

**THE WOMAN REPRESENTATIONS IN FACING
THE UNFAIR 19TH CENTURY MATRIMONIAL LAW
IN THOMAS HARDY'S JUDE THE OBSCURE**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Karya maestro dari pengarang pria Inggris, Thomas Hardy yang berjudul Jude the Obscure ini menceritakan tentang kehidupan seorang wanita di Inggris pada abad 19. Penulis merasa bahwa dalam novel ini terdapat pandangan tentang nilai-nilai feminis dalam. Skripsi yang berjudul **The Woman Representations in Facing Unfair 19th Century Matrimonial Law in Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure** ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa peranan wanita dalam melawan ketidakadilan sistem pernikahan pengaruh budaya patriakal yang mendominasi di abad 19, yang direpresentasikan oleh pengarang pria dalam sebuah karya sastra.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan kritik sastra feminis, yaitu teori Elaine Showalter, wanita sebagai pembaca karya sastra dari pengarang pria dan didukung oleh Josephine Donovan dengan teorinya Image of Woman. Dengan teori dan pendekatan ini, penulis menganalisa tentang representasi tokoh wanita di novel Jude the Obscure dan pandangan wanita terhadap ketidakadilan undang-undang pernikahan di Inggris pada abad 19.

Sumber data utama diperoleh penulis melalui novel Jude the Obscure, dan sumber-sumber lainnya berasal dari buku-buku, artikel-artikel dan internet web page tentang feminisme dan kritik-kritik tentang Jude the Obscure. Penulisan skripsi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan hasilnya dalam bentuk metode deskriptif. Setelah melakukan analisa, penulis menemukan bahwa representasi tokoh utama wanita dalam Jude the Obscure adalah cerdas, berpikiran modern dan pro-feminis, dimana dia mempunyai pandangan dan sikap yang menentang sistem pernikahan yang dipengaruhi budaya patriakal. Kemudian, penulis juga menemukan reaksi wanita terhadap ketidakadilan undang-undang pernikahan di Inggris pada abad 19 yang mengeyampingkan kekuatan, harapan dan cinta.

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

In society, power is commonly equated with domination and control over people or things. Patriarchal system believes that men are all-powerful, major class, oppressor-the enemy, women are the oppressed-the victims. Men are the basic form of domination (Hooks, 1984). All power situations in society have been dominated and oriented by men. Men have controlled all political, economic, laws and cultural institutions.

The traditional values of women in 19th century just to be passive and submissive, to keep piety and purity at home regards them as second gender. As Djajanegara states in *Kritik Sastra Feminis: Sebuah Pengantar* that, "Salah satu ciri tradisional pada zaman itu adalah nilai-nilai yang dicetuskan ratu Victoria yang mengharuskan wanita menjaga kesalehan serta kemurnian mereka, bersikap pasif dan menycerah, rajin mengurus keluarga dan rumah tangga atau memelihara domestisitas (2000:5).

Women who are not affected by patriarchy, capitalism, classism, racism or social oppression label themselves as "Feminist." Feminist opposes or eliminates all kind of oppressions toward women in the entire aspects of life, include in literary work

In the literary work, women are always stereotyped as the object of the patriarchal system. Most of male authors picture women as passive, submissive,

and sensitive. They always stereotypes women as weak, and powerless. They just describe women as the subject in their work.

Because of the domination of men in every aspects, including in literary work, so that the writer wants to analyze how the women charcaters are represented in a literary work. Actually, the writer finds some researchers who analyze it, such as Yoshida Chandra in her thesis *Images of Women and Feminist Ideas in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*, and *Women's Inferiority in Victorian Age in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: A Feminist Study* written by Ayla Altas. They both just study about the women characters in the novel based on female author's point of view. Women's works will be different from men's, because they have different experiences, ideas and feelings. Women's works are more sensitive than men's are.

Other researches are Merry Christine's thesis entitled *Men's Domination toward Women in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart*, and *The Images of Women in Five Short Stories by D. H Lawrence* written by Nurhasanah. However, both researches just talk about the stereotype of woman or the concept about what men think about women and how they put in the work. The women characters just become the 'object' or as 'other' in male's work.

So here, the writer wants to make an analysis about woman representation but try eliminate the concept of women from patriarchy, and then set a new concept about women in literature by using feminist approach, even the work is written by the male author.

The writer is interested in Thomas Hardy's work *Jude the Obscure*. This novel presents a female character 'Sue Bridehead' who violates and tries to

behave and live outside the convention of marriage in 19th century. The convention grants more rights to men than to women. Marriage in England is viewed as something cruel, negative, hopeless and loveless. In short, marriage is a way to survive in society. Love is not the main reason for marriage.

Sue Bridehead is the feminist woman, who is reflected as women's self-awareness in a patriarchal society. She tries to behave based on her intuition as a woman. From her character, the writer can find the new representative of 19th century woman as modern, active, and intelligent.

Thomas Hardy himself is one of the great English novelists which famous for his tragic heroes and heroines and the grave. His best-known works are *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, *The Return of the Native*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, and *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. All his novels are set in Wessex, a fictional English county modelled after the real Dorset County. They deal with moral questions, played out through the lives of people living in the countryside, and point to the darker truths behind pastoral visions. Jude the Obscure is the last novel written by Thomas Hardy. Many of the critiques believe that this novel almost become an autobiography of Hardy. Many scenes of the novel almost have similarity with Hardy's life. As the novel published in 1895, many critique attacked him because its frankness in dealing with sexual problem, which was taboo in Victorian era.

All explanations above are the reasons which challenges the writer to analyze the representations of woman of main female character "Sue Bridehead," which is written by male author, Thomas Hardy, by applying feminist approach. At last, the writer hopes by doing this research with title **The Woman**

Representations in Facing the Unfair 19th Century Matrimonial Law in Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure can be useful by the reader.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

In this research, the writer focuses on woman representations that are portrayed in Jude the Obscure. The main female character Sue Bridehead is represented as anti patriarchal and pro-feminist woman who tries to live outside Matrimonial Law. The Matrimonial Law of 19th century England make marriage life of women has no identity or power. It grants more rights to men than to women. At that time, marriage was something cruel and hopeless for the women. However, Sue Bridehead behaves against what the 19th century women usually does or thinks by not following marriage as profession. She is the new representations of woman in 19th century England.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The aim of this research is to attain the woman representations in facing unfair marriage convention that proposed by Thomas Hardy in his novel Jude the Obscure. Through this, the writer tries to expose how the representations of Sue Bridehead as main female character are viewed in this novel. The writer hopes this study will be favourable for the other researchers.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The writer gathers some required information in order to understand feminist concept mentioned in the novel. The writer focuses this research on the

representations of main female character, Sue Bridehead, who faces the unfair Matrimonial Law. Then, the writer analyzes woman acceptances toward the unfair Matrimonial Law in 19th century, which are reflected in main female character in the novel.

1.5 The Method of the Research

1.5.1 Collecting Data.

In conducting the research, the writer conducts a library research method and supported by two kinds of data; they are primary data and secondary data. Novel Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy is the primary data and the secondary data are many materials, books and internet web page concerning feminist approach. Thus, any related sources are very important in this research.

1.5.2 Analyzing Data

In analyzing the story, the writer firstly read the story extensively in order to help the writer in understanding the whole story. After noting the important statements, sentences, or events, the writer starts the analysis by describing the elements of the novel, including plot, character, setting and theme.

Knowing the intrinsic parts of the novel, the writer then ready to relate her analysis on woman representations or other indications of feminist issues by using Elaine Showalter's theory, woman as reader (Feminist Critique) and supported by Josephine Donovan with her theory image of woman.

1.5.3 Presenting of Result the Analysis

In presenting this research, the writer use descriptive and qualitative method. Bodgan and Knoppbiken state as follows:

Qualitative is descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written results of the research contain quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation (28).

In other words, qualitative method is always descriptive since the data are analyzed by spelling it out obviously and the results of the analysis are presented in the form of words, not of numbers. So that, the writer will present the result in the form of words based on the data, which support the theory.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

By using feminist criticism, a reader can give the interpretation about woman representation a literary work. The reader can see how a woman is viewed by male author. In Jude the Obscure, the character of Sue Bridehead is represented by Thomas Hardy as intelligent, modern minded and pro feminist woman in facing the unfair Matrimonial Laws in 19th England.

Sue Bridehead recognizes her own intellectual and her potential for a satisfying career in teaching. She doesn't want to be stereotyped as a weak and passive woman because of lack of education. She wants the same level and same right with men in society, and tries to realizes her dream by just not to be a subject to whatever life gives her.

Sue is a modern minded woman who decides to seek a different type of dependence, by using its dependency to find the satisfactions without contradicted by the old customs of her society. Although she does not oppressed by man but she is oppressed by the rules of society, that she feels unfair for woman.

Sue representations as pro-feminist woman opposes the Matrimonial Law as patriarchal authoritarian system that ignores the women's will to get the sensibility of a marriage life. Sue tries to behave based on her intuition. She has her own way to face the Matrimonial Law. She attacks the legality of marriage, by living with Jude without a legal union.

The Matrimonial Law makes married life for women without identity or power. When a woman gets married, she loses her independent legal personality as a single woman and became a covered woman. An England bride in the early

19th century relinquishes all of her rights to property and personal wealth to her husband. A married woman in England at that time was dependent and subject to her husband. Matrimonial Law is powerless, hopeless and loveless for the women. However, Sue Bridehead reflects the new-woman representations of nineteenth-century England. She opposes the traditional women rules in a patriarchal society.

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