



**SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY
IN CHARLOTTE GILMAN'S *SHERLAND***

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
For S-1 Degree in Literature
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I genuinely state that this final project is done by me and did not take any results from other thesis or project in any university, in S-1, S-2, S-3, and diploma. There are no other elements of anybody's work and publications except the ones that I have mentioned in the list of references.

Semarang, January 2018

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ABSTRACT

This research paper on Social Structure of Matriarchal Society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland* is written with the intention of the readers could learn in different perspective on the book. Hopefully, the readers could reach an extended knowledge on Feminism and its relation to *Herland*. The writer uses Feminist Theory and narrows down to Cultural Feminism popularized by Carol Gilligan. The writer uses close reading to the object as the method of this research and analyzes the intrinsic elements of the book using the same method. The writer also does voluminous research on Feminist Theory, and connected the theory to some aspects in this book which become the topic of this paper. The result of the writer's analysis on Social Structure of Matriarchal Society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland* is the social structure in this book is different from patriarchal social structure.

Keywords: *Charlotte Gilman, Prose, Herland, Feminist Theory, Cultural Feminism, Close Reading.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone will always have an opinion about feminism. Some people consider it as a sensitive matter and wherever the conversation turns to, it will mostly be a dead end. Some people avoid discussing the topic because it could lead to offensive behavior. Meanwhile, feminism is essential in this modern life. It is not only women who need feminism, everybody from every gender needs feminism. Feminism is not about women greater than men, but it is about equality. The lack of knowledge about feminism could lead to misunderstanding which will build a thick wall between men and women. This final project will discuss about social structure in matriarchal society. The highlight will be about social structure in a matriarchal society that the writer can conclude from the book and the influence that the male characters bring to the society in the book.

The writer chooses the novel *Herland* because this novel can be seen as a criticism to men's point of view towards women. This book revolves around matriarchal society which also interests the writer to learn more about the topic. The main reason why this book is chosen because it has a big aspect in feminism and matriarchal society. This book in the writer's opinion is empowering and giving different ideas about women and men. Everything in this final project is based on the writer's analysis and opinion.

1.2 Research Problem

The writer has identified two main topics that will be discussed in this final project. From those topics, the writer could extract the two research problems below:

1. What is the social structure in matriarchal society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland*?
2. What influence do the male characters bring to the society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems above, the writer has concluded the objectives of the study, and those are:

1. To identify what is the structure in matriarchal society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland*
2. To identify and describe what are the influence that the male characters bring to the society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland*

1.4 Method of the study

1.4.1 Research Approach

The writer conducts a textual analysis in the making of this final project. According to Botan and Kreps, textual analysis is one of various methods in research used to describe the structure, function and content of the topics in texts (Botan and Kreps, 1999: 213). The writer applied the method mentioned above which focuses on

the context within the novel. In addition, the writer also uses cultural feminism as a part of the theory.

1.4.2 Method of Data Collection

Adapted to Thomas Mann's guide on library research, this method involves some stages in gathering information from books, journals, dictionaries, articles, encyclopedia, etc. The writer uses Mann's principles on collecting information to support this paper. The field of this research is mostly concerned and concentrated in "information". But it can be narrowed down to finer distinctions within its subject matter. (Mann, 1998: xix)

2. Author and Her Work

2.1 Biography of Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Charlotte Perkins Gilman is an American writer, poet, sociologist and a feminist. She was born in Connecticut, July 3rd 1860. Gilman had a terrible childhood, since she was a little girl, her father abandoned the family. Her mother had to raise two children all by herself. Struggling, the three of them had to move from one city to another, which resulted in Gilman's very little experience in formal education. As she grew up, she attended some classes at the Rhode Island School of Design. During this time, she also met an artist named Charles Walter Stetson. They got married in 1884 and they moved to Pasadena, California to settle. This was when Gilman got her inspiration for one of her most famous works "The Yellow

Wallpaper” which was published in January 1892. She then later exposed that it really was a true story and was based on her own experience. She divorced her husband in the same year and gave up the custody of her daughter to her ex-husband.

After that, she has always worked on her writings that orbit around feminism and sociology. As a feminist herself, she also became an activist and sociologist to support her opinion. She mostly worked with her concern in women’s rights which lead her to publish “Women and Economics” in 1898 where she demanded equal work for women. In the book she criticized the society, especially men for desiring weak wives and supported the economic independence of women. She then published her other books that talked about more social issues such as “Concerning Children”, “The Home”, and “Human Work”. In 1909 she founded Forerunner, a literary journal that talks about social issues. Most of the journals were written by Charlotte Gilman and she also answered questions of private morality, such as prostitution, social issues, and marriage. During the First World War, Perkins and a group of women pacifists in the United States suggested to form an organization to help stopping the war. On January 10th, 1915, those women conducted a meeting and discussion regarding the topic. Over 3,000 attended and contributed in the forming of the organization in the ballroom of the New Willard Hotel in Washington and finally formed the “Woman’s Peace Party”. All of her great works came to an end after Charlotte Gilman committed suicide on 17th August, 1935. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and decided to commit suicide instead. She left a suicide note that said:

"When all usefulness is over, when one is assured of unavoidable and imminent death, it is the simplest of human rights to choose a quick and easy death in place of a slow and horrible one. I have preferred chloroform to cancer."

Source: <spartacus-educational.com/USAperkinsC.htm>

(23 January 2018)

2.2 Synopsis of the Story

This novel is about three men (Van, Terry and Jeff) who were explorers, sociologists and scientists who came to an island surrounded by a rain forest around South America populated with only women. This land was once a massive land with amazing landscape with ships, commerce, an army, and a king. The civilians were once a small part of civilization of the old world. They were "white," but darker because of high exposure to the sun. There were big wars and most of the things in Herland was destroyed with many men were killed in battles. They were people who practiced polygamy, and masters to slaves. During those times of struggle they built fortresses, houses and other buildings. The architecture was very strong and only massive earthquakes can destroy it. The foundations are made from big and perfectly sculpted blocks. The people had struggled enough to fight for their existence until there was a volcanic eruption from series of active volcanoes surrounding the country. It was only a few men and women who survived. They then save the slaves who were rise to fight for revenge and killed their masters. They intended to claim the

country with a few of young women and girls. Until there was nothing left except groups of young women and some older female slaves.

It happened 2000 years ago, and since then they had learned to live without men. They worked, and learned to bury the dead and care for one another. Those pioneer women of the land could not do anything but stayed and lived as best as they could. They cleaned up the mess and those who were too old to do the hard work, they taught the younger ones to do basically whatever they knew about maintaining a living space. There was once a time when babies were born, they both males and unfortunately died of young age. For five to ten years they worked together, growing stronger and wiser and more and more mutually attached, and then the miracle happened--one of those young women bore a child. At first, they all thought there was a man, because it was impossible to mate without a man. They were looking for the man in the island but none was found. Then, they decided it had to be a direct gift from the gods, and placed that first mother in the Temple of Maaia, which is their Goddess of Motherhood. And as years passed, this woman still keeps giving birth. She gave birth to five babies and they were all girls. And as they reached the age of twenty-five they began to experience the same thing as their mother. Every single one of them also gave birth to five daughters. Therefore, with everything that has been going on, it lifted the spirit of the people. It somehow transformed the atmosphere from mourning to joy and happiness. This was the start of Herland, a family that all came from one mother. To them, this was not only a personal, but also a nation's

hope. All they had are sisters; they protect, took care and learned from each other until the tradition of men as guardians and protectors had quite died out.

Meanwhile, the three men characters that had very different opinions and beliefs about women had to come face to face with strong, intellectual, and beautiful women. When they first arrived, they met three women who were the inhabitants of Herland. They are Celis, Ellador and Alima. Those three women were athletic, smart, brave and also beautiful. For the first time, those three men were not very accepting with the fact that they were not in charge, men are nothing in Herland and that bothered them a lot which then causing trouble. As they lived for days, weeks, months and finally a year, they teach each other living in a different world, so much different than their male dominated world. Even though they had a rough start at the beginning, but they finally could accept that women are not just a sex, women can do things just like how men did. In the end of the story, each of the three explorers has a romantic relationship with Celis, Alima and Ellador. But, Terry had a very strong belief about women as the weaker sex, so the relationship has to end. Ellador went with Van to the outside world to learn and as Herland's representative. Celis conceived a child from Jeff which became the first "fathered" child after two thousand years.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Matriarchy

Based on Genevieve Vaughan's book, matriarchy is when a certain group or clan has women as their leader figures. This type of society is often called "Matriarchal Society" and it could be applied in traditional tribes or social groups.

"On the social level, matriarchies are based on a union of extended clan. The people live together in big clans, which are formed according to the principle of matrilinearity, i.e. the kinship is exclusively acknowledged in the female line. The clan's name, and all social positions and political titles are passed on through the mother's line..." (The Gift, II dono, A Feminist Analysis Genevieve Vaughan)

3.2 Social Structure

Take a look at the term "structure", it has always been connected with a pattern or something that has been arranged. So, it can be said that a social structure is a pattern in a culture or social organization that has been arranged in such ways so that there are roles, institution and organizations.

"Social structure. The organized set of social relationships in which members of the society or group are variously implicated. Patterned behavior and relationships. "The patterned arrangements of role-sets, status-sets, and status sequences can be held to comprise the social structure." (Merton, 1949: 370)

3.3 Matriarchal Society

In short, a society is a system of interrelationship that connects one being to another in one common culture. And matriarchy is a system which female was the one who took the main part in the society. Therefore, matriarchal society can be said

as a system of interrelationship where the women took the biggest role in every aspect in the society.

3.5 Intrinsic Elements

3.5.1 Characters

Characters can be said as the person that is act as the speaker or a support in the story. There are two kinds of characters and those are static and dynamic characters. According to Morner and Rausch, static character is always consistent and only has a little change throughout the story. Meanwhile, dynamic character is a character that constantly changes the personality throughout the story. The character will usually grow alongside with the story (Morner and Rausch, 1991: 23). Other characters' acts can lead to changes in other characters' personality and actions.

3.5.2 Setting

It is can be said that setting is a description on where and when the story takes place. Setting can give certain idea on the reader about the atmosphere in the story. For example, a writer tells a story describes something happened in a Sunday morning. By saying the day and time, the writer hopes that the readers could picture what the atmosphere that a Sunday morning has. Different time and place could also effect on the whole story. Setting is not just information but it is an essential part of a story's mood and emotional impact. Another setting that can also be used to enhance

a story is a social setting. Social setting describes the social condition in the story; it will give an idea on how was the social condition in the story.

“Setting, the location and time of a story, is often listed as one of the fundamental elements of fiction. Sometimes setting is referred to as milieu, to include a context (such as society) beyond the immediate surroundings of the story. In some cases, setting becomes a character itself and can set the tone of a story.” (Rozelle, 2005: 2).

3.5.3 Conflict

Conflict can be concluded as an element in literature which becomes the main point of the plot. Conflict involves a struggle between two opposing forces usually a protagonist and an antagonist. A conflict usually will begin around in the middle of the story where there are obstacles and problems facing the characters. How the characters end up from the conflict will result a climax.

“The conflict may come from something external, like a dragon or an overbearing mother, or it may stem from an internal issue, such as jealousy, loss of identity, or overconfidence.” (Risdiyanto, 2015: 11)

3.6 Extrinsic Element

3.6.1 Cultural Feminism

Cultural Feminism can be said as a development from Radical Feminism. It is still referring to the essence of a woman, or a “female nature”. Cultural Feminism theory in this paper will be based on the work of Carol Gilligan. The theory says that women have certain pattern of ethical development and shows that women bring different values to it. According to Gilligan, women’s morality is shaped by an “ethic

of care” which is different from traditional and patriarch principles of justice and rights. Cultural feminism has this believe that equity is more important than equality. In this theory it is also believed that there are differences between men and women on how each reacts or responds on something. It is said that women are more gentle and “good”. As quoted below:

“...and men which I describe center on a tendency for women and men to make different relational errors-for men to think that if they know themselves, following Socrates' dictum, they will also know women, and for women to think that if only they know others, they will come to know themselves” (Gilligan, 1982: xx)

These traits, based on the theory can be biologically determined, or was taught to them by society, or a combination of both. Cultural feminists believe that because of these differences, if women ruled the world there would be no more war and it would be a better place. This view has the aims to unite all women of all ethnicity, race, class or age. This brings an understanding that women’s differences are special and should be celebrated.

4. Discussion

4.1. Intrinsic Elements

4.1.1 Characters

4.1.1.1. Vandyk Jennings (Van)

He is one of the travelers in the group; he also is the narrator in this book. He claims himself as the most intellectual among the other two men. He has the most

rational thoughts and he is open minded, being surrounded by women who do not have the most traditional thoughts and standards of women in patriarchal society in which he has lived for years. His open mindedness probably because of his interest in sociology as it is said in the book. "As for me, sociology's my major. You have to back that up with a lot of other sciences, of course. I'm interested in them all." (Gilman, 1998: 2). He then falls in love with Ellador and can be said they have a rather equal and respectful relationship. Van can also be categorized as a dynamic character.

4.1.1.2 Jeff Margrave (Jeff)

Jeff is a doctor and a botanist among the three and he is a gentleman. He later falls in love with Celis and eventually married her and becomes a father of her child. He is sweet but he still has his own idealism as a man seeing a woman. He is also smart and has a strong passion in botanical science. "Jeff was born to be a poet, a botanist--or both--but his folks persuaded him to be a doctor instead. He was a good one, for his age, but his real interest was in what he loved to call "the wonders of science." (Gilman, 1998: 1)

4.1.1.3 Terry Nicholson (Terry)

Terry can be said as the "womanizer" in the group. "And Terry, in his secret heart, had visions of a sort of sublimated summer resort--just Girls and Girls and Girls--and that he was going to be--well, Terry was popular among women..."

(Gillman, 1998: 6). He has the most traditional beliefs about women in the group. He believes that women like to be dominated and told what to do. He is a little bit cocky and likes to make rush decisions which lead him and the team to unfortunate situations. He later falls in love with Alima and try to dominate the relationship but fails to do the attempt.

4.1.1.4 Ellador

Ellador can be said as the smartest and have a huge amount of curiosity between the other Herlandians. She later went to the outside world with the three men as the representative of Herland, and also to learn about men dominated world. The other reason she goes outside Herland is because she is having a relationship with Van.

4.1.1.5 Celis

Celis is kind and the most neutral minded towards the three men. She later has a baby with Jeff. Even though she feels like Jeff keep treating her as if she is the weaker sex, she still trying to keep each other's feelings in the best state of feelings.

4.1.1.6 Alima

She is strong, and has a very strong defense of herself and her choices. After living on her own for years without men in her life, she has to come face to face with a misogynist. She does not like the idea of being submissive and to follow her husband because she believed that she has a control of her own body and opinion. She

is strong enough to defend herself and refuses to be dominated by her later lover Terry which resulting a terrible break up. “There was a trial before the local Over Mother, and this woman, who did not enjoy being mastered, stated her case” (Gilman, 1998: 113). The quotation is referring to Alima, and at the end of her love story with Terry, she decided to report Terry’s unacceptable behavior to one of the chiefs in the land.

4.1.1.7 Somel

Somel is one of the tutors in the land. She is patient enough to keep up with of Van’s questions about the land. She is older than most women in the land; that is why she brings such a calm and graceful sense in her presence. She also has a broad knowledge and deep understanding about the land. As quoted below:

“Her look was clear and truthful and she did not advance this astonishing statement as if it was astonishing, but quite as a matter of fact.” (Gilman, 1998: 39)

It shows how calm Somel is; even when she was explaining about some facts that are peculiar to the three men, she did not show excessive reaction on how the three men react on her statements. Even though she has a high intelligence, she is still willing to learn something new.

4.1.2 Setting

The setting takes place in a forest probably in the southern part of America where Amazon is. Herland is mostly a forest full of beautifully tended trees with strong residential and public buildings.

“I was astonished myself. You see, I come from California, and there's no country lovelier, but when it comes to towns--! I have often groaned at home to see the offensive mess man made in the face of nature, even though I'm no art sharp, like Jeff. But this place! It was built mostly of a sort of dull rose-colored stone, with here and there some clear white houses; and it lay abroad among the green groves and gardens like a broken rosary of pink coral.” (Gilman, 1998: 16)

From the line above, it points out where the story takes place. The condition of the land and the landscape surrounding the land are described as something even better than California.

It is also stated that Herland has matriarchal society as its social system. This points out as the social setting in the country.

““You're all off, boys," I insisted. "If there is such a place--and there does seem some foundation for believing it--you'll find it's built on a sort of matriarchal principle, that's all..."” (Gilman, 1998: 7)

In another line, there is also another sign that this land only inhabited by only women. Upon the arrival of the three male characters, they observed the place and there were only women and children living in that land. ““Only women there--and children," Jeff urged excitedly.” (Gilman, 1998: 10)

“And everywhere, open country, village, or city--only women. Old women and young women and a great majority who seemed neither young nor old,

but just women; young girls, also, though these, and the children, seeming to be in groups by themselves generally, were less in evidence.” (Gilman, 1998: 37)

Both of those quotations highlight the social setting in the land. There were only women of all ages in the land, although children were a little bit less in sight compared to the adults.

4.1.3 Conflict

The conflict in this novel is mostly external conflict between the three men characters with the inhabitants of Herland. The social difference, physical differences and manners are usually the main reason of the conflict.

““I never fought with women in my life," said Terry, greatly perturbed, "but I'm not going in there. I'm not going to be-herded in--as if we were in a cattle chute.””

"We can't fight them, of course," Jeff urged. "They're all women, in spite of their nondescript clothes; nice women, too; good strong sensible faces. I guess we'll have to go in. "We may never get out, if we do," I told them.”(Gilman, 1998: 19)

The quotations are from the moment of the men’s first arrival and when they first met three of the Herlandians. The women want to take them as custody until they knew what to do with them, but the three men are planning an escape.

“...Terry soon found that it was useless, tore himself loose for a moment, pulled his revolver, and fired upward. As they caught at it, he fired again—we heard a cry--. Instantly each of us was seized by five women, each holding arm or leg or head; we were lifted like children, straddling helpless children, and borne onward, wriggling indeed, but most ineffectually.” (Gillman, 1998: 20)

The conflict between the three explorers and Herlandians is because the explorers refuse to be taken as custody. This results men's primal instinct to defend themselves in violent way. But, different from women in patriarchal society, these strong women succeed to take down those three men.

4.2. Extrinsic Element

4.2.1 Social Structure of Matriarchal Society in Charlotte Gilman's *Herland*

4.2.1.1 A Sign of Work Division in Landscape Management

The buildings, trees, roads, and everything else are tidy and beautifully arranged in some ways. From the very first time the three men arrived in the island, they notice that the place is strange, yet it is impressive as they walk on. Some of the most common cases, women are attracted to something that is tidy, clean, and beautiful to see. So, from this line, the writer can assume that this is a part of women's way to rule country.

“...I never saw a forest so petted, even in Germany. Look, there's not a dead bough--the vines are trained--actually! And see here"--he stopped and looked about him, calling Jeff's attention to the kinds of trees.” (Gilman 1998: 11)

“...But this place! It was built mostly of a sort of dull rose-colored stone, with here and there some clear white houses; and it lay abroad among the green groves and gardens like a broken rosary of pink coral.” (Gilman 1998:16)

It can be seen from the lines above that the place is arranged in certain ways and it is beautiful and tidy. From this the writer has taken this as a sign of civilized activity. If the surrounding is already structured and arranged in a very beautiful way, it means the inhabitants also have certain social structure. From this line too, it can be seen that

in this society, there possibly some job divisions, so each residents have their own part to do something that help to maintain and develop the society and their living space. The most possible work division from this line is a gardener or a landscape planner. Some of the characters who are possibly have the responsible in managing and controlling this division are Celis, Ellador and Alima. They were therearound the bushes and trees when the men arrived, and it was during a busy time when they were supposed to be working.

““Gee! Look, boys!" We rushed close in and looked up. There among the boughs..."Girls!" whispered Jeff, under his breath, as if they might fly if he spoke aloud..." (Gilman, 1998: 12-13)

From the line above, Jeff and the other boys were referring to Celis, Alima, and Elador who were around the trees and shocked by their movements.

4.2.1.2 Possibility A Work Division as A Mentor or Tutor

“Never, anywhere before, had I seen women of precisely this quality. Fishwives and market women might show similar strength, but it was coarse and heavy. These were merely athletic--light and powerful. College professors, teachers, writers--many women showed similar intelligence..." (Gilman 1998: 19)

From this line, there are schools in this society, possibly basic to advanced education departments. The male characters compared these women to have similar intellect to college professors; it's very possible to have an advanced education in this land. This is also a sign of work divisions in the society. In this case, one of the divisions is a teacher or a mentor ora tutor.“The book we had to study was evidently a schoolbook, one in which children learned to read..." (Gilman, 1998: 24). The existence of a

schoolbook also shows that there were schools in the land. The three men were held as hostages and had to learn about the land before the Herlandians could decide when to release them; hence the three men had the schoolbook. One of the characters who is clearly a tutor is Somel.

“Our special tutors rose rapidly in our esteem. They seemed of rather finer quality than the guards, though all were on terms of easy friendliness. Mine was named Somel...” (Gilman, 1998: 29)

Somel was also the closest tutor to Van because she was chosen to teach him about the land’s language, culture, and history. It adds an evidence that Somel has the experience to teach and work in this division.

4.2.1.3 A Sign of Solidity in the Society

“The solidity of those women was something amazing...” (Gilman 1998:20)

It refers to the whole women population in Herland and it is stated that these Herlandians have the solidity of a family. Until the end of the book, with the narrator’s view, he describes how the women of Herland see the male beings. The women do not need masculinity or whatnot. The women only wanted to learn. Their sisterhood and family-like social structure are valuable for their lives. It makes them think that it is enough and ideal. Since they have lived hundreds of years without men, and now these women are related to one another. They were born from the same ancestors, with the same blood streaming through their veins; they build this strong sisterhood sense in one another which is proven to be successful in developing and ruling a country.

4.2.1.4 A sign of leadership

It is already asserted from the point above that this society has a sisterhood, family-like system with work divisions. Despite it is having a sisterhood system, the social structure still has leader to lead the group. “The leader gave some word of command and beckoned us on, and the surrounding mass moved a step nearer.” (Gilman, 1998: 19). From this line, it is stated that there is a leader in the society, probably the wisest one. Solid and discipline yet they are nurturing and gentle. Some of the characters mentioned in the novel who have the possibility to have a high position in the land are “Over Mothers” and “Land Mother”. These leaders do not appear in the novel as much as the characters that the writer has mentioned before.

“She interpolated here that the nearest approach to an aristocracy they had was to come of a line of "Over Mothers"-those who had been so honored.”(Gilman, 1998: 59)

Different from patriarchal social system, based on the writer’s opinion this society sees the leader as a mother figure or someone they can respect and look up to. The quotation above could be the example on how the Herlandians call their chief. The word “mother” is very important to them.

“...Such as our present Land Mother--what you call president or king, I believe. She was called Mera, even as a child; that means `thinker.' Later there was added Du--Du-Mera --the wise thinker, and now we all know her as O-du-mera-great and wise thinker.” (Gilman, 1998: 64)

Because of their history of working together rebuilding a nation, the writer assumed that this leader figure has an authority but not to “boss” around. The leader acts as a

guide rather than a boss. Notice how the Herlandians call their leader as someone who is “wise”. This is one of the most distinctive features that can be pointed as “unique” from patriarchal society. Most leaders in patriarchal society have the tendency to dominate, and in choosing the leader, they must have some political power.

4.2.2 Influence That the Male Characters Bring in Charlotte Gilman’s *Herland*

From the previous discussion, the writer has already stated about how the Herlandians see the male beings and their point of view. Yet, the writer has not elaborated the influences the male characters bring towards Herland. It has to be confessed, though, that in this book, the ones who give more influence are the women characters. But there are some aspects the men has influenced from living in such a long time in the world of patriarchy and now in a female dominant country. From what the writer has analyzed, the main thing that has the biggest influence is the three men’s knowledge. There is one chapter from the book which compares two different countries with two different customs, ways of life and of course the social system. From the book it is also stated what exactly the women need from the men.

“She announced smoothly and evenly: "Not in the least. I thought it was quite plain. We are trying to learn of you all we can, and to teach you what you are willing to learn of our country."” (Gilman, 1998: 56)

It can be seen from the quotation above, Moadine, one of the female characters who is one of the older women, stated that the women need to learn. Having men in their

country after hundreds of years without them is uncommon and different. It is strange for them, but it is also interesting. That is why education will probably be beneficial.

From one of the conversations when the male characters and some of the women characters were having a discussion, it can be stated that the women did not argue with the men characters.

“They never disputed our absolute statements, only made notes of them” (Gilman, 1998: 66)

From the line above, it is shown that the women were truly wanted to learn something from what the male characters have brought with them to Herland. Therefore, the influence that the male brings to Herland is everything that has the relation to education and knowledge. Even though at the end of the book, Celis, Ellador and Alima ended up to have a relationship with each of the three men, it is still the same as it is at the beginning. The only major influence is education, with having men around; it somehow stimulates them to be more curious about the outside world.

There is something for sure that the writer has taken from this book:

“But to these women, in the unbroken sweep of this two thousand-year-old feminine civilization, the word WOMAN called up all that big background, so far as they had gone in social development; and the word MAN meant to them only MALE--the sex.” (Gilman, 1998: 117)

From not knowing about how does it feel to live in a world that is ruled by men, the women of Herland can still survive and live their life just fine. Because they never really have been introduced to men and how men rule a country, they see men just the

same as other people. Men are not superior to them; the women just want an exchange of knowledge and wanted their thirst of knowledge to be fulfilled.

5. Conclusion

From this analysis, the writer can conclude that the social structure in the novel is somewhat efficient in the story's setting and circumstances. By building a family-like social structure in a matriarchal society is actually practical and effective. Even though it has a leader in it, there are also divisions of work so everyone is in the same position. They work and taste their own fruits together. In a patriarchal society, people are mostly competing for their own needs, for their own benefit, and their own interest. It's a different situation in Herland because everyone there is actually caring about each other's needs. Nobody is greater than the other and no one is more important than the other. Everybody is putting the community's needs first. They work together and creating something that can be shared to the whole community. They share the reward so everyone can feel and taste it together. In other words, the solidarity of these women is incredible and in the writer's opinion, this should be something that women take as an example. Other thing the writer can conclude is these women did not need masculinity as in the breeding sense. These women has lived for hundreds years, being very independent without men and still surviving. These women are stronger than they used to be, they just wanted to learn something new. Their thirst of knowledge is what they need to be fulfilled by these men in the book. The writer can also sense a critique in modern patriarchy from this book. The society in general has certain views towards women and those views are depicted in some of the male characters in this book. There is also a lesson the writer can take

from this book. Women should stand together, not compete. Women have to support each other against violence, injustice, and stand together to fight the most common concept of patriarchal society that women's main achievement is being a wife and are not capable to achieve something bigger than that.

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