

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**SEXISM ANALYSIS ON FEMALE CHARACTERS IN HARLAN
COBEN'S *THE BOY FROM THE WOODS***



By

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Degree of English Department
Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga**

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2022

DECLARATION

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Surabaya, 23 JULI 2022



Aqilla Aqmarina Rachmadanty

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*This thesis is dedicated to my mother whom I love at my utmost. The longing I feel
towards you is indescribable.*

APPROVAL SHEET

Title : Sexism Analysis on Female Characters in Harlan Coben's *The Boy from the Woods*

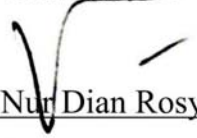
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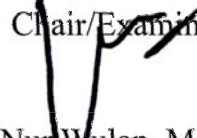
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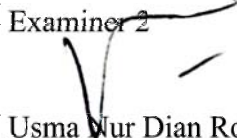
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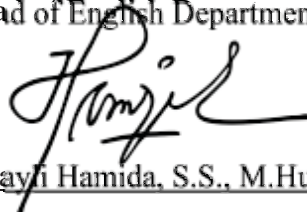


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Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence, and nothing too much.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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ABSTRACT

Women's struggles have never been divorced from the idea of male domination and patriarchy, which places a higher importance on archaic gender roles than developed ones. The longevity of these inequalities systems has an indirect impact on practically every aspect of society, including behavior and, most importantly, treatment of both men and women. The discrimination that women characters in Harlan Coben's mystery novel *The Boy from the Woods* face is examined in this study. Because the female characters in this work are supposed to face disadvantages despite their pivotal positions, the study employs Peter Glick and Susan Fiske's notion of ambivalent sexism from the late 1990s, using qualitative method of close-reading techniques in its narratives to answer the research questions of the possibility of the passiveness of female characters and power exercise perpetuated by male characters. The analysis discovers that female characters are experiencing sexism in some ways that due to their independence is most likely threatening to the male characters. The factors that trigger sexism in the analysis are the capabilities or intelligence and personal relationship which delivers paternalism, gender distinction and heterosexuality as the nature components.

Keywords: *ambivalent sexism, gender inequality, oppression, sexism*

ABSTRAK

Perjuangan perempuan tidak pernah lepas dari dominasi laki-laki dan sistem patriarki, yang menempatkan peran gender tradisional lebih penting daripada modern. Sistem diskriminasi ini sudah berlangsung cukup lama dan berdampak secara tidak langsung pada setiap aspek di masyarakat, termasuk kebiasaan masyarakatnya dan perlakuan terhadap gender yang berbeda. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis diskriminasi pada karakter perempuan dalam novel *The Boy from the Woods* (2020) oleh Harlan Coben. Studi ini menggunakan teori seksisme ambivalen yang dicetuskan oleh Peter Glick dan Susan Fiske pada tahun 1996, yang mana dianalisis dengan pendekatan kualitatif dan teknik membaca dekat. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter perempuan mengalami perilaku seksisme akibat sikap mandiri mereka yang dirasa mengancam bagi karakter laki-laki, dimana perilaku tersebut dilakukan oleh orang terdekat yang terikat dalam sebuah hubungan heteroseksual. Faktor yang menjadi sebab perilaku seksisme dalam artikel ini meliputi paternalisme, diferensiasi gender, dan heteroseksual.

Kata kunci: *ketidaksetaraan gender, opresi, seksisme, seksisme ambivalen.*