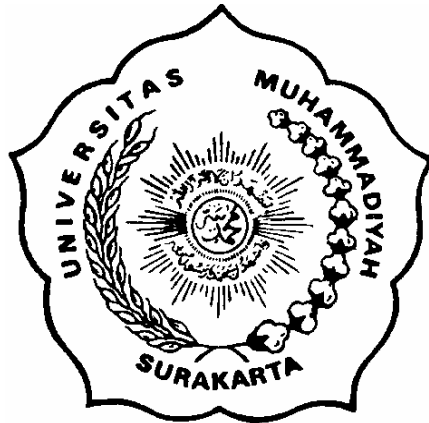


**WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE IN CATHERINE
COOKSON'S *TILLY TROTTER WIDOWED*:
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Tilly Trotter Widowed is one of Catherine Cookson best novels. It was published in 1982 and originally published in Great Britain by William Heineman Ltd. It was first published by Heineman in 1982 and reprinted in 1983 by Corgi Books. *Tilly Trotter Widowed* is the final part of the trilogy. The first is *Tilly Trotter* and the second is *Tilly Trotter Wed*. *Tilly Trotter Widowed* consists of two parts, the Veneer and Below the Skin it has 32 chapters and 346 pages.

Catherine Cookson was born in Tyne Dock, South Shields, in an Industrial region in the northeast of England. Cookson received the Freedom of the Borough of South Shields and an honorary degree from the University of Newcastle, and the Royal Society of Literature's award for the Best Regional Novel of the year. The variety Club of Great Britain named her writer of the year and she was voted as the Personality of the North-East. From an early age Cookson was determined to become a writer. Most of her novels concern about women and single character in the story. She was an avid reader and wrote here first short story. *The Wild Irish Girls*. Cookson's first book, *Kate Hanningan* (1950), was partly autobiographical. *Colour Blind* (1953) was a story of a woman who marries a black man. *Kate Hanningan's Girl* (1990) was a story about Kate Hanningan. *Tilly Trotter Widowed* (1982)

was a story of a woman who had been widow with 2 children.

(<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/cookson.htm>)

Tilly Trotter Widowed is a story about a widow named Tilly Trotter who had two children that live in High Field Manor. The story begins when Tilly Trotter came back from America to England in Durham Village. The situation was very different with the first time she lived here as a nurse maid, now she is the lady of the Manor. Tilly came with her two children named Willy and Josefina. Willy was a half blind and he was her bastard. While Josefina was a Mexican Indian, she was black people as well as she was Tilly Trotter's adoption daughter. In High Field Manor Tilly Trotter should run her business on her own feet because her husband Matthew was died. Since her husband was passed away she had promise to be faithful for him that she would not marry again. For long time she had struggling with matters of the heart.

As a widow, Tilly should take care of her children by herself. She felt hard because Willy and Josefina also facing their own love dilemmas. Beside that, Tilly should maintain the household by her self. As a new lady of High Field Manor she is rich enough because of the business and all the properties left by her late husband. Tilly also faced the hatred of the villager because they mocked about her children's status. Her reputation as a witch also continuous to grow among the villager.

Tilly Trotter Widowed concludes the Tilly Trotter trilogy. Tilly has suffered great hardship since she was a young girl of sixteen, first a mistress,

then a frontiers wife, now a widow. In this final part of the trilogy, Catherine Cookson displayed the excellent conclusion of the story. This final part has been waited by the reader. They are anxious to know what happened with Tilly's life as a widow. This book as well as the first two is brilliant. It is the best seller in U.K. Catherine Cookson was a wonderful writer and kept the reader glue to the story right to the end, making this novel worth reading over and over again. ([http://www.ciao.co.uk/Tilly Trotter Widowed Catherine CooksonReview_309](http://www.ciao.co.uk/Tilly_Trotter_Widowed_Catherine_CooksonReview_309))

In *Tilly Trotter Widowed*, there are four aspects that make the novel interesting. First, Catherine Cookson creates Tilly Trotter as the major character. Tilly as the central of the story was presented as the independent woman. She is a stiff woman. As a widow she has run her business by herself, maintain the household, take care of her children. She is tried to survive in facing the problems in her life. The writer also creates Willy, Willy is a half blind. Although he knew that he was a bastard, he could accept his status. The other major characters are Josefina. She is Tilly's adoption daughter. After she knew that she is adoption daughter, Josefina decided to leave the Manor back to America to find out her real parents.

Second, in telling the story, Catherine Cookson used the traditional plot. It consists of exposition, complication, climax and resolution. By using traditional plot, it makes the reader easily to understand the story. The conflict that present in this story is divided in two, internal conflict and external conflict. Tilly faced so many conflicts in her life. From the internal conflict

that she had a promise to her late husband that she would never marry again. Until the conflict with the people surround her. Also the conflict among the characters that interesting to be followed.

Third, the language Style in *Tilly Trotter Widowed* was simple. There was no borrowing language. So, all of the story can be understood easily. Catherine Cookson use standard British English language in narration and dialogue. While, the non standard British English language is only used on the dialog. The sentence construction in this novel uses the combination between long sentence and short sentence both in narration and in dialogue. The figurative language that can be found in this novel such as: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, etc. This novel also uses kind of symbol. It makes this novel interesting to be read and not make the reader bored.

Finally, the theme of *Tilly Trotter Widowed* that woman should be independent in facing their life. Tilly Trotter is the central character in this story. She represented the upper class. She was a widow with two children, Willy and Josefina. Willy was half blind and Josefina was black. By those conditions she found many problems in her life. These situations demanded Tilly to be an independent woman. She has to struggle herself to continue her life.

The above background attracts the writer to analyze the novel within the feminist perspective frame work. In this study, the writer encourages herself to give title “WOMEN’S INDEPENDENCE IN CATHERINE COOKSON’S *TILLY TROTTER WIDOWED*: A FEMINIST APPROACH”.

B. Literary Review

As far as the writer knows the novel *Tilly Trotter Widowed* by Catherine Cookson has been studied by Eni Nursanti from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2005. She takes the title “SINGLE PARENT IN CATHERINE COOKSON’S *TILLY TROTTER WIDOWED*: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”. Then the writer observed some universities such as Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta itself, Sebelas Maret University, Gadjah Mada University, State University of Yogyakarta and Sanata Dharma University to find another researcher who has studied this novel. From the observation the writer did not find another researcher who has studied this novel especially related to feminist approach.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the idea that has been explained above, the problem in this study is as follows: “How is women’s independence reflected in the major character of Catherine Cookson’s *Tilly Trotter Widowed*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To make it easier for the writer to conduct the study, the writer will focus on analyzing the women’s independence of Tilly Trotter as the major character in Catherine Cookson’s *Tilly Trotter Widowed*.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the feminist approach, especially liberal feminist.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical

It gives contribution on knowledge particularly literary studies on Catherine Cookson's *Tilly Trotter Widowed*.

2. Practical benefit

The study is expected to meet the researchers in curiosity about the women's independence which is reflected in Catherine Cookson's *Tilly Trotter Widowed*.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The researcher takes Catherine Cookson's *Tilly Trotter Widowed* by Corgi books on 1982 as the object of the study.

2. Data and Data Source

The data of the research are text book that takes from two sources, which are divided into two categories, primary source and secondary source.

a. Primary Source

The primary source of this research is the novel *Tilly Trotter Widowed* by Catherine Cookson.

b. Secondary Source

In this research the writer takes the secondary source from the different books and internet.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of collecting data in this research is library research.

The techniques are as follows:

- a. reading the novel repeatedly
- b. taking note of importance part in both primary and secondary data
- c. classifying the data into some categories
- d. developing the data provided

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer will employ the descriptive analysis on the author and her work then the structural analysis of the work and finally the liberal feminist analysis of the novel.

H. Research Paper Organization

This paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consist of Background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, the research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory. Which consist of notion of feminism, liberal feminism and women's

independence. The third chapter consists of social historical background of England Society in the second half of the twentieth century. The fourth chapter consists of the structural elements and the discussion. The fifth chapter consists of analyzing based on feminist perspective, and the last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.