ANALYSIS OF FORMS OF PREJUDICE AND REPRESENTATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION WITHIN THE FAMILY IN THE MEMOIR FALLING LEAVES: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED CHINESE DAUGHTER BY ADELINE YEN MAH

THESIS

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG 2025

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THESIS

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I state that the thesis entitled "Analysis of forms of Prejudice and Representations of Discrimination within the Family in the Memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

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MOTTO

"So, indeed, with hardship comes ease"

(QS. Asy-Syarh [94]:5)

"Allah does not burden a person beyond

his capacity"

(Al-Baqarah [2]:286)

"Semua jatuh bangunmu hal yang biasa, angan dan pertanyaan waktu yang menjawabnya, berikan tenggat waktu bersedihlah secukupnya, rayakan perasaan mu, sebagai manusia"

(Baskara Putra – Hindia)

DEDICATION

I am proudly dedicating this thesis to my beloved parents, Sutikno and Tea Sri Handayani, who have contributed greatly to the completion of my thesis, as well as always providing support in every step of my journey during college. For all your efforts and sacrifices, may Allah reward you with abundant blessings and happiness.

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multiplied many times over, even millions of times more than the happiness and blessings you have given me. Because you have never lived for yourselves, but always for me. Thank you for your invaluable prayers, love, and moral and material support that you have always given me. Thank you for your never-ending love and sacrifice. May Allah ease every step I take to fulfill my mother and father's wishes, so that this research can repay all of my mother and father's hard work for me. And may my mother and father always be given health, happiness, and long life by Allah SWT. *Aamiin*.

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May Allah SWT reward the kindness of all those who have helped me in writing, compiling, and presenting this thesis well. I realize that this thesis is still far from perfect, therefore constructive criticism and suggestions are very much expected for the improvement of writing in the future. I hope this thesis can provide benefits and can be a good deed for all those who have provided assistance.

ABSTRACT

Sabila, Althea Nur (2025) Analysis of forms of Prejudice and Representations of Discrimination within the Family in the Memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Ahmad Ghozi, M.A.

Keywords: Prejudice, Discrimination

Prejudice within the family environment is a form of prejudice that has a direct impact on the emergence of actual discrimination. This event is represented in the memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah, which tells the story of the main character, Adeline, who was neglected, treated unequally, and ignored by her family. This study aims to identify and analyze the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family, as well as analyze how prejudice can develop into actual discrimination within the family environment. This study uses the literary criticism method with a sociological approach. In addition, this study uses the theory of prejudice proposed by Gordon Allport (1954), specifically the forms of antilocution and avoidance to identify prejudice, as well as to analyze how prejudice is realized as discrimination in Adeline's life. The research data was obtained from relevant narrative and dialogue quotations in the memoir *Falling Leaves* and analyzed qualitatively. The results of the study show that the prejudice experienced by Adeline appears in the form of derogatory remarks, neglect, and avoidance by her family. This prejudice then developed into actual discrimination, such as neglecting her academic achievements, neglecting her when she was sick, rejecting her and threatening to expel her, to the point of isolating her and restricting her interactions within the family. This study concluded that repeated prejudice served as a justification for discriminatory actions, thereby reinforcing Adeline's position as an unwanted child in her family.

ABSTRAK

Sabila, Althea Nur (2025) Analysis of forms of Prejudice and Representations of Discrimination within the Family in the Memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Ahmad Ghozi, M.A.

Kata kunci: Prasangka, Diskriminasi

Prasangka dalam lingkungan keluarga merupakan salah satu bentuk prasangka yang berdampak langsung terhadap munculnya tindakan diskriminasi nyata. Peristiwa ini direpresentasikan dalam memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter karya Adeline Yen Mah yang mengisahkan tentang pengalaman tokoh utama yaitu Adeline, yang mendapatkan perlakuan pengabaian, perlakuan tidak setara, dan pengabaian dari keluarganya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis bentuk-bentuk prasangka yang dialami oleh Adeline dalam keluarganya, serta menganalisis bagaimana prasangka dapat berkembang menjadi tindakan diskriminasi nyata dalam lingkungan keluarga. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode literary criticism dengan pendekatan sosiologi. Selain itu, penelitian ini menggunakan teori prejudice yang dikemukakakan oleh Gordon Allport (1954), khususnya bentuk antilocution dan avoidance untuk mengidentifikasi prasangka, serta untuk menganalisis bagaimana prasangka terealisasi menjadi diskriminasi dalam kehidupan Adeline. Data penelitian diperoleh dari kutipan-kutipan narasi dan dialog yang relevan dalam memoir Falling Leaves serta dianalisis secara kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian memperlihatkan bahwa prasangka yang dialami Adeline tampak dalam bentuk ucapanucapan merendahkan, pengabaian, dan penghindaran yang dilakukan oleh keluarganya. Bentuk prasangka ini kemudian berkembang menjadi diskriminasi nyata, seperti pengabaian terhadap prestasi akademik, pengabaian ketika Adeline sakit, penolakan dan ancaman pengusiran, hingga pengasingan dan pembatasan interaksi dalam keluarga. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa prasangka yang terjadi secara berulang berfungsi sebagai legalitas bagi tindakan diskriminasi, sehingga memperkuat posisi Adeline sebagai anak yang tidak diinginkan dalam keluarganya.

الملخص

سابيلا، ألتيا نور (2025) تحليل أشكال التحيز وتصورات التمييز داخل الأسرة في مذكرات أوراق متساقطة: القصة الحقيقية لابنة صينية غير مرغوب فيها للكاتبة أديلين بن ماه. الرسالة جامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، بجامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرف: الدكتور أحمد غوزي، ماجستير.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التحيز، التمييز

التحيز داخل البيئة الأسرية هو شكل من أشكال التحيز الذي له تأثير مباشر على ظهور التمييز الفعلي. يصف هذا الحدث في مذكرات أوراق متساقطة: القصة الحقيقية لابنة صينية غير مرغوب فيها للكاتبة أديلين بن ماه، التي تحكي قصة الشخصية الرئيسية، أديلين، التي تعاني من الإهمال والمعاملة غير المتكافئة والهجر من قبل عائلتها. تحدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد وتحليل أشكال التحيز التي عانت منها أدلين في أسرتها، وكذلك تحليل كيفية تطور التحيز إلى تمييز فعلي داخل البيئة الأسرية. تستخدم هذه الدراسة نظرية التحيز التي اقترحها جوردون ألبرت (1954)، وتحديداً أشكال التحيز اللفظي والتجنب لتحديد التحيز، وكذلك لتحليل كيفية تحول التحيز إلى تمييز في حياة أدلين. تم الحصول على بيانات البحث من الاقتباسات السردية والحوارات ذات الصلة في مذكرات أوراق متساقطة وتم تحليلها بشكل نوعي. تظهر نتائج الدراسة أن التحيز الذي تعرضت له أديلين تجلى ويشكل تعليقات مهينة وإهمال وتجنب من قبل عائلتها. ثم تطور هذا التحيز إلى تمييز فعلي، مثل إهمال إنجازاتها الأكاديمية، وإهمالها عندما مرضت، ووفضها والتهديد بطردها، إلى درجة عزلها وتقييد تفاعلها داخل الأسرة. تخلص هذه الدراسة إلى أن التحيز المتكرر كان بمثابة مبرر للأفعال التمييزية، مما عزز مكانة أديلين كطفلة غير مرغوب فيها في أسرتها.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STAT	EMENT OF AUTHORSHIP	i
APPR	OVAL SHEET	ii
LEGI	TIMATION SHEET	iii
MOT	ГО	iv
DEDI	CATION	V
ACKN	NOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
ABST	TRACT	ix
ABST	`RAK	X
لملخص	N	xi
TABL	E OF CONTENTS	xii
CHAF	PTER I INTRODUCTION	1
A.	Background of the Study	1
В.	Problems of the Study	10
C.	Significance of the Study	10
D.	Scope and Limitation	11
E.	The Definition of Key Terms	12
CHAPTER II		13
LITERATURE REVIEW		13
A.	Sociological Approach	13
B.	Prejudice Theory	14
1.	Antilocution	15
2.	Avoidance	16
3.	Discrimination	17
4.	Physical Attack	17
5.	Extermination	18
СНАЕ	PTER III	21
RESE	ARCH METHOD	21
A.	Research Design	21
B.	Data Source	22
C.	Data Collection	23
D.	Data Analysis	23
СНАЕ	PTER IV	24
FIND	INGS AND DISCUSSION	24

CHAPTER V		45	
CON	CLUSION AND SUGGESTION	45	
A.	Conclusion	45	
В.	Suggestion	46	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		48	
CURRICULUM VITAF		52	

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter begins with an introduction that explains the basics of the research conducted. This chapter consists of six important points that will be discussed in depth. The first point is the background of the study, the problem of the study, scope and limitations, significance of the study, the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Prejudice is a negative attitude toward a person or group that is not based on facts. The term prejudice is often used to describe a tendency to think negatively about others based solely on pre-existing stereotypes. Prejudice is often influenced by deeply rooted views in society, which can result in individuals or groups becoming targets of prejudice, being ostracized, or treated unfairly (Murdianto, 2018). c However, another opinion states that prejudice is not always negative, but rather is interpreted neutrally as an assessment of a person without being based on appropriate information (Truna & Zakaria., 2021). When prejudice is allowed to occur repeatedly, it cannot be stopped as merely a negative attitude, but can develop into actual discrimination that can have a negative impact on individuals or groups. Discrimination in a moral context is considered an unfair act because it harms or restricts certain groups, while discrimination in a non-moral sense is a form of differentiation that is not necessarily wrong (Hellman, 2017). Racial relations also show interactions between ethnic or racial groups, where racism and discrimination impact groups that are targeted by unfair treatment (Ghozi, 2008). Discrimination

is the differential treatment of a person based on gender, age, religion, ethnicity, or other characteristics. Discrimination also often occurs in gender roles, especially in terms of differential treatment (Alfarina, 2022).

Adeline Yen Mah in her memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter, which recounts her life experiences filled with much suffering and struggle. As the youngest child in a traditional Chinese family in the 1920s, her birth was considered a disaster as her mother died after giving birth to her. In her family's view, Adeline was considered the child who caused her mother's death, making her an unlucky child who was showered with insults, neglect, and mistreatment from her father, stepmother, and siblings (Wumu, 2019).

Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter, published in 1997, represents Adeline Yen Mah's life journey as a girl with low status in her family. In the context of a patriarchal culture that prioritizes men, Adeline craves affection and recognition from those who have influence in her family, especially her father. Adeline tries in every way to prove that she can make her father realize her existence. Although Adeline had a grandfather, known as Ye Ye, who always gave her attention and affection, this relationship was still insufficient, as the power and authority in the family rested with her father. Adeline's grandfather, although loving and supportive, cannot change Adeline's low social status (Charuchinda & Mah, 2009). Adeline constantly felt unwanted, so her father's recognition and affection became very important in her life. The injustice and mistreatment Adeline experienced not only revealed prejudice within her family, but also showed how the power dynamics in a patriarchal family shaped a

woman's struggle. Despite the many problems and mistreatment she faced, Adeline did not give up in the face of all the difficulties in order to achieve a better life. Her struggle was not only about surviving mistreatment, but also an effort to prove her courage and determination to fight and persevere in overcoming the various obstacles that came her way (Wumu, 2019).

The prejudice experienced by Adeline in her memoir *Falling Leaves* did not only occur within her family, but also continued when Adeline pursued her education in England. In this context, England often displays negative views towards certain groups based on their origins. For example, in China, people from Henan Province often face regional discrimination, which is portrayed by the media with harmful stereotypes, such as being considered dishonest or having bad character. These stereotypes are similar to phenomena in countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States, where people in certain regions are often treated unfairly based on misperceptions (Kwan, 2024). Although the memoir *Falling Leaves* is set in China, Adeline's experiences of prejudice reveal a universal pattern that is also found in various parts of the world.

Discrimination is the differential treatment of a person based on gender, age, religion, ethnicity, or other characteristics. Discrimination also often occurs in gender roles, especially in terms of differential treatment (Alfarina, 2022). One cause of gender discrimination is the patriarchal system that places men in higher positions, while women often occupy lower positions, which can be seen in various aspects of life, such as education, employment, and several other aspects (Alvira et al., 2021). The subject of this research analysis is Adeline Yen Mah, the main

character in the memoir Falling Leaves, which offers a different perspective on the issue of prejudice. This memoir explores hidden forms of prejudice that occur within the family environment, which is seen as a place to seek comfort and affection, in addition to the prejudice faced by Adeline as a woman living in a patriarchal family environment. Prejudice does not only stop at personal relationships, but spreads into patterns that are inherited and ingrained in the family structure.

The author of Falling Leaves attempts to describe the prejudice faced by the main character in the narrative he writes. Prejudice is a negative attitude directed towards certain individuals or groups. This attitude does not only stop at the level of judgment or opinion, but can also develop into actual discriminatory actions through harmful treatment of the individuals or groups that are the targets (Badriyah, 2021). The issue of prejudice represented in the memoir Falling Leaves shows how Adeline's suffering as the main character in the memoir is not based on political change, but rather on prejudice within her own family environment. Since Adeline was born, she was considered a bringer of bad luck because of her mother's death during childbirth, so Adeline was considered an "unwanted daughter." This identity caused Adeline to be rejected by her stepmother and treated differently by her family. Thus, prejudice became the main source of oppression experienced by Adeline in her family environment and was not due to external political aspects (Tickell, 2018). Based on this, this study aims to identify the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in a cultural context, particularly in relation to family hierarchy, and to analyze how prejudice can develop into actual discriminatory actions.

Based on the concept of prejudice, the researcher wants to analyze the prejudice experienced by Adeline in her memoir entitled Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter. This study will focus on identifying the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline within her family environment, as well as analyzing how prejudice can develop into actual discrimination. This memoir highlights prejudice as negative views or attitudes that arise without fair and appropriate grounds, and are directed at Adeline as a girl who is considered unlucky and unwanted in her family. This prejudice is evident in the constant teasing, avoidance, and neglect that Adeline experiences since childhood. This prejudice then formed an unequal relationship pattern between Adeline and her family members, and complexly influenced Adeline's life journey. As one of the main forms in research, prejudice is not only understood as a stereotype, but also as an emotion or attitude directed at a particular group. From a social science perspective, this attitude is an evaluation of an entire group of individuals as part of a group (Kite & Whitley, 2016). This shows that prejudice has an evaluative space rooted in the way individuals in a social group are viewed and treated.

The researcher intends to examine Adeline's experiences with various forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline within her family environment, as described in the memoir *Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*. This analysis is conducted using prejudice theory to identify the forms of prejudice experienced by the main character, as well as to reveal how these forms of prejudice can develop into actual discriminatory actions that reinforce Adeline's position as

an unwanted child. Prejudice theory examines how a person receives unfair treatment due to certain prejudices and provides a perspective that can be used to analyze in greater depth the social conditions and family dynamics represented in the memoir *Falling Leaves*. By using this method, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family environment and how the prejudices experienced by Adeline in her family can develop into real discrimination, in addition to seeing it as a systematic problem.

The uniqueness of this topic lies in how the prejudice that arises in Adeline's family develops into overt and covert discrimination within family relationships and her internal environment. The memoir *Falling Leaves* discusses the impact of prejudice within the internal space, where Adeline faces rejection, injustice, and neglect from those closest to her. Using this method, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how prejudice can affect Adeline's life, as well as understand how the prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family environment develops into overt discriminatory actions.

This memoir provides a different perspective, namely the life of an unwanted girl who struggles to find her own world. Adeline is not only a victim of prejudice, but also a symbol of strength and struggle to gain recognition from those around her, especially her father and stepmother, and to regain her identity. Adeline's ability to overcome hidden prejudice within her family environment and interactions makes the issues she faces an interesting topic for further study. *Falling Leaves* provides a clearer picture of the impact of prejudice within Adeline's family environment, where demeaning remarks, neglect, and rejection are part of Adeline's

life full of struggles.

Many previous studies have examined the issue of prejudice in literary works, particularly in Adeline Yen Mah's memoir Falling Leaves. Research by (Puspitasari, 2012) entitled Adeline's Motivation to be Accepted and Loved by Her Family as Seen in Her Novel Falling Leaves. In this study, the researcher used a psychological approach to analyze the motivation of the main character, Adeline, to be accepted and loved by her family. Intrinsic and extrinsic motivation theories were applied to analyze Adeline's behavior, which was influenced by internal and external factors. Meanwhile, research by (Charuchinda & Mah, 2009) entitled Multiple Identities of a Chinese Woman Amidst Chinese Patriarchy and Western Colonialism in Adeline Yen Mah's Autobiography Falling Leaves, it highlights the double discrimination experienced by Adeline as a Chinese woman living in the midst of Chinese patriarchal culture and the influence of Western colonialism. The results of this study show that Adeline formed a strong identity to be able to face social pressure and successfully achieve freedom and success as a woman. Historical and cultural perspectives are also described by (Wumu, 2019), in her research entitled The Character of Adeline Yen Mah in the Novel Falling Leaves: A Literary Psychology Approach. In this research, the researcher focuses on aspects of Chinese culture, Hong Kong history, and patriarchal traditions within the family. The study also highlights the influence of the stepmother's authority within Adeline's family structure, as well as how Adeline continued to struggle to overcome the various difficulties she faced in order to achieve success in her education and career.

Issues related to discrimination are also widely studied in a racial context using Gordon Allport's theory of discrimination and prejudice. This theory is applied in analyzing the novel The Help by (Iban et al., 2019) entitled Anti-Racism: A Study of the Main Characters in The Help (2009) Novel by Kathryn Stockett using Gordon Allport's theory of discrimination and prejudice as well as social psychology theory. In addition, there is an analysis of the novel by (Budi et al., 2024) in his research entitled Prejudice Towards African American as Potrayed in Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. This research uses Gordon Allport's theory of prejudice to analyze the forms of prejudice experienced by black characters, such as antilocution, discrimination, and physical attacks. The same research was also conducted by (Irvani & Zamruddin, 2024) entitled Prejudice to The Inferior Races in Heart of Darkness Novella by Joseph Conrad used a similar approach, namely Gordon Allport's theory of prejudice and Rimmon-Kenan's narrative theory, to analyze the form of racial prejudice in the character of Marlow. The results of this study show that prejudice in the novella is represented through derogatory terms and discriminatory treatment of black people. Research conducted by (Syamsudin et al., 2023) entitled Prejudice Towards African-American in Small Great Things Novel dan (Fajriati et al., 2022), yang berjudul The Potrayal of Rejective Behaviors Towards African-American People in Langston Hughes Not Without Laughter Novel also analyzes the responses of black characters represented in the novel to discriminatory treatment, whether by withdrawing, resisting, or showing concern.

In addition, Gordon Allport's theory of discrimination and personality is

also used in analyzing the main characters in literary works. This can be seen in research conducted by (Datunsolang et al., 2023) entitled Analysis of the Main Character's Personality in the Novel Romance Under the Sky by Ervina Dyah Pratiningrum Based on Gordon Willard Allport's Personality Theory. Researchers examined the personality of the main character in the novel Romansa di Bawah Langit using a literary psychology approach, specifically Allport's personality theory, to observe the psychological stability, social relationships, and philosophy of life of the main character. As well as research by (Indriana et al., 2022) entitled Character Analysis of the Main Character in Nawal El Saadawi's Novel The Death of a Former Minister According to Gordon Allport's Theory using Gordon Allport's personality theory to describe changes in the main character's traits and attitudes in the novel, which are influenced by his environment.

This study identifies a research gap in the application of prejudice theory to analyze prejudice within families, particularly in Adeline's family, which is influenced by Chinese culture. Most previous studies have focused on other aspects, such as personal motivation, identity in the context of patriarchy and colonialism, racial discrimination, and the impact of patriarchal traditions within families. However, no previous research has specifically analyzed prejudice within families as experienced by Adeline, who was subjected to derogatory remarks, injustice, and neglect within her family. This research will analyze the prejudice within the family experienced by Adeline as a woman who faced injustice and alienation within her family. This research will not only analyze the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline, but will also analyze how these forms of prejudice can develop into acts

of discrimination.

This topic is particularly relevant as discrimination within the family environment is often overlooked and taken for granted, which can undermine a person's confidence and affect social relationships. Discrimination received from loved ones, where they should provide support and protection, can exacerbate feelings that impact mental health.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the research background above, there are two questions that researchers want to answer in this study:

- 1. What forms of prejudice does Adeline experience in her family?
- 2. How does prejudice in the family lead to discrimination against Adeline?

C. Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the various forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family environment as described in the memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter, as well as to analyze the representation of prejudice that developed into actual discrimination against Adeline from her family environment. This research is expected to contribute to the field of literary criticism on prejudice, especially in relation to Adeline, the main character, and her experiences with her family and Chinese culture. This research will analyze in depth several forms of prejudice, neglect, and discriminatory treatment that can impact an individual's psychological growth through the use of prejudice theory. It is hoped that this research will advance the field of literary studies on prejudice, particularly in the area of family dynamics and

cultural identity.

The results of this research are expected to be useful for readers, especially those who study modern literature. Readers can gain a deeper understanding of the search for identity by studying the memoir *Falling Leaves*. In addition, the researcher believes that this research will make readers more aware of the issue of prejudice and help them in the future when assessing literary works related to the topic of prejudice.

D. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the prejudice experienced by the main character, Adeline Yen Mah, in her memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter. This study identifies the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline and analyzes the representation of prejudice that developed into actual discrimination within her family environment, especially from those closest to Adeline. Using prejudice theory, this research will identify the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline and analyze their impact on her identity and emotional growth. This research will only focus on prejudice within the family environment, based on Adeline's experiences as described in the memoir Falling Leaves. This research will not include analysis based on other theories, such as feminist or psychological theories that could provide different perspectives. Although these two theories can be used by other researchers to analyze and gain a broader understanding, this research is limited to the approach of prejudice in the family context. In addition, other researchers can continue this analysis using other perspectives, such as the impact of historical or cultural aspects that influence

Adeline's experience of prejudice, which can be studied in more detail in other research.

E. The Definition of Key Terms

1. Prejudice

Prejudice is a negative attitude toward a group that is maintained because it provides satisfaction or psychological benefits to the individual or group holding the prejudice (Allport, 1954).

2. Discrimination

Perlakuan yang berbeda atau tidak adil terhadap seseorang berdasarkan dengan beberapa aspek tertentu, seperti gender, agama, ataupun ras (Lang & Spitzer, 2020).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses the literature and theories related to the research. The discussion will focus on the literary approach and theories that will be applied in the research to analyze the prejudice experienced by the main character in *Falling Leaves*. The discussion in this chapter will focus more on the sociological approach and theories of prejudice.

A. Sociological Approach

The sociological approach to literature emphasizes literature as an inseparable part of the social context in which it is embedded (Jadhav, 2014). The authors of literary sociology have well explained that the task of a sociologist is to relate the experiences of the author's imaginary characters and situations to the historical climate in which they originated. He must transform the personal equations of theme and style into social equations (Lauren & Swingewood, 1972). It can be concluded that the sociology of literature plays an important role in connecting the experiences of characters in literary works with the social and historical context in which they live.

Sociology in literature emphasizes that literary works are not only used as a form of aesthetic expression, but also as a picture of social reality that includes human life. Just as sociology examines social behavior, literary works also describe the experiences of individuals in a group, showing the social structure, inequality, and conflicts that occur (Wahyudi, 2013). Although this study did not use a sociological approach directly in the research process, understanding the social and

cultural context remains important to provide a background that strengthens research on prejudice. Therefore, a sociological approach was used in this study as a basis for understanding how the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline were closely related to the social and cultural conditions surrounding her, especially in the context of her family.

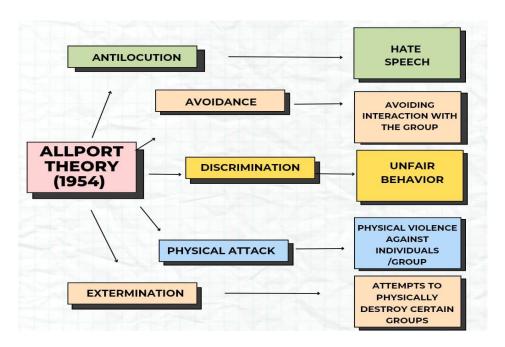
The sociological approach helps researchers understand that the prejudice experienced by Adeline in *Falling Leaves* does not occur in a vacuum, but is shaped by the patriarchal family system and Chinese cultural values. Through this approach, the sociological approach is not intended as the primary method in research, but rather as a conceptual framework that supports understanding of the social and cultural conditions surrounding the narrative of prejudice.

B. Prejudice Theory

The theory of prejudice developed by Gordon Allport has become an important reference in research related to prejudice (Allport, 1954). Allport (1954) explains that the phrase "thinking ill of others" indicates a deeper prejudice, namely feelings of ridicule, dislike, fear, and rejection that often lead to hostile behavior, such as speaking ill of others, discriminating against them, or even attacking them with violence (Allport, 1954). This shows that prejudice is not limited to thoughts and feelings, but can also create injustice in social life.

As a rule, prejudice has a more direct and serious social impact than negative preconceptions. What Allport (1954) explains, any negative attitude, though often invisible or hidden, will eventually express itself in the form of action. Not many people can completely keep their antipathy to themselves. The deeper the attitude,

the more it will develop into more overt acts of hostility. In this context, different levels of negative actions can be distinguished, ranging from non-energized actions to the most energized ones, which can eventually lead to stronger prejudice (Allport, 1954). This theory of prejudice is the foundation for better relationships between different groups or individuals, and is used to create peace in a group that is in conflict. Allport identified five levels of prejudice, including:



Source: refers to Allport, Gordon W. The Nature of Prejudice. MA: Addison-Wesley, 1954, p. 14-15.

1. Antilocution

It is the mildest form of prejudice in Gordon Allport's (1954) theory of prejudice. Where this form of discrimination often speaks ill of the disfavored group, especially to like-minded people. With their like-minded friends, sometimes with strangers, they can express their hostility freely (Allport, 1954). This kind of

prejudice is often considered harmless by the person doing it because they only say the words without any direct action (Allport, 1954).

Based on the quote above, the researcher concludes that negative words or sentences conveyed can trigger hostility or make individuals feel ostracized or disrespected. Behind seemingly harmless remarks lies hidden hostility that insults individuals or racial minorities, proving the inequality of these groups (Rozzan et al., 2021). They feel they have the freedom to be able to express their dislike or hatred for someone without going any further. One of the antilocution behaviors that is often done is mocking or insulting through words. Usually the insults are in the form of calling someone a bad nickname, mocking their appearance, joking about someone's background, or other things that they consider different.

2. Avoidance

At the avoidance level, although tension between the groups clearly exists, individuals who harbor prejudice will indirectly hurt or harm the avoided group. Instead, they choose to maintain physical and emotional distance, without engaging in direct aggressive or hostile actions. This avoidance is a more subtle but still harmful form of prejudice, as it creates deeper separation or distance between groups, as well as exacerbating social distance and reinforcing existing stereotypes. Allport (1954) explains that prejudice does not inflict harm directly on the group it dislikes. He bears the burden of accommodation and withdrawal entirely on himself (Allport, 1954). Avoidance behavior occurs when a person prefers to interact only with members of their own racial group and avoids interacting with other groups (Sari & Wahyuni, 2023).

Based on the quote above, the researcher defines that avoidance is a behavior carried out by someone intentionally to stay away from a group or individual that is not liked. For example, a person prefers not to interact with a group that may have a different background, such as culture. A person who dislikes such differences will tend to avoid activities involving that group. While this may not seem like indirect discrimination, it can have a considerable impact.

3. Discrimination

Based on the book *The Nature of Prejudice*, Allport (1954) explains discrimination as prejudice, which makes an active adverse difference. The person seeks to deprive all members of the group of certain types of employment, such as housing, political rights, educational or recreational opportunities, churches, hospitals, or of some other social privileges. Segregation is an institutionalized form of discrimination, enforced by law or by general custom (Allport, 1954).

A person who commits prejudice by treating an individual or group in an unfair or even harmful way. One form of this is segregation, which is the separation of one group from another. This is called formalized discrimination. According to the researcher, certain individuals or groups are often unable to get the same opportunities as others such as in the aspect of education or suitable employment because they have different and unequal background differences, whether it is from a cultural background, ethnicity, or family background. Such discrimination can create social inequalities that create a sense of injustice in society.

4. Physical Attack

Under heightened emotional conditions, prejudice can lead to violent or

semi-violent acts. As Allport (1954) describes in his book, unwanted Negro families may be forcibly evicted from the neighborhood, or threatened in such a way, that they leave it deeply. Tombstones in Jewish cemeteries can be desecrated. Italian gangs on the Northside may stalk Irish gangs on the Southside (Allport, 1954).

Physical attacks are often an obvious act of prejudice. In other words, physical attacks can be understood as prejudice that arises when emotions are running high, which can lead to violence. According to researchers, violence usually includes unlawful acts, such as violently injuring someone, damaging someone else's property, or making threats against someone or a group. This kind of behavior can cause harm to the victim, not only physically but can also make the victim feel afraid and unsafe.

The researcher assumes that, in addition to direct forms of violence, there are also semi-violent forms that often go unnoticed. This form of semi-violence can include acts such as damaging other people's property, verbal or physical harassment, and entering someone's private area without permission. Even though these acts do not cause direct physical harm, they still have a devastating impact on victims because they create discomfort and undermine their rights. One example given by the researcher is when someone who feels more powerful physically attacks a certain individual or group that is in a weaker position. Such behavior shows that prejudice not only creates harm to certain individuals or groups, but also deepens social inequalities and fosters injustices that undermine social order.

5. Extermination

Allport (1954) argues that extermination is Hitler's hangings, pogroms,

massacres, and genocide programs which are the harshest forms of prejudice expression (Allport, 1954). From this quote, the researcher concludes that extermination can result in the loss of life of a person or group. This kind of action often occurs because of the emergence of a very large sense of hatred towards certain individuals or groups that are considered different because they do not fit the standards that have been determined or regulated by a more powerful group.

In the context of extermination, a group with power tends to use various means to destroy or eliminate a group that is considered weaker and the target of their hatred. One example of extermination is the "ethnic cleansing" that took place in Serbia, where an ethnic group was attacked to be exterminated (Halimatusa'diah, 2017). In the researcher's view, extermination describes the intensity of deep-rooted discrimination, which leads to cruel actions and aims to erase the existence of a group.

This research will analyze using Allport's (1954) five levels of prejudice, namely antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and extermination, to analyze the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family. However, the data in the memoir *Falling Leaves* only shows two levels, namely antilocution and avoidance, which are the most dominant and occur repeatedly, and are in line with the context of this study, which focuses on domestic relationships within the family. Other levels, such as discrimination, do not dominate in the memoir *Falling Leaves*, while physical attack and extermination are not found in the memoir. Nevertheless, all five levels of prejudice will still be mentioned in the findings to provide a comprehensive explanation in accordance with Allport's theory. This

analysis will also examine the forms of prejudice and how they can develop into actual discrimination within Adeline's family environment.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter provides the methodology and the research methods that are applied in this study. The discussion in this chapter covers research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

This research is designed as a literary study that uses the literary criticism method. Literary criticism is a combination of literary criticism, literary theory, and literary history to understand and analyze a literary work. Furthermore, Lois Tyson (2006) explains that literary criticism does not always look for faults in a literary work, but aims to help understand literary works better. This includes explaining how the work was created, what its meaning is, how it is structured, and where its beauty lies. Therefore, literary criticism aims to explain and appreciate literary works, not to negatively judge them (Tyson, 2006).

The choice of literary criticism method is very relevant because it can be used to analyze and explain complex social issues, one of which is gender discrimination in the family experienced by Adeline in the memoir *Falling Leaves*. Through literary criticism, gender discrimination in *Falling Leaves* can be analyzed in greater depth, allowing researchers to interpret the main character's experiences as a reflection of broader social realities.

The selection of this method of literary criticism is highly relevant because it can be used to analyze and explain complex social issues, one of which is the prejudice experienced by Adeline in her memoir Falling Leaves. Through literary criticism, the treatment of prejudice in Falling Leaves can be analyzed in greater depth, allowing researchers to interpret the main character's experiences as a reflection of broader social realities.

This research uses the theory of prejudice presented by Gordon Allport (1954). By applying this theory, researchers can identify the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline and understand the representation of prejudice that develops into actual discrimination within Adeline's family environment. Allport's theory not only examines forms of prejudice such as antilocution and avoidance, but also provides a social analysis structure for understanding the character's experiences. Therefore, the use of literary criticism and Allport's theory of prejudice (1954) provides a strong foundation for analyzing the issue of prejudice in this memoir.

B. Data Source

The data sources in this research include primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the *memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah, published by Penguin Books in 1997. This book consists of 275 pages and is used as the main material because it is authentic data obtained directly from the object of study. This memoir has not been processed or interpreted by other parties, so it is original and representative as the basis for analysis in this study. Meanwhile, secondary data sources include various scientific literature such as academic books, journal articles, theses, dissertations, research reports, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other official documents relevant to the research topic. These sources serve to support,

strengthen, or compare the findings obtained from the primary data.

C. Data Collection

In collecting data, the researcher used various procedures to gather information. To understand the storyline, the researcher first read the memoir Falling Leaves the True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. After that, the researcher read in depth the entire narrative, especially the parts related to the research question. Next, the researcher identified dialogues, narratives, and events in the memoir Falling Leaves that corresponded to the themes of verbal, social, or physical prejudice experienced by the main character. The researcher then used prejudice theory to analyze and deepen understanding and produce findings in line with the objectives of this study.

D. Data Analysis

After the data is collected, the researcher analyzes it through systematic steps that include sorting, categorizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions. Researchers grouped the relevant data and revealed various forms of prejudice experienced by the main character, Adeline. The data was then categorized based on Gordon Allport's theory of prejudice (1954), namely anitlocution and avoidance. Next, the researcher will conduct an in-depth analysis using this theory to identify patterns of prejudice and their impact on the main character. This theory can help answer the questions posed. Finally, the researcher summarizes the findings of the research.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents findings based on data found in the memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter. It aims to answer the questions that have been formulated, so that the findings and discussions related to the forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline, as well as how the representation of prejudice within the family environment developed into actual discrimination against Adeline as described in the memoir Falling Leaves, can be examined. Quotes from the memoir serve as data for research findings.

A. Forms of prejudice experienced by Adeline in her family

Adeline Yen Mah is the main character in the memoir Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter. Adeline is the youngest of five siblings. After her mother died giving birth to her, she was considered a bad luck charm in her family. As a result, she often felt unappreciated and unwanted in her family. Adeline was a very accomplished student at school compared to her four siblings. She was a strong woman who always tried to get attention and regain the love of her parents, especially her father. Even so, Adeline had to face various forms of prejudice that were deeply rooted in her family, which made Adeline's position as one of the daughters often seen as inferior. This memoir describes how prejudice can manifest itself through discriminatory treatment, ranging from belittling attitudes, neglect, to constant rejection that she has experienced since childhood. Adeline's experiences show how prejudice can shape her relationships with those closest to her and deeply influence her life. Among them are the following:

1. Antilocution

Antilocution is the mildest form of prejudice in Gordon Allport's theory of prejudice (1954). This form of prejudice is often expressed through negative remarks or statements about an unpopular group. People who engage in this form of prejudice do not consider it harmful because they only make negative remarks without taking any direct action (Allport, 1954). In the context of the memoir *Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*, this form of prejudice is clearly represented in her family, especially in the treatment of Adeline's stepmother when talking about her.

The stepmother's harsh words are a form of first-level antilocution prejudice in Allport's theory, namely prejudice conveyed through ridicule or verbal abuse.

My apprehension mounted as she glowered at me. A torrent of words escaped her clenched lips. 'Get out!' she screamed. 'Get out of my sight at once!' How dare you open you mouth?' As I hurried out of the door, she added with calculated menace, 'I shall never forget or forgive your insolence! Never! Never! (Mah, 1997, p. 47)

The above quotation shows that prejudice against locution can be seen through repeated and systematic verbal aggression. The sentence "How dare you open your mouth?" clearly shows the stepmother's attempt to silence Adeline and negate Adeline's voice as a victim, while the threat "I shall never forget or forgive" reinforces that prejudice does not stop at a single comment, but appears as part of a pattern of treatment that continuously overshadows Adeline's life. According to Allport (1954), antilocutionary forms are often considered harmless, but they can legitimize hostility and reinforce further discrimination. In the quoted data, Adeline's stepmother tries to use harsh words as a tool to dominate Adeline and belittle her, thereby placing Adeline in an inferior position.

Thus, the stepmother's taunts and threats directed at Adeline show a form of antilocution that continuously demeans Adeline's self-esteem and affirms the rejection of Adeline's existence in the family.

Stepmother's false accusations against Adeline are a first-level antilocution in Allport's theory of prejudice, where prejudice is expressed through insults and accusations without evidence. "Where did this come from?' She asked. 'From whom did you steal this?' No reply. 'Did you sell something you stole from the house?' she asked" (Mah, 1997, p. 65), which shows how prejudice in the form of antilocution is demonstrated through accusations that are not based on evidence. What stands out is the way the stepmother immediately assumes the worst about Adeline, accusing her of being a thief without giving her a chance to explain. The accusations directed at Adeline show that antilocution does not always take the form of ridicule or insults, but can also take the form of biased interrogation that puts pressure on the victim. According to Allport (1954), prejudice at this level not only degrades dignity, but also reinforces negative stereotypes against the victim. The question "Where did this come from?" turns into an accusation that systematically places Adeline in an inferior position in her family.

The stepmother's words, full of insults and ridicule towards Adeline, are a form of first-level antilocution in Allport's theory, namely prejudice conveyed through repeated verbal attacks.

'You're not only a thief and a liar, but manipulate as well. The problem is that you have bad blood from your mother. Nothing will come of you! I don't think you deserve to be housed and fed here. I think you belong in an orphanage!' (Mah, 1997, p. 65)
The data above clearly shows how prejudice in the form of antilocution

Adeline of being a thief, but also insulted Adeline by calling her "bad blood" from her mother. This statement reinforces the effort to undermine Adeline's self-esteem and reject Adeline's existence in the family, even to the point of threatening to send Adeline to an orphanage. Allport (1954) explains that antilocution is often considered trivial, but it can reinforce patterns of discrimination by normalizing insults. In this context, Niang uses harsh words as a tool to suppress and dominate Adeline and reinforce Adeline's position as an unwanted child.

Thus, stepmother's insults reveal a form of antilocution that not only silences Adeline, but also damages her self-esteem and reinforces discrimination within the family environment.

Stepmother's insults are repeated to Adeline and reveal a form of antilocution, namely prejudice reinforced through verbal abuse by means of manipulation.

Liar! You planned it all to show off! I'll teach you to be sneaky! You go downstairs right now and tell those hooligans to leave our house this minute. And tell them never to come again. Never! Never! Never! They are not welcome! (Mah, 1997, p. 69)

The data above shows how stepmother uses derogatory language to pressure Adeline into obeying her orders. Words such as "wild," "sneaky," and "hooligans" not only hurt Adeline's self-esteem, but also create a negative narrative about her self-worth. Allpot (1954) explains that antilocution is not just derogatory speech, but a tool to reinforce social distance and dominance. In this context, stepmother not only hurts Adeline's self-esteem, but also deprives Adeline of the opportunity to form social relationships.

Thus, stepmother's words reveal a form of antilocution that not only puts verbal pressure on Adeline but also isolates her from her social environment.

The derogatory remarks made by her stepmother about Adeline's academic achievements are a form of first-level antilocution in Allport's theory, where ridicule is used in a complex and systematic way to humiliate Adeline.

How dare you! No matter what a big shot you think you are at school, you are nothing without your father. Nothing! Nothing!

Stop contradicting your father! You're getting altogether too conceited! What are you? A princess of some sort that all your classmates should come here to pay you tribute? (Mah, 1997, p. 70)

This excerpt shows how Adeline's stepmother belittled her self-esteem with sarcastic remarks about her academic achievements and insults about her social relationships. The repetition of the word "nothing" reinforced the attempt to dismiss Adeline's accomplishments, making her feel worthless. In addition, Adeline's father's silence indirectly supported this prejudice. According to Allport (1954), antilocution can serve to belittle and limit the victim in ways that not only hurt verbally but also undermine important factors of Adeline's identity, such as self-confidence and academic achievement.

Therefore, stepmother's sarcastic taunts, supported by Adeline's father's attitude, show a form of antilocution that not only verbally demeans Adeline but also destroys her self-confidence and identity.

Edgar's harsh words to Adeline are a form of first-degree antilocution, showing how verbal prejudice is not only carried out by authority figures but also by siblings, "You almost made me fall! You idiot! You're always getting in my way." 'Hey, stupid! Answer me!" (Mah, 1997, p. 72-73), which shows how Edgar uses

his position as Adeline's older brother to dominate her through verbal abuse. Words such as "idiot" and "stupid" reinforce the direct insults that not only demean Adeline personally, but also shape daily interactions that are full of cruelty. Allport (1954) explains that antilocution can arise from various social strata, especially families, and serve as a means of reinforcing the dominant position of the perpetrator. In this case, Adeline not only receives verbal prejudice from her stepmother as the authority in the family, but also from her siblings, thereby deepening Adeline's psychological pressure and sense of alienation within the home.

Thus, Edgar's words emphasize that antilocution in Adeline's family is not limited to parents, but can also emerge from siblings, further filling the home environment with pressure and neglect towards Adeline.

Stepmother's words after Lydia's marriage again show the first level of antilocution in Allport's theory, namely prejudice manifested in verbal abuse by utilizing cultural stereotypes and the threat of family authority.

I'm not going to keep another old maid in my house! What do you expect? We'll certainly send you behind closed doors in a convent if you do not act as you're told. And we'll be good to you if you obey! (Mah, 1997, p. 78)

The above quote shows how Niang not only committed verbal abuse directly, but also used cultural stereotypes to oppress Adeline. The phrase "old maid" describes the social stigma attached to Adeline for not being married, thereby humiliating her and reinforcing her position as inferior. Allport (1954) argues that antilocution does not only appear in the form of ridicule or insults, but can also appear and be used strategically to normalize discrimination. In this case, Adeline's

stepmother combines stereotyping and threats to limit Adeline's autonomy and psychologically pressure her to be obedient and submissive to family rules.

Thus, stepmother's words reveal a form of antilocution that not only verbally insults Adeline, but also puts psychological pressure on her through cultural stereotypes and the threat of family authority.

Adeline's father's words reveal a form of antilocution that is not carried out with a momentary outburst of emotion, but in a systematic way to emphasize Adeline's shortcomings, "Father began a litany of my deficiencies: my small stature and thinness; my poor appetite, no doubt due to secret snacks between meals provided by Aunt Baba; my arrogance and aloofness" (Mah, 1997, p. 84), which shows how Adeline's father spontaneously uttered insults. Negative assessments that included Adeline's physical appearance were systematic and deliberate, as were those made by Edgar and stepmother, which usually took the form of emotional outbursts. Allport (1954) explained that antilocution can take various forms, including seemingly objective but actually prejudiced disparaging assessments. Adeline's father's words had a huge psychological impact on Adeline because they not only destroyed her self-esteem but also instilled in her the belief that she was worthless.

Thus, Adeline's father's words were a form of systematic antilocution, further deepening Adeline's psychological wounds by eroding her self-confidence.

The statement made by Lydia, Adeline's older sister, revealing stepmother's words to Adeline was a form of antilocution, namely verbal abuse that not only hurt Adeline directl but also created a negative stigma that was heard by other family

members, "When you were little, our parents made it clear that you were unwanted and expendable. Sometimes, Niang even said out loud that you were abominable" (Mah, 1997, p. 228), which shows how stepmother openly stated that Adeline was an unwanted child. This statement was made publicly and heard by Lydia, showing that this form of antilocution was not just Adeline's personal experience. According to Allport (1954), antilocution can be used to reinforce collective views that normalize discrimination. Stepmother not only belittled Adeline, but also formed a negative perspective in the minds of other family members, thereby reinforcing Adeline's worthlessness from an early age.

Stepmother's words, which Lydia remembers, prove that antilocution not only hurt Adeline individually, but also created a collective stigma that reinforced discrimination within the family.

Lydia's words about Adeline show antilocution that does not appear in direct insults, but rather through stereotypes and culture to belittle Adeline, "She wants you to confess to the real reasons behind it. It's her Communist training. She likes to hear confessions. They make her feel powerful. In China during the Cultural Revolution, people were confessing all over the place" (Mah, 1997, p. 263), which shows how Lydia exploits political stereotypes. Rather than showing sincere support, the statement "communist training" actually slips in a damning accusation. This form of antilocution differs from verbal abuse because it is carried out subtly through negative political associations, but it still has a detrimental effect on Adeline. Allport (1954) explains that antilocution can be included in indirect stereotypes that serve to normalize discriminatory treatment. In this context, Lydia

reaffirms Adeline's position as an inferior family member who is never fully accepted.

Thus, Lydia's statement shows that antilocution in the memoir *Falling Leaves* does not always appear in the form of harsh words, but can also be conveyed through subtle yet oppressive political stereotypes that are detrimental to Adeline.

2. Avoidance

Avoidance is a form of prejudice at the second level. Avoidance occurs when a person's prejudice becomes so strong that it drives them to avoid members of the group they dislike. At this level, tension between groups is clear, and individuals who hold prejudices or negative attitudes will indirectly hurt or harm members of the avoided group. Avoidance is a more subtle form of prejudice, but it is still harmful because it creates a deeper distance or separation between groups and exacerbates existing social distance and stereotypes. Allport (1954) argues that prejudice does not directly harm the disliked group. It bears the entire social burden by withdrawing and isolating itself from possible relationships. In the memoir *Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah*, exclusion in the form of avoidance is represented, where Adeline, as a child, not only experienced verbal and structural injustice, but was also emotionally neglected and isolated by her family.

The absence of Adeline's father at important moments in her life demonstrates the second level of avoidance in Allport's theory, namely prejudice through neglect.

I remember my pride and triumph as I climbed up the steps, which were so high and steep that I had to go up on my hands and knees,

to receive my award from the French Monseigneur. There was warm applause and delighted laughter from the audience, but no one attended from my family, not even father (Mah, 1997, p. 37)

The data shows how Adeline's academic achievements were not appreciated by her family, not even her father. The phrase "not even father" indicates Adeline's deep disappointment, because she had placed a small amount of hope in her father. According to Allport (1954), avoidance occurs when a person has prejudices and chooses to avoid, either physically or emotionally, causing psychological harm to the victim. Repeated neglect of Adeline created feelings of loneliness and reinforced the idea that she was considered unimportant in her family.

Thus, Adeline's father's absence at important moments in her life is a clear example of avoidance, where prejudice is not manifested through insults, but through emotionally hurtful neglect.

The decision of her father and stepmother to send Adeline to Tianjin and forbid her from communicating with her family in any way is a form of avoidance manifested through physical and emotional isolation.

Ye ye knew. 'His child has done no wrong. But every day her presence is like a thorn in their side: she annoys them by simply being around. They're sending her away because they want to be rid of her (Mah, 1997, p. 86)

The above excerpt confirms that Adeline's exile was not based on personal wrongdoing, but rather because her presence was considered unimportant in her family. The sentence "His child has done no wrong" shows that the actions of her father and stepmother were entirely based on prejudice, not emotional reasons. Allport (1954) explains that avoidance can take the form of efforts to distance oneself from someone who is considered undesirable, causing the victim to experience social and emotional alienation. The ban on communicating with Ye Ye

and Bibi Baba exacerbated Adeline's isolation, while also instilling in her the belief that she was an unwanted child.

Thus, Adeline's transfer to Tianjin and the severing of communication with her family reflect a form of avoidance, where avoidance is carried out through exile that damages Adeline's identity and self-esteem.

The family's indifference when Adeline was seriously ill shows a second level of avoidance in Allport's theory, namely prejudice shown through avoidance and neglect even at critical moments.

My illness in 1951 was during the summer vacation. Most of the girls had gone home. I started coughing up blood, developed a fever of 104 degrees and had difficulty breathing. After two days I was admitted to hospital. At first the doctors thought I was going to die. They informed my family. I was lonely and afraid. No one came from home (Mah, 1997, p. 112)

The above excerpt shows how Adeline's family, especially her father and stepmother, chose to ignore Adeline's critical health condition by not coming to the hospital. The sentence "No one came from home" reinforces a form of avoidance that is not just indifference, but an explicit rejection of Adeline. According to Allport (1954), avoidance occurs when prejudice is carried out by distancing oneself from someone who is considered undesirable, thereby creating emotional alienation. The neglect shown to Adeline when she was sick added to her psychological wounds because she had to face the threat of death alone, accompanied by fear and loneliness.

The family's avoidance during Adeline's critical period became a strong form of avoidance, reinforcing Adeline's position as an unacknowledged child and strengthening the pattern of systematic discrimination within her family.

Edgar's refusal to acknowledge Adeline as his sister shows a form of avoidance, namely rejection shown through family identity in public spaces.

At collage, he refused to admit that we were brother and sister, or even related. He claimed he did not know me. On the contrary Niang seemed pleases by our reciprocal animosity and would fuel our rivalries. She would be pointedly nice to me when she wanted to hurt Edgar, driving the wedge ever deeper between us (Mah, 1997, p. 125)

The data above shows that prejudice in the form of avoidance towards Adeline was not only carried out by her father and stepmother, but also by her older brother, Edgar. Edgar's rejection in public by claiming not to know Adeline shows a form of avoidance that hurt Adeline. Allport (1954) explains that avoidance occurs when a person with prejudice chooses to sever ties or ignore someone. In this case, the manipulation carried out by the stepmother not only reinforced Adeline's position as someone who was ignored, but also placed Adeline as a tool in the family's power games, which damaged the children's relationships.

Edgar's rejection of Adeline as his sister is a form of avoidance that deepens Adeline's alienation, while also showing how family manipulation makes her increasingly neglected and marginalized.

The cold attitude of Adeline's father and stepmother when Adeline left for America shows a second level of avoidance, namely emotional avoidance that severs the bonds of affection within the family.

I started to cry and thought how mean they were to begrudge me the price of a plane ticket to Philadelphia when it was nothing to them. Not to express any regrets at my leaving Hong Kong. Not to say a few kind words such as 'We'll miss you' or 'Write to us often, will you?' My imminent departure was of no concern except for the possible burden of an airline ticket (Mah, 1997, p. 155)

The above excerpt shows how Adeline's father and stepmother ignored her

emotional needs at an important moment. There was no expression of affection, only a cold attitude that emphasized that Adeline was considered a financial burden. Allport (1954) explains that avoidance can be formed not only through physical rejection, but also through emotional neglect, both of which create psychological alienation for the victim. Her parents' indifference made Adeline realize that her existence was never important and seen as something valuable, but merely a burden.

The indifference of her father and stepmother showed a form of avoidance that reinforced the emotional distance and left psychological wounds that deepened Adeline's feelings of alienation from her family.

Stepmother's order to Lydia and the boarding house to prohibit any form of interaction with Adeline was a form of avoidance, namely avoidance that was systematically controlled through family authority and institutions.

When father and Niang came to Tianjin in 1948, Niang gave orders that I was not to visit you at St Joseph's school or take you out during the holidays. She stressed that she would not tolerate any disobedience and that the nuns had been instructed to send her regular reports. At the time, I was too miserable myself to think about you. I was wrong and I beg your forgiveness (Mah, 1997, p. 229)

The above excerpt shows how stepmother used power and verbal control to reinforce Adeline's isolation. This confirms that avoidance is not only direct neglect, but also a systematic strategy that cuts off all emotional support for Adeline. Allport (1954) explains that avoidance can occur when prejudice is applied through actions that distance the victim from social contact, either directly or through supporting institutions. In this case, the school was even used as an extension of the family's rejection, thereby narrowing Adeline's space to obtain recognition and affection.

The orders given by stepmother to Lydia and the boarding school staff demonstrate institutionalized avoidance, which not only physically isolated Adeline but also instilled feelings of worthlessness in her from an early age.

Lydia's decision to sever ties with Adeline demonstrates avoidance, namely avoidance that confirms a total rejection of family relationships, "I realized that the reason she came tonight was for the sole purpose of making a break with me" (Mah, 1997, p. 239), which shows that the argument between Lydia and Adeline was not just a momentary emotional quarrel, but a form of deliberate avoidance. According to Allport (1954), avoidance can develop from passive avoidance to active avoidance, when a person with prejudice consciously decides to break off relations with others. Lydia's decision to end her family relationship with Adeline exacerbated Adeline's isolation, because Adeline not only faced rejection from her parents and brother, but also from her sister.

Lydia's decision to sever ties reinforced avoidance, as it not only removed emotional support but also cut off opportunities for good relationships, further deepening Adeline's alienation within her family.

Edgar's immediate departure from the room upon seeing Adeline demonstrated the second level of avoidance in Allport's theory, namely rejection realized through direct physical avoidance, "Soon, Gregory and Edgar arrived; the latter left the instant he saw me" (Mah, 1997, p. 262), which shows how Edgar's rejection of Adeline has become so ingrained that it has become an automatic response. His body language, in the form of direct avoidance, sends a clear message that Adeline's presence is unwelcome. According to Allport (1954), avoidance can

be achieved by distancing oneself from the victim so as to avoid having to face or encounter the person who is the target of prejudice. Edgar's actions towards Adeline further emphasized Adeline's isolation within the family because Adeline was not only socially rejected, but also made to feel inadequate and ignored in the same space as her own siblings.

Thus, Edgar's attitude of leaving the room immediately after seeing Adeline shows the most obvious form of avoidance, where overt physical avoidance becomes a symbol of rejection of Adeline's existence in his family.

B. Prejudice within the family led to discrimination against Adeline

In addition to facing prejudice that manifested itself through derogatory remarks (antilocution) and avoidance, Adeline also experienced how prejudice can develop into actual discrimination. The prejudice that was deeply rooted in her family did not stop at attitudes such as ridicule and insults, but also turned into actions that made Adeline feel increasingly uncomfortable. The discrimination she experienced manifested in the form of avoidance, rejection, and unfair treatment compared to her siblings. Discrimination can take many forms, both verbal and behavioral, and can occur in various situations, such as bullying, which is unwanted aggressive behavior experienced repeatedly by the victim, which can take the form of physical violence; verbal violence such as teasing and threats; or relational violence such as spreading rumors and ostracizing someone (Kite & Whitley, 2016). As with the prejudice that occurs in *Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*, which is reflected in the family's treatment of Adeline. For example, ridicule or derogatory remarks (antilocution) that do not stop

at mere words, but can turn into discriminatory treatment that ignores and harms Adeline's position. Similarly, avoidance or neglect not only creates emotional distance, but also reinforces the rejection of Adeline's existence in the domestic sphere, such as the family. This pattern shows how prejudice as an authority to discriminate causes Adeline to experience multiple layers of injustice, where she is attacked through words and isolated through actions.

The prejudice experienced by Adeline was not only verbal, expressed through ridicule and demeaning remarks, but developed into actual acts of discrimination against Adeline.

You're not only a thief and a liar, but manipulate as well. The problem is that you have bad blood from your mother. Nothing will come of you! I don't think you deserve to be housed and fed here. I think you belong in an orphanage! (Mah, 1997, p. 65)

The above excerpt shows that prejudice developed into discriminatory actions that sought to remove Adeline from her family ties. The words spoken by Adeline's stepmother, as the perpetrator of prejudice in the form of antilocution, were not just negative stereotypes, but statements of exclusion that implied that Adeline was not considered worthy of a child's basic rights, namely love and protection. Prejudice, which initially appeared in the form of verbal abuse, legitimized discrimination in the form of actual actions, namely threats of expulsion. This shows that in the memoir *Falling Leaves*, prejudice is often the starting point for discrimination that reinforces Adeline's position as an isolated and neglected child.

Another form of discrimination that developed from prejudice within Adeline's family was evident when her academic achievements were never

recognized, even during important moments that should have been a source of pride for the family.

I remember my pride and triumph as I climbed up the steps, which were so high and steep that I had to go up on my hands and knees, to receive my award from the French Monseigneur. There was warm applause and delighted laughter from the audience, but no one attended from my family, not even father (Mah, 1997, p. 37)

The data above shows clear discrimination stemming from prejudice on the part of Adeline's father, who is the main perpetrator of prejudice. Adeline's father's neglect is not merely physical absence, but a concrete act of prejudice that considers Adeline's achievements unworthy of recognition. Adeline's father's attitude reinforces the fact that prejudice within the family is not only demonstrated through verbal abuse, but also through non-verbal actions that give rise to emotional discrimination. This treatment reinforces Adeline's position as a child who is not considered equal to her siblings.

Another form of prejudice that developed into discrimination was evident when Adeline became seriously ill and had to be hospitalized. Even though Adeline was in a critical condition, no family member came to see her.

My illness in 1951 was during the summer vacation. Most of the girls had gone home. I started coughing up blood, developed a fever of 104 degrees and had difficulty breathing. After two days I was admitted to hospital. At first the doctors thought I was going to die. They informed my family. I was lonely and afraid. No one came from home (Mah, 1997, p. 112)

The above quote shows how prejudice has become ingrained in Adeline's family and developed into actual discrimination. Prejudice in the form of avoidance, which portrays Adeline as an "unwanted daughter," becomes a justification for her family to reject her, and from this, emotional discrimination is formed. As a result, Adeline not only feels alone, but is also placed in an inferior position that reinforces

her role as an unwanted child in her family.

Another form of prejudice that later developed into discrimination in the memoir Falling Leaves can be seen in the avoidance attitude exhibited by Adeline's older brother, "Soon, Gregory and Edgar arrived; the latter left the instant he saw me" (Mah, 1997, p. 262), which shows how Adeline's older brother, Edgar, directly avoided Adeline. This action is a form of prejudice that has developed into social discrimination because it ignores Adeline from the family bond that should have been close. Prejudice, which initially only took the form of avoidance, has now become a concrete action that isolates Adeline and reinforces her position as an ostracized family member.

In Adeline's case, prejudice reached the level of discrimination. She was not only emotionally and psychologically neglected by her family, but her role and value in the family's social structure were also eliminated. This shows that prejudice in Adeline's family had gone beyond mere attitudes and become concrete actions that limited Adeline's rights and dignity as an individual.

Moreover, this prejudice shows that prejudice is not only an interpersonal problem, but is systematic and perpetuated through cultural and social structures. The family plays a role as the main agent of socialisation in instilling patriarchal values that justify the subordination of women. Thus, Adeline's experience represents how gender prejudice is part of an oppressive power structure that leaves no room for women's emancipation.

In addition to showing forms of prejudice, the memoir *Falling Leaves* also shows how prejudice can develop into actual discrimination. Prejudice, which

initially only appeared in the form of derogatory remarks (antilocution) and avoidance, now goes beyond mere words and attitudes to become the basis for discriminatory treatment that confirms Adeline's role as an unwanted child. Thus, this memoir represents the close relationship between prejudice and discrimination, where prejudice that is perpetuated within the family environment turns into actual discriminatory actions that ignore and alienate Adeline, even in her daily life.

From Allport's perspective, the solution to this kind of prejudice is through equal and meaningful social contact, as well as structural changes in the norms and values that support such prejudice. The memoir *Falling Leaves* itself can be seen as an attempt to challenge the system of prejudice through personal narratives, as well as a form of resistance against the patriarchal culture that has silenced women's voices.

You're not only a thief and a liar, but manipulate as well. The problem is that you have bad blood from your mother. Nothing will come of you! I don't think you deserve to be housed and fed here. I think you belong in an orphanage! (Mah, 1997, p. 65)

The above data shows how prejudice in the form of ridicule (antilocution)

is not only a personal expression, but also part of the value system within the family, which considers the rejection and exclusion of Adeline to be normal.

Furthermore, there are also findings of prejudice in the form of avoidance, as shown in the excerpt below:

When father and Niang came to Tianjin in 1948, Niang gave orders that I was not to visit you at St Joseph's school or take you out during the holidays. She stressed that she would not tolerate any disobedience and that the nuns had been instructed to send her regular reports. At the time, I was too miserable myself to think about you. I was wrong and I beg your forgiveness (Mah, 1997, p. 229)

The data above shows prejudice in the form of avoidance by Adeline's

stepmother through very strict rules regarding Adeline's interactions with other family members. This shows that avoidance can be carried out systematically through social and verbal control, creating feelings of alienation and helplessness in the person experiencing it. Hidden strategies such as this reinforce the fact that prejudice is not always direct, but still has a significant psychological impact.

The findings from both data excerpts show how prejudice in a family environment can create various forms of discrimination, as experienced by Adeline. Derogatory remarks (antilocution), where the perpetrator of prejudice, Adeline's stepmother, emphasized "bad blood" and Adeline's unworthiness to live at home with her family. Then there are the very strict rules prohibiting Adeline from interacting with her family, which is a form of avoidance. This shows that prejudice is not only personal, but has become ingrained in the family system. This systematic form of prejudice then gives rise to complex forms of discrimination, where Adeline experiences neglect, rejection, exclusion, and feelings of alienation in the form of actual discriminatory actions.

Prejudice is a negative attitude toward someone in a group based solely on their membership in that group. Another definition states that prejudice is dislike, rejection, and hostility directed toward certain groups, such as racism, homophobia, sexism, and so on (Afifulloh et al., 2024). In addition, discrimination itself is considered a form of racism, where the perpetrators come from a majority group that targets minority groups in their discriminatory actions (Madula et al., 2017).

Although Allport's theory provides a strong classification framework, it should be noted that in practice, prejudice can transcend theoretical categories and

is greatly influenced by complex social relationships, cultural backgrounds, and power structures. In the memoir *Falling Leaves*, only two levels of Allport's prejudice are most dominant and occur repeatedly, namely antilocution and avoidance. Allport's levels of discrimination can also be found in this memoir. This can be seen in acts of actual discrimination such as threats of expulsion, neglect when Adeline was critically ill, or disregard for Adeline's academic achievements. In other words, prejudice that initially took the form of ridicule (antilocution) and avoidance or neglect (avoidance) developed into treatment that obstructed Adeline's basic rights as a member of the family.

Meanwhile, physical attacks and extermination are not found in the memoir Falling Leaves, because the context of *Falling Leaves* focuses on the family sphere, which expresses discrimination through avoidance, verbal abuse, and exclusion. In other words, the discrimination experienced by Adeline did not develop into collective physical violence, but remained bound in domestic power relations against Adeline's psychology and identity. Thus, the findings in this study not only reinforce Gordon Allport's theory of prejudice, but the flexibility in applying this theory is very important to be included in the context of prejudice in the family system.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, researcher present conclusions obtained from the results obtained from the analysis and discussion described in the previous chapter and provide suggestions for further research.

A. Conclusion

The researcher found several forms of prejudice that were most dominant based on Gordon Allport's theory of discrimination (1954), namely antilocution and avoidance experienced by Adeline Yen Mah as the main character in the memoir *Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*, as well as Adeline's attitude towards prejudiced behavior in her family.

Antilocution prejudice was demonstrated through various negative remarks and statements directed at Adeline, whether from her father, stepmother, or siblings. She was often called derogatory names, accused without evidence, ignored, and marginalized as a girl in her family. In addition, there is a form of avoidance shown through the neglect and social and emotional isolation experienced by Adeline, such as when her family never attended Adeline's important moments, no one visited or paid attention to Adeline when she was sick, even cutting off communication with Adeline when she was sent to boarding school, and forbidding anyone to communicate with Adeline.

In addition, this study also found that prejudice represented in words developed into actual discriminatory actions. The findings of this study show that prejudice, which initially manifested in the form of derogatory remarks or ridicule

(antilocution) and avoidance or neglect (avoidance), transformed into discriminatory treatment. One example of this is the disregard for Adeline's academic achievements, the refusal to pay attention and care for Adeline when she was critically ill, and even threats to kick her out of the house. This shows that prejudice in Adeline's family is not only verbal and attitudinal, but can also manifest itself through actual discriminatory actions that limit Adeline's basic rights and dignity as a child.

This finding reinforces Allport's theory of prejudice and shows the need for adaptability in applying the theory in the context of a Chinese patriarchal family. The two forms of prejudice appear simultaneously, not always following the hierarchical order described in Allport's linear model of discrimination. In terms of its relevance to the levels of discrimination, this study found that there were levels of prejudice at the discrimination level, but did not find any physical attacks or extermination experienced by the main character in the memoir *Falling Leaves*. The absence of these last two levels can be explained by the context of the memoir, which focuses on the family environment, so that the discrimination experienced by Adeline emphasizes subtle but still harmful domestic power relations that affect Adeline's psychology and identity.

B. Suggestion

This study highlights the issue of prejudice that occurs within the family environment, through the experiences of the main character, Adeline, in the memoir *Falling Leaves; The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*. However, the analysis in this study is still limited to the use of Gordon Allport's theory without

combining alternative approaches or theories such as psychology or feminism. Therefore, the researcher suggests that future researchers analyze Adeline's experience of prejudice using a broader and deeper perspective, such as feminist theory or intersectionality.

The use of feminist theory or intersectionality theory can provide a deeper and more critical understanding of the power relations based on prejudice as experienced by Adeline, and can examine how aspects such as social class, culture, history, and family status can influence experiences of prejudice.

This suggestion is in line with the findings in the previous chapter, which indicate that there is still room for other researchers to further expand their research on the memoir *Falling Leaves* by using different theoretical perspectives. In addition, the historical and cultural factors that play a role in shaping the patriarchal system in Adeline's family culture can also be the focus of further research.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



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