



**THE REPRESENTATION OF MASCULINITY AS SEEN THROUGH
THE SPOUSE IN GILLIAN FLYNN'S *GONE GIRL***

THESIS

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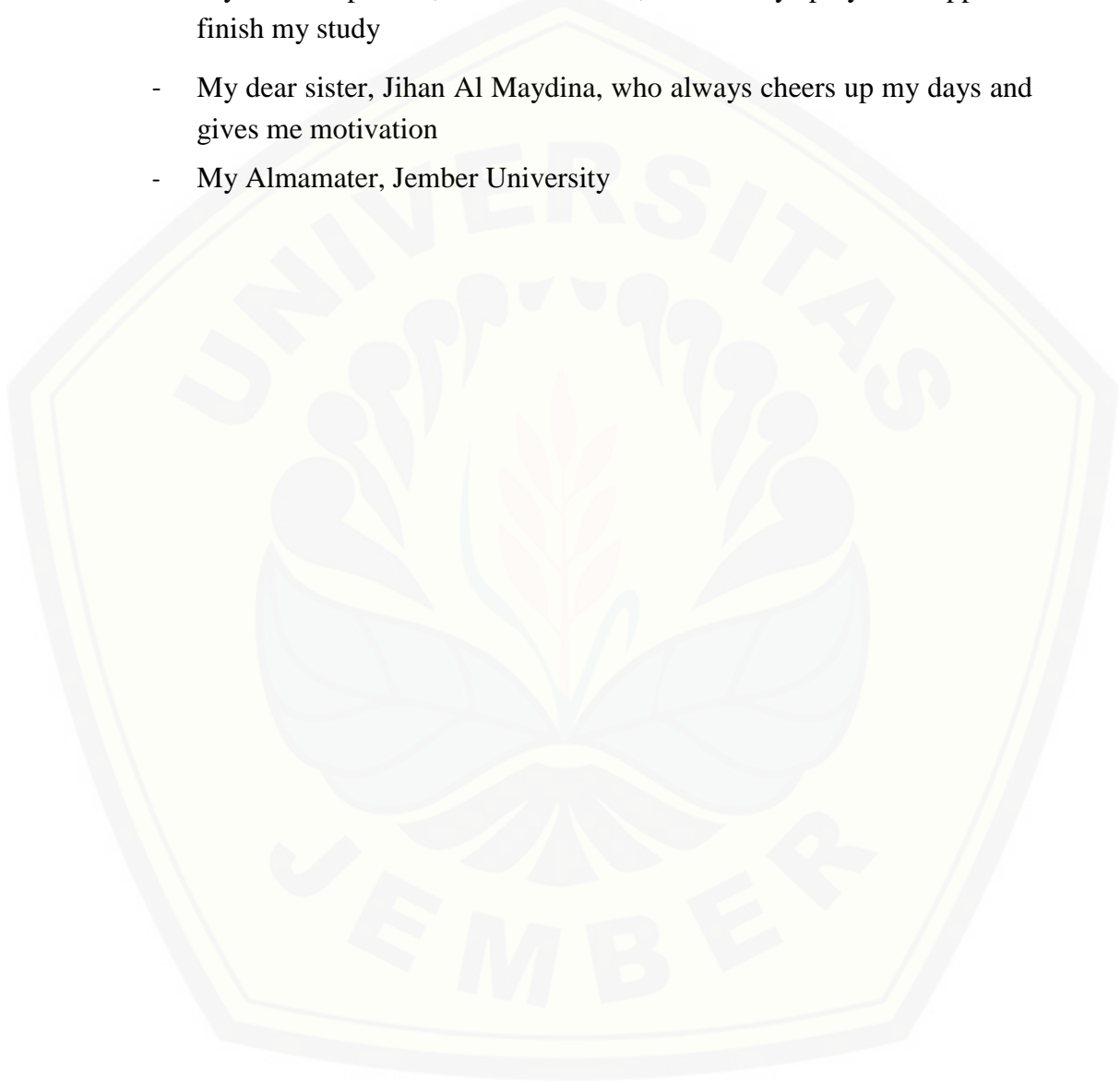
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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- My beloved parents, Zaini and Riana, Who always pray and support me to finish my study
- My dear sister, Jihan Al Maydina, who always cheers up my days and gives me motivation
- My Almamater, Jember University



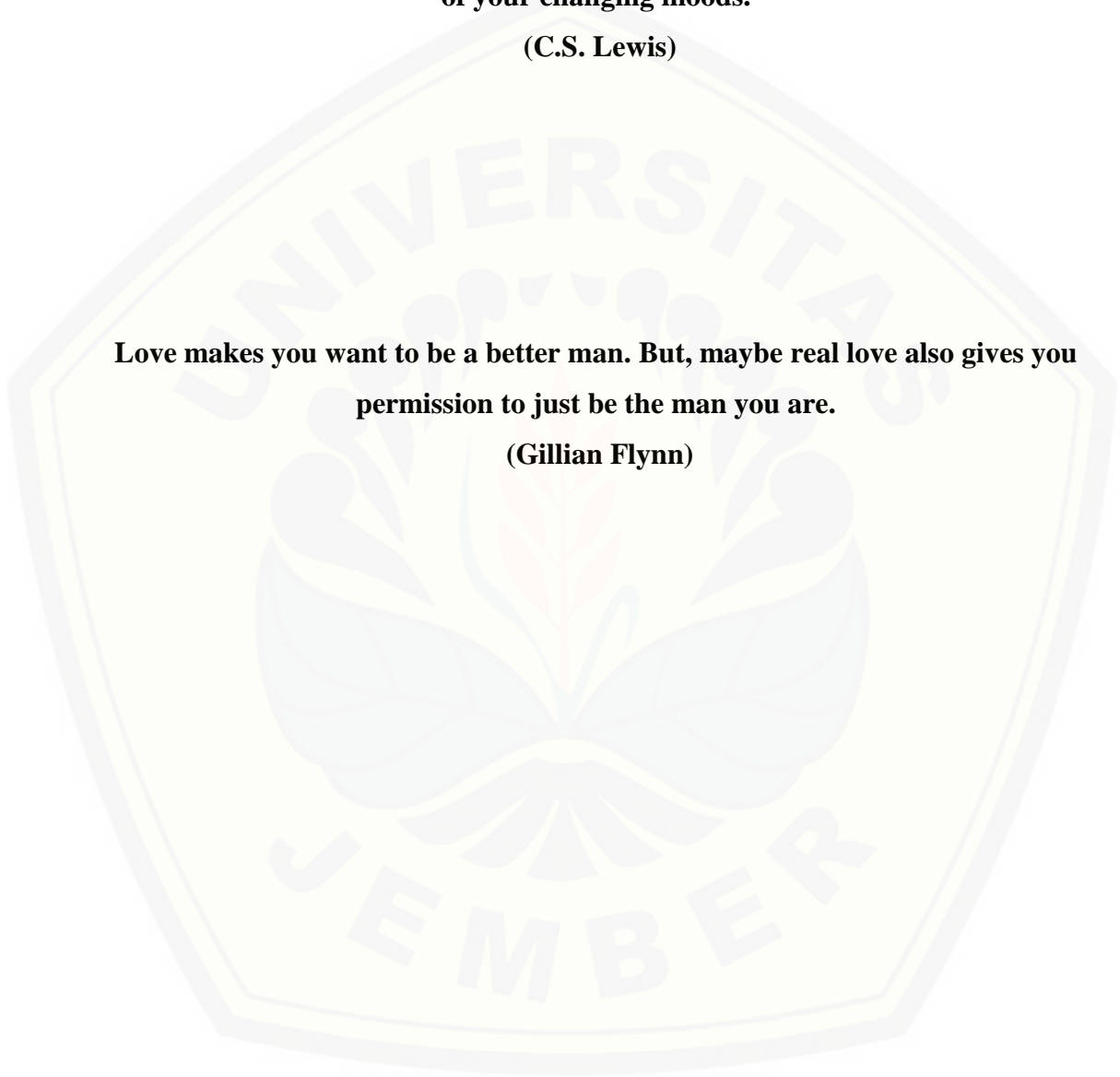
MOTTO

**Faith is the art of holding on to thing your reason has once accepted, in spite
of your changing moods.**

(C.S. Lewis)

**Love makes you want to be a better man. But, maybe real love also gives you
permission to just be the man you are.**

(Gillian Flynn)



DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “The Representation of Masculinity As Seen Through The Spouse in Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*” is an original work, except the quotation. I certify that the analysis and research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication. 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. I do make this statement truly, and there are no pressures from other people or groups

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SUMMARY

The Representation of Masculinity As Seen Through The Spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*; 110110101077; 2016; English Department, Faculty of Letters; Jember University; 42 Pages.

This research analyzes some issues related to the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn novel entitled *Gone Girl* which is published in 2012. The representation of masculinity is represented by the spouse as seen through their behaviors, languages, statements, and ideas related to masculinity. The discourse of masculinity and the problems that happen in the novel are interesting to be discussed. Moreover, I also want to know how the position of masculinity which is told in the novel and why masculinity is still to be considered more dominant over other gender identities.

The data of this research are classified into two kinds, primary data and secondary data. The primary data is any narrative descriptions and dialogues in *Gone Girl* that related to the research questions. The secondary data are any information from out of the novel that related to masculinity particularly in American society. They are analyzed from the specific cases to general conclusion. The theory of representation by Stuart Hall is used to analyze the discourse of masculinity as seen through the spouse in the novel which is constructed by Gillian Flynn. Then, the concept of hegemonic masculinity by R. W. Connell is applied to know what kind of masculinity that is constructed in the novel. After find out how the representation in the novel, all data from in and out of the novel are used to answer the research problems about contextual background of the novel and the ideology of the author related masculinity.

Finally, from the analysis, Gillian Flynn wants to influence the readers about marriage life with complex problems using American society background. The analysis of representation masculinity in *Gone Girl* novel also resulted that masculinity is not something which only associates with men but women can also

have masculine side. According to statements, behaviors, and ideas about masculinity in the novel show masculinity is something unstable. It can change depend on situation and condition from time to time and it also depends on the contextual bakcground.

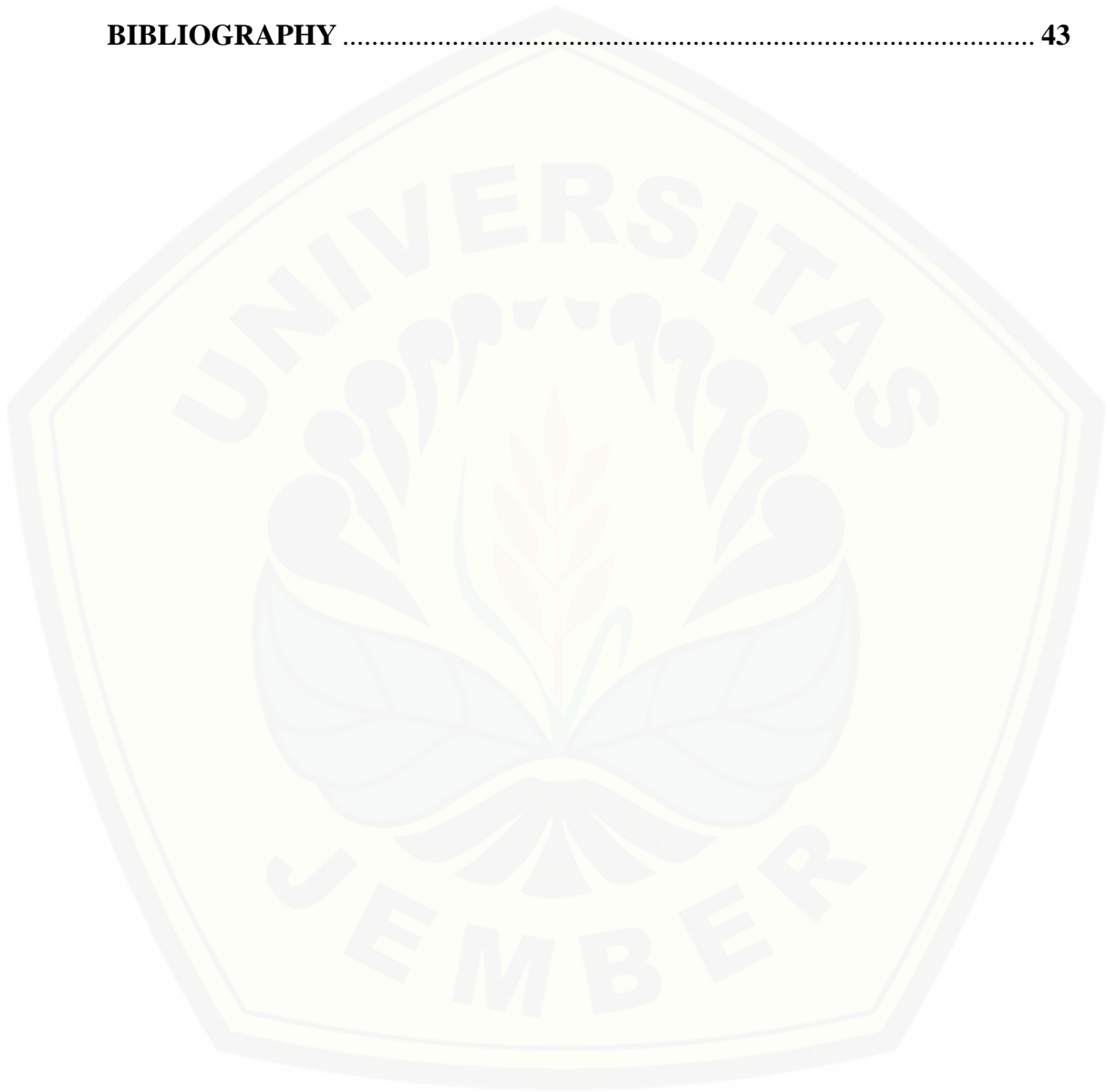
Key words : representation, masculinity, contextual bakcground, ideology.



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APPENDIXES A: BIOGRAPHY OF GILLIAN FLYNN

Gillian Schieber Flynn is an American writer, and former television critic for *entertainment weekly*. Some of her best writing were the *thrillers Sharp Objects* (2006), *Dark Places* (2009), and *Gone Girl* (2012), the latter of which she adapted for the screen in the 2014 film of the same name directed by David Fincher and also her newest work entitled *The Grownup* (2015). Her works are heavily dark and twisted stories.

Gillian Flynn was born on February, 24, 1971 in Kansas City, Missouri and raised in midtown Kansas City's Coleman Highlands neighborhood. Her parents were professors at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley: her mother, Judith Ann was a reading-comprehension professor and her father, Edwin Matthew Flynn was a film professor. Flynn has an older brother, Travis, who is a railroad machinist. Gillian Flynn was very shy person when she was a teenager and found escape in reading and writing. Her father often took her to watch horror movie that is her works are mostly dark and mysterious.

Flynn attended Bishop Miege High School and graduated in 1989. She attended the University of Kansas where she received her undergraduate degree in English and journalism. Gillian Flynn spent two years in California writing for a trade magazine for human resources professionals before moving to Chicago and attending Northwestern University for a master degree at Medill School of Journalism in 1997. Flynn initially wanted to work as a police reporter, but choose to focus on her own writing as she discovers she had no aptitude for police reporting.

After graduating from Northwestern, Flynn worked freelance briefly at U.S News and World Report before being hired as a feature writer in 1998 at Entertainment Weekly. In 2007, she married lawyer Brett Nolan and they have two children. In the middle of her career, she was promoted to television critic and wrote about films, but was laid off in December 2008. Some critics have accused Flynn of misogyny due to the often unflattering depiction of female characters in her books. Flynn also identifies as a feminist that she feels feminism allows for

women to be bad characters in literature. She gets frustrated of the idea women are innately good, innately nurturing but there is still a big pushback against that idea that women can be just pragmatically evil, bad, and selfish.



APPENDIXES B: THE SUMMARY OF *GONE GIRL*

Gone Girl tells about the story of Nick and Amy's marriage. The first part of the book talks about two different stories from Amy and Nick Dunne. In Amy's journals, she writes about her relationship with Nick in the past and Nick writes from the present. The two stories are not very alike. Amy's point of view on marriage makes her seem happier and easier to live with than how she is depicted by Nick, who describes her as anti-social and obsessed with perfection. Also, Amy's depiction makes Nick seem more aggressive than he says in his story.

Nick loses his job as a journalist and Amy loses her job as a magazine writer. The couple relocates to a small hometown in Missouri because Nick wanted to take care of his sick mother. He starts his own business by opening a bar using the last of Amy's trust fund and runs it with his sister. The bar allows the Dunne family to make a reasonable living, but the marriage takes a turn. Amy loved her life in New York and hates living in the house that Nick is renting.

On their fifth wedding anniversary, Amy disappears without a trace. Over time, Nick becomes a suspect in her disappearance for many reasons. He used his wife's money to start a business, increased her insurance policy, and seems unemotional about her disappearance in public appearances. The police later find items that Nick had denied purchasing in the woodshed in the garden. It is revealed that Amy was pregnant. In a box found in the shed were 3 doll figurines, each of the dolls representing the wife, the husband, and a child. Nick feels like he needs to hire a lawyer, so he contacts Tanner Bolt. Tanner Bolt is a lawyer who specializes in defending men accused of killing their spouses.

In the second half of the book, the reader learns that the main characters are unreliable narrators, and that they are not being given all of the information. Nick is having an affair with one of his college students and Amy is alive and hiding. She is trying to frame Nick for her "death." Her diary is revealed to be fake, intended to implicate Nick to the police. Nick soon discovers that Amy is framing him but has no way of proving it. Then, he hires Tanner Bolt to be his lawyer to change the public's perception of Nick. Nick discovers the truth about the people who supposedly harmed Amy in the past. According to their sides of

the story, Amy had set them up for seeing other women or for not doing things the way she had wanted them to. Nick is granted an interview with Sharon. During the interview, he pretends to be apologetic and appeals to Amy to come back.

Amy is robbed by guests of a motel she was hiding in. Desperate, she gets help from her first boyfriend. He agrees to hide her, but Amy soon feels trapped in his house as he becomes possessive. After seeing the TV interview with Sharon, she is convinced that Nick really does want her back. She murders her first boyfriend and returns to her husband. She explains that she had been kidnapped and imprisoned by her former boyfriend. Nick knows she is a killer, and her pregnancy was a fake. He stays in the marriage because he has no proof of her crimes and deceptions. Amy forces him to lie about his love, hoping that he will love her the way she wants. She begins writing her memoirs, while Nick writes how he is still in love with her. Aware of his intentions to expose her, Amy then makes herself pregnant by using Nick's semen from the fertility clinic. She makes him delete his book by threatening to keep him from their unborn child. In the end, Nick chooses to stay with Amy for his child's sake.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background as an overview of the whole thesis. It provides a clear description to readers about the topic discussion. The topic of this thesis is about the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. Then, there will be detail explanation in subchapters such as background of study, research problem, the goals of study, and the scope of study.

1.1. The Background of Study

Gender refers to person's experience of their identities relative to the categories of masculinity and femininity and any other genders are recognised by their societies. It is also defined as a social construct, an idea, an ideology, and way of seeing. When discuss about gender, it commonly uses masculinity and femininity terms to identify a set of characteristics, values, and norms. Masculinity and femininity play a central role in how to understand the characteristic of people as male and female. Masculinity and Femininity are examined in relation to other characteristics and behaviors. In broader view, these terms are known as set of attitudes, roles, norm of behaviors, hierarchy of values typical of the male and female in each society. Although, there are two types of gender identities, the female character Amy shows that she changes her behavior from feminine into masculine in middle until the last story. Therefore, this thesis is only focused on analysing masculinity that is represented through the spouse in *Gone Girl*.

The definition of masculinity according to *Oxford Dictionary* is associated with the biological male sex and the qualities or appearance traditionally associated with men. In gender-related areas, masculinity is understood more as a social, cultural, and temporal construction, rather than a biological one. Connell (1995:5) states that masculinty relates to perceived notions and ideals about how men should or are expected to behave in a given setting. Seidler (2004:44) argues that in modern society masculinity can never be taken for granted. Men must always prove that they are man enough to cope in the correct way with the problems and challenges of everyday life related to the engagement among men's

diverse relationship with their bodies, sexualities, emotional lives, feelings, and desires. Masculinity is not something about men are born with but rather expected on how the way of men to behave in social life. Hofstede (2001:297) argues that men are supposed to be assertive, tough, and focused on material success. Masculinity is also related to person's strength and how he can be assertive in every situation and condition.

Gone Girl is a thriller novel about marriage of Nick and Amy written by American writer Gillian Flynn. The novel is published in 2012. It tells about the story of Nick and Amy's marriage related to dishonesty, prejudice, revenge, and also problem about economic difficulty on their marriage. Since both the spouse lay off from their jobs, it emerges gender problems related to dominant and subordinate roles. The representation of masculinity in this novel is shown through the spouse that is depicted from their behaviors and their point of view about how to be dominant over the partner. The character of Nick is portrayed as a masculine in the novel. It is seen through the information, statements, and ideas that support the masculinity of Nick. The story tells that he likes to play video games, he can easily go out with his friends all night, he does not like to cry, he is a high tempered person, and he cheats on her wife. Besides, Amy's character is known as a feminine in the early of the story. She is a domesticated person, she likes to read books, she only has few friends, she likes to cook, and her appearance is also shown that she is a type of feminine. Then, she changes her behavior into masculine. She tends to do something which takes high risks like buying a gun, manipulating other people, cutting her long hair into short, and planning to kill herself even murdering her ex-boyfriend. It happens as the impact of knowing her husband's affair and she becomes obsessed with cool girl personality.

The gender problem related to masculinity in *Gone Girl* is interesting to be analyzed. The novel not only tells about the role of masculinity but also tells about the self-identity change that is depicted in Amy. Gillian Flynn states that Amy is "just pragmatically evil" character and non-conformity to the traditional perception of women as innately good characters are the embodiment of feminism, which she defined as "the ability to have women who are bad

characters” (The Guardian, 2015:3). Moreover, it also brings theme about marriage with complex problems, such as abusive spouse, cheating, and financial problem in marriage. Some problems in the novel commonly happen in real life marriage. Many spouses experience these kind of problems and it can be hard to be solved. Some partners can save their marriage and the other cannot. They end up with divorce. In the novel, it does not end up with divorce instead they still live in the same roof although turning hate each other and trying to be the dominant over their partner. Those become the reasons to analyze the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*.

This thesis uses Stuart Hall’s theory of representation to analyze the languages, statements, and ideas which represent masculinity in the novel. Hegemonic masculinity concept is used to understand about masculinity in the novel as seen through the spouse. R. W. Connell’s concept of hegemonic masculinity is a concept that sees masculinity is not only related to men but also women. Therefore, this thesis focuses on analysing the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*. All of the information which come from in and out of the novel will help to find out the answers of research problems of this research.

1.2 Research Problems

The first problem that is discussed in this thesis is the representation of masculinity in *Gone Girl* as seen through the spouse in the novel. In social life, media, and literature, men are mostly portrayed to be more powerful and dominant than women. Women are mostly considered to be weak and can not do men’s jobs and activities. *Gone Girl* tells about the life of spouse which is accompanied by gender representation particularly masculinity. The cultural background related to masculinity in the novel also becomes the problem that is discussed in this thesis. The last research problem is to understand about the author’s ideology beyond the novel.

Therefore, from those problems this thesis is formulated in three questions:

a. How is masculinity represented through the spouse in *Gone Girl*?

- b. What is the contextual background related to masculinity in *Gone Girl*?
- c. What is the ideology of the author related to masculinity beyond the novel?

1.3 The Goals of Study

There are some goals in analysing this research. First, this research is aimed to analyze the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in *Gone Girl* novel. The second goal is to understand about the contextual background which is related masculinity in the novel. The third goals is to know the ideology of masculinity which is raised by Gillian Flynn in the novel. At last, this thesis is expected can give some information for the study of English Literature about the representation of masculinity in the novel, it is also a reference for the study that related to the same topic.

1.4 The Scope of Study

The scope of the study is designed to make this research not too general or not too broad, based on that motive, a limitation data source is used in this research. This research is focused on analysing the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. The analysis leads to know how the representation of masculinity through the spouse in the novel. After finding out about how the representation of masculinity in the novel, the information will lead to understand about the contextual background that is described in the novel related to masculinity. In addition, this research will lead to find out the author's ideology beyond the novel. The theoretical framework of this research uses Stuart Hall's theory of representation to analyze about the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in the novel and Connell's concept of hegemonic is used as the supporting concept to understand about masculinity in the novel. Moreover, this research only focuses on the two main characters in the novel who represent masculinity. The characters are Amy and Nick.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter presents the previous researches and the theoretical framework briefly. The previous research is important because it proves that this thesis is original and never be analyzed by anyone. It includes some previous researches which are taken from a thesis related to the the topic and the theory. Then, theoretical frameworks give a clear definition in how the theory is applied.

2.1 Previous Research Related to the Chosen Topic

Literature review is essential when we want to write a research at any level. The literature review gives the writer an opportunity to reference previous research publications to provide strengths and weaknesses of the research. The literature review should be provided the author's base knowledge from the area that they are interested. It is not only a survey what the research has been done in the past of the topic is being discussed, but also appraises, encapsulates, compares and contrasts, and correlates various scholarly books, research articles, and other relevant sources that are directly related to the current research. Literature review will help broaden the researcher's knowledge in the area of interest and provide the researcher with information about gender discussion particularly masculinity. Therefore, in writing this research, the researcher must use the literature review in order to support and make the foundation for the study of representation of masculinity. It will help the researcher to create new argument in the research and will be easier to find the relevant topic or theory by reading the previous researches.

The first previous research of this research is a thesis entitled *The Death of Victorian Morality and The Emergence of Post-Victorian Female Subject in D.H Lawrence's The Virgin and The Gipsy* written by Fitri Aningsih in 2015 from University of Jember. Her thesis examines about the respresentation of victorian morality and post-victorian morality in England in D.H Lawrence's novella entitled *The Virgin and The Gipsy*. She examines the representation of victorian morality and the emergence of post-victorian female through the two characters in

the novel named *Yvett and Granny*. Fitri uses Stuart Hall's Theory of Representation. She uses this theory to analyze the language and the meaning behind the language which is used to find out about how the representation of victorian morality and post-victorian morality that are shown in the novella. The result of her research shows marriage in victorian period was often based on financial condition and the term related to sex was something taboo to be exposed in public. Fitri Aningsih's thesis is used as the previous research of the representation of masculinity in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* in purpose to give more clear understanding of how the theory of representation by Stuart Hall is operated and is applied to analyze the data of the research.

The last previous research is a thesis entitled *Gender Roles in Harry Potter* written by Filippa Tsatsa from Goteborgs University in 2013. The purpose of her thesis is to examine gender roles and stereotypes in *Harry Potter* novel. She focuses on the three main characters who are portrayed to play gender roles throughout the series. The result of her analysis shows although the two main characters have the same sex of being men but they perform different gender roles and characteristics in many ways. Harry shows more of the traditional masculine characteristics related to power, protection, competition, and independence while Ron's character is not like Harry. Otherwise, Ron shows signs of feminine emotion such as fear and worry. He is very dependent mostly on Harry. However, the only female character Harmione who often shows signs of feminine characteristics such as being self-conscious when it comes to her looks, overly emotional and vulnerable. Moreover, she is also seen as the strongest character of the three. She overcomes the obstacles without the help of anyone else, she is very independent. *Harry Potter* novels tell that the boys are allowed to cry and girls can be the protectors. This thesis contributes to give more clear understanding about the concept of gender roles related to masculinity which becomes the topic discussion of this research.

By reviewing those previous researches, this thesis is purposed to analyze representation of masculinity in *Gone Girl* which associates with those previous researches. The analysis about representation of masculinity in literary work

particularly in *Gone Girl* novel becomes an interesting topic to be discussed. Above all, the analysis about gender problems in *Gone Girl* novel is still infrequently to be analyzed. Therefore, this thesis wants to discuss how the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. The theory of representation by Stuart Hall will be used to analyze the language, statements, and ideas of masculinity in the novel. Furthermore, this analysis is supported by Connell's concept of hegemonic masculinity to understand about masculinity in the novel.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Theory of Representation

This subchapter explains Stuart Hall's theory of representation. This theory is functioned as the tool to analyze the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. The analysis of the representation of masculinity in the novel will focus on analysing the language, statements, and ideas which represent masculinity. According to Hall in his book entitled *Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practice* states:

“Language is able to construct the meaning because it operates as a representational system. In language, we use signs and symbols – whether they are sounds, written words, electronically produced images, musical notes, even objects – to stand for or represent to other people our concepts, ideas, and feelings”.

(1997:1)

The quotation above means that language is the media which provides the meanings of the language that is used by the people to represent and to express their concepts, ideas, feelings. Language also becomes the important tool to understand about ideas, thoughts, and feeling that are represented in the text or the other media. Hall (1997:1) also states that language is the privileged medium in which we “make sense” of things, in which meaning is produced and exchanged. According to that statement, it means that in social interaction related to communication, the language meaning can only be understood by the people that commonly use it in particular culture or community. It makes language

becomes the essential part to convey the message and to understand about the meaning itself.

The representation is related to the production of meaning through language. According to *English Oxford Dictionary* suggests the relevant meaning for the word, “to represent something is to describe or depict, to call it up in the mind by description or portrayal or imagination, to place a likeness of it before us in our mind or in the sense”. It means that representation needs our mind to take picture or imagine about something which represents in the text before we can place the picture of the representation in our mind through the imagination or observation about the objects.

Representation becomes the significant role to occupy a new and important case to the study of culture. Representation connects meaning and language to the culture (Hall, 1997:15). These components are related to each other. Through the concept of a thing, we have pictured in our mind to understand about the meaning. However, the meaning cannot be communicated without language. If we want to communicate with the other people, we need language as the medium to deliver our ideas and messages so that we can understand the meaning.

The representational systems are divided into two important components, they are: the mental component and the language component. According to Hall:

“..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”.

(1997:17-18)

Both these components have relation to each other. The concept which exists in our mind makes us understand the meaning of things. Otherwise, the meaning cannot be understood without using language. For example: if we recognize the concept of “glass” and we know the meaning. We will not be able to

communicate the meaning of “glass” (as the example, a thing which is used to drink by people) if we cannot utter it by using language that is understood by the other people (Hall, 1997:17).

According to Stuart Hall, there are three approaches to explain how representation of meaning through language works. First, the *reflective approach* the language is said to be functioned like a mirror, it reflects the true meaning of an object, person, idea, or event as it already exists in the world. In Greek word, it is known as mimesis that is used to describe how language imitates or mimics nature. The reflective approach proposes that language works by simply reflecting or imitating a fixed truth that is already presented in the real world (Hall, 1997: 24). The second is intentional approach, this approach suggests that the speaker or author of particular work imposes meaning onto the world through the use of language. The author’s intended meanings or messages have to follow these rules and conventions in order to be shared and understood (Hall, 1997:25). The meaning of words depend on the author’s intention. Moreover, the essence of language in communication depends on shared linguistic convention and shared codes within a culture. The last is *constructionist approach*, this approach recognizes the social character of language and acknowledges that either things in themselves or the individual users of language can fix meaning (Hall, 1997:25). The meaning is not inherent within an object itself, rather we construct meaning using systems of representation. According to Hall:

“Constructivists do not deny the existence of the material world. However, it is not the material world which conveys meaning: it is the language system or whatever system we are using to represent our concepts. It is social actors who use the conceptual systems of their culture and the linguistic and other representational systems to construct meaning, to make the world meaningful and to communicate about that world meaningfully to others.”

(Hall, 1997:25)

The meaning is carried by the language system or other systems that we use to present our concepts. The process of finding meaning should pay attention to the object to be given meaning and also the subject that gives meaning. The

constructionist approach is mainly proposed a complex and mediate relationship among thing in the world, our concept in thought, and language.

Based on those explanation about three approaches related to representation, finally the constructionist approach has been chosen to analyze this research. This approach is used because in *Gone Girl* the object that will be analyzed is the spouse, Nick Dunne and Amy Elliot. Besides, Gillian Flynn constructs *Gone Girl* with text and within the text there are languages. Therefore, the representation can be obtained from the meaning of language itself.

2.2.2 Discursive Approach

In Hall's theory of representation, there are two major types of the constructionist approach. The first approach is semiotic which is largely influenced by Ferdinand de Saussure, and the other one is discursive approach which is associated with Michel Foucault. Thus, this research conducts to the discursive approach of Michel Foucault. Hall states that there are many aspects that should be considered when interpreting the object such as narratives, statements, group of images, whole discourse which operates across a variety of text, areas of knowledge about a subject which have acquired widespread authority (Hall, 1997:44). The representation is not only using language to construct the meaning of something but also using another aspects to analyze the representation.

There are three major ideas related to the process of representation according to Foucault. There are concept of *discourse*, the issue of *power and knowledge*, and the question of the *subject*. Hall states related to the meaning of discourse which conducted to Foucault's perspective:

“By ‘discourse’, Foucault meant ‘a group of statements which provide a language for talking about – a way of representing the knowledge about – particular topic at a particular historical moment. ... Discourse is about the production of knowledge through language. But ... since all social practices entail meaning, and meaning shape and influence what we do – our conduct – all practices have a discursive aspect”.

(Hall, 1997:44)

The concept of discourse in representation is about language and practice to produce the traditional distinction between what one says using language and what one does using action or practice (Hall, 1997: 45). Foucault states that discourse constructs the topic, defines, and produces the object of our knowledge, and also govern the way that the topic can be meaningfully talked about and reasoned about (Foucault in Hall, 1997: 43). Finally, the representation works through the concept of signs and meanings. The concept itself can be changed and always has new meaning. It is not a static process. It means that the concept can change along with the knowledge and the necessity of the users. Representation is a constructive process about new ideologies which produces new meanings and the result of human thought construction. Through representation, the meaning is produced and constructed. Based on the explanation, the discursive approach is used to analyze the representation in this novel. It uses the system of representation through the discourse as seen from languages that is used to communicate by the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.

2.2.3 The Concept of Hegemonic Masculinity

The concept of hegemonic masculinity by R. W. Connell is seen as the appropriate supporting concept to analyze the problems in this research. The hegemonic masculinity concept becomes the tool to analyze masculinity as seen through the spouse in *Gone Girl*. The word hegemony comes to English from the Greek word *hēgemonia*. The word was first used in English in the mid-16th century in reference to the control once wielded by the ancient Greek states, and was reapplied in later centuries as other nations subsequently rose to power. According to *Merriam Webster Dictionary* (2003:577), hegemony had acquired wielded by a dominant member over others in the social or cultural areas, such as the domination within an industry by a business conglomerate over smaller businesses. Hegemony is related to the political, economic, or military predominance or control of one state over others.

Culturally, hegemony is also established by means of language, specifically the imposed *lingua franca* of the hegemon (leader state), which then

becomes an official source of information for the people of the society of the subordinate state. In connection between language and power, Andrea Mayr (2008:14) said that as a practice of power, hegemony operates largely through language. People concentrate to particular formation of power because the dominant of cultural groups generating the discourse that is represented by the groups of people over the others. In the area of gender studies, hegemonic masculinity is a concept popularized by sociologist R.W. Connell of proposed practices that promote the dominant social position of men and the subordinate social position of women (Connell, 2005:1).

The concept of hegemonic masculinity firstly is presented in a reports from a field study of social inequality in Australian high schools. It is a conceptual discussion of the making of masculinities and the experience of men's bodies and in school project provided empirical evidence of multiple hierarchies in gender as well as in class terms interwoven with active projects of gender construction (Connell, 2005:2). As a sociological concept, the hegemonic nature of "hegemonic masculinity" derives from the theory of cultural hegemony, by Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci, which a debate over the role of men in Australian labor politics (Connell, 2005:2). The analysis of the power relations among the social classes of a society. The concept of hegemonic masculinity was originally understood as the pattern of practice that allowed the domination of men over women (Connell, 2005:6). In addition, hegemonic masculinity contains a mix of strategies such as opening towards violence and misogyny (Connell, 2005:19). It means the concept of hegemonic masculinity aims to explain how and why men defend the dominant social roles over women, and the other gender identities.

Both male and female can be associated with masculinity. The hegemonic masculinity can be constructed differ to the lives of any actual men There is abundant evidence that masculinities are multiple, with internal complexities and even contradictions; also that masculinities change in history and women have a considerable role in making them, in interaction with boys and men. Connell (1995:9-10) states that masculinities are not equivalent to men; they concern the

position of men in a gender order. They can be defined as the patterns of practice by which people (both men and women, though predominantly men) engage that position

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that masculinity and the norms of masculinity have varied kinds over time from place to place. Therefore, Connell (2005: 4) argues that the plural masculinities study needs to be discussed instead of one single kind of masculinity. It needs the consideration about the interplay between gender, race, and social class. In various ways, hegemonic masculinity expresses the widespread ideals, fantasies, and desire. Hegemonic masculinity is achieved through ascendancy through ideology (though not necessarily without force). Therefore, Connell's concept of hegemonic masculinity is applied to understand about masculinity in the novel as seen through the spouse in order to support the clear analysis of the study related to the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research method that is used to analyze the topic of the study. Research methodology is applied as a guiding to develop and gets the objective result of the research. These subchapters deal with the procedure of the research. It includes the type of research, data collection, data processing and data analysis.

3.1 Type of Research

This research is included in qualitative research. Qualitative research is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting (Cresswell, 1994: 6). Qualitative method does not use number in analysing the data. Besides, it is a form of method which focuses on generate words rather than number. The qualitative research mainly focuses on a descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words and it relates with the main characters Nick Dunne and Amy Elliot that represent masculinity.

3.2 Data Collection

The main source of data is novel entitled *Gone Girl* written by Gillian Flynn in 2012. A documentary technique is used to collect the data which relate to the topic research about the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in the novel.

The secondary data are taken from library research references by selecting related books, literary work reviews, and several data from out of the novel that relate to masculinity. The literary works reviews are previous researches which have already been done, such as journal and thesis which relate to this research and has been mentioned in chapter two. These data and information help to analyze and to answer the research problems of this research.

3.3 Data Processing and Data Analysis

For reaching the goals of this research about the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, there are several steps to analyze the novel by using the representation theory and applying the concept of hegemonic masculinity. The first step is to choose the topic discussion, it is the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. The second step is to do close reading related to materials about masculinity to get more information related to the topic discussion about the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse in *Gone Girl*. The third step is to classify and to categorize the data from novel which relate to the representation of masculinity that is seen through the spouse in *Gone Girl*. Doing this activity avoids missing any messages and information about the representation of masculinity in the novel.

After getting the data and information, the next steps are ongoing process to analyze them by using theory of representation and applying the concept of hegemonic masculinity in order to support the clear analysis of this research. Connell's hegemonic masculinity concept is used to find out what kind of masculinity in the novel then after finding out the kind of masculinity that is represented in the novel, Hall's theory of representation is used to know how the meaning and knowledge are constructed through the language that is used by the spouse in the novel which represent masculinity of the spouse.

Furthermore, the data and information from out of the novel are used to understand about the contextual background related to masculinity that is represented in *Gone Girl* novel about masculinity. It gives more understanding about how the representation of masculinity in society at that time where the novel has been written. The social context including cultures, issues, phenomena, situations relate to novel is defined as the circumstance of American culture which is used as the contextual background of masculinity in *Gone Girl*. This process will lead the researcher to answer the last research problem about the ideology of the author beyond the novel. This process needs to know about the author's background of life that relate with the discourse of masculinity found in and out of

the novel in order to answer the third research problems. After answering all of the problems, the last step is to make the conclusion. The conclusion chapter of this research will show the result of analysis the representation of masculinity as seen through the spouse Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.



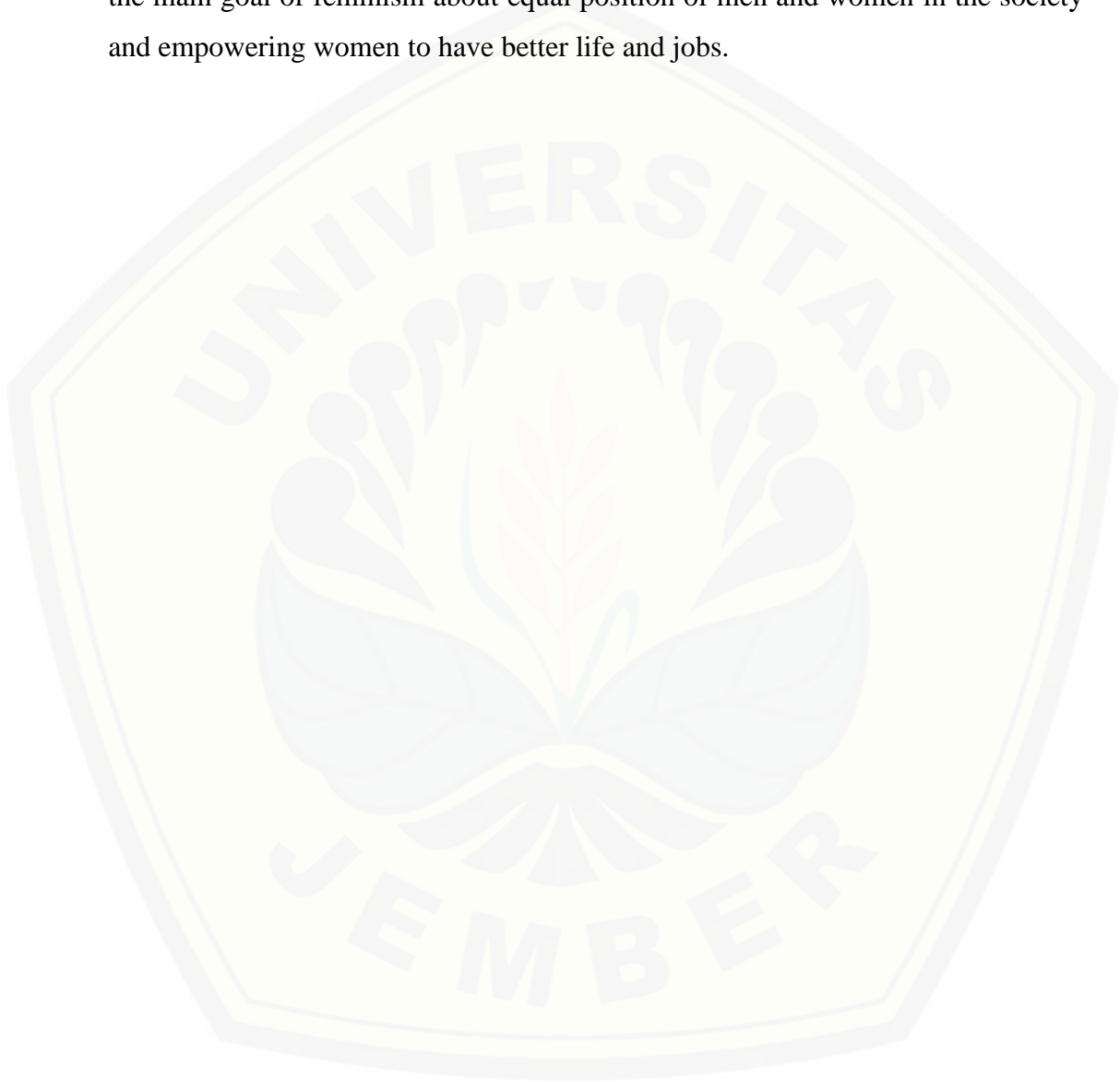
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Gone Girl is analyzed using theory of representation by Stuart Hall which emphasizes to find the discourse of masculinity in the novel through the spouse. The concept of hegemonic masculinity by R. W. Connell is used to understand how the concept of masculinity that is represented in the novel. *Gone Girl* novel tells about marriage life of Nick and Amy that related to problem about gender role particularly masculinity. It is about the dominant position of masculinity particularly in marriage life using American society background. Some of the characters in the novel represent the characteristics of masculinity especially Nick Dunne and Amy Elliot. The novel portrays that masculinity can be represented through behaviors, persuasion, and power. The statements and ideas in the novel describe the way of the spouse shows their masculine side.

The analysis shows the spouses have masculine side. Nick is a type of man who can attract women, he likes to drink beer, he has a strong sexual desire over women, he cheats on her wife, has some jobs, and also an abusive husband. While, Amy in the first part of the story portrays as a feminine person then she changes her behavior into masculine after finding out her husband's affair and feeling underestimated. Nick and Amy's marriage experience complex problems such as cheating, money difficulty, manipulation, and murder. Those problems become the most common problems in marriage especially in America then it will result a divorce. The novel does not tell that the spouse gone to divorce but they live together although they have a hatred-feeling each other.

Gillian Flynn tries to show marriage is not something easy to do. There will be many problems that can destroy that institutional relationship. It will be hard if both of the spouse want to control and become the dominant over other. It is depicted through Nick and Amy's marriage life. Moreover, *Gone Girl* novel shows about the perspective of gender roles about feminism that is subordinated by masculinity perspective as seen through the character of Amy when she becomes a bad woman and tries to destroy her husband's life and manipulate the society about her disappearance and murdering her ex-boyfriend.

Finally, the analysis of discourse masculinity as seen through the spouse in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* results masculinity is still considered as something more superior than other gender identities because the perspective of feminism in the novel is destroyed by following the traits of masculinity rather than achieving the main goal of feminism about equal position of men and women in the society and empowering women to have better life and jobs.



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