

**WOMEN STRUGGLE AGAINST GENDER
DISCRIMINATION IN SUSAN GLASPEL'S *TRIFLES***

THESIS

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
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DISCRIMINATION IN SUSAN GLASPEL'S *TRIFLES***

THESIS

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I state that the thesis entitled “**Women Struggle Against Gender Discrimination In Susan Glaspel’s *Trifles*** ” is my original work. I don't include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible that.

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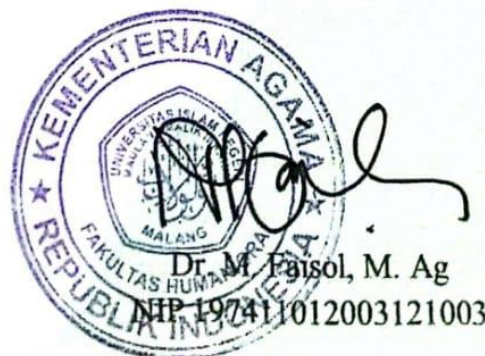


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MOTTO

Ad Maiora Natus Sum

“Be A Good Moslem or Die As Syuhada”

DEDICATION

My father and mimom, S. Raharjo and Maryam, they are my dearest

My big family especially my sister Kamilatus Syifa, they are my love

My great self which I am very proud of

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By all accounts, it is recognized that this research is far from perfect. There are still many things to learn and develop. Aside from that, the researcher hopes that more suggestions and criticisms for this thesis will help her improve.

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Danisya Nurul Ilma R

ABSTRACT

Ilma , Danisya Nurul (2023) *Women Struggle Against Gender Discrimination in Susan Glaspell's Trifles*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr.Syamsuddin, M.Hum

Key words: Feminist Literary Study, Liberal Feminism, Gender Discrimination

Women often become second-class in society. Women are also often constrained in their direction by patriarchal thinking as well as by the phenomenon of marginalization. Often, women are subjected to discrimination of what women's abilities are when compared to men. This phenomenon is a portrayal of *Trifles*, which is the object of this study. This study discusses the phenomenon of gender discrimination that occurs in Glasspel's *Trifles*. The study aims to identify the forms of gender discrimination experienced by female figures and to explain how women in the *Trifles* resist the circumstances. In accordance with the Framework of Question in this study, which is 1. What forms of gender discrimination are experienced by female figures in the *Trifles*? 2. What is the struggle of women in the fight against gender discrimination?.To analyze the data, the researchers used the Liberal Feminism theory by Naomi Wolf. Later, this research, using qualitative descriptive methods, found three forms of gender descriptions in *Trifles*: discrimination in the public, domestic, and marriage aspects. As for the opposing aspects of the female characters, the researchers found that the characters used arguments at a time to respond to the suspicions and discrimination perpetrated by the male characters in the drama.

ABSTRAK

Ilma, Danisya Nurul (2023) "*Perjuangan Wanita untuk Melawan Diskriminasi Gender dalam Trifles Karya Susan Glaspell*". Skripsi Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Syamsuddin, M.Hum.

Kata Kunci: Kritik Sastra Feminis, Feminisme Liberal, Diskriminasi Gender

Perempuan seringkali menjadi masyarakat yang menjadi kelas nomor dua. Perempuan juga kerap kali dibatasi tentang arah gerakannya oleh pemikiran patriarkis serta fenomena peminggiran. Kerap kali, perempuan mengalami deskriminasi terhadap apa kemampuan perempuan jika dibanding lelaki. Hal inilah yang menjadi fenomena yang tersaji pada *Trifles* yang menjadi objek kajian pada penelitian ini. Penelitian ini membahas tentang fenomena diskriminasi gender yang terjadi pada karya Glasspel ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bentuk bentuk diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh tokoh perempuan dan menjelaskan bagaimana cara perempuan dalam *Trifles* melakukan perlawanan pada keadaan yang terjadi. Sesuai dengan kerangka Tanya dalam penelitian ini yakni 1. Apa bentuk diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh tokoh perempuan dalam *Trifles*? 2. Apa perjuangan yang dilakukan tokoh perempuan dalam melawan diskriminasi gender tersebut?. Untuk menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan teori Feminis Liberal oleh Naomi Wolf. Kemudian, penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, peneliti menemukan tiga bentuk deskriminasi gender dalam *Trifles* yaitu diskriminasi dalam ranah publik, dalam ranah domestic serta dalam ranah pernikahan. Sedangkan untuk aspek perlawanan yang tokoh perempuan lakukan, peneliti menemukan bahwa tokoh acapkali menggunakan argumen dalam sekali waktu untuk menjawab sangkaan serta upaya diskriminasi yang dilakukan oleh tokoh laki-laki dalam drama tersebut

مستخلص البحث

بيلام، دانيس؛ نورول (2023) "فضائل المرأة لجانحة النمبوز بين الجنسين ني تاهات بلام سوزان جال سبيل". رسالة ماجستير، قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية، ماليزيا. المؤلف: د. ثومس الدين، م. هوم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النقد الأدبي النسوي، النسوية الليبرالية، النمبوز الجنس، الجنس، الجنس

ني كنبير جن الاحبان، أصبحت النساء مجتمعات نازوية. وعادة ما تكون المرأة محدودة ني اتجاه سلوكها من خلال الإنكار الرثونكسوية والظواهر المنطوية. ني كنبير من الاحبان، نعرض النساء للخطر على ما إذا كانت المرأة قادرة على التوازن مع الني هي موضوع الدراسة ني هذه الدراسة. هذا البحث يتناول ظاهرة *Trifles* الرجال. وهذه هي الظاهرة الني تم دراستها ني

وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى معرفة أشكال النمبوز بين الجنسين الني *Glasspel* النمبوز بين الجنسين الني تحدث ني هذا العمل مع الوضع الذي يحدث. 1- ما هي أساليب النمبوز بين الجنسين ني *Trifles* نعيشها الفنازين وشرح كيفية التعامل مع النساء ني هذه الدراسة؟ ما هي المبادئ الني تؤوم بها المرأة ني مواجهة النمبوز بين الجنسين؟ من أجل تحليل البيانات، استخدم الباحثون نظرية الفازة الحرة من قبل زاومي وليف. ثم استخدمت هذه الدراسة أساليب وصفية نوعية، كشفت الباحثين نالفة أشكال جن هي نمبوز ني المجال العام، ني المجال الميزانية، ونى المجال الزواج. ونمياً يخص الجوانب *Trifles* النمبوز بين الجنسين ني العزبة الني تؤوم بها الفنازين، وجد الباحثون أن الفنازين يستخدمون ني بعض الاحبان التساؤلات ني وبت واحد للرد على التفكير والنمبوز الذي يؤوم به الفنازين ني المسرح.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves to introduce this research. It includes the background of the study, research questions, the significance of the study, scope and limitations, and definitions of key terms. The researcher also provided a previous study related to the research in this chapter.

A. Background of the Study

Women's struggle in the face of male hegemony is discussed in various literary works. In literary works, there is a lot to study. Both in oral and written form, including in the texts of literary works. In the study of literature, many texts discuss gender relationship. One example is the relationship between men and women in drama, which is seen as a reflection of society. There is a considerable difference between them about the gender roles that feminists view as discrimination.

Discrimination can be defined as the unfair treatment of individuals (Tuba,2022). Based on gender, race, religion, age, or other characteristics. Discrimination also occurs in gender roles. The core of discrimination is the different treatment between one person and another. *Gender discrimination* is an unfair condition resulting from the social system and structure that exists in a society. The differences in roles and positions between women and actors, both in direct behavior and attitude and indirectly as a result of a rule or policy, have led to injustices.

The existence of gender discrimination is very varied among them by referring to (Fakih, 2013 and Nugroho, 2008) can be the marginalization of women, subordination to women, stereotypes against women, violence against women, and giving labor burdens to women that are all different from the duties and burdens of men. At the same time, the term marginalization of women refers to the domination of social roles in various sectors of economic life, politics, law, education, and so on. As far as subordination is concerned, the position of women is lower than that of men; men are preferred by positioning them as superior and women as inferior.

Concerning the cases of gender discrimination that have been discussed, literary works are indeed a medium that often presents forms of gender discrimination of subordination or marginalization. (Meivitasari & Widyatwati, 2023) In the face of such phenomena, the characters in the work usually also have a variety of responses, one of which is resistance. The gender discriminatory behavior and its response are found in a literary work titled *Trifles*.

The researchers used a drama object called *Trifles* to be studied on this occasion. The object will be analyzed to obtain data on the forms of discrimination reflected in it and the character's response in the form of resistance. Overall, *Trifles* is a one-part drama written by Susan Glaspell based on the true story of a farmer's murder by his wife in a village in the United States. However, *Trifles* himself tells about the investigation of the murder case, which in the process involves two female figures and three male figures. In this context, it reflects the subordination and marginalization of male characters as well as the undesirable behavior of laughing at the minds of female characters.

Based on the above review, feminism emerged as a movement of women's resistance to the various forms of injustice experienced by women, (Tong, 2009).

The essence of the goal of the feminist movement is to demand the right of women to be treated equally in various aspects of life, such as equal rights in the eyes of the public, work, and society. The study deals with the forms of gender inequality experienced by women in the *Trifles* and the form of resistance to them through the perspective of liberal feminism. (Tong, 2009).

The researchers used a drama object called *Trifles* to be studied on this occasion. The object will be analyzed to obtain data on the forms of discrimination reflected in it and the character's response in the form of resistance. Overall, *Trifles* is a one-part drama written by Susan Glaspell based on the true story of a farmer's murder by his wife in a village in the United States. However, *Trifles* itself tells about the investigation of the murder case, which in the process involves two female figures and three male figures. In this context, it reflects the subordination and marginalization of male characters as well as the undesirable behavior of laughing at the minds of female characters.

The play suggests that Mrs. Wright (formerly Minnie Foster) experienced a life of isolation and oppression in her marriage. The women in the play empathize with her circumstances, and their understanding of her struggle becomes a silent protest against the gender roles and expectations of the time. Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale resist the male-dominated authority by silently conspiring to hide evidence that could incriminate the accused woman, Mrs. Wright. Their solidarity reflects a subtle form of resistance against the societal norms that devalue women's contributions and understanding.

There are many studies about gender discrimination that have been analyzed. From different perspectives and points of view, the researcher selected some previous studies that relate to the study, gender discrimination to support and strengthen in contribution to analyze.

There are several previous studies related to the object study conducted by other writers. First, the research conducted by Unsriana (2014) which this study focused on analyzing the form of gender discrimination against the woman's main character Ginko is well described in *Diskriminasi Gender Dalam Novel Ginko Karya Junichi Watanabe* in her journal. Male dominance is prevalent in Japan during the Meiji period, particularly when it comes to women receiving the same education as males. Second, in the research conducted by Alvira (2021), the focus of the study is to analyze the Gender discrimination based on the study of the main character in *Bina Shah Before She Sleeps*. The only option is to be a good housewife with three to five husbands, and bring as many children as possible. This system, pushing the main character to make resistance by escaping.

Next, the research conducted by Shella (2022), The study analyzed gender discrimination in the novel *The Chosen One* using the theory of Naomi Wolf. The results of the study found that is, the disorder of pregnancy that causes disability and death, the psychological disorder and the social view of polygamy. Next, the research by Tiska (2014) This study aims to analyze the gender discrimination experienced by a girl in a family, as the lead role of Barbara Quick in her novel a *Golden Web*, in her research, she also obtained the results of forms of discrimination such as death, the degradation of the female character to the lack of acceptance of women in the workplace. Fifth, using the same theory, Amanatul (2020) found some aspects of gender discrimination in the novel *Pope Joan*, namely not getting access to education equal to man, as well as being subjected to violence and domestic violence, religious injustice, and public rights.

There are previous studies that use *Trifles* as the object of research. First, Wulandari, D. (2023). The study "*Analysis of Women's Language Features Theory Used by Two Main Female Characters in Trifles One-Act Play by Susan*

Glaspell" focuses on analyzing which features of women's language are used by Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters in the Trifle and determining how to express the two main characters' characteristics through the features of the women' s language they use. The object of this research was Mrs. Hale's and Mrs. Peters' speeches. Then, Jawad (2020) , Shih (2013) and Li (2002) their study focused in women rebellion and woman sisterhood in *Trifles* the study highlights the struggle of the female characters in their struggle by the oppression. The last one is, Jaboury (2007) that focused on the charater of Minnie Foster's experience.

From the previous study mentioned above, it can be seen that the use of the topic of gender discrimination is very different on different objects. Then, from the previous studies above, we also know that the feminist theory of Naomi Wolf is also frequently used to distinguish forms of discrimination on different object. From previous studies above, the research about gender discrimination and the struggle to against it in theplays *Trifles* has never been done. For this reason, the researcher wants to conduct research on gender discrimination and the struggle by woman characters by using a feminist approach by NaomiWolf.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background study above, the research questions that the researcher will be discussed in this study are:

1. What forms of gender discrimination to woman characters describe in *Trifles*?
2. How do the women struggle against those gender discrimination?

C. Significance of the Study

Even though numerous studies have been conducted on the issues of gender discrimination, this study is still worthwhile and has practical and theoretical

benefit because it theoretically may open the door for other researchers to conduct a further and deeper analysis on similar or even different objects, as it raises the issues of gender discrimination. Finally, this study is useful for the researcher in increasing knowledge about the form of gender discrimination and feminism. Also this research contributes references to relevant study.

D. Scope and Limitations

This research investigates and identifies the thoughts and actions of the female characters in the *Trifles* contained in the dialogues. Several researches has been conducted on this story so far so this research motivate other researchers for researching this short story from different perspectives. This research study is significant in way that its highlight the gender discrimination that can be found in *Trifles*. This some research study would be a contribution to the field of literature especially in understanding the *Trifles* written by Susan Glaspell from the perspective of Feminism.

E. Definition of Key Terms

The researcher will explain the key points of this study in this section. This will help the reader understand the study better.

1. Feminism

The belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state. The interdisciplinary approach that became the path of movement of women whose work fought for the rights of women. (Tong,2009)

2. Gender Discrimination

A situation of gender which has no equality or fair treatment in the same opportunities between gender. *Gender discrimination* is an unfair condition resulting from the social system and structure that exists in a society. The differences in roles and positions between women and actors, both in direct behavior and attitude and indirectly as a result of a rule or policy, have led to injustices. (Setyorini, 2017)

3. Struggle

An attempt or struggle to fight against things which are oppressive, uncomfortable and unbalanced (Sasmito Purwo, 2010)

CHAPTER II

REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE

Through this chapter, the researcher presents a theoretical framework for research that followed by the main research topic.

A. Feminism

This analysis should provide the basic theory of feminism prior to continuing the discussion about different types of gender discrimination. Feminism can refer to a variety of concepts. According to Humm 2007, feminism combines the doctrine of equal rights for women, an organized movement to achieve women's human rights, with a social transformation ideology that aims to create a world for women. According to Humm, feminism is an ideology of women's liberation based on the belief that women face injustice because of their gender.

The feminist theory emerged with the rise of the awareness that as human beings, women should have the same rights as men. John Stuart Mill and Herriet Tylor stated that to maximize total utility (happiness/pleasure) is to allow each individual to pursue what they want, as long as they do not restrict or obstruct each other in the process of achieving it. Mill and Taylor believe that if society wants to sexual equality or gender justice, then society must give women polar rights and opportunities, as well as education equal to that by men.

It can be concluded that the core of the feminist movement is the awareness of the existence of discrimination, injustice and subordination of women, which then proceeded with an attempt to change the situation towards a more just social system. In the history of the feminist movement itself, it has been divided into several waves, from the first wave as the pioneer of the feminist

movement to the third wave of what is now called contemporary feminism, but the focus of this research is on the second wave.

The focus of this research is on the second wave of feminism which is more of a women's liberation movement or commonly known as the term Women Liberation. This movement is a revolutionary collective movement, as seen since its emergence in the 1960s and 1980s. It may be said that this is a time when women are reacting to their dissatisfaction with discriminatory practices. It is well known that legally and politically, this has actually been achieved by the first wave of feminism but in practice is not realised to the maximum. As for the famous figure in this wave is Naomi Wolf whose work played a major role in the development of liberal feminist theory.

1. Liberal Feminism

What is called Liberal Feminism is that there is a view to placing women who have full and individual freedom. This stream states that freedom and parity are rooted in rationality and separation between the private and public worlds. Every human being is capable of thinking and acting rationally, as is it with women. The root of oppression and delay in women is because of the fault of the woman herself. Women must prepare themselves so that they can compete in the world within the framework of "free competition" and have an equal position with men.

Liberal feminists have a view of the state as a non-partisan ruler between the interests of different groups based on the theory of state pluralism. They recognize that the country is dominated by men, which is reflected in "masculine" interests, but they also assume that the state can be strongly dominated through the interests and influence of men. In short, the state is a reflection of the interest group that actually has control over the country. For most Liberal feminists, women tend to be "within" a

country just as citizens rather than policymakers. So in this case there is inequality of women in politics or state. In subsequent developments, the Liberal feminist view of “equality” has at least had its own influence on the development of “the influence and equality of women to undertake political activities such as policymaking in a country”.

Liberal Feminism is based on the idea of society awareness and it typically focus on changing ideas and cultural practices, such as rewriting textbooks or reforming legal codes. It argues that social problems arise primarily from ignorance and social constraints on freedom choice, socialization forces people to grow up from distorted and harmful ideas about stereotype to the cultural idea that people are freely to choose how to live their lives.

B. Gender Discrimination

The common problem of gender discrimination is that men discriminate against women in almost every aspect, such as the deprivation of political rights or the right to participate in public appearances. It is not out of the patriarchal system. The patriarchy itself is an ideology that defines gender-based differences as men's norms better than women's, and that is called gender marginalized. The liberal feminist theory aims to eliminate gender discrimination to have equal roles in society. Therefore, many groupings of such theories point to gender discrimination and protest against it.

Another review of gender discrimination according to the liberal feminism that Naomi Wolf has plagued is the history of women for a long time away from the words equality. Previously, women were not raised to engage in conflict or express their opinions. Society has forced women to shut up and become ignorant. Then gender discrimination happens with kinds of kinds like gender-type discrimination in violence, race, marriage, career, and education. In 1999, for example, when the second wave of feminism was about to slip, women

became the object of sexual intent for the bourgeoisie as enslaved people or lovers. On the other hand, it can be seen as a significant royalty for women's wealth -on the other side, women are men's objects to be exploited for contemporary pleasure. Naomi Wolf considers this to be a bad or fake woman who considers themselves second to a man or woman who seeks dependency on masculinity..

Wolf (2012) discussed the political discrimination against women's rights. During her life, she planned a movement against restrictions on women's rights. According to her, women can obtain political rights, particularly in politics, beginning with casting women's ballots in elections. They then began to express their thoughts in order to participate in politics. Feminist movements use it to speak out against inequality, injustice, stereotypes, discrimination, and women..

1. Gender Discrimination in Marriage

According to Women for Women International Organization, there are many women of a young age who have limited control over their sexual and reproductive rights. Child marriage is common in Northeast Nigeria, with three out of every four girls married before 18. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, approximately three out of every five married women have experienced violence from their husbands or partner.

In the book, *The Beauty Myth*, Naomi Wolf (2002) explained that when a woman becomes a housewife, her job is to take care of the children and serve her husband, even before marriage, she helps her father and family. On the other hand, women do 9 heavy housework and are limited to part-time work. Women in marriage have increased workloads, even when producing children, and have to

care for many children and their husbands. Women become so harsh at work that they don't have time to care for themselves.

2. Gender Discrimination in Domestic Area

The World Health Organization (2009) stated in an article Promoting Gender Equality to Prevent Violence Against Women that violence affects both men and women, with women being the most common victims. The disparity in power between men and women is the root reason of the rise in violent crimes. In addition, the widespread misconception that males are stronger than women due to their gender also works to stop violence against women. Physical, sexual, and psychological injury are all included in the violence (including compulsion, pain, intimidation, and deprivation within the family or the community at large).

Violence had been harming women broadly, and it is such a common cultural belief that women are allowed to hurt. Mostly, violence occurs against sexually like men forcing women to have sex or rapes. Wolf agrees that women become direct objects because the young generation believes that sex is violence and violence is sexual. In Wolf's book (2002), some surveys and researches which harassments against women are mostly sexual and based on patriarchal ideology. According to Wolf (1993), Women's maltreatment and domestic violence were on the rise, and an increasing proportion seemed to implicate the gender as a whole. Furthermore, Gillespie (2016) asserts that gender inequality is strongly linked to a variety of forms of violence, particularly sexual violence and domestic and family violence. Due to the disproportionate perpetration of men's violence against women and children around the world, both types of violence are regarded intrinsically gender.

3. Gender Discrimination in Public Rights

Women's movements struggle feminism effort to achieve this goal covers

various ways. One way is to get rights and opportunities equal to men (Djajanegara, 2000). In an interview, Wolf (2019) discussed her fears for free speech, older women, and her latest book, *Outrages*, a study of the persecution of gay men by the legal system in Victorian Britain. She said that "*we are in a fight for our lives and democracy.*" She discussed some people who were treated unfairly, discriminated against democracy. And they struggle against circumstances that do not serve them in the right to freedom.

As a feminist movement goal, feminist values and the related focus on 'gender' can also enable us to talk about sexual orientation and gender identity in all their diversity, and the relationship of gender power between individuals and groups, empowering all who participate in it (Jetkins, Narayanaswamy, and Sweetman, 2019). Wolf (1993), told about women's power. She believes that feminist women are taking control of and not being victimized. In her speech, she argues women are strong. They know about what they deserve from their lives, are out of success, and will survive.

In Wolf (1993), there were data on women's efforts to fight for their rights as women who experience sexual harassment due to gender bias. Followed by several cases of other women from various countries demands their right to legalize abortion and guaranteed maternity safety. In the British, women gained the right to claim their ex-husbands' pension benefits after divorcing. She spoke more about women's relation to power and gaining political power.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is a scientific method for getting data with objective and specific. The method study has five parts: research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

This study is intended to be a literary criticism that employs feminist literary criticism theory. So far, *feminism* has been defined as a type of literary critique that uncovers gender imbalances and becomes gendered discrimination against women, causing women to suffer. As a result, the researcher is researching to identify and define various types of gender discrimination in *Trifles*. Furthermore, this study employs feminist literary criticism, with Naomi Wolf's perspective serving as the central idea of the analysis.

B. Data Source

For the data source, this research uses a drama entitled *Trifles*. The drama was written in 1917 by Susan Glaspell. This is one of the most anthological works, along with 1917 by Glaspell. This research data contains quotations, conversations and sentences in *Trifles* related to the problem. The researcher gets data in the conversations between Mrs Hale, Mrs Peters, and the other man characters.

C. Data Collection

The data used to analyze this research came from the 'Trifles' theatrical text. It was utilized to determine the discrimination and responsibility of the characters depicted there. The steps listed below are used to collect data. The first step is to apply deep reading, grasp and highlight the data, and then note the data from the theatrical text, the against form, and the discrimination form.

D. Data Analysis

The researcher used the following stages for data analysis after obtaining the data from the process of data collecting. The author begins by studying the issue of gender discrimination in its various forms and examining typical instances of it. Second, the researcher started comparing the information in 'Trifles' with Naomi Wolf's theory. Third, the researcher analyzes the data using the factors found in Naomi Wolf's theory. Fourth, the researcher started to develop the data using additional literature after obtaining data that met each category. The fifth step summarizes the researcher's hypothesis and the data outcomes. Lastly, the author synthesizes all the information to address and identify the origin of the issues and conclusions.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussions concerning the issues raised in Chapter I. The analysis discusses the various sorts of gender discrimination experienced by female characters and their struggle against it.

A. The Forms of Gender Discrimination to Woman Characters Describe In *Trifles*

1. Gender Discrimination in Marriage

Naomi wolf criticizes the tradition of marriage, seeing the ritual of surrounding wedding which women will be passive character in the family. Before discussing about marriage according Wolf's perspective, let's see the *brideland* (women marriage life) in Wolf's thought. Wolf stated that *brideland* has very little to do with relationship or even marriage: it is, like theme park eternally transient: you enter, you transformed completely, and then, presumably, you depart (Wolf; *Become A Woman in Our Society*; 59)

According to Tong (2004), Naomi Wolf, the founder of the liberal theory of feminism, revealed that in order to be an ideal society with sexual equality or gender justice, society must give women the right and opportunity to qualify in public. This situation occurs frequently in the century, as *Trifles* did. Dominance is based on the shared beliefs of two powerful groups, one in the educated man and another in the woman, and the other in intellectual circles, but widely regarded as second class.

(1) *MRS. PETERS: (to the other woman) Oh, her fruit; it did freeze, (to the LAWYER) She worried about that when it turned so cold. She said the fire'd go out and her jars would break.*

SHERIFF: Well, can you beat the women! Held for murder and worryin' about her preserves.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: I guess before we're through she may have something more serious than preserves to worry about.

HALE: Well, women are used to worrying over trifles.

The first data indicates the form of the gender gap in which, in the first case, the female figure is shown, namely Mrs. Peter, pointing to the condition of the frozen fruit; this becomes the focal point of the feminine character, where she sees and analyzes every detail in the scene of the murder case, one of them on what is taught in the kitchen is the fruit.

The form of gender inequality in this first case is the response of the male figure shown by the lawyer, the county attorney. The County attorney reacted demeaningly to what Mrs. Peter had put forward by insinuating that women were only biased to see an insignificant side and had nothing to do with what was being investigated at the time, the murder case. Unfortunately, another male figure, Mr. Hale, also approved this and confirmed that what Mrs. Peters had just put forward was a natural female response that could not be rational and advanced its implicit prejudice in worrying.

(2) *COUNTY ATTORNEY: (looking around) I guess we'll go upstairs first—and then out to the barn and around there, (to the SHERIFF) You're convinced that there was nothing important here—nothing that would point to any motive.*

SHERIFF: Nothing here but kitchen things.

It is different from the first data. The second data showed evidence studied in the drama text against the actions of male actors who were rather impressed hurriedly by not underestimating the opinion of women against the father that the characters of women spoke before. They do not examine the evidence of frozen fruits or broken cups.

This disturbing response is evident in the County Attorney's conversation that invited the sheriff to move immediately to search elsewhere because he felt there was no judgmental motive from the first place, the kitchen. Another fact also said by the sheriff in response to the county attorney's call for immediate action was that he also felt the same thing in the first place, that there was no motive other than kitchen things. The words of kitchen things here are impressive by underestimating the results of the analysis shown by Mrs. Peters concerning frozen fruit, broken jars, or other uncertainties in the kitchen by simply saying that the things are unimportant and insignificant.

2. Discrimination in Domestic Area

(1) COUNTY ATTORNEY: (with the gallantry of a young politician) And yet, for all their worries, what would we do without the ladies? (the women do not unbend. He goes to the sink, takes a dipperful of water from the pail and pouring it into a basin, washes his hands. Starts to wipe them on the roller-towel, turns it for a cleaner place) Dirty towels! (kicks his foot against the pans under the sink) Not much of a housekeeper, would you say, ladies?

MRS. HALE: (stiffly) There's a great deal of work to be done on a farm.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: To be sure. And yet (with a little bow to her) I know there are some Dickson county farmhouses which do not have such roller towels. (He gives it a pull to expose its length again.)

MRS. HALE: Those towels get dirty awful quick. Men's hands aren't always as clean as they might be.

Actually, in this *Trifles*, the dominant male actor in the non-verbal discrimination of women is the county attorney, as in this third data in the first conversation. The County Attorney delivered a condemnation to the women by saying,

"What would we do without the ladies,"

That means that it is their people who work hard to deal with the case, while women are more likely to interfere and complicate the investigation with things that do not make sense in the minds of men. In the case of a dirty towel, as a wife, Mrs. Wright is very indifferent to domestic affairs like washing, changing dirty items, or other domestic

(3)COUNTY ATTORNEY: Ah, loyal to your sex, I see. But you and Mrs. Wright were neighbors. I suppose you were friends, too.

MRS. HALE: (shaking her head) I've not seen much of her of late years. I've not been in this house—it's more than a year.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: And why was that? You didn't like her?

MRS. HALE: I liked her all well enough. Farmers' wives have their hands full, Mr. Henderson. And then—

Next, data 2. The dialogue shows the process of discussions between male and female figures, where the county attorney felt that as a woman, Mrs Hale responded to wet towels and expressed a pro-Mrs Wright opinion, which was the cause of gender equality.

The County attorney judged that what Mrs. Hale did was because she knew Mrs. Wright personally so that there was an unobjective assessment of the case under investigation. The attitude of underestimating women with prejudice, Mrs. Hale cannot be objective in judging something. That is proof of the form of

discrimination against women by feeling that men are superior because they can judge things objectively.

3. Discrimination in Public

(1) MRS. PETERS: (starts to speak, glances up, where footsteps are heard in the room above. In a low voice) Mr. Peters says it looks bad for her. Mr. Henderson is awful sarcastic in a speech and he'll make fun of her sayin' she didn't wake up.

The following proof is the direct portrayal of one of the figures, Mrs. Peters. Mrs. Peters feels that what the county attorney has done is unfair and a circus act to his people. The female character represented by Mrs. Peters here feels that the actions displayed by the male character, especially the County Attorney, are centered on all the interests related to the superiority of social.

(2) MRS. PETERS: She was piecing a quilt. (She brings the large sewing basket and they look at the bright pieces.)

MRS. HALE: It's log cabin pattern. Pretty, isn't it? I wonder if she was goin' to quilt it or just knot it?

(Footsteps have been heard coming down the stairs. The SHERIFF enters followed by HALE and the COUNTY ATTORNEY.)

SHERIFF: They wonder if she was going to quilt it or just knot it! (The men laugh, the women look abashed.)

Further data revealed an act of discrimination in the form of bullying against female figures. By the way, all the male figures acted directly, laughing at what Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale said about her observations. The action of a man who still points to the value of masculinity is within a man. The following proof is the direct portrayal of one of the figures, Mrs. Peters. Mrs. Peters feels that what the county attorney has done is unfair and a circus act to his people.

The female character represented by Mrs. Peters here feels that the actions displayed by the male character, especially the County Attorney, are centered on all

the interests related to the superiority of society forms of gender discrimination to woman characters describe in *Trifles*.

B. The Struggle of Woman Characters

Using the prior data shown the proof of gender discrimination encountered by Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peter shows how the both character, in each case experience, lacks justice in the treatment of her gender. Many data points provide evidence that Mrs. Hale and Mrs Peter was subjected to discrimination. Mrs Hale and Mrs. Peter has not directly protested discrimination despite being subjected to it on multiple occasions. Some facts do not portray theirs efforts as a retaliation for the injustice done to them. Instead, they only accepts and endures in stressful situations. According to Wolf (2002),

(1) MRS. HALE: (stiffly) There's a great deal of work to be done on a farm.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: To be sure. And yet (with a little bow to her) I know there are some Dickson county farmhouses which do not have such roller towels. (He gives it a pull to expose its length again.)

MRS. HALE: Those towels get dirty awful quick. Men's hands aren't always as clean as they might be.

In the focus of his study, liberal feminism also emphasized that educational activities, social community, right of choice, and the freedom of speech should not be given only to men. But it's also about women, as Naomi put it, that both men and women have the capacity to grow into perfect human beings. Thus, women can do the job as they do by men, not marginalized, not feeling the effects of stereotypes or double burder like Mrs. Wright's character in drama texts.

(2) MRS. HALE: I'd hate to have men coming into my kitchen, snooping around and criticising. (She arranges the pans under sink which the LAWYER had shoved out of place.)

In data above, Mrs. Hale appears to prove that male characters are more likely to hide themselves from the underlying facts. They are rather unwilling to respond to the opinions of female characters, both Mrs Hale and Mrs. Peters.

However, Mrs. Hale proves from her findings that intelligence is not gender-determined, as was the case in the County attorney's case of dirty towels. The intellectual resistance of Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peter is in line with Wolf's insistence in *The Subjection of Women*, that if women recognized as fully rational and entitled to civil liberties, and economic opportunities like men, people will feel it's good.

The importance of maternity in many women's life abruptly diminished. Women suddenly had additional possibilities for leisure activities. Aside from the indirect representation of sexual liberation reflected in the play, the play at the time demonstrated the existence of women's movement, where Heidi is fully conscious of her need to realize her potential. As Wollstonecraft stated, the ideal woman is more concerned with practicing self-control than she is with indulging herself to free herself from the stifling roles of narcissistic sex object, emotional cripple, and small-minded shrew. Wollstonecraft presented a vision of a woman strong in mind and body, a person who is not a slave to her passions (Tong, 2018).

Liberal feminists critique society in perpetuating harmful stereotypes and unrealistic portrayals of women's physical appearances. They argue for fair and accurate representations of women across various body types, and appearance look. This aligns with the liberal feminist goal of promoting gender equality by countering the objectification and sexualization of women in society. Naomi argued that a woman shouldn't be treated as a man's "rattle or toy". In other words, a woman is not only a man's tool for enjoyment or fulfillment.

Instead, a woman is also a rational being whose dignity derives from her ability to make her own decisions. Naomi also claimed that permitting individuals to pursue their preferences maximized liberty, provided the individuals did not hinder, or harm others in the process. (Tong, 2018, p.26).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the researcher gives a conclusion and suggestion as the result complement of the study. The concluding statements of the findings are covered in this concluding chapter. At the same time, the suggestions are added to give any information that can help the following researchers who need further research on a similar topic.

A. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussions in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the female figure in the *Trifles* is experiencing some form of discrimination. The first discrimination is discrimination in marriage. This form of discrimination not only affects the main characters in the story (Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters) but also drags Minnie Foster, the suspected murderer of Mr. Wright, her husband. In this case, women are more often associated with the obligation to serve their husbands in the marriage and the stereotype that a woman must be able to help her husband work in whatever form. And then the second form is gender discrimination in the domestic aspect. Like the first, in this second form, the tip of discrimination aspects like labeling and marginalization are also focused on Minnie Foster; for example, the investigators say that Minnie Foster is a householder who doesn't care for the house—in this case, purely perceived by two female figures who are directly confronted with the situation at the site of the investigation in this matter, that the investigator is more focused on the male character than listening to the female opinion.

Furthermore, in responding to these three forms of discrimination, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peter did not oppose by arguing and tried to provide concrete

evidence. However, in this research, the struggle is meant to be a denial figure, unwilling to listen to women's opinions and to underestimate the female figure by treating it differently (discriminatively) than the male figure.

B. SUGGESTION

Based on an analysis of the dramatic literature *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell. It can be used as a data reference and a result of a surgical work of literature using feminist literary criticism approaches and liberal theory of feminism. This is also expected to be a credible discourse material to learn about the phenomena of gender discrimination in a literary work and the function of the theory used above. In addition, researchers should analyze the novel from many aspects that the authors still need to discuss since the novel still has various problems that can be studied.

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