

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**THE SUBORDINATION OF CHILDLESS MARRIED WOMEN IN
PIECES OF A WOMAN (2020) FILM: A FEMINIST STUDY**



By

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree
of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga**

By

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SURABAYA

2022

DECLARATION

I declare that this undergraduate thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the degree of Sarjana Humaniora (S.Hum) of the English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga is entirely my own work and has been solely the result of my own original research. Hereby, I confirm that:

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Surabaya, 7 July 2022



Ratih Kusuma Wardhani

NIM 121811233046

This thesis is dedicated to:

My dearest family

APPROVAL SHEET

Title : The Subordination of Childless Married Women in *Pieces of a Woman* (2020) Film: A Feminist Study

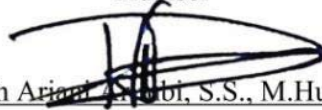
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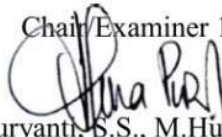


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Surabaya, 7 July 2022

Ratih Kusuma Wardhani

*There are years that ask questions and
years that answer.*

Zora Neale Hurston

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ABSTRAK

Dalam masyarakat patriarki, sudah menjadi kondisi umum bahwa pria diasosiasikan dengan superioritas sedangkan wanita selalu diasosiasikan dengan inferioritas. Kondisi ini mengakibatkan status yang tidak menguntungkan bagi wanita sebagai ‘*Other*’ (Yang Lain). Hal ini yang mendasari adanya dominasi pria dalam hubungan intim seperti pernikahan. Pernikahan dapat memberikan membenaran kepada wanita. Namun, membenaran secara utuh hanya akan diperoleh setelah wanita tersebut memiliki anak dan menjadi seorang ibu. Ketika cita-cita tersebut gagal dipenuhi oleh wanita, ini sering kali mengarah pada subordinasi. Di Amerika Serikat, tidak memiliki anak dianggap memiliki dampak yang lebih besar pada pernikahan dan merupakan kontributor stres yang lebih signifikan daripada masalah kehidupan lainnya. Permasalahan ini terjadi pada film *Pieces of a Woman* (2020), dimana karakter utama wanita digambarkan sebagai wanita menikah yang menghadapi tekanan karena tidak memiliki anak. Melalui penelitian ini, penulis bertujuan untuk mengungkap penggambaran subordinasi terhadap wanita menikah yang tidak memiliki anak dalam film tersebut dan mengkaji bagaimana film tersebut berusaha untuk melawannya. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Woman as *Other* (Wanita sebagai ‘Yang Lain’) oleh Simone de Beauvoir, dengan metode kualitatif dan pendekatan secara naratif dan non-naratif untuk menganalisis objek. Perlawanan dianggap dapat digunakan untuk membebaskan wanita menikah yang tidak memiliki anak dari subordinasinya. Namun, film ini menegaskan bahwa subordinasi adalah takdir wanita yang tidak dapat dihindari dan perlawanan mereka hanya berfungsi untuk memicu realisasi akan hal tersebut, bukan untuk memberdayakan wanita yang tersubordinasi untuk mengakhiri dominasi pria.

Kata Kunci: *Tanpa Anak Tidak dengan Sukarela, Patriarki, Perlawanan, Subordinasi Wanita*

ABSTRACT

In the patriarchal society, it has become a common condition that men are associated with superiority while women are constantly associated with inferiority. This condition results in the woman's unfortunate status as the *other*. This notion leads to male dominance in intimate relationships such as marriage. Marriage provides the woman with justification, but complete justification will be accepted only once the woman has children and becomes a mother. When such ideals are failed to be fulfilled by the woman, this frequently leads to subordination. In the United States, childlessness is considered to have a greater impact on marriage and is a more significant contributor to stress than any other life problem. This issue is apparent in the film *Pieces of a Woman* (2020), where the main female character is portrayed as a married woman who faces pressure due to her childlessness. Through this study, the writer aims to reveal the portrayal of subordination toward childless married women in the film and examine how the film attempts to resist it. This study uses the theory of Woman as *Other* by Simone de Beauvoir, with qualitative method and narrative and non-narrative approach to analyse the object. It is believed that resistance can be used to release the childless married woman from her subordination. However, this film affirms that subordination is the unavoidable fate of women and that their resistance merely serves to trigger this realization, rather than empowering the subordinated women to end male dominance.

Keywords: *Involuntarily Childless, Patriarchy, Resistance, Women Subordination*