

GENDER INEQUALITY IN LAURA CONWAY'S *FOR A DREAM'S SAKE*:

A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

For A Dream`s Sake is a novel written by Laura Conway, published by Collins, London. The novel consists of 159 pages, and ten chapters. This novel was first published in 1967. As a drama novel, this novel covers many values that exist in the society. At the first publishing of the novel, there was good response of London society. The simple story of the novel that well covers the society problems, with well language processing, makes this novel easy and interesting to read.

Laura Conway is best known as the author of romance novel. *For a Dream`s sake* is one of popular romance novel she writes. Laura Conway has offset the snubs of the literary with enormous popular success, and many of her novels, including *The Unforgotten*, *Five Mrs. Lorrimers*, *Heiress Apparent*, *Gifted Friend*, *Two Fair Daughters*, *A Butterfly`s Hour*, *Loving is Different*, *Safety For My Love*, *A Way Through The Maze*, *Lovers in Waiting*, *Teach Me To Forget*, *Shadow Marriage*, *The Turn of The Road*, *No Regrets*, *Innocent Enghantress*(http://www.geocities.com//b_praguepoetryfestival/poets_c2.html).

Laura Conway was born on 1958. She is an author that produced many literary works. Laura Conway spent many years in San Fransisco as poet,

editor, and publisher before moving to Prague in 1994. She is the author of four books of poetry including *My Mama Pinned a Rose on me* (red flower ink 1987) and *The Cities of Madame Curie* (zeitgeist press, 1990) co editor of a forthcoming Czech translation of 20 of Sanfrancisco`s underground`s poets, and former editor of optimism, a mounthly Prague literary magazine. Her most recent publication is the alphabet of Trees (Concordia press, Prague, 2002).

This novel has four major characters and five minor characters. Toria and Charles were young couple of husband and wife. Toria was a young wife that very obedient to Charles, she became lost of her self after married. In this novel, Toria was placed as victims of gender inequality that existed on society. Her parents were disappointed with her birth. They wanted to have a son to continue their heritance. The effect was Toria become less of attention, less of love. While married to Charles did not solve her problem. Charles was a dominant husband who wanted his wife to be in his control. Toria became lost of her self, she had never been equal in love, she had no right to make decision by her self. Charles never listened to Toria`s opinion.

Eugenie and Bryce, as Toria`s friend had a pity to Toria`s life. But Toria was never listened to their suggestion, although she knew that their suggestion was right. Her Mother and father realized that they had made a mistake to leave Toria alone without their attention. They loved Toria so much. While Lucy, who was in loved with Charles always looked for the way to took away him from Toria. They made an affair behind Toria. Knowing their affair, Toria became very angry to them. She hated Charles who was very

unfair to her. After what she had done to make Charles satisfied with her, she had sacrificed her happiness to adjust her husband, and then she was left by Charles for another woman.

Toria made a decision to have legal divorce, but her parents objected to this way. They think this is a shame thing. Toria tried to make her parents sure that it is the best way to her freedom. Free from her marriage with Charles, she married to Bryce who loves her very much. They live together happily.

There are four reasons that make this novel interesting to read, first is because this is a realistic novel. The second reason is the conflicting value. The third reason is, the plot that attractive build. And the fourth reason is gender inequality that become the main issue of the novel are reflected well.

The first reasons is because this is a realistic novel, it is near with the daily life. Everyone who reads this novel would think that the story tells about them selves. Being a fictive novel, this story is familiar to the society. Not many authors can cover the societies problem in a novel as well as Laura Conway. She tells the detail of the problem well.

The second reason is the conflicting value. Laura Conway can cover the social value of the society strongly. What kind of values, that exist and respected by society are clear seen here. Which is good or bad in society, has a clear limitation. Traditional value hold by society is covered well.

The third reason is the attractive plot. The conflicts built from the early moment play the reader's emotion. It makes the novel become not boring to read.

And the last, gender inequality that becomes the main issue of the novel is reflected well. In this novel, Laura Conway covers gender inequality issue found in the society. This inequality exists as a heritage. The story of the novel tells the existence of gender inequality symbolized by the main character. That is why, the writer uses *Gender Inequality in Laura Conway's For A Dream's Sake: A Feminist Approach* as the title of the research.

The writer uses feminist theory as the approach to analyze the novel, because the story of the novel is about gender inequality, which happens to someone's life. When for centuries gender inequality exists and kept by the culture. And Toria as the major character who becomes the victim of gender inequality tries to free herself from the inequality. This is in accordance with feminism, especially liberal feminism, that focuses more on women rights, woman position, and equality of chance for woman (Putnam Tong, 2006).

B. Literature Review

The writer presents the previous study of this novel. There are no other writers who conducted different studies of "Gender Inequality in Laura Conways *For a Dream's Sake: A Feminist perspective*" for their thesis. At least the writer could not find it at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, Diponegoro University and Sebelas Maret University.

C. Problem Statement

The main problem of the study is “how gender inequality in the society is reflected in Laura Conway’s *For a Dream’s Sake*.”

Mansour Fakhri, 2004 wrote that gender inequality is inequality that based on gender analysis. This kind of inequality is near with daily life, especially in household life. It happens as a heritance culture, from parents to children, from one people to other people in society. It happens in Toria’s life as the main character of the novel.

D. Objectives of the Study are:

1. To analyze the novel based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the feminist theory.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are that, through this study, the writer hopes that the study will provide benefits:

1. To give theoretical contribution to the larger body of knowledge especially on understanding literary studies in Laura Conway
2. The study is expected to enrich the writers knowledge and experience either dealing with literary research, feminism, or *For a Dream’s Sake*.

F. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

Object of the study is Laura Conway’s *For a Dream’s Sake*

2. Type of the Study

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses the qualitative method

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study there two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources:

a. Primary Sources

The primary data source of the study is the novel *For A Dream's Sake* written by Laura Conway published in London, 1967.

b. Secondary Data Sources

Supporting data are taken from other sources such as author biography, essay, comments, historical information and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in the study is library research.

The necessary steps are as follows:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly

b. Taking notes of the important parts in both primary and secondary data sources

c. Classifying the data into some categories

d. Selecting them by rejecting irrelevant information that does not support the topic of the study

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis.

G. Paper Organization

This paper organization consists of six chapters. The first chapter consists of introduction which covers the background, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, research organization. The second chapter is underlying theory which consists of feminist perspective. The third chapter is the social context and background of middle of twentieth century. Chapter four is analysis, consisting of the analysis based on structural elements. Chapter five, consists of novel analysis based on feminist perspective. Finally chapter six, is the conclusion and recommendation.