

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Feminist Thoughts Described in Maya Angelou *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* Novel**

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The writer analyzed the novel entitled *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* which focuses on explaining the description of feminist thought of the author (Maya Angelou) in the power of self-definition and the interlocking nature of oppression. In this research, the writer uses feminism approach and the writer also uses the theory of black feminist by Collin (2000). Black feminist theory emphasizes to give empowerment for women who become the victim of intersection through the collective idea and the experience of black women which divided into two main topics, the first is the power of self-definition, the second is the interlocking nature of oppression in relation with the comparison of the depiction of Americans social condition and black people's life. Then, the writer applies library research to collect the data and descriptive qualitative to elaborate the data. The results of this research show that the black people, especially the women who experienced sexual oppressions they could show their identity through songs, poetry and sermon, they could replace negative image and change stereotype, they could be independent and they could build their own community in relation to feminist thought as portrayed in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. This brings about huge effects on many aspects of their life.

**Keywords:** *black feminism, feminist thought, sexual oppression, social segregations*