years of marriage and her pregnancy was at risk. This female doctor's resignation significantly impacted the company, as many patients chose to discontinue treatment,



refusing to be referred to other doctors. The narrative at the end of the story concludes that women create difficulties for the company if they are unable to manage childcare.

The choice of 2025 as the point of reference in this analysis aims to represent the present and provide a relevant moment to reflect on the development of feminist discourse and practice, almost a decade after the publication of Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982* in 2016. The conflicts and feminist issues raised are highly relevant to the fourth wave of feminism (Mellinia & Sary, 2023). The existence of misogynistic and sexist views, the high prevalence of sexual harassment, and gender-based discrimination in the workplace have fueled the emergence of a feminist movement championed by female figures. Mellinia & Sary (2023) also stated that this movement focuses on the struggle for gender equality as a response to rigid and detrimental gender norms for women.

Sociologically, the year 2025 reflects a contemporary phase marked by the increasing strength of digitalization, cultural globalization, and a growing collective awareness of gender equality. However, this year also presents new challenges, such as Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV). OGBV encompasses cases of digital sexual harassment and exploitation of women and girls, including the non-consensual distribution of intimate content, and can happen to anyone (Napitupulu, 2024). Using 2025 as a point of comparison, this analysis not only examines the novel as a social reflection of the past but also serves as a vibrant critical tool for examining how gender issues develop or even recur in contemporary society.

Mediating this literary work to the public requires educational efforts at the high school level. These efforts in this article are limited to the development of components for university lesson plans on the topic of comparative literature. The approach used in this planning is Needham's five-phase constructivist model.

Based on the description above, several problems are formulated. First, how is the

reflection of feminism in Cho Nam-Joo's novel "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982" focused on the 2015–2016 setting? Second, what is the state of feminism in Indonesia in 2025? Third, what is the relevance and critical reading of feminism in Cho Nam-Joo's novel "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982"? Fourth, how can the reflection of feminism in Cho Nam-Joo's novel "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982" be utilized as teaching material for novel reviews in high school? First, to describe the reflection of feminist issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel *Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982*, focused on the setting of 2015–2016. Second, to describe the state of feminism in Indonesia in 2025. Third, to describe the relevance and critical reading of feminist issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel *Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982*. Fourth, to describe the use of novel review teaching materials in high school about the reflection of feminist issues in Cho Nam-Joo's novel *Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982*. That is the purpose of this study.

This study uses the theoretical framework of Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialism, which argues that historically, women's positions tend to be placed under male domination. In this view, women are positioned as Objects (Other), while men are positioned as normative Subjects. According to Beauvoir, the ideal condition is achieved when women are able to transcend, that is, go beyond the role assigned as objects and begin to position themselves as autonomous subjects, possessing awareness and the freedom to determine their own existence (Pratiwi, 2016; Welch, 2012).

The social phenomenon that raises feminist issues in Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, serves as the basis for this research. This novel is used to reflect on feminist issues in the 2015-2016 setting and to compare its relevance to the development of feminist issues in 2025, based on Simone de Beauvoir's perspective. This research primarily aims to compare the reflections on feminist issues in the novel with current conditions.

Several relevant studies can be found in the form of articles in online journals. First,, Febriyanti, R. H., Zuriyati, Z., Rohman, S. (2020). *Misoginisme dalam Novel Kim Ji-Yeong, Lahir*

Tahun 1982' Karya Choo Nam-Joo: Kajian Feminisme Sastra. LEKSEMA: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra, 5(2):159-176. DOI:10.22515/ljbs.v5i2.2571. Second, Rismawati, A., & Setyawan, B. W. (2021). Analisis Struktural Novel Kim Ji-Yeong Lahir Tahun 1982 Karya Cho Nam-Joo. *Mardibasa: Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 1(2), 316–326. <https://doi.org/10.21274/jpbsi.2021.1.2.316-326>. Third, Ratri, R. D. (2022). Ekranisasi Novel Terjemahan Kim Ji-Yeong Born 1982 Karya Cho Nam-Joo: Transformasi Budaya Misogini ke Layar Lebar dalam Lingkup Sasaran Masyarakat Misogini Korea Selatan. *Crossover: Journal of Adaptation Studies*, 2(2), 19-34, DOI:10.22515/crossover.v2i2.5399

METHOD

This study adopts a descriptive qualitative research type conducted through a literature study. Bogdan & Biklen (2007), Fraenkel et al. (2012), Razak (2017) stated that the descriptive qualitative approach was chosen because it aims to understand the reflection of feminist issues raised in the 2015-2016 setting and analyze its relevance to the development of the condition of feminism in 2025. This method is sourced from the work of other individuals in the form of writing (Permana et al., 2019; Ratna, 2004; Elmustian & Razak, 2021). This study will specifically examine the novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982 by Cho Nam-Joo and compare its content with the current state of feminism. There are two types of data sources that drive this research. Primary data is taken directly from the novel Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982, with a focus on the 2015-2016 setting. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from various online sources, such as articles, journals, reports, and news articles discussing feminist issues in Indonesia between 2023 and 2025.

The primary instrument in this research is an analytical guide based on Simone de Beauvoir's feminist theory, which encompasses key concepts such as women as "Other" and the social construction of women. The scope of this analysis

encompasses four key characteristics of Beauvoirian feminism: women's capacity in the workplace, women's potential as intellectual subjects, women's active participation in social transformation, and women's ability to reject alienation (Fitriah et al., 2024; Tawaqal et al., 2020).

The research procedure refers to the Miles & Huberman (1994) approach, which consists of three main systematic stages: data collection, data classification, and data analysis. The steps used by the researchers to obtain research information were carried out in three stages: (1) in-depth reading and note-taking of the novel's contents, (2) collecting relevant articles, journals, and reports from various sources, and (3) summarizing the document contents and highlighting sections relevant to feminist issues. The data obtained through close reading were then classified into four main themes that reflect the obstacles women face in achieving transcendence as autonomous subjects. Furthermore, the process used to examine, categorize, and draw conclusions from the data was thematic analysis techniques to deepen each theme, followed by comparative analysis to compare the situation in the novel (2015-2016) with its relevance to conditions in 2025. Finally, to increase the reliability of the findings, the study utilized source triangulation by comparing data from several types of sources.

RESULT

1. Reflections on Feminist Issues in a South Korean Setting in 2015-2016

Based on the Miles & Huberman (1994) data analysis model, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, this study successfully identified narrative units that represent women's position as "Other" in the novel "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982." The data obtained through close reading were classified into four main themes that reflect women's obstacles in achieving transcendence as autonomous subjects. The classification of the textual data findings is presented in Table 1.



Table 1
Data Matrix of Feminist Issues in the Novel

Main Themes	Discoveries in the Novel
Pressures on Women as Housewives	A few days later, Kim Ji Yeong reveals that she is Chae Seung-yeon, her university clubmate who died last year. (Nam-Joo, 2019:13)
Domestic Burdens and Stigma Against Housewives	"I also want a husband who works so I can take leisurely walks while drinking coffee." "Cafe ladies are indeed lucky." (Nam-Joo, 2019:166)
Sexism	As soon as Kim Ji-yeong announced her pregnancy, her male coworkers immediately commented, "Wow, that's great. Now you can come in late." (Nam-Joo, 2019:140)
Social and Cultural Pressures in Korean Society	"A person who wanders around the subway with a big belly to make money still wants to have children?" Kim Ji-yeong's tears suddenly welled up. (Nam-Joo, 2019:142)

Based on the data tabulation above, the research findings indicate that the social construction of women in the 2015-2016 setting is manifested in two main domains. The findings in the first and second themes demonstrate the main characters' failure to maintain their subjectivity. The quote on page 13, in which Kim Ji Yeong speaks as someone else (Cha Seung-yeon), indicates a loss of self-autonomy due to the pressures of repressive domestic roles. This is exacerbated by the social stigma (page 166) that views the role of housewife not as a form of productive work, but rather as a fortunate and relaxed position. In Beauvoir's view, this reinforces women's position as objects whose fates are determined by their husbands (the subjects), thus rendering their activities worthless.

Meanwhile, in the public and workplace spheres, the findings on pages 140 and 142 demonstrate environmental resistance to women's reproductive function. Pregnancy is not seen as a natural state to be supported, but rather as a way to escape professional responsibilities, as seen in

the quip, "Wow, that's great. Now you can come late." Hate speech on public transportation further emphasizes the male-centric nature of public spaces, where pregnant women who work are considered an anomaly or a nuisance.

2. The State of Feminism in Indonesia in 2025

Data presentation in this section will focus on regulatory aspects, the development of social movements, and structural barriers. It will also include relevant international comparisons, with the aim of providing a measurable and systematic empirical picture as a basis for interpretation in the discussion section.

Table 2
Data on Feminism in Indonesia in 2025

Progress	Challenge
Data shows the ratification of the TPKS Law as a significant achievement of the 2025 Women's Movement.	Structural and cultural barriers such as patriarchal culture are still dominant in the implementation of gender policies.
Digital activism plays a role in raising public awareness, as demonstrated by the involvement of educational accounts, such as feminist accounts, that actively promote the law.	There is still a stigma that feminism is a foreign ideology.
The feminist movement's expansion into reproductive rights, employment equality, and the protection of vulnerable groups.	Recent research data reveals an increase in Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) where women are becoming targets of digital harassment.
The 2025 National Conference on Women noted the need for collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector.	A research study by Rani, Destiana, & Angelie (2025) revealed an increase in Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV).

Based on the data tabulation above, Indonesia has experienced significant developments in the feminist movement, which can be further compared with the situation in South Korea, which faces similar challenges in both the public and workplace spheres. Indonesia has a female labor force participation rate of 52-53%, reflecting the previously described situation. Meanwhile, South Korea has a female labor force participation rate of 61-62%. This finding represents the development of feminism, still relevant to Kim Ji Jeong's novel, *Born 1982*, where the feminist movement is still limited to the public and workplace spheres.

3. Relevance and Critical Reading

Based on the findings presented, a critical reading is necessary to determine the relevance of feminism in 2025. This critical reading reveals a shift in awareness in 2025 with the enactment of the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS) and the rise of the digital feminist movement. This shift in consciousness is relevant to Kim Ji Yeong's narrative, which depicts domestic burdens, workplace discrimination, and social pressures also

experienced by women in Indonesia, leading to a shift in feminist consciousness in 2025.

Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, captures the state of feminism up to 2016. Modern advances have given rise to new challenges not captured in the novel. Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) is increasingly prevalent in the worrying current of globalization. The presence of these challenges further confirms that Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, reflects the shifting state of feminism in line with the times.

4. Pemfaatan Hasil Kajian sebagai Materi Ajar Resensi Novel

The novel "Kim Ji-yeong Lahir Tahun 1982" by Cho Nam-joo is useful as teaching material in high school, supported by the opinions of several sources. This was conveyed by two 11th-grade Indonesian language teachers and one 11th-grade student. Interviews with three sources indicated that "Kim Ji-yeong Lahir Tahun 1982" can be used as teaching material for novel reviews for 11th-grade high school students, with several notes and requirements related to the students' physical and



psychological development, as well as teacher guidance. Students must be provided with boundaries and basic knowledge before being presented with the complete material, so that the learning objectives can be well-directed. Not only are boundaries and initial knowledge provided, but character building is also necessary after the material is presented.

Book review activities require students to be able to provide opinions in the form of reviews, both regarding the book's strengths and weaknesses. In this regard, the type of book used to compile the material must also be considered in terms of substance. The material presented to students can be linked to current events and adapted to current developments in the era in which students will acquire new knowledge. Based on this, Cho Nam-joo's novel "Kim Ji-yeong Lahir Tahun 1982" (Born in 1982) can be considered as an alternative way to deliver material in book review learning. In addition to the book review that students will compile as the final result of book review learning, the values contained in the novel can also provide additional lessons and knowledge for students.

DISCUSSION

1. Reflections on Feminist Issues in a South Korean Setting in 2015-2016

The novel "Kim Ji Yeong, Born 1982" depicts the lived experiences of South Korean women in a contemporary setting, including the period 2015-2016, when gender inequality in the country was under increasing public scrutiny. During this time, although South Korea had experienced rapid economic and technological progress, the patriarchal social structure remained dominant. This creates a paradox, as the World Economic Forum's 2015 report ranked South Korea 115th out of 145 countries in terms of gender equality (World Economic Forum, 2015).

a. Pressures on Women as Housewives

The 2015 setting depicts Kim Ji Yeong as a 34-year-old housewife, reflecting the psychosocial burdens faced by many women in this societal structure. In one section of the novel, her husband begins to notice a strange change in Kim Ji Yeong's behavior, as reflected in the following quote.

A few days later, Kim Ji Yeong revealed that she was Cha Seung-yeon, her university clubmate who had died the previous year (Nam-Joo, 2019:13).

This change prompted the husband to take his wife to a psychiatrist, claiming that Kim Ji Yeong had recently appeared lethargic. This incident clearly demonstrated that the pressures Kim Ji Yeong faced as a housewife and young mother had caused her to experience unusual behavioral changes.

b. Domestic Burden and Stigma Against Housewives

In 2015, Kim Ji Yeong decided to quit her job and focus on raising her infant child. This decision was not entirely a personal choice, but rather the result of various pressures, including family expectations, a lack of childcare facilities, and the social assumption that childcare is primarily a woman's responsibility. This sentiment is reinforced by a quote in the novel that reflects the public's assessment of the role of housewives.

"I also want a husband who works so I can take leisurely walks while drinking coffee."

"The cafe ladies are indeed lucky" (Nam-Joo, 2019:166).

This quote emerged while Kim Ji Yeong was sipping a cup of discounted coffee, enjoying the warm sunshine she hadn't felt in a long time. This statement, made by two male employees nearby, reflects how society frames women's domestic roles as the ideal, ignoring the psychological burden and loss of identity experienced by Kim Ji Yeong. From Simone de

Beauvoir's perspective, this is a concrete manifestation of women being made "Other," whose existence is reduced and fulfilled solely by their reproductive roles and domestic service to men and children.

c. Sexism

Before deciding to quit her job, Kim Ji Yeong worked at a company and experienced gender discrimination firsthand. This is reflected in the novel when Kim Ji Yeong announces her pregnancy, which is immediately met with the comment of a male coworker:

"Wow, that's great. Now you can come in late" (Nam-Joo, 2019:140).

This situation reflects Simone de Beauvoir's view that women are often placed in a systemically inferior position. In a patriarchal capitalist system, women are viewed as unstable laborers who are assumed to "disappear" after marriage or childbirth, as ultimately happened to Kim Ji Yeong. Kim Ji Yeong witnessed her female colleagues resign one by one after marriage, demonstrating how the workplace has not been designed equitably for women who also have reproductive roles.

d. Social and Cultural Pressures in Korean Society

Cultural pressure on Korean women to conform to narrow social role standards is strong. Women who deviate from these social norms are judged, while those who adhere to them risk losing their identity. In the novel, a sarcastic remark is made to Kim Ji-yeong when she is unable to get a seat on the train while pregnant, as stated:

"People who wander around the subway with a big belly to earn money still want to have children?" Kim Ji-yeong's tears suddenly welled up (Nam-Joo, 2019:142).

This sarcastic remark demonstrates how women are raised to accept inequality as normal, or even idealized. In Simone de Beauvoir's

context, Kim Ji-yeong symbolizes women who are not permitted to be "subjects" because they are not given the opportunity to freely define their existence.

2. The State of Feminism in Indonesia in 2025

Entering 2025, the feminist movement in Indonesia has shown significant progress, marked by the ratification of the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS) and increasing public awareness of gender equality issues. However, structural and cultural challenges remain major obstacles to achieving comprehensive gender justice.

a. Achievements and Dynamics of the Feminist Movement

One of the significant achievements of the contemporary feminist movement in Indonesia is the ratification of the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS). This regulation is the result of a long struggle by women's activists and organizations, aimed at providing legal protection for victims of sexual violence and encouraging social change to combat gender-based violence. The impact of the TPKS Law has been amplified by digital campaigns through social media. For example, the @indonesiafeminis account has played a crucial role in disseminating the TPKS Law and raising public awareness (Setyaraharjo, Ekantoro, & Pratiwi, 2023).

The feminist movement in Indonesia has also demonstrated an increasingly inclusive character, encompassing issues such as reproductive rights, equality in the workplace, and protection of vulnerable groups. The culmination of this collaborative spirit was demonstrated at the 2025 National Women's Conference, which emphasized the importance of synergy between the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector in promoting gender equality ("Healthy and Empowered Women, Towards Global Equality," 2025).



b. Structural and Cultural Challenges

Despite the progress outlined above, the feminist movement in Indonesia still faces significant challenges. Deeply entrenched patriarchal culture is often a major barrier to the implementation of pro-women policies (Arivia & Subono, 2018; Tempoh, 2025). Furthermore, the stigma of feminism as a foreign ideology or one that conflicts with local values remains prevalent in public discourse. In addition to these cultural challenges, Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) is a worrying phenomenon in Indonesia. Studies show that women are frequently targeted by harassment and misogyny online, reflecting resistance to the digital feminist movement (Rani, Destiana, & Angelie, 2025).

c. Social Comparison of South Korea and Indonesia

Although the conditions of feminism in South Korea and Indonesia differ, both demographically and in policy, the existence of structural patterns that marginalize women demonstrate significant conceptual similarities. In South Korea, low male participation rates in childcare and intense work culture pressures drive women to leave the workforce, a phenomenon explored by Cho Nam-Joo through Kim Ji-Yeong's experience. In parallel, women's domestic workload in Indonesia is exacerbated by unequal childcare services and persistent patriarchal norms.

World Bank and OECD data indicate that women's labor participation rates in Indonesia will range from 52-53% in 2023, while in South Korea they will reach 61-62% in 2025. Despite the differences in figures, both conditions reflect significant structural barriers to women's agency in both the public and private spheres. This difference emphasizes that Kim Ji-Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, is not merely a discourse limited to the Korean context but reflects a

transnational phenomenon that requires comprehensive policy and cultural responses.

3. Relevance and Critical Reading

a. Shifting Awareness in 2025

In 2025, Indonesia demonstrated a significant shift in gender awareness, marked by the enactment of the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS) and the rise of the digital feminist movement. However, patriarchal cultural resistance remains strong, indicating that changes in values within society have not been fully equitable.

b. The Relevance of Kim Ji Yeong's Narrative in 2025

The narrative presented through Kim Ji Yeong's experiences remains relevant in depicting domestic burdens, workplace discrimination, and ongoing social pressures on women, as these conditions are still experienced by Indonesian women, particularly regarding the stigma against working mothers. In line with Simone de Beauvoir's view, women in the social order are still often positioned as "Other."

c. New Challenges Not Addressed in the Novel

There are new challenges not explicitly addressed in Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, namely the phenomenon of Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) and the unequal participation of women in the technology sector. These changes in the digital landscape require an expanded reading of contemporary feminism beyond traditional narratives focused solely on the domestic sphere and the conventional workplace.

New challenges not explicitly addressed in Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, include the phenomenon of Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) and the unequal participation of women in the technology sector. These changes in the digital landscape require an expanded

reading of contemporary feminism beyond traditional narratives focused solely on the domestic sphere and the conventional workplace.

4. Learning Review of the Novel *Kim Ji Young, Born 1982* by Cho Nam-Joo

Nonfiction or fiction book reviews are one of the objectives of Indonesian language lessons in 11th grade high school. Therefore, through the results of the study in this article, students have the potential to utilize the novel "*Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*" by Cho Nam-Joo as review material. Alternative strategies that could be used in book review learning are discussed below.

First, using a manual module on the review of the novel "*Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*" by Cho Nam-Joo. The initial section of the manual module contains instructional instructions on novel review methods, review aspects, and blank spaces in the module where students can write their reviews by aspect.

Second, using an online module based on Google Forms for file upload on the review of the novel "*Kim Ji Young, Born 1982*" by Cho Nam-Joo. This Google Form-based module contains three sections. Section 1 is the initial page of the Google Form, which contains the title of the Google Form and student attributes, namely name and class. Section 2 contains a tutorial on how to review a novel using the file upload option, which is based on the process skills approach (Razak & Elmustian, 2024; Aryani & Achmad, 2024). Section 3 contains novel review exercises per review aspect, all of which use the file upload option.

The use of the file upload option aims to condition students to actually read the review instructional guide in section 2 and actually work on each review component in section 3. Razak (2020) stated that the use of the file upload option in Google Form-based teaching modules directs students to read the module material instructional guide and ensures that the

exercises on Google are the students' own products.

Scientific articles that use the file upload option in Google Forms are widely found in various online journals. First, Dewi et al. (2025) which is published at *Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra*, 4(2), 187–204. <https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v4i2.703>. Kedua, Banont & Nur (2024) which is published at *Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra*, 3(4), 499–508. <https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v3i4.614>. Third, Doda & Achmad (2025) which is published at *DISCUSSANT: Journal of Language and Literature Learning*, 3(2), 99–112. <https://doi.org/10.55909/dj3l.v3i2.48>.

Research on the use of novels and other literary works as teaching materials can be found in articles in various online journals. First, Chriszia, D., Suyitno, S., & Suryanto, E. (2020). Analisis Tokoh Utama dan Nilai Pendidikan Karakter dalam Novel Pada Sebuah Kapal Karya NH Dini serta Relevansinya sebagai Bahan Ajar di SMA. *Basastra: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya* Vol. 8, No. 2, Oktober 2020, 338–346. Second, Elmi, K., & Elmustian, E. (2025). Ekspansi Tema dan Amanat Syair Kumbang Mengindera pada Syair Perahu dan Rencana Pembelajaran. *Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra*, 4(2), 155–174. <https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v4i2.700>. Third, Setiawati, S., & Elmustian. (2025). The Expansion of Theme and Message of the Poem of Kunjungan Tengku Selangor to the Poem of Abdul Muluk and the Learning Plan. *DISCUSSANT: Journal of Language and Literature Learning*, 3(1), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.55909/dj3l.v3i1.37>.

To complete the discussion structure in this article, a synopsis of *Kim Ji Yeong's* novel, *Born 1982*, is presented.

Born 1982. Parents preferred sons over daughters. Daughters-in-law would feel ashamed and guilty if they did not give their in-laws a grandson. That year, *Kim Ji-yeong* was born. Her mother hugged her and apologized to her mother-in-law for giving birth to another



granddaughter. "It's okay. The third child will probably be a boy," the mother-in-law said lightly, not congratulating her on the birth of her second grandchild. Before Ji-yeong was even a year old, her mother became pregnant again. Unfortunately, the fetus was once again a girl. This time, Ji-yeong's mother couldn't bear the shame. She chose an abortion. Five years later, Ji-yeong's mother finally gave birth to a younger brother. But this was just the beginning of Ji-yeong and her older sister's suffering. Boys were like kings in Korean families. Their every need came first. Daughters had to make sacrifices for their sons: giving in when their parents didn't have enough money and even working part-time to help with their sons' education. The novel *Kim Ji-yeong, Born in 1982* depicts the unequal views and treatment of women. Everyday and ubiquitous inequality: at home, school, work, and public spaces

CONCLUSION

Kim Ji Yeong's novel, *Born 1982*, shows that women in the period 2015-2016 faced domestic pressures, job discrimination, and social norms that placed them in subordinate positions. This representation emphasizes the construction of women as "Other" from Beauvoir's perspective and demonstrates the strength of patriarchal structures even in modern society.

Indonesia in 2025 shows progress through the enactment of the TPKS Law, increased digital activism, and the expansion of the feminist agenda. However, obstacles remain in the form of limited understanding of the TPKS Law among officials, cultural resistance, stigma against feminism, and an increase in cases of online violence (KBGO). This situation illustrates a transition towards stronger gender awareness, although it is not yet completely free from structural and cultural barriers.

The findings in the novel remain relevant for reading contemporary feminist phenomena.

The domestic burdens, work inequality, and social pressures experienced by the main characters still parallel the experiences of Indonesian women. New challenges such as digital violence broaden the scope of issues, demanding a more adaptive and contextual feminist reading.

Overall, this research shows that reflections on feminism in novels from 2015-2016 and the state of Indonesian feminism in 2025 reinforce each other in depicting the persistence of gender inequality. Despite regulatory progress and increased public awareness, patriarchal dynamics continue to influence domestic, public, and digital spaces. Therefore, feminist studies need to continue to be developed as a basis for analysis and advocacy to encourage more inclusive and sustainable social change.

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