

ABSTRACT

The Hours is a story of the life of three women in three different eras and time. They are Virginia Woolf, Laura Brown, and Clarissa Vaughan. Those three main characters in *The Hours* have sacrificed their own happiness in order to fulfill the social norms prevailing in the society where they live. However, they finally choose their own decision by making resistance against the social norms. This study is intended to analyze the problematic issues faced by the three main female character's life and how they negotiate with their problems. The data was taken by having a close reading, making the data classification and selecting the ones related to feminism issues and social norms as seen in the novel. The data related to the negotiation taken by the three major female characters in dealing with their problems is analyzed and explained in detail. The analysis is put on the foundation of feminism study, including the critics' opinions and the related theory of existentialist feminism proposed by Simone de Beauvoir in her books entitled *The Second Sex*. The analysis of the novel finds that the three female characters cannot fulfill the social norms and expectations in their lives because the social norms do not offer the things they really want in their life: meaning of life, happiness and freedom. Therefore, they resist and try to negotiate it with their own decision to pursue their own happiness, freedom as well as existence.

Keywords: *Existence, Feminism, Freedom, Negotiation, Social Norms, Issues*

