

**Aldilanesia, Ghabriella.** *The Portrayal of Male's Dominance and Female's Powerlessness in May Amelia's Life Depicted in Jennifer L. Holm's Our Only May Amelia*

### ABSTRACT

This study attempts to reveal male's dominance and female's powerlessness depicted in Jennifer L. Holm's *Our Only Family*. By using this novel, the writer attempts to analyze the main character namely May Amelia who is classified as the minor one among her seven brothers. Within her daily life, Amelia always experiences injustice treatment from her family especially her father as the primary control taker of her family. By using feminist literary criticism especially for the term of patriarchy, the writer attempts to show the dominancy of men and the powerlessness of women as a result of gender construction. Moreover, the writer also analyze about May Amelia's effort in facing the patriarchy system. Since the novel's setting is about 1899 so that the writer classifies it as the first wave feminism. The understanding of patriarchy and first wave feminism are mostly taken from Wollstonecraft's idea. By doing a close-reading method of qualitative research, the writer firstly collect the data both from the novel as the primary source and other reliable sources as the secondary sources. The writer does the analysis by reveling the issue and examining Amelia's reaction toward male's dominance and female's powerlessness. In the end of the analysis the writer finds that Amelia, as a teenager, keeps negotiating with situation above but she does not fully break the notion of patriarchy system applied in her society.

**Keywords:** *female's powerlessness, first wave feminism, gender construction, male's dominance, patriarchy*