

**MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMAN IN WILKIE COLLINS'**

***THE WOMAN IN WHITE* NOVEL:**

**A FEMINIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Marriage is an institution in which interpersonal relationships (usually intimate and sexual) are acknowledged by the state, by religious authority, or both. It is often viewed as a contract. People marry for many reasons, but usually one or more of the following: legal, social, and economic stability; the formation of a family unit; procreation and the education and nurturing of children; legitimizing sexual relations; public declaration of love; or to obtain citizens.

Forced marriages are generally made because of family pride, the wishes of the parents, or social obligation. For example, a mother promised her sister that she would marry her daughter to her son before the daughter was even born. Moreover, if the marriage is because of forcing by someone, the woman can get some impacts, they is make the position becomes weak and subordinate, they can't go outside the house and can't do what they want, they woman haven't the rights at all. A strong theme in the novel is the marriage and its impact on women (in particular on Laura Fairlie). This paper employs feminist approach or analysis to reveal the one of the main character's problem because the theory is connected with the problem discussion.

Feminist is a criticism advocating equal right for women in political, economic, social, psychological, personal and aesthetic sense. French feminist

criticism garnered much of its inspiration from Simone de Beauvoir's seminal book, *Lé Deuxième Sexe* (1949; *The Second Sex*). Beauvoir argued that associating men with humanity more generally (as many cultures do) relegates women to an inferior position in society. Subsequent French feminist critics writing during the 1970 acknowledged Beauvoir's critique but focused on language as a tool of male domination, analyzing the ways in which it represents the world from the male point of view and arguing for the development of a feminine language and writing

William Wilkie Collins, or Wilkie as he was known to his friends and readers, was born in London's Marylebone where he lived more or less continuously for 65 years. Today he is best known for *The Moonstone* (1868), often regarded as the first true detective novel, and *The Woman in White* (1860), the archetypal sensation novel. "The Woman in White" by Wilkie Collins highlights instances of heroism and some brave in Limmeridge House. The novel focuses on the family in Limmeridge House.

A poor art teacher named Walter Hartright encounters a mysterious woman dressed all in white on a moonlit road in [Hampstead](#). She is in a state of confusion and distress, and Hartright helps her to find her way back to [London](#). In return, she warns him against a certain (unnamed) [baronet](#), "a man of rank and title". Immediately after they part, Hartright learns that she may have escaped from an [asylum](#). He goes to Cumberland to take up a position as art [tutor](#) at Limmeridge House to two young women: Marian Halcombe and her wealthy half-sister, Laura Fairlie. He finds to his amazement that the story

of the woman in white, Anne Catherick, may be entangled with the lives of the two sisters. Walter and Laura fall rapidly in love but she is soon to be married, by her late father's wish, to Sir Percival Glyde, a baronet. Hartright resigns and travels abroad to forget.

Marian moves in with Laura and her husband. The marriage is unhappy, and Marian soon realises that Sir Percival is attempting to gain control of Laura's fortune with the help of his Italian friend Count Fosco, a menacing yet charming and intelligent villain with an enigmatic past. She also meets the mysterious Anne Catherick, who hates and fears Sir Percival, blaming him for sending her to the asylum to keep her from revealing his "secret". Marian tries to untangle the mystery and protect her sister from Sir Percival and Fosco, but falls ill. When she recovers she is told first that Laura has gone to London, and then that she has died there. Anne Catherick, it appears, has been recaptured and is back at the asylum. Walter returns to England and visits Limmeridge to mourn at Laura's grave, only to encounter Marian and a living Laura at the graveside. Laura's death has been faked: Anne Catherick, who greatly resembles Laura, died in London, and was buried as Laura. Laura's property has all passed to Sir Percival. Laura herself was sent to the asylum as Anne, where her protestations were dismissed as proof of [insanity](#), and the ordeal almost destroyed her before Marian discovered the substitution and bribed a member of staff to help her escape.

The rest of the novel traces the attempts of Marian and Walter to safeguard Laura from capture and return to the asylum, to nurse her back to

health, to expose the plot and to force Laura's family and friends to acknowledge her identity. In the process Walter meets Anne's strange mother and uncovers Sir Percival's dark secret: his parents were not legally married, so he is not the rightful owner of his property or title. Walter tries to obtain church registers as evidence, in order to [blackmail](#) Sir Percival into confessing, but the baronet starts a fire to destroy them and burns to death in the ensuing blaze. With his death there is some hope of proving the plot and regaining Laura's fortune, but Walter does fulfil his vow that Laura — now Mrs Hartright — should be publicly acknowledged at Limmeridge as herself. Nor is there any further threat from Fosco, who is murdered by an Italian secret society he has betrayed, and his body is thrown into the river.

Motivated by the previous facts, the writer is interested in conducting the analysis of *The Woman in White*, using feminism. Therefore, the writer is using Feminist Approach to analyze the paper. The title **MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMAN IN WILKIE COLLINS *THE WOMAN IN WHITE* NOVEL: A FEMINIST APPROACH**

## **B. Literature Review**

Based on the research's observation, at least at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, I didn't find the paper in Biro Skripsi and the library of UMS. So, it is a new research in this university.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the researcher the writer proposed a problem statement. The problem of this research is what is impact of the marriage on the woman in *The Woman In White* novel by Wilkie Collins?

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

In order to limit this study, the writer uses liberal feminist perspective, concerns in the marriage and its impact on woman in *The Woman In White* novel.

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

The objectives of the study are as following:

1. To analyze the novel in terms of its structural elements
2. to analyze the novel based on the liberal feminism approach

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

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Wilkie Collin's *The Woman in White*.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and the reader dealing with literary research on the novel from feminist approach.

## **G. Research Method**

In this research, the writer analyzes marriage and its impact on woman in *The Woman in White* novel in the liberal feminist.

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

The object of the study is the novel of Wilkie Collins's *The woman in white* published in 1860: analyzed using structural analysis and liberal feminist approach.

### **2. Type of Data and Data Sources**

The type of the data in this research is textual data, which consist of words, phrases, and sentences. In this research the writer uses two data sources, there are primary and secondary data source.

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

Primary data sources are the main data consisting dialogue, actor, and description about the character of the novel.

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

Secondary data source are some material related to the data require, such as writer's biography, the data taken from official website, and other related sources.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. There are six techniques of data collecting. There are as follows :

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Identifying the topic of the novel
- c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In this study, the technique which is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. This is an interpretation of text and content analysis to get characteristics of the data for feminist analysis at *The Woman In White* novel.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

Research paper organization is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which consist background of the study, literature



review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory, which consists of notion of liberal feminism. The third chapter consists of social historical background of England society in the nineteenth century. The fourth chapter consists of discussion including of the analysis based on structural elements. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on liberal feminism approach, and the last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.