

**THE STUDY OF ESCH'S NEGOTIATION TOWARD
TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES IN JESMYN WARD'S
*SALVAGE THE BONES***

A THESIS



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UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA**

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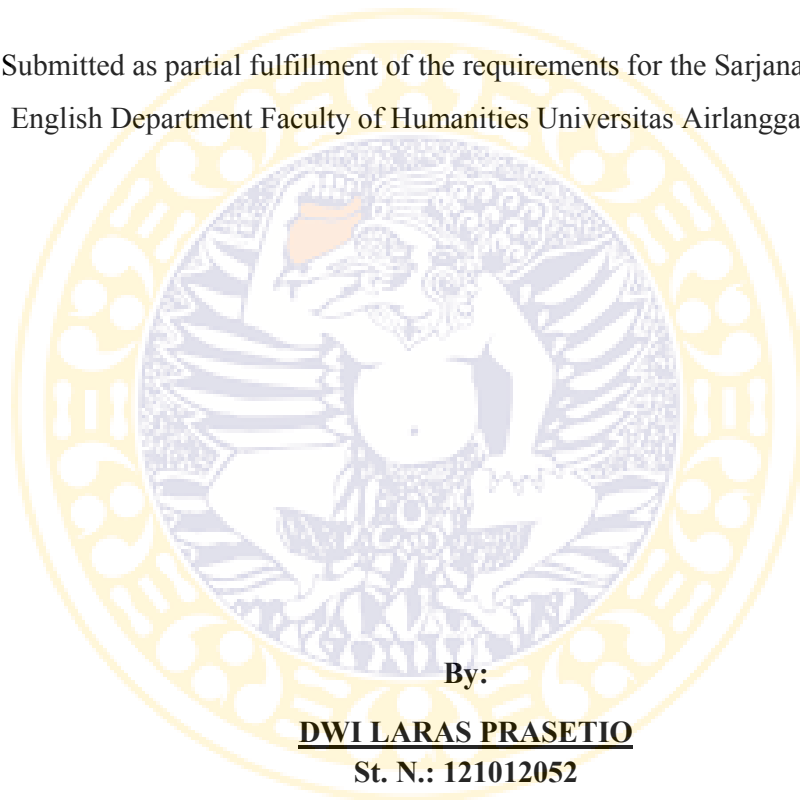
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A THESIS

Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Degree of
English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga Surabaya



By:

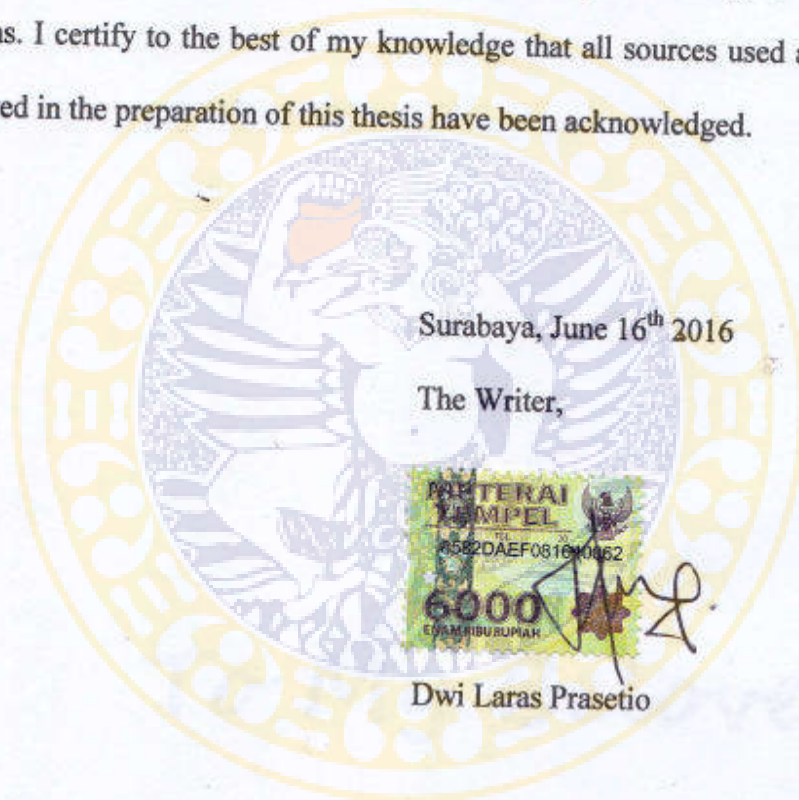
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2016**

DECLARATION

I hereby stated that the thesis entitled "The Study of Esch's Negotiation Toward Traditional Gender Roles in Jesymn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*", is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have not already been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.



Dwi Laras Prasetio



To My Beloved

Family...


Approved to be examined

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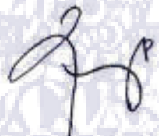
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Surabaya, June 16th 2016

The Writer,

Dwi Laras Prasetio

...Try not to become a man
of success, rather become a
man of value...

-Albert Einstein-

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ABSTRACT

In early 20th century, women declared their freedom to the world. Women feels that they already achieved the main aim of feminist movement which is the equality with men. Thus, women can do anything they want to do as long as they can deal with all the consequences of their choices because they have power and control of themselves, their body and also their life. The aims of this study are to find out the representation of the woman character in this novel and how she struggle to become a liberal woman. This study uses Feminist criticism in order to answer the research questions; this study uses close reading and qualitative descriptive analysis. This study analyzes the data by revealing the issue and examining Esch's negotiation towards traditional gender roles. In the end of the analysis, the writer found that Esch as a female character in this novel tries to do the negotiation with traditional gender roles by her choice to become a sexually aggressive woman, in order to change the concept of Objectification and men's control over her body.

Keywords: traditional gender roles; patriarchy; negotiation; second sex.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In a patriarchal system, there is a belief which control about women and men attitudes, called traditional gender roles. Women and men has different roles based on traditional gender roles. Traditional gender roles clearly promotes that women and men should have a certain attitude that agree with the roles which had been created. The examples such as, men are expected to be outside the home, work in the public area, men can not cry, while in other hand women must stay at home, take care of the home and their children, also obey their husband. From the examples above, we can conclude that in traditional gender roles, the depiction of women's position is always lower than men's position (Bressler 171).

In the early 1990s, women declared their freedom to the world. Women have their freedom for doing whatever they like, or whatever they want to be. Women feels that they already achieved the main aim of feminist movement which is the equality with men. As Susan Faludi stated in her book entitled *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*, "In 20th century, to being a woman in America is a good fortune because women could enroll at any university, join any law firm, apply for credit at any bank, and they have so many opportunities now....At last, women have received their full citizenship papers" (9). So women can decide their own decision in clothes, education, career, and everything they want, including to go to work.

However, the patriarchal system still sticks on woman's life. It is shown from the persistence of the patriarchal system's practice in several countries in the world. Many countries in Asia like Indonesia, India, and China, where the people consider that the ideology about traditional female roles must be maintained. Not only in Asia, but we also can find the patriarchy culture in The United States. We can see that in the US, the patriarchy system still working in black woman's life and it makes black woman feels deeply oppressed. It happens because black woman always depicted as the lowest level on the society, which is under the black man.

Regarding African American women stereotypes, Briana McKoy states on his journal article about Tyler Perry work on female character. Perry who is African American is known as the biggest names in entertainment as a black celebrity and a leading figure in black film. On his work as a director, the woman character always depicted to have characteristic like "mammy" which is associated with a submissive servant in white people house, "sapphire" domineering female who consumes men and usurps their role, and "jezebel" labeled as sexually promiscuous and immoral (11). From the existence of portrayal black female stereotype in film, the racism toward black female become higher in perceiver knowledge. That stereotype affected black woman's position as the secondary levels in society, not only under men's position, but also under white woman's position. It made them considered as the second sex.

A situation in which “men have highly preferential access, although not always exclusive rights, to those activities to which the society accords the greatest value, and the exercise of which permits a measure of control over other” (Sanday 164) positions women as the second sex, meaning that women are more inferior, women do not have any meaning to men, and men can do anything toward women. The term *Second Sex* itself is established by Simone de Beauvoir who argues that women are perceived as less essential and in the secondary level to men.

De Beauvoir believes that men define what it means to be human, including what it means to be female. De Beauvoir in Bressler declares that since the female is not male, she becomes the Other, an object whose existence is defined and interpreted by the dominant male (173). Consequently, the category of woman has no substance except as an extension of male fantasy and fear. The phenomenon of the Other, in fact, is also able to be seen through a novel written by Jesmyn Ward entitled *Salvage the Bones*. This novel has won National Book Award for Fiction in 2011 and Alex award in 2012. *Salvage the Bones* talks about how Esch as the main character in this novel, has to dealing with patriarchal culture in her life since her mother passed away.

Esch is a 15 years old black girl who grew up with her father and her three brothers in the Pit, the name given to their house which is surrounded by rotting junkyard of land, populated by dead trucks and feral chickens. They are a poor family, who live depend on the nature around them. Esch is the only woman in the

house since her mother was passed away after gave birth her youngest brother, Junior. Thus, Esch had to replace her mother's position in the house as a wife and mother. Esch forced to dealing with traditional gender roles in her daily life by her father. Her father gives her the responsibility to manage the house and doing the household chores.

Esch's representation in this novel shows that she lived under male's superiority. Thus, it affected her position as the secondary levels in society. It means that all men around her threat her as the Other, and an object to shown their domination and control of her life. Pickering argues that the Other is always constructed as an object for the benefit of the subject who stands in need of an objectified the Other in order to achieve a masterly self-definition' (71). But in this novel, Esch tried to breakdown it. She tried to negotiate with traditional gender roles, and changed the concept of men's control of women's life. She chooses to be become a sexually aggressive woman in order to show that she also wanted to have control of men in sexual activity. She showed that she wanted to become a liberal woman, who can express herself in public independently, and do anything she wants to do with the way she change the concept of objectification and men's control over her body.

From the explanation above, the writer is interested to analyze this novel, *Salvage the Bones*, written by Jesmyn Ward as the object of her study. The writer chooses this novel to become an object of the research because this novel has a good content to discuss. Although, this novel is a kind of ecocriticism literature,

because actually the theme of this novel is about a family who lived depend on nature around them, struggled againts Katarina hurricane, but the writer feels that there is another issue that is raised by the author in this novel, that is closely related to the feminism issue. Therefore, the writer is interested to examine this novel through feminist perspective. The writer uses a feminist criticism theory about traditional gender roles and the term of Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir to provides the representation of woman character in this novel, and how she negotiate with traditional gender roles in order to achieve gender equality with men in her life.

There are three related studies which provided some significant contribution in doing the analysis. The first study entitled “A Study Of Laura Ingall’s Negotiation Toward Traditional Gender Roles In Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little Town On The Preirie* Novel” written by Maria Angelina Chandra, then the second study entitled “Lilo Topchev As A Symbol Of Woman’s Power In Philip K. Dick’s *The Zap Gun*: A Feminist Literary Criticism” written by Septiana Prasetyowati, and the last study entitled “The Portrayal of Mrs. Rowland’s Character in The Light of Traditional Gender Roles in Eugene O’Neill’s *Before Breakfast*: A Feminist Study” written by Juwita Ramadhani. Those studies analyzed the same issue with this study which is the negotiation towards traditional gender roles experienced by the woman character but the difference between those studies and this study is on the object of the analysis and the aim of the negotiation.

The first previous study analyzed Laura Ingall's novel entitled *Little Town On The Preirie* and the aim of the woman character's negotiation in this study is asking for equality in education. Then, the second study analyzed how the woman character in Philip K. Dick's novel entitled *The Zap Gun* negotiate with traditional gender roles, in order to get the equality with men in workplace. The last study is not talk about the woman character's negotiation towards traditional gender roles, but it analyzed about society's judgment to women who disobey the traditional gender roles. The writer's study analyzed Esch's negotiation toward traditional gender roles in order to get the equality with men in sexual behavior. She wants to change the idea that women is always portrayed as a sexual object that turns to women deserve to have and make men as the object of their sexual desire in order to shown that they can be more dominance in sexual activity; and have power and control of their body.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on background of the study, there are several questions that could be raised. The questions are:

1. How does Esch's representation as second sex portrayed in Jesmyn Ward's novel?
2. How does Esch negotiate towards traditional gender roles to achieve gender equality in her life?

1.3 Objective of the Study

According to statement of the problem mentioned above, this study wants to find out two important points, those are:

1. To examine Esch's representation as second sex in Jesmyn Ward's novel.
2. To describe the way Esch tries to doing negotiation towards traditional gender roles to achieve gender equality with men in her life.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is going to give distinctive explanation about the main character named Esch who negotiates with traditional gender roles to achieve gender equality with men in her life through Jesmyn Ward's novel, entitled *Salvage the Bones*. This research also enriches the knowledge of cultural studies particularly on the understanding about the norm of the second sex created by Simone de Beauvoir. The result of this research also becomes as one of the references for the other researchers in analyzing other texts focusing on woman's problem. A research on women's issue in the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga is considered as a few in numbers. Therefore, it is also hoped to be useful specifically for Literary and Cultural Studies students of English Department and for all students in Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga in general.

1.5 Theoretical Background

In analyzing the novel *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, this study is mainly focused in the portrayal of black women in the novel. The portrayal of women in this novel is analyzed by using feminism literary criticism. Feminist literary criticism is a branch of feminism applied in the theory of literature. Tyson stated that feminist analysis focuses largely on the considerable role played by gender that is, by a society's definition of femininity and masculinity in our daily lives (108).

There is an important concept in feminist literary criticism that is commonly known as the traditional gender roles. Susan Hekman defined traditional gender roles as a product of the meanings associated with woman in our society; it is because woman is defined as irrational, closer to nature, more emotional and dependent that women occupy an inferior role in society (100).

To strengthen the analysis, the writer used the concept of *Second Sex* which established by Simone de Beauvoir. Patriarchal ideology that dominated by male was being accepted as a norm that dictated the society and made women being positioned in the secondary level or we can say it as women as the second sex. The biological fact that women are capable of getting pregnant, lactating, and menstruating are no way a valid cause or explanation to place them as "second sex" (de Beauvoir 30). *The Second Sex* attempted to find the reasons of the gender imbalance that was being reinforced from the point of view of biology, psychoanalysis, and historical materialism. *The Second Sex* ushered in a new era of

thinking about women's position in society. De Beauvoir's interpretation of the social construction of femininity as *Other* paved the way for the theoretical discussion of the second wave feminism (Jenainati 82).

1.6 Method of the Study

The primary focus of this study is a novel by Jesmyn Ward entitled *Salvage the Bones*. The method used in this study is qualitative research methods which consists of data collecting and data analysis. In collecting the data, the writer made a selection of the suitable data for the analysis. The primary source of this study is the novel *Salvage the Bones* from Jesmyn Ward, while the secondary sources consist of feminist theory books such as *Introducing Feminism* by Cathia Jenainati and Judy Groves. The writer also used reliable internet sources to enrich her knowledge and elaborated the study further. All the data related to the content of the study are gathered and selected. The next step is to read and classify the data to be used in analyzing the text.

The next step is data analysis. Peter Barry argues that analyzing the female characters created in literature is important because it provides role models which indicated to women, and men, what constituted acceptable version of the 'feminine' and legitimate feminine goals and aspirations (Barry 122). By analyzing the roles of the women within the literature, we can not only see what kind of personal characteristics the author attributes of the women but also what kind of role the women and men would have occupied in relation to each other, which adds an additional level of understanding to any text.

Thus, the writer examined Esch's representation throughout the novel to answer the first question. The writer applied De Beauvoir's theory of the second sex. This secondary sources will be used to analyze deeper about the phenomenon of the Other related to Esch's struggle to achieve the gender equality with men in her life. Then, the writer described how Esch's negotiation in asking for gender equality with men to answer the second question. After doing the analysis, the writer draws the conclusion that becomes the result of this study. The last step in this study is to record the sources that are used as the primary and secondary sources in this study in the form of references.

1.7 Scope and Limitation

It is impossible to analyze the whole aspects of the discussion simultaneously, because it will spend a lot of time and will not give detailed explanation. Thus, the scope and limitation of the study is only to discuss about the representation of Esch's character that portrayed as the second sex and also the way she negotiates with traditional gender roles to achieve the gender equality with men. Then, because the writer used feminism theory to analyze that issue, the writer examined that research by look at the traditional gender roles, patriarchal rules, and stereotypes which the most suitable to discuss in this research.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Traditional gender roles: roles stated that women as subordinated gender,

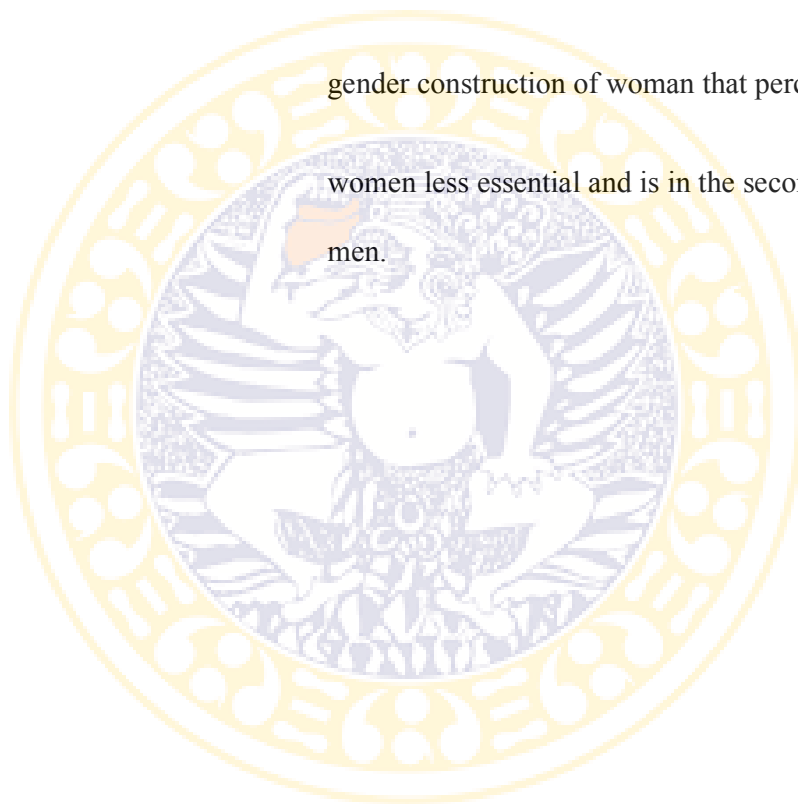
weak, irrational, nurturing, manage household, and

“angel in the house”.

Patriarchy: is a system of society ruled by men.

Negotiation: is about the process between two or more for seeking some agreement to resolve conflict.

Second Sex: the understanding of the position, relationship, and gender construction of woman that perceives women less essential and is in the secondary level to men.



CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer clearly elaborated the definition of the theory used for analyzing the issue in *Salvage The Bones*. The writer decided to use Feminist Literary Criticism as the main theory for this research. The writer believes that feminist literary criticism can guide her to the right-way in analyzing this novel. Since the issue of this research is the negotiation towards traditional gender roles, the writer also elaborated about the ways of female character in the novel negotiating against traditional gender roles. This explanation was taken from some books, essays, journals and manual written.

To strengthen the analysis, the writer presented some several previous studies focusing on similiar object with the same theory, Feminist Literary Criticism. These related studies are expected to help the writer to specify the steps of the analysis and broaden the writer's knowledge on feminist literary criticism.

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

2.1.1 Feminism

In nineteenth century, women and men have many significant differences. Based on the essentialist ideas, the differences between women and men are the result of biology (Jenainati and Groves 5). Biology can be meant as the physical appereances or gender in society. As the result of that differences, people begins to believe that there is a system which controls the attitude of women and men.

That believe is known as patriarchal system. Patriarchal exhibits women as weak and inferior than men (Tyson 85).

Society imposes the different treatment towards women and men as the effects of patriarchal system by giving lower opportunities for women in education and work. Some women want to change their life and have the equal rights as men. Therefore, women initiate a movement with the main aim is to raise the equal position as men in society's opportunities and scarce resources. This movement is then known as Feminism. Feminism, as cited in Parker, as a term for supporting women's rights (148). Feminism is divided into three waves which have different purposes in each wave. The first wave began in the late nineteenth century and the purpose were the right to vote. It focused on woman suffrage and gender inequalities. The second wave began in the early 1960s and focused on issues of sexuality, family, reproductive rights, and the role of women in society. This movement also attracted middle-class housewives who want to participate in the labour force (Jenainati and Groves 86). The last wave began in the early 1990s and known as Post feminism.

2.1.2 Radical Feminism

Feminism in its history has been divided into three waves, which are first wave, second wave and third wave feminism. These three waves have different goals and purposes, but all of them still struggle for women's right in resisting sexist oppression that adverse women's role. Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression (Hooks 1). Since this study focuses on

the negotiation toward traditional gender roles that is experienced by woman who is positioned in secondary level, thus second wave feminism is carried in order to support and struggle for the equality rights toward women's liberation. There is a type of feminism in second wave feminism, which is radical feminism that arose in the 1960s. radical feminism focuses on the theory of patriarchy as a system of power. Radical feminism insisted that men's control of women's sexual and reproductive lives and women self-identity, self-respect, and self-esteem is the most fundamental of all oppressions human beings (Tong 49). These things then make women as secondary level to men and it correlates to Simone de Beauvoir's understanding of social relation between men and women through her interpretation of the social construction of femininity as *Other*.

Radical feminism maintains that women's emancipation is not enough, and argues that women are still oppressed and exploited. The only way to "free" them is by opposing patriarchy and marriage (Jenainati 101). Patriarchy is responsible for constructing a social system which ascribes a particular sexual status, role and temperament for each gender, hence ensuring the sex/gender hierarchy (Millet in Jenainati 118). As a result, "masculine" traits are attributed to dominant social roles while "feminine" is associated with submission and dependence. In short, radical feminists blame the patriarchy for women's subordinated status in society, where the term "politics" in their mind refers to power-structured relationship and arrangements, whereby one group of person is controlled by another and in this case men's domination against women is seen as

an “instrumen” of patriarchal domination and its non-intervention is believed to be part of the logic of the patriarchal system (Walby 3).

2.1.3 Feminist Literary Criticism

Particularly, feminist literary criticism tends to reject the patriarchal norms of literature, which privileges masculine ways of thinking or point of view and marginalizes women politically, economically, and psychologically. A feminism criticism advocates equal rights for women in political, economic, social, psychological, personal, and aesthetics sense. The main aim of feminist criticism is to uncover the latent dynamic in literary works which relevant to women’s inferior role in patriarchal society based on feminist perspective. As stated by Guerin in *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*,

Feminist literary critics try to explain how power imbalances due to gender in a given culture are reflected or in challenged by literary text. Feminist critics generally agree that their goals are to expose patriarchal premises and resulting prejudices to promote discovery and revaluation of literature by women, and to examine social, cultural, and psychosexual context of literature and literary criticism. (196-197)

2.1.4 Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a culture that privileges the position of men by promoting traditional gender roles. Bertens noted in his book entitled *Literary Theory The*

Basics that patriarchy is also a term that refers to the complete domination of men in Western Society and beyond, it even happens in most of the societies in the world (96). Thus, patriarchy is defined as sexist, which is the belief that women are innately inferior to men: less intelligent, less rational, less courageous, and so forth. According to Bell Hooks in *Understanding Patriarchy*, he stated that patriarchy is a political-social system that insists that males are inherently dominating, superior to everything and everyone deemed to work, especially females, and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain the dominance through various form of psychological terrorism and violence (1-2). Figure 1 will illustrate about the differences between men and woman.

| WOMEN | | MEN |
|--------------|---|------------|
| WEAK | Size, shape and body chemistry | STRONG |
| LESS | Intelligent, logical, courageous, leaders | MORE |

Figure. 1

Based on figure 1, it can be concluded that men have power and opportunities in their lives than women. It cause the reaction from society that women cannot do anything except staying at home and doing household chores. The relationship between traditional gender roles and patriarchy concepts give space between men and women. The brief conclusion about relation of traditional gender roles and patriarchy will be explained in figure 3. Figure 3 below shows

that women are passive victims of male power and patriarchy concept in the society (Tyson 86). Women undergo oppression in many ways indirectly. For example, when women express their thought or passion about something; their ideas are often rejected as irrational. Women are also close with weakness because women often cry when they face problems. Crying itself is a sign of weakness as it is shown in the table. Besides, they are close with fear and pain because most of their lives are full of sorrows. They are also not permitted to show their anger because women are portrayed as angels who are never angry even though they have difficult problems, disappointment, and others.

| WOMEN | | MEN |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Less strong (weak, emotional, cry) | Strong and Powerfull | More strong (no cry-sign of weakness) |
| Common | Fear and pain feeling | Taboo |
| Common | Expressing sympathy | Taboo |
| Permitted | Fail as implication of failure | Not Permitted |
| Passive | Sex | Active |
| Not Permitted | Anger | Permitted |

Figure. 2

2.1.5 Traditional Gender Roles

Gender roles play a major role in society. They play a significant role in couple interaction, family decision making, and perspective of marital satisfaction. Williams and McBain stated that gender roles are determined by society (385). It means traditional gender roles determined whether a woman would be allowed out of her own house without her husband beside her and whether a woman should be able to join the workforce. Patriarchal society believes that traditional gender roles can be used as a tool to justify inequalities between men and women in some aspects.

Traditional gender roles are a view and concept of society which is formed out from male's way of thinking, so it creates man and woman stereotype pattern in society. These stereotypes finally create an ideal type of woman from patriarchy view. Patriarchal ideology suggests that there are only two identities a woman can have, "good girls" or "bad girls" (Tyson 89). Women who obey traditional gender roles are considered "good girls". They are put on pedestals and idealized as pure, angelic creatures whose sense of self consists mainly or entirely of their usefulness to their husband, fathers, or brothers. In contrast, women who violate traditional gender roles are thought of as "bad girls", especially if they violate the rules of sexual conduct for patriarchal women, such as dressing or behaving in a manner that could be considered sexually provocative.

2.1.6 Woman as Second Sex

A French feminist and writer, Simone de Beauvoir in 1949 published *The Second Sex*, which becomes an influential work in feminism field. De Beauvoir believes that men define what it means to be human, including what it means to be female. De Beauvoir in Bressler declares that since the female is not male, she becomes the Other, an object whose existence is defined and interpreted by the dominant male (173). Being subordinate to the males, females discover that she is a secondary player in the major social institutions of her culture. *The Second Sex* ushered in a new era of thinking about women's position in society. De Beauvoir's interpretation of the social construction of femininity as *Other* paved the way for the theoretical discussion of the second wave feminism (Jenainati 82).

Understanding the term Other can be defined, thus "humanity is male and man defines woman not in herself but as relative to him; she is not regarded as an autonomous being" (De Beauvoir in Rossi 675). Woman is defined and differentiated with reference to man and not him with reference to her. Women are the incidental, the inessential as opposed to the essential while men are the Subject. He extends out into the world to impose his will on it, whereas woman is doomed to immanence, or inwardness. He creates, acts, invents; she waits for him to save her. Here, the work of the Other emerges toward the women. The category of the Other is as primordial as consciousness itself. Women are seen by and for men, always as the object and never as the subject. In the other words, "the Other is always constructed as an object for the benefit of the subject who stands in need

of an objectified the Other in order to achieve a masterly self-definition' (Pickering 71).

2.2 Review of Related Studies

This study deeply scrutinized about the depiction of woman character named Ecsh in Jesmyn Ward's novel *Salvage The Bones*. The object of this study yet been used as the object of the previous studies. But since the issue of this study is the negotiation towards traditional gender roles done by Esch, there are some previous studies which provided some significant contribution in doing the analysis.

The first is a thesis that is written by Maria Angelina Chandra entitled *A Study Of Laura Ingall's Negotiation Toward Traditional Gender Roles In Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town On The Preirie Novel*. Maria attempted to show how women's negotiation towards traditional gender roles in the nineteenth century. Maria revealed Laura's negotiation by conducting two steps of analysis: first, she related the historical background of the novel with female character in order to reveal their responses toward the patriarchal ideology and then compare it with Laura's; second, she compared the portrayal of Laura Ingalls with the idea roles of women in nineteenth century based on Wollstonecraft's and Beecher and Stowe's point of view. This study concluded that Laura shows her efforts in negotiating traditional gender roles by accepting some patriarchal rules and, at the same time, refusing some of them that she does not agree with.

The second study is written by Septiana Prasetyowati entitled *Lilo Topchev As A Symbol Of Woman's Power In Philip K. Dick's The Zap Gun: A Feminist Literary Criticism*. The issues of this study is about the term of "girl power" as the result of women's struggle through the feminist movement. Septiana applied liberal feminism theory to examine the character in order to prove the inequality between man and woman in workplace and also reveal how the female character uses her power to gain the equality, criticize and struggle against the patriarchal system. She reveals that Lilo Topchev, a woman who was once underestimated and scorned by the male character in patriarchal society, has changed into a strong character with the power to break the traditional gender roles and challenge the stereotype. Septiana also confirmed that Lilo's power is a source for woman to be more creative in gaining her equality with men and source of empowerment to be more competitive with men rather than use the power as the tool of domination over the men.

The last study is conducted by Juwita Ramadhani entitled *The Portrayal of Mrs. Rowland's Character in The Light of Traditional Gender Roles in Eugene O'Neill's Before Breakfast: A Feminist Study*. In her thesis, she attempted to discuss about the portrayal of female character in Eugene O'Neill's *Before Breakfast* who did not follow traditional gender roles. She found that Mrs. Rowland was portrayed as a woman who did not follow the traditional gender roles because she worked outside home as a tailor since her husband was an employed man, while she supports the patriarchal rules. In doing the analysis, Juwita used Tyson's opinion about the two identities of women based on the

traditional gender roles and she concluded that Mrs. Rowland is the example of a bad girl, or they called her as “the monster in the house”.

Those studies above have the similar issue that is about women struggle toward traditional gender roles. The woman character tries to end the discrimination by gently doing negotiation with traditional gender roles. It also happens in the character of Esch in *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, but there is a difference between the writer’s study and those three related studies. The aim of Esch’s negotiation in this novel is not asking for gender equality in work place or education, but she is asking for equality in sexual behavior. She wants to change the idea that women is always portrayed as a sexual object that turns to a free person who deserve to have and make men as the object of their sexual desire. However, the writer believes that she has the motivation to not follow the traditional gender roles, and this study figures out the reason which influences Esch to do the negotiation with traditional gender roles.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

There are some major steps in analyzing this topic. This chapter described how the negotiation done by Esch as the main character towards traditional gender roles. Before discussing about that, we should know about the character of Esch herself by the text. So this chapter is divided into two subchapters. The first subchapter analyzed Esch's representation as second sex in the novel. The second subchapter analyzed Esch's negotiation in order to achieve gender equality with men in her life.

3.1 Esch's Representation as Second Sex

Esch is one of the main characters and also the only woman character in this novel. Actually, there are some other woman characters who revealed in the story, such as Esch's mother, and Shaliyah, but Ward not clearly represent their characteristic in the story because those character just explained from Esch's though. Thus, the writer just focuses on Esch's representation in this novel. Esch lives with her father and three brothers in the Pit, the name given to their house which is surrounded by rotting junkyard of land, populated by dead trucks and feral chickens. Esch grown up without her mother, because her mother was passed away after gave birth her youngest brother, Junior. Indirectly, Esch becomes the only woman in her family.

In this novel, Esch becomes one of the portrayals of women who live in the era where women already achieved their absolute right to have gender equality

with men and the government also supports the emancipation movement by giving the freedom to women to get the same opportunity with men in work and education. Women have a chance to get better life because they are not trapped on patriarchal system and traditional gender roles which is bordering her attitude anymore. However, the representation of Esch in this novel is different with the condition of women nowadays, because she still had to dealing with traditional gender roles in her daily life. She forces to become a woman who must obey the patriarchal rules, and dealing with it in her life by her father. Because of her inferiority, she considered as second sex in her house and also in society. Here are Esch's representations in the novel.

3.1.1 Forced To Become a House-maker

In traditional gender roles, the women's role was to be in charge of domestic matters, such as serving her husband, looking after her children, and performing household chores like cooking and cleaning. While men expected to be outside the home and work in the public area. Men become the center of family and society, while women are a part of property of men. Epstein states in her book *Woman's Place* that after becoming a wife, a basic component of female roles, the woman becomes the center of the home, crowned with the virtue of faithfulness and responsible for coordination of house and family (21). Therefore, women need to learn and understand about their roles before getting married in order to become a good wife.

In this novel, Esch, as the only woman in the house, has responsibilities to do the household chores and take care the youngest, Junior, in her daily life. Although she is fifteen, but she is programmed to be patriarchal woman and to be a good wife and mother by doing her duties in domestic matter. She carried her tasks by staying at home, served her father and her brothers, cooked, washed dishes and cleaned and wiped the glasses. “I tied the strip of an old rag around my hand and kept washing until I had all the glass bottles lined up on the wall inside the kitchen (13).”

In another page there is a proof that Esch has responsibilities to do the household chores in her house and served the rest of family. “When I wake up for the second time, the air is hot, and the ceiling is so low, the heat can’t rise. It doesn’t have anyplace to go. I’m surprised Daddy hasn’t sent Junior in here to get me up by now, to work around the house and prepare for hurricane (38).” She had to work around the house and helped her father to prepare for the hurricane in her daily life. She even had to find anything to eat, like chicken egg, around the house to keep in the refrigerator and to cook in another day (22).

Based on the quotation above, we can see that as a woman who lived in the 20th century, where most women are not bounded with patriarchal system anymore, Esch must deal with traditional gender roles and had to replace her mother position in her daily life. She forced to become a mother and wife who can take care of her family and managed her home with her husband and children well so they felt comfortable at home by her father, since her mother was passed away. Actually, Esch has two brothers who older than her, and they also can manage the

house and doing the household chores like her but her father believed that women is the one who had the responsibility to manage the house and do all domestic chores (18). It is shown that her father still believe in patriarchal system, thus he gave her the responsibility related with domestic area. Esch could not disagree with every decisions made by her father or talked her opinion about it because of his priority in the house. It conveys the inferiority of women so that they are considered as the second sex.

Besides that, there is another proof which showed that her father forced Esch to become a house-maker. Patriarchal believes that women are expected to raise and take care of her children. Although in the story, the author do not tell us that Esch has children, but she has a brother who was seven, so she has the responsibility to take care of him. When junior was a baby, she and her oldest brother, Randall took care and fed him together. Her father taught Randall and her how to feed him, and the right ratio to make the milk. “When he was a baby, Randall held him the most, and I did the rest of the time. Daddy fed him until he figured out me and Randall could do it. Afterward, Randall mixed the bottles, kept them filled in the refrigerator so he or I could feed Junior (91).”

But when he grown up, Esch was the one who has responsibility to take care of him. She must feed him, took him bath and also watched over him every time. Although, sometimes he was very naughty, and did not want to listen to her like when she gave him a scramble egg but he is ignoring it and instead eat it, he is asking for some noodles (25). But she still tried to make him eat the egg and said what her mother used to say. ““Junior, stop being orner.” It’s what Mama

used to say to us when we were little, and I say it to Junior out of habit (24).” Till the end, he still did not want to listen to her.

It is shown that her father gave her a responsibility to take care of Junior, her youngest brother indirectly. She forced to take care of Junior since her mother passed away. With this condition, it can be said that Esch could not enjoy her life as teenager and doing whatever she wants to do. She should stayed in domestic area, managed the house, and watched her little brother in her daily life.

3.1.2 Attentive

Esch is the only woman in her house, so beside her little brother, she must take care of another members of her family, her father and also her older brothers. This condition affected Esch becomes someone who always pays attention to her family, from their need until their health. She must prepare the food for them, and other things they need. If one of them got sick, she has the responsibility to take care of and give her attention to them by providing the medicine and served all their need all the time during their illness.

We can see that in the novel, when Skeetah got hurt after they gone to sneak the cow wormer in white people’s house. Skeetah has been cut when he came out from the window to escape when the owner come back to the house. Esch felt sorry for him because she did not follow Skeetah’s command to watch over the house from outside and gave sign to him if somebody comes, so he got hurt because of her. She tried to help Skeetah when he was trying to wind a bandage around his torso. She took and wrap the bandage in the part of his bodies

he has been cut (84). After that, she also gave the medicine to him. “I’m walking through the ripped net of the shade, trying to edge past them unseen. I want to find Skeetah. He has medicine to give (89).”

We can see another proof that she was the one who has the responsibility to take care of her family’s health is when her father got sick, and she had to take care of him. She served all her father needs all the time during his illness. She made chicken noodle soup, brought some crackers, and prepared the medicine for him. She also played the antenna when her father wants to watch the television and asked her to play with it (134). Even before she left to see her brother, Skeetah, playing basketball, she placed some foods and medicine for her father in his bedroom. “When we leave for the game, Daddy is asleep. I leave a full cup of water and a packet of crackers on the bedside table and push his bottles of medicine closer together so they are easier for him to reach (140).”

We can see from the quotation above that Esch has forced to become an attentive woman who dedicates her life to take care of her family. As we know that in traditional gender roles, a wife has an absolute responsibility to take care of her family need and health (Wood 28). Since she forced to replace her mother position in the family, she also forced to fulfill all her family needs and served them in her daily life indirectly. This condition showed that their family treats her as the second sex since she becomes the only women in the house. When her father got sick, she served all her father needs all the time during his illness, although in fact she also feeling not-well because of her pregnant condition.

Unconsciously, she gave more priority to take care of their family's health, rather than her condition.

3.1.3 Underestimated By Men's Perspective

The term "the second sex" distinguishes between men and women based on their biological sex. The different treatment toward men and women as the result of biological sex that actually gives unfair treatment to women because they think that woman's biological body is not perfect compared to men. This belief in the inborn inferiority of women is called biological essentialism because it is based on biological differences between the sexes that are considered part of our unchanging essence as men and women (Tyson 85).

One of the examples about the portrayal of women which are underestimated by men's perspective in the novel is portrayed when Esch is asked to become a ladder for Skeetah so he could pry some pieces of plywood up off the wall by her father (62). Her father asked her to let Skeetah climb up on her, whereas Skeetah was higher and heavier than her.

Skeetah tries to jump and hoist himself up, but even though he can jump that high, he can't grab the beam because the plaster that sticks to it like barnacles makes it difficult for him to grab it. "Esch, let your brother climb up on you." Skeetah looks at him like he's crazy, but he doesn't say anything. "I can do it. Come on, Skeet." "Naw, Esch. I can jump." No, you can't," Daddy says. "Go on." (62-63)

From what Skeetah said, it evidently confirms the belief that women is a weak creature as Skeetah does not believe that Esch can become a ladder for him and lift him up until he pried some pieces of plywood up off the wall as her father's instruction. The underestimated thought of Skeetah creates the skeptical feeling whether Esch is able to hold him or not, because Skeetah knew that he was higher and heavier than her. Women always considered as weak and could not doing activities which needs more power and courage like become a ladder for men, since men believes that they are more powerful than women. From that activity, it conveys the inferiority of women so that they are considered as the second sex. Women's ability is always underestimated by men.

Those underestimated though from her family and people around her affected Esch becomes a passive woman. She rarely gave comment about anything happen around her and talked about her feeling. She never expressed about her taught or her feeling to others. So in this novel, she looked remained silence and less communicative where she liked to have some thought and imagined about anything like remembering everything that has been taught by her mama before she passed away, or how she wanted Manny to come to her and touched her as he likes. For instance, when Skeetah and Manny discussing about China, Skeetah's dog, (93) and she was there but she did not give any comment or opinion about it, she just keep silent and listen to them. It happens because she loses her confidence to talk or argue with people, since they always underestimated her.

3.1.4 Inferior

Patriarchy is a political-social system which insists the domination of male, superior in everything and everyone deemed weak, especially females, and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence. The patriarchy in household happens in the authorization of father or husband in chairing a household. A mother or wife is created as a weak creature that should be in the house and make the home turns into a special place.

In this novel, the author clearly represents Esch as the inferior person in her house and in society around her. Her father was the most dominant in her house. He always gave command for her brothers, and especially for her, to do everything he wants. Sometimes they were not really appreciated what he is doing and ignoring his command, although he said that everything he has done is for them all. Then, he will get mad, and beat them up to show that he was the most powerful and dominant in the house. “He reaches to grab Skeetah’s arm, to pull him to standing and then shove him, probably. This is what he does when he wants to manhandle, humiliate; he pulls one of us toward him, shakes, and then shove us hard backward so that we fall in the dirt (105).”

Because of her inferiority in the house, she becomes a submissive woman. She always obeys her father’s command when he asked for help or gave her an order to do something because her father does not give her a chance to speak up her argument or refuse his command. We can see it in the novel when her father

asked her to help him fixing the truck. At the moment, her father was looking for Skeetah or Randall, and asked her if she knew where they were, because he needed their help to fixing the truck. Because he could not find them, he finally asked Esch to help him fixing the truck.

“I want you to get up in the driver’s seat. When Junior come tell you, I want you to try to start it.”

“I can go find Skeetah if you want.”

“No.” Daddy’s already putting one shoulder back underneath the truck. (90)

From the condition above, we can see that Esch was trying to refuse his command with said that she can find her brother for help him, but he said “no” as the sign of his refusal of Esch’s argument assertively. It conveys the discrimination treatment experienced by Esch in giving the argument. The women’s right to speak is constrained because women are considered as the second sex. Esch does not have the same equality as her brothers or her father to speak up her argument or refusal about something. Therefore, she just keep silent and is forced to conform with her father’s command. The lack of freedom toward women in giving their right to speak makes them become marginalized from public so that their presence only reached in the domestic sphere.

In the society, boys were more dominant than her. They always controlled all the games which they want to play. Esch has no chance to join with them on the game. Usually, she just watched and cheered them up when they were on game. The only game she could join with is a race, and she was good in race “I’ve

always been a fast runner. When the boys and I used to race when we were smaller, I was always in the top three. I beat Randall a few times, and almost beat Skeet once or twice (60).”

Esch also looked powerless than men when they were on sex. She was more passive on it, although she has bigger desire than other girls on her age. She just kept silent and let boys touched her, because she loved and enjoyed it. When Manny, who ignored her at the moment, suddenly come to her again and forced her to having sex with him, she let him to do whatever he wants, and did not ask him to stop it. Actually, Esch was heart-broken, and disappointed with Manny. Manny left Esch with another girl after got everything from her. But she could not ask him to stop or refuse him because she felt so powerless and weak because of her feeling to Manny, so it will be more easier for her to let Manny do whatever they want to do.

“Been thinking about you,” says Manny, and then he has pushed me back into the stall, closed it behind us, grabbed my arms and turned us so that he is sitting on the toilet. He unzips his pants, and I grab his dick hard enough to hurt.He pulls me down on him so I am straddling him, and then he is inside. It is easy and wet. He grips my shoulders, pulls me down hard, rolls back away from me, pulls me down again, his face in my chest.”Wait,” he says, and then he is making me stand up, pulling off my short and underwear, bearing me back down on him.... (145)

Based on the quotation above, we can see that Esch has no power to refuse and against the domination of Manny because of her inferiority. Esch becomes a victim of sexual violence done by Manny. As we know that, men exert their power through sexuality because they show their performance in intimacy. Moreover, with doing sexual oppression to women, men provide their existence as an absolute subject who are dominant and has power and control to women's body. Thus, women always become a victim of men oppression in sexual activity in order to fulfill their sexual desire.

3.2 The Negotiation Toward Traditional Gender Roles Done by Esch Character

In the novel, we can see that Esch is represented as a second sex, and she forced to replace her mother position in her daily life by her father. An in order to break male dominance in her life, she tried to do the negotiation toward traditional gender roles. The aims are to show that she wants to achieve gender equality with men, and liberate herself from male superiority in her life. She wants to change the idea that women is always portrayed as a sexual object that turns to women deserve to have and make men as the object of their sexual desire in order to shown that they can be more dominance in sexual activity; and have power and control of their body. She was doing the negotiation with the way she changed some of the belief in the society; first, she tried to be strong to prove that she has power and did not always need men's help; second, she choose to become a sexually aggressive woman to change the idea of objectification in women's life.

3.2.1 She Tried To Be Strong

As we know that gender roles characterize women as emotional, irrational, weak, nurturing, and submissive (Tyson 85). This assumption make women's position is lower than men's position. The representation of women becomes marginalized. As the result, women are not having the chance to get a better life, better job, and better education because people always threat a woman as a person who cannot do the same thing with men's doing. But the representation of Esch in this novel is different with Tyson's opinion.

Esch was not a kind of weak girl. Although she realized that women is a weak creature, but she did not want to be seen as a weak woman in front of the boys. She wanted to look strong and did not want them feel pity on her. It is fund in the novel when her father gave command to her to wash the bottle that has been collected by Junior, but suddenly the bottle fell down and shattered. Then, the glass's fragment slid along her hands. She got bleeding but she did not yelling for help or crying because she did not want to be looked as a weak woman in front of Manny. Therefore, she tried to look not in pain when she got bleeding. Although she realized that she cannot take pain like a man but she still does not want Manny feel sorry to her.

....The crack of the bottle I was shaking sounded like change clattering in a loose fist. The bottle shattered, and the glass fragmented, slid along my palms. I dropped what I held. "Move,

Junior!” I said. My hands, which moments before had been pink, were red. Especially the left. “I’m bleeding!” I said under my breath. I didn’t yell; I wanted Manny to see me, but not as a weak, sorry girl. Not something to be pitied because I couldn’t take pain like a boy. (11)

This can be seen that Esch tried to do the negotiation with the way she wanted to change the image that women are weak. She tried to look stronger in front of the boys. She did not want boys feel sorry to her just because of their perception that women are weak and need to be protected and feel secured, but she really wanted them to care about her because of their feeling. Although, she wanted to Manny to look at her, but she showed that she did not want Manny to feel sorry for her. She wanted to look different compared to other girls in Manny’s eyes. Based on patriarchal system, Esch’s attitude is different with the representation of woman created by traditional gender roles that they are weak creatures. Esch showed that women can be strong, if they choose to be like that. They can stand alone to face all the problems in their life.

Another proof has shown that Esch did not want to look weak is when she felt broken-hearted because of Manny. Manny was ignoring her and never came to her again. Even, he never glanced to her anymore because he already had another girl, Shaliyah. Esch was very disappointed and broken-hearted until she thought to throw away the baby inside her. “If I could, I would reach inside of me and pull out my heart and that tiny wet seed that will become the baby. Let them go first so the rest won’t hurt so much (122).” Before she was broken-hearted, she already

thought some possible ways to kill the baby. She thought to do an abortion based on what she heard from girl's conversation at her school.

I've heard girls at my school talk. These are conversations I snatch from the air like we take down clothes that have crusted dry on a clothesline. The girls say that if you're pregnant and take a month's worth of birth control pills, it will make your period come on. Say if you drink bleach, you get sick and it will make what will become the baby come out. Say if you hit yourself really hard in the stomach, throw yourself on metal edge of a car and it hits you low enough to call bruises, it could bring a miscarriage. Say that this is what you do when you can't afford an abortion, when you can't have a baby, when nobody wants what is inside you. (102)

But from all of them, they narrowed to none, because she felt no one of them can be possibly done by her. She would not be able to find the birth control pills, because she has never had a prescription, would not have money to get them if she did, does not have any girlfriends to ask for some and has never been to the Health Department (102). Actually, she thought to choose the third option, which is hit her-self really hard on something big enough and hard enough to jump on, like her Daddy's dump truck hood, her Daddy's tractor, or one of the old washing machines out in the yard. But she would not do that, because it is very risky and she did not know what the excuse she will give to her family if they asked why she do that (103). Finally, she thrown away the idea to do the abortion and decided to keep and raise up the baby.

From the story above, we can see that Esch was a grateful and strong woman. Although, she was down when she saw Manny with Shaliyah, but in the end, she decided to keep the baby because she realized that it is the consequences she had to dealing with. Actually, she was not sure whose her baby's father, but she thought that Manny was possibly the one who must responsible for it. "I think it is for Manny; he is the only person I have been having sex with for the past five months. Since he surprised me in the woods while I was looking for Junior and grabbed me, knew my girl heart, I have only let him in (57)." It is the reason why Esch so broken-hearted when she looked Manny with other girls and tried to do the abortion.

With change the idea that women are a weak creature, Esch showed to us that actually women have the same power, or even bigger, with men. Thus, women can be more dominant than men in any aspect since they declared their liberation toward men's superiority in their life. They also have the right to get same treatment and opportunity with men in every aspect, such as in education, or in workplace. In this novel, Esch tried to become a liberal woman and achieve the equality with men in her life. She wanted to get same opportunity with her brothers or other boys to speak up their choice, and to be able to enjoy her life as teenager and doing whatever she wants to do. And in order to get the same treatment with boys in the society, Esch showed that she did not always need men's help to faces the problem in her life. She wanted boys to care about her because of their feeling, not because of their perception that she is weak and need to be protected and feel secured.

3.2.2 She Chose To Become a Sexually Aggressive Woman

The doctrine of sense inferiority to men is inherited from the parents to the children. Miles states that men dominate the world since their childhood because they are taught to be dominant (43). It explains that women and men have a relationship of dominant or dominated. Moreover, the domination between men and women is mostly sexual. Sexuality is a power because the man reduces the woman to nothing, to pain and humiliation. Men exert their power through sexuality because they show their performance in intimacy. Men have power; women do not have the right to object because they cannot oppose a man. It is what Miles states at the “battle of sexes” (46).

And in this novel, Esch tried to breakdown men’s domination in her life. She tried to negotiate with traditional gender roles, and changed the concept of men’s control of women’s sexual. She chooses to be become a sexually aggressive woman in order to show that she also wanted to have control of men in sexual activity. She showed that she wanted to become a liberal woman, who can express herself in public independently, and do anything she wants to do with the way she change the concept of objectification and men’s control over her body.

In this novel, the author told the reader that Esch lost her purity when she was twelve explicitly. It happens with one of her brother’s closest friends, Marquise. “I was twelve. The first time was laying down on the front seat of Daddy’s dump truck. It was with Marquise, who was only a year older than me (22).” When they were hiding from Skeetah in the dump truck, he asked her if he

could touch her private, and she permit it, and then it was just happen (23). She let Marquise took her virginity because it is become easier for her to keep silent rather than reject him. “And it was easier to let him keep on touching me than ask him to stop, easier to let him inside than push him away, easier than hearing him ask me, Why not? It was easier to keep quiet and take it than to give him an answer (23).”

Since that moment, she became addicted to have sex with other boys after Marquise, and the last is Manny. She loved when they touched her, especially Manny, because she has a deep feeling to him. For her, it is easier to keep silent and enjoyed what they do with her body. She thought that sex is the only thing that has ever been easy for her to do, like swimming through water, when she started to have it (22). This condition affected Esch became addicted to have sex with boys.

The reason why she thought that sex is the only thing that has ever been easy for her to do is because she has a big interest on Greek mythology about lover. These interests make she felt like she was the girls on that myth when she is having sex with boys. She felt like she was beloved at the moment (16). It is the reason why she loved when boys touched her body. Therefore, having sex with boys became the only thing she loved to do because she enjoyed very much when having it. And we can conclude that having sex with boys is her “hobby”.

There is a proof that showed Esch has a big interest on Greek mythology. We can see that when Manny came to her. Esch was dumping the garbage in a

shallow ditch next to the pit, and burning it. Then, she turned around to leave, but she saw Manny came to her (15). Manny was speaking to her, talked about the weather. Esch was excited at the moment, till she could not answer Manny's question and just nodded. When she tried to see his face, she was imagining that she would lick off his neck directly. But she did not do it; she was waiting for Manny to do it first, because she felt ashamed and compared herself with women in her mythology book.

“Yeah.” I glanced at his face, the sweat like glaze. My lips were open. Another me would've licked it off, and it would've tasted like salt. But this girl wouldn't lean forward, wouldn't smile as she mouthed his neck. This girl waited because she wasn't like the women in the mythology book, the women who kept me turning the pages: the trickster nymphs, the ruthless goddesses, the world-uprooting mothers. Io, who made a god's heart hot with love; Artemis, who turned a man into a deer and had her dogs tear him cartilage from bone; Demeter, who made time stop when her daughter was stolen. (15-16)

It is shown that she became more aggressive than other women because of her interest on Greek mythology. Not a kind of aggressive woman who approached men first and then flirted them, but a kind of aggressive woman who always wanted to be cared and loved by men. Although, when having sex, she looked more passive than men, because she just kept silent and let boys touched or did whatever they want to her body, but actually she has a big desire than other

girls. She never showed her desire to other men, except Manny. When she was with Manny, she could not control it and her curiosity “He unzips his pants, and I grab his dick hard enough to hurt. I want it to hurt (145).”

With a big desire and deep feeling to Manny, she became uncontrollable. She created Manny as an object to fulfill her sexual desire. It can be shown from the quotation above. It is shown how she wants to be the dominant and hurt Manny to release her feeling and willing of him. She also showed that she could have sex “like men”, which could control her partner, who willingly give himself to her and she can hurt or see him suffering and to be dominant in bed. Although, patriarchal society believes that women should become a sexual object of the husband, and fulfill their desire.

As a part of woman in Postfeminism era, she tried to express herself and do anything she wanted to do showed that she is a liberal women. She showed that nowadays women can do anything they want to do because they have power and control of themselves, their body and their life. She wanted to change the idea that women are sexual object become women who deserve to have and make men as the object of their sexual desire. Women can have sex “like men” with every man she wants. This kind of thought may carry a negative meaning, but, as a woman who can decide a good thing for her life, Esch was free to choose with what ways she shows to people that she has power and control of herself, her body and her life.

Esch tried to do the negotiation with traditional gender roles by changing the idea that women is a sexual object become women who deserve to have and make men as the object of their sexual desire. She showed that women can be dominant than men and express herself in public independently. Women can do anything they want to do as long as they can deal with all the consequences of their choices. If they cannot deal with the consequences, so they do not have any rights to express herself in public and do anything they want to do because they will always be haunted by fear and people's judgment about herself. So it is important for women to know and understand about all the consequences of their choices before they deciding to choice what they are going to do in order to easily deal with the consequences. In this novel, Esch showed that she knew and understood about the consequences of being a sexually aggressive woman, so she could deal with it.

Esch understood that one of the consequences she must accept because of her choice to become a sexually aggressive woman is being ignored by her partner. This might be related to the belief where men should be more dominant than women and women who must control their desire and follow the men's rule. It means that men placed women as the sexual objectification. Objectification theory postulates that many women are sexually objectified and treated as an object to be valued for its use by other particularly men (Fredrickson & Roberts 7). It portrayed female character's bodies as singled out parts and viewed primarily as physical object of male sexual desire. Thus, when women changes

become more sexually aggressive than men, society will consider them as bad woman, and her partner will ignore and leave them.

Manny ignored her and never came to or talked with her anymore. Even he did not want to look at her again, like when he was talking with Skeetah about Skeetah's dog, China and Esch was there. Manny acted like he did not know that she was there. Even when he glanced at Esch, it looked like it slides over her, like she is glass (96). Manny ignored her since he knew that Esch could not control her desire. It happened when they were swimming in the black water of the pit, and Esch touched his chest and nipples. Whereas, Esch just curious and wanted to know about how it feels like. She just wanted to vent her desire to Manny at the time, but Manny got mad and disappointed with her.

...Now he circles, half looking at me, half looking at Big Henry and Marquise. He grabs my hand and pulls it toward him, wraps my fingers around his dick. "Not too bad," he says. I want to know what it feels like, so I reach out under the water to touch his chest, his nipples the size of red grapes. They are much softer than that. Manny pulls away. "What are you doing?" His dick slides out of my hand, hot in the cool water: then gone. "I just wanted----". "Esch." Manny says it like he's disappointed, like he doesn't know who this girl who reached out to touch him is. (55)

Esch tried to accept the reality that Manny did not fall in her love again and chased another girl, Shalayah. Although, she was broken-hearted, but she tried

to accept it with her decision to keep the baby and made sure everything is okay until the time to deliver the baby (192). Esch believed that Manny will come back to her, and loves her again. She would accept him whenever Manny came back to her and wanted more from her (77). Esch still believed that she knows about Manny better than Shaliyah or other girls and when Manny realized it, he would come back to her.

I wonder if she can tell his injury like I can, see it in the way his arm snaps back down after he lays up the ball too fast, as if he cannot extend it far enough. I wonder if she notices the way he swings his arm back and forth across his chest when he runs, as if he still holds hope that he can work past the rip, heal it, make his body as seamless and perfect as it used to be. I wonder if she notices that he favors it during sex, that he places most of his weight to his left so that he is always at my right ear, breathing.
(118)

From the statement above, we can see that Esch is falling in love with Manny too deeply. She accepted Manny's decision to leave her and would accept him again if he came back to her. She understood about the consequences she must receive because of her condition. She could not control Manny and made him to stay in her side, because she already let Manny penetrated her before they are got married. So she could not do anything when Manny left her. She showed that she could deal with the consequences which happen because of her choice to be a sexually aggressive woman. It is also one of her ways to show that she was

doing negotiation with traditional gender roles to achieve gender equality with men.

Other consequence she must dealing with because of her attitude is judged by society as a bad woman. In traditional gender roles, a woman who has a big desire and could not control it would always be considered as the bad woman. Moreover, she would be considered as a monster. Therefore, there would not be a man who want to marry her or has relationship with her, because people believe that if they marry with a bad woman, so they will live in poverty and difficulty later, as a punishment for what had been done by her wife. Sztaray explained that how society believed all consequences is a woman's responsibility who allowed her to be seduced by a man atoned for her sin by dying, most often in poverty, depravity, or intemperance (4). But nowadays, women are not trapped and bounded by traditional gender roles anymore. Thus, they can do whatever they want, including doing sexual activity with every men they want in order to satisfy her sexual desire.

Although women can express and satisfy her sexual desire with doing sexual activity with any men they want, but they still need to concerned with society's judgment about it, because when a woman become sexually aggressive and change her sexual partner continuously, they will consider as bad woman and judge as a slut. In the other hand, if men have multiple sexual partners or change his sexual partner continuously, it is considered as a normal situation because men as the subject can used his power to do that activity in order to satisfy his sexual desire and they will not consider as bad guy. As stated in De Beauvoir's book,

polygamy is more or less always tolerated; a man is still considered reasonable if sleeping with the maid or mistress yet he is still required to respect the certain rights (230).

We can see that when Esch told about her pregnancy to Manny and asked his responsibility about what he did to her but Manny did not believe in every single word she said and he said that everyone knew that she was a slut. Esch got mad, and could not control herself, so she slapped him, over and over (203).

How you come to me saying something's mines when you fuck everybody who come to the pit?" "You the only one I been with!" I rush him again. "You better go to Big Henry with that bullshit!" Manny twists and shoves me away from him again, but I take the neck of his T-shirt with me when I go. "I know!" I say. "I know it's yours!" "No it ain't." "I'ma tell Randall." "You think they don't know you a slut?" He spits this and it is red; I have drawn blood. (204)

Although till the end of the story, Manny never came back to her and confessed that he was the father of the baby, but Esch still showed that she could deal with it. She even has not expected Manny to come to her again. She still decided to keep the baby and grow him up, although she would do that by herself (208). She knew that when everyone around her knows about her pregnancy, there would not be a man who want to marry her or approached her. It was not a problem for her. The most important thing is she still has her family who would

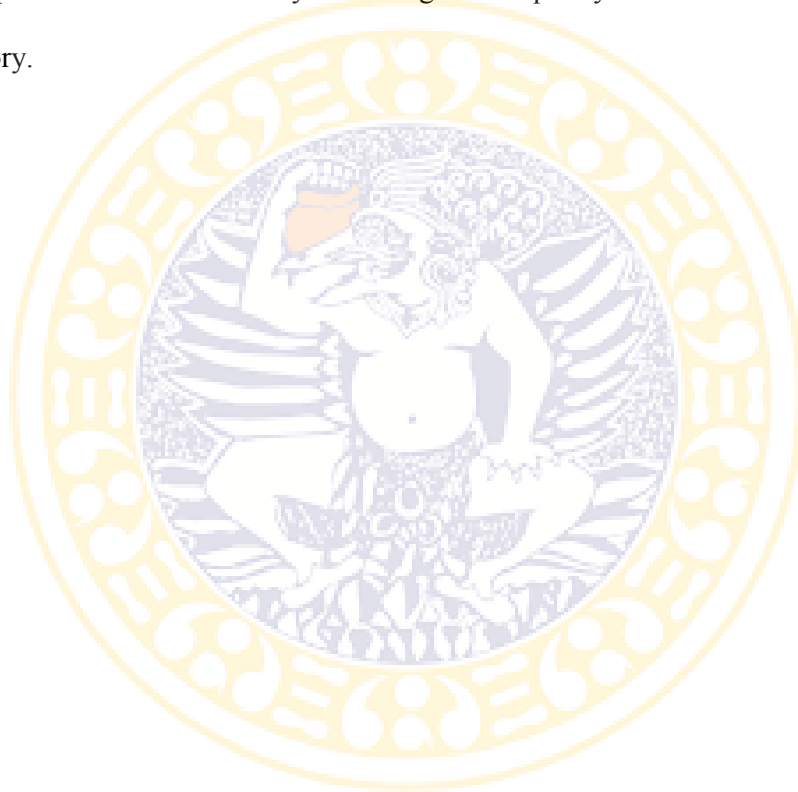
always support her. Unfortunately, she did not tell about her pregnancy to her family yet.

It is resulted to the conflict within her heart. In one side, she wanted to tell her family about her condition because she realized that she could not hide it forever. The baby would grow up, and she would deliver the baby later, so it was impossible that she still hid about it because they will know it. But in other sides, she could not tell them because she was not ready to see her family respond about it, either they would accept or refuse it. But somehow, she decided to not tell anyone until she was ready because she did not know how to tell her family about her pregnancy. "I do not know, but I will not give him the chance to see again now. I will not let him see until none of us have any choices about what can be seen, what can be avoided, what is blind, and what will turn us to stone (88)."

But in the middle of the hurricane, she surprised by Skeetah when he told Daddy about her pregnancy (234). Skeetah already knew it although she never told him before. For the first time, her father did not believe it. Then, he asked her about the truth of what Skeetah said. When she told him about the truth, her father showed the different response with Esch's anxiety during that time. Her father accepted her condition and he said to Esch that they will face it and found out how long it has been together (246). Moreover, Randall also showed the response that he would support and accompany her through all of it (244).

In the end of the story, we can see that her family and society around her could accept her pregnant condition. Instead, Big Henry, one of her brother's

closest friends, wanted to accept her and her baby and said that he will always there for her. ““This baby got a daddy, Esch.” He reaches out his big soft hand, soft as the bottom of his feet probably, and helps me stand. “This baby got plenty daddies.” I smile with a tightening of my cheek. My eyes feel wet. I swallow salt. “Don’t forget you always got me,” Big Henry says (255).” But the negotiation she had done can be considered as an unsuccessful action because the author not explained that Esch already achieve gender equality with men till the end of the story.



CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

From the data that have been gathered, the writer draws the conclusion to answers the statements of the problem. Esch is the representation of a black woman who forced to dealing with the traditional gender roles and patriarchy system because of male's domination in her life. Although, she lived in the modern era where women already achieve the gender equality with men, but Esch's representation showed that she still trapped on patriarchal culture and need to fight against traditional gender roles in order to become a liberal women. Her condition portrayed as the same condition with women in second wave feminism.

In the analysis above, it is explained that Esch is the only woman in the house since her mother was passed away after gave birth her youngest brother, Junior. Thus, Esch had to replace her mother's position in the house as a wife and mother. Esch forced to dealing with traditional gender roles in her daily life by her father. Her father gives her the responsibility to manage the house, doing the household chores and stay in domestic area. Since she forced to replace her mother position in the family, she also forced to fulfill all her family needs and served them in her daily life indirectly.

But, Esch tried to breakdown male's domination over her life. She tried to negotiate with traditional gender roles, and changed the concept of men's control of women's life. She chooses to be become a sexually aggressive woman in order to show that she also wanted to have control of men in sexual activity. She

showed that she wanted to become a liberal woman, who can express herself in public independently, and do anything she wants to do with the way she change the concept of objectification and men's control over her body. She also showed that she tried to be strong to prove that she has power and did not always need men's help.

Unfortunately, the negotiation she had done is not success. It considered as an unsuccessful action because the author not explained that Esch already achieve gender equality with men till the end of the story. In the end of the story, the author just showed that her family and society around her could accept her pregnant condition. There is no clearly explanation about her negotiation is done or not. So it concludes that Esch is not achieving gender equality with men yet and she still fight to become a liberal woman.

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SYNOPSIS

Salvage *the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward

They heard it on the radio: A hurricane is coming, threatening the town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi. Esch's hard-drinking father can feel it in his bones. Esch and her brothers are trying to help prepare, but there are other worries, too. Skeetah is watching his prized pit bull, helpless as her new litter dies one by one. Randall, when not preoccupied with basketball, is busy looking after the youngest, Junior. And Esch, fifteen and motherless among men, has just realized that she's pregnant. The children of this family have always been short on nurture, but they are fiercely loyal to one another. It is together that they will face the building storm—and the day that will dawn after.