

Abstract

This study attempts to discuss the issues of women's oppression raised in Guy de Maupassant's three short stories, which are *A Good Match*, *The Baroness* and *Useless Beauty*. These stories portray the oppression of women as a result of capitalist class relationship. To analyze these stories, the writer applies Marxist Feminist literary criticism that focuses on women's oppression in the capitalist society and suggests that women are alienated by the patriarchal system in the society. This theory will be used to analyze the female characters in these stories who have to struggle against the patriarchal system in order to achieve their goals. As the system in the society they inhabit still strongly believes in the role of capitalism, this study is aimed to find the source of women's oppression and also how the oppression works on the women as portrayed in Guy de Maupassant's three short stories. The oppression suffered by the three main female characters is caused by the capitalist class. For the married woman, it comes in the shape of the pressure from her husband as the result of patriarchy in marriage, while for single woman, the oppression comes from the society. Both married and single woman are oppressed because of economic dependence to the bourgeoisie. Responding to the oppression, the three main female characters try to gain the freedom by doing the effort. In the end of the story, the married woman succeeds in fighting against the oppression; while the single women still have to live under the oppression.

Keywords: *effort, social structure, patriarchy, capitalist society, oppression*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

