

**FEMINISM IN CARROLL LEWIS'S THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AND  
WHAT ALICE FOUND THERE  
(“FEMINISM” DALAM NOVEL CARROLL LEWIS THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AND  
WHAT ALICE FOUND THERE)**

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**Abstract**

This novel entitled *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* written by Carroll Lewis tells about Alice as a child who experiences being a Queen in Looking Glass World. This is feminism story of Alice to reach her goal become a Queen. Alice lives on Victorian era in England. This research uses qualitative research for analyzes the result of research using approach feminism. The main data are taken from Carroll Lewis's novel with the title *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*. The secondary data are taken from previous research, some books, journals, and internet sources. The analysis of this study uses inductive method. Inductive method in this research is taken from the specific form of feminism discourse, by using feminism approach. The writing of this thesis is to gain several goals. The first goal of this study is try to find out deeply information about feminism express in the novel. The second purpose is to show how feminism discourse constructed in the novel.

**Keywords:** *Feminism, being Queen, Victorian era.*

**Abstrak**

Novel dari Carroll Lewis berjudul *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*, bercerita tentang seorang gadis laki-laki yang mengalami pengalaman menjadi Queen dalam dunia fantasi, yang disebut Dunia Looking Glass. Cerita tentang feminisme oleh Alice yang dia cita cita kan menjadi seorang Ratu. Alice hidup pada era Victoria di Inggris. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode induktif untuk mencari hasil dari penelitian dengan menggunakan pendekatan feminisme. Data utama dari novel Carroll Lewis yang berjudul *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*. Data tambahan berasal dari penelitian penelitian sebelumnya terkait masalah pembahasan, pada beberapa buku, jurnal, dan artikel yang diambil dari internet. Kajian ini menggunakan metode induktif pada penulisannya, induktif nya berasal dari feminisme khusus, menjadi umum, menggunakan pendekatan feminisme. Penulis memiliki tujuan pembahasan. Pertama, tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah mendapatkan informasi mendalam terkait feminisme yang ditunjukkan di novel. Kedua, bertujuan menunjukkan bagaimana wacana wacana feminisme di bangun pada novel tersebut.

**Kata kunci :** “Feminisme”, “Queen”, “Victorian era”.

**Introduction**

Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* is a novel of child's fantasy. *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* was published in 1871. This novel is one of the greatest children novels of the 19th century and it is also written and published in respond to the great success of *Alice Adventure in Wonderland* (<http://www.fantasybookreview.co.uk/Lewis-Carroll/Through-the-Looking-Glass.html> accessed on 05 11 2014).

I am interested to study this novel profoundly because this novel raises feminism issues. It is about a journey of Alice, the main character, who joins the giant chess game of life as a white pawn. She replaces Lily who is too small to play in the game. Alice's destination is the

eight square where she can change into a Queen. During her journey, she meets weird characters and has many adventures. She is a stronger female fighting for gender rights with signs of feminism.

The image of women in Victorian era is home loving. They like to devote her daily life for their family such as they take care of their children, run the household tradition. They also tend to be obedient women to their husband. They never resist their husband. Even in some cases, they also help their husband in relation to the family's economy. They often work to help their husband in their homes to support their family's economy. By contrast, in this novel, Alice is a little daughter becoming an agent of feminism for an adult woman. It is depicted when she has an idol to be a queen whose authority to control her own fate.

Based on the description above it can be concluded that this novel is actually about an exploration of the woman development in which it finally drives toward feminism portrayed by Alice. For instance, in the chess game, Looking Glass World, Alice covers by White Knight when Alice hunted by Red Knight in this game. It means that Alice as a little girl or woman is a weak. In contrast, Knight is a stronger. It shows that Knight has a powerful to cover Alice, and it shows gender in this action. The feminism is portrayed through the dialogues, actions or events that are contradictory to real meaning.

Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* contains feminism discourse. Feminism is a collection of movements and ideologies which share a common stated aim: to define, establish, and defend equal political, economic, cultural, and social rights for women (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/feminism> accessed on 05 11 2014).

In relation to the explanation above, this thesis discusses deeply about feminism in the novel of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*. Therefore this thesis is entitled "Feminism in Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*".

### Research Method

The novel of *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* is used to find the data of feminism that will be classified and examined using approach feminism. Therefore, I use approach feminism as the theoretical base to resolve the analysis. I read up all sources to find feminism data or discourse and the role of woman in the novel. The data from the result of reading material then are used to answer the problem of research.

The data collected from the sources are used to discover the answer of the problems. The qualitative data are taken from the novel *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* written by Lewis Carroll, thesis, journals, books, and internet articles. The primary data are obtained from statements and dialogues of the novel that contain feminism. I use approach feminism in analyzing the feminism in the novel. I adopt his definition and clarification of feminism discourse. The secondary data are gained from thesis, journals, books, and internet articles that discuss the feminism, women of Victorian period, English social condition and the historical background of the writer.

### Result

The result of this article is to show some problems which is related to feminism in the real life of Lewis Carroll as the author of the novels and it represents on the main character of her novel, Alice. Hence, this research wants to elaborate the specific information and fact about Alice become a Queen related to feminism issues. This talks about gender at all. Alice lives in Victorian period, when Queen Victorian reign. Queen Victorian is a symbol of feminism or icon of feminism in this era. It relates Alice as a symbol of feminism in Looking Glass world.

### Discussion

Alice as the main character is a seven and half years old English girl. Alice is a creative and clever girl. "So here's a question for you. How old did you say you were?" Alice made a short calculation, and said 'Seven Years and six months (Carroll, 1871:79)'. As a child, she has creative activities that are called fantasy. Fantasy is not only a way to escape from reality but also way to go the world they have never been through before.

At the beginning of the story, she invents an idea about another world into the mirror. Alice observes that mirror reflect things perfectly, it likes the real world. It is called Looking Glass World.

"Well then, the books are something like our books, only the words go the wrong way; I know that, because I've held up one of our books to the glass, and then they hold up one in the other room."(Carroll, 1871:12).

Alice sees that a reflection of mirror views the opposite direction. This observation has given her the knowledge about reversal life style in her fantasy world, the Looking Glass world. The quotation above reflects about the struggle of little woman to change her world. She is an agent of feminism in Looking Glass World.

In opposite direction there, the Looking Glass world, nobody company Alice in her journey, but Alice meets strange characters and chess pieces. She meets Live Flowers, Insects, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Humpty Dumpty, The Lion and the unicorn and also chess pieces like Queens, Kings, Knights, Castles or Rooks etc. They come from the Looking Glass world.

After she enters into Looking Glass world, Alice is happy. She will be free. No one can scolding Alice again.

"In another moment Alice was through the glass, and had jumped lightly down into the Looking-glass room. The very first thing she did was to look whether there was a fire in the fireplace, and she was quite pleased to find that there was a real one, blazing away as brightly as the one she had left behind. 'So I shall be as warm here as I was in the old room, 'thought Alice:' warmer, in fact, because there'll be no one here to scold me away from the fire. Oh, what fun it'll be, when they see me through the glass in here, and can't get me!" (Carroll,1871:14).

Based on the description above conclude that this novel is actually about Alice's exploration in social society in Looking Glass world.

In this story, Alice is an agent of feminism. She is English girl. She starts her journey by herself. Nobody companies Alice in Looking Glass world. She finds her fantasy world into the glass or the mirror. She plays a chess

game. I mean that the plot of the story like chess game rules.

“She added in a tone of delight, and her heart began to beat quick with excitement as she went on. ‘it’s a great huge game of chess that’s being played—All over the world- if this is the world at all, you know. Oh, what fun it is! How I wish I was one of them! I wouldn’t mind being a Pawn, if only I might join- though of course I should like to be a Queen, best (Carroll, 1871:30)”.

The quotations above explain that Alice wants to be one of them social status, especially to be a Queen. Being a Queen, Alice must try step by step, it is not instant way. She will be a pawn in the first time. Alice joins the giant chess game of life as a white pawn.

“For some minutes Alice stood without speaking, looking out in all directions over the country- and a most curious country it was. There were a number of tiny little brooks running straight across it from side to side, and the ground between was divided up into squares by a number of little green hedges, that reached from brook to brook. I declare it’s marked out just like a large chess board!” Alice said at last. There ought to be some men moving about somewhere- and so there are!”(Carroll, 1871:30)”.

Alice sees the Looking Glass world from the valley guiding by Red Queen. She sees the landscape like giant chess board. Alice as a woman tries to join the play of chess game as real life in Looking Glass world.

In that game, chess game, Alice replaces Lily who is too small to play in the game.

“She glaced rather shyly at the real Queen as she said this, but her companion only smiled pleasantly, and said, ‘That’s easily managed. You can be White Queen’s Pawn, if you like, as Lily’s too young to play; and you are in the Second Square to began with: when you get to the Eight Square you’ll be a Queen-’Just a moment, somehow or other, they began to run (Carroll, 1871:31)”.

The quotation above shows that Alice shows the woman in general. She feels uncertain to be a Queen. As a guide of Looking Glass world, the Red Queen gives advice to Alice that way to be a Queen. It is very easy way. It is just get to the Eight Square. Red Queen said that Alice will be a Queen in Eight Square. She just runs in the next and next square, in step by step way.

### Conclusion

Alice’s fantasy has brought her to join the giant chess game as a white pawn. Her goal is the Eighth Square where she can turn into a Queen. During her journey, Alice meets strange society or her playmate on it world. It is called Looking Glass world. All of the strange societies push Alice to follow their rule of Looking Glass world.

This thesis has discussed two problems that are presented in the problem to discuss in the first chapter. The problem are concerned about explanation and clarification how feminism expressed in *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*. The last one is explanation facing the discourse feminism constructs in the novel.

Feminism has bound the Looking Glass world’s life. The journey of Alice become a Queen, red Queen guides her in Looking Glass to reach it. The insect in the Looking Glass world learns that woman is like a butterfly. She is a beautiful, in good attitudes like a butterfly with a beauty of nature. The lion and the unicorn have an opportunity to get involved in governmental matters. They learn how to be a real woman, to struggle in reaching her right to be a Queen. She must have a powerful authority to control Looking Glass world. Humpty Dumpty teaches Alice how to be a simple and complex woman. It symbolizes a wall of Humpty Dumpty, the wall that has two directions. Twedledee and Twedledum, they teach how to solve the problem of life. White Knight covers Alice in wood. However, she is covered by other people. She must control her life by herself. Live flowers shows to social class structure in Looking Glass world. Alice joins the game faces social class of society in Looking Glass world.

As a little girl, Alice views everything as it is. She looks in perspective of little woman to adult woman. It is simple than adult view everything as it should be. Adult have to think about the appropriateness in all action. Alice is free to be what her want. This is a simple and complex of her experiences in Looking Glass world. A struggling of an agent of feminism reaches her goal to be Queen.

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