

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the portrayal of the female protagonist in Catherine Lim's The Song of Silver Frond, the present writer discovers that Catherine Lim is skilful in presenting a unique character to convey her central idea. Catherine Lim's central idea is that women should have self-respect although they are oppressed by men and the patriarchal system in their society where they live which can be seen from the portrayal of Silver Frond as the female protagonist. Through the portrayal of Silver Frond as the female protagonist, Catherine Lim conveys her idea to the readers that a woman is as valuable as a man and she is valued not only for her beauty but also for her kindness and intelligence. A woman should be brave to express herself in fulfilling her dreams and her ambitions although she gets oppression from the patriarchal system.

In The Song of Silver Frond, Catherine Lim also wants to show to the readers that a woman's kindness and love for the husband as to make him happy could make her innocent. This is related to the issue of the traditional obsession of virginity with the terrifying impact on a woman's life where a woman (a wife) will not have any respect from a man (a husband) if she has dishonoured him by losing her virginity before marriage.

The Song of Silver Frond is about a poor young village girl named Silver Frond, who becomes wealthy and rich after The Venerable One marries her and makes her his Fourth Wife. Silver Frond's marital life is happy until her husband sends her back to her family in disgrace after Third Wife makes a cruel plot against her. This deed makes Silver Frond realize that a woman is like a "property" for a man and it becomes a way for her to be independent from her husband and to fight against the patriarchal power in search for her new life, her identity, her existence, her ambition, and her dreams as a woman.

Silver Frond is portrayed as a person who is very beautiful, clever, kind, and proud of herself. Moreover, Silver Frond has an independent and strong-willed character. She becomes a person who is independent when she comes back to her family after her husband sends her off in disgrace. Silver Frond's new life, her independent life, makes her dare to reject the patriarchal power, or the husband's power over her. Her braveness to reject man's power becomes her struggle in searching for a new life and her existence and then she is successful in fulfilling her dreams and her ambition although in the end she leaves it behind.

The present writer points out that through Silver Frond's characteristics and her being oppressed by the patriarchal power, she has become strong enough to realize her identity as a woman, her ambition, and her dreams. She has also become mature at her young age to decide her own life without depending on other people, especially on her husband.

The present writer concludes that the novel has a surprising ending. At the end of the story, Silver Frond is portrayed as a faithful and obedient wife to her husband. She decides to leave her dreams and her opportunity as an independent

woman and to return to her husband because she realizes that she still loves him although she gets unfair treatment from him.

The present writer discovers that Catherine Lim's The Song of Silver Frond is worth analysing as it teaches her lessons about a woman's independence and a woman's struggle for identity, acceptance, life existence, and love. She can learn that a woman must fight a man's power by herself if she wants to express herself as a woman. But it is hard for a woman to gain her existence and her freedom as a woman without any support from her family and the society where she lives.