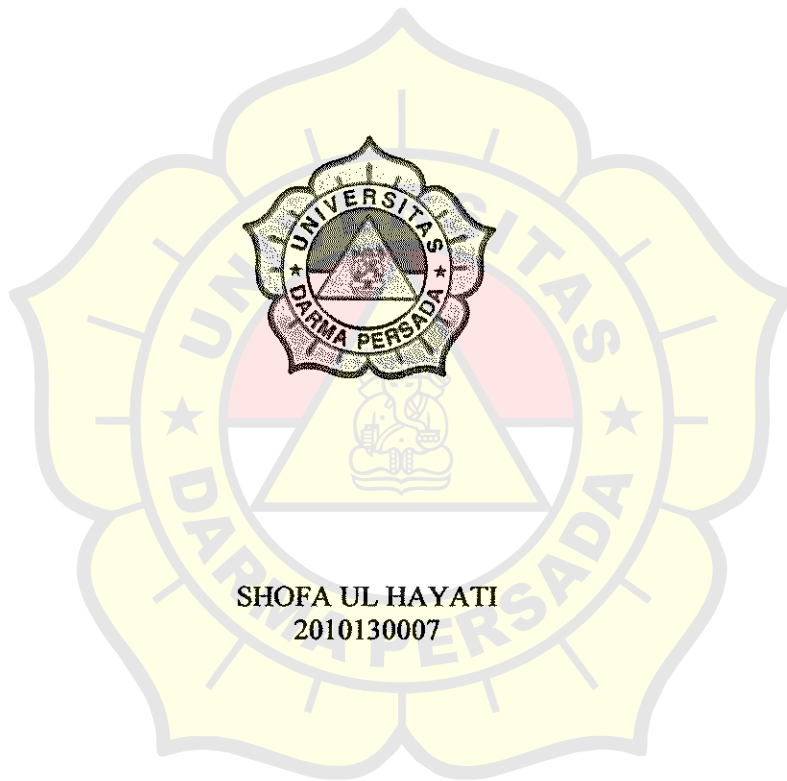


WOMEN'S STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS
IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY
IN THE NOVEL *THE KITCHEN GOD'S WIFE* BY AMY TAN

TERM PAPER

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Strata-1 Degree



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JAKARTA
2014

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT PAGE

**WOMEN'S STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS
IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY
IN THE NOVEL *THE KITCHEN GOD'S WIFE* BY AMY TAN**

is a scientific research I conducted under the guidance of Agustinus Hariyana, S.S, M.Si. Since the term paper is truly original not a half or total plagiarism of another works, the contents has become my responsibility. The things related to other's people work are written in quotation and included within bibliography.

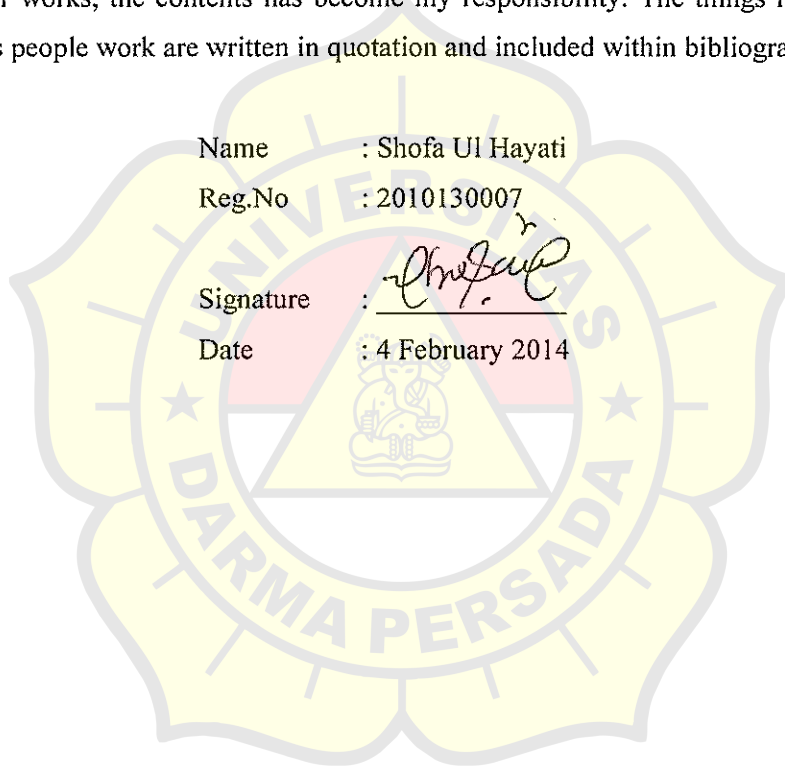
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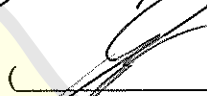
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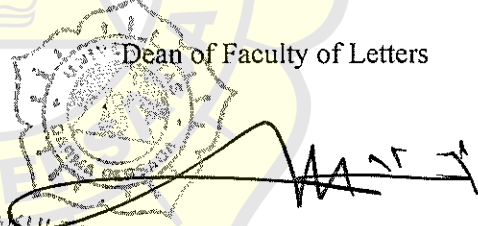
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PREFACE

Praise be to Allah, The Cherisher and The Sustainer of the worlds; God who has been giving His blessing and mercy to me in finally completing this term paper timely. This term paper I have conducted entitled, *Women's Struggle to Achieve in Patriarchal Society in the Novel The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan*, is a partial fulfillment of requirements for obtaining strata one degree of literature (*Sarjana Sastra*) in undergraduate program of English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Darma Persada.

These three and a half years have been a precious moment for me, with both ups and downs. On this occasion with great humility, I would like to give appreciation to all who have given their contribution so this paper can be finished. I realize that I cannot accomplish this paper without any supports of them. With no doubt I express the deep and sincere gratitude.

1. To the Dean of Faculty of Letters, Mr.Syamsul Bahri, S.S, M.Si, thank you for his approval to this term paper. To the Head of English Department, Mr.Tommy Andrian, S.S, M.Hum, thank you for his permission to me accomplishing this paper.
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4. From the deepest of my heart I would like to give great appreciation to my parents, *ayah* and *bunda*, for their limitless love and caring, patience, support in happiness and sorrow, your pray, and your life until now I finish my academic and definitely in my entire life. Because of your faith to me to be a successful woman. I am also grateful to my siblings, *Abang*, *Ola*, and my little angel, *Farah* for your supports and love in everything.
5. I also give big appreciation to Pak Azmarin Johari as my boss in XL Axiata who always understand and give any opportunity to me doing my paper in office, I also say many thanks to my managers especially *Mba Agnes* and *Mba Nadia* for your supports until this time.
6. To my colleagues, especially classmates of 2009, Emily, Jenifer, Nando, and Bagas also everyone who I cannot mention them one by one.

Finally, I really hope this paper could give contribution for the readers to understand how to apply literary approaches, intrinsic and extrinsic, with the theme of the novel. In addition, hopefully this term paper would be useful for the readers who have interest in literary works and other useful things in this paper especially about feminism movement in patriarchal society in China.

Jakarta, 4 February 2014

Shofa Ul Hayati

ABSTRAK

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Judul : *Women's Struggle to Achieve Happiness in Patriarchal Society in the Novel The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan*

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis dan menunjukkan bagaimana patriarki sangat berpengaruh terhadap munculnya pergerakan feminisme radikal sehingga terdapat perjuangan yang dilakukan tokoh utama dalam mencapai kebahagiaan hidupnya. Metode analisis yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini melalui pendekatan sastra dengan unsur intrinsik yaitu diterapkan konsep perwatakan, alur cerita, dan latar, dan dengan unsur ekstrinsik melalui pendekatan sosiologi menggunakan teori feminisme radikal dan patriarki. Jenis penelitian ini adalah kepustakaan, yaitu metode yang menggunakan bahan-bahan penelitian yang berasal dari teks karya sastra dari novel *The Kitchen God's Wife* karya Amy Tan sebagai sumber utama dan didukung oleh buku teori yang terkait dengan konsep penelitian.*

Kata kunci: *Pendekatan sastra, feminisme radikal, patriarki, The Kitchen God's Wife*

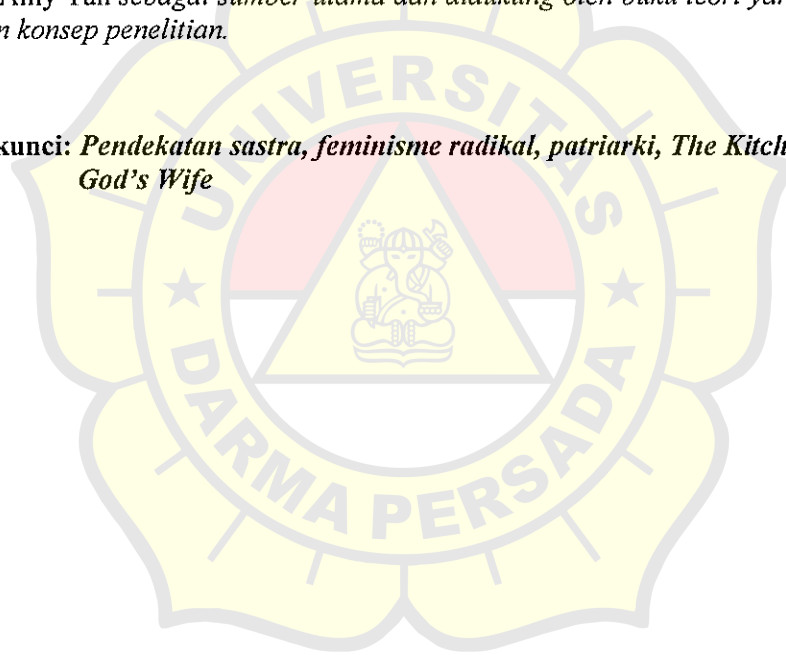


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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

I believe that in life we all know there are significant differences of women values in the eyes of people between in present and past life. As we all know the story that was told by our elders, in the past, women had lower social status than men. For example, during the colonial era in Indonesia, women were not allowed to get education due to women at that time only intended to work at home, took care of household and children, so women did not need higher education to carry out these responsibilities (Ryadi, 1993: 99-106). But if we look at the present time, the position of women in the public eye is much different from the situation in the past, women have more values, have rights and obligations which are not much different than men, and people often appreciate and give opportunities to women as leaders.

Similar to the story in the novel "*The Kitchen God's Wife*" by Amy Tan I analyze in this term paper, is about women's struggle to achieve happiness in the patriarchal society, a situation when women were always get pressure from the society and oppression against them.

As a half American-Chinese blood novelist, most of Amy Tan's works are about Chinese life culture with its conflict. She often adapted her works from her real life stories, and the story of *The Kitchen's God Wife* is adapted from the history of her mother's life. Before I tell about the story of the novel, I would like to explain what the meaning of *The Kitchen God's Wife* is. Many histories defined the meaning of *The Kitchen God's Wife*. But I will tell about the meaning that related with the theme that I adapt for this term paper.

The story of The Kitchen God and his wife comes from Chinese mythology. The Kitchen God was originally a farmer, named Zhang who was selfish, cruel, and thoughtless. He prospered, but only because his wife, Guo, did most of the work. Zhang became infatuated with Lady Li, and brought her into the house; Guo was soon thrown out. But Lady Li and Zhang squandered their money and grew

poor, and soon she left him. Zhang, close to death, was saved by his old wife Guo, who was still patient and devoted to him, and had not complained at the terrible treatment she received. He dies trying to avoid her, so he will not have to admit his mistakes, and the gods make him a minor deity, the Kitchen God. The Kitchen God was also popular as Stove God. In Chinese belief, stove represent the unity of the family. Kitchen God, was considered to be that particular family's guardian. And the stove also as a symbol of wealthy because before the Lunar New Year, the Kitchen God must go to Heaven to report to the Jade Emperor, emperor of the heavens, on his family's activities during the year. Zhang went to heaven by his wife burnt the paper image that had hung over their stove for the entire year. If the report was good, Zhang and his family will get luck for that year, but if the report is bad they will get punishment (Columbia University, 2007).

The mythology is related with the story in *The Kitchen God's Wife* novel by Amy Tan, is with the marriage of Winnie and Wen Fu. He is a man who cares only for himself, and he neither loves nor respects his wife; indeed, he treats her badly. Winnie struggles to be a good wife and submits to even the most degrading of humiliations without leaving him. Wen Fu often brought other women to their house and he often stole all of their dowry money, wasting it on a worthless stuffs. One day, Winnie felt she must go out from that bad situation. She escaped with her son, Danru, and lived with Jimmy Louie, a man who finally became her second husband, and helped her escaped from Wen Fu. Jimmy was a Chinese-American translator with nice and good-hearted personalities and loved Winnie and Danru very well. When Winnie tried to escape and lived with Jimmy, Wen Fu sent her to jail. He lied to the judge in the courts that Winnie had stolen Wen Fu's son, Danru, and deserting him to run off with Jimmy Louie. She had to be arrested for two years. However, Auntie Du, a woman who became her bestfriend that she met when she accompanied Wen Fu in military training, helped her to get out of jail. Winnie could get out before the time she had to be. At the end of the story, Amy Tan shows that finally Winnie divorced with Wen Fu, and she had good life with Jimmy Louie in America and grew up their two children happily.

After I read the novel *The Kitchen God's Wife* for the umpteenth time, I was finding a problem that can be analyzed, that is the women's struggle to find out happiness for her life in the patriarchal society. I analyze this novel through the theory of radical feminism that is influenced by discrimination under patriarchal system which can be seen from the characterization of Winnie Louie, who grew up in the 18th century in China which was in patriarchal system (Birdwhistell 2007).

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the study I have described, I would like to analyze personality of Winnie Louie which is formed during the cruelty of patriarchy at that time, which is women's struggle to maintain the status and justice under the influence of men who view women atrocities low and just as satisfying the sexual desires of men. My assumption about the theme of this novel is women's struggle to achieve happiness in patriarchal society system. I analyze this theme through intrinsic elements such as characterization, plot, setting, and extrinsic elements through theory of patriarchy and radical feminism.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification I have described above, for the limitation I will analyze the characterization of Winnie Louie as a woman who is very tough dealing with discrimination which happened to women in patriarchal society. I will use the concept of personality which is formed by radical feminism in patriarchal system.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation above, I formulate the problem: is it true that the theme of this novel that I assumed is women's struggle to achieve happiness in patriarchal society? To answer this question I formulate the problem with these following questions:

1. Can the analysis of characterization show the existence of personal theory on radical feminism of Winnie Louie?

2. Can the theme of the novel be seen through analysis of characterization, setting, and plot correlated with the concept of radical feminism movement in patriarchy?
3. Is radical feminism as a major cause of Winnie Louie's struggle to get happiness in her life in patriarchy?

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the statement above, the aim of analyzing this novel is to prove the theme that I adapted; it is the woman struggle to achieve happiness in patriarchal society. To achieve the aims of this paper, I did three stages, as follows:

1. To analyze characterization to prove the influence of radical feminism to Winnie Louie's characterization
2. To analyze themes through the analysis of characterization, setting, and plot correlated with the concept of radical feminism movement in patriarchy.
3. To analyze radical feminism as a major cause of Winnie Louie's struggle to get happiness in patriarchy

F. Framework of the Theories

Based on the purpose of the study above, I analyze the novel by using intrinsic and extrinsic methods. The methods I use are as follows:

1. Intrinsic Methods

a. Characterization

"Character is an individual within a literary work. They also said in glossary, characterization is the process by which an author creates, develops, and presents a character" (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 295). Methods that I use to analyze the characterization are method of telling or directly, and method of showing or indirectly.

1) Method of Telling (Direct)

The telling method relies figures on exposition and direct commentary by the author. In telling, we learn and look only at what author calls to our attention

(Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 27). For this analysis, I analyze characterization by using *telling method of characterization by the author* (p.30).

2) Methods of *Showing* (Indirect)

"The author shows the method of showing which involves the author's stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through and their dialogue and their actions" (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 27). For this analysis, I will analyze characterization by using *showing method of characterization through dialogue by the identity of the speaker and characterization through dialogue what is being said* (p.32)

b. Plot

E. M. Forster (1927) wrote: *"A plot is a narrative of events arranged in their time sequence"* (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 13). It defined as the events that make up a story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, how the reader views the story, or simply by coincidence. These are the elements of plot, with following details:

1) Exposition

"The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action. It may also introduce the characters and the conflict, or the potential for conflict" (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 16).

2) Complication

"The complication, which is sometimes referred to as the rising action, breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict (if they have not already been introduced by the exposition). The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified" (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981: 17).

3) Crisis

"The crisis (also referred to as the climax) is that moment at which at the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution" (Pickering and Hoeper, 1981: 17).

4) Falling Action

"Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion" (Pickering and Hoeper, 1981: 17).

5) Resolution

"The final section of the plots is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new stability (however tentative and momentary). The resolution is also referred to as the conclusion" (Pickering and Hoeper, 1981: 17).

c. Setting

"Setting is a term that encompasses both the physical local that frames the action and the time of day or year, the climatic conditions, and the historical period in which the action takes place" (Pickering and Hoeper, 1981: 37). Based on the definition above, I will analyze *The Kitchen God's Wife* novel by Amy Tan with three elements of setting, are physical local or setting of place, the time of day or year or setting of time, and the climate conditions or setting of social.

d. Theme

According to Pickering and Hoeper, *"theme may mean the moral or lesson that can be extrapolated from the work. Theme is also used sometimes to refer to the basic issue, problem, or subject with which the work is concerned. Theme in literature, can be said to represent the vehicle an author uses to establish a relationship with the larger world in which he or she lives and works"* (1981: 61).

2. Extrinsic Methods

In extrinsic element, I will use the theory of radical feminism to prove that women struggle to achieve happiness happened due to the discrimination of women in patriarchal society. According to Walby, *"radical feminism is*

distinguished by its analysis of gender inequality in which men as a group dominate women as a group and are the main beneficiaries of the subordination of women. This system of domination, called patriarchy, does not derive from any other system of social inequality” (1990:3). Walby also defined “patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women” (p.20)

G. Methods of the Research

In this study, in analyzing the novel, I use library research methods to the data source the novel of *The Kitchen God's Wife* written by Amy Tan and supported by several books. For the intrinsic elements I use books such as *Concise Companion to Literature* (1981) by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hooper, and for the extrinsic elements, I use the novel which is supported by several book such as *Radical Feminism and Feminist Radicalism* (1984) by Ellen Willis, *Theorizing Patriarchy* (1990) by Sylvia Walby, and many experts' thoughts. Types of research literature and the nature of interpretive research is the method of data collection through literature research and theory assessment is inductive pattern is from the general to particular.

H. Benefits of the Research

This study is for those who interested in deepening knowledge about literary approaches analysis correlate with sociological approaches that could be beneficial for students or researches who want to explore more deeply about characterization of Amy Tan's novel especially *The Kitchen God's Wife*, this research might be beneficial because it has been done through the new perspective by applying the radical feminism through the cruelty of patriarchal society system approach of personality theory which can show something new further researches. The research was conducted through a new perspective.

I. Systematic Organization of the Research

This term paper will be arranged in chapters as follows:

- CHAPTER 1** This chapter contains introductory such as background of the study, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, theoretical framework, method of the study, benefits of the study, and systematic of the study
- CHAPTER 2** This chapter contains the theoretical review through sociological approaches that includes explanation on patriarchy and radical feminism.
- CHAPTER 3** This chapter contains the analysis in literary approaches that includes intrinsic elements such as characterization, setting and plot.
- CHAPTER 4** This chapter contains theme analysis with intrinsic and extrinsic elements.
- CHAPTER 5** This chapter contains the conclusion of novel analysis *The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan with moral message in it and summary of the term paper.

