

**WOMEN SUBORDINATION IN BRITISH SOCIETY IN
THE DUCHESS THE MOVIE**

THESIS

**BY
AULIA JENY SETIYAWATI
NIM 0911112002**

UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA



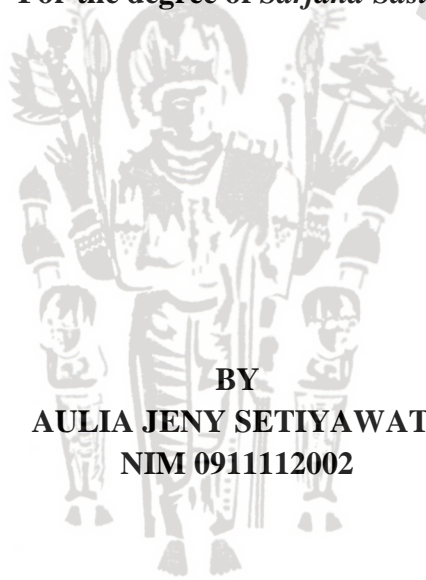
**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
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**WOMEN SUBORDINATION IN BRITISH SOCIETY IN
THE DUCHESS THE MOVIE**

THESIS

**Presented to
University of Brawijaya
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***



**BY
AULIA JENY SETIYAWATI
NIM 0911112002**

**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURE STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2012

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

Herewith I,

Name : Aulia Jeny Setiyawati

NIM : 0911112002

Address : Jln. A Yani No 1. Desa Kuwonharjo RT 25 RW 05

Kecamatan Takeran, Kabupaten Magetan 63383

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Malang, 29 June 2012

Aulia Jeny Setiyawati

NIM. 0911112002

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Malang, 8 June 2012

Supervisor

Juliati, M.Hum

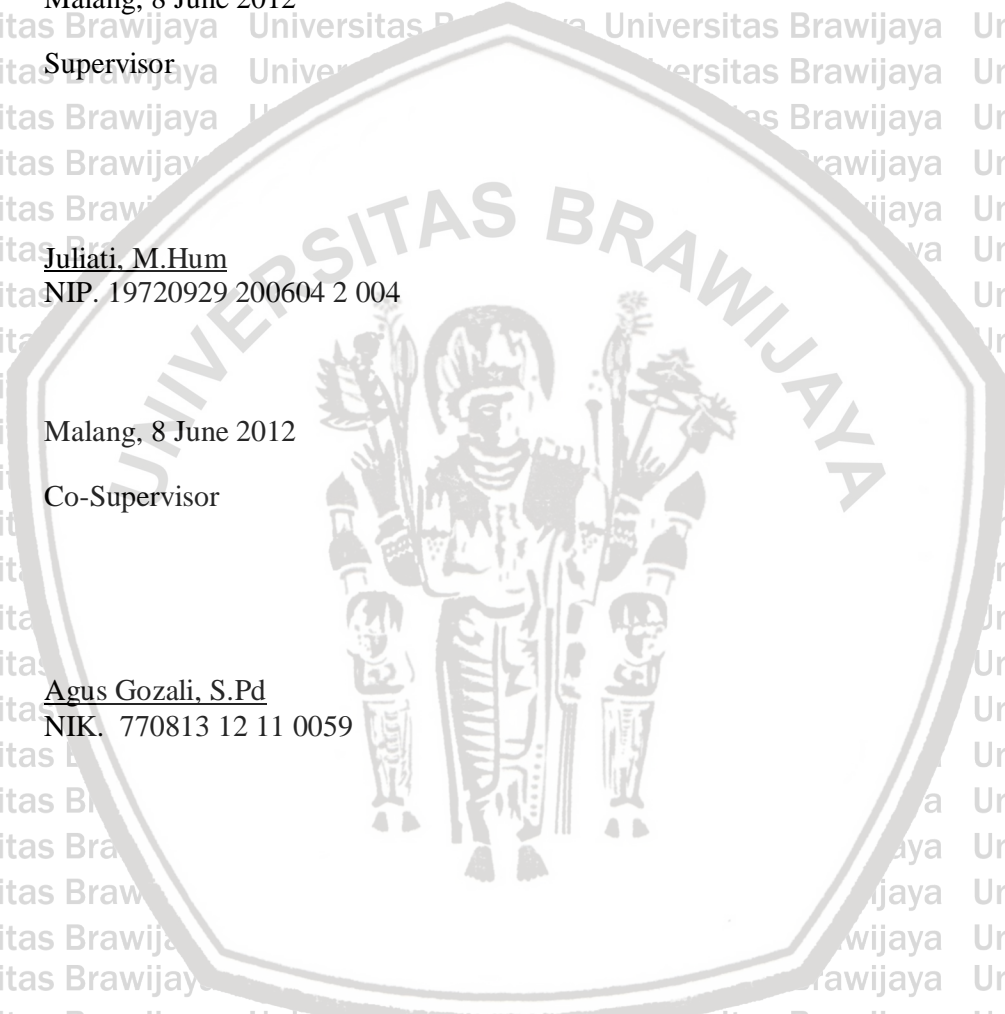
NIP. 19720929 200604 2 004

Malang, 8 June 2012

Co-Supervisor

Agus Gozali, S.Pd

NIK. 770813 12 11 0059



This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of Aulia Jeny Setiyawati has been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra*.

M. Andhy Nurmansyah M.Hum, Chair
NIP. 19771016 200501 1 002

Dyah Eko Hapsari, M.Hum, Member
NIP. 19780727 200501 2 001

Juliati, M.Hum, Member
NIP. 19720929 200604 2 004

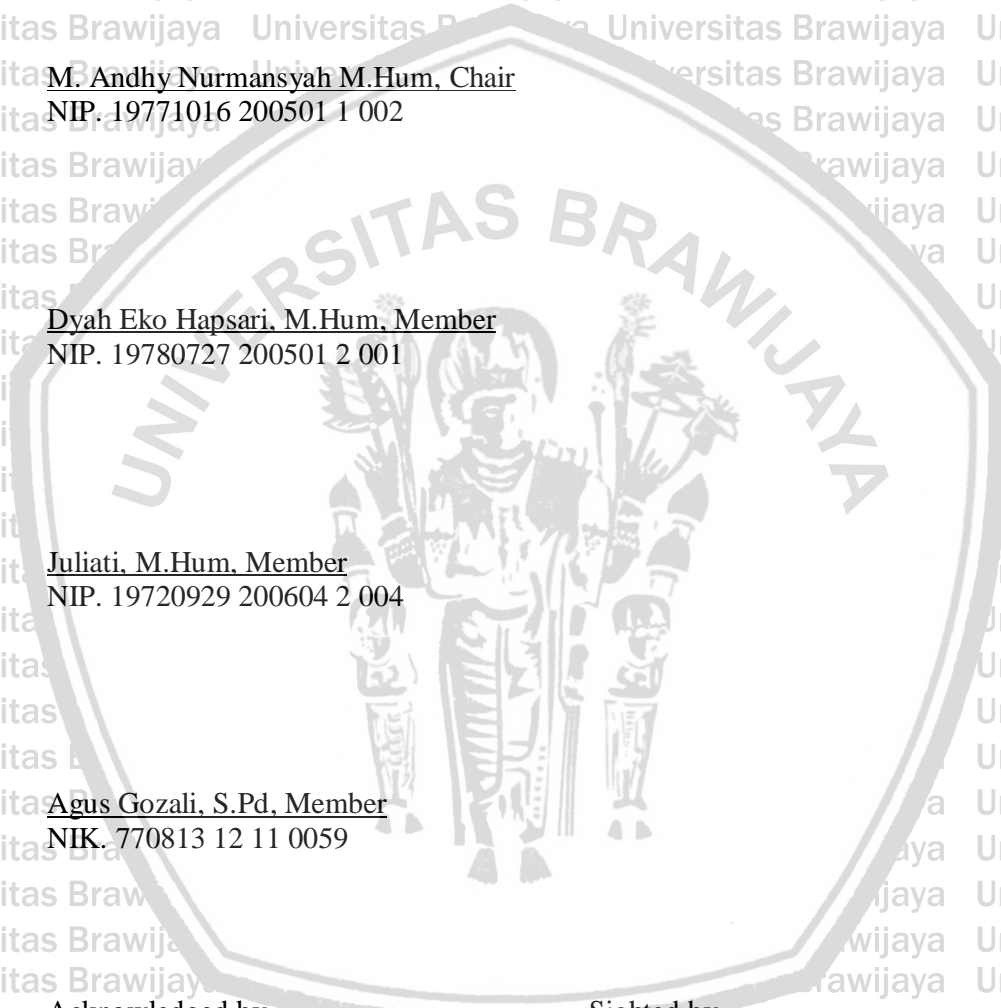
Agus Gozali, S.Pd, Member
NIK. 770813 12 11 0059

Acknowledged by,
Head of English Study Program

Sighted by,
Head of Language and Literature
Department

Fatimah, M.Appl.Ling.
NIP. 19751125 200212 2 002

Syariful Muttaqin, M.A
NIP. 19751101 200312 1 001



ABSTRACT

Setiyawati, Aulia Jeny. 2011. **Women Subordination in British Society in *The Duchess The Movie***. Supervisor: Juliati, M.Hum ; Co-supervisor: Agus Gozali, S.Pd.

Keywords: patriarchal, women subordination, male heir, arranged marriage.

Women subordination has been running for a long time. It becomes a part of patriarchal society. The structure of patriarchy becomes a social relation which permits men to dominate women. In patriarchal society, men make their position becomes higher than women. Patriarchal system also exists in Britain. *The Duchess* is one of movies that depicts British patriarchal's society and the way how men subordinate women during early nineteenth century. This thesis tries to analyze women's subordination as portrayed in *The Duchess* by using feminist approach.

The result of this study shows that women subordination is clearly portrayed in the British society. Georgiana as the main character in the movie experiences several kinds of subordination. She cannot choose husband by herself because her parent have arranged her marriage. In her marital life, she must give her husband a son in order to inherit his wealth. In the other words, her marriage is a way to get a son. She also gets violence from her husband. The violence that happens to her are physical and psychological. In education, women get difficulty to have formal education. Mostly men can get education in school. Georgiana is lucky enough because she still gets proper education, but the education that she has is still intended for domestic use such as teaching her children. Georgiana has a great political career in Whig, but she cannot follow the election. At that time, only men that could be the Member of Parliament. The role of Georgiana in Whig is only as the main supporter by using her beauty, charisma and fashion to raise the public attention.

The writer thinks that other researchers need to do further studies and carry out other pieces of analysis reveal to the important and useful things in the *The Duchess*. It will be an interesting study if *The Duchess* analyzed by using other literary theories such as psychoanalysis. The second possibility is the next researchers can use similar theory which is feminism for other material. For example, implementing the theory for subject with different background such as Asian culture.

ABSTRAK

Setiyawati, Aulia Jeny. 2011. **Subordinasi Terhadap Wanita di Masyarakat Inggris Dalam Film *The Duchess***. Pembimbing (I) Juliati, M.Hum (II) Agus Gozali, S.Pd.

Kata kunci: patriarki, subordinasi terhadap perempuan, keturunan laki-laki perjodohan.

Subordinasi terhadap perempuan berjalan dalam rentang waktu yang sangat lama. Struktur patriarki menjadi salah satu hubungan sosial yang mengizinkan laki-laki mendominasi perempuan. Dalam konteks sosial perempuan dianggap lemah sedangkan laki-laki lebih kuat. Konsep patriarki juga berlaku di Inggris. *The Duchess* adalah salah satu film yang menggambarkan masyarakat patriarki Inggris dan bagaimana mereka menomorduakan perempuan di abad ke 19. Skripsi ini mencoba menganalisis subordinasi yang terdapat dalam film *The Duchess* menggunakan pendekatan feminisme.

Hasil dari studi ini menjelaskan bahwa subordinasi terhadap perempuan tergambar jelas dalam kehidupan masyarakat Inggris. Georgiana sebagai tokoh utama dalam film mendapatkan beberapa subordinasi dalam kehidupannya. Dia tidak bisa memilih suami sendiri karena dijodohkan oleh orang tuanya. Dalam kehidupan pernikahannya dia harus melahirkan anak laki-laki sebagai pewaris kekayaan suaminya. Dia juga mendapatkan kekerasan dalam rumah tangga. Kekerasan yang dialaminya terbagi menjadi dua yaitu kekerasan fisik dan kekerasan psikologi. Dalam pendidikan, perempuan sulit mendapat pendidikan formal. Kebanyakan hanya laki-laki yang bisa mendapatkan pendidikan formal di sekolah. Georgiana masih beruntung mendapat pendidikan yang layak meski ilmu yang dia peroleh dikhususkan untuk mengurus rumah tangga. Georgiana yang mempunyai karir bagus di partai Whig tidak mempunyai kesempatan untuk mengikuti pemilihan umum karena pada masa itu hanya lelaki yang bisa duduk di parlemen. Peran Georgiana di Whig sebatas menggunakan kecantikan, karisma dan gaya berpakaianya untuk menghimpun massa.

Penulis berfikir bahwa film *The Duchess* perlu untuk diteliti lebih dalam lagi karena banyak hal yang penting didalamnya. Tentu akan menjadi diskusi yang menarik jika film ini dianalisis menggunakan teori sastra yang lain seperti psikoanalisis. Kemungkinan yang lain adalah tetap menggunakan teori feminisme tetapi menggunakan bahan diskusi yang lain. Contohnya teori ini digunakan untuk menganalisis subject yang mempunyai latar belakang kultur yang berbeda contohnya kebudayaan Asia.

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First of all, the writer would like to express her deep gratitude to Allah SWT who has blessed the writer. In finishing this thesis, the writer gained information, support, and guidance from a lot of people. Without them the writer would not be able to finish this thesis. Therefore, the writer would like to express her sincere thanks to Juliati, M.Hum as supervisor for her great assistance in finishing this thesis and Agus Gozali, S.Pd as co-supervisor who helps the writer with his great ideas, and has been willing to devote his time to give correction for this thesis. Without their guidance this graduating paper will not be completed. Next is for M Andhy Nurmansyah M.Hum and Dyah Eko Hapsari M.Hum as chairpersons of the examination. The writer thanks to them for giving suggestion to improve this thesis. The writer also dedicate her thanks to beloved family for the never ending support to the writer in finishing this thesis.

Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect and satisfactory. However, the writer hopes that this research can be useful for the all readers.

Malang, 29 June 2012

The Writer

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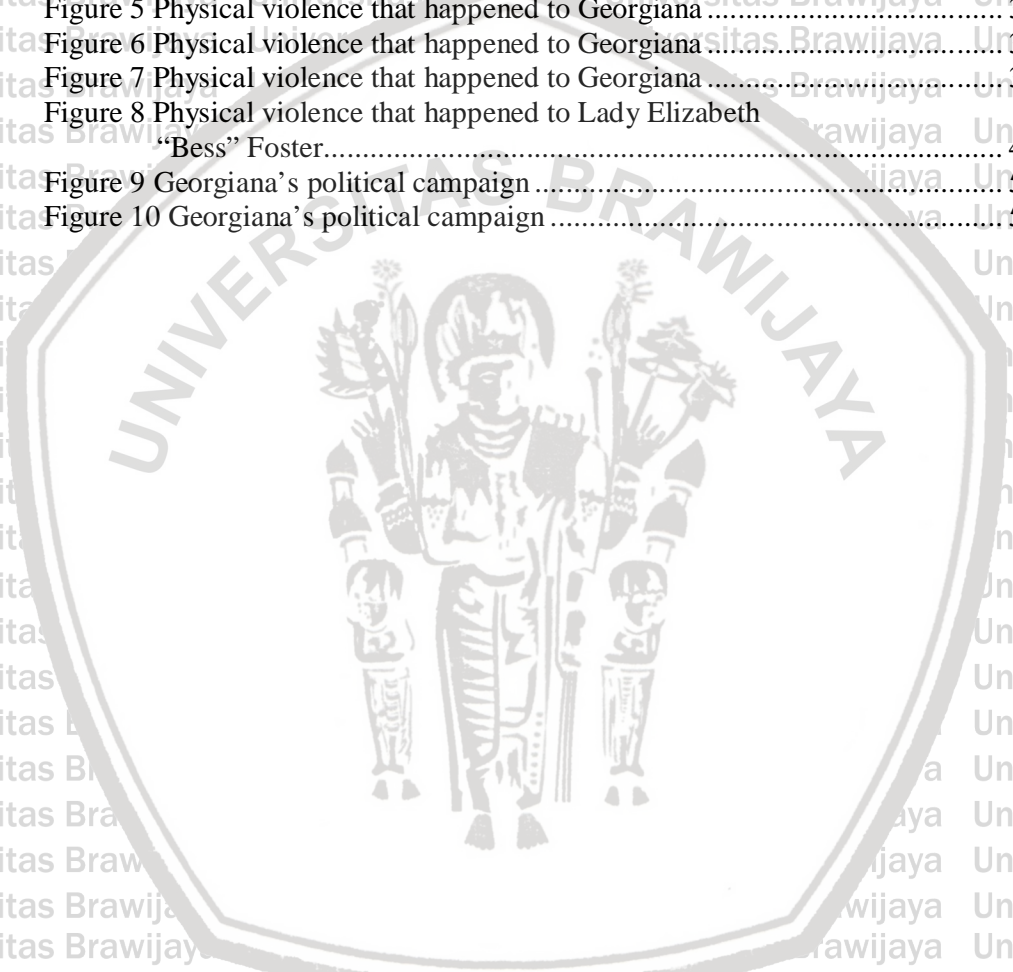
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of three parts; they are background of the study, problem of the study and also the objective of the study. The background of the study explain the general idea, the writer's interest and the significance of the theory to the topic of the study. The problem of study is the formulation of question that lead this study to achieve its objective.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, mass media play an important role in people's life. One example of the mass media which is very influential is movie. Movie is dynamic and continuous to expand along with the time. In modern society, movie becomes one of popular culture. It does not only present a fictional story but sometimes also a non fictional one. Many movies become the representation of today's culture and social condition.

We can also learn about social issue and cultural phenomenon because movie is a cultural product. In short, it can be said that movie is the reflection of human's culture.

Movie brings influence in life. Movie which is one example of mass media is also used for entertainment. It conveys certain messages and meanings to the audiences

through a series of images, colours and dialogues. It is a medium of communication that is considered to be unique because the characters in movie are able to provide special experiences and feelings to the audiences. The description of movie is clearer because audiences do not only watch the motion picture but also can hear the voice from the actor and actress. The story itself resembles our daily life. It may make us happy, sad, angry or satisfied after audiences understand the content of the story. Our reaction to the theme, character or image in movie can become a way to give better understanding in how we see the world and the culture we live in.

Many stories in movies tell us about the human situation, problem, feeling and relationship. There are many factors that influence the producer to produce a movie. The experience and conflict that happened to someone who influence in society may become the inspiration in making a movie. *The Duchess* is an example of movies which is adapted from the biography of Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire. It is written by Amanda Foreman. Since this movie is adapted from biography, the story can be closely related to someone's experience through which we can learn the image of human being that is expressed in motion picture. This book itself becomes the subject of documentary film, radio play and a movie.

Amanda Foreman herself is a biographer and historian. She has dual citizenship, British and American. The Foreman's book *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* or well known as *The Duchess* is the extension of her Doctor of Philosophy (D.Phil) thesis in Oxford which is entitled *The Political Life of Georgiana, Duchess of*

Devonshire 1757-1806 in 1993 (Amanda Foreman: *The queen of historical biography*, n.d, para. 2). The book won the Whitbread Prize in 1998 for the best biography. The movie itself won three awards; they are British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTA), Satellite Awards and Academy Awards. Uniquely, it won for best costume design for all awards. Besides, *The Duchess* was also nominated for British Independent Film Awards (BIFA), Golden Globe Awards, People's Choice Awards, and London Circle Critics' Film Awards (Amanda Foreman (biographer), n.d, para. 3).

The Duchess was released on September 5, 2008, starred by Keira Knightley as Georgiana and Ralph Fiennes as William Cavendish, the 5th Duke of Devonshire. Since it is adapted from a biographical book, of course story in this movie is based on real life. This movie tells about the Georgiana Cavendish, the Duchess of Devonshire (7 June 1757-30 March 1806). She was the first wife of William Cavendish, the 5th Duke of Devonshire. William got married with Georgiana in her 17th birthday on 7 June 1774. Georgiana assumes that her marriage will be a happy marriage. In fact, William only wants to continue the offspring by marrying Georgiana. As a husband, William is very rude and treats Georgiana as his property.

On the other hand, Georgiana tries so hard to give her husband a son in order to inherit William's wealth. After having two beautiful daughters, Georgiana and William decide to go to Bath for a treatment to get a son. In Bath, they meet Lady Elizabeth "Bess" Foster. Because of feeling pity with Bess' life story, Georgiana

invites her to live with them. One day, she knows that there is a love affair between Bess and her husband. Feeling disappointed with them, Georgiana gets close to Charles Grey, the 34th future Prime Minister of England and finally has love affair with him. This love affair makes Georgiana's life become harder than before.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses *The Duchess* as topic of her analysis. *The Duchess* is a movie which was adapted from biography. It means that the story happens based on true story. This movie depicts many important things about women especially in England in early nineteenth century such as their position in the society, behavior, the way of thinking, and their relation with men. Talking about women in relation with men is always interesting because this problem still exists in our daily life. In this thesis, the writer wants to share her idea that *The Duchess* is similar to the condition of women especially in British society.

Moreover, there is still another important reason why the writer finally chooses *The Duchess*. The issue of women subordination embedded in the movie is interesting to be analyzed. Georgiana's character is a potrait of a woman as the member of a society. *The Duchess* obviously exposes how women in early nineteenth century were not treated equally to men. Eventhough Georgiana is aristocrat woman but her life must be based on tradition in Britain, such as getting arranged married in young age, her place is in the house, has limited right in social life, does not have chance to get higher education even though she is clever and so on. She lived under her husband's domination and cannot able to fight subordination in British patriarchal

system. As a Duke, of course William provides all Georgiana's need such as money, beautiful clothes or huge houses with a lot of servants. In fact Georgiana doesn't feel happy with that because actually she needs affection from William rather than luxury. However, talking about women, their position in patriarchal society and their relation with men is interesting to find out. In line with that, *The Duchess* depicts clearly Georgiana's unhappy life as the effect from woman subordination which happens caused by patriarchal system in British society.

The writer chooses to conduct this research because of some considerations. The writer is sure that this movie is portrait of the surrounding phenomenon where unbalance relationship between man and woman in patriarchal society caused woman subordination. Not only in the movie, in the real live the women subordination also exist in many society like Sherry B Ortner said (cited in Rayner, n.d, p.1) "women are universally subordinate to men within any given society. The universality of female subordination is, the fact that it exists within every type of society and economic arrangement and societies of every degree of complexity". Thus, it is clear that most women have inferior status in society. The writer realizes that this discriminating condition has to be overcome to gain more productive social condition. Another reason is related to British patriarchal system itself. By analyzing this movie, it is hoped that there will be a new understanding about the existence of patriarchal system which many people may see it as something unfair to woman.

Thus, analyzing this movie by using feminist perspective will be worth conducting. As it is known, feminism is a theory about a women's movement in order to get equality with men in much life's field such as politic, social, economic (Tyson, 2006, p.83). For long time the idea of women's inferiority makes unbalance relationship between men and women. It creates assumption that men are superior and stronger than women. Eventhough this unbalance condition is unfair for women, but it is accepted naturally in society which is using patriarchal system.

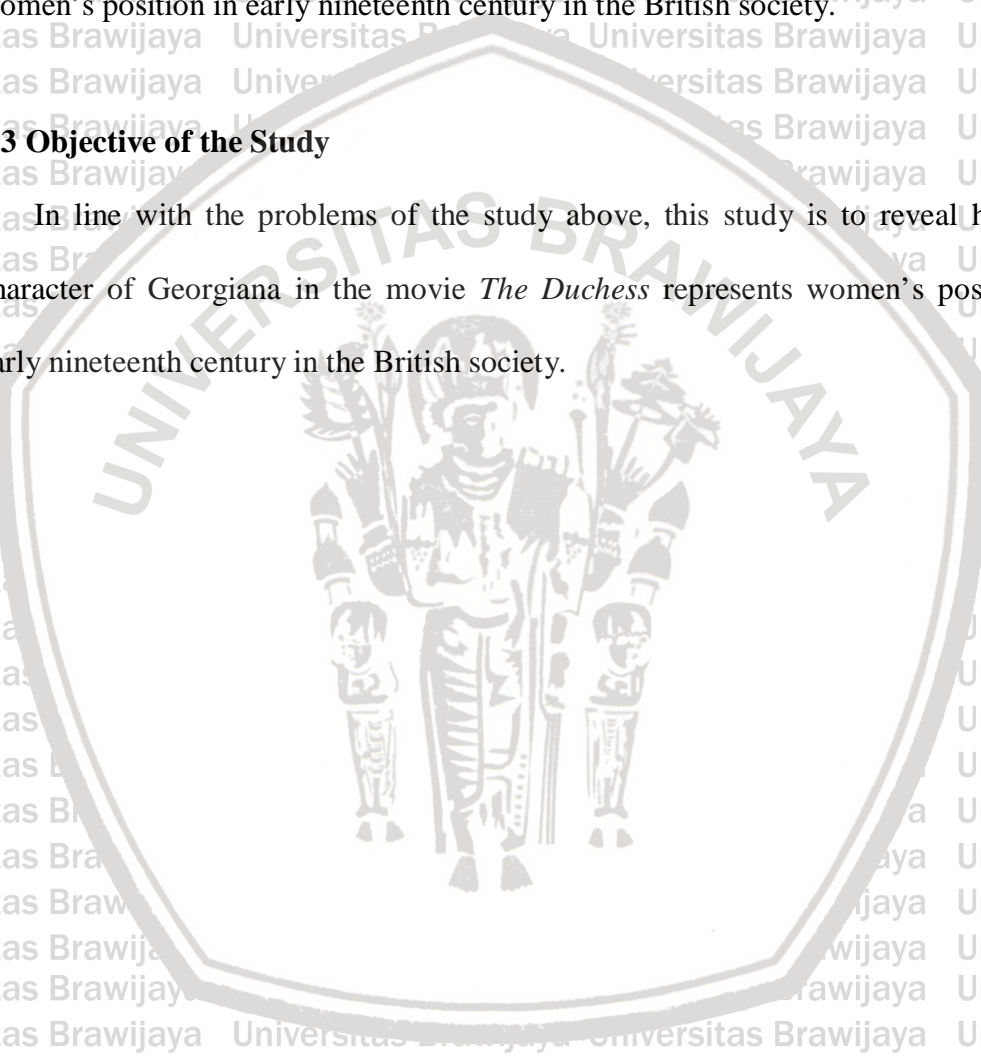
As it is known, British society is patriarchal. This movie explores the nature of men's domination in British family. In this thesis, the writer uses feminist approach to analyze the character of Georgiana, The Duchess of Devonshire. Besides, the other characters will also be analyzed to support the understanding about subordination that happened to Georgiana. The behavior, attitude and of the other later reflects and functions to reveal the portrait of the 19th century society. Of course, this paper which is entitled *Women's Subordination in British Society in The Duchess the Movie* will help the reader to be more interested in learning and understanding about feminism and how this literary approach can be used to analyze popular culture, in this case, a movie.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study as stated before, the writer states her problem of the study about how the character of Georgiana in *The Duchess* represents women's position in early nineteenth century in the British society.

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the problems of the study above, this study is to reveal how the character of Georgiana in the movie *The Duchess* represents women's position in early nineteenth century in the British society.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The writer is going to review some theories related to the study in this chapter. They are Feminist Approach and Movie Study. Considering that Georgiana's life is always under her husband's authority, feminist approach will be appropriate to reveal this phenomenon. Movie study is used to analyze some details from the film that can support the analysis of character's reaction when they get subordinated or when they subordinate other. This chapter also consists of the previous study which is used to strengthen the study.

2.1 Feminism

The terms of feminism firstly used at 1895 in Athenaum a year later after famous writer Sarah Grand who made a phrase "New Woman" to describe a new woman's generation which are looking for freedom and against boundaries in traditional marriage (Gamble, 2010, p.32). Feminism based on *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2011, para.1) is both an intellectual commitment and political movement that seeks justice for women and the end of sexism in all forms. Feminism as a movement began from the assumption that women basically oppressed and exploited by men. Therefore, the main purpose of feminism is to increase the status and degree of woman in order to be equal with men.

2.1.1 Feminism Movement

Feminism movement in America came up firstly at Seneca Falls conference in 1848. The existence of this conference was the idea to abandon all discrimination based on sex. Issues about women's right appeared along discussion about African slave's right (Ivy and Blacklund, 2004, p.7). Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1920) together with Lucretia Mott, proponent of Seneca Falls using *Declaration of Independence* in 1776 as the model for their conference's result, *Declaration of Sentiment*. In *Declaration of Sentiment*, Stanton stated "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men and women are created equal" (Rush cited in Ivy and Backlund, 2004, p.7). One thing that made feminism movement in America and Britain different, the Legislative Council in America was able to change laws without government's interfering. As the result, women in Wyoming and Utah were able to have vote in 1869 and 1870 (Gamble, 2010, p.29).

Generally, all women's movements on spreading all over the world can be classified into three major waves: (1) the first wave, starting from the late 18th century to the early 19th century, (2) the second wave from the 1960's and lasting through the late 1980's (3) the third wave, starting from 1992 until nowadays. The first wave of feminism movement in United States and United Kingdom was started with Marry Wollstonecraft's work *Vindication Rights of Woman* in 1792. *Vindication* created from chaotic conditions of social politic caused by France's Revolution (Gamble, 2010, p.19). The first wave of feminism struggle for education, job, marital laws, and difficulties that faced by single upper class

women. The results of first wave feminism are women had opportunity to get higher education, the change of school system for women such as; women's participation in formal state examination and medical profession opened for women, property's right of marital women in *Married Women's Property Act* (1870) and children care's right from legal separation. First wave of feminism was active until World War I, but it failed in ensuring women's suffrage (Gamble, 2011, p.300-301).

The publishing of Betty Freidan's book *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963 marked the second wave of feminist movement. This book had great impact especially after Betty Freidan founded woman's organization, *National Organization for Woman* (NOW) in 1966 (Habib, 2005, p.670). NOW's priorities include winning economic equality and securing it with a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom and other women's health issue; and opposing racism, fighting bigotry against lesbian and gay, and ending violence against women (Ivy and Backlund, 2004, p.13). In law, Freidan's book becomes a reason the making of *Equal Pay Right* (1963) and *Equal Right Act* (1964). *Equal Pay Right* made women get a better work condition and salary as equal as men for same work. In *Equal Right Act*, women will have suffrage fully in all live sectors (*Feminism*, n.d, para.2). In the second wave, the feminism made a good progress in their program. The target was nearly the same with the previous one, but the impact was more massive and touching all fields of life.

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Third wave of feminism movement started from 1992 until nowadays. Many people argue that this movement and the fashion which will disappear in line with the time are the same. This wave is a term which describes femininity desirability happened in young women who want to differentiate from post feminist. The third wave of feminism is unheard and still unsupported as the second wave of feminism. The characteristics of this wave are the willing to against the inequality in races, economics and woman's issue (Gamble, 2010, p.426-427).

Shortly, the objective of feminist is to increase the status and degree of women in keeping the honor, to raise dignity in getting the better life in future, to keep themselves from harassment and violence. Therefore, the basic struggle of feminist movement is political, economical, social, and educational aspect. Since feminism always involves the issue of gender, the following discussion will review about gender.

2.1.2 Gender

There are two things that can be explained to distinguish men and women. They are sex and gender. Based on United States Agency International Development (USAID), sex refers to the biological characteristics that define humans as female or male (*Gender Terminology*, 2007, para.1). This biological aspect makes up women and men become different. Women have vagina, womb, menstruation period and ability to bear children, whereas men have penis, but they do not have menstruation period, inability to be pregnant and inability to bear children.

Gender comes from Latin word *genus* which means kinds or types. Based on World Health Organization (WHO), gender refers to the society that constructed roles, behavior, activities, attributes and particular society considers appropriate of men and women (*Gender, women and health*, 2011, para. 3).

Women are often stereotyped as passive, sentimental, emotional, careful, patient, etc. While men are stereotyped as active, rational, careless, bad temper, etc. Louis Tyson (2006, p.85) in her book *Critical Theory Today* asserts this as seen in the following quotation:

Traditional gender roles cast men as rational, strong, protective, and decisive; they cast women as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing, and submissive. These gender roles have been used very successfully to justify inequities, which still occur today, such as excluding women from equal access to leadership and decision-making positions (in the family as well as in politics, academia, and the corporate world), paying men higher wages than women for doing the same job (if women are even able to obtain the job), and convincing women that they are not fit for careers in such areas as mathematics and engineering.

Moreover, Judith Butler (1999, p.9) in her book *Gender Trouble* writes:

Originally intended to dispute the biology-id-destiny formulation, the distinction between sex and gender serves the argument that whatever biological intractability sex appears to have, gender is culturally constructed: hence, gender is neither the casual result of sex nor as seemingly fixed as sex

From the statement above, we can see that Butler argues sex is created biologically, whereas gender is cultural construction which is made by society.

Gender is differences of characteristic, function and responsibility between men and women which made by society. Since it is made by society, this construction

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may change by running of the time. The way we see in gender, men are always masculine and on the other hand women are always feminine. In fact both men and women have masculine and feminine characteristics inside their bodies.

Society and culture with its rules and expectations for behavior have powerful affect in perception of gender. What is attached or related to what anatomy is tough to human through their culture, virtually from the time they are born.

Gender with its development and construction refers to the way how we see the ideas and stereotypes of what women or men suppose to be (Ivy and Backlund, 2004, p.32-35). Those ideas actually constructed by society in particularly the patriarchal one. The difference between men and women is used as basic social roles.

2.1.3 Women in Patriarchal Society

The idea of women's subordination is very old and it has been running for long time and has become a part of patriarchal society. Patriarchy comes from Greek word means "from the father" (Ivy and Backlund, 2004, p.39). Patriarchy itself is a set of institutionalized social rules put in place by men to control the sexual and reproductive right of women (Shlain, 2003, p.339).

The structure of patriarchy becomes a social relation which permits men to dominate women. In social context women are weak, commonly associated with household activity and bearing children. They keep the house, take care of the children, produce and cook all foods. Home is the office where they work. On the other hand, men are considered having several stereotypes such as powerful,

rational, self confident, appropriate for heavy job and outdoor activity. The roles in patriarchal society determine that men are superior and have higher responsibility not only for securing and protecting of the women and children but also in financial aspect (Monagan, 2010, p.2). This condition makes women in inferior position and becomes members of men's norm.

The inherent logic of patriarchy says that if men have the right to power and control over women and children, they also have the right to enforce that control...Domination and glorification of violence are characteristics of patriarchal societies...In patriarchy, women and children are defined in relation to men who control the resources and the power. Women and children are the other, the object. Men are the norm, the subject. In a dominance-and-submission social order, there is no true mutual care. Subordinates are to care for the needs of the dominants (Heggen, cited in Tracy, 2007, p.5)

Women as ordinary human become victims of the patriarchal system and place them in the second layers. Kate Millet in her book *Sexual Politics* (cited in Habib, 2005, p.670) said that patriarchy was a political institution which relied on subordinated roles for women. Women have suffered inequalities almost in all aspect of life, starting from education, politic, family, work, economic, and others.

Almost in all of these fields, men held big domination upon women. It means that men have control and create the rule to make their position higher than women.

Society holds strongly set of ideas how to treat men and women and how they should behave. Because of this condition is created by society, it may be said that unequal condition is commonly accepted as natural and normal by both men and women. Simone de Beauvoir in her book *The Second Sex* (cited in Gardiner, 2007,

p.2) presented that women's nature as something constructed by patriarchy, but so

cunningly done that the construction looked like nature and was thought to be unchangeable.

2.2 Review of Women's Position of the British Society in early 19th Century.

It cannot be denied that motion picture *The Duchess* has close relation with real life condition of the British society because it is adapted from biographical book of Georgiana, The Duchess of Devonshire. This movie represents historical character and events which attached to the real world at that time. Besides, *The Duchess* consists of story about civilization, action and attitude which has close relation with the member of English aristocracy, marriage and social life. In this part of the study, the writer is going to give information about British society in early nineteenth century.

In late eighteenth and throughout nineteenth century, the concept of human right became important in Europe. Influenced by Enlightenment in late eighteenth century, the woman's right became major issue in both France and Britain. In nineteenth century, in line with Industrial Revolution, the new wealth was created which called the middle class. So, there were three social status; upper class, middle class and lower class. Although of the economics' life of English society was much better than before but not with the live of its women. They were still under men domination. The patriarchal values strongly hold the rules which are also supported by law and society, so its looks unchangeable.

English law and culture and customs derived much from these ancient cultures and their revered texts; and so, by the time my chronology begins, patriarchal attitudes have been so deeply embedded for so long that they seem completely natural, unassailable, indisputable, and indeed the existence of a 'patriarchal ideology' was invisible: it was 'just the way life was' (Wojtczak, 2009, para. 9).

It was very hard for women in that time to get formal education. They were considered as the second creatures. Women could not get the same education opportunities as men. In some schools, there were a few girls who could enter schools as the place did not provide enough academies for girls. It was also difficult for women to obtain a university education. While women in England got little change and almost impossible to enter school, Marry Wollstonecraft with her book *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* attacked education especially for women. In her book, Wollstonecraft wanted every woman should have the same opportunity to get education as man (Gamble, 2010, p.442-443). In the early until middle nineteenth century, the churches provided some schools. After 1870, the state also provided schools. In 1884 Oxford University allowed women to attend lectures and took university exams for the first time although they were not actually awarded degress until 1920 (Lambert, 2009, para.14).

Then, still in nineteenth century, women married in young age and most of them trapped in arranged of marriage.

Marriages were often arranged when the girls were only three of four years old. The law stated at the time that a girl as young as seven was capable of consenting to marriage. However, the marriage could not be consummated until the girl was 12 years old (Wojtczak, 2009, para 16).

They expected to have children immediately. Different from middle and lower class women, the aristocracy women must be able to give her husband a son in order to inherit the wealth. After women are married, properties before their married would automatically belonged to the husband. If wives worked, their salary also belonged to the husband. Men were the master of household and wife still considered to be inferior and a husband's property. Wife and children respected and obeyed him (Taylor, n.d, para.1). On the other hand, unmarried women, who were more independent, could have own property. After passing *Married Property Act* in 1882, married women had the same right over their property as unmarried women (*Women in Victorian Era*, 2009, para.1).

Still about married women in nineteenth century, it was difficult for them to obtain divorce though they found their husbands had been unfaithful. Based on *The Matrimonial Causes Act* in 1857, this law gave women limited acceses to divorce. The husband had to prove his wife's adultery to divorce, on the other hand woman must prove her husband that he had not only committed adultery but also incest, bigamy, cruelty or disertion. After divorced, children are upbrought by father, the mother cannot see children without permission from her husband.

Divorce was legal in 1857 but it was very rare in the 19th century (*Marriage in 19th Century*, n.d, para.3).

Since this thesis deals with the portrayal of the British society in early nineteenth century, it is necessary to know the British society during this period.

The historical reviews are the facts about the condition of society. Through understanding of the society, the problem of study in this thesis can be revealed

deeply. This discussion is also used to show that history is the reference to the civilization.

2.3 Movie Study

In this part, movie study is needed to get additional information and to give clearer description about some scenes when the characters get oppression or harassment. There are many theories about movie study, but in this thesis the writer only uses the framing or the length, camera angle and dialogue in order to analyze the movie.

2.3.1 The Framing or The Length of Shots

There are 6 basic elements in framing or the length of shots based on Giannetti (2002, p.11) they are Extreme Long Shot, Long Shot, Medium Shot, Close Up, Extreme Close Up and Deep Focus. The writer would just explain three theories that are related to this study:

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1. Long Shot

Long Shot is a kind of shot which shows all of subjects (for example, a person which shows the entire human body, with the head near the top of the frame and the feet near the bottom) and usually is far from the environment.

2. Medium Shot

Medium Shot is taken from knee or waist up and usually used for dialogue scenes. It is to show some details of action. In this kind of shot, background is taken minimally because it is only focus on dialog and character.

3. Close Up

In general, Close Up is used to show more detail about face's character and it is concentrated on the face. Movie may use this to make audiences feel extra comfortable or extremely uncomfortable about a character. This shoot shows a small enough part of the scene, such face's characters in great detail. Close Up focuses on someone's feelings or reactions, and sometimes used to show the actor in a state of emotion, sadness or joy.

2.3.2 The Angles

Giannetti (2002, p.15) states that there are five basic angles in the cinema: the bird's-eye view, the high angle, the eye-level shot, the low angle, and the oblique angle, but in this study the writer will only use one basic angle. It is eye-level shot. It is also called as neutral shot because it is set as human. Camera usually is placed approximately five to six feet from the ground.

2.3.3 Dialogue

Movie is an audio-visual product. It records reality that grows and develops in the community and then it was projected into the motion picture. Besides the picture, we also get the sound. Giannetti (2002, p.232) said that language in film

can be more complex than in literature. The words in a movie are spoken, not written, and the human voice is capable of far more nuances than the printed page.

If our objects are novel, poem, a short story, drama, of course we analyze the text which is written. On the other hand, film is multimedia work, so dialogue in the movie is one of important part. It becomes one of source information to have more understanding about details in the movie.

2.4 Previous Study

The writer finds some previous studies concerning the application of feminism approach. The first study is conducted by Hilga Clararissa AS (2011) which is entitled *The Struggle of Afghan Women Against Men Subordination Portrayed in Mariam and Laila in Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Sun*.

A Thousand Splendid Sun brings oppression and woman subordination as major issue. This thesis reveals the oppression and subordination faced by two main characters Mariam and Laila. Hilga Clararisa AS found that these two characters face the oppression and subordination in early age. They got mental and physical pain and also arrangement marriage that are forced to do. Mariam and Laila have to face the violence from their husbands who treats them bad. The worst one of these all oppressions and subordinations is that the society discriminates them because they are women. In this thesis, we can see how these two magnificent characters try to struggle for their right as women and to survive from men's domination.

The second study is written by Nur Farah Ukhrowiyah (2011) which is entitled *Women Submission in Indian Culture Depicted in Charulata's Life in Rabindranath Tagore's The Broken Nest*. In this thesis, Nur Farah Ukhrowiyah found that women submission phenomenon is strongly revealed in Charulata's life as main character both before and after getting married. In her life before marriage, Charulata got arranged marriage in young age. She had lack of right and freedom in choosing her husband. After getting married, she must face her fate as lonely wife who never had right and power to have better condition. Charulata lives as upper class women in Indian Purdah system which become another factor that supports her submissiveness. In this thesis we can learn that the dependent position to the Indian tradition support women submission and also makes the absence of having power to gain the happy life with their own decision.

The studies above are very important in giving an insight to what the writer of this thesis does. Although applying the same theoretical framework, feminism, and talking about women subordination, this study is different from the previous two. In here, the writer tries to analyze movie *The Duchess* identifies that the women's position of the British society in early nineteenth century as being represented in Georgiana's life as the main character. Through the movie, the writer also wants to have a study on how British society treats women and puts them in second layer.

CHAPTER III

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter the writer presents the finding and discussion about the analysis of the study, the movie *The Duchess*, using feminism approach and movie study which have been explained in Chapter II. This chapter will explain the women's subordination in British society through the character of Georgiana. The finding and discussion will be divided into three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter deals with marriage which will be divided into three parts: arranged marriage, marriage as a way to get male heir, and domestic violence toward wife, the second sub-chapter is education and the last one is politics.

3.1 Marriage

Marriage is an important stage in human life. Arnold W Green (1972, p. 272) in *Sociology An Analysis of Life in Modern Society* gives brief explanation about it by stating that marriage is a formal and durable sexual union of one or more men with one or more women within a set of designated right and duties. Besides, marriage is normally defined as the conjugal union of man and woman, contracted between two qualified persons, which obliges them to live together throughout life (Arias, 2002, para. 3).

3.1.1 Arranged Marriage

An arranged marriage is a marriage of two people that has been established (or negotiated and agreed upon) way before the parties involved enter into a relationship.

This arrangement usually made by someone else, usually the parents (Risher, 2009, para.1). A marriage ideally should be conducted into each part's agreement, between a man and a woman who want to marry. Both woman and man should not do it under any repression from the other when they decided it. However, in a patriarchal society in which woman is subordinate to man, woman's right decides her own life is often repressed. Arranged marriage later becomes the common thing, especially in royal family, that can be clearly seen as in Georgiana and William's marriage. The practice of arranged marriage always avoid of courtship. Normally, courtship is intended for a couple to determine if they are compatible, attract and love each other. Love in 19th century of England was not an essential part of marriage. Parents wanted to make the best of her daughter's life so they arranged marriage for them with a prominent man.

In this movie, Georgiana Spencer, one of the upper family member, was married by William Cavendish, one of the richest and the influential noble member in England. William, the 5th Duke of Devonshire, represented the strong character of noble man at that time. When William proposed Georgiana, her mother was so happy because marriage with a prominent man such as William is a rare opportunity. This condition is depicted clearly in the scene below:



Figure 1
William and Georgiana’s arranged marriage
 (Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 1 min. 00:03:04)

The scene above is footage when Georgiana’s parents had discussion about marriage with William. From scene which is taken by using from a combination of long shots and eye level in angle, it is clearly seen that Georgiana were not involved in discussions. It is clearly seen how this important marriage did not need Georgiana’s opinion as the bride. At that time Georgiana who was playing with her friends in the garden did not know that in her home was held a discussion that would change her life forever. Since Georgiana was unmarried and live under patriarchal value, her parents made all the decisions for her.

Later, Lady Spencer tells Georgiana about this arranged marriage to Georgiana after the discussion with William was over.

LADY SPENCER: I have heard a rumor

GEORGIANA: Yes?

LADY SPENCER: That I shall very soon be addressing my daughter as Her Grace, the Duchess of Devonshire.

GEORGIANA: Is it true, Mama?

LADY SPENCER: It is.

GEORGIANA: The Duke of Devonshire

LADY SPENCER: I had hoped not to part with you until 18 at the soonest, but with such a fine match it would be selfish of me not to let you go.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:04:34-00:05:00)

She was very surprised and disbelieved in his mother's news because she only met William twice. Georgiana was not sure whether William really loved her merely by twice meeting. Knowing Georgiana's doubtness of the marriage, Lady Spencer gently convinced Georgiana that William loved her and they would have a happy marriage.

This situation can be seen below:

GEORGIANA: He loves me?

LADY SPENCER: Yes, of course.

GEORGIANA: I have met him only twice.

LADY SPENCER: When one truly loves someone, one doesn't have to know them well to be certain, Georgiana. One feels it right away. I do believe you will be happy with him.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:05:00-00:05:58)

However, as other women in 19th century and in patriarchal society, Georgiana was married when she was seventeen years old. She also got an arranged marriage in which she had no right to choose her husband she desired. In addition, as the young lady of high level society at that time, Georgiana was prohibited to talk to any men she had just met freely. It shows that young girls can not reveal and deliver their feeling to the men freely because if they do such kind of behavior, they are considered improper. The relationship between men and women in the society is limited. British society thought that a man and a woman should not be intimate. In Britain morality, a woman should avoid any conduct that appears to be showing romantic interest in someone that they do not marry. If an unmarried woman goes with man which is not her family member, she will get a bad image in the society (Hill *et al*, 1983, p.857) . On the contrary, a man, in this case is William can choose any girl he desired to be his wife.

From the explanation above, now we know that patriarchal system of British society at that time emphasized the domination of men's willing. Women do not have power even over on their own bodies. Arranged marriage became a reasonable thing when certain parents expected the appropriate husband for their daughter. Father was responsible for all family members and acted for the best. It is clear that all relationships were hierarchical. There were always a group being superior and the other was inferior.

To be a woman who was inferior in position, depended on man, and could be easily controlled because their passive role in the marriage were the main reasons why

woman should have an arranged marriage. Although it was hard for women at that time, there was no other option for them to refuse this arrangement. In the future, if this arranged marriage creates many inconsistencies between husband and wife, the conflicts in the household cannot be avoided.

3.1.2 Marriage as a Way to Get Male Heir

Concerning with the purpose of marriage, Jennaya Arias (2002, para.2) in *On the Primary Purpose of Married* defines marriage as the natural, indissoluble union, perfected by the Sacrament, between one man and one woman directed towards the purpose of preserving the human race by generating and raising children. Marriage is also ordered to the mutual help of spouses and the remedy for sexual desire. Thus, it is clear that having children to preserve the human race can be one of the purpose marriage.

Unfortunately, this purpose often becomes the cause of woman subordination, especially in patriarchal society such as in England in the nineteenth century. At that time, English men had more dominant roles than women. A wife tended to be her husband's object to gain what the husband desired. The ability of delivering a son rather than a daughter for instance, often became the standard of good woman. It determined the attitudes and behaviour of husband to his wife anyway. As a noble and patriarchal man, one of his purposes of marrying Georgiana was to have a son in order to inherit his wealth and lineage. Georgiana's condition is suitable with Helena

Wojtczak’s paper (2009, para. 23) entitled *British Women’s Emancipation Since the Renaissance*:

Once married, a wife was trapped in total obedience and subservience to her husband. This was believed to be ordained by both God and nature, so few dared to challenge it. Her body and property were his absolutely to do with whatever he wished. If she displeased him he could legally turn her out of his house penniless or beat her mercilessly and she had no power under the law to prevent it or gain any redress. A wife had to be dedicated to serving her master in silence and bearing his children: a good wife produced as her first-born a male heir. Sperm was believed to contain the seed of an entire person, the woman was merely a place for it to grow.

Moreover, the point of this marriage is that Georgiana had to fulfill her main duty from Devonshire’s family to deliver son as heir to William. Child will become important for everyone who has got married and this condition will be more apparent.

A male heir is very important for the aristocrats because he will inherit the family’s name and wealth of the father. It ran for Devonshire family anyway in which it had been on the pre-wedding agreement. This condition as reflected in dialogue as follow:

HEATON: These are not the issues that burden the Duke, Lady Spencer. It is His Grace’s duty to produce an heir. On the other hand, your daughter may expect a handsome reward when that occurs.

(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:02:34-00:02:44)

From the dialogue above, we know that son is very crucial and as the major reason why William married. In the early years of marriage, there were almost not any problems in their family life. By running of the time, William realized that his life was incomplete without the existence of a son. That was the reason why he

became selfish and always doctrinate to have heir to Georgiana. When Georgiana was pregnant for the first time, he hoped a baby boy. When there was a party in their house, suddenly Georgiana was going to deliver a baby. At the party William proudly announced his baby boy he expected. Every person was very excited to welcome the 6th Duke of Devonshire, but the delivering of baby girl broke this expectation. This situation is revealed:

THE DUKE: Are those labour pains? My wife is in labour!
 I think this calls for a toast. I may have an heir before the night is out. Ladies and gentlemen I give you the 6th Duke of Devonshire.
 (*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:23:11-00:23:28)

Further, there was nothing in his marriage that William wanted most except a son. A son would be heir for all William's wealth. As the society with patriarchy system, every family in England was set up, led and ruled by father or the oldest male. Name, property and leader of the families were passed into the son. That was the reason of William to have a son as soon as possible. The first child made William disappointed because Georgiana gave him a pretty girl. For him, a girl became the early destruction to his marital life and changed him to be an irritable man. He was hostile and indifferent to the people around him. His disappointment frightened him that Georgiana was not able to give him a son for his entire life. This is clearly stated below:

LADY SPENCER: Your Grace
 THE DUKE: I'm in no mood for conversation.
 LADY SPENCER: But, pray tell, is my daughter

THE DUKE: Is your daughter at all able to give me a son?

LADY SPENCER: Take heart, Your Grace. As long as the mother is in good health, consider this mishap a draft, a promise of what is soon to come. In our family..

THE DUKE: Yes, yes
In your family..

(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:23:53-00:24:17)

Later, trying to remove her husband disappointment, Georgiana fought very hard to get a son. After giving birth two beautiful daughters, there was rumor among people in London that she only could deliver girls. Finally, she went to Bath for her effort to get a baby boy. In Bath, Georgiana drank thermal water twice a day for four weeks as medicine to have a male heir. A male heir eventually came in Devonshire's House after Georgiana having two deliveries and two miscarriages.



Figure 2
William's heir
(Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 2 min. 00:00:14)

Figure 1 is the 6th Duke of Devonshire. The naked newborn handsome baby boy was being washed by the nanny. His name was William George Spencer Cavendish Marquis of Hartington (Hart). The picture which is taken in long shot and eye angle with white blanket as the background emphasize that the baby is boy by showing the entire baby's body. In the Devonshire's family, the male child was preferred than female child. Eventhough William George Spencer Cavendish Marquis of Hartington (Hart) was not the first baby born in that family, in the future he would be automatically considered as the head of the household who should protect and look after all his sisters.

Furthermore, through this film, we can feel that Georgiana in this film is merely as the objective of exploitation of reproduction. William would pay attention to Georgiana if she could give him a baby boy. A baby boy was very important to William until he promised to give a great amount of money to Georgiana. It can be seen in the following dialogues:

HEATON: Your Grace. As per the terms of His Grace's inheritance, this is for you. To spend as you wish.
 GEORGIANA: Success at last.
 THE DUKE: Georgiana..
 I too abhor this whole thing.

(*The Duchess*, Disk 2, min 00:00:49-00:00:60)



Figure 3
Georgiana gets reward from William
 (Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 2 min. 00:00:55)

We can see obviously Georgiana's expression when she gets cheque by medium close up that is used in picture above. The shoot which is taken from knee or waist up focusing on dialog and character and to explore some details of action. Georgiana's face and gesture which is taken in eye-level angle cannot lie though she was happy to have a son but this happiness shattered by the reward on her hands. Maternity is the biological role of women which is considered as main duty in the social life of British society at that time. Her sentences "*success at last*" emphasized that finally they got a baby boy as a heir. The patriarchal aristocratic social rule requires her to have a son as a heir to William. There was no other option for her except struggle so hard in order to have a son. She was forced to do something beyond her will.

However, this success did not immediately make Georgiana happy due to the pressures and problems she faced during her marriage. Of course with Georgiana's

condition it will be difficult to fight against her husband's domination. Feminist believe that women must react to the patriarchal value which have dominated them. Thus, they can reach their independent and raise the dignity.

3.1.3 Domestic Violence toward Wife

The movie *The Duchess* gave a bright illustration how the British aristocrat's relationship between husband and wife was built. Women's stereotypes are weak, emotional and passive. During 19th century, if a woman had married it meant that she became her husband's property. This condition happened because patriarchal society has idea that after a woman is married, her husband would take care of her. A husband as a leader in family had authority to all members of the family. Women were weaker than men, placed in second layer and considered not important in society. Their lower position made them considered as the second creatures. De Beauvoir in *The Second Sex* (cited in Butler 1999, p. 11) emphasized this phenomenon by stating "one is not born a woman, but, rather, becomes one". For her, women are not created as inferior beings, but their inferiority because of the power structure in society. It is in the hands of men.

Furthermore, the inferior position of women in patriarchal society often makes women insulted or violated, even in the domestic sphere which is socially constructed for women's sphere. Violence in marital life is also known as domestic oppression.

Domestic oppression is a pattern of intimidating or cruel behavior used to control family members (Hawke, 2007, para 1). Domestic violence consists of physical,

sexual, psychological and / or emotional abuse. Violence that was occurred to Georgiana was both psychological and physical.

Psychological violence is an action or set of actions that directly impairs the victim's psychological integrity (*Psychological violence*, n.d, para.1). This kind of violence made Georgiana's life difficult. As the explanation before, patriarchy system subordinates women and places them in the second layer. Thus, the husbands do not need caring their wives feeling. Living in patriarchal society, women at that time also had to behave as men's standardization of feminine women. As married women, they must accept any willing of their husbands. The reflection of psychological oppression to Georgiana occurred when Georgiana had to accept William's affair:

GEORGIANA: Of all the women in England, you had to throw yourself upon her. I have not objected once to any of your affairs, I have accepted whatever arrangement you have proposed, I have raised Charlotte as my own daughter, but this... I have one single thing of my own. Why couldn't you let me keep Elizabeth for myself?
What kind of man are you?!
She is all I have to cling to! She is my sole comfort in our marriage.
(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:44:45-00:45:28)

From the dialogue above, we can see how hard Georgiana accepted William's love affairs. For the first time, when William had affair with their maids, Georgiana were still able to forgive his deeds. Yet, she was very sad and disappointed when she knew that the next her husband affair was her best friend, Bess. Bess was Mr.

Foster's wife and was the only Georgiana's friend who comforted her, accompanied her loneliness life, listened her painful life story as a wife, and entertained her.

Georgiana had trusted her very much. At this time, William seduced Bess because Georgiana did not immediately give him a son. Georgiana's disappointment and bitterness ran deeper and deeper since a son did not quickly appear in her married life and her best friend betrayed her.

Unfortunately, eventhough Georgiana was hurted by her husband deeds, she had to constantly maintain her family's high reputation, dignity and pride. Marital women, not only in upper class and middle class but also lower class, tend to avoid any bad thing, such as scandals and bad behaviors in order to maintain her family's status. Being Duke's wife gave Georgiana much more consequences to keep her reputation by doing these attitudes, for instance stayed all the day at home to take care her children as good mother, obeyed her husband willing to be good housewife, etc.

Regarding to maintaining honored reputation, Georgiana's mother, Lady Spencer, did it at once. She, as a well-respected person in society, wanted to protect her daughter family from negative reputation by continually giving many advices to Georgiana to preserve her name among the society. Lady Spencer, like many other women at that time, realized that the only important thing for a wife is to fulfill and stay at home, to do all house activities to prove love and dependent on her husband.

This understanding made Lady Spencer asked Georgina to live only at home and be a good wife for William. It can be seen in the dialogues below:

LADY SPENCER: One has to accept one's responsibility, my darling. Certain obligations come with marriage, no matter how burdensome they may seem.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:11:42-00:11:47)

LADY SPENCER: Then you must return and resume your duties. Make him realize whom he loves. You will give up your politics, your nights on the town, your gambling. For once you will devote yourself as a loving wife and settle down to the task at hand: providing him with an heir. And then he will soon tire of her.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:48:11-00:48:32)

Moreover, the married women took the big burden, such as many difficulties, responsibilities and duties for maintaining the harmonious of family's life and avoiding the problems which could break their marriage. Georgiana faced those kinds of burdens which tortured her whole marital life. Besides, she had to accept her husband's love affairs twice. The first one was William's love affair with their maids which happened before they were married and the second was with Georgiana's best friend Bess which happened after they were married. Then, she raised Charlotte, William's child out of wedlock with a maid who was born before William and Georgiana married, as her own daughter. She also must abandon her true love, Charles Grey, for her children. She did not have any choice to her own life, so that as the consequence, she let William make decision based on his desire. It can be seen in the following dialogues:

THE DUKE: You must know that I am greatly pleased that we have come to an arrangement. It's not good for little ones to be without their mother for too long.

GEORGIANA: My life for theirs...

THE DUKE: That's one way of putting it.
Your mother called it "common decency before personal gratification", or some such thing... the exact words escape me...

GEORGIANA: How about 'imprisoned in my own house'?

THE DUKE: No, that's not how she put it. I would have remembered that.

(The Duchess, Disk 2, min 00:17:28-00:17:28)

Besides the psychological violence above, Georgiana also got physical violence.

The examples of physical violence were rape, torturing and beating. This physical violence to Georgiana happened when she tried to make a deal in their marriage. She was very much nervous when she said to William about her feeling to Charles Grey.

As it is known that in patriarchal society, men have full control of his family.

Furthermore, men as superior take a role and have power of discrimination in cultural system. Thus, their position is higher than women. Men are born to be leader, so that men mostly have dominated women. Under the institution of marriage, women did not have authority to make decision or deal with their husbands. For Georgiana, a deal with her husband was a big thing that she had never done. This horrible deal is reflected in the dialogue:

GEORGIANA : I give you my blessing if you will accept my feelings for Charles Grey.

I wasn't sure at first, I thought perhaps it was a dalliance or ...But it isn't. He can make me happy.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:59:00-00:59:10)

From dialogue above we can see even though in the beginning Georgiana was unsure with her feeling but Charles Grey gave him happiness that William never gave to her. William's treason made her very upset and hurt. Georgiana tend to look for comfort where she can be calm and feel full of protection. While she tried to escape from her problems, she found Charles Grey someone who comforts her. This deal wounded William's pride and he was so angry when he heard Georgiana's agreement to accept her feeling to Charles Grey. William's anger can be seen in this dialogue:

THE DUKE: A deal! A deal!! I don't make deals! I'm in charge of it all!! I would call him out! I would challenge him! I would put a bullet in the upstart's head!
(*The Duchess*, Disk 2, min 00:57:49-00:57:05)

In marriage, husband has authority to make decisions and rules to control all members of family. The rights of men are unlimited, not only in the family but also in social life. In this case, William as husband also has unlimited authority toward Georgiana. Lack of discussion and husband's authoritarian in marital life made women lost their right as wives. After marriage, women were more passive and under the husband's domination. William's authority did not enable for Georgiana to fight in order to get equal position in family system.

After they wrangled, Georgiana was frightened and in hurry out of the room. She entered her room and slammed the door quickly. A few minutes later the Duke opened the door and entered Georgiana's room. He shut the door crudely. The physical violence that happened to Georgiana can be seen in several scenes as below:



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Some physical violence that happened to Georgiana
 (Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 1 min. 00:59:48 – 01:00:32)

THE DUKE: You don't know me in the least, do you?
GEORGIANA: I do. We're a bad match.
THE DUKE: I asked but two things when we wed: loyalty and a male heir.
GEORGIANA: Yes, same as your dogs.
 No, don't touch me!
 Don't touch me!
 Get off!
 Get off me!
 This is the way how you treat her!
 No!!

(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:59:21-00:59:55)

The pictures above are scenes when Georgiana got physical violence from William. Meanwhile, the action between William and Georgiana was dominated by close up in shoot and eye level in angle. The combination of camera position showed clearly how cruel and rude William treated Georgiana. He grabbed and raped her in their bedroom. We also can see how Georgiana struggled from the physical violence by her husband. She tried to fight him off by screaming loudly when her dress was torn by William. He did it because he was angry and hurt his wife's bravery to have a deal. He wanted to show his power to her. In picture 6, William's expression could be seen obviously through the close up shot which was focused on his face. William satisfied after shedding his anger to Georgiana. Picture 7 was Georgiana's expression when the violence was over. William got up and left her lying on the bed. Meanwhile, she was looking at somewhere in blank expression.

Moreover, the rape done by William to Georgiana is in line with what De Beauvoir say that men use sexuality as a reason for the inferiority of women. Thus, women often become victims of sexual oppression such as rape and abuse (Gamble 2010, p. 41-42). It is also sturdily proper with Susan Brownmiller's statement in her book *Against Our Will* (cited in Tracy, 2007, p. 5) "rape become man's basic weapon of force against woman and become the ultimate triumph of manhood".

Life in patriarchal society makes men take role and control of anything. As a husband and the owner of Devonshire's family, William, had the authority to act

based on his willing. Further, the existence of physical violence in their marriage was also reflected in this dialogue:

GEORGIANA: What follows now? Are you going to tear off my clothes and force yourself upon me again?

THE DUKE: Why on earth would I do that?

I know that you've not thought much of either my intellect or my manners, but in fact I never do anything that serves no purpose.

(*The Duchess*, Disk 2, min 00:11:20-00:11:40)

The dialogue presents William's physical abuse toward Georgiana. As the property of husband, many wives accepted any harassment from their husband wholeheartedly.

Any defense of wives considered as the rebellion against their husbands. The other dialogue stated clearly how William treated Georgiana very cruelly in several years since their early marriage. William as husband said it briefly as follow:

THE DUKE: I am not particularly adept at expressing myself when it comes to matters of a more personal nature, but I shall endeavour to try. Over the years I have acted in ways that you have judged, harsh. Well I do not wish for you to undergo any further suffering. Indeed, I would like our life to return to a calm normality.

(*The Duchess*, Disk 2, min 00:26:42-00:27:54)

The close relation between patriarchy and domestic violence is stated by Linda Kelly in her writing entitled *Disabusing the Definition of Domestic Abuse: How Women Batter Men and the Role of the Feminist State*:

Such strong roots in patriarchy have produced an equally strong force against accepting female violence. Acknowledging female violence risks negating the very basis of the existing domestic violence definition. The consequences for domestic violence theory, however, are only a small part of a much larger threat. Domestic violence

represents the prized gemstone of feminist theory's fundamental message that our legal, social, and cultural norms are fashioned in a manner which permit men to engage in a constant and pervasive effort to oppress women by any and every available means. A successful challenge to the patriarchal definition of domestic violence may thus undermine feminism itself. To remain true to feminist theory, no aspect of male female relations can be considered without first accepting the male as all powerful and the female as powerless. The gender hierarchy is omnipresent (2003, p. 818).

In many kinds of society, patriarchy becomes the structure of social relation which enables men to dominate women. The feminists argued that patriarchy in any and all forms is one of the major causes of all abuse against women. Therefore, it can be concluded that violence against women is a consequence of male domination in the patriarchal society. Rosemary Radford Reuther also has similar opinion with Kelly. She declares "domestic violence against women (wife battering or beating) is rooted in and is the logical conclusion of basic patriarchal assumptions about women's subordinate status (cited in Tracy 2007, p.5)".

Domestic violence toward wife did not only happen to Georgiana but also to Bess, the other woman character in this film. One day, Georgiana and Bess met at a garden's balcony. Georgiana brought a cup of liquid. Curious with the water, Bess took a sniff. Knowing that it was thermal water which contained of sulfur, she felt pity and smiled supportively to Georgiana. This thermal water was medicine for Georgiana to have a male heir. They took a sit in a long bench. Unfortunately, as the occurrence to Georgiana, Bess got physical violence from her husband anyway. When Bess looked around the people who were staring at Georgiana, she saw the red bruise on Bess' neck. It can be seen in scene below:



Figure 8
Physical violence that happened to Lady Elizabeth “Bess” Foster
 (Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 1 min. 00:32:26)

GEORGIANA: What’s that on your neck?
 Bess...?
 BESS: It’s not illegal for a man to beat his wife with a stick unless the stick is thicker than his thumb.
 GEORGIANA: Mr Foster? But he can't do that...
 BESS: Considering what else he's done to me, that’s not the worst...
 (*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:32:29-00:32:48)

Shortly, as wives, both Georgiana and Bess were placed in inferior position that were physically weaker compared to their husbands. Picture 8 above which is taken in close up shoot and eye angle showed clearly how terrible Bess’s bruise. Georgiana was shocked and felt speechless knowing the violence Bess got. It was as if permitted for husband to hit and beat his wife just like occurred to Bess using the stick. In 1891 if wife couldn’t stand from their husbands’ violence and ran away from home, the police could arrest and return them to their husbands. Thus, the husbands also could

imprison them. This condition was approved by the church, customary law, history, and the public at that time (Wojtczak, n.d, para.7).

Georgiana, like other normal people, wished that she got the happy life, the abundant love of her husband and the freedom right as human being. Yet, living in the patriarchal society at that time enabled her did nothing besides were imprisoned in their own homes. This women's condition had close relation with patriarchy rule which had corellation with doctrine from the church anyway. Historically, the church shared forcefully religious fundamentalism that dominated every aspect of life in Britain of any social status. The order of women is to obey and serve her husband. Women's body is a part of her husband's body, as God create Eva from Adam's body. Women must consider her husband as their lord, life, and keeper (Wojtczak, 2009, para 20-22).

In *The Duchess*, it is clearly seen that Georgiana tried to guard and preserve herself by norms of society. As a woman and a wife, her all behaviors must be conducted based on society's rules and her husband. Georgiana received all this treatments without any resistance. Surely, this Georgiana's condition is in contrast with the feminist understanding that men and women are equal even though in the institutional of marriage. Based on feminism point of view it can be concluded that marriage as a type of trap for women because after they become a wife, they get many domination, harassment, oppression from husband and loses their freedom.

There are no excuses for husbands when they hurt their wives both physically and psychologically. For them, women must be aware about their subordination and

inferiority both in patriarchal system and in marital life. Feminists believe that women must be brave to react against male domination and patriarchal values in order to become honorable and independent women. That is why feminists fight for the women to have the right of speaking up, expressing opinions and making decisions as well as men.

3.2 Education

British society with its patriarchy system placed men in dominant and powerful position. Family as the smallest unit of patriarchy strengthened this ideology by encouraging each member of family to think and to behave based the rules of patriarchy. Families with the patriarchy system gave the opportunity to get higher education to boys instead of girls in which the son were able to get higher education in the school, but the daughter had to stay at home. It was considered unfair for women since their less opportunity of education. This condition was created by patriarchal society's belief that women should do domestic roles, such as taking care of her family and her children, cooking, and so on. Women at that time merely provided by knowledge of writing, reading or accounting which would be advantages as mother and housewife.

Education was revered by society and the famous literary salons of the period were centres of intellectual debate and educational lectures. Women were generally excluded from them, because merely teaching girls to read and write was considered unnecessary and even folly by most people. Some humanists argued that aristocratic women should be educated, and indeed some were; however, a woman who was exceptionally

accomplished risked being labelled as 'mannish' or - much worse - accused of being a witch (Wojtczak, 2009, para. 18).

Fortunately, Georgiana who was born as aristocratic got proper education compared with the other women at that time. There was no further information in her history live whether she got this education in formal school. However, there was possibility that her parent as wealthy landowners have taught her at home by invited private teacher just like the other upper class girls at that time.

The education of women maintained in a shadowy existance; most women received no education at all and poor women could neither read or write; non cast up accounts. Higher education was a privilege for some girls of the middle and higher social levels who were educated at "boarding-school" in subject like English, French, Dancing, Music, and Needlework. The education was finished at the age 15 or 16 due to the early marriage of women (Ibid cited in Wipprecht, 2006, p. 4).

Her character was described as smart and attractive woman who able to speak other language beside English, such as French, Latin and Italian. She was also good in horse riding and dancing. This condition such as reflected in dialogue:

LADY SPENCER: I trust your Grace still finds Georgiana an attractive girl?
 THE DUKE: Of course, Lady Spencer
 LADY SPENCER: She is well-bred and devoted to her duties. She speaks French, Latin and Italian, and is fully versed in horsemanship and dancing
 THE DUKE: Yes, I am aware of all that. She is a credit to you.
 (*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:02:13-00:02:30)

Lady Spencer, Georgiana's mother, held an important role in Georgiana's education by giving her education in which this education supported Georgiana's

duty as wife and mother in the future. It is reflected in Lady Spencer’s word “well-bred and devoted to her duties”. However, it is still unfair for women since their education is used to take the responsibility of taking care of the family while their husband has a career outside.

Different from Georgiana, Charles Grey as a man got opportunity to have higher education at the school. Charles Grey was Georgiana’s friend and became her lover after William had love affair with her best friend, Bess Foster. Charles’s education could be seen through the following dialogues:

FOX:	Ah. And here is my protégée, Charles Grey.
GEORGIANA:	Mr. Grey.
GREY:	Your Grace.
FOX:	He’s our newest bright young man scarcely out of Cambridge and already a Member of Parliament.
GEORGIANA:	I always felt you would do well, Mr. Grey.
GREY:	Thank you.

(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:35:45-00:36:00)

The dialogue above explicitly showed that men were always be in higher rank and position in education field. Indeed, based on his live history, Charles was educated at Richmond School, followed by Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge (*Charles grey, 2nd earl grey*, n.d, para. 2). Similar with Charles Grey, the other character in the movie, Charles James Fox also had higher education. He was well known as a prominent British Whig statesman. History recorded that Charles James Fox educated at Eton and Oxford University (*Charles james fox*, n.d, para.1). Same with Charles Grey and Charles James Fox, Georgiana’s the only son; William George

Spencer Cavendish Marquis of Hartington (Hart) also got higher education compared with his sisters. In Hart's life history, he was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge (*William Cavendish 6th Duke of Devonshire*, n.d, para. 2). Thus, we can conclude that men were able to get more access for higher education at formal school than women.

Mary Wollstonecraft through her work *Vindication of the Right of Women* in 1792 stated that women must have equal position with the men in many fields especially in education. In line with that, Daniel Dafoe an British famous writer had opinion about education for women in Britain:

“one of the most barbarous custom in the world, considering us as a civilised and a Christian country, is that we deny the advantages of learning to women. ...Their youth is spend to teach them to stitch and sew, or make baubles. They are taught to read indeed, and perhaps to write their names, or so; and that is the height of a woman's education. ...what is a man (a gentleman, I mean) good for, that is taught no more?” (*Overview on women's education in England and the United States 1600 – 1900*, n.d, para.4)

Moreover, the quotation above presents the differentiation of education between women and men received because of gender. As it is known, in gender perspective women have close relation with their duty as housewife. Thus, women's education tend to support their domestic roles such as house keeping and sewing rather than writing and reading. About relation between education for women and gender,

Katelyn Ludwig in her article *Reinventing the Feminine* (2006, para.1-2) stated it briefly:

Based on the believed qualities of gender at the time, many educational experts suggested that girls be minimally educated. The

idea was to create individuals who were educated enough to be useful, but not enough to be “aggressive” or ambitious. To ensure this, girls were given an education filled with certain prescribed and feminine elements, including reading, writing, sewing, knitting, drawing, etiquette, posture, dancing, religion, French, singing, playing an instrument, cooking and supervising servants. Women were able to participate in a learning environment, and in these superficial learning areas; however, the intensity of their learning and the subject areas ensured the fact that the educational atmosphere was truly gender-based. The goal of education for women was to be virtuous, obedient, pleasing and skilled in all that would enable them to care for their families and households. Most of the girls who went through this prescribed education process came through with the values, morals and abilities that were wanted in the female gender.

As it is known, education actually makes people learn many valuable things for their future. In simple words, it may be said that education is an important foothold in the society’s life. Many feminist argued that education is one way of women to be able to emancipate them against male domination. That is why education is not only for men but also for women. It is also one that hard fought by feminist. In the early 19th century there was an assumption in the society that the primary purpose of education for women was to educate their children in the future. That was why women were still considered as the second layer sex.

3.3 Politics

Human sexes actually place men and women in the same position because they have their own function which can be used to support each other. Unfortunately, women are always considered as the weaker sex. Thus, this perception limit their

right, duty, and job. Even in the modern era, women should still stay at home, do the domestic role only, and bury their desire to have career out of their home.

Politics is an impossible and hard field for women to join in the past centuries because women's stereotypes were passive, powerless, meek, charming, graceful, sympathetic, self-sacrificing, and pious. Women faced the difficulty of allowing to vote because they did not have any right to vote until the end of 19th century. This women's condition is reflected in Georgiana's character in *The Duchess*. Although she was excited to have a career in politics, the regulations at that time limited her activity.

After marrying with William and becoming The Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana lived in The Devonshire's house. William was an important person at British society who had a great career in politics as the Whig Party's main supporter.

Their house often became a meeting hall for elite politicians of Whig Party. From the occasion Georgiana for the first time knew the world of politics. Mr. Fox's speech in the banquet dinner at their house formed and gave an understanding to Georgiana about politics. This condition can be seen in the following dialogues:

FOX: In which particular section of the speech did the message elude your Grace?

GEORGIANA: Well, I have great sympathy with your sentiments in general, but fail fully to comprehend how far we, the Whig party, that is –are fully committed to the concept of freedom.

FOX: We would like to see the vote extended...

GEORGIANA: To all men...?

FOX: Heavens no. But certainly to more men. Freedom, in moderation.

GEORGIANA: "Freedom in moderation"?

FOX: Precisely.

GEORGIANA: I am sure you are full of the best intentions, Mr. Fox, but I dare say I would not spend my vote - assuming I had it - on so vague a statement. Either one is free or one is not. The concept of freedom is an absolute. After all, one cannot be moderately dead, moderately loved, or moderately free. It must always remain a matter of either or.

(The Duchess, Disk 1, min 00:14:24-00:15:15)

Attractively, she tried to have full attention to Mr. Fox's speech even it was not easy for her. From the conversation above, we can see how Georgiana's views in the Mr. Fox's political campaign speech. Although she was a woman and the only woman in that meeting, she could surprisingly show the weakness of freedom concept of Mr. Fox and and favorably impress him, especially through her candor.

Yet, her sentence "*I would not spend my vote - assuming I had it*" showed the real condition in which all women at that time, including an aristocrat women like her, had no right to vote.

Since her conversation with Mr. Fox at that night, Georgiana became obsessed to politics. Her political career was inseparable from William's position as the main proponent of Whig Party. During the National Election, she and Mr. Grey helped Mr Fox to win in Westminster by making a plan to take the attention of the voters using Georgiana's charisma. The situation is reflected below:

GEORGIANA: Mr Grey, I have been thinking. The national election is in six weeks ? How is the campaign going?

GREY: Terribly. Our only hope is to save Westminster for Fox.

GEORGIANA: I have many faults as you well know, not least among them is my ability to draw attention. Perhaps we could use that to our advantage.
(*The Duchess*, Disk 1, min 00:40:06-00:40:30)



Figure 9

Figure 10

Georgiana’s political campaign
(Source: *The Duchess*, Disk 1 min. 00:40:51- 00:41:07)

Georgiana was wellknown as The Empress of Fashion because of her beauty. She had wonderful sense of style. Whatever she wore, many women would imitate her mode. People always gave merry applause when Georgiana came with her extraordinary appearance. In picture 9 which is taken in medium and eye level shoot, we can see her appearance in Westminster Whig’s campaign party to vote Mr Fox. Georgiana stood on a platform in a most outrageous costume; foxtails in her hair, orange and blue in colors that reflected of the political party’s color. Picture 10 which is taken in long shot, Georgiana looked in the middle of group who admired her much. She was on high attention of people from a lord to a maid, men and women. Applauses and cheers reverberated in the crowd.

Further, being a member of aristocracy who was considered as the high class in society made Georgiana respected by other classes. Woman having career in politics was very rare. Georgiana accompanying William at every banquet dinner and political party made she easily fit into the world of politics. Her important role in every campaign conveyed political messages in the way of woman. She was also the first woman to campaign for a candidate in an election in 1784 (Angles, n.d, para 5).

However, Georgiana's great politics career in Whigs did not allow her to follow the election, like Mr. Charles James Fox or Richard Brinsley Sheridan and also as well as to advance a candidate member of Parliament, like Mr. Charles Grey. At that time, the members of Parliament were only men. The role of Georgiana in Whig Party was merely as the main proponent in which by using her beauty, charisma and fashion, to raise the public attention. Although she had a wide influence in the Whig Party, she still did not use her popularity to fight for the women's rights in the general election. It was caused by the law which prohibited women to elect and to be elected in the election.

Moreover, the right for women to vote was difficult along 19th century until the early 1900's. The issue of female right to vote firstly gathered momentum during the early years of the 20th century based on the work of liberal thinkers such as John Stuart Mill. Women who have helped the British's soldier during World War 1 considered themselves very meritorious and deserved the right to vote. The issue of women's suffrage was also appointed by the Suffragist Millicent Fawcett at the Speaker's Conference in 1916. She suggested that it would be very likely for women

over 30 years to get their voting's rights (*Representation of the People Act 1918*, n.d, para 4). This idea was also based on the number of men who died during the war. As the result, on February 6, 1918 the law on the rights of women to vote, called The Representation of the People Act 1918, was passed by parliament. But the rights that they got was not fully equal with men. If men could have their right to vote since 21 years old, women have the right to vote while they were in the age of 30 (1998, February 6). *The BBC News*, para 2.

Later, many feminists at that time struggled against their inferior status in politics because they believed that men and women are created equal. They tried to lift up women's position and right, so that they became equal with men. Right to vote was a symbol of the existance, position, and also an indication in standing alone as an individu in the society. They established women's movement organization in order to strenghten their rebellion. This struggle was eventually successful. In 1928, women had the right to vote as same as men in the age of 21 in which after that, another act of allowance for women to be elected in the House of Commons was released. As the final result of the long struggle, women nowadays are equal to men in all life areas.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter is intended to present the conclusion based on the finding and discussion. It also presents suggestion for next researchers in conducting further studies.

4.1 Conclusion

The Duchess is a movie which reflects the real condition of patriarchal rules about relationship between men and women especially in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century of British society. Georgiana as the main character suffered unequal treatment from her husband and from society where she lived. She became a victim of patriarchal rules. The woman subordination in British society which is reflected in this movie is depicted in three aspects. They are marriage, education and politics.

Marriage is an important stage in human life including for Georgiana. Unfortunately, Georgiana could not choose her husband because her parents arranged her marriage. There was no option for her to refuse this arrangement. After her marriage, she had burden to have a son to inherit her husband's wealth and lineage.

A son was so important for William that he promised to give a great amount of

money to Georgiana. Georgiana also experienced so much violence in her marital life.

Therefore, many husbands at that time assumed that women who became their wives were their properties so they could do anything towards them without any excuses.

Violences that happened to Georgiana were physical and psychological ones.

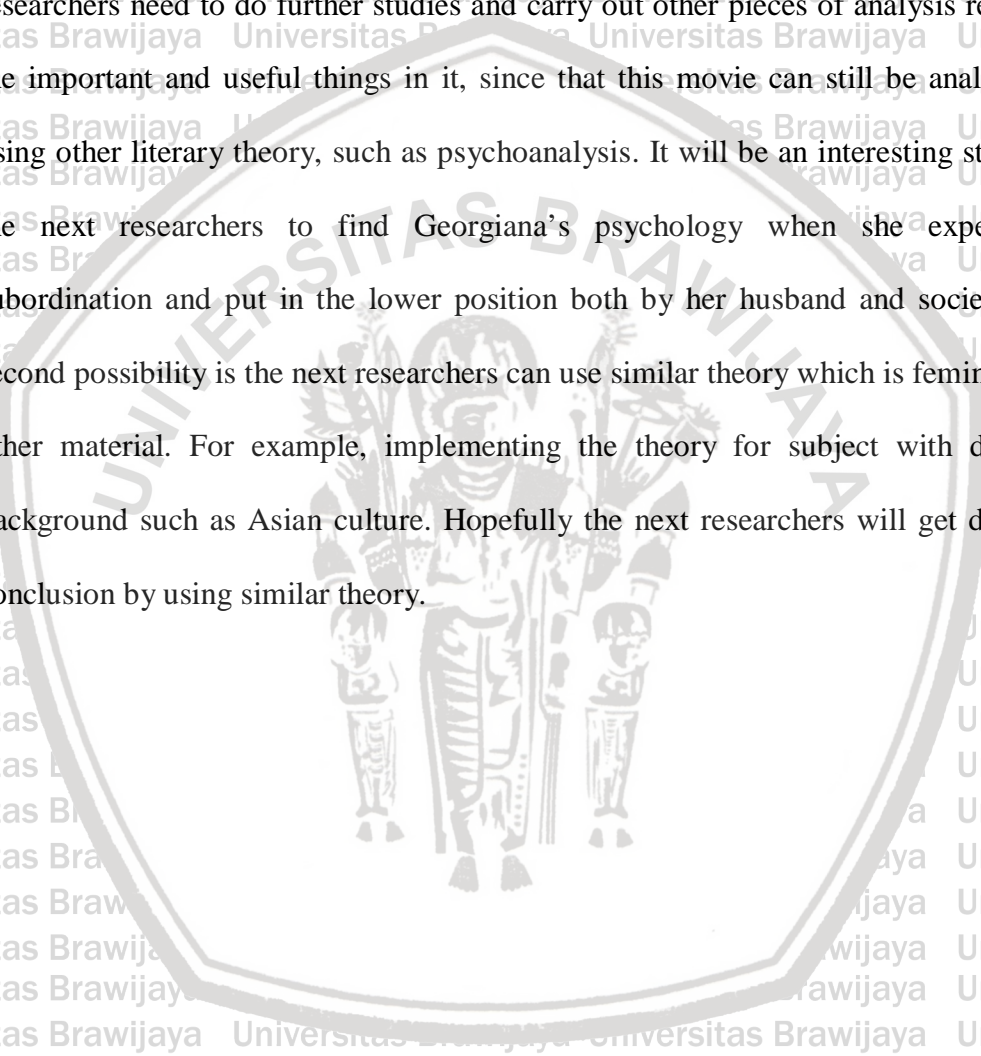
Because the main task of women was to take care of family and children, having high education would not be needed for them. At that time, only men could get higher education at formal school and women got less chance to enter school. However, Georgiana was lucky enough because she still got proper education. The education that she had was used to take the responsibility of taking care of the family.

Georgiana was excited to have a career in politics, but the regulations which were made at that time has limited her activity. Eventhough Georgiana had a great political career in Whig, she could not follow the election. She only helped Whig's candidate in electioneer by using her beauty, charisma and fashion to raise public attention.

Shortly, *The Duchess* primarily focuses on women subordination that happened in British society in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Through Georgiana as the main character, it is clearly seen how patriarchal values in British society put women in the lower position. Although the British values standards shown in the movie are seemingly out of date, similar problems still happen to many women.

4.2 Suggestion

After the writer has finished analyzing *The Duchess*, she thinks that next researchers need to do further studies and carry out other pieces of analysis reveal to the important and useful things in it, since that this movie can still be analyzed by using other literary theory, such as psychoanalysis. It will be an interesting study for the next researchers to find Georgiana's psychology when she experiences subordination and put in the lower position both by her husband and society. The second possibility is the next researchers can use similar theory which is feminism for other material. For example, implementing the theory for subject with different background such as Asian culture. Hopefully the next researchers will get different conclusion by using similar theory.



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Appendix: Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi



**KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN DAN KEBUDAYAAN
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA
FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA**

Jalan Mayjen Haryono No. 169 Malang 65145
Telp. (0341) 551611Pes. 309 Telex. No. (0341) 31873 Fax. (0341) 565420
Telp. (0341) 575822 (direct) Fax. (0341) 575822 (direct)

BERITA ACARA BIMBINGAN SKRIPSI

1. Nama : Aulia Jeny Setiyawati
2. NIM : 0911112002
3. Program Studi : S1 Sastra Inggris
4. Judul Skripsi : Women Subordination in British Society in
The Duchess The Movie
4. Tanggal Mengajukan : 18 Agustus 2011
5. Tanggal Selesai Skripsi : 18 Juni 2012
6. Nama Pembimbing : I. Juliati, M.Hum
II. Agus Gozali, S.Pd
7. Keterangan Konsultasi :

No	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
1	18 Agustus 2011	Pengajuan Judul	Pembimbing 1	
2	18 Agustus 2011	Pengajuan Judul	Pembimbing 2	
3	19 September 2011	ACC Judul	Pembimbing 1	
4	19 September 2011	ACC Judul	Pembimbing 2	
5	21 September 2011	Penyerahan Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
6	5 Oktober 2011	Konsultasi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
7	7 Oktober 2011	Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
8	12 Oktober 2011	Konsultasi Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
9	14 Oktober 2011	Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
10	25 Oktober 2011	Konsultasi Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
11	26 Oktober 2011	ACC Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 1	
12	28 Oktober 2011	Konsultasi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 2	
13	2 November 2011	Penyerahan Bab III	Pembimbing 1	
14	9 November 2011	Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing 2	
15	15 November 2011	Mendaftar Seminar Proposal		
16	24 November 2011	Seminar Proposal		
17	5 Desember 2011	Revisi Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing 1	
18	12 Desember 2011	Revisi Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing 2	
19	21 Desember 2011	Revisi Bab III	Pembimbing 1	
20	28 Desember 2011	Konsultasi Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1	
21	5 Januari 2012	Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1	

22	17 Januari 2012	Konsultasi Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1
23	20 Januari 2012	Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1
24	8 Maret 2012	Konsultasi Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1
25	14 Maret 2012	ACC Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 1
26	19 Maret 2012	Konsultasi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 2
27	31 Maret 2012	Revisi Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 2
28	9 April 2012	ACC Bab III dan IV	Pembimbing 2
29	12 April 2012	Mendaftar Seminar Hasil	
30	2 Mei 2012	Seminar Hasil	
31	8 Mei 2012	Revisi I	Penguji 1
32	14 Mei 2012	ACC Revisi	Penguji 1
33	15 Mei 2012	Revisi I	Penguji 2
34	29 Mei 2012	ACC Revisi	Penguji 2
35	8 Juni 2012	Mendaftar Ujian	
36	18 Juni 2012	Ujian Skripsi	Penguji 1
37	18 Juni 2012	Ujian Skripsi	Penguji 1
38	18 Juni 2012	Ujian Skripsi	Pembimbing 1
39	18 Juni 2012	Ujian Skripsi	Pembimbing 2

8. Telah dievaluasi dan diuji dengan nilai:

Dosen Pembimbing I

Juliati, M.Hum
NIP. 19720929 200604 2 004

Malang, 29 Juni 2012
Dosen Pembimbing II

Agus Gozali, S.Pd
NIK. 770813 12 11 0059

Mengetahui,
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra

Syariful Muttaqin, M.A
NIP. 19751101 200312 1 001