ABSTRACT


Keywords: freedom, equality, patriarchy, feminism, wives’ view

Essentially, everyone was created equal in all aspects. However, the fact shows that women often in the position of being oppressed. They have tried to get equal rights for justice and equality with men. Unfortunately, their freedom is severely limited by male dominance in almost every field such as education, economics, politics, and even suppressed psychologically. The various efforts have been done by women to voice their desires. The effort aims to undermine the dominance of men or at least make their position in society are equal with men, because the patriarchal culture has led women in the lowest class in the social structure. The problem above is illustrated in three short stories namely Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s "The Yellow Wallpaper", Kate Chopin’s "A Story of An Hour", and Kay Boyle’s "Astronomer’s Wife". Due to this, the researcher proposed two problems, 1) How are the three wives represented in the three short stories? 2) What are the struggles of three wives to get freedom in the short stories? In order to analyze the problems, the researcher has used "Feminist Approach" which is focused on liberal, radical, and Marxist of feminist’s representation. This focuses on analyzing the problem of gender with rhetoric, sexuality, and economic perspective.

As a result, the three short stories portrayed the low role of women in society. They are not involved in making the decision of households, but their positions have to run any rules made by the husband. Patriarchy rooted in every aspects of women’s life, despite the realization that women as the oppressed have started to emerge. Indeed, women have an important role in the society so that they have a right to be involved in any decisions concerning the general public, especially for themselves. The main characters (the wife) in the three short stories show the weak position of women in society. Marriage is not reflected as the complementary media between men and women, yet it adds new problems for women. In this phase, a woman should be submissive and obedient to her husband’s rule, while her freedom is reduced. That is the general overview of women’s position in a marriage in the 19th century which is represented through those three short stories.