

**WOMAN'S STRUGGLE TO GET THE HIGHER POSITION IN  
THE COMPANY IN MICHAEL CRICHTON'S *DISCLOSURE*:  
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

In the social life women are known as weak persons and men as strong ones. In fact in business world, men are the majority. Basically, women and men have the same right and obligation since they were born. As human being they have the same opportunity to do anything. They will live together to cover and to support each other in order to achieve their life goal. Unfortunately, in the real life the society makes different paradigm about women and men in which men have more absolute authority over women. These facts make up gender differences.

Actually gender difference is not a problem as long it does not make inequalities of gender (Fakih, 1997: 12). But, in fact that gender differences cause many inequalities. This phenomenon causes many unfair treatments toward women like marginalization, subordination, violence, stereotype, negative judgment, economical property, etc (Fakih, 1997: 12). The inequalities manifestation should be solved in order to women can stand up their right.

The problem of gender inequality is the problem of human right that appears in the surface in which woman's position is under men. Here men act as super ordinate while women as subordinate. It is caused difference treatment, opportunity, role, right between men and women in social life.

According to Horton and Hunt (1996: 157) women's public decision making has often been dismissed as illogical, emotional and subjective. Men on the other hand, have always been considered logical, rational, and objective.

Women's struggle is fighting to their right in social life that women are able to sit in the higher position at workplace that is always dominated by men. From now on, many women make great strides to change their live condition become well. Such as by entering an education, getting a job or even getting higher position at workplace. Their roles are now altered; this alternation and movement are known as feminism.

The position of women in societies is still arising many questions because of the unfair treatment toward women. These phenomena cause many writers create literary work.

Literature has been an inspiring part within history of man. The creation of literary work is closely related to its author and in turn humanity, the author is conditioned by certain circumstances. So literary work and social problems are possibly represented on the basic of the author's background and experience or an example of social problems can be reflected in the novel.

One of the authors who pays attention to the woman's struggle to get the higher position in the company is Michael Crichton, particularly in his novel *Disclosure*. Michael Crichton is one of the greatest American novelists. He was born on October 23, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois (<http://imdb.com/name/nm0000341/bio>). He finished his education at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1964. He worked as lecturer in Anthropology on 1964 in Cambridge University, England. He also entered in Harvard Medical School at

1969 and spent one year as a post-doctoral fellow at the Salk Institute for Biological sciences in Ca Jolla, California at 1969 – 1970 (<http://imbd.com/name/nm0000341/bio>). As best selling author, Michael Crichton has written many literary works such as, *The Andromeda Strain* (1969), *The Terminal Man* (1972), *The Great Train Robbery* (1975), *Eaters of the Dead* (1976), *Congo* (1980), *Sphere* (1987), *Jurassic Park* (1990), (1992). *The Lost World* (1995), *Airframe* (1996) *Timeline* (1999), *Prey* (2002). *State of Fear* (2004) (<http://www3.isrt.uicu.edu/~unsworht/ courses/bestseller/search.cgi?title>).

*Disclosure* tells about woman's struggle to get the higher position in the company. Michael Crichton created a character that is Meredith Johnson. She is new boss in digital of technology in Seattle. She is a beautiful girl, sexy, crow foot at the corner of her eyes, blonde hair, large eyes with long eyelashes and faint creases in her forehead. She stands stranger and she has vibrancy, a confidence because of her power. She as a woman that requires being perfect. In her struggle to get the higher position in the company, she changes her performing, and does everything to defeat her rival and reaches her life goal, neither good nor bad.

Based on the consideration above, the writer is interested in conducting a study on Michael Crichton's *Disclosure* by using feminist perspective. The title for this research paper is "WOMAN'S STRUGGLE TO GET THE HIGHER POSITION IN THE COMPANY IN MICHAEL CRICHTON'S *DISCLOSURE*: A FEMINIST APPROACH".

## B. Literary Review

As far as the writer knows the study on Michael Crichton's *Disclosure* has been analyzed by other researcher in sociological approach, an individual psychological approach and psychoanalytic approach. The other researchers who have analyzed the Michael Crichton's *Disclosure* are:

1. Ike Ervina (2005) a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. She has analyzed the novel with title: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN MICHAEL CRICHTON'S *DISCLOSURE*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.
2. Warsito (2006) a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. He has analyzed the novel with title: STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY OF MEREDITH JOHNSON ON MICHAEL CRICHTON'S *DISCLOSURE*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.
3. Ardhian Aries Widayat (2007) a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. He has analyzed the novel with title. ANXIETY IN MICHAEL CRICHTON'S *DISCLOSURE*: PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

Here the researcher wants to analyze in other perspective by using a feminist approach. This is the fourth study of the novel *Disclosure* written by Michael Crichton. The writer is interested in this novel because the story is unique and the character is very exciting.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement in this research is “How is woman’s struggle to get the higher position reflected in Michael Crichton’s *Disclosure*?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses on the analysis of “Meredith Johnson” as the major character in Michael Crichton’s *Disclosure*, viewed from the feminist perspective, particularly liberal feminist.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel such as characters and characterization, plot, point of view, style, and theme.
2. To analyze the novel based on the feminist perspective.

### **F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit
  - a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
  - b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study of the novel *Disclosure*.
2. Practical benefits
  - a. For getting deeper understanding about feminist issues in the novel *Disclosure*.
  - b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English departement.

## **G. Research Method**

In this research, the writer analyzes Michael Crichton's *Disclosure* by using qualitative method. The study of Michael Crichton's *Disclosure* in this research paper will cover.

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is Michael Crichton's *Disclosure*.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

In this study, here are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data source.

#### **a. Primary data**

The primary data are taken from the novel *Disclosure* written by Michael Crichton and published by arrangement with Alfred A Knopf, Inc New York in 1993.

#### **b. Secondary data source**

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books and internet.

### **3. Method of Collecting Data**

The method of collecting data is library research, the steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel *Disclosure* many times.
- b. Taking notes or information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Browsing to the internet to get some information article that related to the research.

- d. Finding out the important data.
- e. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.

#### **4. Technique for Analyzing Data**

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural element of the novel and feminist analysis.

### **H. Research Paper Organization**

Research paper organization is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, research limitation, research objective, benefit of study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory, which consists of notion of feminism, liberal feminism, and structural elements theory, and also theoretical application. The third chapter consists of social historical background of American society in the late of 20th century. The fourth chapter consists of discussion, including of analysis based on structural elements. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on the feminist perspective. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.