
**RURAL IDENTITY OF FEMALE CHARACTERS IN SHORT STORY
COLLECTIONS BY BARBARA BAYNTON *BUSH STUDIES***

A Thesis

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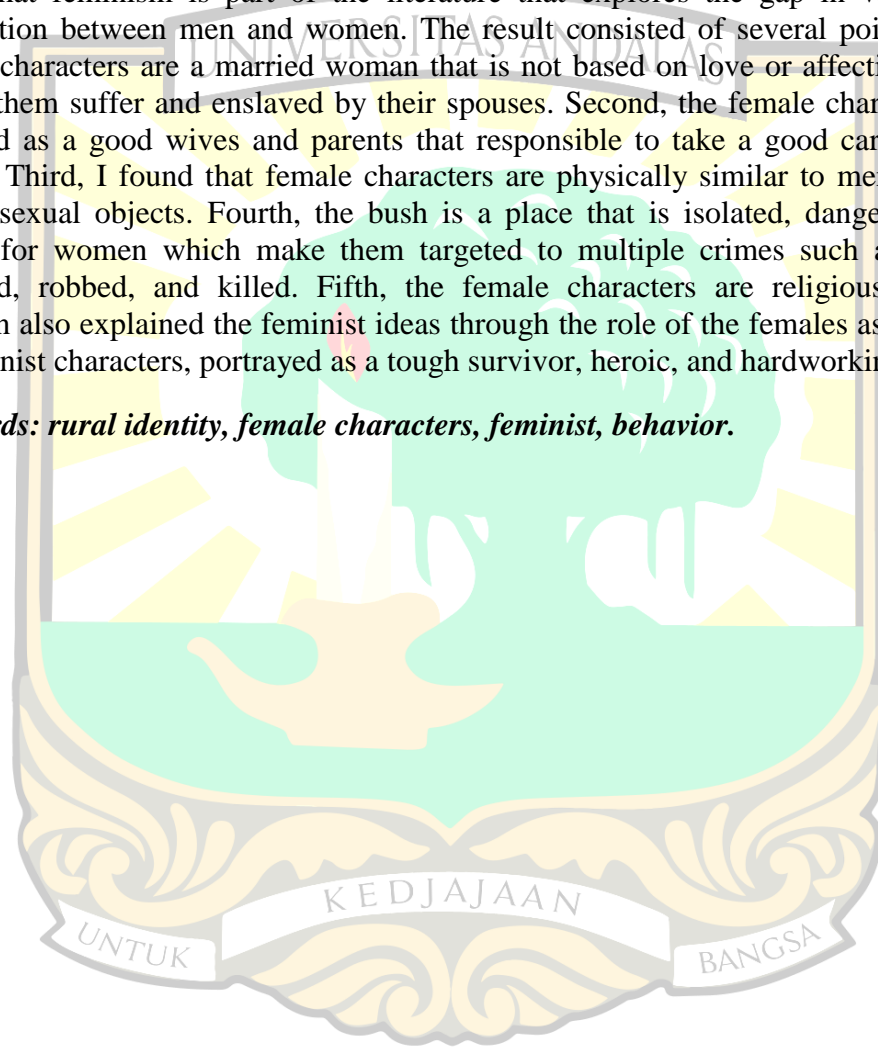
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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the rural identity of female characters depicted in a collection of short stories by Barbara Baynton entitled *Bush Studies*. This research uses qualitative methods by explaining the characteristics, traits, behaviors, and beliefs of female characters in *Bush Studies* which represent the identity of rural. The author uses feminist literary theory by applying the perspective of Simone De Beauvoir who states that feminism is part of the literature that explores the gap in values and domination between men and women. The result consisted of several points. First, female characters are a married woman that is not based on love or affection which makes them suffer and enslaved by their spouses. Second, the female characters are depicted as a good wives and parents that responsible to take a good care of their family. Third, I found that female characters are physically similar to men but still use as sexual objects. Fourth, the bush is a place that is isolated, dangerous, and unsafe for women which make them targeted to multiple crimes such as getting harassed, robbed, and killed. Fifth, the female characters are religious women. Baynton also explained the feminist ideas through the role of the females as the main protagonist characters, portrayed as a tough survivor, heroic, and hardworking.

Keywords: rural identity, female characters, feminist, behavior.



ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini memaparkan hasil analisa mengenai identitas karakter wanita pedesaan yang tergambar dalam koleksi cerita pendek karangan Barbara Baynton yang berjudul *Bush Studies*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan memaparkan karakteristik, sifat, perilaku, dan keyakinan dari tokoh-tokoh wanita di *Bush Studies* yang merepresentasikan identitas wanita pedesaan. Penulis menggunakan teori kritik sastra feminis dengan menerapkan perspektif milik Simone De Beavouir yang menyatakan bahwa feminisme adalah bagian dari literatur yang mengeksplorasi kesenjangan nilai-nilai dan dominasi antara laki-laki dan perempuan. Hasilnya terdiri dari beberapa poin, yang pertama, identitas dari para tokoh wanita terbukti melalui status pernikahan tanpa didasari kasih sayang dan diperbudak oleh pasangan mereka. Kedua, saya menemukan bahwa para tokoh wanita digambarkan sebagai sosok yang secara fisik mirip dengan laki-laki namun masih dijadikan objek seksisme. Keempat, lingkungan pedesaan di *Bush Studies* merupakan area terisolasi yang berbahaya dan tidak aman bagi para wanita yang membuat mereka menjadi sasaran berbagai kejahatan seperti dilecehkan, dirampok, dan dibunuh. Kelima, karakter wanita didalam *Bush Studies* merupakan karakter yang agamis. Baynton juga memaparkan pesan feminis melalui peranan karakter wanita sebagai tokoh utama protagonist yang digambarkan sebagai sosok pejuang yang tangguh, dan pekerja keras.

Kata kunci: identitas pedesaan, tokoh wanita, feminis, perilaku.

