

## ABSTRACT

*Sex and the City* describes the behaviour of men and women in Manhattan. In the novel, men are portrayed as selfish, melancholic, whiny, needy, shallow, immature and also intimidated by women; on the other hand women are portrayed as strong, independent, famous, manipulative and rich. This gender construction is different from the patriarchal culture, which cast men as the protector, decision maker, brave and rational; while women are portrayed as the nurturer, submissive, irrational and weak.

In order to have deep understanding about the novel, the writer of the study uses the traditional gender construction, which is taken from the patriarchal culture to be compared with the gender construction in *Sex and the City*. The library research and the qualitative research are used as the methodology of the thesis. In analysing the data, the writer uses descriptive analysis method which is considered suitable to support the description of the problem properly.

The results of the research show that, the traditional gender constructions cannot be applied in *Sex and the City*. Both, male and female characters, are given the freedom to express their feeling and to behave the way they want to. The male characters are no longer described as the protector. The female characters are no longer pictured as submissive beings but manipulative ones. This gender construction influences male and female characters in making commitment regarding their future relationship. Most of the characters in *Sex and the City* remain single and happy in their life. Above all, even though Bushnell creates