THE CHARACTERIZATION AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFGHANI WOMEN IN OSAMA

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Strata One

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JAKARTA
2011
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgment has been made in the text.

Jakarta, January 10th 2011

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The thesis has been defended before the faculty letters and humanities’ examination committee on Jakarta, January 10th 2011. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for Degree of Strata One.

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ABSTRACT

Rina Mareta, the Characterization and Gender Discrimination Against Afghani Women in the movie, Osama. A paper. Jakarta: Adab and Humanities Faculty, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, January 2011.

This analysis aims to analyze the characterization of the main character and gender discrimination against Afghani women presented in the movie, Osama. The data of the main character and characterization are collected by finding the evidence from the dialog and scene in the movie and the behavior and the attitude of the main character. To get the gender discrimination values, the data are analyzed through qualitative method and using descriptive analysis.

From the characterization side, there will be focus on her name, her age and hobby, financial status, educational level, marital status, physical appearance and fashion.

Meanwhile, from the gender discrimination side, it will discuss about psychological violence; physical violence; sexual violence; economic violence and political violence.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

First and foremost, the writer would be grateful to Allah SWT, the lord of human and everything in the sky and the earth. Peace and salutation be upon the greatest Prophet Muhammad SAW and to his family, his companions and his adherents.

The writer is especially grateful for her beloved parents for their kind support, patient, pray and smile to her to come this far. Also to her family, her husband, Syarif Hidayatullah, for his sincere love and patient during the time, her most lovely daughter, Luella Aurellia Syarif, who inspires her for every single word she types.

The writer is indebted to her advisor, Mrs. Elve Oktafiyani, M.Hum who has guided the writer to finish this thesis.

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4. And lecturers of English Letters Department.
She owes a special gratitude to all her friends in class B who have helped in so many ways, directly and indirectly. She apologizes that she can not mention them one by one, but their kindness will always remain in her heart.

Last but not least, all those words cannot fully express her deepest gratitude for everyone who is always helpful for her. May Allah, the All Hearer and the All Knower bless them. Amen.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Probably until today in some parts of the world, women are still considered inferior, emotional, weak creature. Never, can they position the responsibilities what men have been in charge so far. Biological significant difference between women and men is usually the main factor that triggers gender discrimination. The society often refers to women’s biological condition as the reason for the lack or weakness of women’s intellectual and physical ability compared to men. Therefore, women are considered incapable of carrying public roles.¹

The problems occur about women in a certain society mostly connect to feminism issues; one of which is gender discrimination. Gender matters have been a very long issue almost in all countries in the world and this gender matters can lead into many other systemic problems. Patriarchy is almost known as a prior reason that emerged gender discrimination so that gender discrimination is called as a patriarchal “product”. Patriarchy is a

¹ Sunarto, Analisis Wacana Ideology Gender Media Anak-Anak (Semarang: Penerbit Mimbar, 2000) P. 36
political system ruled by men in which women have inferior social and political status.\textsuperscript{2} This ironic situation occurs in many countries mostly in Middle East including Afghanistan where the gender discrimination in Osama happened.

That poor condition stimulates the movement from women themselves. They called as women’s emancipation movement or women’s liberation, they are not against men as individual but they are against the oppressive and outdated social structure that forces both men and women into false and antagonistic positions. They have campaigned for women's legal rights (rights of contract, property rights, voting rights); for women's right to bodily integrity and autonomy; for abortion rights, and for reproductive rights (including access to contraception and quality prenatal care); for protection from domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape for workplace rights, including maternity leave and equal pay, and against other forms of discrimination.\textsuperscript{3}

In *Osama*, there are several forms of gender discrimination which is totally inspired by a true story. This critically acclaimed and award winning drama was the first entirely Afghani film made after the rise and fall of the Taliban.

\textsuperscript{2} Ibid. P. 198.

\textsuperscript{3} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_movement
"Osama" is what the 12-year-old (played with pained clarity by Marina Golbahari) calls herself when she disguises herself as a boy, and the name references Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden only inasmuch as it stands to raise fewer suspicions. In any event, the girl doesn't have other options. Under Taliban rule, women are not allowed outside their houses without a male escort from their family -- the punishment is death by stoning -- but the girl's father and uncle have both been killed in the wars, and the hospital where her mother (Zubaida Sahar) worked has been closed. Cross-dressing is the only way Osama can feed her family.

As directed with poetic bluntness by Siddiq Barmak (who ran the Afghan Film Organization before 1996, when the Taliban sent him fleeing to Pakistan; he returned to his homeland after the regime fell in early 2002), the film is anything but a profile in courage. The girl is at all times terrified of discovery, and even with her hair cropped short and her face hardened into an unconvincing glare the audience stays on edge, too. Taliban foot soldiers loom around every corner, their eyes aflame with zeal, their mouths dispensing obscenity-laden warnings to anyone not in lockstep with Allah. Because they see only what they want to see, they never quite see her.

It's a different matter with kids her own age. A wily street urchin named Espandi (Arif Herati) tries to extort a few pennies from Osama, but then becomes her protector when the Taliban start rounding up Afghani youth.
to provide Al Qaeda with fresh recruits. The girl is sent to a training camp in the mountains, where she has to get through a communal bathing ritual with an old goat of a mullah -- a scene that would be played for ribald comedy in a Hollywood film, it carries a helpless, free-falling danger here.

The movie regularly pulls back to give a wider view of a country prostrated by fanaticism. The opening sequence, in which a protest march led by women in blue burqas is dispersed by soldiers wielding rifles and firehoses, has a you-are-there immediacy, and you sense throughout that Barmak is committing his story to celluloid as quickly as possible, before memories fade. The fear that wracks the features of the young lead actress seems on loan from very recent events, while Ebrahim Gharfui's cinematography locates the threat in every smoky wasteland and quiet alleyway. The only thing he can't find is a place where a child can hide.

In this movie, people can find various sorts of gender discrimination and how the Afghani women fight against it so that in this paper, the writer is interested in performing feminism analysis on gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*.

**B. Focus of the Study**

In this paper, the writer is going to carry out a feminism analysis on gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*. 
C. Research Questions

The questions for this research are:

1. What characterizations are portrayed the main character of the movie, Osama?

2. What types of women’s violences are presented in the movie?

D. Significance of the Study

The significance of this research could be an enrichment reference to understand specific feminism analysis especially on gender discrimination within literary works. This study also indirectly could alert the readers about gender bias and its manifestations in daily modern life.

E. Research Methodology

1. Objective of the research

Based on the research questions above, the study objectives are:

1.1. To analyze characterizations of the main character portrayed in the movie.

1.2. To analyze gender discrimination against Afghani women presented in the movie, *Osama.*
2. The method of the research

Qualitative method is the research method used for the analysis on this paper. This method uses verbal and non-numeric data as an analysis base and as a problem solving for the problems investigated. The result of the research will be written in descriptive-analysis.

3. The data analysis technique

To make a deep analysis, first, the writer will analyze the characterization of the main character using intrinsic theory of Character, and then followed by the feminism analysis on gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*. The compiled data will be analyzed through “descriptive analysis technique”.

4. Instrument of the research

Instrument of the research is the writer herself. The writer watches the movie and reads some sources related to it carefully. Using the theory of character analysis and gender discrimination, all the collected data will be thoroughly analyzed.

---

4 Muhammad Farkhan, *Proposal Penelitian Bahasa dan Sastra* (Jakarta: Cella, 2007), P.2
5. The unit of analysis

The unit of analysis that is used in this research is a movie under the title "Osama", with the specifications: (Movie type) Drama-Trailer, (Times guidelines) Intense, upsetting scenes; persistent violence against women, (MPAA rating) PG-13: for mature thematic elements, (Year of release) 2004, (Run time) 82 minutes, (Directed by) Siddiq Barmak, (Cast) Marina Golbahari...Osama, Khwaja Nader...the old mullah, Arif Harati...the boy beggar, Zubaida Sahar...the mother, Hamida Refah...the grandmother


6. Place and time of the research

The research was carried out on the ninth semester at English Letters Department of Adab and Humanities Faculty, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta.
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, the writer has assorted several theories to be referred to for the analysis section in this paper which is entitled “gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*”. Referring to the research questions there are two main theories needed for the discussion; the theory of Character Analysis and the theories related to Gender Discrimination.

A. Character Analysis

In a movie, character is the most important element of the story so that a thorough analysis is necessary to carry out by a researcher before he or she commences another analysis against the movie. In this case, the writer would like to reveal a feminism issue concentrating on violence presented in the movie, therefore, character analysis should be done first to gain adequate knowledge especially about the characterization of the main character in the story. Understanding the characterization becomes imperative since the discrimination issues presented in the movie are delivered through the players or characters in the story.
Character differs from characterization. A character is person in literary work and characterization is the way in which a character is created. From those distinctive, characterization can be understood as a method and character is the product.⁵

Another definition about character is that character is a real or fictional person who is involved in the action of a play and is represented on the stage by an actor.⁶

According Larry M. Sutton there are three ways an author can describe a character in a story; 1) through physical appearance like age, height, weight, and so forth, 2) through action like what the character does in different situations or how the character reacts to problem, 3) and through dialogue like how a character talks and what the character says, and sometimes the author tells us what the character is thinking.⁷

What Larry M. Sutton explained about the character description above seems similar in meaning to what Kennedy said about characterization below:

“The important thing for the reader to remember about characterization is that there are many varieties and many combinations of varieties. An adventure story

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may have an important realistic or figurative dimension that will be clear in its characterizations. As readers we must be alert and ready to respond to different kinds of characterization on their own condition.”

In other words, characterization may involve varieties of aspects of a character that may include appearance, age, gender, educational level, occupation, financial status, marital status, social status, hobbies etc.

Since there have been many theories about character analysis, the writer is supposed to apply one main reference that can be supported by others, and what is stated by Larry M. Sutton about three ways to describe a character (through physical appearance, action, and dialogue) is the one the writer will choose to be the main reference for character analysis.

B. Gender Discrimination

1. Feminism

The word “feminism” originated from the French word féminisme in the nineteenth century, either as a medical term to describe the feminization of a male body, or to describe women with masculine traits. Yet, the definition developed like the one by James D. Haart (1985) in The Companion to American

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Literature\textsuperscript{10} stating that feminism reforms movement aiming at the social, educational and political equality of women and men, which arose during the late 18\textsuperscript{th} century. Therefore, feminism takes side of women who exploited, ignored and discriminated. Feminism means talk about oppression, hegemony, unfair and violence.

The women in Arab countries, include Palestine (and Afghanistan of course) are still slaves, still oppressed, not because they are belong to the East, not because they are Arab, or members of Islamic societies, but as a result of patriarchal class system that has dominated the world since thousands of years.\textsuperscript{11}

Nawal explained that the situation and problems of women in contemporary human society are born of developments in history that made one class rule over another, and men dominate over women. They are the product of class and sex.\textsuperscript{12}

2. Violence

Like James D. Haart said above, feminism means talk about oppression, hegemony, unfair and violence, and feminism takes side of women who exploited, ignored and discriminated.

\textsuperscript{12} Nawal El Saadawi, \textit{The Hidden Face of Eve; Women in the Arab World} (London, Zed press, 1980),p. i
In this paper, the writer focuses on five aspects of violence that are triggered by gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*. Those aspects are psychological, physical, sexual, economic, and political violence. In general, people assume that violence is only physical abuse or anything that might hurt human’s body. However violence has developed its category and definition into some more specific classification.

2.1 Psychological Violence

Psychological violence is an action or set of actions that directly impairs the victim's psychological integrity. Information about some of the infractions included in this category: Intimidation, Harassment, Threats.\(^\text{13}\)

a) Intimidation; Someone is intimidating you if they use violence or threats to force you to do something you are not legally obliged to do, or to prevent you from doing something you have the right to do. For example: persistently following you, depriving you of objects you use, and watching your home or place of work

b) Harassment; Harassment is often associated with intimidation. It may take various forms: making or having someone else make repeated phone calls to harass you, following you repeatedly, repeatedly contacting you either directly or indirectly, watching a place you often go, behaving toward you

\(^{13}\) [http://www.spvm.qc.ca/en/service/1_3_1_1_violpsycho.asp](http://www.spvm.qc.ca/en/service/1_3_1_1_violpsycho.asp)
in a threatening way. For the individual's behavior to qualify as harassment, the situation must also make you fear for your safety or for that of an acquaintance.

c) Threats; Threats are words or actions by which someone expresses, or has someone else express for them, a desire to hurt you. It may be a threat: to kill a person or animal, to injure a person or an animal, to damage property, etc. The aggressor does not always truly intend to carry out the threat. Whether or not the threat is carried out, the victim may feel distressed, stressed and fearful.

2.2 Physical Violence

Physical violence is the deliberate use of physical force with the potential for causing harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to: scratching or biting, pushing or shoving, throwing, grabbing, choking, shaking, hair-pulling, slapping, punching or hitting, use of a weapon (gun, knife, or other object), use of restraints or one's body, size, or strength against another person.

Physical violence also includes encouraging other people to do any of these things. Physical violence is a serious issue and may lead to criminal charges.\(^{14}\)

According to United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Intimate partner violence: Overview Retrieved on June 28, 2007 “Physical violence is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one’s body, size, or strength against another person” (CDC, 2007).  

2.3 Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is divided into three categories: 1) use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed; 2) attempted or completed sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, to decline participation, or to communicate unwillingness to engage in the sexual act, e.g., because of illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or because of intimidation or pressure; and 3) abusive sexual contact” (CDC, 2007).  

Sexual violence or assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature. It can include anything from exhibitionism and exposure to pornography, to unwanted sexual touching, to rape, to injuring or endangering the life of the victim. It is also

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considered sexual abuse to encourage or pressure someone to engage in sexual activity or try to engage in sexual activity with someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. 17

2.4 Economic Violence

Economic violence experienced included limited access to funds and credit; controlling access to health care, employment, education, including agricultural resources; excluding from financial decision making; and discriminatory traditional laws on inheritance, property rights, and use of communal land. At work women experienced receiving unequal remuneration for work done equal in value to the men's, were overworked and underpaid, and used for unpaid work outside the contractual agreement.

Some experienced fraud and theft from some men, illegal confiscation of goods for sale, and unlawful closing down of worksites. At home, some were barred from working by partners; while other men totally abandoned family maintenance to the women. Unfortunately, economic violence results in deepening poverty and compromises educational attainment and developmental opportunities for women. It leads to physical violence, promotes sexual exploitation and the risk of contracting HIV infection, maternal morbidity and

mortality, and trafficking of women and girls. Economic abuse may continue even after the woman has left the abusive relationship.

There is need for further large-scale studies on economic violence to women. Multi-strategy interventions that promote equity between women and men, provide economic opportunities for women, inform them of their rights, reach out to men and change societal beliefs and attitudes that permit exploitative behavior are urgently required.\textsuperscript{18}

2.5 Political Violence

Violence is the “original sin of politics.” Its prevention and resolution has resided at the very center of our efforts to design and maintain systems of political order. It not only characterizes highly organized political acts – such as the removal of a political regime, the imposition of a dominant ideology (or belief system), and the establishment a separate state. It also defines a wide range of contentious.

Here, there is no question of law, but of the establishment of law, that is, of the public space in which law can appear. Hobbes puts this point by noting that in the state of nature, there is no law. In such a state, “nothing can be Unjust. The notions of Right and Wrong, Justice and Injustice have there no place.”\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{18} http://tva.sagepub.com/content/9/3/167.abstract
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Here, the writer presents the data descriptions and the analysis of the main character as well as the analysis of five aspects of violence that are triggered by gender discrimination against Afghani women in *Osama*.

A. Data Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>characterizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The following is the dialogue where name “Osama” is created for the first time.</td>
<td>52:28</td>
<td>Nameless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>children : It's a girl. Everything looks girlish I'm definite. It's a girl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>children : If it's like that, what's his name?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Espandi : Osama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>It is not explicitly stated or mentioned about Osama’s age and hobby but both are shown in the movie.</td>
<td>19:11</td>
<td>Age &amp; hobby: a 12-year-old girl who loves to play with her jump rope</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The following is the dialogue between Osama’s mother and the hospital manager. She needed her salary so bad.</td>
<td>07:41</td>
<td>Financial status: Osama and her family were in critical economic situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital Manager: Why you came now? It’s a dangerous situation. The hospital is closing. The director wants to leave.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Osama’s Mother: Go where? He owes me five months! Let’s go my dear.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital Manager: How am I gonna pay your wages? I have no money, not a dime. So, what can I do?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Osama’s Mother: We’re hungry! We’re begging you!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital Manager: Leave me alone, for God’s sake! My wife went out alone. The Talibans arrested her.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The following is the scene when Osama was seeing her mom after school.</td>
<td>56:31</td>
<td>Education: Unintentionally, Osama must follow Taliban military school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Osama: I came back from school and a neighbor said...that he went to Pakistan. What do we do now?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother</strong> : Don't worry... When a door closes, another hundred open.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>The following is the process where Osama in the Taliban trial and then was forced to be an old mullah’s wife.</td>
<td>01:11:15 Marital Status: in the end of the story she was forced to marry an old mullah.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Judge</strong> : I forgive her. This orphan girl doesn't have anyone. I marry her to you legally and in a religious way. Do you accept?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mullah Sahib</strong> : I accept.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>The following is the dialogue when Molah Sahib described her as a nymph.</td>
<td>19:11 Physical appearance: Osama is a pretty girl with sensual pink lips, smooth white skin, and beautiful eyebrows and eyelids.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mullah</strong> : … Oh God, what a wonderful feeling! Do you want me to wash your feet? This boy looks like a nymph.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Espandi</strong> : What’s a nymph, Molah Sahib?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mullah</strong> : Nymphs are the female spirits in the sky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td>Not uttered in the dialogue but shown in the movie</td>
<td>08:24 Fashion: total difference before and after Osama disguised in to boy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| No. | Types of
violences | Indications | Contexts |
|-----|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 1.  | Psychological
violence | Intimidation, harassment, and threat | Man, a Taliban is behind the door. he will kill me if he finds out I’m a girl.  
The Taliban suspected it. What did I do?  
Shame on you.  
Talibans are at the doors! Wear your burkas!  
My mother died.  
Stop it, you bastard! |
| 2.  | Physical
violence | scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one’s body, size, or strength against another person | Pull those women over there.  
Don’t lock us here. |
| 3.  | Sexual violence | exhibitionism and exposure to pornography, unwanted sexual touching, rape, to injuring | May God bring hell to the Talibans.  
They burnt our house, our land, our garden. |
| 4.  | Economic violence | limited access to employment | Only men can work meanwhile women must stay still at home. |
| 5.  | Political violence | A lady is accused without any witness and captured by Taliban | - Where is the witness?  
- Only God knows. |

Table 2
The types of women’s violences
B. Data Analysis

B.1. Characterization of the main character

B.1.1. A nameless girl

Osama as a matter of fact is the story of a nameless young Afghani girl, along with her mother and grandmother, attempting to survive under Taliban rule. The finding of this name has its own history.

It starts from the impoverished family, who loses all their male members to the fighting in Afghanistan, is in desperate need for another breadwinner, but the edicts of the Taliban rule prevents women from leaving the house without male accompaniment.

As a result, the mother cuts her daughters hair and passes her off as a son. The mother solicits the generosity of a business owner to employ her daughter, who in turn, does his best to protect her from the mettlesome Taliban sentinels.

However, the Taliban gathers all the young boys for religious training reminiscent of the Hitler Youth. The film follows the young girl, who ironically is dubbed “Osama,” as she attempts to evade the suspicions of the Taliban and the other children. The only one who knows her true identity, Espandi, befriends her and does his best to protect her, but his capacity to do such is rather limited given the nature of the regime.
The following caption shows that the suspicions of the other children interrogating Osama and asking her name. (Scene 52:28)

The following is the dialogue where name “Osama” is created for the first time.

children : It's a girl. Everything look girlish I'm definite. It’s a girl.


children : If it's like that, what's his name?

Espandi : Osama

Actually this is the first moment that when all troubles start to come to this little girl. From the beginning, the story does not mention her name at all or explains about it. It is Espandi who gives her name to save her from the suspicions of the Taliban and the other children.
B.1.2. Age and Hobby

Osama is a 12-year-old daughter of unnamed widow (her mothers name is not mention too in this story). Actually the movie does not introduce directly how old Osama is, but through her physical appearance or probably from the movie director information Manohla Dargis\textsuperscript{20}, Times Staff Writer, has the information that Osama is that old.

She also loves to play with her rope even when it is raining. The movie never exposes her life playing with friends on her age; perhaps it is the real ironic situation that this little girl must deal with.

\textit{The caption shows that Osama hops with her ropes, a hobby that most teenagers in world have in common. (Scene 19:11)}

B.1.3. Financial and Economic Status

Osama and her family are really facing their critical economic situation. They have no more men inside their house in desperate need for a

\textsuperscript{20} cl-et-osama6feb06,0,1030161.story.htm
breadwinner because the only way to go out of the house and earn some money is by having men earn money themselves or escort their female relatives going to work.

It is because the Taliban rule prevents women from leaving the house without male accompaniment. Many females have been arrested by Taliban including the wife of the hospital manager; the one that Osama’s mother is begging her salary from where she works.

The following caption is in a hospital where Osama’s mother worked. (Scene 07:41)

The following is the dialogue between Osama’s mother and the hospital manager. She needs her salary so bad.

Hospital Manager : Why you came now? It’s a dangerous situation. The hospital is closing. The director wants to leave.

Osama’s Mother : Go where? He owes me five months! Let's go my dear.

Hospital Manager : How am I gonna pay your wages? I have no money, not a dime. So, what can I do?
Osama’s Mother: We're hungry! We're begging you!
Hospital Manager: Leave me alone, for God's sake! My wife went out alone. The Talibans arrested her.

Osama and her mother are really desperate at this time. It is not about how to get a more prosper life; it is about how to survive. Starving, they both come to see the hospital director for 3 month salary that had been suspended. This situation has made Osama’s mother so depressed that she curses her god for this miserable fate as they are in a life and death situation.

They might be starving to death. She cannot accept this condition, in one side women are not allowed to go out alone even to earn money for the survival of their family; in the other side they have no more breadwinners that are usually men. Her husband and brother die helping Taliban in the war, but Taliban do not care of their poor life.

B.1.4. Education

Next is about education Osama has in this story. Seemingly there are some schools in this country but not until Taliban in reign. This assumption comes because there are many females who work including Osama’s mother.
What she does in the hospital with her all patients needs a professional skill and treatment, and that things can only be gained from a certified school.

Now, what a little girl like Osama can get is only staying at home playing alone. Yet, soon everything changes once she must become a boy. She must follow the military school that Taliban held, learning to read Al-Quran, Fiqh, fighting and so on.

The following is the scene that Taliban held for boys only.

The following is the scene when Osama is seeing her mom after school.

Osama : I came back from school and a neighbor said...that he went to Pakistan. What do we do now?

Mother : Don't worry...When a door closes, another hundred open.

The dialogue states about a school, the place where Osama gets her Islamic studies and military education. Actually nothing’s wrong with Taliban education system, it is just; there are no females at all. Females clearly do not get equal treatment in this story.
B.1.5. Marital Status

Next remark is about Osama’s marital status. Osama is a very young little girl which in the beginning of the story is still unmarried. Yet, in the end of her life story she must face her destiny married to an old mullah the one who teaches her wet dream-bath in Taliban camp. The marriage is a consequence punishment for having disguised into boy. Actually, there are perhaps still other sorts of sentences that can be given by the judge but that old mullah makes a negotiation with court.

This caption shows where the trial is located and where the old mullah gets married with Osama. (Scene 01:11:15)

The following is the dialogue when Osama must marry an old mullah in Taliban court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taliban commander</th>
<th>Judge</th>
<th>Mullah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring the girl disguised as a boy. Muslims! Anyone doing that will end up like this. In our Holy Islam this has never happened before.</td>
<td>We have seen many wrong doings in Kabul as we see today.</td>
<td>I forgive her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sahib

Judge : May you life and faith go on forever

This orphan girl doesn't have anyone.
I marry her to you legally and in a religious way.
Do you accept?

Mullah Sahib

Osama : Judge, don’t give me to him, please.
I want my mother. Bring me my mother.

Mullah Sahib

Taliban commander : They forgave her and wedded to Mullah Sahib.
Now justice has prevailed.
Praise the Lord.

Audience : God is great!

This is a bad climax of Osama’s fate. This forces marriage totally changes her life. What a horrible consequence for a 12 year old girl; in order to help her family survive her family must make her looks like a boy even though she ends up like this. She is trying to fight this unbiased decision, gaining her courage to plead to the judge and trying to win people’s sympathy by screaming out loud “Judge, don’t give me to him, please, I want my mother. Bring me my mother”
B.1.6. Physical Appearance

Next is about Osama’s physical appearance. She is too pretty to hide her feminism side after the disguise especially when the bath training session begins. Even though her hair has been cut short, her sensual pink lips, her smooth white skin, her eyebrows and eyelids betray her, arousing the sexual desire of Mullah.

The caption shows that Osama sensually sighs running out her breath after diving into the water for only a few seconds. (Scene 19:11)

The following is the dialogue when Molah Sahib described her as a nymph.

Mullah : ... Oh God, what a wonderful feeling! Do you want me to wash your feet? This boy looks like a nymph.

Espandi : What’s a nymph, Mullah Sahib?

Mullah : Nymphs are the female spirits in the sky.
Mullah Sahib admits her beauty by using the term “nymph” to describe Osama. Like he explains to Espandi that nymph is the female spirits in the sky. It is merely a term stated by mullah to express how beautiful she is. Actually, when this teacher says “Oh God, what a wonderful feeling! Do you want me to wash your feet?” he does a sexual abuse. It is clearly that he is sexually aroused. (Note: there are two persons who are called “Mullah Sahib” in this movie; first the one who teaches wet dream-bath and has many wives, second the Taliban commander who forces Osama to follow the informal school.)

However the beautiful Osama also has a typical physical mark; long scars on her right face. Yet the movie does not tell where and why she gets it. She also has another one her forehead but it is not really obvious. Those scars are like telling that she has been undergoing a hard life.

The caption is taken when she is cornered by other children who chase her. The scars look clear here, but the one on forehead is covered by her turban (Scene 52:25)
B.1.7. Fashion

The last remark is about fashion: Osama has a total difference before and after her disguise into boy. Unlike the other mature females who use Burka that hide their face and dress in thick (usually with one sort of solid color like green, blue or grey) robes, the pretty Osama wears a long brown veil that her hair can still be seen and she also wears brown robe with flower pattern. However, those lovely feminine clothes are no longer useful for Osama soon after the grandmother comes up with a plan for survival and she must dress in her father's clothes.
The first caption shows when Osama escorted her mother trying to help an old man in the hospital. Her clothes differ from others. (Scene 08:24)

The second caption is taken when Osama is called to pray together by a Taliban who is not suspicious with her overall look. Despite in her new male fashion, she does not realize putting her both hands on the chest where it is only done by females when they pray. (Scene 30:37)

She slips on male clothes since the Taliban in power in Afghanistan. Women are not permitted to work or to walk about unaccompanied by a male family member. When three generations of women lose their breadwinner to war, the grandmother comes up with a plan for survival. Her twelve-year old granddaughter will cut her hair and dress in her father's clothes because 'people will always believe their own eyes.' This frightened little girl (Marina Golhahari) must now make her own way in Kabul under the masculine local clothes like hat or turban, and pants.

B.2. Gender Discrimination against Afghani women in Osama

As mentioned in the previous chapter that in this paper, the writer is going to focus her analysis on the five types of violence that are triggered by gender discrimination against Afghani women in Osama. Those aspects are psychological, physical, sexual, economic, and political violence. In general, people assume that violence is only physical abuse or anything that might hurt human’s body. However violence has developed its category and definition into some specific classification such as the five aspects discussed above.
B.2.1. Psychological violence

Psychological violence is an action or set of actions that directly impairs the victim's psychological integrity. Information about some of the infractions included in this category: Intimidation, Harassment, Threats.

Intimidation; Someone is intimidating if they use violence or threats to force people to do something they are not legally obliged to do, or to prevent them from doing something they have the right to do. For example: persistently following you, depriving you of objects you use, and watching your home or place of work.

In Osama, women really feel intimidated by Taliban, especially females no matter how old they are. Taliban always watch them everywhere they are whether in a hospital or at home.

An example for this type of psychological violence; one day after Osama with her disguise works in a milk shop which belongs to her father’s friend, on her way home she is followed by a suspecting Taliban. Osama is so anxious that she walks faster and faster and runs, scared to cry bringing lots of food on her hands. That guy follows her until she reaches her front door. She screams to her mother and grandmother and makes the whole persons in that house in terrible panic.
This caption shows that a suspicious Taliban is following Osama right until her front door. (Scene 33:11)

The following dialogue shows how the intimidation done by a Taliban and describes how scared Osama and her family are.

Father’s friend : Take this and go home before it gets dark.

Osama : Thank you. God bless you.
Mom! A Taliban is behind the door. Grandma, he will kill me if he finds out that I’m a girl.

Osama’s Mother : Oh God, what am I gonna do with you?
What have you done?

Osama : Nothing.

Osama’s Mother : The Taliban suspected it. What did you do?

Osama : I didn’t do anything.

Osama’s Mother : Shame on you!

The dialogue shows how anxious Osama and her mother are. Osama really panics, perhaps the only thing in her mind, she is going to die, she messes up her under cover, and will end up her life killed by Taliban. No wonder how scared she feels when she realizes that a Taliban armed with automatic gun is
suspiciously following her until her house. This makes her mother irate and shaking of course. In one side she feels totally disappointed when she hears Osama. She tries to blame her for attracting a Taliban. In the other side, she also feels so nervous that she must disappear all family documents that can jeopardize her and family.

Harassment; it is often associated with intimidation. It may take various forms: one of which is behaving toward someone in a threatening way. For the individual's behavior to qualify as harassment, the situation must also make you fear for your safety or for that of an acquaintance.

A good example in this story happens when one night there is a wedding party attended by females; the groom even is not there. Osama is there as well to help her mom with the food and cakes. All women are simply singing the custom song of wedding.

However, the joy situation suddenly becomes silence once a boy pops out alarming all visitors, that Talibans with guns on their way to interrogate that house. The whole guests including the host play a little drama to fool those Talibans. The host says that his mother just passes away and all people screaming and crying.
This caption shows when Talibans bringing their guns are interrogating into civilian’s house. (Scene 33:11)

The following dialogue shows how the harassment really makes all ladies fear for their safety. Osama is there as well.

Osama’s Mother : Our neighbor is having a wedding ceremony tonight. Wear your dress and we’ll go work there.

Osama : Give me the picture of the groom holding a sword.

Wedding guest : Thank you. (taking the cake)
-Where is the groom?

Osama : -Went to Iran.

A boy : Talibans are at the doors! Wear your burkas!

Talibans : What’s happening in this house?

Host : My mother died.

The dialogue also shows that all guests and the host must lie by telling that this gathering is for his died mother. They must do that in order to fool those full armed Talibans. All people in the house agree to that for they feel the same
way; all of them feel the harassment done by the Taliban. The situation really makes them fear for their safety.

Threats; are words or actions by which someone expresses, or has someone else express for them, a desire to hurt you. It may be a threat: To kill a person or animal, to injure a person or an animal, to damage property, etc. The aggressor does not always truly intend to carry out the threat. Whether or not the threat is carried out, the victim may feel distressed, stressed and fearful.

This time another type of psychological violence is done by Taliban toward Osama’s mother. After taking care of her patient at his home, she asks the patient’s son to escort her and Osama home otherwise she will be teased and threaten by Taliban. Then the guy drives her and Osama home by a bike and unfortunately on the way they meet patrolling Taliban.

This caption shows that a Taliban was scolding to warn Osama’s mother to totally cover her feet. (Scene 14:11)

The following dialogue shows how the threat is indirectly delivered to the female.
Osama’s Mother : Will you take us home?
Son of her patient : We’re gonna be late. Let’s go.
I’ll escort them. The Taliban will tease them.
Talibans : Stop it, you bastard!
Aren’t you ashamed of having your wife on the bicycle?
Son of her patient : Men will be aroused!
Cover your legs!
Osama’s Mother : Forgive me!
I won’t do it again!
Son of her patient : Can you escort me again tomorrow?
No, find someone else.

Those Taliban stop the bike and scold the guy “stop you bastard!” for driving females by bike and letting the legs of Osama’s mother uncover. The Taliban do not say directly what kind of punishment she will get if she does that again, somehow from their language style, willingly or not she must follow their rules or else will happen to her. Another thing, the Taliban also point and touch her legs using a wood, implying if she does not want to listen to them the wood can be used to teach her some lesson.

Maybe the Taliban do not injure or damage anything, but they threaten them by words or actions to hurt them.
**B.2.2 Physical violence**

Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one’s body, size, or strength against another person.

In the beginning of the story, the movie illustrates female demonstrating for their rights. Mostly are widows. They do that because they are hungry and have children to feed. But Taliban disperse them using violence, shooting them hard with water, pushing them, and lock them inside the chicken house.

Taliban are also running after them with guns and wood. They are running everywhere crying and screaming saving their lives.

*This caption shows that Talibans are using violence to treat females, pushing them to the chicken house and lock them there. (Scene 06:32)*

The following dialogue shows how the women get their physical violence.

Female protesters : It's not for political
Female protesters: We're hungry! We need jobs!
Talibans: Don't pull me like this!

Espandi: Pull those women over there.
The Talibans are coming to bring hell!

Female protesters: It's not for political reasons!
WE ARE WIDOWS

Talibans: Run! The Talibans are coming! Run!
You want to get killed?
You'll get killed. Run!
Sends the misfortunes away, in the name of the king and the girls. Protects from the evil eye.

Get up!
Don't lock us here!
Heretics!

As seen in the dialogue, seemingly Taliban do tons of physical violence from pushing; throwing; grabbing; use of a weapon; and use their strength against those women. It is shown in the dialogue when a Taliban said “Pull those women over there”. Taliban also throw and lock them in the chicken house after they push and grab that small group of women using their weapon.
B.2.3 Sexual violence

Sexual violence or assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature. It can include anything from exhibitionism and exposure to pornography, to unwanted sexual touching, to rape, to injuring or endangering the life of the victim. It is also considered sexual abuse to encourage or pressure someone to engage in sexual activity or try to engage in sexual activity with someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In this movie, Osama is obviously the victim of sexual violence. In the end of the story, to escape from death or other extreme punishments because of the disguise, she must accept the reality of becoming a young wife of the old mullah even though she refused to be. It is totally neither an option nor solution for her. Next, at mullah’s house, she is offered many locks to choose by mullah. That lock will be used to lock up her room and every single wife is treated the same.

Finally the moment comes, that Osama must serve him with undesired sexual intercourse. She cries and tries to hide in the hole inside the room but mullah finds her easily. It is totally a rape, trafficking, and child abused. She still even has no breast yet. His other wives also tell more miserable stories to Osama, stories how they lose their lives.
This kind of movie is a form of social realization that exists in the real society. There is always a country or even a community that cannot treat women as individuals but as animals and toys. They are treated as sex objects and not with their own identity. They are just objects of sexual desire that they want to escape from. The movie illustrates that women are still beneath men’s power, manipulation, and control. They can not work for themselves but always for the benefit of men.

\[\text{This caption shows that all wives seem so hopeless for being wedded to an old mullah. (Scene 06:32)}
\]

The following dialogue shows how all mullahs’ wives curse their lives because of their unwanted marriage.

Wife 1 : May God bring hell to the Talibs.  
They burnt our house, our land, our garden.  
We have nothing left.  
They arrested me and the married me to this Mullah.  
They ruined my life.  
I don't have a reason to live. Oh God, please help me.

Wife 2 : Afterwards, the Talibs took my brother and killed him. Then I was thrown to Mullah. I wish he dies.
One night I was painting my hands with henna...

Wife 3: He forced me to run away and marry him.
My life is black and miserable.
I hate but what can I do?
He took my life the night we were married.
All my youth was destroyed by that man.

Mullah: Where is the girl?
I'll find her myself.
Come on!
Choose.
Look and choose.
You don't like these.
This one is for you.
It's yours.

This dialogue shows the victims of sexual violence. All wives of that old mullah curse their lives because of their unwanted marriage. Actually when the first wife says “May God bring hell to the Taliban, they burnt our house, our land, our garden”, it means that she is fighting this miserable condition, but the fighting spirit is only a curse since she does not have gun or an organization or a media that can support her feminism movement.

B.2.4 Economic violence

Economic violence in Osama includes limited access to controlling access to health care, employment, and education. There are three cases can be reviewed in Osama. Access to the heath care or hospital is also controlled by Taliban; every female coming without a male escort from her family will be punished. Taliban made a thorough check up to find the trespasser. Secondly, employment for
women is stopped by Taliban. Only men can work meanwhile women must stay still at home. Thirdly, education is also limited for males. Taliban actually have a schooling program but it is made only for men. This economic violence really have made a seriously negative impact to women and contributed a big part of gender discrimination against Afghani women.

B.2.5 Political violence

The political violence illustrated in “Osama” really makes the women suffer and under pressure. Taliban that has the power is running its mission but those people do not understand the minor effects that make the lives of the women become miserable.

One example of the political violence which is showed in the movie is when a foreign lady came to Kabul to help women. She is captured and accused as infidel, saying profanity or swearing. She is stoned to death for her mistakes. The most ironic part of his misery is that there are no witnesses against her wrong doings. It is just the Taliban is worried that the lady would bother their political stability.
This caption shows that this lady has been accused without any witness and captured by Taliban, and now she is just waiting for her destiny. (Scene 01:05:45)

The following dialogue shows how a foreign lady becomes the victim of the local authority political violence.

Court leader : We gathered here for our religious laws. To see what's happening in Kabul. This unfaithful reporter took shots from everybody. He was spying on the noble Talibans. We have our witnesses and evidence.

Judge : Take him. Death is the punishment!

Court leader : Death is the punishment! Judge ordered the death penalty for him. This unfaithful woman was swearing. The judges decided that stones must be thrown at her until she dies.

Audience 1 : -Where is the witness?

Audience 2 : -Only God knows.

This dialogue shows that the two accused persons are the victims of the political violence. Not many people who attended the trial understood the real reasons that made both persons deserved the punishments. Only top politicians
of Taliban had the political explanation behind this trial. What an irony when an audience confirms his friend asking “where is the witness?”

This story has no definite resolution in the end. Rather than promulgating a solution, the author hangs its audience into the edge of womanhood. It is seen in this part that women are already destined in that kind of scenario that cannot able to overcome or change whether in the present or future situation. However, there are some parts that show feminism movement in this movie. The minor or even major fighting spirit of those women to help themselves out of this misery and to get their right back.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Osama is a depiction of social oppression against women. This film illustrated the life of the main character whom to be a helpless mother. She wanted to make her family survive but she could not do anything for them. She could not go outside without a man at her side. This kind of movie discussed the life of women in a country where there was war and illogical justifications of their policies. The marginalized constitution against women signified that women in the Middle East had no voice in their society.

There are nine types of characterization concluded for Osama as the main character, i.e. her age and hobby, name, financial status, educational level, marital status, face, fashion as a girl, fashion as a boy, and her physical mark. Osama is a 12-year-old daughter and loves to hop with her rope. She is anonymous until she is called as Osama. Her family is really facing their critical economic situation. She followed the informal school that Taliban held in their camp. She was forced to marry with an old mullah. Osama is a pretty girl with sensual pink lips, smooth white skin, and beautiful eyebrows and eyelids. Osama wore a long brown veil that her hair can still be seen and
she also wears brown robe with flower pattern. In her disguise, she had a new short hair and used hat, turban, and pants. Osama also has long scars on her right face.

Meanwhile, from the violence sides there are five types of violence concluded in Osama. First, Psychological violence, this is classified into Intimidation: it shows that a suspicious Taliban is following Osama right until her front door, Harassment: it shows when Talibans bringing their guns were interrogating into civilian’s house, and Threat: it shows that a Taliban was scolding to warn Osama’s mother to totally cover her feet. Second, Physical violence, it shows that Talibans are using violence to treat females, pushing them to the chicken house and lock them there. Third, Sexual violence, it shows that all wives seem so hopeless for being wedded to an old mullah. Fourth, Economic violence, in Osama it is included limited access to controlling access to health care, employment, and education. Fifth, Political violence, a female volunteer sentenced to die in the Taliban trial without a single witness. Only the leaders know the political reasons behind this execution.
B. Suggestion

Through this paper, the writer suggests for those who are interested in analyzing gender discrimination to get further information about different concepts of feminism in order to enrich their knowledge in comprehending those concepts.

The writer realizes that this research is not enough yet for us to get enough information about feminism field. For that reason, the writer suggests to the readers especially the students of English Letters to continue doing the research of feminism. By knowing the movement of feminism, it is effected to equalize the position of men and women and to eliminate the domination of men over women.
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APPENDICES

A. Selected scenes of Osama Movie.
He looks like a boy!
Leave him alone!

You are late.
Come, my father is not well.
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APPROVEMENT

THE CHARACTERIZATION AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFGHANI WOMEN IN OSAMA

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