

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**THE STRATEGIES OF BETH HARMON DEFEATING
OPPRESSION TOWARD PATRIARCHY IN WALTER TEVIS’
THE QUEEN’S GAMBIT:
A LIBERAL FEMINISM ANALYSIS**



By
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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA

2022

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2022

ii

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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Nabila Aliefia Jasmine

121811233027

DEDICATION

Thank You ...

To my parents,

Who always believe in each of my dreams, even the impossible and hardest dream.

To my sister,

For her endless supports.

To my *Oma*,

For her patience in educating me.

To my big family and friends

For their supports, loves and laughs.

I hope *Oma* and *Papa* could see me in heaven, smiling ...

To me,

Thank you, for never quit, even in your lowest time.

APPROVAL SHEET

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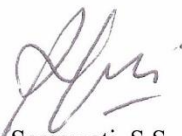
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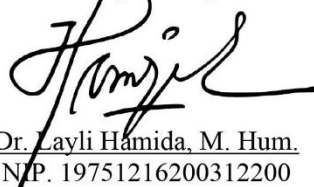
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Surabaya, 2022

Nabila Aliefia Jasmine

121811233027

The harder the grind, the sweeter the victory.

The rough time, setbacks, failures are only making my success story that much better.

And, this is just the beginning.....

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSIDE COVER PAGE	i
INSIDE TITLE PAGE	ii
DECLARATION	iii
DEDICATION	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
EPIGRAPH	viii
ABSTRACT	xi
ABSTRAK	xii
CHAPTER I	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	8
1.3 Objectives of the Study	8
1.4 Significance of the Study	8
CHAPTER II	10
LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 Theoretical Framework	10
2.1.1 Liberal Feminism	10
2.2.2 Oppression	13
2.2.3 Patriarchy	15
2.2 Review of Related Studies	16
CHAPTER III	21
RESEARCH METHOD	21
3.1 Research Approach	21
3.2 Data Source	21
3.3 Scope and Limitation	22
3.4 Techniques of Data Collection	23

3.5 Techniques of Data Analysis	23
CHAPTER IV	25
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	25
4.1 The Portrayal of Beth's Oppression in <i>The Queen's Gambit</i>	25
4.1.1 The Psychological Oppression.....	26
4.1.2 The Gender Oppression	30
4.2 The Impacts of Women's Oppression in <i>The Queen's Gambit</i>	32
4.2.1 The Psychological Oppression Impacts	33
4.2.2 The Gender Oppression Impacts.....	34
4.2.3 The Social Impacts.....	36
4.3 Beth Harmon's Strategies to Defeat Oppression	39
4.3.1 Persistency	39
4.3.2 Focus.....	43
4.3.3 Confidence	45
CHAPTER V	47
CONCLUSION.....	47
REFERENCES	49
SYNOPSIS.....	53

ABSTRACT

Gender discrimination reached its peak in the late 18th century. It was caused by the discrepancy in roles between women and men; frankly, women's oppression is a part of it and still happening in society. Men have always been stereotyped by the strong ones, yet women got the weak appellation. Furthermore, women's oppression contributed to their right's limitation and rejection in society; it now penetrates several aspects, such as the working environment, education, and sport. This phenomenon always disadvantaged women to endeavor to build their careers. A similar case lies in Walter Tevis' novel, *The Queen's Gambit*. In that novel, Beth Harmon, a female prodigy character, survives against patriarchy to achieve her ambition in the chess world. Back at that time, chess was a *male thing* and acknowledged by the surroundings that only men could do that. Therefore, the study aims to examine Beth's strategies to defeat oppression used Liberal Feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft. Also, the writer identified the kinds of oppression that Beth had experienced and the social impacts. Qualitative methods and close reading are applied to support the analysis. As an outcome, despite the harshness and injustice society caused by patriarchy, Beth's bravery and hard work were paid off. Because of consistency, focus, and ignoring any intimidation she receives as a part of her strategy, she succeeded in getting the title of world chess champion and elevated her social status in society.

Keywords: *chess, ambition, society, strategy.*

ABSTRAK

Diskriminasi gender berpuncak pada akhir abad ke-18. Hal itu disebabkan oleh perbedaan peran antara perempuan dan laki – laki; sebenarnya, penindasan perempuan merupakan bagian dari diskriminasi gender dan masih terjadi hingga saat ini di masyarakat. Laki – laki selalu digambarkan sebagai sosok yang kuat, sedangkan perempuan merupakan sosok yang lemah. Hal tersebut yang mendasari penindasan perempuan berdampak pada pembatasan dan penolakan hak – hak perempuan di masyarakat; yang kini merambah pada beberapa aspek, seperti lingkungan kerja, pendidikan serta olahraga. Fenomena ini selalu merugikan perempuan yang berusaha untuk membangun karirnya. Kasus serupa terletak pada novel Walter Tevis, *The Queen's Gambit*. Beth Harmon, karakter perempuan yang luar biasa bertahan melawan patriarki untuk mencapai ambisinya di dunia catur. Saat itu, catur adalah sebuah hal yang erat dengan laki – laki dan hanya laki – laki yang diakui mampu untuk bermain catur. Oleh karena itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji berbagai strategi yang digunakan Beth untuk melawan penindasan menggunakan teori Liberal Feminisme dari Mary Wollstonecraft. Selain itu, penulis juga mengidentifikasi jenis penindasan yang dialami Beth dan dampak sosialnya. Sebagai pendukung analisis ini, metode kualitatif dan metode bacaan tertutup diterapkan. Sebagai hasilnya, terlepas dari kekerasan dan ketidakadilan masyarakat yang disebabkan oleh patriarki, keberanian dan kerja keras Beth terbayar. Dengan konsistensi, konsentrasi dan mengabaikan segala intimidasi yang Beth terima sebagai bagian dari strateginya, ia berhasil menyandang predikat sebagai juara catur dunia dan mengangkat status sosialnya di masyarakat.

Kata kunci: *catur, ambisi, lingkungan sekitar, strategi.*