



This thesis is an effort to find out the roles of Cherokee women in the eighteenth century before the application of the civilization program. The objectives of the civilization program peculiarly for Cherokee women are explored here to reveal the roles of Cherokee women both which were changed or eradicated through the application of the civilization program. This thesis also aims to analyze the result of Cherokee women resistance towards the civilization program.

In order to have a total comprehension on the issue, this thesis applies the interdisciplinary approach and studies the problems from the perspective of sociology, anthropology, literature, and religion. The sociological viewpoints enable the writer to comprehend the behavior and attitudes of Cherokee women in the era before the application of civilization program and when it is implemented. Anthropological viewpoint is used to find out the culture of Cherokees as non-literate society. Economical and political approaches are used to understand the condition of economic and politics when the civilization program took place. Religious perspectives are necessary to know the different viewpoints of Christianity and Cherokees religion especially about the position and men-women relationship. Literary approach is also employed to study the values of Cherokees that was represented in their myth, legend, song, and poetry.

The result of this thesis indicates that the struggle of Cherokee women were successful in many ways, such as in defending their authority of teaching the custom of their tribe to their beloved children, preserving their roles in their fields as farmers, maintaining their participation in society meeting, and persisting their own religion. Their struggles were successful because they had high motivation to preserve their old and traditional culture. Their refusal was influenced by the fact that White's gender norms were not appropriate to them. It was derived from the consideration that their important roles and position would change and vanish. On the other hand, their struggle was less successful in opposing the removal policy. It was not caused by the weakening of their motivation in struggle. The environmental condition or the un-supporting members are the main factor of this failure.

Key words: perspective, preserve, persist, refusal, vanish



Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap peran wanita Cherokee pada abad ke-18 sebelum program civilization dilaksanakan. Tujuan/sasaran dari program civilization terutama bagi wanita Cherokee juga selidiki untuk mengetahui peran wanita Cherokee mana yang akan diubah ataupun dihilangkan. Studi ini juga akan menganalisa hasil dari perjuangan wanita melawan program civilization.

Dengan menggunakan pendekatan interdisipliner, studi ini mengkolaborasikan aspek sosiologi, anthropologi, ekonomi, politik, sastra, dan agama. Sudut pandang sosiologi digunakan untuk memahami tingkah laku dan sikap wanita Cherokee pada masa sebelum dan sesudah pelaksanaan program. Anthropologi diterapkan untuk mencari culture daripada Cherokee sebagai masyarakat yang belum mengenal tulisan. Pendekatan ekonomi dan politik digunakan untuk membantu dalam pemahaman situasi ekonomi dan politik pada saat program diberlakukan. Pandangan-pandangan agama juga sangat penting untuk memahami dua pandangan yang berbeda antara agama Kristen dan Cherokee terhadap posisi dan hubungan antara pria-wanita, sedangkan analisa sastra digunakan untuk memahami nilai-nilai masyarakat Cherokee yang terkandung didalam myth, legenda, nyanyian, dan puisi mereka.

Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa perjuangan wanita Cherokee terhadap program civilization dalam beberapa hal berhasil, seperti dalam mempertahankan kekuasaan mereka untuk mengajari anak mereka mengenai tradisi sukunya, mempertahankan peranan mereka di ladang sebagai petani, tetap berpartisipasi dalam pertemuan masyarakat untuk memberikan pendapat, dan tetap melaksanakan agama mereka sendiri. Perjuangan mereka sukses karena mereka memiliki motivasi yang besar untuk mempertahankan budaya tradisional mereka. Mereka tidak mau mengganti konsep gender yang mereka miliki dengan konsep orang kulit putih disebabkan karena konsep gender orang kulit tidak sesuai dengan budaya mereka. Hal ini didasarkan pada pertimbangan bahwa posisi dan peran penting mereka didalam masyarakat akan berubah dan bahkan bisa hilang. Disisi lain, perjuangan mereka juga gagal dalam menolak kebijakan removal (pindah). Hal ini bukan karena menurunnya motivasi namun lebih pada factor lingkungan ataupun orang-orang disekitarnya yang tidak mendukung perjuangan mereka.

Kata-kata kunci: pandangan, memelihara, mempertahankan, penolakan, hilang