

WOMAN'S EXISTENCE IN THE NOVEL "KHUBZUN 'ALAA TAWILATI AL-KHAL MILAD" BASED ON AN EXISTENTIALIST FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

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Received:
14-01-2024

Revised:
05-03-2024

Accepted:
15-03-2024

Abstract: One country that experiences gender inequality is Libya. Libyan had made women objects in decision-making, marginalized, and subordinated. This study aims to investigate the forms, factors, and impacts of women's existence in the novel *Khubzun 'Alaa Thawilati al-Khaal Milad* by Muhammad al-Naas based on Simone de Beauvoir's theory. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. In analyzing the data, researchers read and understand the text in the novel and then record the data. The results of this study: are (1) the forms of women existence, namely ideal women, rejecting their femininity, free women, independent women, mystical women, and women images; (2) the factors of women existence, namely demands of having children, stereotypes, violence, domination, marginalization, objectification of decisions, community stigma and standardization of beauty; (3) the impacts of women existence: a) the impact of women existence on individuals is self-care, self-disappointment, resistance, smart women, not taking care of herself, being recognized, and attention, b) the impact of women existence in the family is not being appreciated by others, masculinity, family demands, and betrayal, c) the impact of women existence on society is not being appreciated by others, stereotypes, and exploitation.

Keywords: *women existence, existentialist feminism, form, factor, impact*

INTRODUCTION

The existence of women is an interesting topic to study because the existence of women is one of the forms and strategies in the feminist movement that was raised as a result of the domination of women in terms of life. The stigma of society that states the difference in position causes women position to be difficult and discriminated against (Cho et al., 2023, p. 724). To fight existing discrimination, many women today have shown their existence in the sector of career, education, social, and politic, and even adorn the development of literature (Rahayu, 2020, pp. 80-86). This has shown that women can express themselves and get the same rights as men as they should.

Several Western scientific figures provide different definitions of women's existence. Every individual has the right to justify their existence to transcend themselves, women as autonomous beings have the right to find themselves alive when men force them to take on other roles (Leung

& Walker, 2023, pp. 1-20). The thing that results in the displacement of women's status in society is the difference between men and women seen in terms of biological, psychoanalysis, and historical materialism, society still considers that men are breadwinners while women are housewives, and this makes an essential difference between the two (Edwards, 2022, pp. 94-180).

Jean-Paul Sartre revealed three modes of "Being" in humans, namely Being-in-itself (*etre en soi*), Being-for-itself (*etre pour soi*), and Being-for-others (*etre pour les autres*) (Durmuş, 2022, p. 6). Describing one of the existentialist feminist theories as the marginalization of women as others in a culture created by men and considering men as subjects while women are objects, existential feminism sees women's struggles in the domestic sphere which can be found in the household or workplace (Zaman & Aeni, 2022, pp. 72-255).

The existence of women already is also described in Arabic novel, one of them is Khubzun 'Alaa Tawilati Al-Khal Milad. This novel tells that a women character shows her existence by working very hard. However, this makes the surrounding community make fun of them, because it should be men who work, not women. To capture the picture of women's existence is this Arabic novel, the researches use Simone de Beauvoir perspective.

Beauvoir stated that women should also be given the same freedom as men. Women are defined as human beings, free, independent, and able to choose their own lives. He said that the idealism of women's existence that involves themselves is seen as a positive and realistic way of existence. He took the ethical language of Sartre's existentialism, namely men as the Self and naming women as the Other (O'Byrn, 2023, pp. 1-12). If the presence of the Other is a threat to the Self, then the presence of a women is a threat to men. Beauvoir's existentialist feminism reveals the existence of women based on women's nature, history, and myth (Beauvoir, 2016a, pp. 81-199).

The study of existentialist feminism from Beauvoir's perspective is still widely discussed in several studies, including women show their existence (Iswandi & Muhammad Adek, 2022; Martinus & Marsih, 2022; Utami & Sholihah, 2021), the existence of women in the career, intellectual, social, and political (Allen-Collinson, 2022; Valls-Carol et al., 2022), women's authority (Alqaryouti & Ismail, 2019; Kasimbara, 2022; Priyadharshini et al., 2022), the biggest challenges for women to gain freedom and actualize themselves authentically (Gunawan, 2022; Kjellgren, 2023; Kurnianto, 2021; Martini & Umam, 2021), and women resistance (Dakhil, 2022; Kanatli, 2021; Reuter, 2022; Vinoth & Vijayakumar, 2023).

Based on the previous studies above, there are similarities and differences with this research. The similarity lies in the similarity of the theory that researchers use, namely Beauvoir's Existentialist Feminism. Whereas, the differences lie in intellectual women, workers, community transforms, and independent women (Alqaryouti & Ismail, 2019; Iswandi & Muhammad Adek, 2022;

Kasimbara, 2022; Martini & Umam, 2021; Martinus & Marsih, 2022; Utami & Sholihah, 2021), the factors driving women to realize their existence (Gunawan, 2022; Kurnianto, 2021; Priyadharshini et al., 2022; Reuter, 2022), and women's role in society (Dakhil, 2022; Kjellgren, 2023; Valls-Carol et al., 2022).

The difference between this research and previous researchers lies in the object of research that researchers use. This study uses the novel Khubzun 'Alaa Thawilati al-Khal Milad. So that the position of the researcher here as a reinforcement and complement to previous research. This research aims to describe the form, factors and impact of women's existence in the novel based on the perspective of Simone de Beauvoir's existential feminism theory.

METHOD

In conducting the research, the researchers used a qualitative type of research. Data collection is conducted by reading the data about existence in the novel and recording them. The steps of analyzing the data are the researchers choose and ensure the data, display data in the table and interpret them sequentially based on the table, and induct the interpretation to get a conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Women Existence

There are three forms of women existence according to Beauvoir, namely: women existence through nature, women existence based on history, and women existence based on myth (Beauvoir, 2016a, pp. 81-199). The forms of women existence in the novel are presented in the following Table 1. The form of Women Existence.

Table 1. The form of Women Existence.

Existentialist feminism	Forms of Women Existence
Women Destiny	Ideal Women Rejecting her conformity
Women History	Free women Independent women
Women Myth	Mystical women The image of a women

Women Destiny

Nature is the existence of women who are described through the body, along with the characteristics and functions of the body itself (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 3).

Ideal Women

Being ideal is one form of a women's existence through nature. In this context, an ideal woman means a woman who can take care of the household well and can provide offspring.

(١) لم أعد أحتمل كلّ هذه التعليقات، لا شيء يعجبها، لا عملي ولا ملابسي ولا اهتمامي بك ولا حتى كوني لم أنجب لك طفلا، لا شيء لا شيء، لماذا لم تتزوج ملاك؟ لماذا؟ (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 248).

Data (1) explains that Zainab feels depressed because she has not been able to provide offspring for her husband. Zainab is demanded by her in-laws to have children immediately because according to the nature of women who have a womb can provide offspring. This makes women have limited to freedom, which is considered a women's duty according to the culture in society. The stigma received by Zainab's character as a wife also occurs in real life. Society considers that pregnancy is a women's nature, as well as the view that women who can give birth are ideal.

Rejecting her conformity

A woman can reject their otherness by identifying themselves through the views of dominant groups in society. To be truly who they are in society, women must free themselves from their bodies.

(٢) أنّ زينب أحبّت أن تطيل طريق عودتها. تحتزع كلّ يوم زقاقا جديدا لتقطعه وتكتشف فيه المدينة، أمر حرمت منه التفنيات في هذه البلاد، أو بالحرى دفعن إلى تركه وسط نظرات المتحرّشين والمراقبين (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 112)

Data (2) reflects the sturdiness of Zainab in guarding her body. When returning

from her campus, deliberately walks slowly and passes through another alley to avoid bullies and seducers of women on the road. Zainab successfully rejects being a woman who is the object of observation. She has shown her existence by becoming a complete Subject for herself by protecting the body which is her right.

The body has become an object of theorization in recent years. They postulate the body as the central object through which power relations are both formulated and challenged. Such arguments have been raised by feminist thinkers. They argue that in theorizing the body, action has particular relevance to women because gender is conventionally located within the body. Biological processes such as menstruation and pregnancy are claimed to be the surface of the women's body, thus becoming a means of defining the women's body (Gamble, 2010, p. 147).

The findings of data (1) and (2) regarding the existence of women through nature can be linked to research that describes an ideal woman as a woman who can get pregnant (Martinus & Marsih, 2022; Vinoth & Vijayakumar, 2023). In this context, women nature describes an ideal woman as a woman who can provide offspring and reject their otherness over the discomfort that is the object of male observation, this shows that women realize their existence by regulating the rights to their body functions.

The limitations that shackle women can be dismissed with the rejection of the otherness that has been inhabiting them. Accepting the role of Others means agreeing to be an object. Women can reject their Otherness by identifying themselves through the views of the dominant group in society so that the only way for women to become the Self in society is by becoming the Self.

Women History

The existence of women based on history is the existence of women and their roles in various periods of human history. The form of women's existence through history is free women and independent women.

Free women

Women are free to represent women's existence based on the history that exists in marriage. According to French law, obedience

is no longer an obligation of a wife and every citizen including a woman has the right to choose (Beauvoir, 2016b, p. 575).

(٣) أحيانا أكون قد جهّزت لها ملابسها منذ الليلة الماضية. وفي أحيانا أخرى، أجهّز الملابس وأكويها في أولى ساعات الصّباح قبل إيقاظها (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 7)

Data (3) depicts Zainab who is always prepared for her needs by her husband, from preparing breakfast to clothing. This proves that women do not always have to take care of all the needs of their household. When a woman cannot be a wife in accordance with the stigma of society, she can take on other roles to actualize herself.

Independent women

Zainab is an idealistic woman, she risks her energy, time, and thoughts for the next generation in her country. When women begin to dare to show off in the public sphere because they feel they are worthy, there are stumbling blocks that arise from fear within themselves and various kinds of problems. The mouth of it all is that women lose the power to maintain their existence (Beauvoir, 2016b, p. 580).

(٤) حبّتها لشوكولاته الورد، وقدرتها المذهلة على الغناء، مشاغلها ومشاكلها في المدرسة وتعبها من بكاء الأطفال، اعتزازها بكونها امرأةً مستقلة، وبأنّها لم تقبل يوماً أن يحكمها رجل غير والدها (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 215)

Data (4) depicts Zainab who can sing, is busy at school, and is exhausted from crying children, but all of these things make her feel proud of herself for being an independent woman, she never carries out other people's orders other than orders from her father. This shows that being an independent woman made Zainab achieve her social transformation.

The findings of data (3), (4) can be linked to research that describes a women's freedom in marriage, explains the character's refusal to stop working and the character's

perseverance in learning and the desire to realize her goals in achieving her intellectual existence, and women's independence. The findings of data (3), (4) can be compared with research that describes the form of existence of women as career women and intellectuals (Alqaryouti & Ismail, 2019; Iswandi & Muhammad Adek, 2022; Martini & Umam, 2021; Utami & Sholihah, 2021).

The strategy of women's existence as working women and intellectuals provides an example that women actualize themselves and female gender is not a problem to work and work. Women who work are women who can be independent which allows them to reduce their level of dependence on men. Working outside the home as well as men makes women more active in determining the direction of their destiny so that they can reclaim their transcendence.

Women Myth

The existence of women based on myths is the existence of women formed by laws and regulations created by men, so that women are truly distinguished as other figures, along with the development of culture, men find that they can control women by creating myths about women, Beauvoir emphasizes that every man is always in search of the ideal women (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 361).

Mystical Women

Love has been assigned to a woman as her highest calling, and when she directs it to a man, she seeks God in him. But if human love rejects her because of circumstances, she may choose to worship the sacred in God himself (Beauvoir, 2016b, p. 521).

(٥) كانت تحبّ فتى من المدينة راودها عن نفسها فأدخلها شقّة صديق له. قالت إنّها جامعته من أجل الحبّ، ورأت أن تهبه نفسها، فما الخير في الحبّ إذا لم يهب الحبيب محبوبه كلّ ما يملك (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 113)

Data (5) depicts Zainab who falls in love with a man from Medina, she takes him to her friend's apartment and has a relationship for the sake of love, she thinks that she should

prepare to devote something she has for her love. This proves that women show their existence by accepting their otherness as mythical women.

The image of a women

Women images are all forms of spiritual mental images and daily behaviors expressed by women. This novel emphasizes women's physical image.

(٦) أتخيل زوجتي برائحة تشبه النعنان مثل صالحة. امرأة قادرة على انتزاع الظلمات من قلبي وارشادي نحو النور، تحوم حولها إشارة ربانية تعني بالحنان وأخرى تعني بالحامية، كان هذا كلّ رغبت فيه (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 239)

Data (6) describes Milad who imagines Zainab's beauty and tenderness, hopes that his wife will be able to lead him to goodness, and also wants Zainab to be able to give him offspring like couples in general. The women characters depicted in the novel show the image of women depicted through physicality, such as facial features. The existing image indirectly provides an ideology to everyone that women must fulfill the existing criteria.

Data (5) and (6) from the novel excerpt explain that the stigma of society can affect a women's life, making it seem as if women can do things that are impossible for humans in general. The character Zainab is considered to be able to provide attention only with her beauty and tenderness. Zainab's love and affection can provide peace for a man.

Beauvoir emphasizes that every man is always in search of the ideal women, that is, the women who makes him complete (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 362). The quotations in the novel that have previously been presented make it very clear that the existence of women is placed lower based on the myths of the regional culture itself. The women characters in the novel become easier to control, oppressed, and become satisfiers for men.

Data findings (5) and (6) illustrate the myth of women expressed through physical imagery. Data findings (5) and (6) can be

compared with research that describes the myths of women built through the image of women as the second class (Kasimbara, 2022). So, some characteristics of nature, types of women, and forms of resistance carried out by women are considered something natural.

Factors for Women Realizing Their Existence

This section describes the various forms of injustice that are the driving factors for a woman to realize their existence. Forms of injustice as Liyan, namely the situation experienced by women characters who are not valued for their existence and are made second to men presented in the following Table 2. A Factor of Women Realizing Their Existence.

Table 2. Factors of Women Realizing Their Existence

Existentialist Feminism	Factors of Women's Existence
Women Destiny	The demands of having children Stereotypes Violence Women domination
Women History	Marginalization Objectification of decisions
Women Myth	Societal stigma Beauty standart

Women Destiny

The demands of having children

Giving birth is a women's God-given nature. However, the excessive demands to provide offspring make women feel unfree of their bodies.

(٧) للأسف لا أطفال حتى الآن (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 246)

Data (7) explains that women are demanded by their in-laws to have children immediately because following the nature of women who have a womb can provide offspring. This makes women have limited ability to freedom, which is considered a women's duty according to the culture in society.

Stereotypes

Stereotypes is the labeling of a particular group.

(٨) إنّ على المرأة تحمّل كلّ شيء، وإنّ عليها الاهتمام
باحث زوجها... الرجل يزرع ويحصد والمرأة تطبخ،
الرجل يبني ويعمّر والمرأة تنظّف ما بناه
(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 51)

Data (8) shows that it should be the women who takes care of her husband and household, while the husband earns a living for the needs of the household. This shows a form of stereotyping or labeling of the position of women in the family environment, where a wife is still considered a person who takes care of all the needs of her household, and a husband is a breadwinner.

Violence

Violence is an attack or invasion of a person's physical or psychological mental integrity.

(٩) ذات مرّة ضربت أختي الصغرى فقط لأنني وجدت
لديها رسالة من أحد الأولاد الذين يدرسون معها في
المدرسة (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 31)

Data (9) describes Milad who committed violence by hitting his sister Shalihah, he was upset when he found his sister's letter from her school friend, Milad still considered his sister too young to be experienced in matters of romance, especially since Shalihah was still in school. This shows the violence experienced by women because physical violence cannot be justified for any reason.

Women's domination

Women's domination is depicted by the Zainab maid who is dominated by her family.

(١٠) كانت منذ وفاة زوجها الثريّ تعيش وحدها،
رافضة عودتها إلى جناح عائلتها، أو عائلة زوجها خوفا
من تسلّطهم عليها بعد أن تشرّبت مبادئ الحرّيّة
(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 287)

Data (10) depicts a servant Zainab from Morocco who has had her family dominate her. She has felt the freedom of herself while in Europe. This is a background factor for women in rejecting themselves as Others. Zainab maid successfully rejects being a woman who is a marginalized gender. In this process of refusing to be Other and maid has shown her existence by becoming a complete Subject for herself.

People who experience physical and psychological violence can lead to Stereotyping as a negative labeling or marking of a particular gender that results in discrimination and various injustices. The construction created by society positions women as an essence that cannot be changed (Beauvoir, 2016b, p. 359).

Data findings (7) and (8) illustrate discrimination against the nature of women who have a uterus must be able to give offspring gender injustice against women, this factor makes women able to fight against existing discrimination. Data findings (9) and (10) can be related to research that describes women's natures based on their bodies and functions (Martinus & Marsih, 2022; Reuter, 2022).

The patriarchal culture in society constructs gender stereotypes against women as God's nature that is considered unchangeable. In general, women are positioned as being supported by men, not to provide for men. Even if women try to work outside their domestic sphere, they will be considered violating their nature or not by existing stereotypes.

Women History

Marginalization

Marginalization is a restriction of women that does not only occur in the workplace but also occurs in the household.

(١١) لماذا تزوجت زينب؟ لا تبدو لي رجلا متحررا،
تبدو كشاب ترعرع على تتاليد المجتمع وأراها مندفعة نحو
التحرّر. (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 179).

Data (11) depicts a man who doubts Zainab as Milad's partner, assuming that Zainab as a working woman will neglect her

duties as a wife and that the profession will demean men and prevent men from heading towards their liberation. This is a form of marginalization that exists in society, considering women as a wife must obey their husband's orders.

Objectification of decisions

Objectification of decisions is a person's attitude that makes other people a figure who must fulfill their wishes.

(١٢) أخبرني زينب بأنها طالما تمتت العمل في الصحافة... جعلها تخوض محاولات في الكتابة الصحفية، لكنّها باءت بالفشل أمام نظرة أبيها إلى إرث العائلة الفنيّ والأدبيّ. أمرها أن تدرس الطبّ - (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 119).

Data (12) is a description of Zainab as an objectified party because of her father's attitude who wants her to study medicine, even though Zainab has a desire to become a journalist. This treatment indicates that Zainab is placed in the position of an object who does not have the right to voice her wishes while her father is in the subject position who holds Zainab's fate. This shows the limitation of space for women in making decisions.

Marriage is one aspect that Beauvoir is quite concerned about. However, marriage has a different meaning from the perspective of men and women. Men and women both look forward to their future spouses but from different perspectives. For men, the women they dream of is just an element of life that will not affect their fate. Women, on the other hand, look forward to a partner with more enthusiasm, for self-fulfillment and liberation (Beauvoir, 2016b, p. 86).

The findings of data (11) regarding the marginalization of women are by previous research that describes the social construction that places women position as second-class sex (Kurnianto, 2021; Reuter, 2022), this study also shows the domination of women position as second-class sex, this is a factor for a women a to realize their existence by rejecting their femininity. While

the findings of data (12) can be attributed to research that objectifies decisions toward women, this finding is in line with the findings in previous research (Priyadharshini et al., 2022). This study shows women do not have the freedom to determine their desires.

On average, Libyan women can get the opportunity to continue their education to a higher level if they have received permission from their husbands, fathers, or brothers. This means that women do not have full rights to make decisions for themselves. Women may have the desire and will but not the power to decide what they want. Unlike men, they have the full right to make decisions in their lives.

Women Myth

Societal stigma

Societal stigma is one of the reasons Zainab's characters shows her existence to break the myths about women.

(١٣) إنّه حرام، أن يمتّم الرجل بما تهمّم به النساء (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 244)

Data (13) illustrates the stigma of society that forbids men to care about what women care about. The socialist attitude shown by Zainab is a representation of social transformation in her efforts to defend herself. Zainab did not ask anyone for help to solve her problem with Milad. Zainab resistance is a form of women's awareness of their position as others. To get out of this, women must realize themselves as independent and responsible individuals.

Beauty standard

Beauty, the standard of beauty given by society makes the image of women good by society.

(١٤) هي جميلة ولطيفة، وتحبّ نفسها أكثر من أيّ شيء آخر (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 7)

Data (14) illustrates Zainab's beautiful and gentle nature, she loves herself more than anything. This shows as one of the reasons Zainab can actualize herself in the public sphere.

Along with the development of culture, men think that they can dominate women by creating myths about women. Men are always looking for the ideal women who will make them complete. By focusing on five male authors, Beauvoir shows that their works reflect the ideal women and that what men worship is a woman who sacrifices herself to save men. In each of these literary works, a woman is encouraged to forget, ignore or deny themselves (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 285).

Data findings (13) and (14) illustrate discrimination against the myth of a woman as a mystical and beautiful woman, this factor makes women able to fight the existing stigma. Data findings (13) can be related to research that describes the myth of women based on their bodies and (Martinus & Marsih, 2022). Data finding (14) is in line with research (Kjellgren, 2023) which describes the existence of a standard of women beauty.

Impacts of Women's Existence

The impact of a women's existence can extend to various fields of life. In this context, the researchers focus on the impact that refers to the forms and causes of women's existence in the novel as summarized in the Table 3. The Impact of Women's Existence.

Table 3. The Impact of Women's Existence

Existentialist Feminism	Impact of Women's Existences		
	Individual	Family	Society
Women Destiny	Women body Resistance		Not valued by others
Women History	Smart women	Masculinity	Stereotypes
Women Myth	Recognized for its existence Attention	Cheating	Exploitation

Women Destiny

Existence through nature has an impact on the people who live alongside it. Researchers found several impacts of the existence of women on individuals and society as follows:

Women's body

Taking care of the body is an impact on individuals from women who see the function of their bodies.

(١٥) زينب أهملت جسدها حتى صارت تذبل كلَّ
يوم بأسرع مما كان فب اليوم الذي قبله، المدام وغم أنّها
تكبر زينب قليلا كانت تعني بجسدها الذي يتقد
جاذبيّة... (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 322)

Data (15) describes Zainab who is getting older, but she always takes care of her body so that it remains attractive as she gets older. The quote proves a woman who cares about her own body.

Resistance

Resistance carried out by the character is the impact of the character's existence in rejecting his femininity.

(١٦) فإنهم سيتمكنون من تقديم تقرير وقضية تتيح
لهم نزعها عن المكان. ولما كانت زينب إحدى أكبر
المتزّرات من المدير فقد قرّرت أن تفعل ذلك
(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 329)

Data (16) illustrates Zainab's spirit as a journalist who fights against forms of harassment and exploitation of women by her boss at work.

Not valued by others

Not valued by others, not being respected by others is one of the impacts of women who reject their femininity.

(١٧) فكّرت في العمل، هل تذكر أنّني قلت لك أمس
إنّ... إنّ... المدير قد حاول طردى من العمل فقط
لأنّني أدّيت المهمّة على أحسن ما يرام
(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 79)

Data (17) explains Zainab who was fired by her boss from her job because she only made a small mistake. This proves that the existence of a woman based on nature has an impact on the people around her which makes her not respect herself.

Beauvoir states that women are beings who must overcome their feminine sexual tendencies, in other words, humanity cannot

be explained only as a product of repressed sexual impulses. Therefore, the relationship between women and men cannot be simplified into a purely sexual framework. The women is the exaltation of a play that unfolds within her and where she is not personally concerned (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 37).

Taking care of the body, self-disappointment, resistance, and being disrespected by others are the impacts of a women's existence through nature as found in data (15), (16), (17). Data findings (15), (16), (17) can be compared with research describing existence based on nature among women (Dakhil, 2022; Martinus & Marsih, 2022). In this context, existence aims to abolish patriarchal culture and replace it with gender justice.

In this modern world, when the role of women has been recognized, women must be smart about how to position themselves in the family and society. If a woman becomes a career woman and is highly educated, she should not lose her self-actualization and identity. Because awards and praise make women who have a career and high education forget themselves in taking care of themselves.

Women History

The existence of women based on history has an impact on individuals and families as follows:

Smart women

The existence of women with intellectuals and career women has an impact on the character becoming a smart woman.

(١٨) لزینب أفكارها الغربية، أرادت أن تفعل ما یحلو

لها بالبيت بعد حياتنا في الشقة القديمة التي بناها لي

أبي عند تأسيسه لبيت العائلة

(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 28)

Data (18) shows that Zainab has a unique idea for the sustainability of her household. This is an impact of Zainab realizing her intellectual existence. With women prioritizing their education, it will be

beneficial for their lives later when they get married.

Masculinity

Masculinity is a set of attributes, behaviors, and roles associated with men. Masculinity refers to characteristics that are usually associated with what is expected of men. It happens to Milad as a husband who does not work as a man does as the head of the household.

(١٩) ... أعرف أن أختك تسعى بكامل قدرتها إلى

تربية أطفالها وحدها، لكن أين سلطتك يا ميلاد؟ أنت

الآن في مقام أبيها. أنت رب العائلة

(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 20)

Data (19) describes Milad who is scorned by his neighbors because he does not work because a husband as the head of the family should earn a living. This shows the existence of masculinity in society which labels a strong man as one who can take responsibility for his family.

Stereotypes

The existence of women who realize their existence as working women hurt their families.

(٢٠) لماذا تزوجت زينب؟ لا تبدو لي رجلا متحررا،

تبدو كشاب ترعرع على تزايد المجتمع وأراها مندفعة نحو

التحرر (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 179)

Data (20) describes a man who doubts Zainab as Milad's partner and considers Zainab as a working woman who will neglect her duties as a wife, and the profession will degrade men and prevent men from going to their liberation.

The socialist attitude shown by Zainab is a representation of social transformation as an effort to defend herself. Zainab resistance is a form of women's awareness of their position as others. To get out of this, women must realize themselves as independent and responsible individuals. Beauvoir argued that women throughout history have always been subordinate to men. Beauvoir also continued that women in their existence in this world

are only the Other for men. Women who are aware of their freedom will be able to freely determine their life path, and most importantly women must be able to refuse to be an object (Beauvoir, 2016a, p. 115).

Intelligent women, masculinity, stereotypes, and family demands are the impact of the existence of women based on history as found in data (18), (19), (20). Women in history who have an important role in society, especially their families, are by research that discusses existence based on nature. Data findings (18), (19), (20) can be compared with research that describes existence based on history (Dakhil, 2022; Valls-Carol et al., 2022). In this context, existence aims to erase patriarchal culture and replace it with gender equality.

Public awareness of the importance of education for women is still minimal. This community perception is shown by the assumption that in the end, women will only serve their husbands and children at home. Another reason that reinforces this perception is the difficulty of finding a husband if a woman has a higher education than a man. This is because men will feel that women are more dominant or more dominant than themselves.

Women Myth

The existence of women in achieving social transformation has an impact on society. Researchers found the impact of the existence of women is as follows:

Recognized for its existence

The existence of women by rejecting their Otherness has an impact on their lives.

(٢١) لم أجد نفسي على طبيعتها مع أي امرأة

خارج دائرة أخواني وأمي، وما هي المرأة الوحيدة التي يمكنني أن أبقى معها من دون أن ترى في ذلك أمرا

مربيا.... (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 179)

Data (21) describes Zainab, whose existence is recognized by her husband, since Zainab's presence her husband feels so respected. This shows that the impact of Zainab's attitude of refusing to be another, makes her recognized as a wife who is valued.

Cheating

Cheating becomes an impact on the family due to the existence of women who realize their existence through myths.

(٢٢) ... الشقة التي لم يدخلها أحد من بعد ما

حدث، أسمع اصوات رجل وامرأة داخلها، أدمع....

(Al-Naas, 2022, p. 335)

The data quote (22) describes Zainab cheating on Milad, the quote tells Zainab went with a foreign man and Milad followed her until they entered the apartment, that's where Milad witnessed the women he loved betraying him by sleeping with the foreign man.

Attention

Attention is the amount of awareness that accompanies an activity. This is what Zainab gets from her husband.

(٢٣) ربّما لأنني رضيت أن أغسل ملابس زوجتي

وأرتبها وأكويها... (Al-Naas, 2022, p. 74)

Data (23) describes Zainab who gets attention from her husband, every day she is prepared for all her needs.

Exploitation

Exploitation is the arbitrary or excessive use of an object. This happens to Libyan women in the workplace.

(٢٤) ولن تتشجّع أيّ موظّفة أخرى تعرّضت للتّرش

أو حتّى للابتزاز الجنسيّ على الوقوف إلى جانبها (Al-

Naas, 2022, p. 329)

Data (24) depicts men exploiting and sexually harassing their employees. This proves the impact of the existence of women based on myths.

The myth of women is a luxury. It arises when men break away from the urgent demands of their needs, the more the relationship is lived in reality, the less idealized they are. The opposing facts of experience cannot stand up to the myth. Thus, it is true that women is different from men and this change is directly felt in desire,

embrace, and love, but the true relationship is one of reciprocity as it appears in real life (Beauvoir, 2016a, pp. 71–362).

Being recognized, cheating, attention, and exploitation are the impacts of the existence of women based on myths, as found in data (21), (22), (23), (24). Recognizing a woman is recognizing another figure, without reciprocity by refusing to face all the experiences that he is a subject as a human being. by research that discusses existence based on nature. Data findings (21), (22), (23), (24) can be compared with research describing existence based on history (Kjellgren, 2023). In this context, existence aims to erase patriarchal culture and replace it with gender equality.

CONCLUSION

The novel *Khuzun 'alaa Thawilati al-Khaal Milad* reflects the existence of women through nature, history, and myth: (1) The forms of women existence are ideal women, rejecting their inferiority, including free women, independent women, mystical women and the image of a women; (2) The factors behind women realizing their existence are the demands of having children, stereotypes, violence, domination, marginalization, objectification of decisions, the stigma of society, and standardization of beauty; (3) Women realize their existence has an impact on individuals, families, and society at large: (a) the impacts of women's existence on individuals are self-care, self-disappointment, resistance, intelligent women, not taking care of themselves, being recognized as, and attention; (b) the impacts of women existence on families are not being appreciated by others, masculinity, family demands, and cheating; (c) the impacts of women existence on society are not being appreciated by others, stereotypes, and exploitation.

Women's destiny and history provides access to public space for women to liberate and empower themselves from male domination. Beauvoir asserts that the existence of women is to eliminate the limits for women in choosing their destiny, thus creating gender equality between men and women. The novel *Khuzun 'alaa Thawilati al-Khaal Milad* reflects the metaphor of a

women's existence by becoming an ideal and free woman, where women are free to express themselves without restrictions that can shackle them. The essence of Beauvoir's existentialist concept is a way for a woman to reject their victimization.

The findings of this research are very important because it strengthens the theory of existentialist feminism by Beauvoir and enriches research related to modern feminism. Future research can explore further research on the phenomenon of women's existence in other scientific works, as well as comparing the existentialist feminism theory by Beauvoir or other theories.

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