

THE AFFIRMATION OF WOMAN-EXISTENCE IN GABRIELLE'S NOVEL "LADY OF SCANDAL"

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to analyze the affirmation of woman-existence against patriarchal construction in the novel "Lady of Scandal" by Tina Gabrielle. This research used feminist approach Simone de Beauvoir (2016) in her theory women existence. This study focused on four factors that caused women against patriarchy, namely submissive, matchmaking, mala fide and domesticity. To analyze kinds of affirmation against patriarchal construction, researcher focused on the Beauvoir terminology related; the intellectual, being herself, and freedom to actualize self. This research used qualitative methods. In this study, the researcher found on two points that made woman against patriarchy. First, because women have seen as second sex who were oppressed by men based the values and norms by society who believed in patriarchal culture. Second, woman awareness against patriarchy reflected from the showing of her existences as a woman.

Keywords: Feminism; Patriarchal construction; women existence.

1. Introduction

The issues of woman as a second sex from time to time constructed the patriarchal system. Patriarchal construction becomes one of the interesting issues to discuss because women get the different treated more than men. Construction of patriarchal system means that men are more superior to women. Superiorities have been formed by society since the past. Intan (2014) stated that from historical perspectives, women are group of people who are oppressed by men. They

do not have power and effort to get out of bondage. Men are more respected than women especially in the sexuality and the economic productivity. Ironically, this oppression was happened to women in the household treated by people around them such as their fathers or husbands.

One of the patriarchal construction system often faced by women is related to the marriage tradition. In the past, the preparation of marriage of the daughters was controlled by a father as the head of

family. Father determined the groom to the bride even though the bride did not know the groom. Besides, the presence of matchmaker often occurred as the problem of marriage that placed women as subordination. Matchmaker was the decision maker to whom the women marry.

Patriarchal construction tended to the phenomenon that occurred to women lives in the period of Victorian era in nineteenth century. Heryanto (2014) explained that Victorian era was under the head by the reign of Queen Victoria in England. One of the most problems faced by women in Victorian era was patriarchal system. It showed the dominant of men in many fields. The system in this period saw clearly that the gap between men and women specifically and generally limited. Women would be forced to engage by the man as the head of family.

The tradition of hereditary in Victorian era made a woman as a victim during the marriage. Prasad (2016) argued that many women in Victorian era had independent thought and they trusted, but some believed and obeyed the tradition that women had to be at home. Parent made their daughters to be able to match and marry. Women in the Victorian era were considered weak and helpless. They are expected to be good calm women and bargained as an object because they were not considered intellectually competent.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher applied the theory of women existence proposed by Beauvoir (2016). The first problem in this analysis offered the concept of existentialism to describe the phenomenon of the patriarchal construction toward woman. In her book entitled *Second Sex*, Beauvoir (2016) described the problem toward woman under the patriarchal of construction into

four concepts: submissive, matchmaking, mala-fide, and domesticity. Beauvoir (2016) did not only describe how the woman was under the patriarchal construction but also described how the struggles of woman against the patriarchal construction to get her existence as a human being, known as women existence. In this analysis, the researcher answered the problem of the woman struggles against patriarchal construction based on Beauvoir (2016) concept theory of women existence. She divided theory of women existence into three points: women's intellectual, to be herself, and the freedom of women to actualize themselves. She stated that the intellectual is an ability possessed by women as human being that aware of the ability to determine what they want to do. To be herself is the women who are able to determine what they want to do based on their desire to be themselves and believe in what they do without having to be someone else. Women to actualize themselves is the action taken by women of their independent way based on the concrete experience that has been done by them to get self-freedom.

One of the literary works reflected to the feminism phenomenon that happened between women and men is "Lady of Scandal" novel by Tina Gabrielle. This novel was published 2009. Gabrielle's novel has been Barnes & Noble's best choice. Her first novel "Lady of Scandal" was also nominated as the first best historical romance by romantic times book review. Her novel is the one of best seller novels in Amazon. Besides she is a lawyer and engineer.

The phenomena of patriarchal construction clearly happened in "Lady of Scandal" novel by Gabrielle (2009). It told Victoria Aston as the main character was opposed the marriage match by her father named Charles Aston. The first

man who would be matched with Aston was Jacob Hobbs. Victoria became an object used to bring business profits for her father like a goal to launch his business with Jacob Hobbs. One of narration that occurred in Victoria's life can be seen from the quotation below:

“You know better than to question your father’s request. You’re a constant worry to him...near twenty and no closer to being married. You have done yourself and this family harm by refusing every decent proposal of marriage. You have earned your reputation as difficult. No man will risk rejection by offering for you now. You should be thankful that your father has your best interests at heart. (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 17)

From the quotation above, implicitly the character of Victoria described the phenomenon reflected the situation of women in the Victorian era. The quotation above also clearly showed the presence of Aston's mother, named Marry who accepted the same thing to be obedient to the men as husband and the head of the family. Victoria got unfair treatment because she was forced to marry a man she did not love. This was a certain goal for her father to get the advantages. This phenomenon occurred because of the history of destiny influenced by male domination based on hereditary from society who believed the values and norms that made women had to be submissive.

The problem described the oppression faced by women such as the basic reason for women to make a movement to break down the construction of patriarchy itself. The women's movement that breaks down the construction of patriarchy is called the feminist movement. Feminism is a form of

movement to refuse and break down the constructions of patriarchy itself toward the women. Therefore, the researcher saw the relationship between the phenomena of feminism and Victoria struggles with her ambitious, independent and intellectual qualities to get the freedom for actualizing herself a human to get her existence. This article discussed how the phenomenon of patriarchal construction happened in the novel of Lady Scandal and the way of woman movement against this construction based on her awareness of woman existences. That why the researcher used the topic of *The Affirmation of Self-Existence against Patriarchal Construction in “Lady of Scandal”* by Tina Gabrielle as the focused of the study.

Synopsis

Lady of Scandal novel by Gabrielle (2009) represented an issue related to the phenomena marriage of women which is quite relevant to the Beauvoir concept. The Lady of Scandal novel is a reflection of the story of women's marriage that took place in the Victorian era. Gabrielle revealed various phenomena related to the dominance of men at that time through issues related to arranged marriages and forced will to a child, body exploitation of women, restrictions on space for freedom even in sex. Different from the Aston character, Gabrielle is deliberately representation the figure of a woman who is against the principle of oppression itself and opposes the construction. Aston also experienced various female phenomena during the Victorian era, such as the coercion of the will of the man he had to marry, namely Blake Mallorey. She must also serve the sexual relations forced by her husband without official marital status as a married couple.

2. Literature Review

1. Feminism

Feminism is taken from the basic word “*femme*” who means that woman. So the meaning of the word woman itself is against all forms of oppression committed by men. This oppression is the result of a belief that has been hereditary in the life of society that women are the weak. In other hands, it is opposed by Tong (2009) argued that feminist is women who rebel against the rules of natural theory that are believed by society that women must show their female side as weak people who must submit to men are true women who oppose the oppression itself to escape from the rules that are believed.

Since the Victorian era issued related to feminism criticism have been present. The term feminism has even appeared since 1808 which was moved by Charles's philosophy to describe utopic socialism, barriers between women and men in social classes (Tong, 2009). Wollstonecraft (1975) said that in the Victorian era if there were writers who would write a book for political purposes they had used masculine or unknown names. That was moved in his book *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* to criticized injustice women at that time. The most phenomenal upheaval of feminism criticism was in the 19th century to the 20 century was pioneered by Virginia Wolf, this contained in the discussion of the book *Ratna* (2012). Etymologically the theory of feminism comes from the word *femme* which means women who aimed to fight for their rights. The purpose of feminism is to get gender equality and interruption. Feminism is a

women's movement to reject all forms of marginalization, political, economic, social and educational fields.

The feminist criticism related with existentialist was considered most appropriate by researcher to uncover Gabriel's thoughts in the *Lady of Scandal* story. Therefore, researcher used existentialism theory as a form of women's struggle against patriarchal construction.

2. Existentialism in Beauvoir's Paradigm

Based on the explanations earlier the researcher has on purpose criticizes existentialist feminists in philosophy. Dagon (1990) stated that there are some characteristics of existentialism that is always seeing the way humans are, existence is interpreted dynamically so that there are elements of doing and becoming. Human are seen as a wounded and unfinished reality, and based on concrete experience. So it can be concluded that existentialism views humans as something high, and their existence is always determined by themselves, only because it is man who can exist and who is aware of himself and knows how to position himself. From this paradigm then became the basis of the existentialism heroes that were originally made by John Paul Sartre so that gave birth to existentialist feminists by Simone

3. Representation of Patriarchal Construction

In her book entitled *Second Sex*, Beauvoir (2016) described the problem toward woman under the patriarchal of construction into four concepts: submissive, matchmaking, mala-fide,

and domesticity. Submissive is the act accepted by someone without doing the resistance. Matchmaking is a form of coercion toward the desire of women to do the marriage because of the system patriarchal itself. Mala fide is a form of specious man that is like to be regulated and determined women's life by men. Women did not want to accept the responsibility to get their freedom. Domesticity is the division of gender roles which are attached to the differences between men and women. Gender roles are applied into values and norms seen from the placement of men and women as specific and general position.

De Beauvoir.

4. Woman struggle Against Patriarchal Construction

Beauvoir (2016) did not only describe how the woman was under the patriarchal construction but also described how the struggles of woman against the patriarchal construction to get her existence as a human being, known as women existence. In this analysis, the researcher answered the problem of the woman struggles against patriarchal construction based on Beauvoir (2016) concept theory of women existence. She divided theory of women existence into three points: women's intellectual, to be herself, and the freedom of women to actualize themselves. She stated that the intellectual is an ability possessed by women as human being that aware of the ability to determine what they want to do. To be her-self is the women who are able to determine what they want to do based on their desire to be themselves and believe in what they do without having to be someone else.

Women to actualize themselves is the action taken by women of their independent way based on the concrete experience that has been done by them to get self-freedom.

3. Research Method

This research is used qualitative method. Qualitative is an analysis of data that has to get in literary works through the words, sentences, paragraphs on the texts. In this study, the researcher found information about the problem of data analysis through interpretation based on facts, theories and experts. Creswell (2014) said that qualitative research is a type of research in which the researcher is very dependent on information from objects or participants on a broad scope, general questions, and data collection consisting mainly of words or texts in explaining and analyzing words and conduct research subjectively. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that qualitative research is the data analysis that explained events using words, sentences, and paragraphs in the text that can be understood and interpreted to get insights about certain interesting phenomena.

1. Critical Methodology

This research related to the feminism theory. In specifically, the researcher used women existence theory by Beauvoir. Feminist literary critic resisted traditional assumption while reading a text. In addition to challenging which were thought to be universal, feminist literary criticism actively supports including woman knowledge in literature and valuing women's experience. In this case, some

step to criticize this Lady of Scandal novel based on Beauvoir's existentialism theory included:

- a. Highlighting the text that showed the data of woman against patriarchy based on four factors such as submissive, matchmaking, mala fide and domesticity.
- b. Take a note. During reading the novel "Lady of Scandal." Note technique is used to note any quotation about the feminism phenomenon and dialogue. By using this technique, the researcher knew about the context of dialogue.
- c. Data Reduction. It means summarizing, choosing the essential data, focusing on the problem, searching of the themes, patterns and removing unnecessary data. After found the phenomenon related to feminism which is collected, data collection is done, then to get the most appropriate data that is in accordance with the feminism phenomena.
- d. Data displayed and interpretation. By displaying the data, the researcher easy to understand and easy to analyze what was happened with the data presented. The next step, the researcher began to do interpretation the data by using theory as a shape of analysis

4. Result and Discussion

In this result and discussion, the researcher used Beauvoir's theory related to women existence. Beauvoir stated that existence was the concept that human has seen as creatures that must exist, examine how human were

in the world with awareness. The statement clearly emphasized that the effort to against patriarchal construction was to gain the existence as a human. Before understanding more deeply how the existence was, it has obtained researcher investigated the factors that cause the inhibition of existence as a human being in the terminological construction of Beauvoir. Based on the first problem, there are four factors according to Beauvoir (2016) that caused the construction patriarchal toward women namely, submissive, matchmaking, mala-fide and domesticity. This can be seen from the analyses data in in the following sub chapters below.

1. Submissive

Based on explained previously there were four factors that caused the existence of women so that women must against these factors to get their existence. The first factor was submissive. Beauvoir (2016) stated that submissive was the act that was accepted by someone without putting up the fight.

This novel was set in London, April 1812 (Gabrielle, 2009). This 1812 showed the illustration of the social situation and condition at the same time in the nineteenth-century that was reflected from the Victorian era in London around 1937. At that time it was cleared that women were placed in the second position especially in the relationship determined the partner in life. The problem that occurred in the narrative of this novel was that Victoria's character would be matched with a man who was not her choice. The problem of submissively, in this case, was aimed at the way of thought

by her mother who believes that a woman's destiny must be accepted if one day the daughter must be matched with a specific purpose. It can be seen in by the quotation below:

Mary looked first at Spencer, then at Victoria, a frown marring her features. "You know better than to question your father's request. You're a constant worry to him...near twenty and no closer to being married. You have done yourself and this family harm by refusing every decent proposal of marriage. You have earned your reputation as difficult. No man will risk rejection by offering for you now. You should be thankful that your father has your best interests at heart." (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 17)

The quotation above told the start of a forced match between Victoria and the first man named Jacob Hobbs. He was a business partner of Aston's father who brought business profits to the Aston family. This reflected how the roles of parents who realized that the girls at that time would have had a turn to be forced arranged marriage for a particular purpose. This incident showed the helplessness of her mother who accepted the decision without a rebuttal. It was evidence of the submissive actions of women who accepted it as a fate. Those also happened to the last generations including her mother who experienced victims for the acceptance of destiny to be matched with someone who was not his choice.

2. Matchmaking

This novel told the story of Victoria's matchmaking that forced by his father. There are two men in this story, namely Jacob Hobbs and Blake Malloreay as prospective would to be Victoria husband who were forced without love to be made the wife of one of them. This role was held by the power of a father due to forestry entangled in his family. As his replacement Victoria would be the victim of this arranged marriage as redemption for his family's debts. It can be seen by the quotation below:

Victoria stiffened, her arm still resting on Jacob's sleeve. "I don't know what to say, Jacob." "I've already discussed my proposal with your father and have his consent." She stared up at him, her heart pounding. "I'm not sure I'd make you a good wife." "Your father has spoken with the church to arrange the reading of the banns next month." A soft gasp escaped her. "But I must consent! My father cannot take the marital vows for me." "You must obey your father, Victoria. We have decided what is best for you." Her vision blurred with the desire to lash out at him (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 22)

The quotation above proved the existence of forced marriages between the first men, named Jacob who would be matched with Victoria. This showed that women at that time were oppressed due to the role future towards the figure of man they did not love. Society at that time considered that one of the goals of married

between men and women was to provide bloodlines. This illustrated the figures of women as wives who would be responsible for served their husbands and children. Men and women would get married also one of the rules that bind women to obey and submit so that women were under the leadership of men.

3. Mala-fide and Domesticity

The third caused was the factor by Mala Fide that occurred at the women's lives was formed of hypocritical man who preferred to be regulated, who preferred to be outlined in her life, they did not want to accept responsibility, that was her habit. The quotation below it was still related to the woman that was decided by his father. Victoria must submit and be under the authority of men. It can be seen by the quotation below:

"You're wrong, Victoria," her father said. "He could have easily destroyed me by calling in my loans. No, I'm certain he wants you. I realize in your innocence you may not recognize his intent, but we can undoubtedly use it to our advantage." (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 59)

The quotation above was affirmation of the evidence that her father Charles remained in his stance to force Victoria to use Blake with her innocence. Her father made Aston as an object that must be able to submit and obeyed with Blake by pretending to be his object, so that it would be easier for her father's plan to seek revenge and reap the benefits of Blake by sacrificing Victoria Aston.

Domesticity was the division of gender roles which was attached to the differences between men and women that applied into values and norms seen from the placement of men and women in general and specifically. Where it was divided into two sides, they were domestic in public work and rational and emotional. The main character Victoria experienced that as the oppression of the profession which was underestimated by men in those days that women were unable to take care of even the frivolous finances. Their obligation was to be forced to become a housewife and served husband or man as head of the family. It can be seen quotation below:

With her newfound knowledge came enlightenment and she had realized that the wealthy men in society held the power that enabled them to control their own fate. Wives were dependent upon the charity of their husbands and could not spend a shilling without their spouse's permission. Such was the situation between her parents. Only the widows whose deceased husbands had left them fortunes were free to choose how to spend their own money and, more importantly, that of their second spouse(Gabrielle, 2009 p. 21).

From the quotation above explained that the life of society at that time men have the power to position women in general the obligations of the wife as a housewife who required to take care of her husband and children. This was clearly illustrates in the Victoria family, how the roles of

her mother who was obedient and submissive to her husband as head of the family. This was forms of division of roles between men and women in general and specifically. Who may make sustenance and work in front of the public was a man specifically at home as the head of the family. While the division of women even though she worked in public that in particular she remained a housewife who was required to take care of her husband and children. In general, society in that era believed that as a rich men held the power to be controlled what they did with women based on what they believed by the needs of wives were very dependent on their husbands to provide for all they needed but they were not given the opportunity to be freely did things that were prohibited and inappropriate in the general and specific space to do as woman because as a wife she must be filial, obedient to her husband.

In this data analysis below, the researcher answered the formulation of the problem based on the way against the patriarchal construction that reflected in the novel *Lady of Scandal* by Tina Gabrielle. In this research, the researcher found the main character against patriarchal constructions consists of women's intellectual, to be herself and freedom of women to actualize self.

1. Women's Intellectual

Based on the explained above Beauvoir (2016) stated that women existence has seen as creature that emphasizes the human where she has seen as creature that was existed by using her consciousness. This related to the intellectual which

was dynamically interpreted that women who were aware of their intellectual abilities would make an effort, so they were seen as being

This was illustrated from Victoria as the main character who has intelligence as stock trader market who was no less great than her father Charles, Jacob and her brother, Spencer. Her intelligence in this story can be proven by her profession which attached her female side which cannot be considered trivial by other men. Her financial freedom was an attempt to reject the patriarchal construction which was very dominant at that time. It can be seen by the quotation below:

Victoria stretched on her bed and studied The Times with concentration. Stock prices were high this month. Based on her calculations, they would rise even more. Investing in companies that traded sugar, tea and spices from the East Indies had proven to be lucrative. But the new London Bank and several other money-lending businesses caught her eye. Such investments involved risk but offered the opportunity for large returns. No doubt the Prince Regent's outrageous spending habits, resulting in the Crown's enormous debt, were a major factor in the recent success of such lending establishments. (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 16)

From the quotation above was proofed that Aston has intelligence as an business trader who was equivalent to the male profession at that time. Even though she was forced to follow the culture of patriarchal and norms of society at that time who

upheld the position of men as head of family who forced her to be submissive, accepted matchmaking, were required to be mala fide and restrictions in the space of domesticity did not defeat her efforts in intellectual intelligence possessed as merchants an anonymous stock business. Victoria's ability as an anonymous trader did not know by her family was her acted as a woman who was able to work on the masculinity profession in public. This was her attempt to oppose the values and norms believed by the people at that time who considered women only as servants in the family for men. The intellectual that she has been evidenced that showed her characteristics as a quality woman based on concrete experienced and abilities. Her profession as an anonymous trader succeeded in merging the norms by society who adhered to patriarchal culture at that time. It can be concluded that the intellectual was the existence of a woman deserved to be recognized by family and society. The existence of a woman was an awareness of the way that humans as creatures were equal to their potential and abilities, they were aware of how the position by themselves correctly with their intelligence.

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From the quotation below explained Victoria's side as a woman who has determination in herself who tried to always learn about complicated things when faced the work that drains her mind to understand how to invest properly and correctly. Such thoughts were believed at that time only to be done by men. Meanwhile Aston opposed it with her intelligence to be a thinker to determine her future so that she was has financially free that off by her family. This proved Victoria capable as to be herself did not see the situation in women who are generally forced to become another person. It can be seen by the quotation below:

*At first Victoria had been bored and confused with the talk of profit margins, price fixing and dividends. **But as time went by, she had begun to listen and learn how to invest. She had started to predict which stocks would earn money, and she had known she had a gift when she had been correct more often than both her father and Jacob.** (Gabrielle, 2009, p. 20)*

From the quotation above was evidenced of as Victoria's against to the construction of patriarchy through his personality who wanted continue to learn how the investment. The quotation "She had started to predict which stocks would earn money, and

she had known she had a gift when she had been correct more often than both her father and Jacob" was proofed that she opposed her father without having to obey the rules or values that forbid women to work in public as an anonymous stock trader. That where her position as a stock trader was being for herself when faced with an important situation that positions herself smarter than his father and Jacob.

3. Freedom of Women to Actualize Themselves

Based on explanation before, women who were aware of their existence would be able to actualize their freedom within themselves optimally. The quotation below was Victoria's against to boldly rejecting firmly in front of her family that her future was determined by herself. Victoria dares to place herself as creature that deserved to be recognized in a manner without limiting any desire of her chooses. The courage of the statement made against her. From the quotation below her was against to the construction of patriarchy which oppressed women where did not make statements freely. It can be seen by the quotation below:

*Victoria almost choked in rage at the twinkle of mischief in Spencer's eye. **She jumped to her feet and confronted her mother. "All I want is the freedom to choose my own spouse!"***
(Gabrielle, 2009, p. 18)

From the quotation above was Aston's resistance to determine her freedom against the man she wants because of love. Victoria character

depicts woman who was assertive and brave in determining the direction of her life to be like what and how. Her rebellion was form to against the patriarchal construction that opposed women not to expressed opinions in front of the family. Victoria clearly in the quotation above opposed his mother by expressing her opinion as a form of freedom to actualize herself to reject acts that oppressed her. The right to express the opinion by Victoria was proofed of the existentialism towards the rights and freedoms of woman who must be seen as an open reality where her existence was always determined by herself. It can be concluded that freedom to actualize herself was proofed the existentialist as an independent woman who dares to opposed the construction of patriarchy to reject women as objects for men.

5. Conclusion

After conducting the data analysis of the "Lady of Scandal" novel, the researcher concluded the factors woman against patriarchy and women existence as a way to affirm her struggle against patriarchal construction were represented by the main character, Victoria Aston, in the novel "Lady of Scandal" by Tina Gabrielle.

In the novel "Lady of Scandal", Victoria got some problems that caused to force by her to be have submissive, matchmaking, mala-fide and domesticity. Despite her independence as a woman that has intelligence as a qualified anonym trader. In this novel, Victoria had the oppression of men who were

hampering her freedom as a woman to exist. The truth in this novel was the patriarchal constructions by society had contained in this story believes the values and norms that uphold men as family heads. This was happened to Victoria life was forced by her father to make her daughter as an object for men with a specific purpose.

Victoria Aston in the novel "Lady of Scandal" has also efforts to oppose all forms of oppression in the patriarchal culture that oppressed her freedom as an independent woman. The rejection attempt made by Victoria to breaks down the patriarchal constructions by realized that she was a creature who has the intellectual as a woman who was able to solve the problems and challenges in the profession as a London stock trader, as being herself who was aware and knows how her able to place herself correctly, and freedom to actualize herself where she does not need to worry about the biological limitations that distinguish between men and women. From this proofed, it can be concluded that Victoria Aston was able to opposed the patriarchal construction that formed in the family and society at that time to get her existence as a human being valued as a high.

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