

## ABSTRACT

DWI EKASARI ARIYANI (2006). **Revealing Feminism through Female Characters in Kate Chopin's Short Stories**. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis is a study of feminism seen from Kate Chopin's short stories "The Story of an Hour", "The Storm", "A Pair of Silk Stockings", and "Athénaïse". Chopin was a well known female writer whose works stressed on feminist issues. She was said by Toth to be "a pioneer of her time." Interested in Chopin's works along with her desire to learn about feminism more, the writer chose this topic.

This study is to find out how the female characters in Chopin's short stories were positioned in their families and in the society. Its aim is also to study how they were oppressed in their families and in the society. This study is also to learn how their attitude toward the oppression.

The method of this study is library research. The primary and secondary sources are Chopin's "The Story of an Hour", "The Storm", "A Pair of Silk Stockings", "Athénaïse", and some theories on character, plot, and feminism. A review on the social condition in nineteenth century in America especially the convention of marriage and womanhood is also gathered to enrich the writer's knowledge in order to analyze her topic.

From the analysis, the writer found out that the female characters in Chopin's short stories who represented the women in the nineteenth century have been positioned inferior, submissive, dependent, and domestic in their families and in the society. In their families, they have been oppressed by their marriage and motherhood. In the society, they have been oppressed by the social stereotypes that women were dependent to men and by the lack of equal rights and educational opportunities. The writer also found out that the female characters have showed their rebellion toward the oppression. They rebelled through their feelings that they were unhappy and oppressed with their marriage, their beliefs that marriage should not oppress women, and their actions of rebelling which were different one another.

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Skripsi ini adalah studi feminisme yang dilihat dari cerita pendek Kate Chopin "The Story of an Hour", "The Storm", "A Pair of Silk Stockings", and "Athénaïse". Chopin adalah seorang pengarang wanita terkenal yang karyanya menitik-beratkan pada isu-isu feminisme. Toth mengatakan bahwa Chopin adalah "pelopor eranya." Penulis memilih topic ini karena tertarik pada karya Chopin dan karena penulis ingin lebih mempelajari feminisme.

Studi ini bertujuan untuk mencari tahu bagaimana karakter-karakter perempuan di cerita pendek Chopin diposisikan di keluarga mereka and di masyarakat. Tujuan lain studi ini juga untuk melihat bagaimana mereka ditindas di keluarga mereka dan di masyarakat. Tujuan lain dari studi ini juga untuk mempelajari bagaimana sikap mereka terhadap tindasan tersebut.

Metode studi ini adalah penelitian pustaka. Data utama dan sekunder adalah cerita-cerita pendek Chopin "The Story of an Hour", "The Storm", "A Pair of Silk Stockings", "Athénaïse", dan beberapa teori tentang karakter, plot, dan feminisme. Gambaran tentang kondisi sosial pada abad sembilan belas di Amerika terutama pada adat pernikahan dan keibuan juga dikumpulkan untuk memperkaya pandangan penulis dalam menganalisa topiknya.

Dari analisa, penulis mendapati bahwa karakter-karakter perempuan di cerita-cerita pendek Chopin yang mewakili wanita-wanita pada abad sembilan belas telah diposisikan dengan status yang lebih rendah, patuh, bergantung dan domestik di keluarga mereka dan di masyarakat. Di keluarga mereka, mereka ditindas oleh pernikahan dan keibuan mereka. Di masyarakat, mereka ditindas oleh stereotype sosial bahwa wanita bergantung pada pria dan oleh kurangnya persamaan hak dan kesempatan yang sama untuk memperoleh pendidikan. Penulis juga mendapati bahwa karakter-karakter perempuan ini telah menunjukkan pemberontakan mereka terhadap penindasan yang mereka alami. Mereka memberontak melalui perasaan mereka yang tidak bahagia dan merasa tertindas oleh pernikahan mereka, melalui kepercayaan mereka bahwa pernikahan seharusnya tidak menindas wanita, dan melalui tindakan pemberontakan mereka yang berbeda satu sama lain.