

ABSTRACT

Azalea, A. B. (2026). *A liberal feminist analysis of Dolly Maunder's struggles in the novel Restless Dolly Maunder by Kate Grenville (2023)*. English Language Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University.

Gender inequality is a social issue that is often represented in literary works that place women in a lower position. This study examined forms of gender inequality experienced by an Australian woman, Dolly Maunder, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as how her resistance was represented in *Restless Dolly Maunder* by Kate Grenville.

This study was based on two main research questions: 1. What forms of gender inequality are faced by Dolly Maunder's character in *Restless Dolly Maunder*?; and 2. How is Dolly Maunder's liberal feminist struggles against gender inequality depicted in *Restless Dolly Maunder*?

This study used a qualitative method and a feminist literary criticism approach. Data were obtained through a close reading of the novel *Restless Dolly Maunder* by Kate Grenville to identify narrative sections that show forms of gender inequality and the character's resistance to it. The data were then analyzed using liberal feminist theory by Rosemarie Tong, which emphasizes individual autonomy and equal rights, supported by James C. Scott's concept of subtle resistance to examine the character's resistance and struggles against gender inequality and her fight for women's freedom. This combined framework was used to examine how the character's seemingly passive actions actually represented a strategic fight for women's freedom and personal identity.

The results of this study indicated that Dolly Maunder experienced gender inequality, including educational limitation, economic dependence, social or marital expectation and restriction, and domestic oppression. Dolly Maunder's struggles took the form of subtle resistance without direct confrontation, such as emotional endurance, everyday resistance and strategic negotiation, self-education, desire for independence, and economic strategy. From a liberal feminist perspective, Dolly ultimately achieved financial independence and personal identity, proving that resistance against patriarchy does not have to be revolutionary but can be realized through an individual's willingness to fight for their rights and identity.

Keywords: feminist struggle, gender inequality, liberal feminism, subtle resistance

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Ketidaksetaraan gender merupakan isu sosial yang sering direpresentasikan dalam karya sastra yang menempatkan perempuan pada posisi yang lebih rendah. Studi ini mengkaji bentuk-bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender yang dialami oleh karakter perempuan Australia, Dolly Maunder, pada akhir abad ke-19 hingga awal abad ke-20, serta bagaimana perlawanan karakter tersebut digambarkan dalam novel *Restless Dolly Maunder* karya Kate Grenville.

Penelitian ini didasarkan pada dua pertanyaan penelitian utama: 1. Bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender apa yang dihadapi Dolly Maunder dalam *Restless Dolly Maunder*?; dan 2. Bagaimana perjuangan-perjuangan feminis liberal Dolly Maunder melawan ketidaksetaraan gender digambarkan dalam *Restless Dolly Maunder*?

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan pendekatan kritik sastra feminis. Data diperoleh melalui pembacaan mendalam novel *Restless Dolly Maunder* karya Kate Grenville untuk mengidentifikasi bagian-bagian naratif yang menunjukkan bentuk-bentuk ketidaksetaraan gender dan perlawanan karakter terhadapnya. Data kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori feminis liberal oleh Rosemarie Tong yang menekankan otonomi individu dan persamaan hak, didukung oleh konsep James C. Scott tentang *subtle resistance* untuk mengeksplorasi perlawanan dan perjuangan karakter melawan ketidaksetaraan gender serta perjuangan untuk kebebasan perempuan. Kerangka gabungan ini digunakan untuk memeriksa bagaimana tindakan karakter yang tampaknya pasif benar-benar mewakili perjuangan strategis untuk kebebasan dan identitas pribadi perempuan.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Dolly Maunder mengalami ketidaksetaraan gender, termasuk keterbatasan pendidikan, ketergantungan ekonomi, harapan dan pembatasan sosial atau pernikahan, dan penindasan domestik. Perjuangan yang dilakukan oleh Dolly Maunder menggunakan bentuk *subtle resistance* dan tanpa konfrontasi langsung, seperti ketahanan emosional, perlawanan sehari-hari dan strategi negosiasi, pendidikan mandiri, keinginan untuk mandiri, dan juga strategi ekonomi. Dalam perspektif feminisme liberal, Dolly akhirnya mencapai kemandirian finansial dan identitas pribadi, membuktikan bahwa perlawanan terhadap patriarki tidak harus revolusioner, tetapi dapat diwujudkan dalam bentuk kesediaan seseorang untuk memperjuangkan hak dan identitasnya.

Kata kunci: perjuangan feminis, ketidaksetaraan gender, feminisme liberal, perlawanan halus