

**MARGARET'S VIEW TOWARDS STEREOTYPES OF WOMEN IN THE  
INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY IN *NORTH AND SOUTH*; A NOVEL BY  
ELIZABETH GASKELL**

**THESIS**

**By:**  
**Noor Khasanah**  
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**ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF HUMANITY AND CULTURE  
THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALANG  
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**THESIS**

**Presented to**

**The State Islamic University of Malang**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Sarjana  
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**By:**

**Noor Khasanah**

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**2007**

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

**This is to certify that Noor Khasanah's thesis entitled Margaret's View towards Stereotypes of Women in the Industrial Society in *North and South*; A Novel by Elizabeth Gaskell has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Board of Examiners.**

**Malang, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

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## DEDICATION

I dedicated this tiny work to:

A woman who holds my right hand and says:

*Life is a long journey*

*Don't ever give in*

*Till you find a bright sun in your dark sky.*

A man who used to hold my left hand; and whose advice  
sounds in my head in perpetuity:

*You're not alone*

*Together we stand*

*So keep holding on*

*And just stay strong.*

*Mom, Dad. . . .*

*Hear me when I say*

*With you by my side*

*I will fight and defend.*

## MOTTO

Man,  
I will go with thee,  
and be thy guide,  
in thy most need,  
to go by thy side.

(Simone de Beauvoir)

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Then, I would like to thank those who have assisted me in writing this thesis. I express my first gratitude to the Rector of UIN Malang, Prof. Dr. H. Imam Suprayogo, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Culture, Drs. H. Dimjati Ahmadin, M. Pd., and the Head of the Language and Letters Department, Dra. Hj. Syafiyah M. A. I also would like to express my thanks to Dra. Istiadah, M.A whose ideas motivates me to explore my own ideas to conduct my thesis well. Thank you very much for your motivation and patience so that I can do the best of my own. Again, I would like to give my thanks to Dra. Mundi Rahayu, M. Hum for her moral encouragement and her patience in evaluating my ideas.

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Ultimately, I admit that this thesis is truly not perfect. Therefore, I am open to any constructive comments from the readers. It is hopeful that this tiny work can provide a valuable contribution to the field of literary criticism, in particular feminist criticism.

Malang, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Anne



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### ABSTRACT

When the Britain turned to industrialization, the society was marked by many changes which encompassed the movement of people to cities that caused the growth of cities. This industrialization, then, makes a great shift for women. In the beginning, they have worked as governesses for rich children; they also often worked in the mills or mines. After all, since this rule was made in 1842 by Queen Victoria, the stereotypes of women as the “weaker sex” and to be protected by men were developed, particularly in the late of the ninetieth century. The nonworking wife was the symbol of economic success and prestige. One of literary works which depicts this situation is Elizabeth Gaskell’s *North and South*.

The story of this novel is about a young woman, Margaret Hale, who moves from a rural Southern home to the industrial North of Milton. In this society, she recognizes that women are quite inferior. Their roles are limited for women have their stereotypes like fragile, frail, and defenseless. Regarding with the women’s condition, Margaret’s view is increasingly developed. She reckons that women are to be independent and strong-minded, specifically, to decide their own future; they should also observe the circumstance in which they live.

In order to specify this study about this novel, the writer uses feminist perspective. This study is basically called as literary criticism because it includes some main aspects; analysis, interpretation and evaluation. The source of data which are taken is from Gaskell’s *North and South*.

The analysis of this novel shows that in Milton, fragile or weakness and home-centeredness are not strange for women. At the same time they are considered morally less valuable. Consequently, they are creatures whose heart and body need to be protected simultaneously. Apart from those depictions above, it is common for women to manage the household. Besides, it is quite significant to come to an invitation of party. For women are less curious, social sensitive; Margaret finds that there is inferiority holding their existence. And by considering this view, she then wrestles with her conscience that women can perform themselves in order to strengthen their role and not to be confine to their home entirely. They are people who can take their life or fate into their own hands. Finally, the writer can conclude that Gaskell's incredible idea which is emerged in Margaret highlights women in improving their role in order to decide their own future

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work, in the wide range of literary world, is the outcome of the author's imagination which usually shows a social portrayal towards the social phenomenon in a certain time. In the society, its emergence is very significant that, by means of the author, a literary work presents a combination of both imagination and social reality. This imagination—involves the author's idea, feeling and aspiration—is preceded in order that it can serve the author's view towards the society (Jabrohim (ed.), 2001:61). Till then, by giving an extract of the social reality, the author's view becomes more and more powerful to function a literary work as a document in a certain society.

Of the same opinion, Culler states in his book that the literary work is language event which makes a display of a fictional world, of which involves the speakers, the actors, events and implied audience. It indicates the author's imagination even though there are several or even lots of literary works which represent the historical life of the characters within a certain society. After all, in literary work, this historical life is still needed to get an extra addition of the author's imagination (1997:31). As a result, it becomes a remarkable fictionalized one of literary work in a particular society.

Among numerous types or genres of literary work, there are three main divisions which encompass poetry, drama and novel, that each of those owns

diverse characteristics. In this discussion, what will be discussed is novel, because novel is a genre of literary work which invites the readers to explore their imagination widely. It is related to overall details which describe the individuals in a certain event and situation. Through the given details, novel becomes more and more interesting to be read as an insightful work. Novel is basically an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity which deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting (*The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1995:810). It is a genre of literary works which consists of the written word. Moreover, it contains the representation of human life that may preach, instruct, or even divert.

In discussing literary work, novel is a sort of genre which looks at people in a particular society. Most of those are connected with ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they live. Nevertheless, as has been emphasized by Peck and Coyle, novels do not present a documentary picture of life. It is due to the fact that the main characteristic of novels is to tell the story. Ordinarily, the authors concerns on the tensions between the characters and the society they live in, and also present the characters that are in conflict with the society (1986:102).

In order to obtain the obvious depiction of literary work, Peck and Coyle points out that a single or even some approaches is required to unwrap the details within the body of literary work. This approach, then, presents the critical thinking towards a literary work, of which is usually called as literary criticism. It

is regarded as the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of literary work. It does not mean that it is a way to find out the fault of the author in his or her work. On the other hand, it is a crucial way to find out and, afterwards, serves what is depicted and going on within the literary work itself. Till then, the literary work is understandable and owns a specific position in a society in which it is appeared (1986:149).

In accordance with the definition above, the writer is interested in criticizing a literary work entitled *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. The underlying reason of choosing this novel is, firstly, because it is written by Elizabeth Gaskell—who among the many skilful Victorian writers—is one of the least taught. But she may not be ignored since her novels and short stories are about people, places, and events that touch the readers, and later, carry them into another time, place, and life. Gaskell's novels are not just story for entertainment; she intends for the readers to think and even are called into action. Her discussion on issues in her novels shows that she did not just live the life, she actually observes and studies it as well ([http://www.lang.nagoya\\_u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EG-Brenda.html](http://www.lang.nagoya_u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EG-Brenda.html)). Whereas the second reason of choosing Gaskell's novel among her other novels is that *North and South* consists of the issues and injustices of the industrial society, especially towards women. Besides consisting of working class life, industrial labor, social class, and family relationship; the women's role in the family and the society become the main subject of the novel. In addition, this phenomenon is displayed interestingly through a female main character's point of view, namely Margaret Hale.

As pointed out in *the New Encyclopedia Britannica*, the author of this novel—Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell—is an English novelist and short stories writer during the Victorian era. She is well known through her writing about the life of her friend; *The Biography of Charlotte Bronte*. She was born on 29 September 1810 in Chelsea, London and died in Holy Bourne, Hampshire in 1865. In 1832, she married William Gaskell, a Unitarian minister, and settled in the industrial society of Manchester which remained her home for the rest of her life. She did not begin her literary career until middle life, when the death of her only son intensified her sense of community with the poor and her concern to their agony (1995:137). Then, the social condition she lived in, which is collaborated with her life experience, ideas and imagination lead her to be a skilful writer.

Her first novel, *Mary Barton*, reflects the temper of Manchester in the late 1830s. The novel was written in the effort to forget her grief that she lost her nine-month-old son, but it later marked her debut as a novelist. It was served to address the social issues such as urban poverty and the emerging trade union movement. Gaskell's novel shocked Victorian society, but it was admired greatly by other writers and she began to associate with Charles Dickens, Charlotte Bronte, and George Elliot. Then, Dickens invited her to contribute to his magazine, *Household Words*, where her next major work *Cranford* (1851-1853) appeared. Inside the book, the women went visiting and had card parties, discussed the scandalous Captain Brown, frightened themselves with the stories of ghosts and burglars, gossiped among themselves, criticized those around them, but stand together in difficult times.

About Gaskell's next novel, *Ruth* (1853), Kliethermes states that it is resulted by the conflict between Gaskell's sympathetic feeling and the strictures of Victorian morality. In *Ruth*, Gaskell tells dramatically the story about Ruth, an orphan country girl who was ultimately able to get a respectable job, and proved her worth in the society. After the dramatic story of *Ruth*, Gaskell turns to manufacturing town life in *North and South* (1854-1855). *Sylvia's Lovers* (1863), *Cousin Phillis* (1864), and *Wives and Daughters* (1865) are Gaskell's other works she wrote during her lifetime ([http://www.lang.nagoya\\_u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EG-Brenda.html](http://www.lang.nagoya_u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EG-Brenda.html)). Those fictions (novels) are Gaskell's remarkable works which indicate how brilliant writer she is. It is the evidence that through her fictions, her debut as a writer is increasingly well known, even though she does not begin her career in a young age. Additionally, it is proved through her works that most of her works express obviously the social condition during the time. Those are of what her deep sympathy towards the society which is melted with her experience about urban poverty.

*North and South* –Gaskell's fourth novel—is an interesting novel which was published firstly in 1855. As mentioned in a Free Encyclopedia, it is originally appeared as a serial in the magazine *Household Words*. The title indicates the major theme of the book, namely the contrast between the life in the industrial north of England and the rural south. Actually Gaskell changed the title *Margaret Hale* because of any pressure from the publishers. It is a social novel that tries to show the industrial north of England, Milton, and its conflicts in the



mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as seen by an outsider woman from the rural south, Helstone ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NorthandSouth%281854novel %29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NorthandSouth%281854novel%29)).

The story is about a young woman, Margaret Hale, who moved from a rural Southern home to the industrial North of Milton. As the story began, Margaret lived with her aunt and cousin in London. When her cousin (Edith) married, she returned to her father and mother in Helstone. Life seemed perfect, that she was with her family again in her hometown. But this happiness could not last long, as her father announced his doubt of conscience with the church and the family moving to the industrial city of Milton.

In this society, she recognized that women were those creatures that could be said quite inferior. They were involved by their stereotypes like fragile, frail, who always needed men as their guide and confined to home as well. It occurred whenever women got out of their homes, there always men who were beside them to keep their safety. If there was a woman who did not have a servant to guide, it would be worried that a danger came up and waited for her. Even though Milton was an industrial city, a consideration that women were domestic creatures still existed. They were confined to home and ignored their circumstances. It was proved by the social condition that women had no ideas concerning the social issues in industrial Milton, and what they had in their mind were merely simple or even silly matters such as dress and gossip among others.

In relation to the stereotypes of women as depicted above, Margaret became more and more interested in criticizing. She considered women were distinct in almost everything, they could be powerful as well if they implanted

themselves that the independence and strong-minded were quite important to their own. Besides, it was also her power that made her open her mind and vanished the sorrow of her mother's death. She did not care whether she was a woman; she took the position as the family leader. Therefore, she was not sad for more that the family depended on her responsibility and obedience, till then, the successful business could be reached.

Based on the prior depiction, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel by applying feminist perspective of literary criticism. The main focus which has to be concerned in this criticism is the achievement to recognize the women's role and position as drawn within the literary work (Endraswara, 2003:146). Through this approach, the writer is going to focus on revealing vividly the stereotypes of women in the industrial society as reflected in the novel *North and South*. Then, she elicits the data concerning Margaret's view towards stereotypes of women in the industrial society of Milton. Eventually, it comes to the writer's mind about the aspects which lead to the embodiment of Margaret's view. It is relevant to what has been stated by Sugihastuti and Suharto, that the basic idea in feminist perspective of literary criticism is the way to observe the women's roles as reflected in the literary work (2005:15).

The writer, in conducting this study, searches for the previous studies which have been done by the prior students as an additional consideration. Each of those owns different result; however, they refer to the same approach that is applying feminist perspective to analyze the literary work. One of them is M.Halili (2004) who observes Ayu Utami's *Saman*. In this novel—as has been

analyzed—Ayu Utami fights for the women's emancipation. It is presented through the characters relationship—Yasmin and Saman, and also Laila and Sihar—which indicates women's emancipations related to love and sexual relationship as a part of their struggle. Additionally, he finds out that *Saman* shows the true wishes of women in love briefly, sexual existences based on their desires and represents the images of women as their own ways. Due to the reason above, he conducts a research which is entitled "Feminist Literary Criticism on *Saman* by Ayu Utami". Afterwards, Laily Istiqomah (2004) examines Maria A.Sardjono's *Tiga Orang Perempuan*. Within her study entitled "The Right and The Perspective of Major Female Characters about Javanese Culture in *Tiga Orang Perempuan*", she analyzes the right and the perspective of the major female characters dealing with Javanese culture. She decides to choose this novel because she is challenged to the inferiority of Javanese women's right and position, as has been displayed within the novel.

Considering those previous studies, the writer strives to achieve the objectives of her study by exploring Gaskell's *North and South* accurately. Within this wonderful novel, she finds out several stereotypes of women in the industrial society of Milton during the Victorian era. As has been seen in the novel, women during the time are those who really ignore to the social condition. Facing the condition of society, Margaret's view is increasingly developed. She reckons that women are to be self-independent, specifically, to decide their own future. Furthermore, they should also consider or observe the circumstance which they live in. It is quite significant that it will enable them to know much what

news, issues, or even progress in their industrial society. Therefore, the writer is challenged to analyze the female main character's view concerning stereotypes of women in the industrial society through the feminist perspective. This analysis is then, entitled **Margaret's View towards Stereotypes of Women in the Industrial Society in *North and South*; A Novel by Elizabeth Gaskell.**

## **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

In accordance with the background of the study as stated above, this study is intended to answer some problems. Those are:

1. What are the stereotypes of women in the industrial society as reflected in the novel *North and South*?
2. What is Margaret's view towards stereotypes of women the industrial society?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

There are some objectives which are expected to be reached in examining this study, namely:

1. to identify the stereotypes of women in the industrial society as reflected in the novel *North and South*.
2. to identify Margaret's view towards stereotypes of women the industrial society.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

In order to specify and then answer the problems as stated above, the writer emphasizes the scope and limitation. This study is focused exactly on the stereotypes of women in the industrial society as reflected in Gaskell's *North and South*. It emerges in the form of i.e. women are fragile; women are frail creatures, women are confined to home, and women are objects of disturbance. Next, the writer elicits Margaret's view towards the stereotypes of women as appeared in the industrial society. It enables the writer to explore more completely about this female main character's view as embodied through her attitudes. Thus, the writer only limits the study on the stereotypes of women, specifically inside this novel in order to enable to find Margaret's view towards their stereotypes in this industrial society.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

By conducting this study, it hopefully can provide some contribution; theoretically, the writer hopes that this research would be profitable contribution to the feminist literary criticism progress. It is expected whether this sort of criticism becomes a means to interpret, evaluate and measure the high quality of women's works or all works about women even though those are written by men. Thus, it can make an increase in literary workers' activities, namely in conducting their remarkable works in the literary world.

Practically, the writer hopes that the result of this study will enrich the reference field of literature. It will give a clear reference for the next researchers

who intend to conduct the same study in a different literary work. Additionally, it enables them to examine the same object as what the writer of this research taken. Thereof, a more complete analysis in relation to Gaskell's *North and South* is served, and eventually, a deep analysis of this novel may bring about an excellent research.

### **1.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

There are several terms the writer is to define in order to avoid any misleading terms which may be occurred in examining this study. Those are:

View: personal opinion or thinking about something which is often embodied through the attitude.

Industrial Society: is a society in which the impetus of industrial revolution had already occurred. It was during the period that the full effects of industrialization led to the mass society of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The revolution led to the raise of science, technology, and engineering.

Stereotypes of Women: the fixed ideas of what women are like.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Industrial Society

In preindustrial society, as stated by Chapman (1976:79), society and its people were characterized by family-based agricultural and cottage industry, and most economic activity took place in the home. The family units were also the basic unit of production, and income was realized from the sale of goods and services produced jointly by family members. He also states that in this age; social status was more related to family connections than income or occupation, because income was generally obtained through inheritance and landownership.

When the society turned to be industrial because of industrial revolution, Chapman points out that the concept of labor force appeared. Because of this revolution, the society was characterized with the urbanization process and the increase in geographical mobility. Besides, Chapman also states the changes which were caused by this revolution as in the following statements:

The shift of the most economic activities out of the home into the factory had a number of effects. Because of the child-rearing responsibilities of the woman, the man was usually first to leave the home, and factory product soon displaced home-produced goods in the market economy. The growth of the money economy meant that the men became the principal source of money income within the family (1976:80).

Based on what has been pointed out by Chapman, it is obvious that industrial revolution was the source of changes in the society. It was the evidence

that the economic activity which was based on the family did not last long, so that some changes appeared both in the family and the society.

For a long time, as has been observed by E.P. Thompson and Perkin in Reid, this revolution had caused economic improvement for most people in the industrial society. It was for those who were especially in the middle and the upper classes to enjoy their prosperity and wealth. On the other hand, the lower classes suffered economically. There were classes in this society one of which became the ruling class. It is stated by Thompson and Perkin clearly in the statements below:

The social science approach which became increasingly influential from the middle of the 1960 argued for the rise of the industrial bourgeoisie, based on their growing economic wealth in the middle of the eighteenth century, their tightening grip on political power in the early nineteenth century, and their successful domination of social values by the middle of the nineteenth century (1994:12).

As written in [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian\\_era](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era), this period referred to the Victorian era of the Great Britain, which was marked by the height of the British industrial revolution and the apex of the British Empire. It was the period of Queen Victoria's rule between 1837 and 1901 which was considered as the longest reign in the British history on which the cultural, political, economic, industrial and scientific changes occurred. The social changes during this period left the mark not only upon Britain but also upon much of the world which were under the Britain's influence.



In conclusion, the industrial revolution was the main cause of the social changes. As the society tended to be industrial, the economic activity which was based on the factories influenced the urbanization process, or (even) rose the conflict between the sexes. Besides, it also brought about the emergence of the social changes in which the society was ruled by the dominant class who owned the high quality of property, i.e. bourgeoisie. Those changes, typically, appeared in the industrial society in which the Great Britain was ruled by a queen who had the longest reign during the history, Queen Victoria.

## 2.2 Women in the Industrial Society

Prior to the Victorian era, women—particularly of working classes—usually were expected to go out to work, often in the mills or mines. As with the children and men, the working hours for women were long and conditions were hard. The fortunate women became maids for the wealthier families, and other worked as governesses for rich children. While the less fortunate women were forced in extreme conditions during the day, and then they had to return home to conduct the households' domestic needs such as washing and cooking. Moreover, there was a rapid increase in birth rates which had an impact upon the physical strength of the mothers (<http://www.womenmameha/womenandchildren.htm>). Dealing with the depiction above, it can be said that women in the industrial society—during the industrial revolution—underwent such a misery along their life. They were stressed by the destiny to work which even did not give any chance to develop them.

When Queen Victoria ruled (1837-1901), the Great Britain was marked by the height of the British industrial revolution and also the apex of the British Empire. The technology of the industrial revolution had a great impact on society. Mining to extract the coal and other raw materials which needed to fuel the industrial revolution was a major new industry, before 1842 even women worked in mines. Then, a change was made that in 1842, Queen Victoria created a law which banned women and children working in mines. Since this moment, the Victorian household was ideally a nonproductive center. The women, thus, adopted an image of idleness to emphasize the complementarities of the home. Besides, delicacy became a character trait which affected their behavior, or even aroused concern for their physical activity. Furthermore, they were also involved by nervousness and fainting which also became manifestations of women's weakness. Therefore, bad or disagreeable news, shocking sights, or poor manners could cause them fainting

(<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/bronte/cbronte/61brnt.html>).

Furthermore, Chapman (1976:79) points out that the factory system of the nineteenth century was debilitating, and the liberation of women from the factories to the home was one focus of women's right movements during that period. The ideas of women as the "weaker sex", to be protected by men, were most fully developed in this period, particularly in the late of the nineteenth century. The nonworking wife was indeed the symbol of economic success and the more prestige was afforded by the husband and the family.

Through the depiction above, it seems that industrialization is a reason that makes a great shift for women. In the beginning, they worked as governesses for rich children; they also often worked in the mills or mines. However, since this rule was made in 1842 by Queen Victoria, women—in turn—adopted an image of idleness and to be protected by men. Thus, it is not astonishing that they became the figures in their home-centeredness.

### 2.3 Feminism

According to Andersen, feminism is a way of both thinking and acting, the union of action and thought in central to feminist programs for social change. Feminist begins with the premise that women's and men's position in the society are a result of social, not natural or biological factors. The word feminism conjures up the different images to the different people. As a result, many people (women) who might even agree with feminist ideas and programs for change find it difficult to call themselves feminists. Often, people are reluctant to call them feminists because of misunderstandings about what feminist means. Besides, Andersen also states that feminist is often equated with being a lesbian which, in turn, equated with man hating. Thus, it is rejected as it is linked to fears and stereotypes about lesbian (2003:9).

In a discussion about feminism, Beauvoir (1953:752-753) points out in her *the Second Sex* that man is concerned with the effort to appear male, important and superior. To her view, society—being codified by men—decrees that women are inferior. Woman can vanish this inferiority only by destroying the male's superiority. Woman must reject the limitation of her situation and endeavors to

open the road of the future, and there is no way out of for woman that to work to her liberation. This liberation must be collective, and it requires first of all that the economic evolution of woman's condition be accomplished.

In a broader point of view, Beauvoir states (in Tong 2006, 274-275) that if woman wants to stop her condition as the second sex, she has to be able to handle her strength from the environment. She has to own her argument and way of thinking like men. In realizing this condition, she can work outside with men, thus, she can emphasize her status as a human being who actively determine her own fate. Then, she has to be intellectual. Through a deep thinking, observing and defining, she is not object of those activities. Thus, Beauvoir urges woman to study the woman author's work such as Emily Bronte, Virginia Woolf and Catherine Mansfield who respect themselves earnestly as the authors in writing about the death, life and suffering. Furthermore, Beauvoir ensures that a single key to liberate woman is economic evolution. In an effort to realize it, she has to help creating a society which may endow material support to transcendent a border confining her.

In the beginning, as emphasized in Grimshaw (1986:7), some eighteenth-century feminists such as Mary Wollstonecraft were concerned to question belief about women which they saw as false or damaging, and social practices which they saw as unjust and discriminatory. They raised questions about women's rights, women's capacities and abilities, the dependence of women on men, the relationships that obtained or ought to obtain between men and women.

Furthermore, as a feminist during the century, Wollstonecraft emphasizes in her *A Vindication of the Right of Woman* that a conception of the human nature—of which she thought both men and women should realize—is one of which sex and gender are seen as accidental or contingent factors which are irrelevant to become fully human. Thus, what Wollstonecraft wants from woman is personhood that woman is not man's doll. In other words, she is not merely a man's instrument to serve happiness and enjoyment.

Then, in the ninetieth century, as stated by Tong (2006:30), John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor argue that woman has to own her right to vote in order to be equal to man. According to them, to vote means to own a position not only to express a political view of an individual, but also to change the system, structure and attitude which contribute oppression towards the other individual or oppression towards herself.

Although different varieties of feminist thought have developed, feminists generally see social institutions and social attitudes as the basis for the woman's position in the society. It is of what has been stressed by Andersen (2003:11) that in sexist societies, these institutions have created many structured inequities between women and men. Feminists believe in transforming institutions to generate liberating social changes on behalf of women. Thus, feminism takes women's interest central in movement for social change.

Finally, it seems obvious to the writer that feminism—even though it is not easy to define because it includes a variety of political perspectives and ideas—is a way of both thinking and acting to realize their belief that men are

basically not superior to women. To be feminists is so controversial, it is because feminist is often equated with being a lesbian, thus, some feminists fear that their friends and lovers will reject them. But there are lots of people—such as Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor—who are willing to work for liberating the social changes for women and men. They—as feminist writers—support women's rights and show their cultural expectations to the women's future which are included in their monumental book.

## 2.5 Feminist Perspective in Literary Criticism

Literary criticism is principally a consideration of literary work whether or not it is good and artistic (Pradopo, 2003:30). Since literary criticism is a consideration, thus any evaluation or even judgment related to a literary work is quite significant. Moreover, of the same opinion with Pradopo, Hardjana gives an emphasis:

“Literary criticism is principally an observation which directly is related to a certain literary work in a certain period of time. Besides giving any consideration of whether a literary work is good or bad, this observation is aimed at finding any clarification of each matters which are included in the literary work by giving any judgment, explanation and analysis as well (1994:37)”

Thus, literary criticism—based on these definitions above—can be construed as consideration of literary works and issues. It contains any argumentation about literature and also the principles of assessing it. Additionally, it covers the literary understanding through the emphasis on the evaluation of literary works and the author's place in the literary world.

In the history of literary criticism, Plato's *The Republic* is often taken as the earliest important example of literary criticism, which covers his cautions against the risky consequences of poetic in general (*The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1995:194). Later, it is developed and spread in the world-wide as much appeared in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As has been stated obviously in Peck and Coyle, there are various criticisms, such as expressive criticism which confine exclusively to the author's ideas, and social criticism which looks at the context in which a work is written (1986:150).

Furthermore, this period is also known as the rising age of women, for they appear rationally to struggle their right which appear in feminist's movement and also in literature in the form of literary criticism. As pointed out by Magy Humm in Sugihastuti and Suharto (2005:12), it is because there are some female writers—Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millet, Betty Friedan and Germaine Greer—who concern much on the development of literary criticism. They focus the analysis on women as drawn in male's culture, that actually women's role and status are determined by sexes.

In his book, Griffith points out that with the rise of feminism in the 1950s and 1960s; feminist critics claimed that men controlled the most influential interpretative communities over the years. In this situation, men decided which convention of literature and judged the quality of works. Women authors were ignored and female characters misconstrued. Then, since the 1960s, feminist literary critics have successfully challenged the circumstances. Far more women teach, interpret, evaluate and theorize about literature than ever before. They

concerned much on unjust, distorted and limited representation (images) of females in works of literature, especially works authored by men. They brought the realistic representations of women to enlighten neglected works by and about women (2006:189). Based on this historical moment, it seems to the writer that feminist movement, particularly in literature, becomes an underlying reason in order to explore their contributions in the literary world.

In another point of view, Culler states in Warhol and Herndl (1991:513) that in feminist criticism, women's experience will lead them to value the works differently from their male counterparts. Furthermore, in order to come to this criticism, he suggests apply "reading as a woman". By applying reading as woman, the readers will find themselves not to experience as a girl-watching but to experience as being watched. Thus, they will feel like a girl who is restricted and marginalized. In this regard, women's experience and a concern with images of women are treated as the firm ground for interpretation. Based on what has been defined by Culler above, it can be concluded that a significant way to reach feminist criticism is to read as woman. It, then, brings about a new experience of reading which make readers—men and women—concern on the literary assumption on which their reading has been based. Besides, it also demonstrates the limitations of male's interpretation and provides an attempt to produce a comprehensive perspective.

In the same point of view, Sugihastuti emphasizes that there is an assumption that women own the different perception from men's in reading literary work (2002:140). In sum, it seems clear that because of women's



movement, the avenues are open widely to women. Consequently, it leads to a criticism which includes any argument or perspective that focuses on inequality which is undergone by women as a result of patriarchy inside the literary work. It focus the analysis on women as drawn in male's culture, that actually women's role and status are determined by sexes. Through reading as a woman, woman's experience is treated as a firm ground for interpretation in order to conduct a deep and critical literary criticism.

## **2.6 Previous Studies**

One of the crucial considerations in conducting a research is previous study. Here, after finding out the same study, the writer vividly observes it. Firstly, the writer concerns on the study which is examined by Ernawati (2002), a student of Malang University. She analyzes gender injustices as reflected within a literary work and entitles it "Bentuk-Bentuk Ketidakadilan Gender dalam Novel *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* Karya Abidah el Khaliqy". In this novel she can find several forms of injustices which are appeared in the family circumstance which are supported by the religious tenet and the patriarchal culture. The first injustice is women's marginalization which is emerged in the forms of discrimination in having job and, decrease or refusal in giving the earn money. Secondly is women's subordination as appeared in stand discrimination, right distinction in the family, and, restriction in giving opinion and making consideration. Then, she also finds stereotypes of women in forms of conceptions that women are irrational, weak and lack of religious tenet, women are the causes

of broken homes and women are men's maids or servants. Finally, Ernawati describes household works which are extremely increased in number, difficult and tiring.

Besides considering the study above, M. Halili (2004) explains in his thesis that there are several feminist issues found in Ayu Utami's novel. As has been analyzed, Ayu Utami fights for the women's emancipation. It is presented through the characters relationship—Yasmin and Saman, and also Laila and Sihar—which indicates women's emancipations related to love and sexual relationship as a part of their struggle. Additionally, he finds out that *Saman* shows the true wishes of women in love, sexual existences based on their desires and represents the images of women as their own ways. Due to the reason above, he conducts a research entitled "Feminist Literary Criticism on *Saman* by Ayu Utami". Those issues are in forms of women's inequality and women's freedom.

In the same theme, Laily Istiqomah (2004) analyzes the women's right and the perspective of the major female characters about Javanese culture. She is interested in it due to the fact that the right and the position of Javanese women are very inferior. In addition, female are not considered significant if they are compared with males. Simultaneously, males are always superior and dominant. Besides, the relationship between the husband and wife is just like master and servant. Females, in this culture, do not have right to speak, make decision, argue and express their feeling. This situation is emphasized on the differences between female and male in Javanese culture. Firstly, females do not have rights and opportunity to obtain knowledge and access education as male. Secondly,

females do not have opportunity to manage family's circulation. Then, they also do not have authority to choose their own couple to marry with. Ultimately, they do not have right to express their feeling for somebody who is loved. And this discussion leads her to entitle her research as "The Right and The Perspective of Major Female Characters about Javanese Culture in *Tiga Orang Perempuan* by Maria A. Sardjono".

Again, with the same topic, Anis Safitri (2005) studies "Feminist Perspective Found in *Sense and Sensibility*". Through this study, she explores men's control over women such as men always want to know women's activities like what they do in the daily life and so on moreover, the writer also finds the effect of Jane Austen's cultural background to her literary works. As she observes, Austen always writes about women's oppression because they cannot express their opinion in front of the public in her era about inequality between men and women. It is because this era did not give her any chance and permission to express her ideas and opinions.

The next study is by Khoridah Hikayatin (2005). She finds three points of feminism in the drama *Anthony and Cleopatra*, namely women oppression from patriarchal society, the struggle of oppressed women, and the victories of the women who are oppressed. In fact, the feminist aspects on "Cleopatra" as the main female character are quite vague; however, the researcher can find those aspects inside the dialogues. The hidden aspects as in the novel are actually concerning the oppression of the patriarchal Rome, and the victories of Cleopatra in facing the patriarchal Rome. The victories are proved through Cleopatra's

death as her constant refusal to the patriarchal Rome; that if she is still alive, Caesar will bring her to Rome as the symbol of her victory. Thus, she revolts against the discrimination rules of her society strength and courage, by showing her ideology that women should stand up for their ideas. Therefore, she examines a study about “The Hidden Feminism of Cleopatra in William Shakespeare’s *Anthony and Cleopatra*”.

Those studies above are basically aimed at helping the writer to realize the objectives as emphasized in the previous chapter. In this study, the writer describes whether the stereotypes of women in the industrial society of Milton during the Victorian era are extremely restricted. Women are considered as fragile and frail, thus they are merely domestic creatures and household managers in this society. These conditions, then, lead the female main character—Margaret—to contrive and comment in the form of her views which much of those are quite different to what women think commonly during the time. Thereof, the writer is interested in examining the novel written by Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*, of what those depictions above are included, and she entitles it “Margaret's View towards Stereotypes of Women in the Industrial Society in *North and South*; A Novel by Elizabeth Gaskell”.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this section, the writer includes research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study is basically called as literary criticism which according to H.B.Jassin (in Pradopo, 2005:92) is a consideration of good-and-bad values of literary work, its discussion and also its judgment. Literary criticism—as a literary study—includes some main aspects; analysis, interpretation and evaluation. It is based on the reason that literary work is a complex structure which contains several complicated ideas or thought, and is often written in an ambiguous language. Thus, in order to achieve a deep literary criticism, the three aspects should be done that those are related and cannot be separated between each other.

In a study of literature, literary criticism is quite useful. It is what is pointed out by Pradopo that this criticism has three usages which bring about contribution to the study of literature. Firstly is that literary criticism can be a means of contriving the theory and history of literature. It can also help in any progress of literature in a certain society or nations by showing its good-and-bad values, and the setting in which the problematic story takes place as well.

Additionally, it is used to analyze, interpret, and evaluate or justify, till then common people may use it to enrich their deep understanding and appreciation towards literary work (2005:93).

In criticizing a literary work, a process of searching and analyzing the data systematically is required. In this case, a good analysis should be begun by reading the text of the novel *North and South*. The reading process is basically emphasized on finding the data related to stereotypes of women in the industrial society, and Margaret's view toward their stereotypes.

Then, as this study observes Gaskell's *North and South* through the feminist aspects, it is considered that this novel owns feminism aspects as displayed inside the text. Dealing with this reason, a deep analysis on the content of the novel can be done. Afterwards, an interpretation and also evaluation concerning the stereotypes of women as become Margaret's view can be reached for conducting this study.

Next, in order to specify this study, the writer uses feminist perspective of literary criticism. The basic consideration of this criticism, as mentioned by Endraswara (2004:146), is a way to analyze the women's position and roles in a literary work which becomes the central discussion in a literary research. In this case, the researcher can concern for men's domination or women's movement. In addition, the researcher can reveal the underlying reason of why women are inferior and marginalized, till then it will be a clear and deep literary criticism.

Concerning this criticism, the writer proposes that Gaskell's *North and South* really contains some views of Margaret as the main female character towards her society. It is proved by what she thinks and does to repose the stereotypes of women and activity during the time. Thus, feminist approach is an appropriate approach in analyzing this Gaskell's *North and South*.

### **3.2 Data Source**

The source of data which are taken is a 522 page-novel written in 1854-1855 entitled *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. The data gathered is in form of words, phrases, sentences as presented within Gaskell's *North and South*.

Concerning with this data, the writer focuses on those which indicate the stereotypes of women within the industrial society as appeared and displayed in the novel. She also concerns on those which describe Margaret's view towards stereotypes of women as observed in the new society; the industrial town of Milton.

### **3.3 Data Collection**

Due to the fact that the data are in form of words, phrases, or sentences taken from the novel *North and South* which reflected the stereotypes of women in the industrial society, what the writer does firstly is reading and understanding each details of the novel. The next step she does is selecting the data which show the problems of the study. The writer then concerns on gathering or collecting the

data which are closely related to the problems which are formulated. She concerns much on the phenomenon which mainly indicates what she wants to analyze, namely stereotypes of women in the industrial society and Margaret's view dealing with their stereotypes in this society.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

After doing some steps in order that the data gathered or collected, the writer comes to the next process, data analysis. In this process, the available data is organized in order to be manageable units in an attempt to define the finding. Next, the writer categorizes the data of stereotypes of women in the industrial society as appeared in the novel as well as Margaret's view towards their stereotypes. To achieve a deep analysis, the obtained data concerning with this subject matter as discovered in Gaskell's *North and South* are then interpreted. Eventually, the writer draws the conclusion to obtain a systematic finding from what are available and contribute to the knowledge base regarding this topic.



## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

In accordance with the statements of the problems noted previously, this study is aimed at answering those problems. Its results, then, divided into two main parts which encompass the stereotypes of women as portrayed in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*. In the first part, the writer presents and analyzes the data related to the stereotypes of women in the industrial society of Milton. Then, in the second part, the writer observes and analyzes Margaret's views as the female main character towards the stereotypes of women in this industrial society.

#### **4.1 Stereotypes of Women in the Industrial Society**

As the title suggests, *North and South* presents a contrast between the agricultural gentry of the South of England (Helstone) and the industrial of North (Milton). This novel tells the story about Margaret Hale, a daughter of a Nonconformist minister who moves to the industrial town of Milton after leaving the Church of England. When her father leaves the Church because of a crisis of conscience, Margaret is uprooted from the comfortable home in Helstone to move with her family in Milton.

*North and South* is a novel which looks at the women through a way of life in the Victorian era. The story itself takes place in a northern industrial city of England, Milton, in 1854-1855. The novel illustrates a moment in which women play sub-ordinate role. They are involved by the massive ideas of being home-

centeredness and inferiority. As a result, they seem to emphasize a historical moment of the triumph of domestic ideology, as what appeared through the obvious depiction of Gaskell's female characters.

In this part, the writer analyzes the data concerning with stereotypes of women within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*. This analysis, is then, presented in form of women are fragile creatures, women are frail creatures, women are confined to home, and women are objects of disturbance.

#### **4.1.1 Women are Fragile Creatures**

The condition of women in the industrial society of Milton is involved by an appalling stereotype for the ideal women are they who often seen fragile. In essence, it symbolizes those women who receive any protection from the family or husband. This protection is undoubtedly believed as an important regard for women during this period. It is proved by a condition in which women have no longer authority to consider what they want to decide independently. The specific instance is whenever they decide to come to any places they want to reach. Women are actually allowed to leave the home in order to come to any parties or another regards which can bring their pleasure. However, the most thing forgotten concerning with going out is that they are to be guarded strictly.

The reason for protecting women at the time they leave home is that they are considered as fragile or weak creatures. Their body is like the property of the husband which is to be protected properly. In relation to this

reason, Elizabeth Gaskell draws her bewitching ideas within her *North and South*. This condition—dealing with the depiction within the novel—is illustrated whenever there is a woman who goes around alone. For instance when Margaret gets out of her new home, Mrs. Shaw (Margaret's aunt) will hardly prohibit her, both to her own daughter or to Margaret. The only reason which involves Mrs. Shaw's mind is that going around alone along the street—in particular in Milton—is quite dangerous. Thus, there must be a footman or servant who follows in order to keep the safety, and this condition is not something new in this society. As Margaret observes—along Milton Street—she meets women walking elegantly with a man behind. There always be women in this street who are being guarded to wherever they want to reach.

In fact, this reason is crucial that the family member will be safe on her journeys; however, it draws a portrait whether women are those fragile creatures who always need to be protected like a child. And in this industrial Milton, going around with the footman is not a perplexing matter anymore. It is of what depicted inside the novel which refers to what Mrs. Shaw comments for Margaret's habitual in Helstone:

It was something of a trial to Margaret to go out by herself in this busy bustling place. Mrs. Shaw's ideas of propriety and her own helpless dependence on others had always made her insist that a footman should accompany Edith and Margaret, if they went beyond Harley Street, or the immediate neighborhood. The limit by which this rule of her aunt's had circumscribed Margaret's independence had been silently rebelled

against at the time: and she had doubly enjoyed the free walks and rambles of her forest life from the contrast which they presented (p.80).

Furthermore, this condition is also supported by another datum which essentially indicates the same condition that women are fragile. This stereotype is emerged at the time Margaret lives in a residence in Harley Street after her parents passed away. In this Harley Street, she lives with her aunt, Mrs. Shaw's family, for she has nobody else to live with except her servant, Dixon. Thus, after her mother and father passed away, Mrs. Shaw and Edith propose to assist her, to comfort and keep her as Mrs. Shaw cares much on her as before she moves to Milton.

Even though Margaret has Dixon who is always there for her, Edith still worries for her. Basically, she knows whether Margaret is an independent and strong-minded woman; after all, she deems guidance is quite significant for her. It is appeared in the quotation as stated:

“Only don't be strong-minded,” pleaded Edith. “Mamma wants you to have a footman of your own; and I'm sure you're very welcome, for they're great plagues. Only to please me, darling, don't go and have a strong-minded; it's the only thing I ask.”

In accordance with the example as displayed in the previous quotation, it is not vague anymore whether it draws women's portrait as fragile creatures. As emerged in some female characters such as Mrs. Shaw and Edith within *North and South*, fragile or weakness mostly characterize the image of women in this industrial Milton. As a result, a lack of political power and physically

debilitating problems contribute to the idea of the delicate women, who extremely need special care. Since they are delicate creatures, they are not allowed to reach anywhere without being guided by a servant or footman. Therefore, the stereotypes of women within this society are quite similar to children, in addition; ideal women are those who always need the servant's responsibility to guide simultaneously.

#### 4.1.2 Women are Frail Creatures

In spite of fragile, women—within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*—are also seen as frail creatures. This stereotype emphasizes that women are inwardly fragile. The depiction in *North and South*, for instance, is of which happened to Mrs. Hale (Margaret's mother).

At the time Mr. Hale is doubtful about his conscience with the Church of England, he does not reveal the reason both to his wife and daughter. He keeps the secret by himself and never lets one of them to know it, even though Margaret urges him to tell the truth. The only matter he says is about the removal to Milton. He reveals to Margaret that the Hale will move to the northern of industrial city and become a classics tutor for a young mill owner, Mr. John Thornton. He tells the truth as he considers her as a strong-minded woman, who is quite different from her mother who is deemed as sensitive and frail. Within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*, it can be seen in part:

“Margaret, I know so well your mother's marriage life has not been all she hoped—all she had a right to expect—and this will be such a blow to her, that I have never had the heart, the power to tell her. She must be

told though, now,” said he, looking wistfully at his daughter. Margaret was almost overpowered with the idea that her mother knew nothing of it at all, and yet the affair was so far advanced!

“Yes, indeed she must,” said Margaret. “Perhaps, after all, she may not—oh yes! She will, she must be shocked”—as the force of the blow returned upon herself in trying to realize how another would take it.

(p.39)

Starting from this part, it seems that women within men's thought are those who truly frail. In this case, Mr. Hale does not deem that his wife is the first person who is to be informed. The mere consideration fulfills his thought is a doubt and anxiety to bring his wife into a sickness. This consideration is essentially true. But it is less illogical that due to this reason, he ignores Mrs. Hale to know. To ignore the wife's right to help considering any problematic matter in a marital life means ignoring the women's right as a partner of life, a true partner for the husband.

Furthermore, the stereotype of being frail is then supported by a bad circumstance such as pollution. It fulfills Mrs. Hale's mind which eventually affect her health. Undergoing a new circumstance in Milton which is quite different from the fresh rural Helstone extremely makes her irritated. Thus, in this new residence, she thinks there is nothing more she gets but misery. As appeared within this following quotation:

The life in Milton was so different from what Mrs. Hale had been accustomed to live in Helstone, in and out perpetually into the fresh and open air; the air itself was so different, deprived of all revivifying principle as it seemed be there; the domestic worries pressed so very closely, and in a new and sordid form, upon all the women in the family,

that there was so good reason to fear that her mother's health might be becoming seriously affected (p.101-102).

Concerning with the stereotypes of women above, there is an emphasis whether women—with their frailty—are truly creatures whose heart and body need to be protected all over the time. Thus, it highlights that women are human being whose existence is nothing more than children or (even) pets who are to receive a proper protection.

#### 4.1.3 Women are Confined to Home

In accordance with what is illustrated within *North and South*, a portrayal of women in the industrial society of Milton is fulfilled by a vivid picture of home-centeredness. It suggests that women's place is at home. They are, basically, absorbed in producing or caring for things such as food, clothing and shelter. In other words, they live a life a housekeeper who is shut up inside their home. It is their duty to assure this monotonous life. And together with their servants, they adopt their own duties.

Moreover, it is common for women to manage their own household i.e. organizing a good home arrangement. This situation is, then, portrayed vividly by Elizabeth Gaskell as the following quotation:

She was handsomely dressed in stout black silk, of which not a thread was worn or discolored. She was mending a large long table cloth of the finest texture, holding it up against the light occasionally to discover thin places, which require her delicate care. There was not a book about in the room, with an exception of Matthew Henry bible Commentaries, six volumes of which lying in the center of the

massive sideboard, flanked by a tea-urn on one side and a lamp on the other (p.87).

It is a vivid portrayal of women's inferiority during the time. It emphasizes the notion that a woman's place is truly in their own home that women are to work in her own home. Thus, it seems that women adopt a home-centeredness condition whose horizon is quite limited.

For the reason above, it is unsurprising matter that what they are to do is of what they can do in the home. Furthermore, women (specifically are young women) are expected to be able to sing and play instrument which can ensure their couples for their qualification. This situation is whenever they get ready for courtship and marriage. Within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*, this situation is experienced by Fanny, a daughter of Mrs. Thornton. During the days—particularly before her marriage—she busies herself with playing piano. Every time and every moment, she plays this instrument upstairs of her luxury home. This is, then, depicted beautifully within the novel as quoted below:

In some remote apartment, there was exercise upon the piano going on. Fanny has practicing up a morceau de salon, playing it very rapidly, every third note, on an average, being either indistinct, or wholly missed out, and the loud cords at the end being half of them false, but not the less satisfactory to the performer (p.88).

Through the data above, it comes to the writer's mind that playing an instrument is a requirement; specifically of women who are confined to home,



as result, this playing becomes Fanny's habit which drives her into pleasure. This is depicted within the novel that because it is her pleasure, she even comments another person whose pleasure is quite different from her. It is occurred at the moment Fanny reaches Margaret's home, and after finding no piano inside her room, she even humiliates Margaret. It can be seen through the quotation as stated below:

“I suppose you are not musical,” said Fanny, “as I see no piano”.  
“I'm fond of hearing good music; I cannot play well myself; and papa and mamma don't care much about it; so we sold out our old piano when we came here”.  
“I wonder why you can exist without one. It almost seems to me a necessary of life” (p.112).

It's hardly believed that in an industrial city like Milton, women are becoming home-centeredness and are confined to enjoy any pleasure inside the home. In this society, it is possible that they are supposed to be independent towards any progress in which they reside. In turn, they emerge in a portrayal of home-centeredness. And with the evident which is undergone by Fanny, a young city woman, who even cannot bear living a day without playing piano of her instrument. She even does not care about improving her knowledge through reading books. It is obvious that there is no single book inside her home; there are merely some bibles contriving her shelf. Thus, she is in opposite with her brother who enriches himself by studying classics with Mr. Hale. As a result, this leads to a clear depiction

whether women are those who are to be in home, no more than assuming their responsibility inside the home.

Apart from those depictions above, it is also common for women to manage the household. As they are confined to home, they are to organize the households' matters i.e. organizing parties and dinners to bring prestige to the family or husband. Furthermore, in order to run a household, secure the happiness and well-being family they must perform their duties throughout. Thus, they have to organize and instruct the servants who are reliable to help running their duties. At the same time, they devote enough time to the children and towards improving their own abilities.

This situation is occurred in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*, specifically to those some female characters such as Mrs. Thornton. She is a mother of a mill owner, Mr. John Thornton. As a wealthy mother of Marlborough mill owner, she is confine to the luxuries home, as a result, she is lack of care for her surrounding. She tends to secure her prestige through some parties including a welcome party which is held for the new arrival, the Hales. Even though she is not interested enough in this family, she holds it as Mr. Hale in a classics tutor for her son. The situation which draws this Mrs. Thornton's attitude is found in the quotation as stated below:

...Margaret, with her London cultivated taste, felt the number of delicacies to be oppressive; one half of the quantity would have been enough, and the effect lighter and more elegant. But it was one of Mrs. Thornton's rigorous laws of hospitality, that each of separate dainty enough should be provided for all the guests to enjoy if they are

inclined. Careless to abstemiousness in the daily habits, it was part of her pride to set a feast before such of her guests as cared for it (p.189).

In accordance with a party as being held by Mrs. Thornton, it is somewhat not a strange manner in Milton during this period. This is based on the reason that besides Mrs. Thornton, another female character such as Edith is also eager much on organizing a party. In this case, she reveals the intention to organize it since Margaret lives with Edith's family in Harley Street. It seems, organizing a party—i.e. dinner party—is crucial indeed in her life. Thus, she even thinks that this sort of party is the reason to strengthen Margaret's heart after her parents' death. This depiction is of what drawn in the datum as the following quotation:

“Poor child!” said Edith. “It is a little sad for you to be left night after night, just at this time when the entire world was so gay. But we shall be having our dinner-parties soon—as soon as Henry comes back from circuit—and then there will be a pleasant variety for you. No wonder it is moped, poor darling!”(p.446)

Actually, Edith's intention to organize a sort of welcome party is a good idea; however, it draws a condition of which she is a partyaholic. It draws (as if) her mind whether all kind of sorrow can be vanished easily by coming to the party.

Moreover, there is also a depiction which reveals stereotypes of women in a matter of party. Besides organizing a party, it is quite significant to come to an invitation of party. In this situation (excepting coming to a party), women are being permitted to leave the house and enjoy their own

pleasure, although it is their habit to be confined to home. As being drawn by Elizabeth Gaskell in her *North and South* through Mrs. Shaw and Edith, women are extremely partyaholic. They come to parties no matter what arrangement brings them into enjoyment or pleasure. It is of what experienced by both of the female characters above which can be found in the next datum:

Margaret did not feel that if the dinner-parties would be panacea. But Edith piqued herself on her dinner-parties; "so different", as she said, "from the old dowager dinner under mamma's regime;" and Mrs. Shaw herself seemed to take exactly the same kind of pleasure at the very different arrangements and circle of acquaintances which were Captain and Mrs. Lennox's taste as she did in the more formal and ponderous entertainments which she herself used to give (p.446).

The datum presented above is clear enough to indicate the stereotype of women which refers to a kind of home-centeredness, a condition which leads them to be confined to home. Even though they can leave the home to come to a party, they are actually people whose horizon is restricted. The reason is that what they are to do is merely related to their household life, for instance, organizing a good arrangement of house, organizing a party both in order to bring about the family's prestige or welcome the new arrivals, and playing instruments both for pleasure or to get ready for a marriage. Those examples, then, can be the obvious evident of a condition which indicates stereotypes of women during the time in the industrial city of Milton as what depicted interestingly within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*.

Moreover, it is common for women to manage their own household i.e. organizing a good home arrangement. Each ease is to be found there in the home, thus, it can present all pleasure and happiness to the member of the family. Besides, it also common for them to serve all ease in a good-prepared to their guests, till they are confine to their home as well. In this case, Gaskell shows beautifully in her *North and South* as appeared in Edith. Since Margaret resides with Edith's family in the Harley Street, Edith presents a cordial welcome to her cousin. Firstly is due to the fact that she loves her cousin whose parents passed away. The other reason is that managing the wealth in a good-management is not an amazing habit during the time. It can be seen through the example as quoted below:

It was very well for Margaret that the extreme quiet of the Harley Street house, during Edith's recovery from her confinement, gave her the natural rest which she needed. It gave her time to comprehend the sudden change which had taken place in her circumstances within the last two months. She found herself at once an inmate of luxurious house; where the bare knowledge of the existence of every trouble of care seemed scarcely to be penetrated (p.444).

As emerged in the quotation above, it seems undoubtedly clear that what Edith has done shows that good arrangement is important to be done. The reason is that by preparing it well, it will indicate how skillful she is as the housekeeper. Besides, it is emphasized by a reason that it will leads her guest into an ease, and to enjoy being in home as it is furnished with a good arrangement of a luxury properties. In addition, she considers that Margaret's

life—since her removal from the south—is quite miserable which is not appropriate to be called a life, for she finds Margaret and her family reside in a dirty and smoky city like Milton.

#### **4.1.4 Women are Objects of Disturbance**

In a society in which consisted of mostly mill workers, Milton is a society whose people are less respectful towards strangers. It occurred on which Margaret comes around in Milton for the first occasion she lives in this industrial city. She walks alone in Milton roads in order that she can recognize a society to which she will become a new residence. Based on what the Milton people do that they disturb and humiliate her, it can be seen whether they are lack of reserve towards strangers. It seems obviously in the following quotation:

The side of the town on which the town on which Crampton lay was especially a thoroughfare for the factory people. In the back streets around them there were many mills, out of which poured streams of men and women two or three times a day. Until Margaret had learnt the times of their ingress and egress, she was very unfortunate in constantly falling in with them. They came rushing along, with bold, fearless faces and loud laughs and jests, particularly aimed at all those who appeared to be above them in rank or station. The tones of their unrestrained voices, and their carelessness of all common rules of street politeness, frightened Margaret a little at first” (p.81).

As appeared in the previous quotation, it can be said that these people’s courage and outspoken to whom appear in front of them indicate

their characteristic which consider women as a beautiful object of disturbance. Additionally, in accordance with their attitude, it becomes vivid evidence whether they see women through a tiny point of view that they are inferior. They are not attentive whether women are naturally creatures like themselves, the same human being who own their own right to enjoy a comfortable circumstance. However, what they show to women is such an absence of deference or respect towards the other people; women. It, then, displays a depiction that women are those appropriately to be disturbed, as if they were extremely worthless. This situation clearly can be found in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* as in the next part:

For instance, one day, after she had passed a number of men, several of whom had paid her the not unusual compliment of wishing she was their sweetheart, one of the lingerers added, "Your bonny face, my last, makes the day looks brighter." And another day, as she was unconsciously smiling at some passing thought, she was addressed by a poorly-dressed, middle-aged, workman, with "You may well smile, my lass; many a one would smile to have such a bonny face." (p. 82).

In relation to the example as drawn in the novel, it comes to the writer's mind whether Milton people's mind is fulfilled by a thought of women's inferiority. Besides being an object of their disturbance, women are those who are considered morally less valuable. It is proved of what has undergone by Margaret who is given a sum of money by a passer-by; it truly indicates whether what comes to Milton people's thought is that there is merely a morally destructed woman who goes around bravely like Margaret

does. Additionally, in the mill area, women show their character as being extremely rough and arrogant to the other people. In sum, a crucial role of women in this industrial Milton is extremely questionable as it seems unobvious that they play a significant role in this society. It is affected by their society in which women work outside their home (their duties inside the home) is hard to be found, although they live in an industrial city.

#### **4.2 Margaret's Views towards Stereotypes of Women in the Industrial Society**

Margaret—as the female main character in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*—is a young woman whose thought is involved by her insightful views. She comes up as an outsider from the rural southern of England, Helstone. She is actually a middle class woman, but her views lead her to be aware of the surrounding in which she resides. She examines a passionate sense of social injustices, such as what is experienced by women whose roles are quite limited because of their stereotypes, and (even) she develops her sympathy for the suffering of other women. And about what she views, is then presented in the part of this analysis.

In a case of stereotypes of women of being fragile and frail, no matter what the reason women are assumed fragile and frail, Margaret does not seem to own these stereotypes. She even shows that it is quite crucial to vanish both of those stereotypes, even though vanishing entirely is quite impossible. Above all, she appears as a person who is strong-minded, independent and brave. It occurred



in a case at the moment that she encounters a terrible strike in front of Mr. Thornton's house. Unlike the other women in this house (Mrs. Thornton, Fanny, and servants), she has no scare, she also does not tremble in a matter of this danger situation. She, on the other hand, suggests Mr. Thornton to speak to its chairman (Mr. Boucher) man to man due to the reason that she understands what the strikers want. She even recognizes well this chairman as well as the reason of what this strike does, namely struggling against a life fulfilled by misery and poverty.

Considering Margaret's reason, Mr. Thornton faces these poor strikers. Unfortunately, before reaching an agreement between the master and strikers, there is a dreadful accident that a stone thrown by striker hurts Margaret's forehead. Basically, it will not be occurred if she does not shield him from being hit by their throw. She does it because of the reason that she wants to see this violence hurts the master, Mr. Thornton, as she considers it is unfair that he is alone in front of the crowd. Besides, her attitude is aimed at reaching a good decision for the people's welfare. But because of the accident, a decision is not reached yet for the strikers (in particular Mr. Boucher) hesitate for the struggle as they worry about being captured by the soldiers.

In relation to what Margaret has done, she believes it is a courage implanted inside herself as a woman. In spite of woman, she does not agree entirely that woman is delicate creature who is fulfilled by stereotypes of being fragile and frail. Thus, she opposes Mr. Thornton's thought that Margaret's unpredictable attitude is useless. Woman is to be protected not to protect. But in

this case, Mr. Thornton is protected or shielded by a woman, thus it makes him ashamed. After all, Margaret clings to her opinion that sometimes it is appropriate to prove her view as a true woman. It is said in Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* as quoted below:

“It was a very natural instinct; any woman would have done just the same. We all feel the sanctity of our sex for a high privilege when we see danger. I ought rather,” said she hastily, “to apologize to you, for having said thoughtless words which sent you down into the danger” (p.230).

In essence, the underlying reason for every Margaret's view and attitude is that she is eager to make a progress during her life time. She is truly curious. But, as she observes in the industrial Milton, a sort of strong-minded, independent or even curiosity is difficult to be found in women's thought. It is due to the fact that they are fulfilled by a simple-minded of enjoying idleness which is supported by what by men towards themselves.

It is the evident that their duties are merely related to their home; managing household, organizing parties, or enjoying pleasure. They are confined in a society in which women are not to know more than their horizon, home. Therefore, they (as displayed within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* through some female characters) even do not recognize the circumstance they live in. It is the opposite condition of Margaret that because of her removal to this city, she criticizes the social class which is emerged in Milton. It is of what she says within the novel as stated below:

“It won’t be division enough on that awful day, that some of us have been beggars here, and some of us have been rich, we shall not be judged by that poor accident, but by our faithful following of Christ” (p.420)

Through the datum above, it seems that Elizabeth Gaskell shows how brilliant Margaret is among the other female characters. It is supported by the depiction that throughout the book, Margaret makes a friend with the Higgins, the workers class family. This relationship is, then, leads her to criticize deeply that people are no matter they may come from or social status they have. It is hardly to believe that this matter never come to Milton women, particularly they who come from upper class like the Thorntons. They perhaps do not know that there are lots of people who cannot enjoy any pleasure like them. That is the reason she drives her deep sympathy to the poor class living in poverty as being depicted within *North and South* as quoted below:

There might be toilers and moilers there in London, but she never saw them; the very servants lived in an underground world of their own, of which she knew neither the hopes nor fears; they only seemed to start into exercise when some want or whim of their master and their mistress needed them (p.445).

It is also because of her removal that she advocates equal treatment for every people. No matter whom they are (upper or worker classes), they are to be regarded. Her insightful view is what she obtains through mending with the diverse classes in the industrial Milton. Therefore, her view leads her to be an admirable woman as what depicted within Elizabeth Gaskell’s *North and South* in the following quotation:

“Hear this daughter of yours, Hale! Her residence in Milton has quite corrupted her. She is a democrat, a red republican, a member of the Peace Society, a socialist...”

“Papa, it’s all because it’s standing up the progress of commerce. Mr. Bell would have had it keep still at exchanging wild-beast skins for acorns.” (p.393)

Considering Margaret’s views towards stereotypes of women in Milton and what she does, then, can be obvious evident of Margaret’s insightful thought. She, who lives in an independent-minded family, shows how brilliant she is. Unlike the others female characters, she is a southern outsider whose views lead her to criticize that women are to be dependent on themselves. However they are assumed frail or even fragile, they must vanish the situation which indicates their stereotypes as weak creatures. They are also to open their own mind that being confined to home is less valuable that they become less curious to the circumstances or society they reside. Thus, they become simple-minded whose mind is fulfilled by women’s pleasure i.e. gossip and dress.

Furthermore, Margaret's living in her residence of Milton makes her to observe Milton society intensively, and then, it builds her views towards women. To her view, women are less curious, for instance, they tend to separate themselves from men in a discussion about the social issues or conflict. As she observes, it is because women live in a society in which men are the leader in any consideration towards any matters. Thus, they are not aware of the condition which brings them into inferiority. After all, curiosity is a crucial matter should be regarded.

This situation is at the moment Margaret comes to a party which is held by Mrs. Thornton. During this party, women keep chatting on a discussion about their pleasure i.e. gossip and dresses. They (even) do not care whether the current issues or progress in the mill life as being discussed by men is an interesting discussion. She also does not find a woman who is challenged in talking with them as she does, for according to her, it is a good and bewitching topic to be discussed to enrich her knowledge.

She, therefore, criticizes that women should be more eager and curious to such matter as being discussed among men. It is due to the reason that discussing merely about the pleasure is often leads into boredom. Of what she views is then included within Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* as quoted below:

It was rather dull for Margaret after dinner. She was glad when gentlemen came, not merely because she caught her father's eyes to brighten her sleepiness up; but because she could listen to something larger and grander than the petty interests which the ladies had been talking about. She like the exultation in the sense of power which these Milton men had (p.193).

In accordance with women's curiosity, Gaskell also mentions an emphasis on Margaret' view that—besides curiosity—women are to be socials sensitive. Intently, Gaskell displays this view as being experienced by Margaret at the time the mill life is shocked by the workers' strike. This strike is aimed at reaching the mill workers' welfare and holding a Union between these workers, which then, can handle problematic matters in the Marlborough mill i.e. lack of attention on the workers' right in communication between the masters (owners) and the

workers. In this situation, Margaret sees that this strike is almost ignored as the mill master (Mr. Thornton) does not appear to overcome it. Till then, Margaret comments whether this conflict is getting more complicated if Mr. Thornton does not come up and speak to them gently. At the time women are helpless and frightened, she even urges and accompanies him to try speaking and determining the best decision for both sides, and eventually, she powerfully can help in overcoming this conflict.

After this strike is over, its impact is not yet come to an end, since Mr. Boucher (the striker chairman) commits suicide for being disappointed by the master. As a result, his family drowned by sorrow as there is nobody can serve any protection and earn the living. Concerning with this situation, Margaret seems to build her sympathy to the poor Bouchers consisting of his wife and six children. None cares about them. Then, she strives—by any assistance from Mr. Higgins (Mr. Boucher's companion)—to speak what misery holding this family. Through her great effort, she meets Mr. Thornton who, at last, gives Mr. Higgins a work in his mill in order to devote earnestly to this poor family. And with Mrs. Boucher, Margaret's womanly feeling participates as she develops her deep sympathy and tries to release her pain. It is proved in the following statement:

Margaret saved her from falling by catching her in her arms. She sat down in the rocking-chair, and held the woman upon her knees, her head lying on Margaret's shoulder. The other children, clustered together in affright, began to understand the mystery of the scene; but the ideas come slowly, for their brains were dull and languid of perception. They set up such a cry of despair, as they guessed the truth, that Margaret knew not how to bear it. Johnny's cry was loudest of them all, though he knew not

why he cried, poor little fellow. The mother quivered as she lay in Margaret's arms (p.353).

In relation to this social sensitivity, there is another situation which invites Margaret's attention. Since she moves to Milton, she makes a friend with Bessy Higgins (Mr. Higgins' daughter) who is secured from the right not to work only because of her fatal disability. She is the victim of unhealthy condition in the mill area who becomes a dying young woman. Even though she is pale, weak, and obsessed with an image of heaven, Bessy is truly curious and rebellious. Her inwardly mindset is not as weak as her appearance since she does not want to be assumed defenseless. Besides Margaret, she is the only female character who in this novel which presents her idea not to be simple-minded but curious. She is eager of her society as she is eager to make a challenge to vanish her idleness in order that she can have a job which can make her stay away from the quiet nature of her life.

"I used to think once that if I have a day of doing nothing, to rest me—in some quiet place like that yo' speak on—it would maybe set me up. But now I've had many days o' idleness, and I'm just weary o' them as I was o' my work...."(p.117).

Considering Bessy's attitude, Margaret is compassion for her suffering and sympathy for her. Thus, Margaret evokes her view; she is eager to escape these people i.e. Bessy from her unbearable suffering that can bring her about despair. With her habit to mend with the society and its people, she is compassion to Bessy's condition which is not expected by herself. Bessy wants to explore her

by working outside, but her health does not permit her to do. Thereof, she gives any support to Bessy's saying to make her more livery-stable for being a woman who is almost in the despair as the following part:

"Don't be afraid, Bessy," said Margaret, laying her hands on the girl's;  
"God can give you more perfect rest than even idleness on earth, of the dead sleep of the grave can do" (p.117).

Then—in describing the stereotypes of women in the industrial Milton—as being viewed by Margaret, Gaskell convincingly points out it through Margaret's attitudes. By mingling with the society—whatever class they may come from—Margaret can observe the real situation of her residence. For women are less curious, social sensitive; Margaret finds whether there is inferiority holding their existence tightly. And by considering this view, she then wrestles with her different conscience that women can perform themselves in order to strengthen their role.

Through her incredible view, women are not to be confine to their home entirely. They are people who can take their life or fate into their own hands. That is the reason thereby Margaret tries to reconcile home duties with the development of women outside their home. As what she had in her mind, that she must one day determine her own life; she tries to rebel Mrs. Shaw's idea to stay at home with her and Edith to live the idle life. On the other hand, she struggles against her aunt's authority in order to get her permission to work.

Finally, Gaskell makes an attempt to expand Margaret who contributes her views to the public as well as the private realm. As permitted to work, she is



granted her freedom to work in Milton slums. Therefore, it is clear at the end of the novel that Margaret intends to use her money (which is inherited from Mr. Bell, her god-father) to improve the industrial condition. In accordance with what she has done, she certainly emphasizes the crucial role of women towards the society. In spite of their weakness and frailty, they can also suggest their right to consider or determine something she wants to take i.e. working outside.

In accordance with the previously depiction, it comes to the writer's mind whether women—no matter they may come from—are to be aware of themselves. Even though women tend to show themselves as true wives and mother, they are also people who can contribute their ability. For instance, by improving their own knowledge and social sensitivity, it can set their ideas or view in reaching their authority. Then, it will be a challenging idea if they are able to mingle their home duties with the development of themselves. It is due to the reason that by reconciling both of those aspects, they can produce of what the best of them. Even though they take their home duties, it does not mean whether they are inferior as conducting women's job. It, then, indicates and emphasizes their great power of being women who are responsible for both of those regards.

On the other hand, men—who are often assumed as powerful creatures than women—are to be open-minded. In spite of their power or even authority, it is injustice if they see women as inferior just because of their weakness or frailty. This is based on the reason that it is not a strange state that women's ideas or views are incredible more than men. Thus, they are supposed to grant women's

existence whether about their rights, ideas, and roles which involve themselves as human being like men.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Milton, is an industrial city in which Margaret develops her own views toward its people, specifically are women. Margaret—as the female main character—observes that women are human being who can be said inferior. Their roles are limited for women have their stereotypes i.e. fragile or frail that often needs men as their guidance. Their body is like the property of the husband which is to be protected properly. Besides, women also appeared as object of disturbance and morally less valuable.

Whenever they get out of their own home, there must be a man beside them in order to give guidance. If there is a woman who does not have a servant to guide, it will be worried that a danger may come up and wait for her, or (even) they will be disturbed by the passer-by along the road. This reason is logical that the family member will be safe on her journeys; however, it draws a portrait whether women are those fragile creatures who always need to be protected like children.

Even though Milton is an industrial city, a consideration that women are domestic creatures still exists. They are confined to home and ignore their circumstance. It is proved by the social condition that women have no ideas concerning with the social regards in this city, and what they have in their mind are merely silly things such as gossips and dresses.

In writing a story of *North and South*, Elizabeth Gaskell creates an image that woman's place is not outside (not to work) but at home. The author places women in subordinate role who are may be harmed by working outside. She draws her ideas by exploring her characters i.e. Mrs. Thornton, Fanny, Mrs. Shaw and Edith who are apparently experience any idleness. If it is rooted with the historical moment during this period, an image of women which can be called home-centeredness and inferior exist clearly. Concerning this moment, Stevenson proposes that from the 1830s on, the working woman was the center of an ideological battle in the Victorian culture; however, in the 1850s, working class women began to re-define their place in the society by accepting an image of them which involved both home-centeredness and inferiority ([http://scholars.nus.edu.sg/victorians/authors/gaskell/n\\_s4.html](http://scholars.nus.edu.sg/victorians/authors/gaskell/n_s4.html)). Therefore, it is not astonishing anymore, and becomes a consideration for Gaskell in examining her remarkable *North and South* which is enriched by a great portion of stereotypes of women in living their inferiority.

This story is, ultimately, developed that Elizabeth Gaskell also creates her strong female character as being portrait in Margaret Hale. Through Margaret who improves her curiosity and social sensitivity which underlie her own views, she emphasizes that women are to consider that the role merely inside the home is not enough for them. They can explore their own curiosity to show their great image in the society whatever some stereotypes of being weak and frail.

As appeared in Margaret, although she has her independence and financial control because of her inherited money from Mr. Bell (her god-father), she does

not concede that women's place is in the home. This view is, then, supported through her attitude which indicates her progress as she observes the social condition in Milton, especially towards women. Above all, Margaret's incredible idea which is emerged in Margaret highlights women in improving their role in order to decide their own future.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

In conducting this thesis, the writer strives to examine and present the data for a perfect analysis. However, perfection is probably impossible that writing the ideas into an analysis is like a comma for a sentence. In other words, ideas in presenting this analysis do not yet come to an end. Therefore, some or distinct ideas are truly required in order to complete this analysis. It is, then, hopefully that the next researchers will be able to explore stereotypes of women in an industrial society like Milton deeply.

Afterwards, it is also crucial and useful to examine these stereotypes which lead Margaret to develop her own views. It is also expected that the next researchers—in order to obtain the complete analysis—observe the others Gaskell's novels, specifically her novels which have interrelationship between women and their stereotypes or roles industrial society. Thus, it will be a more complete analysis as information or data are gathered accurately.

Furthermore, by exploring this *North and South* on the issues surrounding workers and masters (owners) in the industrial city, it seems to the writer of this

thesis that Gaskell has an idea in struggling against social class. With a vivid depiction of the characters' life i.e. the working class life which is fulfilled by misery and poverty, but the luxuries and richness in the side of the upper class; it enables this novel to be criticized through a sociological analysis. Although the characters such as the Hales and Margaret do not consider people based on their property or what class they may come from; a sociological analysis is quite appropriate to be conducted by another researchers.

Besides, to the writer's mind, this novel can also be criticized by applying an autobiographical analysis. The reason is that Gaskell's work is not entirely fictional. As mentioned in <http://www.lang.nagoya.u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EG-Brenda.html>, she uses her novel to discuss the issues of the Victorian England, but she also uses it to describe her personal life. Gaskell's characters are very realistic, because many of them are based on the real people. For instance is Frederick Hale (Margaret's brother) which is very likely to her sailor brother. In addition, *North and South* also shows a contrast between rural and town as the Hales moves from the rural Helstone to the industrial Milton. The story of this removal is based on Gaskell's own experience when she moved from the rural Knutsford to industrial Manchester. In a word, it will be an incredible analysis if the next researchers are interested in criticizing this novel through an autobiographical analysis deeply.

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NOVEL BY ELIZABETH GASKELL

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5.	21 Mei 2007	Revisi Bab I	5.
6.	30 Mei 2007	ACC Bab I	6.
7.	4 Juni 2007	Konsultasi Bab II dan III	7.
8.	19 Juni 2007	Revisi Bab II dan III	8.
9.	25 Juni 2007	Konsultasi Bab IV dan V	9.
10.	3 Juli 2007	Revisi Bab IV dan V	10.
11.	12 Juli 2007	ACC Bab II dan III	11.
12.	17 Juli 2007	ACC Bab IV dan V	12.
13.	17 Juli 2007	ACC keseluruhan	13.

Malang, 11 Juli 2007  
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