

**Masculinity over Femininity in Shakespeare's
Disguised Heroine in As You Like It**

A THESIS

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisa citra wanita yang disajikan dalam drama As You Like It karya William Shakespeare. Berdasarkan data yang ditemukan dalam drama ini terdapat isu feminisme yang memposisikan wanita dengan citra yang positif dengan mengurangi feminitasnya dan menampilkan maskulinitas secara dominan.

Penulis menganalisa novel ini dengan menggunakan pendekatan objektif oleh M.H. Abrams dan kritik sastra feminis yang dikemukakan oleh Elaine Showalter. Dalam hal ini penulis menggunakan teori dari Elaine Showalter yaitu wanita sebagai pembaca karya dari pengarang laki-laki, yang diaplikasikan dalam teori "image of women", yaitu dengan menjelaskan stereotipe karakter wanita dalam karya sastra. Penulis menggunakan teori oposisi biner "Patriarchal Binary Thought" yang dikemukakan oleh Helen Cixous. Penulis menggunakan drama As You Like It sebagai sumber data utama dan sumber data lainnya yang berasal dari buku, internet, artikel dan sumber lain yang menunjang penelitian ini.

Setelah menganalisa novel ini, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa kehilangan femininitas tidak menyebabkan seorang wanita kehilangan identitas dan jati diri sesungguhnya. Wanita tidak seharusnya berada di bawah kekuasaan dan dominasi pria. Dengan aspek maskulin yang dominan wanita dapat memperlihatkan kemampuan yang sama dengan pria tanpa kehilangan sifat dasarnya sebagai seorang wanita. Artinya, dapat dikatakan bahwa oposisi biner yang disampaikan oleh Cixous tidak selalu benar.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Gender is an issue which invites a curiosity, especially in women's point of view. Based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Gender is defined as grouping of nouns and pronouns into masculine, feminine and neuter (1995: 173). Gender issues usually take women as an object of marginalization because of the system in society which constructs the images of woman. The system in the social life is called patriarchal system.

In patriarchal system, Women generally characterize as a weak person, passive, and useless. In addition to change a perception about the characteristic and stereotype of women, especially from patriarchy point of view, women try to make an effort to fight it and want equality with men. The movement is called feminism or political position against gender inequality. The purposes of feminism in literature are to reveal sexist construction of women and challenge their inevitability. It also aims to raise consciousness, promote change, and reveal strengths of women who have been repressed under patriarchy. In other words, feminism demands equality in all aspects. In order to destroy the assumptions that literature belongs to men and any other old stereotype thought in literature. The

literary work presents woman as the main theme, but most of them always present men's domination.

As You Like It is a play written by William Shakespeare in 1598-1600. In this play, Shakespeare shows the images of a woman named Rosalind who disguise as a man in following her father. Her father is in banishment and being exiled. She wants to follow her father and return him to the court. In her journey to the Forest of Arden, her cousins join her in disguising her self too. Rosalind's trip to the Forest of Arden, is believed, an opportunity for her to take her control of her own destiny. When she disguises herself as Ganymede, a handsome young man, and offers herself as tutor in the ways of love to her beloved Orlando, Rosalind's talents and charms are on full display. Rosalind teaches those around her to think, feel, and love better than they have previously, and she ensures that the courtiers include her father returning from the Forest of Arden are gentler, than when they fled to it.

The writer has own reasons about choosing As You Like It to analyze. The writer is interested in analyzing this play because this play includes the feminist issues inside. In this play, the female character not less than three people and one of them is more powerful rather than men. The roles of female character who acted as a man attract a curiosity of the writer to analyze it by using feminist literary criticism. Through this research, the writer wants to show to the reader, that women not always have a position as the second sex after men. What men can do, women also can do as well or even better than what men do. .

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

After analyzing William Shakespeare's As You Like It, the writer gets a full description of the women's characterization that is presented by Shakespeare in his play. As what Cixous states in her Patriarchal Binary Thought, there are binary opposition between men and women which show the stereotype between men and women. This binary thought construct women as the weak person and men as the strong one, where women as the passive and men as the active person, and so forth.

In this play, Rosalind shows the quality of both men and women delivered by Helen Cixous. What Cixous has said about the stereotype of men and women are true. In this play, Rosalind shows her masculine traits including physical and mental strength, intelligible, and powerful mind more dominant rather than her feminine side. It derives Rosalind into lack her femininity but not misses her femininity.

The writer finds that Rosalind has in her both characteristic masculine and feminine. Even though Rosalind is in disguise and performs her masculine traits as the dominant feature, she still shows her feminine sides. It is evident that she can be strong, brave, resourceful, and has male leadership quality. It can be seen while she acts out as a man in disguise in her journey to the Forest of Arden. She shows her ability to save her father, her strong will to win Orlando's love, get her destiny and ability to lead people. On the other hand, she can be sensitive and tender in case of

love while she falls in love with Orlando from the beginning as a woman and in her disguise. The fact that Rosalind shows both masculine and feminine traits proves that Cixous's Patriarchal Binary Thought is not always true.

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