ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to examine the relation between patriarchal system and the implication of lesbian continuum in *Snow Flower and The Secret Fan* novel by Lisa See. The novel tells about Chinese women who suffered from tradition, such as footbinding custom that was arranged by patriarchal system in 19th century. Lily, as the main character of the novel, was a girl who had *laotong* named Snow Flower. *Laotong* was a girl-friendship-tradition in China that has a meaning of old same, two lifelong female companions whose birthdays, fortune telling or Eight Characters, feet, shape, and other matters match (Ma n.p.). This study uses qualitative research as the research method in conducting data collection and data analysis. After that, this analysis focuses on the two main characters of the novel, those are Lily and Snow Flower. By using Adrienne Rich’s lesbian continuum theory, it is found that first, patriarchal system affects women to have deep intimacy among them, then, second, lesbian continuum in the *laotong* relationship is represented as passionate and companionate love, and third, lesbian continuum becomes the implication of revealing the true feeling of Lily and Snow Flower in their marriage aspect. In addition, the writer also discusses about compulsory heterosexuality and woman-double-life to support the analysis of the representation of lesbian continuum, and analyses *nushu* as a woman’s secret language as a way to reveal their true feeling. Foremost, this study aims to gain more knowledge and new perspective about lesbianism.

**Keywords:** Double-life, Footbinding, Laotong, Lesbian Continuum, Patriarchal System