

## ABSTRACT

**Maria Goreti Tri Kurniawati (2003): Ideas of Feminism revealed in Lena Lingard's and Antonia's Characters as seen in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, Yogyakarta: English Letters Study Programme, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.**

Women are considered as weak creatures compared to men in society; they are weak in their physical and mental points. But in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, the women's characters in the story are described as mentally and physically strong women. Even, they are superior to the male characters in the story. It becomes the reason why the writer chooses this novel to be analyzed.

There are two problems solved in this study. The first is how the characters of Lena Lingard and Antonia are described in this story. And the second problem is how their characters reveal the ideas of feminism in the novel.

The object of this study is to find out the description of Lena Lingard's and Antonia's characters in the novel of *My Antonia* written by Willa Cather. After finding out their characteristics, then the writer will show and relate their characters and actions with the ideas of feminism.

This writing uses library research method. The writer tries to find all the data and other supported references from the library. Since the writer wants to analyze about feminism, therefore feminist criticism is used as an approach in this study. This approach is chosen because the writer interprets and observes the novel from feminist's point of view. This approach is used to highlight feminism and gender stereotypes in literary form.

From the analysis, the writer concludes that both Lena Lingard and Antonia share the same characteristic as women. Both of them are physically and mentally strong women, hard workers, optimistic, attractive, ambitious, friendly, and helpful. Though they share many similarities in their characteristics, in fact, they have different principles regarding marriage and man. Lena is anti marriage, while Antonia is pro marriage and loves children. Related to feminism, there are three ideas of feminism revealed by Lena Lingard and Antonia in the story. The first idea is opportunity, the second is independence and right to choose, and the last is equality and partnership in marriage. All of those feminism's ideas are explained further in the analysis of this thesis at chapter four.