

**THE IMAGES OF WOMEN BASED ON FEMINIS AND
PATRIACHAL IDEAS IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
*ALL'S WLL THAT ENDS WELL***

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis membahas tentang bagaimana citra karakter wanita digambarkan dilihat dari dua sudut pandang yang saling bertolak belakang, feminis dan patriaki, dalam drama *All's Well That Ends Well* karya William Shakespeare.

Dalam menganalisa drama ini dan melihat bagaimana citra karakter wanita digambarkan dalam drama ini, penulis mengaplikasikan bagian pertama dari kritik sastra feminis yang dikemukakan oleh Toril Moi. Kemudian penulis menggunakan teori *obyektif* Abrams, menitikberatkan pada teks sastra itu sendiri atau secara instrinsik. Penelitian ini juga dilakukan dengan mengemukakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan hasilnya dalam bentuk deskriptif.

Dari penelitian ini, penulis menemukan tiga citra wanita dari sudut patriaki; Shakespeare menggambarkan wanita dalam drama ini sebagai wanita yang bodoh (*as stupid being*), kurang cerdas/orang bawahan (*inferior*), dan menganggap bahwa wanita itu tidak penting. Kemudian berdasarkan pandangan feminis; Shakespeare menggambarkan wanita dalam drama ini sebagai wanita yang merdeka (*independent women*), kuat (*strong women*), dan berpendidikan (*educated women*).

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of The Research

William Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* is one of the literary works that deals with feminist issue. He is a great writer. He was the author of 37 plays and 154 sonnets. It reveals the feminist idea through its female Characters, Helena and Countess. Even though Shakespeare presents minimal number of female characters in this play, but they have important roles and considered as the heroines of the play. Shakespeare portrays the women with strong will who live in male-dominated culture and attempt to liberate themselves from the restriction created by patriarchal culture in Elizabethan era, when the story is set.

"Elizabethan Era is the period associated with its reign (1558–1603) and is often considered to be the golden age in English history" <<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-women.htm>>. It means that the Elizabethan Women were subservient to men. They were dependent on their male relatives to support them. They were used to forge alliances with other powerful families through arranged marriages.

There was little dispute over such arrangements as Elizabethan women were raised to believe that they were inferior to men and that men knew better. Their status becomes inferior to men and women would have had to learn how to govern a household and become skilled in all housewifely duties.

Automatically, almost all aspects in the society are arranged by men and aimed for the advantage of them. Thus men are the first class in society; meanwhile women are being marginalized and relegated to the secondary position. De Beauvoir (in Salden, 1996:210) states, "Women have been made inferior and the oppression has been compound by men's belief that women are inferior by nature". The rules of society cause women to be inferior to men. This thought leads men as dominant character, oppress women. So, men dominate their life since women cannot consider what important or unimportant in their life.

All's Well That Ends Well tells the story of love between different classes. Helena, main character in *All's Well That Ends Well* is the orphaned daughter of the late physician Gerard de Narbon, now taken in by the Countess care: she falls deeply in love with Bertram, the Countess son but keeps her feelings hidden. While Bertram lives in Paris and pays no attention to her. In this play, Shakespeare portrays the woman as resourceful and determined woman who is not easily discouraged. Helena, the female character in this play is described as an Elizabethan woman who is aggressive, strong and intelligent character. She is a woman who has desire and gets the equal opportunity like men.

Wollstonecraft (in Ollenburger and Moore 1996: 22) strengthens that women have showed the similarity character like men. They must get the same right with men because women also have intelligence and ability to look for the best way in solving the problems in their life.

Considering all aspects explained above, the writer is challenged and is more interested to analyze *All's Well That Ends Well* from feminist point of view

by applying feminist literary criticism. First, *All's Well That Ends Well* is a play which tells about the life of women. In this play, women characters dominate the story. The second reason is *All's Well That Ends Well*, shows that it is possible for women in patriarchal culture to achieve independence and success on her own, no matter she is against society.

In *All's Well That Ends Well*, Shakespeare builds women's culture through her women's characters and the conflicts they face. Besides, this play also sends Shakespeare's ideas of feminist as he sends a clear message that all relationship and marriage should be successful and be happy, both men and women must love each other and respect the persons as she/he respects him/her. The play *All's Well That Ends Well* tells women that they are not subject to be abused and subordinated by men.

Therefore, the writer entitles this research with *The Images of Women Based on Feminist and Patriarchal Ideas in William Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well*.

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

The problems which are going to be analyzed in this research are the images of women character and the depiction of Shakespeare's feminist ideas and the patriarchal value in *All's Well That Ends Well*. The writer analyzes the images of women or the female main character by seeing it through her activities, her personalities, her ideas and her ambition.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the play, the writer finds out that *All's Well That Ends Well* written by William Shakespeare describes the images of women based on feminist and patriarchal ideas. Images of women based on feminist idea also viewed in three aspects; independent, strong, and intelligence women. Images of women based on patriarchal ideas can be viewed in three aspects; women are described as stupid being, women are inferior, and women as the unimportant.

In the first analysis, the writer finds that the patriarchal values have made the women far from the feminist ideas. Patriarchal women should be responsible toward the households, take-care of the children, be involved in domestic duties, and give low esteem toward women.

In this play, Shakespeare describes some female characters that stand against patriarchy, he describes women's image as equal as the men's. Shakespeare portrays the women with strong will who live in male dominated culture and attempt to liberate them from the determination created by patriarchal culture. It means that women could not do what they want and get the equal opportunity like men to involve in the male world.

Such condition is portrayed by Shakespeare in this play, where women are powerless to determine patriarchal value. Then, Shakespeare presents how such condition motivates women to liberate themselves that are opposed by patriarchal

value which is presented through his female characters. Helena and Countess are women who liberate themselves from patriarchal value.

On the other hand, Shakespeare also represents feminist idea through the role of Helena as independent, strong and intelligent woman. Helena is a kind of woman characters that opposes patriarchal value. From Helena's character Shakespeare describes that women should not subject themselves to be abused, compromised, or subordinated by men. And rather, women should make them independent from men and live without any influence of men. Women are also free to decide how they want their lives to be.

It is clear that the writer can find the misconception of women's character in this play. And besides she can also find the right concept of images of women based on women's real experience in the play *All's well That Ends Well* by William Shakespeare, with comparison to Moi's theory who also describes that "the study of images of women's fiction is equivalent to studying false images of women in fiction written by both sexes". According to her, false images is the misconception of women in literature, as Moi (1985:43) calls it 'the unreal female character' because the author does not describe women's characters in his/her works based on the real experiences of women to adopt male's models.

In conclusion, the feminist ideas from images of women characters in patriarchal ideology of this play could be drawn up;

- A human being should be judged from his or her inner qualities, not on social standing.

- Women have the intelligence and know-how to compete with men. Examples: (1) Only Helena can cure the king's fistula. (2) Helena and Diana are team up to trick Bertram. The motive of women is struggling to prove their worth.
- All things are not as they seem. Bertram thinks high standing brings happiness. In reality, he discovers later, only love, honesty, and other virtues can bring happiness.
- That success or failure of a course of action depends on how it turns out, not on how it comes about. For example: Helena gets her man even though she had to pretend to be another woman, in a darkened room, to trick him to accept her.

After all, from the battle of images of women according to patriarchal and images of women based on feminist idea on the women characters in this play, it can be concluded that images of women based on feminist idea wins, because they get the salutations at the end of the play. And Bertram accepts his wife and he loves Helena

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