

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS
THE MASCULINITY OF THE FEMALE MAIN CHARACTER,
MARIAN, IN MEAGAN SPOONER'S *SHERWOOD* NOVEL



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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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SURABAYA

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

By

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2022

DECLARATION

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Surabaya, 11 July 2022



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This thesis is dedicated to my parents, sister, and best friends who never stop supporting me during this time.

APPROVAL SHEET

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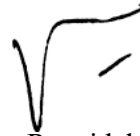
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Surabaya, 11 July 2022

Salsa Sukma Febriany

**“If you’re happy doing what you love, nobody can tell you
you’re not successful”**

- Harry Styles

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Abstract

As gender concepts, masculinity and femininity cannot be determined based on a person's sex since gender is seen to be performative. The study aims to analyze the fluidity of gender through Marian as a masculine female main character in Meagan Spooner's *Sherwood* novel. Gender fluidity can also be analyzed through the ambiguity behind Marian's masculinity as Robin Hood and the male characters' perception of Marian's masculinity. Judith Butler's gender performativity theory will be utilized to frame the analysis of this study. The feminism approach and qualitative method are applied to help conduct this study's analysis. This study finds that Marian, as a female main character, is depicted as masculine, leading the female character to have several masculine traits. Also, even though Marian can use her masculinity to challenge women's subordination, this study reveals an ambiguity behind Marian's masculinity as Robin Hood in challenging women's subordination because Marian indirectly confirms that masculinity is associated with a male body. It is hard to subvert societal beliefs completely. However, the study finds that some male characters positively perceive Marian's masculinity as something natural, normal, equal, and can bring a change to others.

Keywords: *Ambiguity, Gender, Masculinity, Women's subordination*

Abstrak

Sebagai konsep gender, maskulinitas dan femininitas tidak dapat ditentukan berdasarkan jenis kelamin seseorang karena gender dipandang performative. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa fluiditas gender melalui Marian sebagai karakter utama perempuan di novel *Sherwood* karya Meagan Spooner. Fluiditas gender juga dapat dianalisa melalui ambiguitas di balik maskulinitas Marian sebagai Robin Hood dan persepsi para karakter pria terkait maskulinitas Marian. Teori Judith Butler, performatifitas gender, akan digunakan untuk membingkai analisa di studi ini. Pendekatan feminisme dan metode kualitatif diaplikasikan untuk membantu dalam melakukan studi ini. Studi ini menemukan bahwa Marian, seorang karakter utama perempuan, digambarkan sebagai maskulin yang menyebabkan karakter perempuan untuk memiliki beberapa sifat maskulin. Meskipun Marian dapat menggunakan maskulinitasnya untuk menantang subordinasi perempuan, studi mengungkapkan ambiguitas di balik maskulinitas Marian sebagai Robin Hood dalam menantang subordinasi perempuan karena Marian secara tidak langsung mengkonfirmasi bahwa maskulinitas diasosiasikan dengan pria. Sulit untuk menumbangkan kepercayaan masyarakat sepenuhnya. Namun, studi ini menemukan bahwa beberapa karakter pria memandang secara positif maskulinitas Marian sebagai hal yang natural, normal, setara, dan dapat memberikan perubahan kepada yang lainnya.

Kata kunci: *Ambiguitas, Gender, Maskulinitas, Subordinasi Perempuan*