

## **Feminism: Representation of Margaret and Kate in Sydney Sheldon's Novel *Master of the Game***

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study deals with the feminism representation of Margaret and Kate in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game*. The objectives are to describe the differences and similarities of two woman characterizations namely Margaret and Kate and to reveal the feminism value and varieties which are represented by the two characters. This study was conducted with the descriptive qualitative method. The source of data was Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game*. The data were collected by the documentary technique and the instruments were documentary sheets. The data which were derived with the feminism analysis show that each character is differently presented in the novel. The study results that (1) The two characters appear dominantly divergent. Margaret is powerless and obedient woman whereas Kate is powerful and rebellious woman. (2) The feminism values presented in their each work (career), relationship and family. Margaret represents the woman who is not a professional business woman and stays with old fashioned mannered woman, she is a true lover fighting for her love admission and she is controlled by her father with patriarchal values supposing her to do chores. Meanwhile Kate is a master of business without manner but brain, she is a true lover striking to be loved and she is a woman living out of man's control and with obsession (3) The varieties of feminism are differently shown by the treatments and behaviors of the two characters. Margaret dominantly represents the Liberal feminism in which she fights to be equal with the man whereas Kate tends to present development feminism as she leads and does more than man.

*Key Words: Novel, Characters, Feminism*

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\* Graduate Status

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## INTRODUCTION

The way people live is still patriarchy in which aspects of life are still dominated by man such as in family, woman as a wife to follow man as a husband and son's priority is still cared more than daughter's; in relationship, man is supposed to be more aggressive or woman expressing her feeling is something weird; and in work, man goes to office and woman does chores in house. This phenomenon is still happening in our surrounding moreover in eastern culture includes of Indonesia.

Nevertheless, it can not be denied that the movement has come up even in Indonesia. The movement becomes clear to see in which woman does not longer stay at home with children, woman has had her guts to state her love and woman either occupies the same position with man. This situation shows that the changes really occur and it is totally different with the past. As Krolokke (2005:15) states that the third wave of feminism is in which the feminists generally see themselves as capable, strong and assertive social agents.

It is explained by Benstock et al (2002) that feminist literary criticism offers strategies for analyzing texts to emphasize issues related to gender and sexuality in works written by both men and women. Therefore, this study is supposed to enrich the knowledge about feminism and it can clarify about feminism to the readers which she did not understand before and it is hopeful to make them understand about feminism more easily.

The two characters, Margaret and Kate in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game* are told as a mother, Margaret and a daughter, Kate. Thus their existence makes this study done because they obtained are able to break the belief stating that a daughter is a mother's representative in which mother is the role model for the daughter. But it is not relied to them.

These are two quotations that can represent their attitudes to run their lives: *He started toward the doorway that led into the shop "come along Margaret" She followed him meekly and Jamie thought. She's like a frightened*

*kitchen*. (Sheldon, 1982:15) Kate “I’m a woman I have a right to change my mind” (Sheldon, 1982:62)

Margaret is afraid to show up because her father has controlled her life since when she is a little girl. Meanwhile, Kate is a powerful woman and she decides everything by herself. This study figures out the character analysis of Margaret and Kate in Sydney Sheldon’s novel *Master of the Game* and feminism analysis and feminism varieties in their work, relationship and family presented by the two characters.

The similar research done with the title *The Representation Of Lucy As A Typical Victorian Woman And Maggie As A Changing Victorian Woman In George Eliot’s Novel The Mill On The Floss* (Younas et al, 2014) to find out that the journey of Maggie from her childhood to youth is contrasted to Lucy. Their differences are figured from their each appearance and mentality to so with their lives. Maggie is the one who are weird in that time because she is the one to have the awareness of restrictions in her society in which woman is not about what she earns but whom she belongs to.

In family, woman is supposed to follow the man as Lucy does but Maggie struggles to fight her brother’s decisions on her own life. In relationship, she has her desire to state her love though she is forced to deny by her brother while Lucy prefers to bear it in her heart. In work or career, she does more than the man. She prefers to escape from her family to get the education.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Character

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. (Abrams, 1999)

Forster, in *Aspects of the Novel* (1927:32-33), introduces popular new terms for an old distinction by discriminating between flat and round characters. A flat character is built around a single idea or quality and is presented without

much individualizing detail. A round character is complex in temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularity.

Meanwhile Nurgiyantoro (2009: 176 – 177) asserts that in plot development, there are major and minor characters. Major character is the one who becomes the center of the story. Most of the story is talking about him (or her). Meanwhile, minor character is the one whose existence is intended only to support the story of the major character.

### **Feminism Values and Principles**

Bowers' (2004) starts the feminism definition by stating that feminism is known as the woman movement and woman view based on literary works. Feminism is a political attitude and movement that calls for the status, rights and desires of women to be taken into consideration in all aspects of life.

Basically, the feminism is aimed for gender equality namely between a man and a woman in which women demand their full rights as human beings. In accordance with Arimbi et al (2004) argues that the principle of feminism is rooted by the woman occupation in the world (philosophy, politic, economy, culture and social) patriarchy and oriented with the movement of power.

The equality includes in social, legal, and cultural freedom and equality (Abrams, 1999: 88). The understanding with the woman's position in their aspects of life is tended by Abrams. There we can find that the woman fighting for their equality and freedom as the value of feminism.

#### **1) Work**

Folbre (1982) cited by Nold argues by contrasting that, it is only because women's bargaining power is less than men's because of the power relations involved in the gender division of labor and property that women acquiesce to such inequalities.

#### **2) Relationship**

Nold (2013) in his journal explains that the idea of equality can take on two forms. In our case, valuing the other sex as equals because they can provide traits you can't, and vice versa. All it means, is men and women in a relationship

need to value one another equally and agree to their responsibilities to the relationship, together in mutual partnership.

### **3) Family**

This study has the woman position in family elaborated by focusing the woman as a mother. Fiona Green in *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering* that damage to mothers and children is brought about through the tactic of dividing different types of mothers into groups and then judging women according to their particular grouping. Working mothers, stay-at-home mothers, disabled mothers, welfare mothers and lesbian mothers.

### **3. Feminism Varieties**

The women's characterizations get reformed from one generation with the patriarchy culture to the powerful woman generation. Thus this study is presented with the gender reform feminism stated by Judith Lorber in his work titled *The Variety of Feminisms and Their Contribution to the Gender Equality* namely:

#### **1) Liberal Feminism**

Liberal feminism argues that women and men are essentially similar, and therefore women should be equally represented in public arenas dominated by men -- work, government, the professions, and the sciences.

#### **2) Marxist and Socialist Feminisms**

Marxist and socialist feminisms argue that the source of women's oppression is their economic dependence on a husband. Women are worker-mothers or just mothers, depending on the state's economic needs.

#### **3) Development Feminism**

Development feminism in gender politics calls for marital rights and sexual autonomy, development feminism frequently has to confront traditional cultural values and practices that give men power over their daughters and wives.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted by applying the descriptive qualitative research. It elaborated the experiences of two woman characters, Margaret and Kate with the library research on Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game* as it is

intended to expose the value implied in the novel through the social phenomena concerning with their work (career), family and relationship

In accordance with, Molleong (2005:6) stating that qualitative method is intended to describe the social phenomena concerning with subject of research such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, descriptively presented in word forms and language in a specific natural context and using some natural method.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Character Analysis**

There are two woman characters analyzed in this study namely Margaret and Kate. They are told in different ages. The old fashioned Margaret grows up becoming a lady depended on her father and is stuck to the rules which are believed around of her. Meanwhile, Kate freely gets her mind to determine everything as the heiress of a big company and is presented as a rebellious young woman to her mother.

#### a) Margaret

She is a minor character with flat character presented in the novel *Master of the Game*. She has not changed herself and her defense. She is chosen in this study because her existence greatly influences the main character. She has dynamic characterizations. She changes the way she walks through to face some cases in her life. But the way she thinks is not changed until the end of her time *Margaret thought with pride. But I want her to have the manners of a lady. (book two: 81)*. She is stuck on the rules and manners lived in her father since she was with her father.

#### b) Kate

Kate is the main character with round character in the novel *Master of the Game*. She is presented with complex personality to face some cases in her life. She is fearless and disobedient girl. She gives up having heir or heiress from her blood descent. She has static characterizations with consistent obsession since she was very young until becoming old but in the end she decides to relieve that she has been very old.

## 2. Feminism Analysis

Feminism deals with how woman behaves and how woman is treated. It is meant to show up the woman characters whether they are powerful or powerless and they have self-determination or they are controlled in their lives. In this study, the two woman characters, Margaret and Kate are revealed based on their occupations in career, their positions in relationship and family.

### a) Work

A woman occupation in work is different with the man. The higher occupation is supposed to belong to the man. The woman's professional is still questioned due to the economic and psychological consequences.

Margaret handles the company after her husband's death. She has no background of business and she is not skillful to run the company founded by her husband. She is not even interested with the company but because of her husband, she stays along with it although she has the highest occupation. She decides everything with her feeling in which she tries not to offend her dead husband. *They're going to kill us all!* "Nonsense. They wouldn't dare touch us." Five hours later, Margaret McGregor was a prisoner of war. (book one: 71). She emotionally has something done and slowly move toward the hazardous things come upon her. She is not the one to force her ambition on somebody else.

Kate is very powerful and obsessed to make the company larger and larger till it becomes one of the biggest companies in the world. She knows what belongs to her and where she can find her power to get she wants exactly the company. All things she wants must be run and completed as she wills. *"David isn't here, Brad. It's up to you and me."* But Brad Rogers knew that what Kate meant was, *It's up to me.* (book three: 94). She is free to change her mind and she is not to be banned. She is known as a skillful business woman. Nothing will change her plans. The power belongs to her and it is absolutely hers. She learns business on which others never guess that she wills.

### b) Relationship

Woman was not supposed to express her feeling to the man she loves but now it is contrary. Woman is in equality with the man with the same rights to start

a relationship. Woman in marriage has the same changes with the relationship. Woman as a wife is not merely led but also respected.

Margaret becomes a woman who is not brave to state her feeling and keeps it in her mind. She implicitly shows how she likes the man, Jamie. *They closed their eyes. Margaret slyly opened hers again, so that she could continue her scrutiny of the elegant stranger while her father's voice droned on. (book one: 39)* She is supposed to wait and answer then it makes her shyly keeps on eye to the man he likes and keep it in his mind. She is a victim in her relationship as she is expelled from her family, Vander Merwe and not confessed by her lover, Jamie and isolated by the society due to being touched before marriage.

She shows that giving a birth means authority to woman to get the confession from her lover. *but Margaret knew that that could be a double-edged sword. Soon she would have Jamie's baby (book one: 49).* After getting married with Jamie, She is a servant to serve the husband and is neglected. A woman sacrifices her life, feeling and energy for sake of her child. Even she ignores her dignity to stay with her husband.

Kate falls in love with the man who is much older than her. She explicitly expresses her feeling to the man, David she loves in her young age. There is a force in her sentence *"we are going to be married, you know" (book two: 77).* She is obsessed to the man she loves who cares for her since she was a little girl.

In her relationship, she uses her powerful occupation to lead and ask her lover to do as she wills. *"kiss me!" "what?" "Bloody hell, David! I'm your boss,..." (book two: 92)* he is noticed that no way to reject her command. She keeps saying how much she loves the man who is much older than her without caring how many times he refuses and is indifferent with her love statement. She fights not for admission but possession. She loves him means that he belongs to her under any circumstances.

### **c) Family**

Woman in the family becomes a daughter and a mother. The two positions are supposed to be controlled by man. A daughter is bowed to her parents, mother and father while a mother is accompanied by husband to look after their children.



Parents are role models for the children. The novel is told with the two single parents nurturing their children.

Margaret is feminine in dressing and behaving. She stays home and is taught to be a true woman being skillful to do chores such as cooking, decorating, washing and serving. She is not supposed to know how the outer life is like. *She had never heard of a man who helped in woman's work. (book one: 39)* It is an odd to her when Jamie tries to help her with the plates which belong to her business. She lives that way in order to obey her father.

She becomes a single parent to her single daughter. She is not a role model to her daughter because she is involved herself more in company than in her growth. *"What I would like is for you to learn some manners," Margaret told her (book two: 78).* Manner and dress things are old-fashioned thing for her daughter and she can not afford her to be well mannered lady as she wills.

Kate is a daughter who defines herself having power as her father does. The role model of her is her own father although she is not grown up with her father. *"I don't want to become a woman," Kate screamed. (book two: 78).* Having polite manners is not an important thing to her. She is supposed to be smart and she rebels her mother for the silly things.

She becomes a single parent to her single son, Tony after her husband death and lives with the absolute power. She has her son managed to be her heir with ignoring her son's interest. *All along, he had been his mother's puppet, controlled, manipulated (book four:117)* Her own son assumes himself as her puppet which she sets the beginning, the stories and the end for her son. Her son is the number two after the company. She becomes a cruel mother and obsessive even possessive to her own son.

### **3. The Feminism Varieties**

The feminism reflected by the two characters, Margaret and Kate in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game* is two contrasted woman representations. Margaret is a patriarchy woman. She contributes her fight to be equal to the man in her relationship as the liberal feminism proposes how a woman should be. Although she is not the one to start but she shows that the

woman can have the power on the man. Her pregnancy gives her husband's heir. Whilst she is chased out due to his avenge.

Kate being a powerful woman represents the woman movement from her mother. Her views show that the feminism presented is no longer liberal feminism liberal to stay to be equal with the man but she represents the development feminism. It is against the values stating the woman is under the man. She takes control on her career, relationship and family with her obsessions. Even she does more than a man.

### **Discussion**

The study which is done by Younas et al (2014) reveals two characters, Maggie contrasted with Lucy in George Elliot's novel *The Mill on the Floss*. The both characters appear different with their performances, attitudes and mentality though they live in the same generation and one neighborhood. Maggie is the one who break the rules believed in her family so does Kate in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game*. Kate rebel to her mother who asks her to keep her manners but she states that the woman needs brain.

Lucy is obedient to her family values implemented in their daily lives as Margaret presentation in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game*. She is stuck to her father and she depends on manly characters in her life exactly her father and husband for all aspects in her life. She does not have power at all to get her rights. Margaret and Kate are told as a mother and daughter in *Master of the Game novel* whose generation is differently presented. The role model of daughter, Kate is not her own mother, Margaret. They live together but they represent different feminism values. Margaret is an emotional woman while Kate is logical woman.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

After analyzing the data based on the theories, it is concluded that the two woman characters, Margaret and Kate are differently presented in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game*. Margaret is a powerless and obedient

woman whereas Kate is a powerful and rebellious woman. Margaret is minor character but she influences Kate as a major character due to their relationship between mother and daughter.

The two characters present contrary woman views and treatments so it influences the feminism representations. Margaret is the representative of woman who is controlled by man and stuck to the patriarchy values, a woman as not professional worker and a true lover who stays with one man despite being regardless. Otherwise she shows a woman's power lay on giving birth but she is not a possessive mother. Meanwhile, Kate represents the woman who lives without man's power. She stays out of patriarchy. She is obsessed in her company, love and everything she wants under any circumstances.

Feminism varieties represented in Sydney Sheldon's novel *Master of the Game* are liberal feminism which is citing the equality between a man and a woman. Margaret and Kate are fighting to be admitted by her lover while it is supposed to be made by the man. Furthermore, Kate's career can be defined to reveal the development feminism in which she does more than man.

### **Suggestion**

Grounded on the results of analysis, this study is intended to suggest that the students who study feminism should understand what feminism means and how it is implied in literary works based on the results of analysis as it becomes more easily learnt and revealed the feminism values that can be found in the novel by analyzing the characters. They who are interested to do the similar research can enrich their references.

The readers should implement the feminism value in their daily lives. They realize how the woman should behave and be treated in the daily lives. They are supposed to be reminded to do parting on obsession and achievement, to make the woman not unfairly judged.

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