



**THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN DOMINATING WOMAN IN
AYOBAMI ADEBAYO'S *STAY WITH ME***

THESIS

Written by :

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS JEMBER**

2019



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Submitted to English Department,
Faculty of Humanities, Jember University, as one of requirements to obtain the
degree Sarjana Sastra in English Studies

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Giffana Fida Azizah

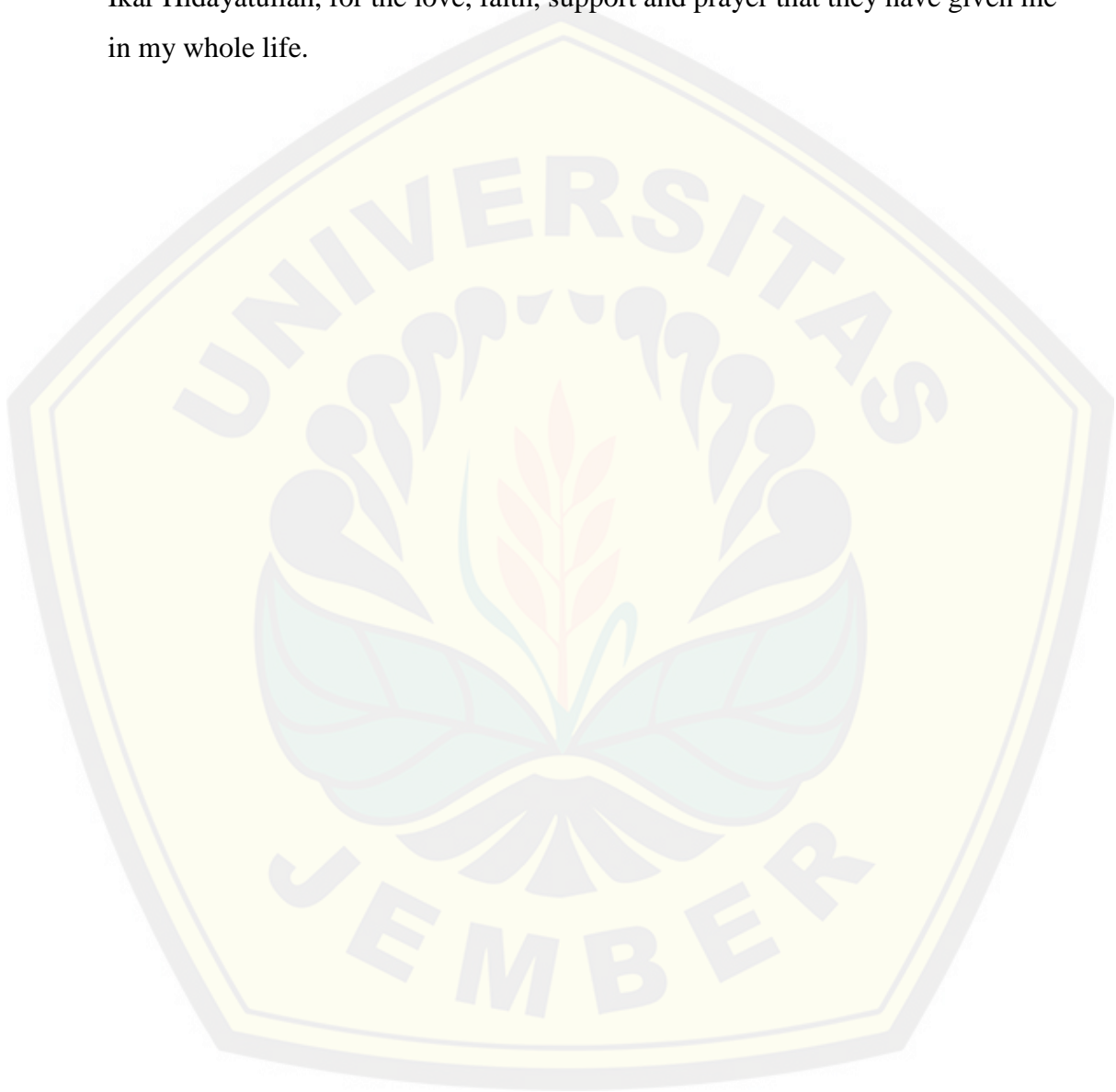
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DEDICATION

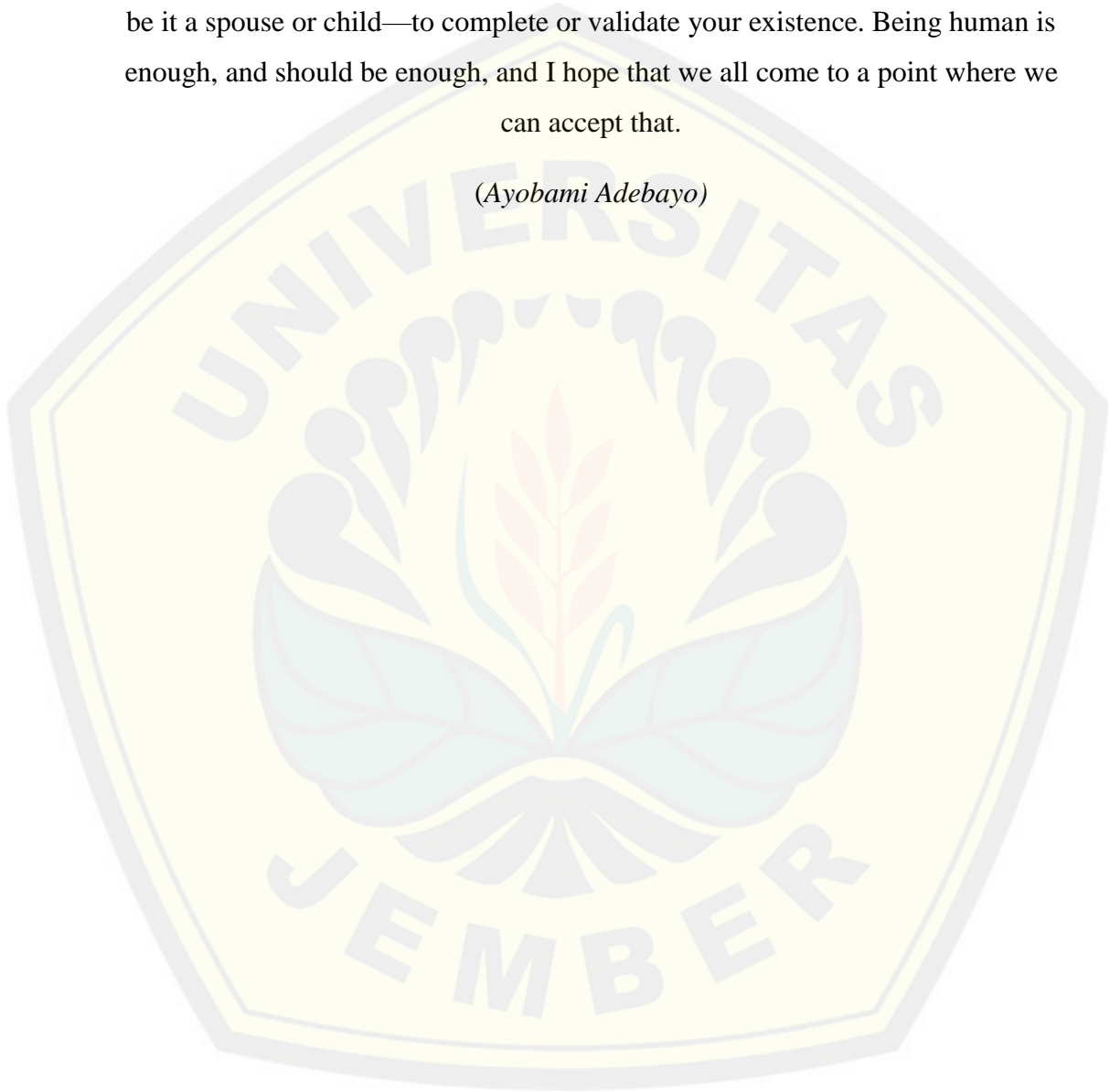
This thesis is dedicated to my dearest parent, Maria Prasetyaningsih and Sumarno, and my beloved sister and brother, Annastacia Ayu Pramesti and Diri Ikar Hidayatullah, for the love, faith, support and prayer that they have given me in my whole life.



MOTTO

I think for women in particular, it's kind of like you're expected to get married, have a child, and then you get to be a person. But you don't need someone else—be it a spouse or child—to complete or validate your existence. Being human is enough, and should be enough, and I hope that we all come to a point where we can accept that.

(Ayobami Adebayo)

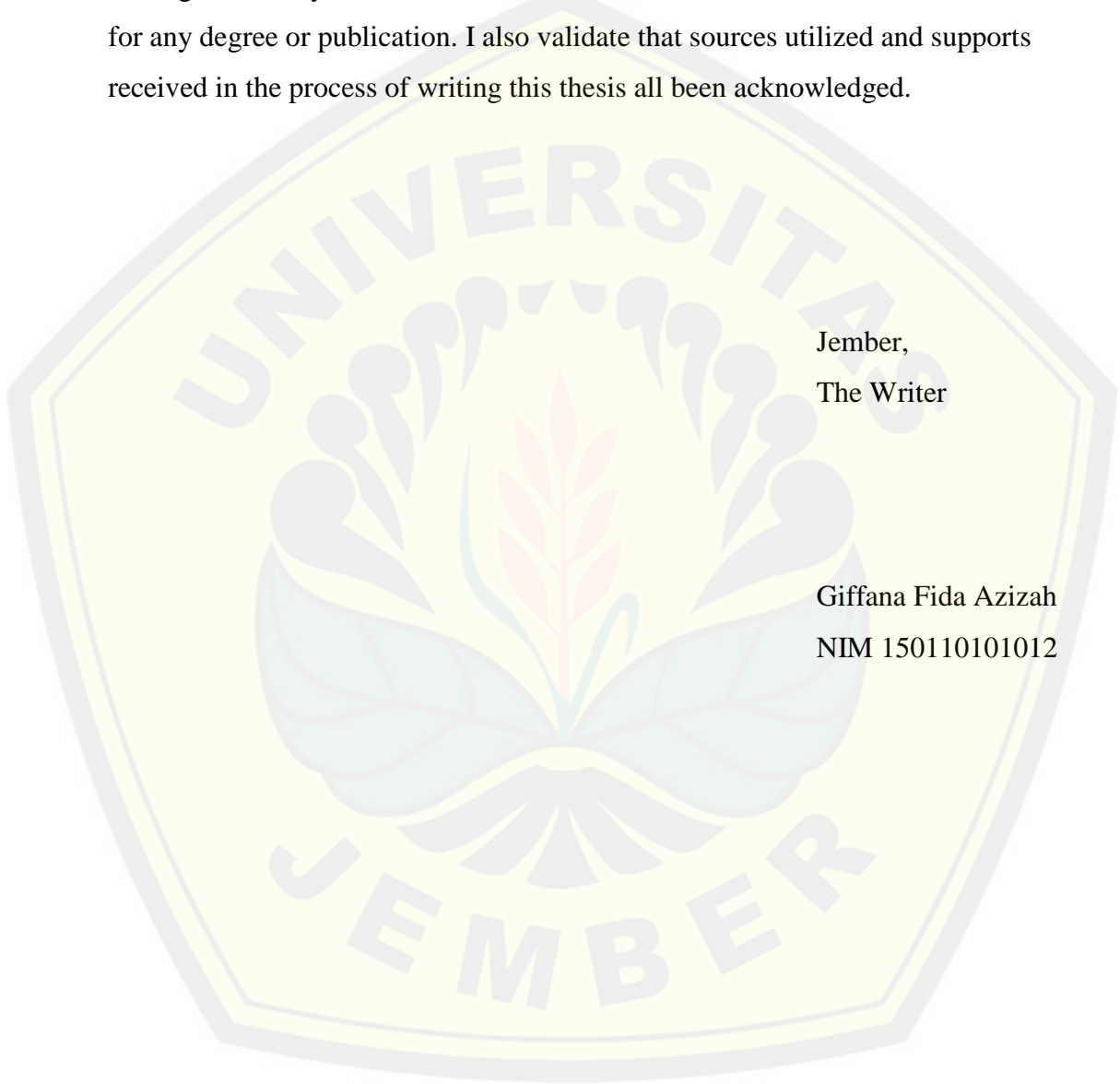


DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled “**The Representation of Women Dominating Woman in Ayobami Adebayo’s *Stay With Me***” is an original writing. The analysis and research contained in this thesis have never been done for any degree or publication. I also validate that sources utilized and supports received in the process of writing this thesis all been acknowledged.

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The Writer

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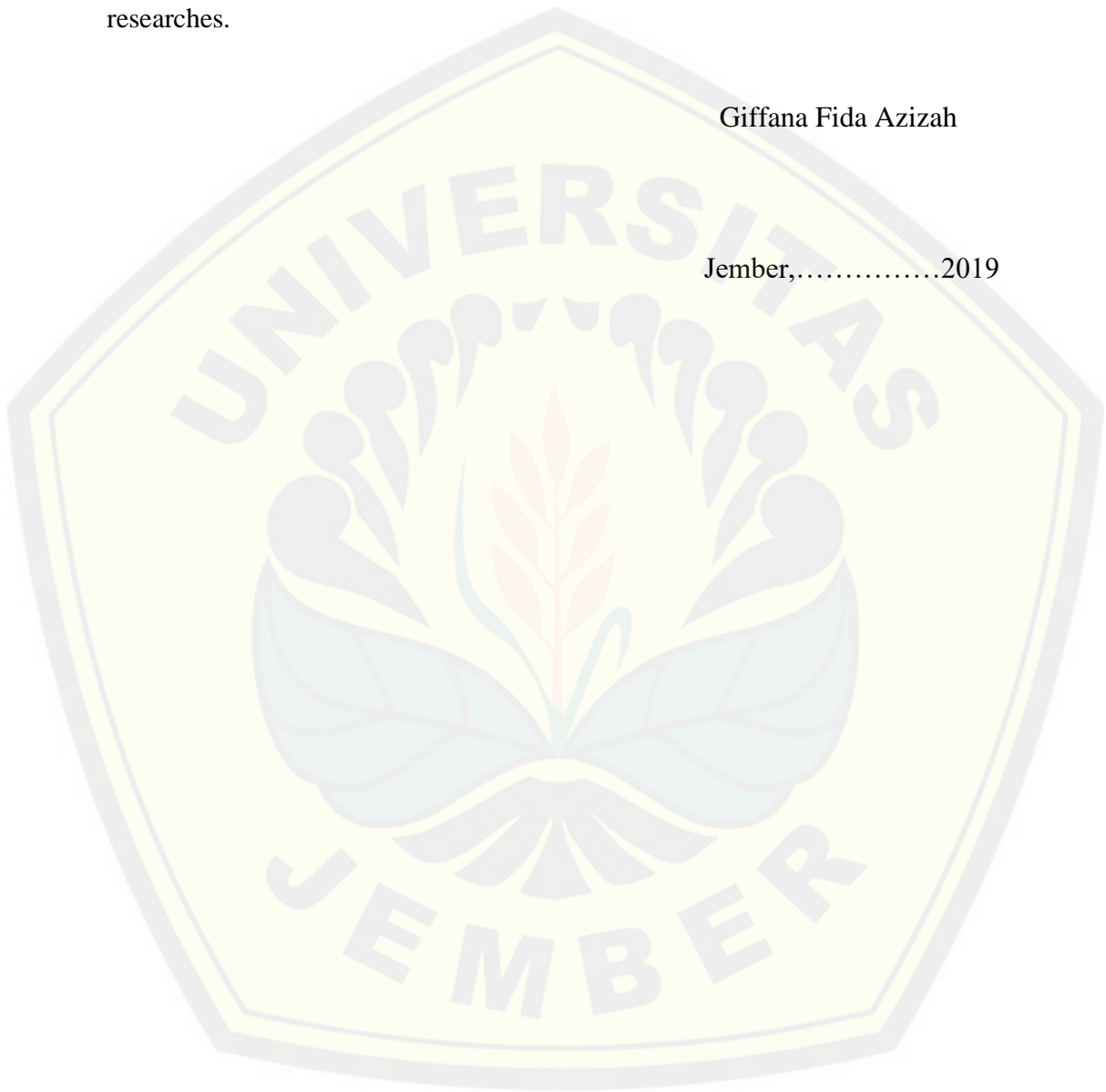
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Hopefully, this research can bring contribution in women studies to the other academic researches.

Giffana Fida Azizah

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SUMMARY

The Representation of Women Dominating Woman in Ayobami Adebayo's *Stay With Me*; Giffana Fida Azizah, 150110101012; 2019: 44 pages; English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

This research aims to delineate the discourse of women dominating woman constructed in Ayobami Adebayo's novel, *Stay With Me*, which is published in 2017. The study analyzes a childless woman's condition that is being oppressed, objectified and subordinated by other women in her surroundings. The main female character, Yejide, is still childless after her four years of marriage. Her childless condition makes Yejide, as a subordinate woman in her patriarchal society, being oppressed and objectified by women in her surroundings. In the textual form, Ayobami Adebayo conveys her opinion and feeling about harsh treatment that receives by a childless woman in patriarchal society that done not only by men but also by women. To analyze the discourse of women dominating woman, I use Stuart Hall's representation theory linked to Michel Foucault's discourse. The research is categorized as qualitative research, as the data use are in the form of literature which is narrative sentences. In addition, there are two kinds of data in my research which are primary and secondary data. The primary data are taken from narrations and dialogues in the primary source, *Stay With Me*. Meanwhile, the secondary data are taken from related journals, books, essays, and other sources which present any information about the contextual background in Nigeria in 1980s and the biography of the author.

It can be summed up that a childless woman are treated badly and even consider as 'not woman' by other women in her society. During Yejide's struggle, as a childless woman, to keep her position as a wife she is treated as a subordinate, seen only as an object that produce child, and also get oppressed by women in her surroundings. Thus, by treating Yejide as a subordinate, exploiting by objectifies her and oppress her, they want to control on what Yejide should do and not do as a woman, and this three aspect form the discourse of women dominating woman in

the novel. The novel setting is in Nigeria where the society is patriarchal. Moreover, the setting is at 1980s where patriarchal is the dominant culture and affect every aspect of life of the people that live in the culture. That is why the relation of women dominating woman and patriarchal culture is important. It is because patriarchal culture is the one that triggers women to dominate other women to support male supremacy.

Above all, Ayobami Adebayo, despite her protest and resistance towards patriarchal culture that seen in her novel, still shows how she as a woman in a patriarchal culture cannot fully escape those culture. In addition, she also emphasizes on childless women who do not fit into the expectation will receive harsh treatment and are treated as less than human, and more importantly she wanted to highlight that the one that capable of dominating women by objectifying and oppressing is not only men, but also women towards other women.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter convey the basic idea of carrying out this research. This chapter consist of the background of study, the topic of discussion, the research question and the goal of study. Each of them will be presented as follow:

1.1 Background of Study

Stay with me by Ayobami Adebayo is a novel which is about the marriage of Yejide and Akin who are still childless after four years of marriage. During those four years, Yejide and Akin had gone to fertility doctors and healers but result in nothing. The story takes place in Lagos, Nigeria. Their family and in-laws getting bewildered by their childless problem. Akin and Yejide mothers – they have more than one mother because of their polygamy family – put much pressure on them to have a child. In the end, Akin does polygamy under the pressure of his mother. He marries another woman and leave Yejide to carry the shame of her supposed barrenness alone under the gaze of exasperate society and in-laws. It is said as ‘supposed barrenness’ because their family and even Yejide did not know that Akin who hide his barrenness perfectly was the one who has a problem so that they cannot have a child. The society, family, and in-laws not knowing this fact blame Yejide for their childless.

The society will expect a married couple to have children a couple of years after they are married. The question is how if you do not fit into this expectation? If you are a man, there is support. The man can fall back on his family. If you are a woman, even the woman family can turn their back on her. The woman family and in-laws will pressure her to have a child because of her gender roles. Moreover, society will suspect and blame that the woman was not doing or do something that somehow she cannot bear a child. The blame that falls on a woman is because society views that it is a woman role to be able to carry a child.

“In Africa, marriage and procreation are intertwined and inseparable. It is almost always presumed that readiness for marriage is readiness for

procreation; to get married is an opportunity to contribute freely, through procreation, to the survival of the lineage and society at large.” (Abasili, 2011: 555)

As the statement says, if the woman fails to bear a child it means that the marriage fails to lead to procreation, in that case, the society will blame the woman for this failure. As the novel takes place in Nigeria, it makes sense why not having children after a couple of years after marriage becomes a problem in this novel. Childless makes women lose their standing in society because they are not viewed as a complete person. A woman is viewed as not woman enough if they cannot bear a child. “Women manufacture children and if you can’t you are just a man. Nobody shall call you a woman.” (Adebayo, 2017:40). As one of the dialog from *Stay with Me* novel fit the explanation, said by a woman character to another woman character who does not have a child.

The consensus among contemporary writers is that the Nigerian society is patriarchal. It is a society where the gender role is distinct and evident. Moreover, patriarchy is a systematic organization of male supremacy and female subordination (Kramarae, 1992; Stacey, 1993; Aina, 1998). Because of its distinct and evident that one of the woman roles is to bear a child, not having children in patriarchal society are the reason why society and their family blame and judge the woman for their failure to complete their role. Moreover, women in society today instead of sympathizing and encouraging the childless woman, they also blame and judge them for not being able to bear a child. Thus, following the systematic organization of male supremacy and female subordination, in which women unconsciously used to be a subordinate who support male supremacy.

The object of the study is a novel by Ayobami Adebayo entitled *Stay with Me* (2017) which tells about the marriage of Yejide and Akin – a young couple who decided to marry after a year of dating and who sworn off their culture’s polygamous traditions and to start a family of their own. As 4 years pass, with no child to appease their bewildered family, a lot of pressure come from their family and in-laws. In the end, Akin marries another woman and broke off his promise not to do polygamy under his mother pressure. Yejide is left to carry the shame of her supposed barrenness, trying so hard to be pregnant. Yejide even tried a ‘miracle

way' by following some prophet and carrying a goat up into mountain, do some ritual and end up with *Pseudocyesis* (false pregnancy) because her mind believe what the prophet said that she will have a child after the ritual even if no man comes near her. Several things are done by Yejide that lead to following ritual to have a child and even adultery with Akin's blood brother in order to keep up with what Akin's mother want, which is a child and keep her position as Akin's wife.

From the brief summary of the story above, the author explores Yejide and Akin way to fulfill the expectation of society, family and especially their mother to have a child. Akin's mother pressure to control them that lead the story into adultery and polygamy. I am interested in figuring out the discourse of women dominates woman as my research topic because it is a chance for me to open the eyes of women to the present of women dominates woman that happens around us without our self being aware of it, and to support each other and value their self rather than objectify or control other woman that will advantage men rather than themselves. Lastly, in gaining the purpose of my research, I would like to apply Representation theory using constructionist approach by Stuart Hall as the main theory and Michel Foucault's discursive model as the supporting idea.

1.2 Problems to Discuss

The pressure to please Akin (her husband) comes from both of theirs mothers and aunts which is a woman that makes different kinds of dominating that comes from women towards another women. This research is intended to figure out the discourse of women dominating woman that constructed in the novel, to delineate the contextual background of the novel, and to delineate the critical position of the author using Stuart Hall's Representation theory particularly constructionist approach and Foucault's discursive.

Based on the explanation above, the research question will be:

1. How is the discourse of women dominating woman constructed in the novel?
2. What is the critical position of the author?

1.3 Goals of Study

1. To figure out the construction of women dominating women in the novel.
2. To uncover the critical position of the author.



CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consist several literature reviews adopted from previous research and some of theories expert related to the research focus. The first sub-chapter explains some of previous studies related to the research focus. The next sub-chapter explains the theory that I apply. I utilize the Representation by Stuart Hall particularly using constructionist approach with Foucault's discursive in order to achieve the purposes of this research.

2.1 Previous Researches

The ability to carry out a competent literature review is an important skill for researcher. Thus, by considering previous researches, researcher is given limitation in order to prevent the discussion to be out of context. Previous researches used to see what aspects have not been discussed yet. It also prevent the recent researcher to discuss the same issues that have been discussed by applying the same perspective and needed to be attached in this research in order to avoid any kind of plagiarism. In addition, previous studies help the recent researcher to bring an element of novelty in his research.

In this research, I discuss two previous researches related to the topic I analyze. The first previous research is a thesis written by Novitasari entitled "The Criticism Against Dehumanization in James Patterson's *When The Wind Blows*" (2018). The second previous research is "Women Against Women: A Literary Analysis of Selected Nigerian Folklore" (2014) written by Anthonia M. Yakubu.

Two previous researches are used to support my research. The first is a research conducted by Novitasari entitled "The Criticism Against Dehumanization in James Patterson's *When The Wind Blows (2018)*". This research focuses on the analysis of dehumanization in human experimentation. Novitasari utilizes the Representation theory from Stuart Hall regarding Foucault's discursive. She focuses on analyzing the discourse of dehumanization that portrayed by a legal institute as School and operated by headmaster named Dr. Peyser and his people to school children as unwitting subjects of human experimentation. The children in

the school are used as experiment subject which their gens are hybridized to animal's DNA, so they become winged-human. In her thesis, Novitasari emphasizes on the critic of human experimentations that the author of the novel portrayed in relation with the contextual background at that time and the critical position of the author of dehumanization issue. Novitasari used Representation by Stuart Hall and discursive approach by Michel Foucault to uncover the construction of dehumanization in the novel. Novitasari delineates that dehumanization in human experimentation conducted by legal institute as School is strongly related to real condition in USA in early 20s. Thus, through the novel, James Patterson tries to criticize dehumanization in legal institute by creating similar problem in his novel to real condition in USA. Novitasari's thesis do not have the similarity with the topic of my research. However she uses the same theoretical framework as I do, which is the theory of Representation by Stuart Hall and the discursive approach by Michel Foucault. Then, in association with the research I am doing, the contribution of this research towards my thesis is to give a guidance to apply Stuart Hall's theory and the discursive approach by Michel Foucault.

The second is another research carried out by Anthonia M. Yakubu entitled "Women Against Women: A Literary Analysis of Selected Nigerian Folklore (2014)". It analyzes the different causes and conditions that make it possible for women to give out unfair acts on other women through a critical analysis of Nigerian folklore. First, it analyzes myth as the foundation of Nigerian women. Second, it analyzes about proverbs that depict negative traits attributed to women such as: envy, gossip wickedness, greediness, selfish and evil. Thus, it is believe that proverbs are used to disempower, degrade and belittle women. Last, it analyzes about proverbs in Nigeria, mostly in Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa ethnic group, and it effects on creating the character of Nigerian women. As the Nigerian women hear the proverbs all the time, they come to believe these negative thing about themselves and sometimes unconsciously use the proverbs against fellow women. This research use psychoanalysis to reveal the complex threads which permeate race, ethnicity, class and religion which closely related to women in relation to gender. However, as psychoanalysis does not explain the phenomenon of women

against women, the researcher also use feminism theory of subjectivity as the second theory to reveal the act of women against women as the effect of patriarchy. After applying the psychoanalysis and feminism, the researcher observed that women mistrust other women that they see inferior to them, they do that as their 'contribution' to the development and sustainability of their various patriarchal communities. Feminism helped Yakubu make a clearer role of patriarchy in this matter. Boys and girls are given different social conditionings, thus the relation is boys superior to girls. They grew up believing to these conditioning. Men relate to men in a positive way while women relate positively toward men but negatively toward women. This disunity among women ensure the sustainability of patriarchy. This research has critically analyzed the credibility of seeing women as their own worst enemies. This study has similar with my topic research which is about women and their unfair act, where in Yakubu research said as women against women and my research about women dominates woman. However, even though the topic is similar, but the data are different. While Yakubu research used Nigerian folklore as the data for the analysis, I use a novel by Ayobami Adebayo entitle *Stay with me*. Furthermore, in association with the research I am doing, the contribution of this research toward my thesis is to give an understanding about the origin of Nigerian women character and belief to their womanhood and gender role.

Both of the previous research above help me in formulating and implementing appropriate theoretical framework, which also serve as a comparison for the research I am working on. Therefore, it can be ascertained that my research contains a novelty value that is different from previous researches. The first thesis focuses on representing dehumanization, and the second thesis focuses on the critical analysis of women against women through folklore, my thesis focuses on the construction of women dominates woman. I use the representation theory by Stuart Hall to help me formulating my thesis. Thus, as the first previous research also use the same theory, it will help me to understand the theory. The second previous research which is the women against women in Nigerian folklore has close relation with patriarchy that will help me to understand the reason and origin of the women dominates woman discourse. However, these two previous research are

different with my thesis because both of the object are different. I will focus on how women dominating woman represented in the novel and how it happens because of patriarchal constructed in society.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This sub-chapter focuses on the main theory I apply to answer the research questions of my research. Since I use theory of Representation by Stuart Hall, the following parts of this chapter will discuss and elaborate the operation of Representation theory towards the issue of women dominating women.

2.2.1 Theory of Representation

This subchapter explains Stuart Hall's theory of representation. This theory becomes the tool to figure out the purposes which are mentioned in the previous chapter. It will be analyzed through the language, the way they communicate, signs, ideas, and also the symbols. Hall through his book entitled *Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practice* states:

“Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people... Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of culture. It does involve the use of language, of signs and images which stand for or represent things.”

(Hall, 1997: 15)

Representation is a tool to produce and exchange meaning of the concepts in our mind through language. Language is one of the media through which thoughts, ideas, and feelings are represented in a culture (Hall, 1997: 1). Language also functioned as a sign, so do sounds, written words, images, painting, musical notes, and even objects that used to stand or represent our ideas, concepts and feelings to other people.

Representation works through the concept of signs and meanings. The concept is not always stabilized which mean it can be changed and it always has

new meaning. Thus, representation is changed as the result of changing in meaning. Representation is not a static process as it change along with the knowledge and the condition of the users. It is a constructive process of new ideologies that produce new meanings and the production of human thought construction. The meanings is produced and constructed through representation.

Representation has the significant role to occupy important case to the study of culture. As it said by Hall, that representation connects meaning and language to the culture (Hall, 1997:13). These three components are related to each other. Through the concept of mind, we can pictured in our mind to understand about the meaning. However, the meaning cannot be deliver or communicated without language. Thus, to deliver what in our mind we need to communicate it using language as the medium so that we can understand the meaning. This makes language as the essential part to deliver the message and to understand the meaning itself. In other hand, we need to understand the concept of meaning first to understand the meaning because some meanings cannot be expressed using language and it will help to understand the meaning by others.

According to Hall, representational system are divided into two system, they are: the mental representation and language. Hall said that:

“Mental representation: all things which we carry around in our heads. Meaning depends on the system of concepts and images formed in our thought which can stand for or represent the world. Language: to represent and exchange meanings and concepts we can only do that when we also have access to shared language.

Language depends on constructing a set of correspondences between our conceptual map and a set of signs, arranged or organized into various language which stand for or represent those concepts.”

(Hall, 1997: 17)

The two system are related to each other. For example: we recognize the concept of “bag” and we know the meaning. However, we cannot communicate the meaning of “bag” (for example, a thing which is used to carry things) if we cannot deliver it by using language that is understood by other people. Thus, the concept

exist in our mind makes us understand the meaning of things but to make other people understand the meaning we need to use language.

The construction of meaning differ in a culture or in a group of people because they have their own way to interpret something. People with different or specific background culture will not understand the meaning of something which is produced by other communities. Therefore, to deliver meaning to each other as it should be, the same cultural background is needed in interpreting the sign of language among each other.

Stuart Hall categorized the theory representation as account to be used into three approaches. These approaches are *reflective, intentional and constructionist*. The reflective approach function as a mirror to reflect the true meaning as it already exist in the world (Hall, 1997:15). It can be called as mimetic as it works by reflecting the truth in real life. It means that the language that written by the author comes within a reason. While, the intentional approach used to represent the author intention they should mean (Hall, 1997:25). It means that the language used to describe the meaning toward an object or things are based on the author individually intended meaning. As the author imposes his or her unique meaning on the world through language (Hall, 1997:25). The last approach is constructionist approach.

“Things don’t mean: we construct meaning, using representational system-concepts and signs....we must not confuse the material world, where things and people exist, and the symbolic practice and processes through which representation, meaning and language operate.”

(Hall, 1997: 25)

The constructionist approach do not depend the meaning on the material quality but on symbolic function. In this approach, using the representational system where concepts and signs through language is used to exchange the meaning and to communicate the concept meaningfully to others. It means that the meaning is constructed in and through language in representational systems.

According to the three approaches said above, I choose the third approach that is constructionist approach. The data to be analyzed in my research are in the form of sentences, dialogues and narrations of the author. Thus, the role of the

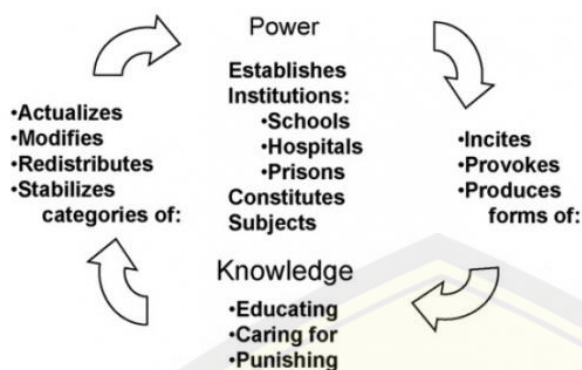
author in this research is firmly linked to how the novel actually interpreted as it should be, for the concept is ruled by the author as the narrator. Through the constructionist approach which uses representational system, concepts and signs to be represented through language, I can define the concept of women dominates woman in the novel.

Hall explains that there are two major variants or models of the constructionist approach that come from the works of a Swiss Linguist named Saussure and Michel Foucault. The major models are divided into semiotic approach by Ferdinand de Saussure and discursive approach by Michel Foucault. Therefore, as this research analyze the discourse of women dominates woman, the model of discursive approach by Michel Foucault is more reliable to my research.

2.2.2 Discursive Approach

In this case, I use discursive approach proposed by Michel Foucault which is more reliable to my research. According to Foucault, there are three major ideas that differentiate discursive approach with semiotic approach by Ferdinand de Saussure. The three major ideas of discursive are stated as the concept of *discourse*, the issue of *power* and *knowledge*, and the question of *subject*.

Power is omnipresent and structures the field of action for others (Foucault, 1982; 221). Power is not possessed, but rather circulate in a web or network. Primarily, Foucault concentrates on power-establishing institutions such as schools, prisons, and hospital, etc., that monitor and coerce society. Later on, Foucault shifts his attention towards power-producing knowledge that is pass on to society through the very same institutions. Once knowledge is internalized and becomes a sort of “truth”, society disciplines itself (Lemke, 2007; 18). Power and knowledge represented in the diagram below:



Source: JUNIPER (2007, p. 280)

These important three ideas in the process of representation using discursive will lead the researcher to find out the meaning of discourse in the research which will lead me to find out the meaning of women dominates woman discourse in my research. Moreover, Foucault opinion towards language construct the production of *knowledge* (rather than just meaning) through what he called *discourse* (rather than just language) in the form of literature. Foucault focuses on the understanding of human beings toward themselves in our culture and how our knowledge about the social, the embodied individual and shared meanings produce differently.

“By ‘discourse’, Foucault meant a group of statements which provide a language for talking about – a way of representing the knowledge about – a particular topic at a particular historical moment. Discourse is about the production of knowledge through language.”

(Hall, 1997: 44)

According to the statements above, the term discourse is used in broader way and emphasizes to the common sense of language and practice as it not bound by the circle of linguistics study. In addition, it can be utilized in a general term which is related to the usage language. Discourse delineate that knowledge exist due to language is used to produce understanding. The text written by author or the conversation made by people always produce meaning in which the meanings will become knowledge to the recipient. However, each period will have different knowledge since each period has its own way to represent its condition among the culture, life and its entirely meaning. 21st century and 19th century will be different

in represent its condition among the culture and life, since time and its condition changing based on the view of people in each period. Foucault said that each period surely produce different events and phenomenon, as each period has its own discourse which produces different object, subject, practice of knowledge that will lead to different knowledge. The production of knowledge and meaning through discourse is emphasized by Foucault.

Foucault concern emphasized on the production of knowledge and meaning, not through language but through discourse (Hall, 1997: 44). It means that the construction of meaning is concerned through the discourse. Foucault said, “We can only have knowledge of things if it has a meaning, it is discourse -not the things in itself- which produces knowledge.” (Hall, 1997: 45), which means knowledge is produced by discourse. Thus, the use of discursive practice is to analyze the representation because it uses discourse as a system of representation.

Therefore, discursive approach is reliable to my research since the issue I define is the representation of women dominates woman in the novel. The issue of women dominates woman is implicitly narrated by Ayobami Adebayo through the narration and dialogues in her novel. Moreover, I apply discursive approach as the constructionist approach because I believe it is suitable to my research in defining the representation of women dominates woman in the novel which ends as a knowledge.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD

This chapter delineate how the research is conducted. It consists of three sub-chapters in which the first sub-chapter explains the type of research I used, the second sub-chapter is the way I collect the data and the last sub-chapter is the way I process the analyzing data.

3.1 Type of Research

The data are in the form of literature, narrative sentences, in which directly lead to the qualitative data which it is a mandatory to use the qualitative data. Thus, in conducting the research, I uses qualitative research which collects the data from the main source, a novel entitled *Stay with Me (2017)*. Thus, I will define and elaborate the discourse of women dominate women utilizing theory of representation in Ayobami Adebayo's *Stay with Me*.

3.2 Data Collection

The important thing in conducting a research is data. This research uses Ayobami Adebayo's *Stay with Me* as the source data. The data in this research are divided into primary and secondary data. The primary data are taken in the form of narrations and dialogues that relate to the research topic i.e. women dominates woman which represented in subordination, objectification and oppression remarks and descriptions. While, the secondary data are taken from quoted statements such as books, journals, articles, literary work review, internet source, essays, mass media, etc. that can support the researcher's notions and hypothesis in analyzing the primary data related to the Nigeria social condition. Thus, all the primary and secondary data are collected by doing close reading technique. It is a technique of reading which requires intensity and focus on both of the significant data to develop a deep understanding the meaning of the texts.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis

The data processing and data analysis that is employed in this research are simply to answer the research question written in the first chapter. In order to define and elaborate the discourse of women dominating woman represented by the characters in the novel, there are several steps that I do such as close reading, classifying data, collecting data, analyzing data and making conclusions towards the process of analyzing data.

After doing the closed reading of the primary data, to apply Hall's representation, especially constructionist and discursive approach by Foucault, all of the data related to women dominating woman is classified into two categories. The first category is the data of objectification, subordination and oppression towards woman character represented in the novel, the second category of the data is the social context of the novel, and the author's social background.

First category of data are described and analyzed in order to answer the first question in the research. I analyze women objectification, women subordination and women oppression conducted by Akin's mother as the woman who dominates Yejide as other woman in the novel. Then, these aspects in the text will form a discourse of women dominates woman. The collected data in the form of quotation are specially sorted and classified to see the construction of the discourse of women dominating women actions such as women subordination, women objectification and oppression done to Yejide. The analysis focuses on the depiction of women objectification, subordination and oppression done by woman that will signify the domination of a woman over another woman under patriarchal society. By elaborating it, I will eventually answer the first research question of how the discourse of women dominates women constructed in the novel and the effect of the discourse towards several characters in the novel.

The next step is explaining the critical positions of the author represented in the novel. From the previous results of analysis about representation of women dominates woman, then I can discuss further to critical position of the author. As I use discursive approach which says that each period produce its own discourse

based on the condition among the culture and life at that period, the analyze data are continued by relating the result of primary data classification to the contextual background of *Stay with me* and also in order to prove that the real condition of the environment will influence the creation of literary works. The secondary data are taken from the books, journal, article, interview and other supporting sources in the form of quotation and statements. The secondary data are limited to the information about contextual condition of the literary work and the research topic, women subordination, women objectification, women oppression and women dominating women that can support the analysis of the data. In consideration of attaining specific description of the condition, the contextual condition of this research is Nigeria in 1985s, Africa, where the story is taken place and where the author of the novel was born and raised which contributes the author's value of life, education, and ideology origin that can give motives in the creation of her work. Therefore, after analyzing and connecting those primary data and secondary data, it is able to obtain an answer to the second research questions which is to uncover the critical position of the author.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Through this novel, Adebayo represents the condition of a childless woman in a patriarchal society that is dominated by other women in her surroundings. The struggle of women being dominated by other women under the domination of patriarchy in the novel is seen through Yejide. She portrays how women with no children are treated badly and even women in her society consider her as 'not woman'. During Yejide's struggle to keep her position as a wife she is treated as a subordinate, seen only as an object that produce child, and also get oppressed by women in her surroundings. Women in her surrounding such as her four stepmothers and her mother-in-laws have the privilege to discipline her on behaving according to their patriarchal culture. Thus, by treating Yejide as a subordinate, exploiting by objectifies her and oppress her, they want to control on what Yejide should do and not do as a woman, and this three aspect form the discourse of women dominating woman in the novel.

By linking to reality happens in Nigeria as the contextual background of the novel, Ayobami Adebayo tries to show the strength of patriarchal culture and women position at such a culture and time. Nigerian society is patriarchal, moreover the setting is at 1980s where patriarchal is the dominant culture and affect every aspect of life of the people that live in the culture. That is why the relation of women dominating woman and patriarchal culture is important. It is because patriarchal culture is the one that triggers women to dominate other women to support male supremacy. The patriarchal culture in 1980s that had become the truth for people in Nigeria make people self-discipline themselves to follow and obey the patriarchal culture. Thus, if someone does not fit into the patriarchal culture, the one to blame is the person who does not fit in the culture.

Above all, Ayobami Adebayo, despite her protest and resistance towards patriarchal culture that seen in her novel, still shows how she as a woman in a patriarchal culture cannot fully escape those culture. In addition, she also emphasizes on childless women who do not fit into the expectation will receive harsh treatment and are treated as less than human, and more importantly she

wanted to highlight that the one that capable of dominating women by objectifying and oppressing is not only men, but also women towards other women.



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