IMAGE OF WOMAN IN ALEXANDRE DUMAS JR'S THE LADY OF THE CAMELLIAS

A Thesis

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has not been submitted yet either in the same or in different form. To my knowledge there has not been any forms or ideas written or published by others except those are referred to this thesis and mentioned in the bibliography. All errors in this thesis belong to the writer.

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ABSTRAK

SkripsiImage of Woman in Alexandre Dumas Jr's The Lady of The Camelliasinimembahastentangbagaimanacitrakarakterutamaperempuan yang gambarkanolehpengaranglakilaki. Skripsiinijugabertujuanuntukmengetahuibagaimanasikappengaranglakilakiterhadapkarakterutamaperempuan yang manadalamskripsiinisosokkarakterutamaperempuantersebutadalahseorangwanitasimp berjuanguntukmendapatkankehidupan anan yang yang layakdibawahtekananmasalahekonomidanpenindasandarilaki-lakipadaabad ke-19.Dalammenganalisis inipenulismenggunakanpendekatanfeminis, novel khususnya"Image Woman"denganmenggunakanteoriseksualpolitik yang di kemukakanoleh Kate Millett.Setelahmelakukananalisis, penulismenemukanbahwamasalahekonomitelahmembuatwanitayang kurangmendapatkanpendidikanmenjadiobjekpenindasandarilaki-laki.Cara digunakankarakterutamaperempuandalammengatasimasalahekonominyayaitumenjadi wanitasimpanan.Hal initelahmembuatnyamendapatkancitranegatifdi masyarakat.Dari penulismenyimpulkanbahwaAlexandre analisisini, **Dumas** Jrsimpatiterhadapkehidupanwanita di eranya.

Kata kunci: Image of Woman, seksualpolitik

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

The excitement of women's struggle to achieve equality and opportunity has begun since long time ago. Mary Wollstonecraft's <u>A Vindication of the Right of Women's (1792)</u> is the first text that sued the injustices inflicted on women as a low creature who has no right in the male society. Her ideas inspired the emergence of women's writing that supports the movement to achieve their rights, especially in the realm of literature. One of them emerged from the work of Alexandre Dumas Jr.s' romantic novel <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u>.

Set in the Industrial Revolution that erupted violently in France, Dumas' novel came with a dark portrait of Marguerite, a courtesan. Dumas Jr. displays an opaque and dark impression about the life journey of a woman who is so infamous, in achieving her goal of becoming a respected individual. However, the way she passes, ironically brought her into a ruin.

Dumas' representations of the life of a courtesan are French dark history which is so full of intrigue about women. The position of women, their role in a family, a business and the future of man is very decisive. A minority profession like this rarely get a positive tone and are oftenly overlooked by society as a humiliation.

Dumas Jr.'s tendencies toward courtesan's efforts are the main focus in this case. This was a very rare occasion considering almost all literary works in those days tend to discredit woman's struggles. Ideology regarding women, their efforts to achieve success and how their sacrifices for a sincere love are a conversation that does not deserve to be discussed.

Briefly, this research will trace the depiction of the realities of women in the French's industrial revolution who are trapped in poverty and misery. Furthermore, the writer will reveal Dumas Jr.'s sympathetic tone toward a courtesan's struggle. This research will also discover the image of women especially a courtesan in Parisian life during the 19th century.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

During the 19th century in French, a courtesan is a phenomena. In this difficult time, the courtesan could be disgustingly rich or simply lived beyond their means. However, their life full of miseries and sufferings. In this novel, the writer will explore the image of courtesan in the French Industrial Revolution as the phenomena of women's struggle. Then, Dumas Jr.'s tendency toward Marguerites as tragic heroine will be analyzed as the support of feminist ideas.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer focuses on the main female character, Marguerite concentrating on the following questions;

1. How does image of Marguerite as the main female character in Alexandre Dumas Jr's The Lady of the Camellias? 2. How does Alexandre Dumas Jr attitude toward woman in <u>The Lady of The Camellias</u>?

1.4 The Objective of the Research

This research aims to show the image of courtesan as the main character in the novel <u>The Lady of The Camellias</u>. Besides that, the writer also wants to show the attitude of the author toward the main character.

1.5 Review of the Previous Study

In introducing this research, the writer uses the novel by Alexandre Dumas Jr entitled <u>The Lady of The Camellias</u> as the subject of research. In analysing this novel; the writer needs some references from previous study as a source. The writer also searches about what the expert says about the novel and topics which are related to the research.

The writer tries to find a review about <u>The Lady of The Camellias</u> from the internet. There is no article analyze this novel before, only a little review about the ballet version of this novel, that is from Natasha's Cliff.

"The Lady of the Camellias is a French tragic play based on Alexandre Dumas (the younger) 1848 novel by the same name, (it is sometimes referred to as "Camille". The play was adapted for the theater by Dumas in 1852 and then for the opera by the composer Verdi's 'La Traviata' in 1853. The play became a favorite of audiences in the late 19th century".

It means Alexandre Dumas Jr's <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u> is not only success in novel version but also in a play.

The second is the writer finding a review from Maria Shimizu Christensen in Our News Oklahoma on January 4, 2013. Maria Shimizu Christensen stated that:

"Lady of the Camellias" is a ballet based on the classic and wildly successful novel, "The Lady of the Camellias" by Alexandre Dumas. Originally published in 1848, the story has spawned stage plays, Broadway shows, films and ballets, including multiple adaptations such as "La Traviata" and "Moulin Rouge." It's a love story with a sad ending, but it's a beautiful tale of Paris and courtesans and eternal love, made all the more lush and vibrant as a ballet. "Lady of the Camellias" was first performed at the Stuttgart Ballet in 1978. The ballet by John Neumeier is set to music by Frederic Chopin.

The second review still related to the ballet, because the story of <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u> also successfully adapted in drama and ballet.

During the library research, the writer finds out there is no student of English Department Faculty of Humanities Andalas University who already analysed this novel for the thesis. The writer found several theses of students in the Faculty of Humanities which is using the same theory to analyse a different novel.

The third research is a thesis written by WindaOktavianiNurman entitled The Images of Women in Patriarchal Society as Reflected in KhaledHosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns. In her thesis, she focuses on two characters of woman who have struggled to get a better life. Between these two characters, the patriarchal element and social condition are very strong held in every case of their lives and also in their marriages. In her thesis she does not only discuss the feminist side in these two characters but how male domination in Afghanistan in each period of time.

The last research is a thesis by Nurhasanah entitled <u>Images of women in five</u> short stories by D.H <u>Lawrence</u>. In this thesis the writer analyzed the female characters that are represented by a male author. She argues in man as the author a critic will find woman as other or subjects.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

In conducting this research, the writer uses some theories which can support this research, because it is very important to run this research. The first, the writer used theory about feminism by Guerin, Guerin et al in his book <u>A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature</u>, stated that;

In its diversity concerns with the marginalization of all women: that is, with their being relegated to a secondary position. Most feminists believe that our culture is a patriarchal culture: that is one organized in favour of the interests of men. Feminist literary critics try to explain how power imbalances due to gender in a given culture are reflected in or challenged by literary texts (196).

Feminism also criticizes the traditional value that makes men is superior to women, which is there is oppression to the woman that makes a woman powerless under the patriarchal culture. Lois Tyson in his book <u>Critical Theory Today</u> stated that:

Patriarchy is thus, by definition, sexist, which means it promotes the belief that women are innately inferior to men. This belief in the inborn inferiority of women is a form of what is called biological essentialism because it is based on biological differences between the sexes that are considered part of our unchanging essence as man and women (85).

It means that the belief of inferiority of women makes them get unfair treatments in the society.

The other feminist critic that concern about the term patriarchy (rule of father) to describe the women's oppression is Kate Millett. Kate Millett's Sexual Politics (1977) focus in women movements. Millett in sexual politics exposes the oppressive representation of sexuality to be found in male fiction. Millett in Bressler's (1999) Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice. 2nded, stated that "Patriarchy subordinates the female to the male or treats the female as an inferior male. Power is exerted directly or indirectly in civil and domestic life, to constrain women (137). It is mean that patriarchy has been given the unfair treatment toward the woman.

Millet in sexual politics (1977) also argues that "in society where status is dependent upon the economic, social and educational circumstances of class, it is

possible for certain females to appear to stand higher than some males" (36). In this novel the main female character describes as less educated woman whom she has economic problems, so that it makes her life is under oppression of male.

In conclusion, by studying images of woman, the writer found there is unfair treatment and oppression of the women in society and the writer also found the right concept of woman image which based on the real experience of the woman. It is mean that patriarchy has been given the unfair treatment toward the woman.

1.7 Method of the Research

1.7.1 Collecting Data

In conducting this research there are some steps that used by the writer to complete her analysis. One of the steps is collecting the data. In collecting the data, the writer use library research method, where the writer found out the novel itself as the primary data, and books, journal, and blog as the secondary data to support the primary data.

1.7.2 Analyzing Data

The next step in completing this research is analyzing the data. After collecting the data, the data are analyzed by using descriptive method. According to Leedy (1974:79), "descriptive method is a method that simply looks with intends accurately phenomena at the moment and then describes precisely".

In this research the writer will analyze the images of woman which is dominantly related to the application of the feminist literary criticism. The first step in analyzing the data is analyzing the structure of the novel. There are some elements of intrinsic factors in The Lady of The Camellias that will be analyzed by the writer according to the description. They are characterization, setting, plot and point of view.

1.7.3 Presenting the result of analysis

According to Bodgan and Bliken, they stated that "qualitative research is descriptive. The data are collected in the form of word or picture rather that numbers. The written results contain quotations from data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation" (28). So, in processing the data, the writer analyzes the data by using the qualitative research. Word and picture as the form of the data will be collected during the research. And as the result of the analysis, it will be presented in the form of the word, which is contained of quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation.

CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ANALISYS OF ALEXANDRE DUMAS JR'S <u>THE LADY OF</u> THE CAMELLIAS

This chapter discusses the elements of fiction of Alexandre Dumas Jr's <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u> asbasicstep in understanding and opens a way for further analysis. In exploring the intrinsic element, the writer analyzes the plot, characters, setting, point of view and theme.

2.1 CHARACTERS

According to Abrams, characters are the persona presented in dramatic or narrative works, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it— the dialogue— and from what they do— the action (32-3). Mario Klarer in Introduction to Literary Studies has divided the characters into flat character and round character, "A typified character in literature is dominated by one specific trait and is referred to as a flat character. The term round character usually denotes a persona with more complex and differentiated features" (17). There are many characters are involved in the novel The Lady of the Camellias, but the writer will focus to explain and describes the characters that have influential roles in the development of the story.

2.1.1. Marguerite Gautier

Marguerite Gautier is the main character in this novel. She is a young beautiful maid. She lives in luxury that she gets from her lovers; beside it, Marguerite is a consumptive woman, it makes her spending much money to support her life "A woman who is nervous, ill, sad, or gay with gaiety sadder than grief, a woman who spits blood and spends a hundred thousand francs a year" (107). She is a good woman, but economic problems make her run her life as a courtesan. While she knows that there is a young man who wants to be her boyfriend, she tries to remind him that it is impossible because her status as a courtesan will give a bad image to him.

Let us be friends, good friends but no more. Come and see me, we will laugh and talk, but don't exaggerate what I am worth, for I am worth very little. You have a good heart, you want someone to love you, you are too young and too sensitive to live in a world like mine (109).

Based on the quotation above, the writer assume that Marguerite also loving Armand, but Marguerite realize her profession as courtesan will makes Arman Duval get trouble in his family.

2.1.2. Armand Duval

Armand Duval is a young man who is falling in love with Marguerite "She is an angel, and I am madly in love with her" (117). Armand is a good man, he wants to help Marguerite to change her bad lifestyle and he want to live together with her. Sometimes he feels jealous of another man who have a relationship with Marguerite,

but he believes that Marguerite also loves him. Armand Duval is educated man " I came to Paris, studied law, was called to the bar, and, like many other young men, put my diploma in my pocket, and let myself drift, as one so easily does in Paris" (186). Armand has a good family, he has father and one sister who cares for him.

2.1.3 Narrator (I)

Narrator is the person who telling the story in this novel. He becomes a friend of Armand Duval because he bought something in a sale of furniture. "I have always been very fond of curiosities, and I made up my mind not to miss the occasion, if not of buying some, at all events of seeing them" (2). Actually he did not have a relationship with Marguerite, but he only feels curiosity and buy a book in that sale. Finally that book brings him to meet with Armand and he knows the love story between Armand Duval and Marguerite.

2.1.4 Prudence Duvernov

Prudence Duvernoy is Marguerite's friend. She is a realistic woman "ah you think it is enough to be in love, and go into the country and lead a dreamy, pastoral life. No my friend no. by the side of that ideal life, there is a material life..." (218). Prudence will help Marguerite and then she also will borrow some money from her "they never render a service, however slight, without seeing that they are paid twice its value" (181). In the end she leaves Marguerite because no one who wants to pay Marguerite and her serious ill make her does not have anything because the debt collector was come to calculate everything to pay her debts.

2.1.5 Old Duke

Old Duke is one of another Marguerite's lovers. He meets with Marguerite in Bagneres. He has a daughter whose her appearance is that looks like Marguerite "she was not only suffering from the same complaint, but she was so like Marguerite in appearance that might have been taken for sisters" (15). He gives a lot of money to Marguerite every month without asking for anything, because he treats Marguerite like his daughter. "He seemed to see the shadow of his child, and going up to her, he took her hands, embraced and wept over her, and without even asking her who she was, begged her to let him love in her the living image of his dead child" (15).

After knowing that Marguerite has a special relationship with Armand Duval and they have lived together in the house that he has rented for Marguerite, the Old Duke got angry and does not want to give money to Marguerite anymore.

2.1.6. Mr. Duval

Mr. Duval is Armand's father. He is an over protective man toward his children. Armand's father rejects Armand's wishto commit a special relationship with courtesan because it will give a bad image to his family.

You are twenty-four; think of the future. You cannot always love this woman, who also cannot always love you. You both exaggerate your love. You put an end to your whole career. One step further, and you will no longer be able to leave the path you have chosen, and you will suffer all your life for what you have done in your youth (236).

Mr. Duval reminds his son to focus on career, and he also advices his son to leave Marguerite. Mr. Duval tries another way to separate his son from Marguerite. Mr. Duval succeeds to make Marguerite leaves Armand, but Marguerite's sacrifices send herself to the misery.

2.1.7. Julie Duprat

Julie Duprat is Marguerite's best friend. Julie is the one who has accompanied Marguerite until the end of her life "No one comes to see me. Julie watches with me as much as she can. Prudence, to whom I can no longer give as much as I used to, begins to make excuses for not coming" (316). Her relationship with Marguerite promotes an ideal woman's friendship at that time.

2.2 SETTING

Abrams, in A_Glossary of Literary Terms stated that the setting is "The overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place" (284). It means that setting includes the social condition where the story takes place at that time. The setting of the novel is in Paris around 1947, as the novel indicates in the early pages " on the 12th of March, 1847, I saw in the Rue Lafitte a great yellow placard announcing a sale of furniture and curiosities" (I). The narrator tells about the condition of the place that he has visited, which is the house of famous courtesan who had died.

It was early in the day, and yet there where already a number of visitors, both men and women, and the women, though they were dressed in cashmere and velvet, and had they carriages waiting for them at the door, gazed with astonishment and admiration at the luxury which they saw before them (2).

The quotation above describes the dress and the transportation that they used at that time. Sometimes the weather in this story is in winter and summer. At winter, Marguerite does not go outside because it makes her condition drop. Paris at that time is in the revolution, there are many laborers and poor families who lived in the rural area. Sometimes in a house lived some families. The environment makes many peoples get diseases and economic problems make some of the women run her life as courtesans.

2.3 PLOT

According to Klarer plot is "the logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative" (15). Plot makes the story easy to understand and the reader can get information within the story. There are three parts that develop the novel; beginning or exposition, rising action including the conflict and climax of the story and falling action. Based on these parts the reader can recognize how the story goes.

The first part is an exposition that provides background information. The beginning of the chapter introduces the situation of the main character; Marguerite is a young courtesan, she is a beautiful girl but she is not lucky because she suffers a

serious illness. She spends much money to get remedy and the bad life style makes her condition drop day by day. Even though Marguerite suffers a serious illness, she has many lovers that can support her necessities. One day, there is a young man named Armand Duval who falling in love with Marguerite. At the beginning Marguerite feels it is only the same feeling from her another lover, but Armand is a patient in accompany Marguerite, it makes Marguerite feel comfortable with him. Armand wants to help Marguerite to change her bad lifestyle, and he wants to marry Marguerite.

The second part is rising action. Rising action is a series of complication that lead of moments of great tension. Series of complication, conflict and climax are the middle chapter of The Lady of the Camellias. The conflicts arise when Marguerite lived together with Armand Duval in a small city. They lived happily but it changes when Armand knows that Marguerite was selling her horses, carriages and some of her jewellery to support their necessities since them live together. Actually Marguerite does not want to bother Armand. Marguerite pays all of the costs that they have spent since their life together, because the Old Duke does not want to give money anymore. Another conflict is when Armand's father comes to Paris and knew that Armand lived together with a courtesan. Armand's father, Mr. Duval asks Armand to leave Marguerite because their relationship will give a bad image to their family, but Armand does not want to leave Marguerite. It makes Mr. Duval angry and he tries to find the way to separate his son from Marguerite.

Your father had the old theory that a courtesan is a being without heart or reason, a sort of machine for coining gold, always ready, like the machine, to bruise the hand that gives her everything, and to tear in pieces, without pity or discernment, those who set her motion (295).

After Mr Duval visiting and rejecting her, Marguerite feels so sad and she decides to leave Armand. Armand who does not know anything about the visiting of his father to Marguerite feels disappointed because he just knows Marguerite is leaving him. Armand believes that she will go back to her profession before because she could not live without money.

The third part is falling action. In this part, Marguerite is sick and there is no one who wants to accompany her, except her best friend, Julie. Marguerite only spends her days in her room, writes some letters to Armand regularly. She has many debts and there is no one of her lovers who wants to help her. One day Marguerite got a letter from Armand's father, Mr. Duval. Mr. Duval said that if Armand in Paris, he will send Armand to her but Armand is too far from Paris. Mr. Duval gave some money to help Marguerite. "This paper signed by his name has done me more good than all the prescriptions of our great doctor" (310). Marguerite really happy because Armand's father has sent letters to her, it means that Mr. Duval cares about her condition.

Her condition was serious, she can not write anything and her best friend, Julie helps her to write letters to Armand. Finally, Marguerite died in loneliness and before died Marguerite leave a special letter to Julie, perhaps one day Armand will come and takes that letter from Julie.

2.4 POINT OF VIEW

According to Abrams point of view is signified the way a story gets told the mode (or modes) established by an author by means of which the reader is presented with the characters, dialogue, actions, setting, and events which constitute the narrative in a work of fiction (231). Point of view shows the way of the author delivered the story of the novel to the reader. Abrams in <u>A Glossary of Literary Terms 7thed</u> stated that:

This is a common term for the many and varied works of fiction written in accord with the convention that the narrator knows everything that needs to be known about the agents, actions, and events, and has priviledged access to the characters' thoughts, feelings, and motives; also the narrator is free to move at will in time and place, to shift from character to character, and to report (or conceal) their speech, doings, and states of consciousness (232).

The point of view of the novel uses omniscient point of view. The narrator refers the characters in the third person and presents the action from all knowing. "...it was natural that I had not heard of Marguerite's death among the pieces of news which one's friends always tell on returning after an absence" (10). The narrator tells to the reader from all knowing.

2.5 THEME

Theme is the important element in analyze fiction. Based on the theme the reader can catch what is the story tells about and the reader can predict the main idea of the story. According to Abrams in his books <u>A Glossary of Literature Term</u> states that:

Theme is sometimes used interchangeably with "motif", but term is more usefully applied to a general concept or doctrine, whether implicit or asserted, which an imaginative work is designed to incorporate and make persuasive to the reader (170).

Alexandre Dumas Jr. describes Marguerite as a young courtesan who has a kind heart. Marguerite sacrifices her true love because of the rejection of Armand's father, her struggle to get a better life even though she is a physically weak woman whom less educated. The writer finds that the theme is the impact of social class in society toward the female.

CHAPTER III

IMAGE OF WOMAN IN ALEXANDRE DUMAS JR'S <u>THE LADY OF THE</u> <u>CAMELLIAS</u>

In this chapter, the writer discusses and describes about the image of woman in <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u>, the writer also wants to show the attitude of Dumas Jr. toward the main female character in this novel. The writer lists some of the images of Marguerite, such as; physically weak, less educated, and submissive because of love.

3.1. The Image of Marguerite as Tragic Heroine

Marguerite is the foremost character of the novel <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u>. In this novel, the author describes Marguerite as a beautiful young courtesan who lives in Paris. Because of it, she easily gets many lovers. As the result, she becomes the famous courtesan in Paris.

As the successful courtesan, Marguerite seems to enjoy her life in a luxury. She becomes a material woman that has anything which is all women dream about.

It was a magnificent collection, and there was not one of those thousand little things so necessary to the toilet of woman of the kind which was not in gold or silver. Such a collection could only have been got together little by little, and the same lover had certainly not begun and ended it (4).

At the surface, her life such as dreamlike. Marguerite's life is full of gold coins. She somehow creates her lover as her fountain. She uses her advantages as the

best courtesan to reach her dream. Her life is totally well-built in the early in the story. Though, some of her fallacies in the future will lead her into a miserable loneliness.

3.1.1.Physically Weak

Marguerite seems to be strong in her elegant lifestyle; actually she is physically a weak woman who is suffering a serious illness which can kill her anytime, it is explained in this quotation. "A woman who is nervous, ill, sad, or gay with a gaiety sadder than grief, a woman who spits blood and spends a hundred thousand francs a year" (107). From the quotation above it can be seen how pity Marguerite in her life. Even though she can get everything from her lovers, it is only enough to support her needs in a moment because she spends much money for exercise or treatments, as she says "I suffered at the thought of the injury to so frail a constitution which must come from daily excesses like this" (101). Her illness requires much money for treatment. Thus, she needs to keep working as a courtesan since she can earn a lot of money by doing it because the men will give her much money and luxurious presents.

As a sick woman who depends on the money from her lover, Marguerite felt bored with the profession she runs. The bad image from society also gives pressure to her in reaching her future.

"I am tired out with seeing people who always want the same thing; who pay me for it, and then think they are quit of me. If those who are going to go in for our hateful business only knew what really was they would sooner be chambermaids. But no, vanity, the desire of having dresses and carriages and diamonds carries us away; one believes what one hears, for here, as elsewhere, there is such a thing as belief, and one uses up one's heart, one's body, one's beauty, little by little..." (127).

The narration above has explained how Marguerite feels bored with the way of her life, and the opinion of the society that argued her profession is lower than a dog.

Even though she felt bored with this condition, Marguerite does not have a chance to get a better life. She still runs her profession as a courtesan, until she found her true love, Armand Duval. In their special relationship, Marguerite gets oppression from Mr. Duval. It happens while Armand Duval is getting angry with Marguerite; he makes Marguerite suffer a lot. As Armand says in this quotation "In short, without making any reproach, Marguerite sent to ask me for a little pity, since she had no longer the moral or physical strength to endure what I was making her suffer" (282).

The quotation above describes how Marguerite sent her friend, Prudence to meet Armand asks for the kind hearted of him to stop give punishment to her.

Image of weak woman also described when Marguerite comes to Armand's house for the same case that is about Armand attitude toward her.

"I have come to trouble you, Armand, for I have two things to ask: pardon for what I said yesterday to MlleOlympe, and pity for what you are perhaps still ready to do to me. Intentionally or not, since your return you have given me

so much pain that I should be incapable now of enduring a fourth part of what I have endured till now." (285).

The way of Marguerite come and ask for Armand to let her live without pressure from him, describes how weak of Marguerite with her illness and the punishment that she gets from the man whom she love.

3.1.2. Less Educated

Industrial Revolution in Paris at that time had given impact to the people who were in poverty. There are so many labourers and homelessness. People who live in poverty are difficult to get their necessities to support their life and also difficult to get education. Marguerite, the main female character in this novel comes from a small village in Paris. It is narrated in the novel when her sister comes to Paris to take the remainder from the sell of Marguerite's furniture.

The sister opened her eyes very wide when the lawyer wrote to her that she had inherited 50.000 francs. The girl [Marguerite's sister] had not seen her sister for six or seven years, and did not know what had become of her from the moment when she had disappeared from home. She came up to Paris in haste, and great was the astonishment of those who had known Marguerite when they saw as her only heir a fine, fat country girl, who until then had never left her village (29).

Based on the description of Marguerite's sister above, it can be seen that Marguerite also came from a small village in Paris. She had left her house in Paris about seven years.

Marguerite remembers her childhood, she convinced Armand to join her to go to the country because she felt too bored staying in Paris for a long time. "Don't be alarmed; I am not going to tell you that I am the daughter of a colonel on half-pay, and that I was brought up at Saint-Denis. I am a poor country girl, and six years ago I could not write my own name". (157). It can be seen directly from this quotation that Marguerite less education and she is a poor country girl.

Marguerite's mother has passed away, and whiles her mother was still alive, she always treated Marguerite badly. "I once had a little dog who looked at me with a sad look when I coughed; that is the only creature I ever loved. When he died I cried more than when my mother died. It is true that for twelve years of her life she used to beat me". (180). From this narration it can be seen how Marguerite's mother treated her badly, because of that she felt so sad when her dog died than when her mother passed away. It can describe the background of the life of Marguerite; it means that she comes from the broken family because her mother always treated her badly.

The image of being a less educated woman seemed clearly from the opinion of Armand Duval in this quotation. "My glass remained full, and I felt almost sad as I saw this beautiful creature of twenty drinking, talking like a porter, and laughing the more loudly the more scandalous was the joke (101). Duval's assertion means that the educated woman would use table manner, aware with politeness and they do not laugh more loudly like a porter. However, Marguerite does all that. Marguerite talking like a porter describes her attitude as less educated woman.

There is an opinion from the narrator (I) which is can support the statement about the image of Marguerite as less educated woman, that is;

"I am quite simply convinced of a certain principle, which is: for the woman whose education has no taught her what is right, God almost always opens two ways which lead thither, the ways of sorrow and of love. They are hard; those who walk in them walk with bleeding feet and torn hands, but they also leave the trapping of vice upon the thorns of the wayside, and reach the journey's end in a nakedness which is not shameful in the sight of the lord". (26).

Based on the quotation above, Marguerite as less educated woman who run her live as courtesan that does not have a chance to get a better life, she gets another way to solve her problem from God, as the narration from the narrator.

3.1.3. Submissive Because of Love

Most people do not care about a courtesan because they have bad images in the society. But for some of rich man they do not care about the bad images of the courtesan, as long as they can get what they want, they will give everything for the courtesan that he loved. As Marguerite said:

"People blame those who let themselves be ruined by actresses and kept woman; what astonishes me is that twenty times greater follies are not committed for them. One must have lived that life, as I have, to know how much the little vanities which they afford their lovers every day help to

fasten deeper into the heart, since we have no other word for it, the love which he has for them" (142).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen the big influence of courtesan for the rich man, until it can make them to be bankrupt. It means that courtesan also can give bad influence to the society. Courtesan are used by man to achieve their status in order to get appreciation in society.

Even though Marguerite is a courtesan, she is a kind hearted woman, while Armand falls in love with her, Marguerite advices him not to love her because her profession as courtesan will give a bad image to him.

Let us be friends, good friends, but no more. Come and see me, we will laugh and talk, but don't exaggerate what I am worth, for I am worth very little. You have a good heart, you want some one to love you, you are too young and too sensitive to live in a world like mine. Take a married woman. You see, I speak to you frankly, like a friend (109).

Based on the quotation above, the writer sees that Marguerite tries to remind Armand Duval not to love her. They just can be friends because she knows that one day their relationship will makes them in problem. Another reason why the writer states that Marguerite is a submissivewoman is because she runs her life as a courtesan because she does not have a chance to get a better job to complete her necessities. While having a relationship with Duval, Armand always feels jealous to all Marguerite's lovers, and he always has negative thinking about her, even though Marguerite has explained to him that she cannot leave her lover because her life is

depending on the money that she gets from her lover, but Duval still blames her and Marguerite still gives a chance to Armand by forgiving him.

Marguerite keeps her true love to Armand Duval, she loves him very much, and it makes Marguerite sacrifice everything that she has. Marguerite never asks for everything to Armand Duval, it is quite different from her love that she gives to her another lover that is she will get paid for everything that she gives. In this case the writer sees how Marguerite tries to complete all of their necessities since their lives together in Bougival. This is the quotation that described how Duval feela curiosity to Marguerite's assets that was disappearing.

Nevertheless, the carriage did not return, the shawl had not been sent back, and I began to be anxious in spite of myself, and as I knew in which drawer Marguerite put prudence's letter, I took advantage of a moment when she was at the other end of garden, went to the drawer, and tried to open it; in vain, for it was looked. When I opened the drawer in which the trinkets and diamonds were usually kept, these opened without resistance, but the jewel cases had disappeared, along with their contents no doubt (216).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that since they lived together in Bougival, Marguerite sold everything for their happiness. She tries to be independent woman without asking money from Armand Duval.

The biggest sacrifices that Marguerite has ever done is when she sacrificed her true love to confirm that the man whom she love live happily, because as far as they having relationship there are many challenges that must be face. The rejection of

Armand's father, Mr. Duval is the climax of their relationship. Mr. Duval come and to ask respectfully a kind heart from Marguerite to leaving his son in order to make him live normally and to keep the image of his family in society. This is the difficult thing for Marguerite because she loves Armand very much.

"...Think over all that, Madame. You love Armand; prove it to him by the sole means which remains to you of yet proving it to him, by sacrificing your love to his future. No misfortune has yet arrived, but one will arrive, and perhaps a greater one than those which I foresee. Armand might become jealous of a man who has loved you; he might provoke him, fight, be killed. (299).

The quotation above is what Mr. Duval said to Marguerite, the writer assumes that Marguerite position is in a problem, the difficult things that makes her have to sacrifice her true love. Marguerite follows what Mr. Duval said, she leaves Armand in order to give happiness to Armand's family, for his sister and also his father.

Based on the data in every image, the writer concludes that Marguerite is described as physically and financially weak, less educated and submissive woman. She is weak physically because of her illness, while financially because of her needs of treatment for her illness. Her less educated character makes her sometimes became the object of gossip and also the reason why she cannot choose another job. Her submissiveness is caused by her great and true love to Armand Duval, who in the end leaves her alone. Marguerite used by her lovers to achieve their status in society.

3.2 Alexandre DumasJr attitude toward the woman in The Lady of the Camellias

The Lady of the Camellias is a novel tells about a young courtesan in Paris in the 19th century. A courtesan is a bad profession; get a negative image from society. In this novel, Alexandre Dumas Jr. describes as a young courtesan, Marguerite is a kind hearted woman. The images of Marguerite as less educated and submissive because of love can be seen from the data the in this novel. Dumas Jr. is not only tells about the luxuries that she can get from her profession as a courtesan but also there are economic problems and serious illness which can kill her anytime. Beside it, there is a conflict that happens when she finds her true love, their relationship gets rejected by Armand's father. Marguerite condition becomes serious day by day because of the revenge from the man that she loves. She is suffering and has many debts.

The writer assums that Alexandre Dumas Jr wants to show his empathy toward the courtesan in his novel <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u> especially through the main female character, Marguerite. It can be seen from the pitiful tone about Marguerite, based on the miserable ending of the story and from the oppression that she gets from the male character in this novel.

3.2.1. Pathetic Description

The empathy of Dumas Jr. to Marguerite as the main female character can be seen from the pathetic tone of this novel. The words chosen that used by the author showing how pitiful Marguerite's life. Besides the luxurious that she gets from her

lovers, there is a conflict and oppression that make her really suffer day by day. It can be seen from these data, start from the serious illness that she suffers:

To-day I am ill; I may die of this illness, for I have always had the presentiment that I shall die young. My mother died of consumption, and the way I have always lived could but increase the only heritage she ever left me. But I do not want to die without clearing up for you everything about me; that is, if, when you come back, you will still trouble yourself about the poor girl whom you loved before you went away" (294).

Marguerite lives in a trouble. She has a lethal disease in her lung which is a heritage from her mother. Now, Marguerite also feels that she will die young. Dumas Jr. wants to show Marguerite's hopeless feeling of her illness.

There is an argument from the narrator in this novel that shows empathy about the courtesan's first death.

Is there anything sadder in the world than the old age of vice, especially in woman? She preserves no dignity, she inspires no interest. The everlasting repentance, not of the evil ways followed, but of the plans that have miscarried, the money that has been spent in vain, is as saddening a thing as one can well with (5).

The courtesan's first death that narrator means here is about the death of Marguerite. Marguerite as a young beautiful courtesan who die in loneliness, there is no one of her lovers who wants to accompany her at the end of her life. Marguerite

dies and leaves many debts, only her best friend, Julie who wants to take care of her until the end of her life.

Other data that show the pathetic description can be seen from this narration, this narration comes from Armand Duval. That is:

Then, when God allows love to a courtesan, that love, which at first seems like a pardon, becomes for her almost always a punishment. There is no absolution without penitence. When a creature who has all her past to reproach herself with is taken all at once by a profound sincere, irresistible love, of which she had never felt herself capable..." (137).

Based on the narration above, the writer assumes that Dumas Jr. wants to show the pure love of Marguerite. The love of Marguerite seems useless because it comes from a courtesan, a woman who sold her love to every man for money. When she finds her true love, no one will believe that there is a young courtesan which can give her true love just for someone. People argued that it is only a lie, and it makes the love that she feels becomes a punishment for herself.

There is a bad treatment that Marguerite gets from Armand's new mistress, Olympe. Actually Armand takes Olympe as his mistress just to be an object of his revenge to Marguerite, but Armand consent everything that she says.

One evening Olympe had gone somewhere or other, and had met Marguerite, who for once had not spared the foolish creature, so that she had had to retire in confusion. Olympe returned in a fury, and Marguerite fainted and had to be carried out. Olympe related to me what had happened,

declared that Marguerite, seeing her alone, had revenged herself upon her because she was my mistress, and that I must write and tell her to respect the woman whom I loved, whether I was present or absent (280-281).

From the data above, it is describes how cruel Olympe and Armand toward Marguerite. Olympe makes Marguerite fainted and had to be carried out, and then she also gets a cruel letter from Armand. The bad treatment that she got made her life fall into a suffering.

Other oppression and bad treatment come from Armand's father, M. Duval, when he comes to Bougival and meet with Marguerite. As seen in this quotation;

Your father had written me a very polite letter, in order that I might consent to see him; he did not present himself quite as he had written. His manner at first was so stiff, insolent, and event threatening, that I had to make him understand that I was in my own house, and that I had no need to render him an account of my life, except because of the sincere affection which I had for his son (295).

The attitude of Duval while he comes to Marguerite's house has made Marguerite feels under oppression. It still continues in conversation between M. Duval and Marguerite. It is all explained in a letter which is Marguerite tell it all to Armand because of Armand never stop to getting angry with her. M. Duval was making Marguerite really suffers.

I wept silently, my friend, at all these reflections which I had so often made, and which, in the mouth of your father, took a yet more serious reality. I

said to myself all that your father dared not say to me, though it had come to his lips twenty times: that I was, after all, only a kept woman, and that whatever excuse I gave for our *liaison*, it would always look like calculation on my part; that my past life left me no right to dream of such of future..." (300).

It means that, Marguerite has no change to reach her future because of her life in the past. Indirectly Duval made Marguerite give up to her true love with a reason for the happiness someone that she loved.

3.2.2. Miserable Ending

The empathy of the author to the main female character, Marguerite also can be seen from the miserable ending of this novel. Based on the ending of this novel, can be seen that Dumas Jr. wants to show to the reader how pity Marguerite in the end of her life. At the end of her life, Marguerite suffers because of the revenge from Armand. Marguerite felt lonely because there is no Armand beside her. The serious illness that she suffers make she cannot wake up from her bed. The empathy of Dumas Jr. can be seen from the letter that written by Marguerite:

"...I was pale and sad and thinner than ever. Men who buy love examine the goods before taking them. At Paris there were women in better health, and not so thin as I was; I was rather forgotten. That is all the past up to yesterday. Now I am seriously ill. I have written to the duke to ask him for money, for I have none, and the creditors have returned, and come to me with their bills with pitiless perseverance..." (308).

The narration above is the quotation from Marguerite's letter that describes her condition after Armand leaving her. At the end of her life, Marguerite writes the letter like a diary that tell everything which was happening to her every day. Marguerite writes many letters from Armand, but when she cannot write any more, her friend, Julie helps her.

It is explained in a letter; on the 19th of February, Julie tells about Marguerite condition, her illness is getting more serious and the doctor begs her to see the priest. Marguerite said that she will die after the confession of her sin, and then she asks Julie to dress her with a long chemise covered with lace and she also wants to wear a cap. Marguerite feels stifled, and she cannot speak. She needs air. In a few minutes afterward the priest enters. The priest said that "She lived a sinner, and she will die a Christian".

The summary of the letter above is the letter which is written by Marguerite's friend, Julie. In this letter Julie describes about the end of life of Marguerite. Before Marguerite dies, there is a priest comes and the priest said that "She lived a sinner, and she will die a Christian." It means a few hours before Marguerite die, she has become a Christian. From this letter also can be seen the condition of Marguerite in the end of her life. She is very suffers in loneliness. It's quite different from the way of life that she run, when Marguerite still health, every man admired her beauty and wants to give everything to her in order to take her as their mistress. But in the end of her life, Marguerite felt lonely and suffering.

3.2.3 Selfish Portrayal of Male

In Paris, for rich men, or duke they are very proud if they are having a famous courtesan. They also will be proud if they can give an expensive gift to his mistress. Every gift will have an initial, it means this gift is from the initial in that thing. Some of the richest men or duke tells of their friends in their club about the courtesan that they have, and how much they can pay their courtesan in a year for the lifestyle. It can be seen from this quotation.

Their death, when they die young, is heard of by all their lovers at the same moment, for in Paris almost all the lovers of a well-known woman are friends. A few recollections are exchanged, and everybody's life goes on as if the incident had never occurred, without so much as a tear (10).

It is also the same with the courtesan, they also will tell to their friend for everything that she gets from her lovers, they will show their beautiful gown and their jewellery, for carriages that they have or with whom they will spend her time in the night.

Now, if there is one thing which women in society would like to see (and there were society women there), it is the home of those women whose carriages splash their own carriages day by day, who, like them, side by side with them, have their boxes at the Opera and at the Italiens, and who parade in Paris the opulent insolence of their beauty, their diamonds, and their scandal" (2-3).

Marguerite is a famous courtesan at that time; every rich man wants to be her lovers, but not all of them can be her lover. Sometimes Marguerite gives them bad treatment when she feels bored and do not like that man. In order to keep manner in front of woman, the rich man who has got bad treatment still come and wait for Marguerite.

Based on the empathy toward the way of life of the courtesan, the author, Dumas Jr. shows another side of courtesan in <u>The Lady of the Camellias</u>especially in the main character, Marguerite. Dumas Jr. describes the main character, Marguerite as submissive woman, because of that there is sympathywhen the writer read the story of this novel. Marguerite as the main character in this novel described as a young beautiful woman. On the other hand she is a consumptive; the bad lifestylemakes her illness become serious day by day. She cannot stop the bad lifestyle which she has runs because she know that she cannot live for a long time.

"For the rest," continued Prudence, "I never saw her as she is now; she hardly takes any sleep, she goes to all the balls, she goes to suppers, she even drinks. The other day, after a supper, she had to stay in bed for a week; and when the doctor let her get up, she began again at the risk of her life..." (272).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the bad habit that she runs are drunk, and other things that can give a risk to her health.

The empathy from Dumas Jr. also can be seen from the oppression that she gets from her lover, oppression not only comes from her lovers but also from her true love, Armand Duval.

In this novel patriarchal culture mostly happened not only from the father toward his children, but also from Marguerite's lover to her freedom. Marguerite's life depends on her lovers, the man who always gives everything to her. Like an old Duke, he is actually a man who looked figure his daughter in Marguerite's appearance. At the beginning he only wants to take care of marguerite like his daughter, he gives the amount of money without asking for something from Marguerite, he suggests Marguerite to leave her bad lifestyle, and then lives together with him, but day by day the old Duke becomes an over protective man, he has not wanted if Marguerite has another lover and he also asks for his servant to prowl in the outside of Marguerite's house, to know what she has done.

He is so dull; he calls her his daughter; looks after her like a child; and is always in the way. I am sure at this very moment one of his servants is prowling about in the street to see who comes out, and especially who goes in (85).

In this quotation, Marguerite's friend, Prudence tells to Armand that there is an over protective man as Marguerite's lover, he is old Duke. The old Duke treats Marguerite like his daughter. From the quotation above, it can be seen how egoist the old Duke treats Marguerite by sending his servants to prowling around the Marguerite's house.

In some data the oppression toward the woman is still happening, even though the author, Dumas Jr. at the beginning shows how Marguerite struggles to get

a better life, but she still gets bad image from society. It describes in the quotation from Armand's friend. He said:

But don't look upon it as a lost chance; only do not do these women the honour of taking them seriously. They do not know what politeness and ceremony are. It is as if you were to offer perfumes to dogs- they would think it smelled bad, and go and roll in the gutter (75).

From the quotation above, it can be seen the opinion of Armand's friend that argue not to take the woman like Marguerite seriously, because a courtesan does not know about politeness, it means the men can treat courtesan as they like it.

The broken moral and scandal makes them gets rejected from the society.

Even though some of Marguerite's lovers keep manner and politeness in front of her, it does not mean that her lovers appreciate her, because it is only the way of their lovers to get a chance to meet Marguerite in the next time. The rejection from society can be seen from the opinion of the gardener who keeps the grave.

"...I mean that there are people who carry their pride even here. Now, this Demoiselle Gautier, it appears she lived a bit free, if you'll excuse my saying so. Poor lady, she's dead now; there's no more of her left than of them that no one has a word to say against. We water them every day. Well, when the relatives of the folk that are buried beside her found out the sort of person she was..." (48).

The quotation above clearly describes how the rejection from society, even though only the grave of the courtesan that put in the same located with their family, if they know it they will keep out the grave of Marguerite away.

While Marguerite finds her true love with Armand Duval. Armand Duval as the man who really loves her also thinks that one day Marguerite will be thankful to him for the love that he has given to her. As he says:

I dreamed incredible dreams of the future; I said to my self that she should owe to me her moral and physical recovery, that I should spend my whole life with her, and that her love should make me happier than all the maidenly loves in the world (121).

The quotation above shows the egoist of Armand Duval, he thinks that he will spend his life with Marguerite as the reward for the moral and physical recovery that she gets from him.

The other egoist man toward Marguerite is Armand's father, M. Duval. It's seen in the climax of the story in this novel, that is at that time Armand's father, M. Duval asks for Marguerite to leave his son with some reasons, such as Armand's sister will cancel her married because of Armand having a relationship with a courtesan and it can give bad image to their family, because the man who will marry his sister comes from the honorable family. As M. Duval says:

"...she is to marry the man whom she loves; she enters an honorable family, which requires that mine has to be no less honorable. The family of the man who is become my son-in-law has learned what manner of life Armand

leading in Paris, and has declared to me that the marriage must be broken off it Armand continues this life. The future of a child who has done nothing against you, and who has the right of looking forward to a happy future is in your hands. Have you the right, have you the strength, to shatter it? In the name of your love and of your repentance, Marguerite, grant me the happiness of my child." (300).

The quotation above describes how egoist Armand's father to convince everything the best for his children without thinking if it can sacrifice the happiness of other people. Mr. Duval comes to Marguerite asks for Marguerite to leave his son, but he does not care what the effects that will happens after his action.

Mr. Duval is succeeds in separating his son of Marguerite, and gives happiness to his daughter. At the beginning his son, Armand is really sad and hopeless, Armand back to his family. His father, M. Duval takes cares of Armand and he gets best remedy.

After his condition recovery Armand going back to Paris to revenge to Marguerite for her fault in the past while Marguerite leaves him. Marguerite suffers because of the revenge from Armand. As Marguerite says:

"...You will have pity on me, won't you? And you will understand that a man who is not heartless has other nobler things to do than to take his revenge upon a sick and sad woman like me. See, take my hand. I am in a fever. I left my bed to come to you, and ask, no for your friendship, but for your indifference (285).

From the quotation above, the writer assumes that, Marguerite comes to meet him because Armand has to hurt her, by taking her friend as his mistress in order to revenge her. It is really makes Marguerite feels sad, because Armand does not know the real reason why she leaving him.

As Millett and Shulamith firestone (The Dialectic of Sex, 1979) in Bressler's Literary Criticism: An Introduction to theory and Practice. 2nd editionstated; regard male domination as primary and quite independent of other social and economic forms of oppression (140). The writer assumes that the oppression of the female in this novel because there is a domination of the male to the female (Marguerite) because in this novel Marguerite life is depends on the money that she gets from her lovers.

Based on the effects of the oppression of male, it can be seen in Marguerite's condition. She really suffers from the revenge of Armand. In a serious illness, one by one from her lover has gone. At the end of her life, she does not have another friend except Julie. The debt collector comes to account everything which she has, because she has many debts.

"Do you understand, my friend? I am dying, and from my bed I can hear a man walking to and fro in the drawing-room; my creditors have put him there to see that nothing is taken away, and that nothing remains to me in case I do not die. I hope they will wait till the end before they begin to sell (37).

In a serious illness and under economic oppression, Marguerite gives up to her illness, she died in loneliness. At the end of her life, she really hopes that one day Armand comes and see her, but it never happens.

After the death of Marguerite, Armand is very sad because he never knows the real fact, how Marguerite sacrifices her true love for the happiness of his family. Armand regrets for what he has done to Marguerite, but it is late. Armand suffers because he has treated Marguerite badly at the end of her life. It can be seen from the conversation between Armand and the narrator (I) in this novel.

"It is my only chance of getting better. I must see her. Ever since I heard of her death, especially since I saw her grave, I have not been able to sleep. I can not realize that this woman, so young and so beautiful when I left her, is really dead. I must convince myself of it. I must see what God has done with being that I have loved so much, and perhaps the horror of the sight will cure me of my despair" (55).

In this quotation, Armand wants to give a new grave for Marguerites by buying a plot of ground, so that he can come and see the Marguerite's grave every time when he wants without fear that grave will be change with other people because there is a limited time for the grave in the grave of public area.

The empathy from Dumas Jr. toward Marguerite as the main female character in this novel, clearly describes from the data above. It can be seen based on the pitiful tone, the miserable ending and from the description of men as selfish

people in this novel. The writer can conclude that the attitude of Dumas Jr. to woman especially Marguerite as the main character is positive.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In highlights, Alexandre Dumas Jr. looks like a misogynistic clichés that always seeks to diminish the position of women under the rule of men. Marguerite's description with her negative profession, has reinforced the perception that women are just sexual objects for men who have a lot of money and can buy anything, including love of a woman. Money and women in a male point of view are something that is very common for commercial value.

However, a deeper tracking of this novel seems to give a different impression from the visible surface. Sympathetic tone of the narrator carries the reader on a different level of understanding. Marguerite can be seen as a heroic woman that struggle to find her way in society. Her awareness to get a better and honorable life are progressive idea at that time. Her brevity to be a career woman is like a fight against the restraints of patriarchy. However, economic and education difficulties also physical weaknesses such as lung disease as the effects of industrial revolution that plagued Marguerite, symbolically looks like a very strong pressure against the struggle of women to achieve equality and opportunity of living in the community.

Selfishness of men and their obsession with honorary, indirectly also are factors that marginalize women like Marguerite to get a proper appreciation in society. A deep-rooted patriarchal value is a stimulation for several men to always sacrifice woman's right and dignity. In the end, Dumas Jr. tragically illustrates the

powerlessness of women in reaching an honorary and justice to the painful death of Marguerite.

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