A SOCIALIST FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE
ON WOMEN’S POSITION IN MARRIAGE
IN FAY WELDON’S REMEMBER ME

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
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By

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A Socialist Feminist Perspective on Women’s Position in Marriage in Fay Weldon’s *Remember Me*

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Dr. Fr. B. Alip M. pd. M.
No man is an island, entire of itself; every man
Is a piece of Continent, a part of the maine: if a
Clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the lesse,
As well as if a Promontoric were. As well as if a manner
Of your friends or of thine own were: any man's
death diminishes me, because I am involved
in mankind: And therefore never send to know for
Whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.
(John Donne)

Emancipate yourself from mental slavery

(Bob Marley)
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This thesis analyzes Fay Weldon’s novel entitled Remember Me. It is a novel that tells about women’s life in marriage and the problems they face in the marriage.

There are three problems to be answered. The first problem is about the society in the novel. The second problem is about women’s attitude toward their position in marriage. The third is socialist feminist perspective toward women’s position in marriage. The aims of this thesis are, to describe the characteristics of the society in the novel, to find out women’s attitude toward their position in marriage, and to find out socialist feminist perspective on women’s position in marriage.

In order to reach the objectives above, the library research is applied. The novel Remember Me is the primary source of the thesis. Besides, there are some books and criticism used as the secondary source. To develop the analysis, the writer applies socialist feminism approach.

The writer finds out that the society in the novel is the society of London suburban area in the year 1976. The society has two stand-out characteristics which are; patriarchal and capitalistic. Patriarchy and capitalism is the system applied in the society, thus women in the novel are subordinated, marginalized, and discriminate. Therefore women’s position in marriage is subordinate to their spouse. Married women characters in the novel are discontent to their position as subordinate. Women in the novel are struggling against their oppressor. Margot and Enid struggle against their husbands as their oppressor. Renee fight against men, she declares that her oppressor are men. Madeline declares her attitude toward her position in marriage by despising the domestic job burdened to her as a wife. Judy is holding her discontent in silence since she knows not what to do about it. Lily builds her sympathy and understanding toward other women’s condition. These women’s struggle is spontaneous and unsystematic, based on their personal experiences and done by them. Women’s subordinate position is caused by the system in the society; patriarchy and capitalism, thus these women actually facing the same oppressor, patriarchy and capitalism. In order to win women’s equality women needs fight for social revolution. In order to do it women should organize. Women should build a mass movement that addresses the needs and aspirations of the majority of women with the goal to set women in political position that enable them to participate in determining the obligation and law that creates equality for women that patriarchy and capitalism fails.
ABSTRAK


Skripsi ini menganalisa novel yang ditulis oleh Fay Weldon berjudul Remember Me. Penulis tertarik dengan karya ini karena menggambarkan kehidupan perempuan menikah dan masalah yang timbul disebabkan posisi mereka dalam pernikahan.


membangun organisasi massa yang masif dan mengakomodasi kepentingan dan aspirasi mayoritas perempuan agar dapat menempatkan perempuan dalam posisi politik yang dapat menentukan kebijakan dan hukum dalam masyarakat yang bisa memberi solusi yang gagal diberikan patriarki dan kapitalisme yaitu kesetaraan yang adil bagi perempuan.
A. Background of the Study

Unlike in the fairy tales, where marriage is ended in the altar with the word “I Do” and beautified by the word live happily ever after, marriage life actually started in that precise moment. Marriage is a commitment with which comes responsibility and consequences based on the values within the society.

Maggie Humm defined marriage as “the institution traditionally provides woman with a social identity” (1990: 122). She also explains some aspect of marriage. First, it is the site where categories of gender are reproduced. Second, it is the site of sexual division of labor and women’s subordination. Third, it is the model for other social institutions of a sexual norm. She also reveals that sociologist and historian suggest marriage as a simple social contract “which is” closely related with the reproduction of children (1990:128).

Marriage comes with some consequences where a woman must position herself toward the new status as a wife. Marriage as an institution give more credits to male partners than female. “In marriage the husband and wife is one person in the law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman during marriage is suspended, or at least is incorporated and consolidated into that of the husband” (Zaher, 2002: 459). Once women are married, they lose many of their liberties as individual. Woman no longer seen as an individual; instead, they merge into one with their husband.
Marriage is one of the general themes that inspire an author to write a novel. According to Welleck and Warren in *Theory of Literature*, a novel is a picture of real life manner (1956: 216). A novel may become the means for the author to give criticism, satire to their society, or an idea.


This thesis studies on Fay Weldon’s novel entitled *Remember Me*. The novel tells about women’s life in marriage. Female characters in the novel are wives with various problems and chores in their marriage life. There are Madeline who was divorced with no change of having a decent job to finance herself and her daughter as the society expectation. There are also Margot, a wife of a Doctor, who plays her role as subordinate to her husband to earn his love. Enid is taking contraception in secrecy in fear of her husband, who wanted no predecessors but at the same time banned her to take contraception. Renee is a lesbian whose
custody of her child was taken because of her homosexuality. These women experiences uneasiness in their marital relationship and perform their way of struggle to overcome it. The female characters within the novel choose divorce, being a lesbian, and make peace with their position as way out. In this novel, Weldon has created women characters that are having some uneasiness in their marriage to guide the reader understand the position of women in institution called marriage.

From the story above, it can be inferred that the story does not only describes women’s position and problems their having in the marriage but also their attitude toward it. It is interesting for the writer to analyze the society within which these women characters inhibited as the story impose. It is interesting for the writer to analyze the women’s attitude toward their position expected by the society with the perspective of socialist feminism.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of study above, the writer will find the answer of these questions:

1. How is the society described in the novel?

2. What are the women’s attitudes toward their position in marriage?

3. How is socialist feminist perspective toward women’s position in marriage?
C. Objectives of Study

This analysis aims at answering the problem formulation above. The first problem formulation aims to find out how the society is described in the novel. Knowing the society where the women characters become the member of it, we will be able to understand the problems experienced by them.

The aim of the second problem formulation is to find out the women’s characters attitude toward their position which caused them problem and uneasiness. From it, we come to a better understanding on how these women are dealing with it.

To see socialist feminism perspective on women’s attitude toward their position as wives is the aim of the third problem formulation. This will give us the socialist feminism perspective toward women’s position in marriage and the possible solution to overcome it.

D. Definition of Terms

1. Women’s position

Fairchild in Dictionary of Sociology and Related Sciences defined woman as an adult female human being: the female sex (1970: 338). Position is an ecological term indicating location, or location in relation to other object, perhaps in pattern (1970: 226). Women’s position is an adult female location in relation to others seen by them selves, their spouse and the society they are living in.
2. Marriage

Marriage is an institution that provides the recognized form for entering into matrimony or setting up family unit (Fairchild, 1970: 184). In *Dictionary of Modern Sociology*, Hoult further explains that in marriage the participant of marriage having special rights and duties relative to one another and to children who may be procreated or adopted (1969: 192-193). Marriage is an institution in which every member has certain rights and duties to one another, wife and husband, which applied to the society they are living in.

3. Socialist Feminism

Puspita Ratna in *Feminisme Sosialis: Sebuah Pilihan Menuju Pembebasan Perempuan* defines socialist feminism as a branch of feminism, which is a synthesis of radical feminism and Marxist feminism. (2000: 15). Maggie Humm in *A Readers Guide to Contemporary Feminist Literary Theory* stated that socialist feminism believes that women are second-class citizens in patriarchal and capitalism which depends for its survival on the exploitation of working people, and on the special exploitation of women. (1994: 270). Socialist feminism is a branch of feminism that argues that women’s oppression is rooted in patriarchy and capitalism.
A. Review of Related Studies

In this thesis the writer analyzed Fay Weldon’s novel entitled *Remember Me*. This novel was published in 1976; it is possible if here are many comments and criticism toward the work and the topic the author presented.

Criticism said that *Remember Me* is a satirical novel that cuts through the core of the meanings beneath everyday speech and manners, and with astonishing nerve and a lovely felicity of style, delineates the essential forces which conjoin parent and child, husband and wife, lover and lover. Weldon are able to depict her character in the round with a few brief strokes and she forces the reader to care about the fate of every member of her cast, despite her malicious portrayal of them. *Remember Me* is a truly impressive and disturbing novel.

http://www.redmood.com/weldon/remember_me.html

Robyn Alexander in *Fay Weldon’s Use of Form and the ‘Female Voice’* argued that Weldon is using ‘feminine’ kind of writing. This is the kind of conceptual viewpoint which has led to the valorization of particular kinds of writing as more expressive of the problematic of identity faced by women. He argued that Weldon’s attack on patriarchal language might thus be said to come, at least in part, from her very visual awareness of the way words, sentences and paragraph look on the page.
Further more Alexander gave the example of it in Weldon’s *Remember Me*.

Weldon uses direct narratorial address, followed rapidly by interior monologue—indicated with careful paragraphing and indentation—and then by narrator conducting a sort of question-and-answer session with herself (or with the projection of the reader), in which questions and answers are each separate, lone sentence. She also makes use of a list of advantages of new job for character, with each benefit italicized and followed by a brief paragraph of explanation, as if in a marketing document. Dialogue is sometimes presented in the form of a play or screenplay, apparently eliminating the narrator’s presence and presenting character’s speech to one another “verbatim”.

http://www.uwc.za/arts/english/interaction/95ra.htm

To him Weldon is using writing style that imposes and easily expresses women problems in a more expressive way.

Fay Weldon herself stated in *The life and loves of Fay Weldon* that “My position was reasonable in the 1960s and 1970s. It was patriarchy, and men did abuse their power and spend their time despising women. It was dreadful and humiliating time to be a woman.” Weldon’s position during that time was to oppose patriarchy and male domination.

In the writer’s opinion, Fay Weldon is using her writing to argue about woman’s position in marriage. In *Remember Me* she is constantly describes marriage women’s life and their struggle in the marriage. Fay Weldon tries to impose the ordinary life and difficulties faced by woman in their matrimonial relationship.

The writer is impressed by the women characters presented in the novel and inspired to gain deeper understanding about these women’s position in the marriage. To finding out the very root of women’s oppression, the system that
creates the oppression Further more the writer would like to analyze the women’s attitude toward their position, their way to deal with the oppressing environments, whether or not they had found a solution to women’s oppression. The last, the writer would like to uses socialist feminism perspective toward the women’s oppression in order to find a radical and root based solution to women’s oppression.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theory of Society and Literature

Martin and Stendler give a theory that society as one of the element of setting. He said that society is “such grouping of human beings share in and transmit of common mode of life (1953:149). Langland in the Society in the Novel stated that society is a construction of life, similar to the society in the novel, which is a concept on construct in art and also life (1984:1) further more explained that society is understood not merely by people in their classes but also their medium, that is, their costumes, conventions, believes and value, their institution—legal, religious, and cultural—and their physical environment. From the theories above can be concluded that society is the main part of life that sculpt the member characteristics and behaviors, which is no different with the society in the novel.

In Theory of Literature (Welleck and Warren, 1956:94), literature is a social institution. Traditional literary device such as symbolism and matter is social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms, which could have arisen only in society. Further, literature represents life and life itself as social
reality. Though, the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been object of literary imitation. Thus a large majority of the question raised literary study are social questions. From this quotation can be seen that literary and society cannot be extracted, there are body and soul. Real life incident also occurs in literary for literary is the echo of social problems.

Further more explained, since author is a member of society; he can study as a social setting. An author as a member of society has pronounced on question of social and political important which are reflected in his works. Either directly, he has taken part in the issue of his time (Welleck, 1981:96-97). An author is tried to convey something beyond his presentation.

Little in *The Glossary of Literary Terms* states that “a literary work can be a good reflection of a society where the works is written. By reading a literary work we can dig out many values that implicitly set in it. Literature is one element of culture. It contains values, thoughts, problems, and conflicts. Literature functions as a representation of the situation happening in certain setting of time and place (1963:1).” From this statement the writer concludes that to understand the real values that an author tries to impose is to closely understand the society in the novel.

2. Theory of Character

According to Holman and Harmon in *A Handbook to Literature* character is a term that includes the idea of the moral constitution of the human personality (Aristotle’s sense of *ethos*), the presence of moral value, and the presence of creature in art in the form of human being. Character is a brief description of a personage who typifies some definite quality. The person is described not as
individualized personality but as an example of some vice or virtue or type, such as a busybody, a glutton, a bumpkin, and a happy milkmaid (1972: 81).

Baldick states in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary terms* character is a personage in a narrative work; also a kind of prose sketch briefly describing some recognizable type of person. (1990: 33)

In *An Introduction to Fiction*, Stanton says “The term character is commonly used in two ways. It designates the individuals who appear in the story. And it refers to the mixture of interests, desires, emotions and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals (1965: 170).” Further more; (1965: 18) he also states that “there are central characters and minor characters. A central character is a character that is relevant to every event in a story, and minor characters are characters whose attitude is very important toward central characters.”

In *Glossary of Literary Terms* (1981:20-21) Abrams defines characters as “the present in dramatic or narrative work, who are presented by the author as being endowed with moral and disposition qualities that can be evaluated from the dialogue and the action among person.” Character can also be defined as “personality that is, the moral and moral qualities of a figure, as when we say that a character is strong or weak” (Barnet, 1988:71).

Further more the type of characters can be seen from E.M Foster’s *Aspect of the Novel* (1927:45-57) that introduces two types of character. They are flat and round character.
A flat character is built around a single attitude or quality and is represented in outline without much individuality detail, and so he or she can be fairly described in a single phrase or sentence. It means that a flat character has few domination traits or desire and motivation toward him/herself or against his/her society. Here, we see only from one side of the character. Flat character does not change from the beginning to the end of the story. Of course it makes the character easy to remember.

A round character is more complex than a flat character, foster explains that “a round character is a complex in temperament and motivation, and is represented with suitable peculiarity. He or she is a difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like most people, he or she is capable of surprising us (1966:29).”

It means that a round character is difficult to describe and remembered. The character is changed from the beginning to the end of the work and we can see all sides of the character. According to Kenney in How to Analysis Fiction (1966:29) the complex character obviously more lifelike than the simple one because in life people are not embodiment of a single attitude. Foster and Kenney suggest that the complex or round character have a higher achievement than the flat one.

3. Theory of Characterization

Baldick in The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms says that characterization is the representation of a person in narrative and dramatic works. This may include direct methods like the attribution of qualities in description or
commentary, and indirect methods inviting readers to infer qualities from characters’ action, speech, or appearance (1990: 34). The creation of imaginary person so that they exist for the reader as lifelike is called characterization.

According to Holman and Harmon in "Handbook of Literature" (1972: 81), characterization is the creation of revealing imaginary persons so that they are exist for the readers as life-like. They also give three fundamental methods of characterization in fiction: first, the explicit presentation of the character through directs exposition, either in introductory block or more often piecemeal throughout the work, illustrated by actions. Secondly is the presentation of the character in action, with little or no explicit comment by the author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actors from the actions. Thirdly is the representation from within a character, without comments on the character by the author, of the impact of action and emotions on the character’s inner-self, with the expectation that the reader will come to clear understanding of the attributes of the character.

Murphy in "Understanding Unseen" (1971: 161-173), stated that there are some ways in which an author attempts to make his character understandable and come alive for his reader, as follows:

a. Personal description

The author can describe the characters through the details of his appearance which are shown in the physical appearance of the character. Personal description helps the reader both to visualize the person and to understand his characteristic.
b. Characters as seen by others.

The author can describe characters through the eyes and opinions of others. The other characters will give explanation about what the character is like.

c. Speech.

The author can give us insight into the character of one of the persons in the book through what the person says. The characters of a person can be seen whenever he/she is speaks, having conversation with others, and stated his/her opinion.

d. Past life.

The author can give us a clue to events that have helped to shape a person’s past life. The readers learn to know the character’s personality by learning something about a person’s past life. Whenever the author provides picture of the character’s past life, it can be traced and learn to help us figure out his motives of recent actions.

e. Conversation of others.

The author can also gives us clue to a person’s character through the conversation of others and the thing that they say about him. The characters conversation with other may help us to understand and gain more information on the character examined for it may show his/her personality.

f. Reactions.

The author can also give us a clue to a person’s character by letting the readers to know how that person reacts to various situation and events. The actions are related to his/her motives and thought.
g. Direct comment.

The author can describe or comment on a person’s character directly. Direct command gives the reader a straightforward description about the character.

h. Thoughts.

The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. In this respect he is able to do what we cannot in real life. He can tell us what different people are thinking.

i. Mannerism.

The author can describe a person’s mannerism, habits, or idiosyncrasies, which may also tell us something about his characteristics.

Those theories of character and characterization will help the author present a character, as well as helping the readers to understand the message implied. Those theories will be helpful for the writer to identify and understanding a character to do the analysis.

4. Theory of Socialist Feminism

A socialist, more precisely a Marxist and feminist have something in common which is both are critical ways of looking the world. Barbara Ehrenreich in *What is Socialist Feminism* stated that Marxism addresses itself to the class dynamic of capitalist society, which characterized by more or less severe, systematic inequality. Marxist understands this inequality to arise from processes which are intrinsic to capitalism as an economic system. An economic system where a minority of people, the capitalist class, owns all the factories/energy
sources/resources, which everyone else depends on it in order to stay alive. The great majority, the working class, must work out in the sheer necessity, under condition set by the capitalist, for the wages the capitalist pay. The capitalist class owes it very existence to the continued exploitation of the working class. This system of class role is maintained by force (1976: 1-3).

In the other hand feminism addresses itself to another familiar inequality, inequality between the sexes. The subjugation of women to male authority, both with the family and in the community in general; the objection of women as a form of property; a sexual division labor in which women are confined to such activities as child rearing, performing personal services for adult males, and specified forms of productive labor, occurs through history and across the continent. Feminist have looked for explanations in the biological givens which underline all human social existence. Physical advantage male holds over females result ultimately in violence, or the threat of violence (1976: 1-4).

Marxism rips away the myth about ‘democracy and it ‘pluralism’ to reveal a system of class rule that rests on forcible exploitation. Feminism cuts through myth about ‘instinct’ and romantic love to expose male rule as a rule of force. Socialist feminism is a combination of Marxism and feminism.

In Socialist Feminism—A Strategy for The Women Movement, it is said “from feminism come the understanding that sexism is an institutionalized system of oppression based on the domination of men over women. Its contradiction is based on the hostile social relation set into forces by this domination. Socialist focuses on how power has been denied women because of this class position.
Feminist and socialist share the same vision of a humanist world made possible through a redistribution of wealth and an end to the distinction between the ruling class and those who are ruled (1972: 1-2).” Socialist feminism shares the spirit of socialist of class struggle and feminism of class division based on sexes.

Puspita Ratna in *Feminisme Sosialis: Sebuah Pilihan Menuju Pembebasan Perempuan* said socialist feminism is a synthesis of Marxist feminism and radical feminism which given incomplete explanation from its ideology. Socialist feminist argued that male supremacy by patriarchy and capitalism is the main relation which defined women’s oppression. It becomes clear that class and patriarchy analysis are able to answer women’s oppression. Inequality labor division between the sexes had to be put in class analysis framework and patriarchy (2000: 3). Radical feminism is still remaining transfixed with the universality of male supremacy. They argued that all social systems are patriarchies; imperialism, militarism, and capitalism are all simply expressions of innate male aggressiveness.

Moreover Ehrenreich explains that “class and sex domination rest ultimately on force. The subjugation of women has been the key to the process of class atomization. The forces which atomized working class life promoted cultural or material dependence on the capitalist class are the same forces which have served to perpetuate the subjugation of women. It is women who are most isolated in what has become an increasingly privatized family existence, even though they are working outside the home. It is women’s skills such as productive skills, healing, and midwifery, which have been discredited or banned to make way for
commodities. Above all women are encouraged to be passive, uncritical and
dependent in the face of pervasive capitalist penetration of private life.

Socialist feminism is a kind of feminism and a kind of Marxism whose
interests naturally flows together. Socialist feminism is a name taken in order to
assert the determination to comprehend the whole women experience and to forge
a politics that reflects the totality of that comprehension.

Socialist feminism has build theory on women’s oppression and family
system, also the demands raised to ended women’s oppression, which are:

a. The origins of Women’s Oppression

The oppression of women is not determined by their biology, it is
economic and social in character. All thorough history women’s child-bearing
function is always the same, in other hand their social roles have changed from
society to society. Women’s social status has not always been a degraded
domestic servant, subject to man’s control and command.

The origin of women’s oppression is related with the transition from the
pre-class to class society. in Feminism and Socialism; putting the pieces together
“The changed in women’s status developed along with the growing of human
labor based on agriculture, the domestication of animals, and stock raising; the
rise of new division of labor, craftsmanship, and commerce; and the development
of the possibility for some human to prosper from the exploitation of the other
labor” (1997: 19). The mode of production is divided into those who possessed
property and those who owning no property. This socio-economic condition
allows exploitation of human labor, which is profitable to a privileged view.
Women for their biological role in production, their production of the next
generation, became valuable property. “Thus the purchase of women by men
arose as one of the economic and social institution based on private property.
Women’s primary social role was increasingly defined as domestic servant and

In Resolusi Partai Rakyat Demokratik: Jalan Keluar bagi Perempuan
Indonesia dari Cengkeraman Penindasan it is said that “private property of means
of production arouses social class in the society. It is the root of oppression
toward human beings, women nevertheless” (2004: 6). Along with private
accumulation of wealth, the responsibility of the unproductive member of the
society, the young in particular, transferred from the society as a whole to
individual or small group of individual, family unit. Further more in Feminism
and Socialism; putting the pieces together it is explained that family unit is the
primary socio-economic institution for perpetrating from one generation to the
next the class division of society divisions, those who possessed property and
those who are not and had to work for others to live. The destruction of egalitarian
and communal traditions and structure of primitive communism was essential for
the rise of an exploiting class and its accelerate accumulation of wealth
(Macdonald, 1997: 19)

b. The Family System

In the Feminism and Socialism; putting the pieces together the oppression
of women was institutionalized through family system. Women productive role
was determined by the family to which they belonged, to the man to whom they
were subordinate. This economic dependence determines the second class social status for women, on which the cohesiveness and continuity of the family always depended (Macdonald, 1997: 18-20).

The family and the subjugation of women thus come into existence along with other institutions of the emerging class society in order to buttress nascent class division and maintain the private accumulation of wealth (Macdonald, 1997: 20). While the subjugation of women has always had different consequences for women of different class, all women regardless of the class are oppressed as part of the female sex.

Family is an institution in class society whose true role is hidden by prejudice and mystification. Throughout history of class society, the family system has proved its value as an institutional of class rule. The form of family has evolved and adapted itself to the changing needs of the ruling classes as the modes of production and forms of private property have gone through different stages of development. Moreover the family system simultaneously fulfills different social and economic requirements in references to classes with different productive roles and property rights whose interest are diametrically opposed (Macdonald, 1997: 20-21).

In class society, the family is the only institution to which most people turn for the satisfaction of some basic human needs, including love and companionship. Nevertheless, the main purpose of the family is not to provide such basic needs. In *Feminism and Socialism: Putting the Pieces Together* family
is an economic and social institution whose functions can be described as follows (Macdonald, 1997: 21-23):

a) The family is the basic mechanism through which the ruling classes abrogate social responsibility for the economic well-being of those whose labor power they exploit. Family is forced to be responsible for its own.

b) The family system provides the means of passing on property ownership from one generation to the next. It is the basic social mechanism for perpetuating the division of society into classes.

c) For the ruling class, the family system provides the most inexpensive and ideologically acceptable mechanism for reproducing human labor power.

d) The family system enforces a social division of labor in which women are fundamentally defined by their childbearing role and assigned tasks immediately associated with this reproductive function, taking care of the other family members. Thus the family institution rests on and reinforces a social division of labor involving the domestic subjugation and economic dependence of women.

c. Essential Demands

Women’s liberation movement should struggle for demands directed against those responsible for the economic and social condition in which women’s oppression is rooted—the capitalist class, its government and agencies. The specific demands at any particular time will depend on the situation facing the movement and the general level struggle (Macdonald, 1997:94-99).
In *Feminism and Socialism: putting the pieces together* the main themes of the demands to sharpen and develop the struggle for women’s liberation are as follows:

The first is the right of women to control their own bodies. Women should win the right of reproductive freedom. It includes the right to decide whether or not to prevent or terminate pregnancy and the right to bear children if she chooses to. In order to do so abortion should be available on demand in clinic or within public hospital system with information and support system available. Contraceptive for both women and men should be freely available. Birth control and sex education centers should be set up in schools, neighborhoods, hospital, and large workplace, financed by state. (Macdonald, 1997: 95-96)

Sterilization without women’s consent, or the use of pressure to obtain her consent, should be outlawed. This is includes the rejection of population-control schemes which are tools of racism or class prejudice. There shall no more medical and drug experimentation on women without their full, informed consent.

The second is full legal, political and social equality for women. Discrimination based on gender should exist no more. Women should have the right to vote, engage in public activity, form and join political associations, engage in any occupation. Laws that discriminate against women’s right to receive and dispose their own wages and property should be abolished. Women should have equal access to unemployment benefits regardless of age and marital status. All democratic rights won by men should be extended to women. (Macdonald, 1997: 96)
The third is the right of women to economic independence and equality. Women should be paid equal wages with one rate for the job and encouraged to enter non-traditional occupations. This includes the right to full-time employment at nationally based living wage. Discrimination against women in training and retraining programs and in promotional opportunities must be eliminated. There should be a paid parental leave and the continuity of job seniority during such leave. Part-time worker should be guaranteed the same wages and benefits as full-time worker. (Macdonald, 1997: 96-97)

Society is responsible toward rearing, social welfare, and education of children. Cheap and convenient children care should be available, which is essential for the process. Domestic work should no longer be the burden of women. This would take the socialization of domestic services through the creation of a network of easily accessible, low cost, high-quality domestic services organized on an industrial basis.

The fourth is equal educational opportunities. Education system should not discriminate women in all level of education. There must be and end to sex stereotyping in educational textbook, channeling of students into supposedly male and female subjects, and to all forms of pressure on female students to prepare themselves in women’s work (homemaking, nursing, teaching, and clerical work). (Macdonald, 1997: 97)

The fifth is the right of women to freedom from sexual violence and exploitation. Any law, secular or religious, sanctioning penalty to women for so-called crimes against male “honor” should be abolished. Positive images of
women need to replace the negative debased images, such as sexual object. (Macdonald, 1997: 97-98)

Laws against sexual harassment of women should be strengthened and strictly enforced. Facilities for victims of sexual assault should be massive and independent of the courts and the police. All laws that require physical corroboration of sexual assault or evidence of physical injury should be repealed. Questioning of sexual assault victim their past sexual activity should be prohibited.

Prostitition is a product of the general social and economic conditions of class society, in particular, poverty and the restriction placed on women gaining skills and access to productive employment. Therefore, prostitutes should not be treated as criminal, all laws victimizing prostitutes should be repealed.

The sixth is against the suppression of human sexuality. This is means that all sexual relation between women or between men should be treated in exactly the same way as sexual relation between men and women. Sexual preferences should be recognized as a matter of individual choice, a basic democratic right. (Macdonald, 1997: 98-99)

The ruling class needs to maintain the stability of the family system by restricting all sexual activity except for the purposes of procreation within the family. The fight against lesbian and gay oppression is a part of class struggle against capitalism. It requires the repeal of all anti-homosexual laws, the outlawing of discrimination against gays and lesbian employment, housing, child custody and end to police harassment. In addition, sex education for young people
and the broader community should stress the variety of non-coercive sexual relations that exists, without moral judgment or preference.

All these demands indicate the breadth and pervasiveness of women’s oppression. The struggle against this oppression will require the total reorganization of society. Unless such a thoroughgoing restructuring of society’s productive and reproductive institutions takes place to maximize social welfare, no truly human existence will be established for all.

C. Theoretical Framework

In this thesis the writer focuses the analysis on the wife’s position in marriage. The writer will analyze the society views wife’s position in marriage. The writer also analyzes how are the women, married women, characters in order to reveal their reaction toward their position in marriage according to the society. Finally the writer will try to reveal the women’s reaction toward their position as a wife from the socialist feminism perspective.

To answer the first problems, the theory about society and literature will be used. The writer found that society determines the norms and values implemented by its member. To answer the second question, the theory of character and characterization is used. It used to define the female characters which therefore determine their attitude toward their position as a wife. The theory of socialist feminism is used to answer the third question. It is used to explain and criticize the female characters, wife, and reaction in the socialist feminist perspective that at the end are hoped to be able to give a more root-based solution to women’s problems.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The object of this thesis analysis is Fay Weldon’s *Remember me*. This novel consists of 26 chapters. It was first published in Great Britain at 1976 by Hodder and Stoughton. However, this thesis uses a version that is published in 1980 by Coronet Books.

*Remember Me* tells about marriage women and their partners. Madeline, the cast-off wife, Jarvis Katkin, wants revenged and to be loved. She was killed in a car accident. Lily, the new wife of Katkin rule as a Queen in her kingdom called family. Margot, with her perfectly looking happy family, is not a happy individual. Enid has to lie about her true occupation and secretly on contraception in order to maintain her relationship with her husband. Judi is experiencing abuse and Renee the lesbian struggle for the child care. They are having the similar problem in becoming the woman in the family. Their position in the family is conservative and bound them to be obedient or divorced.

Jarvis Katkin, Madeline ex and lily’s husband, feels that he just put the burden off his shoulder by divorcing Madeline, and can start a clean new life with a new wife. There’s nothing wrong with abandoning the misfortune earlier relationship. Phillip as the breadwinner of the family thought he has already positioned his wife in the most rightful place, as a wife and mother. Sam, Enid’s husband, thinks that he is the ultimate play role of the marriage, he should rule over his wife.
B. Approach

The writer uses a feminist approach to analyze the novel, socialist feminism in particular. Maggie Humm in *A Readers Guide to Contemporary Feminist Literary Theory* said socialist feminism looked to material condition of literary production and adds a focus on the detail of women’s lives and on women’s alternative values (1994: 74). Further more Humm adds understanding the material condition of women’s cultural product and practices enables feminist to interrogate the representation of women’s experience in literature in terms of social determination (1994: 74). This approach enables writer to analyze the repression of women in writing since writing represents social pattern.

It can be concluded that socialist feminist approach pays attention on woman’s repression in term of condition and system applied to it. Therefore in analyzing all the questions in the analysis the writer must analyze the social condition which arouses the repression.

The socialist feminist approach applied to analyze the women’s position in marriage in *Remember Me*. In analyzing women’s position in marriage, the society and the women’s attitude were analyzed, since it represents the basis of women’s position and women’s attitude toward their position within the society. Therefore, socialist feminist approach is suitable to be applied in this research.
C. Method of the Study

In this thesis, the writer uses library research as a means of its analysis. This method of research requires the sources and references which are compiled and analyzed through a desk research. The writer divided the data into two, namely primary and secondary data.

The primary source is Fay Weldon’s novel entitled “Remember Me” (1976). The novel has been reread several times to get a deep interpretation and understanding about the work.

The other sources that the writer used as the secondary sources such as: Wellek and Warren’s Theory of Literature, Abram’s A Glossary of Literary and An Introduction to Fiction by Robert Stanton, Socialism and Feminism; Putting the Pieces Together compiled by Lisa McDonald. Those books were used to find the theories needed in this study. Besides book, the writer also searched reference and criticism about the novel in the internet such as:

http://www.redmood.com/weldon/remember_me.html
http://www.uwc.za/arts/english/interaction/95ra.htm
http://www.arlindo-correia.com/020702.html
http://www.cwluherstory.com/CWLUArchive/socfem.html

The first step of the study was done by reading Remember Me for several times to get deeper understanding of the story. The second step was finding as much references as possible to support the analysis of the novel. The third step was to apply the theories mentioned in the Chapter II using socialist feminist approach as the suitable approach to answer the formulated problems.
There are three problems that had been formulated in the previous chapter. First, the writer identifies the society views toward a wife position in marriage. To do this step the writer uses the theory of society and literature to know the society view toward wife position in marriage. The second step is to identify the women’s character as wives that determine their attitude toward their position in marriage. In this step the writer uses the theory of character and characterization. The third step is to analyze socialist feminist perspective on the wife’s reaction toward their position. In order to do this the writer uses the theory of socialist feminism. The last step the writer did is to make conclusion based on the analysis that have been done.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter is divided into three sub-chapters based on the three problem formulations which have been written previously. Firstly, the writer analyzes the society in the novel, the society itself and its characteristic in order to reveal its views toward women's position in marriage. Secondly, the writer analyzes the women's character in the novel in order to reveal their attitudes toward their position in marriage. Thirdly, the writer analyzes the socialist feminism perspective toward the women's position and their reaction toward it.

A. The Society in the Novel

Society influenced the life of its member through the norms and values applied within. Through those norms and values society shaped and formed the life of its member according to the expected behavior. The society in this novel is the society of London's suburban area, specifically in the neighboring area of No. 12 Adelaide Row.

...at No. 12 Adelaide Row where Lily now lives. (p. 56)
Four blocks farther than on, in her sorry basement home (p. 5)

The Katkin lived within walking distance. Six and a half minutes (fast) or nine (slow) from Margot's house (p. 35).

The time of the event can be seen from the description of the time in the novel.

Sam's first sale was of the 12 Adelaide Row to Madeline and Jarvis Katkin. That was July, 1960, six months before Madeline had discovered Jarvis copulating amongst the fur with a passing party guest (p. 57).

Margot...as once lay with Jarvis, Madeline husband some sixteen years ago (p. 195)

That is the time the work took place, in the year 1976.
First of all let us analyze the suburban area where the story took placed. The suburban area in London area in the novel is the place where the middle class live. Middle class society in the novel can be identified by the job held by the men, which are doctor, businessman, and architect. Suburban Women are the one most isolated in this term, with husbands going to work and children to school, wives stayed home, planning and preparing meals and doing housework.

The type of the family in this suburban London area is nucleus family. Consist of husband, wife and several children. Thorough out the novel we can see that most the family in the novel described to be husband, wife and one or two children, the Baileys and the Katkins.

In order to have a thorough understanding about the society in the novel we need to analyze the characteristic of the society above, which are:

1. **Patriarchal**

Patriarchy, the rule of the fathers, is a social system in which men holds position of power and women are oppressed. The common characteristic of patriarchy is a hierarchical ordering of nature and society that is control-based, privileging masculinity while devaluing femininity. London’s society as described in the novel is a patriarchal society because they take men as central power.

   Men just sit on throne. (p. 194)
   Phillip comes first. Husbands do. (p. 7)

From the quotation above, it can be understood that men is dominant as he is describes as king with absolute power over other. Their needs and interest precedes the needs and interest of others.
Men in this society are superior and the women are inferior. Thus men have the privileges of making decision toward many aspects of life. These decision such as to decide family expenses and family planning without their spouse consent or full consent.

“Since I earn the money” retorts her husband. “I can surely spend it how I please and if I want to buy seven thousand copies of *Amateur Photographer* and never read one of them, it is nothing what so ever to do with you.” (p. 114)

Margot would have had a dozen babies if she had her way but unfortunately she didn’t. Phillip felt that to have two children was both sensible and social. (p. 36)

The quotations above suggest that even women’s reproduction lie in the hands of men. Women has little to none authority to their own body.

Women are financially dependent to their spouse that women to loose their right in the decision making. Every action that she took should be under the men consent and agreements.

“Margot, at last would be able to buy clothes without first having to persuade Phillip that I need them (p. 35).”

“Since I earn the money” retorts her husband. “I can surely spend it how I please and if I want to buy seven thousand copies of *Amateur Photographer* and never read one of them, it is nothing what so ever to do with you (p. 114).”

The power of men over women is not only about financial terms but all aspect of women’s life. To be able to earn a job a married woman need to have her husband agreement. “It was Phillip who suggested Margot could go and work as Jarvis’s part time secretary (p. 94).” Women’s right over their own body is also in the hand of their spouse. Whether or not to have offspring is no longer their consent.
‘Supposing you get pregnant,’ says Enid, dangerously what would Phillip do?’
‘I can’t get pregnant,’ says Margot, ‘I wear a coil.’
‘Whose idea is that? His or yours?’
‘His,’ says Margot. She coughs and coughs. She wished Enid would go. She does not like this conversation. (p. 150)

Enid has been taking the pill for fifteen years though Sam never wanted her to; but that was crazy, since he didn’t want children either. (p 88)

These emphasize the lack of independent decision making in every action that women do or would like to do. Women are not given the right to decide and making decision by her self.

Private property is the characteristics of patriarchal society. Property therefore inherited to children, usually male children, and men become dominant in economy and other activities. “Jarvis has an inheritance; private means (p. 31).”

There are clear division of labor among women and men within this society. A man was to be the main breadwinner and a woman's role was to run the home and take care of the children. “Father such as Jarvis don’t stop working on a child’s account. Mothers such as Madeline are expected to (p. 15).”

While in the other hand the female character are valued for their role in the domestic area. “Up gets Lily bright and early, to prepare breakfast for Jarvis her husband and Jonathon her son. Good Lily (p. 8).” They’re dutiful job is to maintain the household and doing the domestic job such cooking and cleaning. Moreover they are expected to do it flawlessly.

Works opportunity is open wide for men. They are holding the most respectful and high rate jobs in the society, such as medicine, law, and business. With which they are responsible to provide the financial needs of the family.
Women become subordinate and inferior in their relation with men. As subordinate and inferior to men women are capable only in doing secondary and lesser important role, in giving services for men, give emotional support for their husband, and doing the domestic chores. Chores that are perform daily and certainly are not creative tasks.

Up gets Lily bright and early, to prepare breakfast for Jarvis her husband and Jonathon her son (p. 8).

Up gets Margot to a day like no other, in which it is no different from any other day (p. 7).

Up gets Lily Katkin, the butcher’s daughter, Jarvis the architect’s second wife, to a day like no other before or since (p. 8)

It explains the daily life of women. They are doing the same households chore everyday that makes everyday feels the same. These activity bored the till they have no recollection of differences.

Division of labor based on gender consequently leaves women with unequal opportunity of job and payment. These creates financial or economic dependency to their men, husband. “And he, as the bread winner, had the every right (p. 35).” Women are economically dependent to their husbands to provide them with financial security that ensure the life of the family.

Patriarchy takes women down to the bottom of structuralized inferiority. Women are no more than property to men that can be treated as one may pleased. “If Lily has a broken fingernail, Jarvis is all anxiety and concern: Lily, his most precious possession, damaged! (p. 173)”
This is the fact that gender differences create subordination, marginalization, and discrimination that become the main motives on oppression and violent against women. In this circumstances did the rationality and justification toward patriarchy was born.

The relation pattern in the patriarchy is a structured hierarchy. Through this hierarchy male become the ruler class that oppressed women. The systematic oppression of patriarchy started from the smallest institution, family, to a larger one, nation. The relation within this system is understood with the superiority and inferiority pattern.

2. Capitalistic

England is a capitalistic country. The industrial revolution at the end of 18th century established English as a capitalist country.

Capitalist society view industrialisation as the focus of the economic growth which driven women entering the economic production. Within the society in the novel there are a clear division of labor between men and women. A man was to be the main breadwinner and a woman's role was to run the home and take care of the children. At the same time however women had to work outside the home to maintain the family income.

“It was Phillip who suggested Margot could go and work as Jarvis’s part time secretary—thus killing three birds with one stone, his wife restlessness, his patient declared need for tranquillizer, and his monetary difficulty (p. 94).”

Women are burdened with double responsibilities. They are forced to work but at the same time burdened to perform household’s chore.
Women were seen by employers as a source of cheap labor and a reserve supply of labor which could be called upon.

“You are secretary aren’t you?” says Phillip. ‘You can pick that up again easily enough when the child’s old enough for school’ (p. 181).”

Part time employment is profitable for the bosses as it may suit women who have to juggle home and work with inadequate childcare facilities. “Margot could go and work as Jarvis’s part time secretary.” Her nearby workplace made it possible for her to have a job at the same time playing her role as a child caretaker.

The nature of women's work has changed dramatically since the early 19th century in England since industrial revolution. In the novel most women work in offices and the service sector. But there are still areas of work which are considered to be mainly women's work, in health, education and social services. Rates of pay are often lower.

Enid is a senior civil servant in the Department of Education and Technology (p. 41)

…waiting for the arrival of Margot the part-time secretary. (p. 28)

But Margot? That ordinary, bustling, plain little nurse… (p. 148)

Women in the novel are describe holding the work oriented for women, to provide services and considered low line occupation.

There are divisions of class society. Class society is the characteristics of capitalistic society. There are the employer and the employee. The relation between employer, who owns capital, and employee was not equal. Worker, who
sell their labor power are not competent in deciding their wage and job description. Margot who is working as a part-time secretary sometimes are forced to do unrelated tasks to her job. Margot, as an employee was asked to do baby sitting her employer’ son. It emphasizes the power of the employer to exploit their employee.

‘I was wondering,’ asks Lily, at last, ‘if you could possibly take Jonathon to play-group today?’ (p. 31)

Post World War II, during 1950s to 1970s is the golden age of world economy. Crisis periodically occurs due to over production. This crisis was caused stagnancy and low economical growth in 1973-1975. This crisis encountered USA and several European countries, including England. This crisis occurs from the capitalist system over production which certainly affected the capitalist country. This condition also occurs in the novel. Economies are in the hard times. Business is dropping rather heavily within the year. There has been twenty percent inflation during that year. “Lily is quite right to assume that Jarvis and his partner in architecture are in difficulties. There has been twenty percent redundancy in their staff, twenty percent inflation during the year, and twenty percent drop in business (p. 31).” The time line in the real life and work are match, so we can conclude undoubtedly that capitalism is within the society system.

Private property is another characteristic of capitalism. Private property and accumulation of capital as the mainstream of capitalism can be seen from the importance of private property by Lily. Where she continuously stated that Jarvis’s private property should stays in the family and she would be hold to it.
Further more, we can see the passing of private property from future generation to next.

Jarvis has an inheritance; private means. How exotic, lily used to feel, when first she met him, this simple fact. Jarvis’s inheritance. (p. 31)

Family is the tools for the transmission of private property from the future generation to the next. Family was used as a tool to maintain the existence of capitalism.

The family unit among workers ceases its member and becoming to be a small scale familial unit of production. Since capitalism based on industrial production the needs of worker was not as vast as in the agricultural society. The family unit in the novel was a small scale family unit, contains of father, mother, and several unit. We can see it from the Katkins and Baileys.

Family under capitalistic society has been evolved and changed, so the family systems. Capitalism has refines and modified the oppression of women to suits its own needs and ensure economic benefits. Capitalism also uses patriarchy to maintain women’s oppression.

**B. Women’s Attitude toward their Position in Marriage**

Having known to the society and its influence toward women’s position in marriage, the writer analyzes the next problem formulation that is women’s attitude toward their position in marriage. The women characters in the novel are: Margot, Madeline, Enid, Renee, Lily, and Judy whom through their characters we are able to see women’s attitude toward their position in marriage. In order to
have a clear description about the attitude of the characters mentioned above the writer will explain them one by one.

1. Margot

   It is important to know Margot’s character before the writer analyze her attitude toward women’s position in marriage. In the novel she is described as Philip’s wife, the doctor, and mother of two, Laurence and Lettice. She is a smooth and plump little woman with sharp straight little nose, white little teeth, and brown button eyes. Her brown curly hair is cut short.

   Margot married to her husband, Phillip, for being pregnant with him for the second time. The first pregnancy was terminated under his parent’s demand. “Since there was to be no marriage, it was left to Phillip’s parents to arrange an abortion (p. 148)”. At the second pregnancy Phillip insist on carry on the pregnancy, so they get married.

   She is a clever and educated woman. She was working as a nurse and after she lost her job, she was fired, she takes secretarial courses. Under the permission and urged of her husband she is working as a part-time secretary, after her offspring is grown enough. (p. 34)

   Margot is financially dependent to her husband. In the story she is described to consider the family is run by her husband’s income. Therefore, she is having no power whatsoever to decide what to do with his income without his consent and agreement.

   Just that she, Margot, was extravagant, and he, as the breadwinner, had the every right to say just how much butter and how much jam would be spread on each particular slice. (p. 36)
From the quotation above, it can be understood that Margot feels that her husband as the one with income has the every right to made decision about the family expenses.

Margot is a good wife. Aware of her status as wife and mother she is doing her responsibility expected by the society obediently. She is doing the households chore dutifully. She cook, cleans, clearing up, and served her husband’s and children needs.

Margot, clearing up, cleaning up, picking up, bending down and putting back. Phillip’s dirty socks and Phillip’s shoes; Phillip’s wallet, always lost; Phillip’s memos, here and her; Phillip’s tissues, nail-paring, hair clippings. Well, some one has to do it. He’s a busy man, about more important business than Margot will ever know. Laurence’s dirty socks (earlier, nappies) and Laurence’s ironed shirts: Laurence’s homework, gerbils, pencil-sharpenings, badges, spilt cocoa, sportsgear, shoes. Lettice’s discarded tights (earlier, nappies) and Lettice’s pressed blouses, Lettice’s homework, letters, diaries, ointments, drawings, shoes. Well someone has to do it. Those who are grown must serve those who are growing. (p. 177-178)

Obediently she performs her duty as the wife of the doctor. She is responsible to do the households chore for her husband are suppose to deal with far more important thing she will never encountered in her life.

Throughout years of servitude she considered herself as the servant of the family. She lost of her respect and value toward herself. She no longer valued herself as a clever woman. She considered herself as her husband’s adjunct.

Oh, I am the doctor’s wife, mother of the doctor’s children; I am used, put up with, ignored; I gather scraps from other people’s table. I am the doctor’s wife, my husband’s wife, an only partly welcome guest; my husband’s adjunct, neither smart, nor beautiful, nor successful, but useful for filling up empty seat between two males, useful in order to make the hostess shine. (p. 92)
Margot is a wife and a mother as she is expected to. She positioned herself as the society conduct her to be, a wife and mother. But she is actually does not satisfied by her position and obligation. She feels uncomfortable with all she has to be and do. She wants and demands to be able to expresses herself beyond her rightful place and responsibility as wife and mother.

Oh, I am the doctor’s wife, waking. I am Margot, housewife, mother, waking to the world I have made a warm and homely place. In which others grow, if not myself. How nice! But something lingers after sleep, some sense of sorrow, apprehension, what is it? Am I in mourning for myself, lost somewhere long ago, drowned in the sea of other people’s demands, a family expectation? No, as the eyelids flutter, apprehension vanishes, sorrow, dissolves, reality sweeps in. I am Margot, wife and mother, folding in the night thoughts before the day as a sailor folds in sail before a raising wind. (p. 7)

In her daily routine as a wife Margot has the feeling of discontented about her being that is no longer seen as an individual. However as a good wife and mother she abolished all that feelings.

She holds this feeling of discontented until she can no longer put it on hold. Madeline’s death is her awakening call. She begins to express her attitude toward her position in marriage. She begins to question her husband’s authority. She argues him in their quarrel about his position as the breadwinner of the family.

Since I earn the money” retorts her husband. “I can surely spend it how I please and if I want to buy seven thousand copies of *Amateur Photographer* and never read one of them, it is nothing what so ever to do with you. (p. 114)

What nonsense,’ she observes. ‘You can only earn the money in the first place because I set you free to do it. Washing and cleaning and cooking and looking after your children.’ (p. 114-115)
Margot demands to be heard and to receive gratitude for what she has been contributing all these years to the family. She is member of the family not a servant. Her husband won’t be able to earn money if she did not do her part in the domestic’s area. She wanted him to realize it. Margot wants Phillip to value and respect her as his equal partner not as his subordinate.

She even argues about her position as a wife. To her she deserved much more than just being a servant of the family. She protested her husband’s love toward her, love that caused her servitude of a life time.

‘I loved you’ he says. 
Ah, love. So long ago, and in the past, in both their true voices. A great grief overwhelmed Margot. 
‘Thank you,’ says Margot/Madeline harshly trusting back her grief with anger. ‘And your deigning to love is supposed to be compensate for a life time servitude? What a con it all is. I love you, you wash my socks.’ (p. 213)

From the conversations above, she states that if to be loved means life time servitude than she would not want to be love. Love is a disguise of slavery.

Her demand of being acknowledged is done by abandoning her posts. She was not coming home to prepare meal for the children as she should be and begin to argue her husband’s opinion. She began to concentrate more on her needs and wants that she so long forgotten.

‘I’ll have to go,’ she says, ‘the children will be wanting supper.’
‘But what do you want?’ enquires Renee. ‘Or don’t you have any wants any more?’
‘I want to stay here,’ says Margot, and she does. (p. 185)

She fights for her self in the way that she has known. She is doing riot to her husband and children. She began to lesser her compassion and obedience. Margot is determined to declare her self and she do it. She has not saying nice and
comforting language to her husband and children as she used to do. She does not care about her children comments toward her and even giving a harsh reply.

‘What’s the matter with the cat?’ enquires Lettice. ‘He’s acting the way I feel.’
‘perhaps Mum’s possessed,’ says Laurence, ‘And that is why she’s late home.’
‘Don’t talk to me as she,’ says Margot in her nasty harsh voice, ‘I’m not the cat’s mother.’ (p. 204)

Her family was amused and discontented about it. Her husband thinks she has been behaved very oddly. Se was not herself, evaluated her husband. “You’re behaving very oddly, Margot,” her remarks mildly.” (p. 212)

She demands her decision to take Madeline’s daughter, Hilary, to live with them to be agreed with. She receives no as the answer and declaration of madness, but she fight for it. Her husband finally gives up with her attitude and agreed with her.

‘All I can say,’ says the doctor, ‘is that if having Hilary here means so much to you, by all means go ahead.’ (p. 214)

Her husband and children translated her behavior as a result of shock toward Madeline’s death. But in fact, she is fighting for her position within the family where she was subordinated and marginalized.

The doctor’s wife is puzzled: she had forgotten all about Hilary; the sense of her own grievances drowning all ordinary, everyday compassion. Why does the doctor mention her now? (p. 198)

From the quotation above it is seen that Margot’s ultimate goal is not to have Hilary to live with them but to express her feelings and discontented about her position that is subordinate, and to change all that.
She faced the fact that she may not gain any of that, since her husband understood none of her resentment. She is facing a defeat and she has to cope with it.

I am Margot, the doctor’s wife, no longer young. I shall be happier, now that I have acknowledged grief, and loss, and the damage done to me by time, and other people, and events; and the damage I did. (p. 222)

Realizing her defeat, make peace with it is all she can do. She has to make the best out of she have. She has to learn to live the same old way and put away her resentment and problems if she wanted to be happy as wife and mother. She should throw away her resentful feelings and live as she is expected to.

2. Madeline

Madeline is forty four years old, she is thin and her complexion is yellow completed with husky voice. Her hair is thick and rusty. She is poorly dressed for she is always using ragged jeans and old clothes, certainly out of style and date.

She has strong character. She is tough and brave with nothing to change her mind. From the very first start of her marriage life she was certainly shows her quality. To her husband she is a great woman, who has better understanding about things more than he does. She is undoubtedly a clever and bright woman.

Poor Jarvis, in those early married days with Madeline! It is very sad to have overwhelming bourgeois ambition yet know they are trivial. Madeline was right; that was the dreadful truth with the matter. She was right about everything. Morally, Madeline was more refined, more sensitive than Jarvis and he knew it. (p. 58)

In her marriage life Madeline is a rebel. She denies society’s expectation toward a married woman. She has no sense of motherhood and wifehood. Madeline also considered households chore as a waste of human energy.
So she was. Bold. Too bold! Neglecting the washing-up on the grounds that it was trivial, housework humiliating, cooking a waste of human energy and world resources. (p. 52).

Madeline does not care much about cooking, which in any case is an expensive and time wasting occupation. Why have toast when bread and butter will do? (p. 14)

She cares less about the households’ chore. As results of her opinion, she does not do the households chore.

She also argues her husband’s career and gave no moral support to brighten his career, which to her is not suitable enough.

In Madeline’s day, Jarvis’s talent never boomed. How could they? Madeline made no concession to the beauties of the marital world. (p. 29)

Shouldn’t you be a council architect, she’d ask? Shouldn’t you be turning your undoubted talent to some useful end? Instead of designing ridiculous modern villas on insanitary sunny slopes for ex-whore, property developers and other social criminals?

And so of course Jarvis should, and he knew it, which made matter worse. Madeline was always right. (p. 29)

From the quotation above, it can be understood that Madeline has made a big step away from her posts as a wife. She should have been supportive and agreeable, but instead Madeline gives her husband advises about what he should do, that is states her position as his equal partner not as subordinate to him.

Her attitude intimidated her husband. Jarvis feels that his rightful place as a husband, the man of the family, is reduced by Madeline’s intelligence and superiority.

Madeline was right; that was the dreadful truth of the matter. She was right about everything. (p. 58)

Lily, Jarvis sometimes fears, is conventional, trivial, selfish, unmaternal and manipulative. He is better than her, as Madeline was better than him.
He can be himself. They suit each other. Oh, they love each other. They do. (p. 58)

It can be clearly seen that Jarvis, Madeline ex-husband’s is intimidated by her. He wanted a wife who is inferior not superior to him as Madeline is so he divorced Madeline. He find the ideal woman to be his wife in Lily, his second wife.

Madeline’s attitude cost her, she lost her marriage. “And keep your home, whatever you do. You need somewhere to get back to. Poor Madeline lost hers. (p. 39)” Her husband divorced her for a fresher and younger woman who fit the society expectations of a woman.

Madeline is defeated by the presence of other woman. Lily who fits the society’s expectation of a wife should be. She is defeated by a woman below her capacity, Lily, whose highest aspiration of life is to be the wife of someone, unfortunately to be the wife of Madeline’s husband. (p. 46)

Madeline deserves it. The society considered her not an agreeable wife; therefore she deserves to be left and divorced.

Yes. I came to this house once, years ago, so long ago. It doesn’t matter. You were queen here then. Madeline and a sorry queen you were. You should have a look after your kingdom better. (p. 128).

It was her mistakes that cause her to loose her husband, abandoning her duty. She should be a better wife. She should have dedicated her life to do the domestics job. There by if she is loosing her marriage it is her own mistakes.

Divorce shed Madeline into pieces. She has no longer have access to workforce due to her duty of child-rearing. It make her has to cope her life and her daughter with the divorce settlement that is considerably small. The sum that can only afford her to rent a basement room that is damp and dirty. (p. 15)
Madeline was thrown out of her rightful place and she has to endure her new status as a widow. Hereby she began to experience difficulty as woman without husband. She is softened and later become obsessive to marriage life.

‘Terror of loneliness,’ says Madeline. ‘And being rejected, and of loss of status, and the general humiliation of being a woman without a man. Isn’t that terror enough?’

‘You’re so old fashioned,’ says Renee. ‘You think life for a woman has to revolve round a man.’

‘I can’t help it,’ says Madeline, old Madeline, to this silky young woman. ‘I feel it does, though I know it doesn’t, I scarcely seem to exist. Yet when I had one, I was brave enough.’ (p. 52)

Being a woman without husband to protect her is unbearable. She knows being a single mother is hard but attaches her self to another relationship is not necessarily. However it is the most sensible way of the society for her to gain her self respect. She has to find another man to look after her.

Madeline declared her attitude toward her position in marriage and gain only loss out of it. She is defeated by the society. She has been fighting and defeated. She can only trying to become a woman she is expected to be. She tries to crawling back to the control of man.

3. **Enid**

Enid is Margot’s friend. She is marries to Sam who works as an estate agent. She chatters about everything, specially the faults of other women’s husbands and find none in her husband. “Enid finds fault with any husband other than her own. (p. 6)”

Enid is a senior civil servant in the Department of Education and Technology. For the peace of her marriage life she tells her husband that she is a secretary there. She is a successful careerist. With that she underestimates other
women whom are not. She declares that Madeline should find a job to have a decent life, and that Madeline is not trying hard enough as she does. If Madeline has financial difficulties it is because she does not works to provide herself. (p. 155)

Her marriage is not acceptable to her parents. Enid’s parents think Sam does not suit their daughter. Enid insisted on marrying Sam and for that reason she has to try so hard to prove she had chosen the right man. (p. 181)

On the contrary to her position at work, she is a senior civil servant, in her marriage life she presents her self as an inferior wife. She serves breakfast in bed for her husband. Waking up early to be able to prepare and complete the domestic’s job before she went to the office.

Sam wakes earlier than usual. He has a headache. Sam has been mixing his drinks again. Enid his wife, though feeling sick herself to the point of retching, runs to fetch him Alka-Seltzer. Enid normally rises at six and Sam at eight thirty. Every morning Enid brings Sam his breakfast in bed; sorts the clothes for the washing machine; washes up, sweeps, dusts, tides, leaves a note for the milkman. This morning she has time for a cup of coffee before she leaves for work, although not time to sit down while drinking it. Enid is an efficient woman. Sam complains that she moves unrest fully fast. (p. 105)

From her daily morning activities, it can be concluded that she is busy doing her domestics’ job that she barely had enough time for herself.

For her husband, Enid has had not enough concentration to drive a vehicle and considered that she would endanger others and herself if she drives. There by she uses public transportation in her daily routine. In the lunch time she has to do the shopping and collect Sam’s suit from the dry cleaner. She is very busy in
harmonizing her domestic’s job and her career, and she manages doing so. (p. 105)

She was always happy with the tasks of performing the domestic job and her career as a civil servant. Enid never complains her husband opinion that she shouldn’t drive, even though she has had difficulties for it.

Only sometimes on a winter evening, waiting in the rain as bus after bus, over-loaded, pass the stop without pulling up, will Enid feel sorry for herself. Other wise she remains cheerful, stoical and happy to love Sam and be loved by him. (p. 105)

She was perfectly happy and satisfied by her position and her ability to manage her two jobs.

Sam does not want to have children because he is disgusted by pregnant women. He is also does not like to be disturbed by the messiness and inconvenience of parenthood. So Enid agreed with him. She has been taking birth control pill without her husband’s consent; Sam does not want her to consume it.

Enid has been taking the pill for fifteen years though Sam never wanted her to; but that was crazy, since he didn’t want children either. (p. 88)

Unfortunately Enid’s perfect marriage is in the verge of collapsing. She got pregnant. She has not taken pills for about a month and she got pregnant. Her husband’s decision of having no offspring and her career give her a hard time in handling her pregnancy.

‘What shall I do?’ cries Enid. ‘What shall I do? At my age! I can’t possibly have it. Sam doesn’t like babies. And what about my job? I shall have to have an abortion. (p. 146)
She is in shock and wanted an easy probable way out. To terminate the baby would also terminate the possible problems it brings. Her husband’s dislike of children and her steady career will be safe at last.

As her experienced as a career woman, she has been encountered to so much problems occurred due to have babies. The problems are namely; unemployment, low family income, immobility of labor, and inflation. To her all of these problems are a result of having children or so she believes. (p. 155)

Her pregnancy gives her a better understanding about her marriage. She begins to have a clear understanding about her husband. She comes to an understanding that her problem is not the baby but her husband. She is afraid to be left by Sam, and the baby is only one of the possible caused for him to leave her.

I am Enid, Sam’s wife: that’s all I want to be. All the rest is playing games: offices, affairs of state…” (p. 181)

And I will be left, thinks Enid; under-secretary of State, abandoned, lonely and bereft, and my parents will be right after all. (p. 182)

She has been so good in playing her role for so long. She is bound to be left. Sooner or later Sam would aware of her career as a civil servant, not a secretary, and he will leave her undoubtedly. For her husband wanted a wife who is inferior to him and admires him. He would not want a wife who is better than he is, as Enid is. (p. 181)

At the end Enid makes her decision. She is leaving her husband and moving to a little flat in the other side of London. She chooses the baby over Sam, for it offers her future. She is confident that she will find away to be a working single mother.
'What about your job?' asks Margot. 'I’ll manage both somehow,' says Enid, and no doubt she will. She had been crying. It is not easy thus to change the patterns of the past: to forego the reassuring pleasures of servitude, to face the unknown. (p. 222)

Her life of servitude has come to the end. Even though she will be having hard times in adjusting her new tasks and position she has to manage it. She has to, for the baby and herself. There she is leaving the world of wifehood onto the world of womanhood.

4. Renee

Renee is a delicate, wide-eyed young woman, fresh, long-legged and clear-complexioned, like some outdoor girl on an old fashioned chocolate box. Renee has two equally pretty little daughters, sometimes with her. She lives in the same apartment with Madeline. (p. 51)

She is a widow, though there is no clear reason why she is leaving her husband. She is a lesbian and described as men hater. The story does not imply why she is marries to her husband and the definite reason she left him.

Renee was abandoned by her father, and then abandoned her husband. Renee has, she says, renounced men. Renee has her girl-friend instead, from whom, physically and emotionally, she extracts comfort, company and solace. (p. 51-52).

From the quotation above the writer concludes that something had had happen in her marriage and life that drove her to hate men. She has bad experienced and unbearable conditions that made her lost her trust and love to her opposite sex. She turns her love to her kind, thus she become a lesbian.
Renee believes women would have a much better life without rather than with man. She takes her condition as an example, for she is having a much better life after she left her husband rather than when she was with him.

‘It’s hard for a woman to live without a man,’ says Margot. ‘I manage,’ says Renee. ‘A good deal better without one than with one, are you happy with your husband?’
‘I don’t know,’ says Margot, and the truth is she doesn’t. (p. 185)

‘You’re so old-fashioned,’ says Renee. ‘You think life for woman has to revolve round a man. (p. 52)

Those quotations above stated her mind. Women should be independent, should have their own perspective in life independent from men’s interference.

Men are her enemy. She hates and despises men. Though Renee does not describe her experience with men that made her furious to them except that she was abandoned by her father and her husband exposed her homosexuality to her family. However she does state her anger and resentment toward them. She declares that she belongs to no man.

I walk down the street with my head held high, and my jeans stretched tight; I look over my shoulder, and yes, there they are, the men, sniffing after me, slavering, coarse-jowled, flabby lipped, bald-pated. I spit, I slam the door in their stupid faces; I laugh; one day I’ll get my children back. I am Renee, mother of two, wife to no man, disgusted by men, full of love, passion, generosity and the feel of other women’s breast upon my fingertips. (p. 179)

Men’s orientation to women is sexual, and Renee does not like it. She is more than a sexual object.

Her family opposes her sexual orientation. They discarded her from the family and not even want to talk to her, more over wont help her. It was her husband whom told her family about her sexual orientation. She was forced to
coming out and commit her sexual orientation which caused her some inconvenience. Her family and other looks down upon her. She is even lost her daughters custody. (p. 187)

The judge rejected Renee last application on the grounds that she could not provide the girls with proper accommodation, though Renee herself believes that the real reason is her bisexuality. Her husband’s heterosexuality, she wished to say, has been more damaging to their marriage than her homosexuality, unfortunately no one seems to pay attention to it. Her ex-husband has the custody of the girls, and hires two girls to baby-sit them. Renee suspect that if there are any given opportunity he would slept with the baby-sitter. (p. 134)

Renee does not approve the society views toward woman’s position. She struggle over women’s oppression. She looks comfort in sisterhood of women, being a lesbian is her choice. Thus she faced some discrimination toward her sexual orientation. Despite all that she was strong and fearless. She keeps on going with her beliefs, men is her enemy.

5. Lily

Lily is 28 years old who is sweet and beautiful women. She is Jarvis the architect’s second wife. She is well groomed with long thick hair colored in silver, gold and grey in an expensive hairdresser. Her hands was soft, long full legs, small waist, high and rounded breasts, pale skin, her smile was sweet. (p. 9)

Before marrying Jarvis she works as a secretary. She is happy and delighted by her position as Jarvis’s wife.
Oh, I am no longer the butcher’s daughter; I am the architect’s wife…how pleasant everything is, since I became the architect’s wife. All things around me ordained, considered, under control (p. 28)

The quotation above stated that Lily is happily married to Jarvis and that her life is beautiful and fits her expectation.

She prepared breakfast every morning for her family. Throw dinner parties for her husband’s sake and manage to keep her son under control. “Jarvis Katkin sits, waits, watches, marvels. Lily is Jarvis’s lucky ticket in the lottery of life. (p. 8)”

To her husband she is inferior to him in several aspects of life. But he was not bothered by it. In fact, he was happy for it, because he felt he is more dominant and superior to her.

Lily, Jarvis sometimes fears, is conventional, trivial, selfish, unmaternal and manipulative. He is better than her, as Madeline was better than him. He can be himself. They suit each other. Oh, they love each other. They do. (p. 58)

The last sentences suggest that Lily is Jarvis’s subordinate and that was the very reason why he loves her. She is not his competitor, she is obviously is not a danger to Jarvis’s position as the man of the family that made him feel secure. His superiority and her inferiority make them a good pair.

The comment from her husband’s friend about her emphasizes that she is the kind of woman agreeable enough to be a wife. Jarvis is a very lucky man to have beautiful wife with her quality.

JAMIE: What a lucky man you are, Jarvis. To have a wife who looks like an angel and cooks like a demon. (p. 78)
Lily is valued by her physical beauty and her ability to do the domestic’s job, namely cooking. Therefore she is trying so hard to be able to fulfill those qualities. She spends a lot of time and money to order to groom herself and her house which she is successfully doing it.

She wants to be seen as a successful woman. She wanted to show the world that she is a good wife, daughter, mother, and step mother (p. 30). She even tries to taking care of her step-daughter in order to be considered as an agreeable woman, though she doesn’t like her step-daughter. She lied to herself and others that she loves her step-daughter in order to maintain her image.

She exhibit her success as a wife with her ability to maintain the house in the most desirable condition, clean and ordained, her husband health, and her son’s manageable attitude, not forget to mention her ability to keep herself beautiful for her husband’s sake. Domestic’s job, everything and everyone in the family are under control. (p. 8-11)

In order to achieve her position of a wife she has done many things. She dated married men and marries another woman’s husband. She does not care if her goal in life has to sacrifice the life of other, namely her husband’s ex-wife and daughter.

Lily, the thief, the step mother, taker and giver supreme, robbing wife of husband, daughter of mother: giving herself in return, as if this made up for everything. (p. 40)

As the perfect wife she does not have another career besides her household’s duty. She is dependent to her husband, economically and emotionally. The family expenses come from her husband’s. Lily seeks comforts
and rely her happiness in the hand of her husband. Listen to her thought when her husband is grieving about Madeline’s death, the first wife. She can’t think of anything other than her needs.

He will recover, as did her father, to hold her hand and give her treats again. At least partially. Well Jarvis must recover. (p. 106)

Lily’s attitude toward her position in marriage as subordinate and inferior to her husband is not a problem for her. In her opinion it is the condition she always wanted. To be under the protection of her husband and being the princess in her marital relationship, were she does not need to do the public affairs, in return she gave her best service to her husband. She does not mind about it.

The death of Madeline and her son sickness awakes her that to be a woman is not only about having a husband. Her husband is not the centre of her life. She has a son to be taking care of. “To have a husband is nothing. To be a wife is nothing. Sex is an idle pastime. To be a mother is all that counts. Lily recognizes it now, and the shock of the discovery numbs her for a moment to the anxiety and distress which accompanies the state of motherhood.” (p. 210)

She is also having more compassion toward Madeline’s resentment and grief due to her action of taking her husband and daughter. She looks at Madeline no longer as a rival but as a woman, one of her kind. “Lucky Lily thinks what remains of Madeline, without envy and without regret. Lucky Lily. You are my sister too.” (p. 217)

6. Judy

Judy is the wife of Jamie, Jarvis’ friend. Judy is a small woman. Renee hair is afro that framed her small grey face beautifully. She has taunt and narrow
thighs. (p. 67) Jamie was her neighbor whom she had an affair with. Their affair was encountered by their spouses, whom fell in love with each other. Their spouses get married and taking all the children away from them. Judy and Jamie thus are freely exposes their desire to each other and get married. (p. 68)

Judy is a depressed housewife. She drinks to overcome it and she drinks heavily. “Judy helps herself to more brandy. She is at the stage of her marriage where she drinks to keep her husband company. (p. 78)” Judy is not happy with her marriage life with her new husband. She chooses drinking to win her husband’s attention and to be able to bear his attitude toward her.

She experienced violence from her husband, physical and emotional. When she tried to encounter her husband that they were lost wthem driving to Lily’s party, her husband hits her. He justified his action by stating that she was nagging him. He is even accuses her wife suffering a depressed housewife syndrome and insulted her publicly.

JUDY: Lily, I’m sorry we’re late. Jamie has no sense of direction. That’s his trouble. When I pointed out that we were driving round in a circle and it was symptomatic of his whole life, he hit me. Look! Is it bleeding? His nails are very sharp.

JAMIE: I apologize for Judy. She’s been drinking. It’s the depressed housewife syndrome.

JUDY: If only it were a house. You’ve no idea how pokey a penthouse can be. Especially when it’s not even yours, and you never know where you’re going to be living from one week to the next.

LILY: Do both come in. no, Judy, you’re not bleeding, not that I can see. JAMIE: Of course she’s not bleeding. I had to slap her. If I hadn’t stopped her nagging there would have been an accident. Judy has simply not caught up with one-ways. She lives in the past. Women do over a certain age. (p. 68)

Her husband kept on saying her flaws in the public. On the contrary he seems to fancy other woman’s and show it without a doubt. This attitude gives Judy
uneasiness and a sense of disrespect from her husband. She stated that he should not embarrass her in public, but her husband kept doing it. (p. 79)

There she is with all that she wanted, Jamie, and found herself not happy with their relationship. She wanted another life; she is missing her previous marriage life.

She wants her boring husband back again, boringly on top of her, indifferent to her pleasure, quiet on accounts of the children sleeping in the room beside. She wants to be a housewife again despised by the world, at peace with herself. (p. 88)

Though her first marriage is not a perfect marriage, at least in it she had her peace of mind. But she can do nothing about it. It was her choice to marry Jamie so she has to live with it.

From the analysis on women attitude above these characters can be classified into the one with strong and the one with mild attitude toward their position in marriage. In the strong attitude group are: Renee, Madeline, Margot, and Enid. In the mild attitude group are: Lily and Judy.

C. Socialist Feminism Perspective on Women’s Position in Marriage

Socialist feminism argued that the oppression on women lies under the patriarchy and capitalism. Patriarchy is a system of oppression based on the domination of men over women, and capitalism is an institutionalized form of oppression based on profit owners of publicly-worked-for wealth.

In the first subchapter the writer comes to a conclusion that the society in the novel adopts the system of patriarchy and capitalism. The women in the novel
were oppressed by both systems. They are not only oppressed based on patriarchy but was also prolonged by the capitalism.

The cause of women’s inferior position in marriage is patriarchy. In this system women are bound to be inferior to men. Where as in the family women become inferior to their husbands. Thus they are marginalized, subordinated, and discriminated in their marriage life.

Margot lost her job as a nurse due to her pregnancy shows that she is discriminated as a woman. Her sexual partner did not bear any social consequences due to their action. It was her alone as a woman who had to be responsible for the action, not her partner.

Of course, Margot’s career was at an end in any case…and although male medical students were allowed, even expected to be sexually active, nurses were not. Nurses had to be responsible. (p. 148)

This is caused by patriarchy that gives more privileges to men. Further more in her marital relation she is subordinate to her spouse. She supposes to be obedient to her husband and argue not.

Patriarchy placed women to fit only domestic job, thus women are banished from equal participation on politic, social, economy, and cultural activity. Women in the novel do not have equal participation in all that. Margot is burdened by the domestic job and considered not fit to expresses herself beyond it. Enid, though she is a successful career woman become her husband subordinate. Madeline with her intelligence is discarded from the marriage life and does not have the opportunity to provide herself and her daughter. Lily is subordinate to her husband in all sphere of life and does not even aware about it.
Patriarchy has subordinated, marginalized and discriminate women in a structural hierarchy. Women who’s already having a hard time in the patriarchal society whom with the industrial revolution was driven to the industrial modes of production where oppressed even more as a worker, capitalism. Here they are allowed to work, forced to, but under the very poor condition. Women hold only the less pay occupation and receive unequal payment. Women are allowed to work in the service are such as: health care, secretarial job, and civil servant. These are the kinds of job held by women’s in the novel, Margot once was a nurse and at present time working as a part-time secretary, Lily was a secretary, and Enid is a civil servant. They become the disposable labor force that is exploited heavily in the means of production.

Capitalism driven women to entered workforce with which the family systems undermined changes. Women’s role is not only in the domestic area but prolonged to the public area. Thus women are achieving greater economic independence and more equality. The female character in the novel are working woman; full-time worker, part-time worker, or at least once has been working. Margot experience financial independency after she is working as a part-time secretary. She no longer has to persuade her husband to buy her clothes for she can afford it herself (p. 35). Though they achieved greater independence in economy, as a wage worker they are a flexible of labor power that can be drawn and into and out of the labor force.

You are secretary aren’t you?’ says Phillip. ‘You can pick that up again easily enough when the child’s old enough for school.’ (p. 181)
Under capitalism, the family system also provides the mechanism for capitalism to exploit women as wage workers. Patriarchy within the capitalism enables capitalism to exploit their worker, especially women. With patriarchal believes that women is in charge for domestics job, it is justified that women’s income is a supplement to the family income, husband’s income, which made their unemployment causes less social consequences. They can be put out of work easily and can be employed as easy as they are disposed as can bee seen in the quotation above.

It can be seen in the novel in one of the character that is Margot who is working as part-time secretary; to her husband she is working only to supplement their family income. Enid’s husband believes that his income is the one hat provides his family and therefore reduces Enid’s contribution to the family financial security.

The sexist idea that women’s places was in the home enables capitalist to exploit their labor power by employing women in the low-paying, unskilled jobs, give unequal pay rates and low pay, made a sex segregation of industry. The subjugation of women within the family provides the economic, social, and ideological foundation that enables women’s exploitation. Therefore women labor are exploited as a wage labor.

The myth that women is responsible for taking care domestic’s job and taking care of the youth, senior, and the sick give women double burden. Besides responsible of their lob outside the house they are also responsible in maintaining the household chore.
Every morning Enid brings Sam his breakfast in bed; sorts the clothes for the washing machine; washes up, sweeps, dusts, tidies, leaves a note for the milkman. This morning she has time for a cup of coffee before she leaves for work, although not time to sit down while drinking it. (p. 105)

Margot, clearing up, cleaning up, picking up, bending down and putting back. Phillip’s dirty socks and Phillip’s shoes; Phillip’s wallet, always lost; Phillip’s memos, here and her; Phillip’s tissues, nail-paring, hair clippings. Well, some one has to do it. He’s a busy man, about more important business than Margot will ever know. Laurence’s dirty socks (earlier, nappies) and Laurence’s ironed shirts: Laurence’s homework, gerbils, pencil-sharpenings, badges, spilt cocoa, sportsgear, shoes. Lettice’s discarded tights (earlier, nappies) and Lettice’s pressed blouses, Lettice’s homework, letters, diaries, ointments, drawings, shoes. Well someone has to do it. Those who are grown must serve those who are growing. (p. 177-178)

These are the activity burdened to women besides their other responsible in the workplace. Capitalism took advantages in this condition to forced the domestic job as the responsibility of some individual or an individual rather than provide services and socialization of domestic job. That at the end reduce the social services and it costs.

Women’s job does not assure them a good living. Alienated from the products of their production and themselves woman are having more oppression in the domestics are. They came home to their family only to face another terror of humanity. They are bound to do the households service. Burdened with double duty there are no way out for women than to fight and struggle to earn a better life. Women are exploited by these two systems; patriarchy and capitalism. They has been sucked dry of themselves, their ability, their potential are not supposed to be explored, and if it has to be explored it will be exploited for the needs of others. Thus we understand that women’s subordinate and exploited condition is a result of patriarchy and capitalism system. “Women’s oppression is indispensable to the
maintenance of class society in general and capitalism in particular. (Macdonald, 1997: 91).”

The women character in the novel as seen the in the previous subchapter has developed resentment with their position. They are doing their struggle against their oppressed condition.

Women in the novel have done their struggle against oppression. Margot is struggling to defend her position by stating her opinion toward her inferiority to her husband. She argues her husband’s authority by lesser her duty in the domestic area and begin to care more about her needs and her desire. Her struggle however does not do significant changes in her life. She still has to be a good wife and mother after all. The only concession won by her is having Hilary to live with them. In another spectrum she faces defeat.

I am Margot, the doctor’s wife, no longer young. I shall be happier, now that I have acknowledged grief, and loss, and the damage done to me by time, and other people, and events; and the damage I did. (p. 222)

Margot realizes her defeat and come back to be a wife and mother she used to be. She declares that she should have to be happy with her condition thus ended her struggle.

Madeline does her struggle by being a bad wife and mother. She is a woman who abandons her domestic’s duty.

So she was. Bold. Too bold! Neglecting the washing-up on the grounds that it was trivial, housework humiliating, cooking a waste of human energy and world resources. (p. 52).

She gains nothing in her struggle. She even looses her marriage and her daughter sole custody. More over, she become less strong in her opinion about having man
by her side as a result of her experience as an unemployed single parents life. There she is lost in the rage of jealousy and poverty.

Enid is leaving her husband with the confident of her career. She is economically independent. Even tough it is a hard time for in her working experience having children is a big burden.

But Enid is not to be convinced. Her work at the Department has repeatedly indicated that babies are the cause of many problems. Both practically and statistically. Unemployment, low family income, immobility of labor, inflation—you can put the lot down to babies. (p. 154)

Renee, the lesbian chooses the way of despising men and made them her biggest enemy. She offers love and companion to other women as sisterhood of womanhood.

She’s against me. I can always tell. In her navy and white spotted suit from Marks and Spencer, her smug little smile, her neat little hands; she is man’s slavey, she is the enemy. If I stretch out my hand to her, she will recoil. But I am her sister, I will try. (p. 179)

Her struggle results in discrimination based on her sexual orientation.

Where as Judy who does not like her marriage life and her husband but do nothing to change it because she feels entrapped in the choices she her self made. Lily does not feel any problems with her position in marriage.

It is clear that these women are varied from the one whom is not aware of her position to the most radical one. But at the end their struggle does not changes the life of women in the whole. The pattern of their struggle is spontaneous and unsystematic. Begin with their personal encounters to their inferior state and unsystematic. Thus the results are minimum.
Margot’s struggle begins with her discontented toward her position in her marriage. Triggered by Madeline’s death she began her struggle. Her attitude is based on her own experience and in doing it she has not accept support from other women. She declared her struggle and she is doing it on her own. Though she has seen Enid who is having the similar problems with her, she does not build alliances with her.

Enid is facing her problems alone. Margot, her friend, does not give support and solution to her problems. Enid needs to abort her baby and Margot could only suggest her to keep the baby. “Why don’t you just have the baby,” suggest Margot now to Enid. ‘Babies solve problems.’ (p. 154)” further more wthem Enid decides to leave her husband and move to an apartment in other side of London, she receives nothing to comfort and support her decision.

Renee is alone in her path, no one seems to fancy her struggle except her girlfriend. Her decision to be a lesbian based on her bad experience with men. She is the only one who is aware of sisterhood, he believes that women should support each other and she has done it. She supports Madeline and Margot, though she uses harsh word to express her sympathy she actually cares about other women’s problems.

She’s against me. I can always tell. In her navy and white spotted suit from Marks and Spencer, her smug little smile, her neat little hands; she is man’s slavey, she is the enemy. If I stretch out my hand to her, she will recoil. But I am her sister, I will try. (p. 179)

Through her awareness she gives contribution to others.

In the work can be concluded that every women are oppressed as women and as member of class society, though the effects of the oppression are different
for women of different classes. Thus the women’s liberation is not matter of
interest only to few women but a concern and importance to the masses of
women.

In order to liberate women, first of all women must identify their enemy.
The struggle for women’s liberation poses the problem of the total reorganization
of society from its smallest repressive unit, the family, to its largest, the state.

Acknowledge the systems that oppress women means to acknowledge the
enemy of women’s oppression and the strategy to win the equality of woman.
With the realization that women control in their lives, socialist feminism come to
understanding that control can only be gained with women’s act. An act that is
tactical and strategic in a form of organized movement. Thus women should do
their struggle for their equality is not as a means of struggle against men as their
oppressor, but a struggle against the oppression of the system, namely patriarchy
and capitalism.

The liberation of women demands a thoroughgoing restructuring of
society’s productive and reproductive institutions in order to maximize social
welfare and established a truly human existence for all. Without a socialist
revolution, women will not be able to establish the material precondition for their
liberation. Without the conscious and equal participation of broad masses of
women, the working class will not be able to carry through the socialist revolution
and bring into being classless society. (Macdonald, 1997: 17)

However, the liberation of women cannot be achieved simply by
abolishing the capitalist economic system. It is also required a dynamic
transformation and eradication of all the social attitudes and ideological justification which prop up and justify the economic, social and political inequalities faced by women. (Macdonald, 1997: 60) Such as Margot explain to Enid that Madeline’s problem is not that she does not want to work but rather that she couldn’t.

‘Poor thing,’ says Enid. ‘Though why she just didn’t get herself a decent job I can’t think. I’d never live on alimony but then I’ve got too much pride and I’m not afraid of hard work.’

‘She had Hilary to look after.’

‘That’s what I mean about children,’ says Enid gloomily. (p. 155)

Women should be organized and build alliances with other oppressed groups. Such as in the story was in the middle class women, they should urge themselves to build alliances with women from another social class. “For the only movement that can defend and extend women’s right is a mass movement; that is, a movement that addresses the needs and aspirations of the majority of women, rather than privileged few.” (Macdonald, 1997: 14)

Renee is the only woman in the novel that has the awareness of organizing women. She kept on telling about sisterhood of women. Women are her allies therefore she should give support and friendship to them.

She’s against me. I can always tell. In her navy and white spotted suit from Marks and Spencer, her smug little smile, her neat little hands; she is man’s slavey, she is the enemy. If I stretch out my hand to her, she will recoil. But I am her sister, I will try. (p. 179)

She gives support to other women such as Madeline and Margot. She tries to be friend with them. And in doing so she has been contributing something to their attitudes. Margot after having a discussion with Renee realizes that she wants her own self back, she is able to make up her mind and decide what she wanted to do
It is clear that women can teach and influence each other better if they are socializing and doing an activity together. It implies that organizing is a good way for women to overcome their problems. As Renee’s brief contact with other women has resulted in significance change of attitude to other, systematic and periodic gathering and discussion will resulted in a more significance changes in women’s life.

Partai Rakyat Demokratik in *Resolusi Partai Rakyat Demokrtik (PRD): Jalan Keluar Bagi Perempuan Indonesia dari Cengkraman Penindasan* urge women of all sphere to organize in order to fight against their oppressor. For it will be the tools for women to liberate themselves. Women’s liberation should no longer be an idea and should be transformed into act of revolution.

The women’s movement here means all the women’s movement who organizes at one level or another to struggle against the oppression imposed on them by the society. Further more the movement must be independent that is organized and lead by women, which mean it fights for the women’s rights and needs, and opens to all women and men. “In which masses of people, male and female are educated through propaganda, agitation, and action around the needs of women (Macdonald. 1997: 93).”

Women as a significance component of the working class become a potential ally of the working class in the struggle to overthrow capitalism. It is the material basis that women’s liberation movement should be basically working-class in composition, orientation and leadership. For only this kind of movement will be able to mobilize the majority of women and play a progressive role.
“Women’s struggles against sexism are interrelated with, but not totally dependent on or identical with, struggles by workers as a class. Thus women will win their liberation by building alliances with a revolutionary mobilization of the organized power of working class (Macdonald. 1997: 92-93).”

It does not means that women should postpone or recede any of their struggles, for any of it are secondary issue, until socialist revolution has created the material basis for ending their oppression. Instead, women fighting for liberation should take the lead in opening the fight and carrying it forward that will play a leadership role within the workers movement as a whole.

Women’s liberation organization has to formulate their goals as a means of objectives to achieve in their movement.

Socialist feminism in Feminism and Socialism; Putting the pieces together has formulated the essential demands that faced by women from all structures of class. Those demands are:
1. The right of women to control their own bodies.
2. Full legal, political and social equality for women.
3. The right of women to economic independence and equality
4. Equal educational opportunities.
5. The right of women to freedom from sexual violence and exploitation

Partai Rakyat Demokratik in Resolusi Partai Rakyat Demokrtik (PRD): Jalan Keluar Bagi Perempuan Indonesia dari Cengkraman Penindasan has been formulating a parallel demands as a means of women’s liberation.

Those demands above are corresponds to the problems faced by the women’s characters in the story and answer their difficulties. The problems experiences by the women Character in the novel are corresponded to the demands of the socialist feminist. Margot is having all the demands mentioned
above as Enid and other women character in the novel. They have no control of their own body; they have no right to decide when and whether they want to have a baby or not. They do not have legal, political, and social equality; they are not a free individual but as parts of their husbands. They are economically dependent to their husbands due to the system applied within the society. They do not have access to equal educational opportunities; they are educated but they are forced to study women’s job and not encourage to explore other area of study such as law. They experienced violence in any aspects. And they are also experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Their oppression is thus can be ended if those demands are win through.

Democratic Socialist Party stated that their perspective for women liberation is to build alliances with other progressive forces and individuals in order to mobilize the broadest numbers of people in the struggle for radical social changes, which is essential in women’s liberation. Parliament and other institution of bourgeois democracy can be used to publicize the idea of women’s liberation. The goal is to build the confidence of the masses to rely on their own united power, rather than delegate their struggle to others (Macdonald, 1997: 89).

The strategic that offers by Partai Rakyat Demokratik in Resolusi Partai Rakyat Demokrtik (PRD): Jalan Keluar Bagi Perempuan Indonesia dari Cengkraman Penindasan is by using two kind of struggle done by women’s organizations movements which are: extra-parliamentarian and parliamentarian. From the first one is women’s organization movement is aimed to reform the domination of oppressing system from bottom up. That are done by raising people
awareness in order to identify the origin of women’s oppression and determined to make a significant changes about it.

The parliamentarian movement meant to gain women’s bargain power through the states. Positioning competent women in the legislative with women’s equality as their demands will result a law that are women friendly. It is the strategy needed to be taken to make a significance changes in the state that maintained women’s oppression. Women’s problem in the work will be able to be reduced by the laws that ensure their liberties and freedom.

Enid for instance, as a senior civil servant and will be Under-Secretary of State in five years to come, she is in a position that enable her to made differences in her life and others in her tasks in the office. However, her capacity performed in the workplace is not applicable in the domestic arena. In the contrary to her position in the office in the domestic arena she is her husband’s subordinate makes her not capable in making changes for she is oppressed in her marriage. (p. 181-182) Women with her capacity will bring insignificance changes for women’s liberation for she is still not liberated.

With organized movement women that are political and encourage women’s leadership, there will be a social revolution that enables women’s liberation. In which, women such as Judy and Lily will be come more aware of their position that is oppressed, though they does not yet realize it. They will be aware of their right and responsibilities as the member of society. Margot will be able to find tools to emphasize her resentment and influenced her husband to change his mind about her position. She will be able to expresses her feelings and
actualized herself, she wont be a bored housewife. Enid will gain friendlier environment in her workplace. She will be able to raise her unborn with the support of the community and state by providing a childcare. Madeline should have a communities support and childcare that provide her with opportunity to entering the work force to provide her with financial security without loosing her daughter’s alimony. She needs not to be obsessive to her past-marriage and able to continue her life. Renee will not be discriminated for her sexual orientation. Further more the society will have a different perspective on women’s position that enables the women’s equality possible and achieved.

Socialist feminism gives solution for women’s liberation. Social revolution will be able to give human being access of equality and liberty in all sphere of life. The world will be a better place for the entire human race.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Having done the analysis the writer comes to the conclusion of the thesis. First is about the society in the novel that is London’s suburban area in the year 1976. London suburban area in the novel is occupied by middle class society that mostly is a small unit of family that consists of father, mother and several children. The men are working in the public space and the women doing the domestics job. There are working women in the novel but they are mostly working in the service area such as a nurse, civil servant and secretary.

London suburban society in the novel has two stand-out characteristics, namely patriarchal and capitalistic. These two characteristics of the society are oppressing women. Patriarchy made the relationship between men and women is superior and inferior relation, where as women are the inferior. Patriarchy subordinated, marginalized and discriminated women based on their sex. Capitalism creates a work force available for women, but exploits them dry. Women are forced to be working in the low rate and payment. Women in the story are working only as secretary, nurse and civil servant, in the contrary to their men whom working as architect, doctor, and businessmen. Both patriarchy and capitalism combined create an exploitative environment for women from the smallest unit of institution, family, to the largest unit, state.

Secondly, women’s show various attitude toward their position in marriage. There are six female characters that are analyzed in the novel. Margot is
discontented with her position in her marriage. Therefore she is struggling toward her husband’s domination. She demands recognition of her participation in the family by neglecting her domestic duty and demanding Hilary to live with them. She won one or her demands that is Hilary to live with them, but loss her basic demands of recognition. Madeline despise domestic job, she does not willingly do it and tries to avoid it. It costs her marriage and sole custody of her daughter. Enid at first is happy with her marriage and her economic independent. In her career she is a successful woman in the house she is her husband subordinate. Her pregnancy awakes her that she is oppressed. With financial benefit in her side she leaves her husband and tries to maintain her career. Renee a widow with two daughters chooses being a lesbian as a means of her rebellions toward women’s position. She faces many problems and discrimination toward her homosexuality from her family and society.

Beside the women who have strong attitude toward women’s position in marriage there are the second groups of woman. They have mild attitude toward their position due to lack of consciousness Lily is perfectly happy being a wife, she do her domestic’s job flawlessly. Her husband’s ex-wife death alerts her about her motherhood. She realizes her life was not only about her husband which bring mild attitude toward her step-daughter and Madeline, the dead ex-wife. Judy is not happy and depressed by the relationship built in her latest marriage. The feeling to her must be put aside for it was her decision to marry her new husband.

Thirdly, the struggle these women do is spontaneously and unsystematically. Based on their personal encounters to their inferior state and
unsystematic, thus the results are minimum. They have not been able to identify the root that creates problem they encountered with. Women’s oppression is based on the system applied in their society which is patriarchy and capitalism. The women have been fighting the result of oppression not the oppressor itself.

These women are struggling individually that causes them to be easily defeated and strand back to their original position. What these women’s need is to go organized and educated each other. They have to form an organization, a mass political movement that addresses the needs and aspiration of the majority of women. As women’s oppression is the problem of social class therefore women’s struggle is the struggle to accomplished social revolution.

Women’s liberation movement is enforce from the smallest repressive unit, the family, to its largest, the state. Women’s liberation movement raised the consciousness of women’s equality that will change people attitude toward women that at the end will deconstruct the society point of view toward women’s position. Women’s liberation movement will enable women to participate in politic, economy, social, and cultural activity thus enable them to participate in contributing the law and obligation that are not sexist.
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APPENDICES

1. Summary of the Novel

*Remember Me* is a story which tells about married women in suburban area of London at 1970s. Madeline was divorced three years ago for a younger wife. Burdened by her responsibility to bear her daughter she is unable to find a decent job. Loosing all that matters in the women’s world, identity and men, she was struggling back to find another man to hold on to. She died in a car accident on her way home from a date.

Her death influences Margot, the wife of a doctor who works as Madeline’s ex-husband’s secretary. She started to think and behaves as Madeline does. She openly states her inconvenience about her husband’s superiority and asking if they could have Madeline’s daughter to live with them. The answer was no and she became more vulgar in her action. Meanwhile Margot’s friend Enid is having problems; her lovely marriage is in the verge of collapsing due to her pregnancy. She desperately needs to have an abortion to save her marriage. Her husband won’t have a baby, he hates baby and parenthood. Enid has to choose her husband’s love or her unborn live within her.

Renee, Madeline’s neighbor, suggests that Madeline is punished for being the men slave. It was her fault to go on a date; if she didn’t go she would have been alive. Renee despise men, she is a lesbian with two daughters whom she can only visit in the presents of third party.
Margot is working to Jarvis, Madeline’s ex-husband whom married to Lily. Lily as her employee asks her to go to Madeline’s to gather anything of value, lily wont have anything wasted especially in the hands of her rival, how she hates Madeline’s is openly shown. There Margot goes, to Madeline’s damp apartment were she met Renee. Renee is questioning her marital relation, questioning her happiness. Margot is depressed and behaved more oddly, for she felt she was not happy being the wife of the doctor.

Lily with her hatred toward Madeline and her passion of being a successful wife is tore down by her son’s sickness. She began to understand Madeline’s grudge to her and have sympathy to her step daughter. She is a friend to Judy, to whom she tells her resentment toward Madeline. Judy is a woman that experience violence from her husband but could do nothing about it. She is entrapped in the marriage she chooses.

Finally Margot has her permission to have Hilary with her, but nothing has been changed in her positions in the marriage and her husband’s superiority. Enid decides to keep her baby and leave her husband; she knows her job is an advantage that will help her manage to be a single mother. Renee is confident with her decision to be a lesbian even though she has to face discrimination for it. Lily with more compassion toward others, she realizes she is not the only one that matters in the world.

They gathered in Madeline’s funeral with their own struggle. Win or loose they have to keep pacing forth. These brave women have made a step forward
from their position as men’s subordinate. They have done their part but unfortunately it did little to them, more over to people around them.
2. Fay Weldon’s Biography

Fay Weldon was born in England in 1931. At the age five weeks her mother took her back to New Zealand. Her father was a doctor and her mother was a commercial fiction writer. Her parents divorced when Fay was five years old. She lived with her mother, sister and grandmother until she started college.

She returned to England with her mother and studied economics and psychology at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Her christened name was “Franklin Birkinshaw” which she feels contributed to her being accepted at St Andrews and permitted to study economics: the school assumed she was a male student applicant.

In her early twenties she was married to a man more than twenty years her senior. It is not clear whether she had her first son during this marriage or earlier. She is raising her son as a single mother. During that time she worked on the problem page of daily Mirror and than as a copywriter for the Foreign Office.

She married Roy Weldon in 1962 and had three more sons. In her thirties she began to writing. Her first novel, The Fat Woman's Joke, was published in 1967, but by then she had already written some fifty plays for radio, stage, or television, the most well-known being Upstairs, Downstairs and her adaptation of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice.

For the next thirty years she built a wonderfully successful career, publishing over twenty novels, collection of short stories, television movies, newspaper and magazine articles and becoming a well-known face and voice on
the BBC. Fay and Ron divided their time between Somerset and a flat in London. Eventually they divorced in 1994.

Fay subsequently married Nick Fox, a poet, and her writing and career continues to flourish. In October 2002 Fay was named the first writer-in-residence at The Savoy Hotel in London. Fay and her husband live in Dorset, England.
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