

WOMEN'S SUBORDINATE POSITION REFLECTED IN ELIZABETH ASTON'S *THE SECOND MRS. DARCY*

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ABSTRACT. Dalam masyarakat patriarkhal, perempuan seringkali mendapatkan tekanan secara ekonomis, politis, sosial maupun psikologis. Kesadaran akan tekanan terhadap perempuan ini membangkitkan perjuangan bagi kesetaraan kedudukan dengan laki-laki. Penelitian ini membahas kedudukan perempuan sebagai *subordinate* seperti digambarkan dalam novel karya Elizabeth Aston yang berjudul *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. Pertanyaan yang diajukan adalah bagaimanakah kedudukan perempuan dalam novel *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. Penelitian menggunakan metode deskriptif, dengan novel *The Second Mrs. Darcy* sebagai sumber data utama, dengan data berupa kata, frasa dan kalimat dalam novel tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik (berfokus pada karakter dan setting) dan ekstrinsik (berfokus pada tradisi dan nilai-nilai dalam struktur sosial yang digambarkan dalam novel). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perempuan menghadapi masalah kesetaraan, di mana perempuan dipandang sebagai *subordinate* dari laki-laki, khususnya dalam masalah-masalah hubungan hak hukum, dan kebebasan berbicara. Keadaan ini membangkitkan perlawanan demi hak perempuan, seperti digambarkan oleh tokoh utama Octavia.

Kata Kunci: *character analysis, women's rights,*

INTRODUCTION

In a society dominated by men, women are considered inferior to men. This leads to gender inequities such as excluding women for equal access to leadership and decision making position. Women are only allowed to play a part in the domestic area as housekeepers while the men in public areas as heads of households and breadwinners. The rule is the women are responsible for reproduction, so that by tradition and nature, women are seen naturally responsible in the domestic area. Lois Tyson (2006:83), states that in a society dominated by men, women are often oppressed economically, politically, socially, and psychologically. These differences have appeared since ancient times, because of the influence of culture and religion they have. Men have a more mainstream position than women because women are just as followers. It can be described that women are always led by men and this makes the relationship between men and women are not equal.

Awareness of the oppression of women (in society, in the workplace, and in the family) leads to the fight for gender equality. Feminists fight and make overall improvement to the idea of oppression in the name of gender, search the root oppression of women, and attempt the creation of a true women's liberation. The struggle for gender equality is related to social equality, where women can get equal rights with men in the community regardless of gender. Until today most of the women are still active in the struggle for equal rights with men, or commonly known as gender equality. Gender equality is removal of discrimination and structural inequality, thus creating equality between the rights of men and women in all fields as in political, legal, social, cultural, educational, and so on. So that women can be free to speak up or give opinion.

The focus of the study is women's subordinate position as portrayed in Elizabeth Aston's novel entitled *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. Being a fan of Jane Austen, she tried to expose problems faced by women in the novel. The novel tells about Octavia, one of the main characters in the story, the daughter of a second wife long-deceased, Mrs. Melbury, who is ill-treated by her half-

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siblings for her mother's less-favoured social status. She is described as an honest, outspoken, headstrong, bold and intelligent young woman. Being a widow in her 25 years old, she decides to become an independent woman and refuses the idea of re-marriage for surviving in her social circle. She fights against the tradition or rules and seek the possibility of having equal ability to men in all fields.

This study aims to investigate the position of women as pictured in *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. With this background of the study, the question to be answered in this study is: What is the position of women reflected in Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*?

This study is expected to contribute to the study of literary works, especially in giving more understanding in appreciation of literary works, especially Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*, and to draw positive values from this study such as courage to fight fear in life.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A necessary review of some theoretical aspects of analysis is discussed, including character, setting and some aspects of women roles in Victorian age.

Character

Characters are figures in the story. Characters may be humans, plants and things. According to Abrams (1999:32), characters are people who present in dramatic or narrative works. Furthermore, Foster in William Kenney (1966: 28-29) describes two specific types of character feature, a flat character and a round character. A flat character is basically a character that has one side of the personality that will never change in the whole story. On the contrary, the round character is a character with more complex features of ability, psychology, and points of view based on the situations given in the story. Characters in literature have important position because from the characters, the reader can understand the thoughts and intentions of the author. Thus, in literary works characters have an important position because by knowing the characters, readers come to understand the author's thoughts and intentions through dialogue and action based on the description given by the author. In other words, characters are actors in a story and the personality of the characters can be known from the dialogue or behavior defined by the author in the story.

Based on the character appearance, the character can be divided into protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is usually a character which is regarded as a hero in a story and admired by readers because this character is considered performing actions for justice that can give sympathy to the reader. While the antagonist character usually against the protagonist character or become the protagonist rival. This character usually plays a role as a bad person who causes conflict.

According to the level of importance, the characters are divided into two parts, namely major characters and minor characters. A major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. The major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict. Supporting the major character are one or more secondary or minor characters whose function is partly to illuminate the major characters. Minor characters are often static or unchanging: they remain the same from the beginning of a work to the end (Elements of Fiction.pdf).

Setting

Setting is one of the essential materials that construct a story. A basic understanding of the setting by Meyer (1990:107) is the circumstances in which the actions of the story take place. Furthermore, Meyer (1990:107) also believes that:

“Setting is the context in which the action of the story occurs. The major elements of setting are time, place, and social environment that frame the characters. These elements

establish the world in which the character act. In most stories, they also serve as more than background and furnishings. If we are sensitive to the context provided by setting, we are better to understand the influence to the behavior of the characters and the significance of their action.”

Thus, setting can be divided into three categories: (a) Setting of place, which is the background related with the location of the occurrence of events in a literary work; (b) Setting of time, about when the occurrence of an event, such as how long it runs or passes in the story, and (c) Setting of social environment, setting related to the behavior of social life in one place concerning customs, norms, beliefs, thought patterns, social status, etc.

According to Abrams(1999: 284), setting is a very important element that forms a story because this element can determine the general situation of a work of literature. To find the settings in the story, we need to know or recognize when and where the characters in the story act. So the setting can help provide clarity in a literary work.

Gender Roles In Victorian Age

Claudia Nelson (2007:1-4), describes that in the 19th century, in the governance of Queen Victoria in 1837, England threatened with poverty since the number of births was higher than the number of deaths. So this led to a desire to increase people’s social class in which a marriage was a lottery for them. Motivation to doing marriage in addition to the love and wanted to have children was for financial security and social status. This led to both men and women will have a relationship when it is considered ideal based on the views or opinions of family or community. Caused by lack of education or economic constraints, women had to marry men that came from the same social class or higher social status to support their lives. For women in that period, they were deemed unable to stand alone or to maintain their own lives without the presence of a man. So, if a woman wanted to stay or get out of poverty and to improve her social class, then the only way was to find a husband to support them. Thus, very few women start the marriage with the feeling of love. It was based on the business or financial support.

In this period, marriage was one of the most important points in the life of a woman. The majority of women did not have the choice not to marry, because it was a necessity for survival. This was because the tradition in society that prevented women from making a living and had to rely on men. Women were considered not afford or did not have the work skills to make money. They had to submit to men should and did not act on their own. Thus indirectly this brought women into the suppression and limitation of movement in an environment which was dominated by men.

Ideal Women In Victorian Period

In the 18th century until the 19th century women were not able to obtain gender equality. Women have always been subject to male’s power. They had to become obedient hostesses, patient wives and mothers, and helpers or supporters to their husbands and children. So women had to be a good mother and take care of the household well. Abrams (ideals womanhood 09.shtml) explains that the ideal woman in Victorian period is a woman whose life revolved around the domestic sphere of the home and family. Her role was that of helpmeet and domestic manager. It was through her duties within the home that a woman was offered a moral duty, toward her family, especially her husband and toward society as a whole. An ideal woman was not the weak or passive creature but a woman who drew strength from her moral superiority and whose virtue was manifested in the service of others.

Similarly, in (gender-ideology-and-seperate-spheres-19th-century), it is stated that in terms of gender ideology, women were traditionally defined physically and intellectually as the ‘weaker’ sex, in all ways subordinate to male authority. In private life women were subject to

fathers, husbands, brothers even adult sons. Publicly, men dominated all decision-making in political, legal and economic affairs.

Married Women In Victorian Period: Their Rights And Property

In the Victorian period, women's rights were very limited. They did not have a right to participate in politics, the right to sue, or the right to have property. When upper class women had married then the ownership of land and all other cash they produced or had would legally become their husband's property. Levi (1863:23) states, "By marriage, the personal identity of the woman is lost. Her person is completely sunk in that of her husband, and he acquires an absolute mastery over her person and effects. Hence her complete disability to contract legal obligations; and except in the event of separation by divorce, or other causes, a married woman in the United Kingdom cannot engage in trade. Moreover, the excerpts from Married Women's Property Act 1870, read: "Thus, a woman, on marrying, relinquished her personal property—moveable property such as money, stocks, furniture, and livestock—to her husband's ownership; by law he was permitted to dispose of it at will at any time in the marriage and could even will it away at death"(Married Women's Property Act 1870.html). It can be said that women at the time had to live in deprivation and difficulties in social status, gender equality, and finance.

Women in this age completely lose their legal identity. They were required to become someone different from who they really were and had to do something against their will. Powell (1996: 225), states "In Western Europe during the late eighteenth century, single women had little protection under the law, and married women lost their legal identity. Women couldn't retain a lawyer, sign a contract, inherit property, vote, or have rights over their children".

METHOD

The research method used in this study is qualitative. In line with Blaxter's theory (1996:60) qualitative research is concerned with collecting and analyzing information in as many forms, chiefly non-numeric, as possible. It tends to focus on exploring, in as much detail as possible, smaller numbers of instances or examples which are seen as being interesting or illuminating, and aims to achieve 'depth' rather than 'breadth'. This method was chosen because it has the advantage of providing an understanding of social phenomena. In this case *The second Mrs. Darcy* serves as the primary data source, and the data are words, phrases, or sentences from the novel that are related to the topic of discussion.

There were many steps taken by the writer in doing the analysis. First, the writer read the novel many times to understand its content well. Next, the writer collected the data from the novel in the form of words, phrases, or sentences related to the topic of the thesis. Finally, the writer classified and analyzed the data. Thus the writer can obtain clear illustration about the material research.

The approaches used in this research are intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic approach elements are all things that inspired the writing of literary works and the influence of literature as a whole. These include theme, moral message, setting, character, etc. The intrinsic elements applied in this study are character and setting. Whereas extrinsic approach is the discussion that is focused on the study of other aspects outside literary element which have a great influence in shaping the literary works such as sociology, philosophy, psychology, etc (Wellek and Warren, 1948:65). The extrinsic elements applied in this study are the tradition and the values as well as the structure of social life reflected in the novel.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* focuses on woman's position as reflected in Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. The results include aspects of women position

in gender relation, deprivation in legal rights, and suppression of free speech and resentment toward women.

Women Subordinate Position in Gender Relation

Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*, tells about Octavia Melburry who is the protagonist in the story. Octavia is the daughter of a second wife long-deceased, Mrs. Melbury. Her half-sisters and brothers care very little for Octavia since she is from their father's second marriage to a woman they consider beneath them.

Octavia who is tall and outspoken, fails to find a husband in London and is dispatched to India to find a husband. In India, she marries Capt. Christopher Darcy but their happy union does not last long because her husband dies from a tropical fever. Octavia Darcy is left nearly penniless and because she failed to produce a son, Christopher Darcy's estate was left to his spiteful cousin, George Warren. While wondering how she can afford to return to England, she is contacted by a gentleman working for the lawyers of a Mrs. Anne Worthington and told that Mrs. Worthington's estate has been left to her. Octavia is surprised because as far as Octavia knew, she had no relatives on her mother's side of the family. Nonetheless, she is given money to travel to England and the name of the law firm to contact on her arrival. Octavia finds that the inheritance is indeed real and since her husband died before her great-aunt, there is no difficulty, for if her husband had died after her great-aunt, the inheritance would have gone to him.

Octavia keeps mum about her newfound fortune while she is faced with the very real prospect of being forced to marry in order to survive in her social circle, since at her level she can't be seen to find employment. Escaping from the effort of her half-brothers and sisters to marry her off, Octavia goes to Yorkshire, where she is to stay with country cousins. Octavia uses the opportunity to tour her new property and settle her estate with the lawyers, as she intended. In Yorkshire, Octavia is pleased to make the acquaintance of many friendly neighbors, not the least of whom is a much-admired bachelor who is a landowner and politician, Sholto Rutherford. Octavia and Rutherford butt heads over politics and assist in a romance until George Warren threatens Octavia's fortune. George realizes Christopher's inheritance is not as large as he had thought and plots to steal Octavia's fortune.

After her time in Yorkshire, Octavia returns to London and is well-settled in her new environment. The only cloud over her happiness is the threat of a suit brought by George Warren, who seeks to attach Octavia's fortune. She is threatened with the loss of both inheritance and reputation. Octavia seeks relief from Warren's intrigue by spending Christmas as a guest of the Rutherfords at Netherfield House, which brings not only festivities and theatricals but also unexpected solutions and happiness. Lord Rutherford makes Warren Withdrawn his claim to her inheritance and Lord Rutherford, who does not mind with her speaking up of her mind declares his love for her and promise will settle all Octavia's fortune upon her if they get married.

Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* is set in the Victorian era, around the 18th to 19th century, and has a setting of place in London. The time setting reflects how the system of patriarchy is so strong among the middle and upper classes. This system creates some social issues of gender inequality – women's subordinate position in gender relation, deprivation of women in legal rights, and women's suppression of free speech.

In the novel, some women are created with a passive and submissive character. They are considered helpless and do not have ability to support themselves. So if women want to stay or get out of poverty and to improve their social class, then the only way is to find husbands to support them. In other words, women have one main role in life – married to a man of the same or a better social status, be good wives, and be a mother to her husband's children. Then marriage is only a tool to achieve what they want.

Such a position of women in the novel is reflected in Octavia's life, as shown in the following quotations:

“Well, as to that, the past is the past, and we must look to the future, and since you have no fortune, just as you didn’t have when you left, the only course open to you is marriage (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:31) .”

Women from the age of 18 years are considered old enough to get married. Parents will bring them out to have their first seasons where they might find suitable future husbands. In order to get the men they want, they have to look like ideal females in accordance with the society standards. They should always be gentle, graceful, pretty, and passive. They must listen to whatever men have to say.

“And they tried, in their ruthless way. Muslined and crimped and scolded and directed as to just how to behave, Octavia must be meek, men didn’t like any forwardness in woman, particularly not in one who resembled a bean pole. She must laugh, but softly, nothing merry or uproarious, at whatever jokes or pleasantries her partner might make; she must listen; she must hold her tongue and keep her thoughts to herself, no one was interested in her except as a wife of more or less suitable breeding and the possible mother of future sons (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:6)”.

Marriage is the only option for women from upper class because they cannot make money for themselves. They have to keep their attitude, behavior, and appearance in public as well as within the family because a man would normally marry a woman who is considered ideal and who would not break social rules. Therefore, women are always taught about wide range of values and norms that exist in society that men have higher position. So women must understand the meaning of modesty is not taking anything that is part of men.

A person's background influences the person in choosing their potential mates. Therefore, a man of high social status in general chooses a woman who has a good reputation in the community. A well qualified woman is a woman who has a good social or economical background. A woman with good social background or fortune will become an ideal target of men. A woman of great fortune would be an “easy prey” for men because of the cultural values that are so powerful in the society. By marriage, women’s properties are relinquished to her husband’s ownership. Then the marriage can also be regarded as a source of income where a spouse can enjoy the wealth of a partner.

“Pagoda is right,” said Hanrietta. “And you will become the target for the advances of many men; such a fortune as yours as yours will make you the most eligible in London.” (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:151)

Those who come from lower or middle class background will have difficulties finding mates from upper class people. The only hope for them is common men or the men from the same background. Similarly, the upper class women will be married if the men that they choose have a great background or social class. Therefore with whom their member of family will marry, it shows their social class. Then they will compete to find a partner that they consider could be beneficial to them all. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“...She wants me to make a remarkable match, the kind that makes all the other mamas mutter and feel envious. Most of all she wants me to marry someone of higher rank than Louisa. But it is easier for her, because she is the daughter of a nobleman, and Papa’s family is an old one, but not aristocratic. They are gentry, landowners, and he is rich, richer than many members of the House of Lords, but it is not the same. Mama dearly wants me to be a peeress, she wants to able to talk of my daughter, the Countess of this or

the Marchioness of that. I don't care a button for all that, do you? (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:141)."

Men with a high social status and family background which is respected in society are the ideal target for unmarried women. They will compete and fight for them. Also, family is always meddling in their family match because they also consider it is their own interests. So that marriage seems to be a union of rank and property rather than love. Therefore, parents cautiously settle their daughters in what they deem are 'good matches.' Parents search for a man who would keep their daughter fed and cared for and just hope the feeling of love will come later. Parents determine the men who have to become their daughters' mate and the daughters must obey the will of their parents. The daughters are not always allowed to choose the men of their own choice. If the men they choose do not have the quality desired by the family or society, then they will be eliminated or rejected on the basis of a mismatch.

"He is a horrid man, I do not like him at all," said Penelope.

"What is this word, *horrid*? Anyone would think you were living in the pages of those novels you read. And it is not for you to set up for liking or disliking anyone, let me tell you. You will be guided by your mama and papa as to whom you may like or dislike (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:59)."

Unmarried women are indoctrinated that culture is not to be argued, denied, and they should not ask about it too much. Although in their minds they raise many questions or opinions about the condition, they will not be able or are not permitted to express it freely. They have to show their compliance and adherence.

"She wants to sell me off like a Circassian slave, or some prize horse," said Penelope.

"This was exactly how Octavia had felt, those long years ago, when she was doing her wretched London season under Theodosia's eagle eye. But Theodosia had had no affection for her, and she must have affection for Penelope. She said so (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:141)."

From the analysis of the women's position reflected in the novel, it is clear that the problem of gender inequality strongly affect women. Women live by prioritizing social status through marriage because they have been taught to always rely on men. This shows the strong dominance of patriarchal that governs and controls their lives.

Deprivation of Women in Legal Rights

In the novel, women's subordinate position is not only in the gender relation but also in legal matter. In the law, men are always number one. Women completely lose their legal identity – they don't have the right to have property, or the right to sue.

The right of women which is deprived of the law is the right of owning property on marrying. This shows that most people who still have the old-fashioned way of thinking that women do not know the rule. That is because they see women do not have the toughness, firmness, and courage men do. Then once a woman is married, all her premarital property belongs to her husband. Thus, she loses her right as the property holder.

"In law, a wife can hold no property, no assets of any kind. It belongs to her husband. If your husband were still alive when your great-aunt died, it is possible that your inheritance should form part of his estate (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:229)."

An unmarried woman can inherit money and property, but upon marriage, the control of a woman's money and any property is given to her husband. When they eventually divorced, his ex-wife will not get back the property previously owned or when her husband died then the property will be owned by her husband's brother or close male relative. It can be seen at the quotation below:

“As a married woman, your inheritance would have come under your husband's control, and could have formed part of his estate... (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:52) ”.

The description above reflects that the leadership in British society passes on from father to son. Therefore, the property of the family will be inherited largely to sons. So if there is no son in the family to inherit the fortune, it is necessary to take a replacement heir to inherit the wealth that the family has, like brother or cousin. This shows how the people from upper class are still strongly influenced by patriarchal ideology that rooted in the society even so in the field of law which is more on men's side.

In terms of law, women are not only deprived of their right of owning property on marrying but also of their right to sue. The law will not be on women's side although they are not guilty, as what happens to Octavia.

“This was a scheme devised by George Warren; it must be. He had found his inheritance paltry in comparison to her huge fortune, and so had worked out this way of depriving her of it. The audacity of his plan took her breath away (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:230).”

When her late husband's cousin, Mr. Warren, makes a claim on her fortune by scheming that Octavia has made a falsehood story about the time her late husband pass away so that people think that Octavia eyeing the wealth that should not be her and she wants to bring the case to the court, she has to face the fact that the law will not be on her side just because she is a woman.

“I can't stand Warren. And it will be hard for Mrs. Darcy, to lose her fortune.”

“She hasn't lost it yet. I would put her down as a fighter.”

“Oh, I am sure she will not give in so meekly, but the law will not be on her side. The judges, if it comes to that, will takes a man's word against a woman's, and in their mind will be the thought that such an enormous fortune will be much better in the hands of a man. It is a pity she has not married again, she could have had the pick of a dozen men, she has had half the men in London at her feet (Elizabeth Aston, 2007: 238)”.

The quotation above shows how the law discriminates women because they are considered unable to handle something and how strong men's position in law. Women are easy targets of attack by the opposite sex. So women are required to give in if they do not want to get trouble. Such problem will be experienced by Octavia if she still fighting.

“To offend a man of his standing and influence, have you taken leave of your sense? And meddling in politics; my word, Octavia, your arrogance is beyond all bearing (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:180)!”

The quotation above describes that people, especially men, tend to underestimate the presence of women in political aspects. Then, this becomes a restraint for women, where they are less free to actualize themselves.

Suppression of Free Speech and Resentment toward Women

Patriarchal ideology inherent in British society during the Victorian era did not allow women to have the same rights as men. This caused among other things women could not openly express their opinion or involve in political matters. These issues are also reflected in Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*. Women of the upper classes are planted the idea that they should always pay attention to things they must not say and subjects they must not talk about. Women are not permitted to express their opinion. Women are considered as inanimate object who are not allowed having their own thoughts. It is certainly not in accordance with religious law, that said women and men are equal in the eyes of God, as seen in the following quotations:

“You’ll have to do your best to make something of her,” said Arthur with a shrug. “She is as ill bred as her mother, and you must break her of this habit she has of speaking her mind; that will never do.” ...

“...Oh dear, there I go again, mentioning legs, which Mama says I ought not to do.”

“Why ever not?”

“There are all kinds of things I mustn’t say and subjects I may not talk about...”
(Elizabeth Aston, 2007:5, 37).

Women are degraded by making them believe that they are lack of insight so they cannot afford in academy, forum, or business. Thus, it is considered not necessary for women to pursue knowledge. It is enough for women to be able to read and write while man can pursue knowledge as highest as possible.

“My brothers study Latin, but of course I never did, girls do not need to know Latin...
(Elizabeth Aston, 2007:254).”

This quotation implies that the importance of knowledge for women is not number one. Women are considered having no knowledge of anything else besides domestic affairs. This is because women have lower education than men. The women go into a slump and are marginalized by group of community and government in various policies. Some men think that all women are lack of knowledge and do not have wide insight. Therefore they are not allowed women to argue.

“How do you know? You women are so absolute in your judgments, so sure that you see everything with greater insight and clarity than anyone else (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:262).”

The strong patriarchal cultures reflected in the novel show how these cultures leads to resentment toward women, especially to the women who tend to oppose the cultures. Men will not let women have a decision making position, as what happens to Octavia. When she wants to see the lawyers to arrange her legal matters, his step brother does not give her permission and insists that it must be him who has to see the lawyers.

“Not for a few days, however. I have a few things to attend to, lawyers to see—“

“Oh, as to that, you are not dealing with lawyer, I shall arrange all that,” said Arthur
(Elizabeth Aston, 2007:34).

Men also do not like the women who express their opinion openly or the women who ignore the rules implanted in the society. Women are considered lack of knowledge and do not have the right to give an opinion.

“...Annoyed, she raised her voice, and asked him what was his opinion of the subsidies to the maharajahs.

Ha, that silenced him, although it earned her several curious glances and not a few turned heads. “For some of them most supported by the government are of a tyrannical disposition,” she continued.

His eyes grew cold. “You set yourself up to have an opinion on matters about which you know nothing.” And then, mercifully, he edged away, saying in an audible voice that he deplored a clever woman, a woman who expressed her views on subjects about which she knew nothing, less than nothing (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:133).”

“Perhaps not, she is hardly squint-eyed or in any way disagreeable. She likes to have her own way, men do not like that,” he said shortly (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:238).”

Another example of resentment toward women is happened in political field. Men in general do not like women’s involvement in political right. They consider women having no competence and knowledge on politics.

“It has been an understood thing that we choose the candidate for Axby, with the late Mrs. Worthington taking no interest at all in politics. However, in law—well, if she chooses a candidate, the voters will put him in, they can’t well do otherwise. They are not going to be setting themselves up in defiance of their landlord. Same as the voters here wouldn’t go against your lordship choice.”

“We’ll see about this,” said Lord Rutherford. “Who is this interfering woman who thinks she can come meddling in matters she knows nothing about (Elizabeth Aston, 2007:172)?”

The description above shows that patriarchy in Victorian period as reflected in the novel lies in strong kinship system on the strength of various strict rules which restrict the movement of women to expression. That is through a concept that women are subordinated after men. Women are trapped in binary opposition which puts them in a position of helplessness, that is to say no chance or lack of opportunity. Women must follow all the social rules that exist in the community implemented by patriarchal system that make women as inferior beings. While men still retain their superiority. It is like binary problem stated by Hélène Cixous and Catherine Clément in their book *The Newly Born Woman* (1986:65), which puts two things in the superior-inferior relationship: activity-passivity, culture-nature, head-heart, intelligible-palpable, logos-pathos, man-woman.

CONCLUSION

Aston’s *The second Mrs. Darcy* is a novel that deals with the issues of women subordinate position. For one thing, women are considered helpless and do not have ability to support themselves. So if women want to stay or get out of poverty, the only way is to find husbands to support them. To get the men they want, they have to look like ideal females in accordance with the society standards – gentle, graceful, pretty, and passive.

Another issue of gender inequality reflected in the novel is deprivation of women in legal rights. In the law, women completely lose their legal identity – they don’t have the right to have property, or the right to sue. An unmarried woman can inherit money and property, but upon marriage, the control of a woman's money and any property is given to her husband.

Finally, the novel also describes women’s suppression of free speech. Women of the upper classes are planted the idea that they should always pay attention to things they must not say and subjects they must not talk about. In other words, women are not permitted to express

their opinion. Most men think that all women are lack of knowledge and do not have wide insight. Therefore they are not allowed women to argue. If women oppose this rule, they will get resentment from men or society.

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