THE REPRESENTATION OF VICTORIAN WOMEN
IN SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

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ABSTRACT


The purpose of this research is to know the representation of Victorian women character and their position in Sherlock Holmes stories. The writers use descriptive qualitative analysis as the method and representation theory to analyze the position of women characters in Sherlock Holmes stories. The data are obtained from the novel. The writer focuses her analysis to the women characters using through Stuart Hall’s Representation Theory.

In this analysis, the writer finds that in Sherlock Holmes stories, women were second class to men. Women in Victorian era were in a stagnant position and were unable to really find any hope or success when they were forced into these life-long roles and independent.

In other view, women from upper class and middle class are in focus of Sherlock Holmes stories. Arthur Conan Doyle represent them in Sherlock Holmes stories to advance the perception of the English as the elite, and all other cultures from another countries as lesser.
APPROVEMENT

THE REPRESENTATION OF VICTORIAN WOMEN
IN SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

A Thesis

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on July 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2014. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, July 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2014

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which substantial, extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, June 2014

Nenden Alifa Syahdazahra
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The Writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The literature of the long reign of Victoria (1837-1901) presented the features natural in an era of great social change and intellectual advancement. With the growth of democracy elementary education became generally accessible, and the number of readers increased rapidly. A vast body of people who heretofore had little or no access to literature were now reached by it, and in turn influenced its character.

Almost all the great Victorian writers attempted to move, instruct, or inspire the huge unleavened mass of society. The astonishing development of the practical arts, applied science, and machine-production, while it increased the comforts of living, led to deep-seated materialism against which nearly every great writer lifted his voice in protest and warning. The discoveries of science gave rise to a multitude of conceptions of the most revolutionary kind, unsettling many of the old bases of religious belief, and affecting literature in numberless ways.

The humanitarian spirit that was an integral element in the Romantic Movement was stirred by the hideous social and economic consequences of the Industrial Revolution, and reformers felt it their duty to publicize these horrors and to attempt to alleviate them by legislation. They set their faces
sternly against the conservative believers in the doctrine of *laissez-faire*¹, with its assumption that if the economic instinct were given free play, the result would be, not the good of a single social class but the good of the whole social order. They also opened the early Utilitarian who proposed as the goal of morality the greatest good of the greatest number but who also believed that this goal would be attained through the operation of the policy of *laissez-faire*. Social unrest was the great distinguishing feature of the Victorian era and the demand for social justice coloured, in one way or another, the whole thought of the time.

It follows from all this that the most striking characteristic of Victorian literature was its strenuousness, its conscious purpose. Both poets and prose-writers worked under the shadow and burden of a conscious social responsibility.²

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a writer in Victorian era literature. He was a Scottish physician and writer who is most noted for his fictional detective stories, *Sherlock Holmes*. Conan Doyle capitalized on the taste for mystery and problem-solving in the sphere of criminal investigation. Conan Doyle’s achievement was to hit upon a formula that allowed him to exercise the intellect without too much strain, to locate the deductive procedures in the mind of a fascinating personality, and then to reproduce the atmosphere of a Victorian environment that is somehow more nineteenth-century than nineteenth century could possibly have been.

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¹ *laissez-faire* means a doctrine opposing governmental interference in economic affairs beyond the minimum necessary for the maintenance of peace and property rights, [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/laissez-faire](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/laissez-faire)

Sherlock Holmes’s adventures began with *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) and from 1891 he made regular appearances in the Strand Magazine. Collected stories were published as *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1982), *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (1894), and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1905).³

*Sherlock Holmes* is generally considered to have been written by men, for men and about men. However in *Sherlock Holmes* stories the reader found that *Sherlock Holmes* stories also for women and tells about women. Many things happened to the female characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories. From the women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the reader can find many pieces of information on Victorian women and their lives at the end of the nineteenth century, so the writer will find out the representation of Victorian women and their position in selected *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

B. The Focus of The Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The limitation of this study is to analyze the representation of Victorian women in eighteen selected *Sherlock Holmes* short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle.

C. Research Question

Based on the research focus of the study, the problems that may appear in this research are:

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1. How is the representation of Victorian Women in Sherlock Holmes Stories?

2. How is the position of Women character on Sherlock Holmes stories?

D. Significances of The Study

The significance of this study is classified into two parts, academic and practical significance of study. Academically, the study is to fulfil one of the requirements for Bachelor Degree to the Faculty of Adab and Humanities of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. Practically, the study is to broaden up the researcher's knowledge regarding to representation theory by Stuart Hall and cultural studies.

E. Research Methodology

1. Objectives of the study

Based on the problem statements above the objectives of the studies are:

a. To know the characteristic of Victorian women character in Sherlock Holmes stories.

b. To know the representation of Victorian women in Sherlock Holmes stories.

c. To know the position of Victorian women character on Sherlock Holmes stories.
2. **Method of the Research**

In the research, the writer uses a qualitative method. By using this method, the writer will do research by explaining, describing, analyzing the representation of Victorian women who appeared on *Sherlock Holmes* selected stories which published in the Victorian era by Arthur Conan Doyle.

3. **Research Instrument**

The instrument used in this research is the writer herself to collecting the qualitative data about the representation theory, Victorian women and life, and analyze the representation of Victorian women in *Sherlock Holmes* stories by Arthur Conan Doyle.

4. **Technique of Data Analysis**

The collected data will be analyzed by using Representation theory by Stuart Hall. Therefore, the study begins by explain the Victorian women values, analyzing *Sherlock Holmes* stories, describing and represent the women characters, finding the position of women character in *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

5. **Unit Analysis**

The unit analysis in this research are seventeen selected short stories which women characters appeared in *Sherlock Holmes* stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. These are *A Scandal in Bohemia* (1891), *A Case of Identity* (1891), *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* (1892), *The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet* (1892), *The Adventure of the Copper
Beeches (1892), The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor (1892), The Adventure of the Crooked Man (1893), The Adventure of the Cardboard Box (1893), The Adventure of the Dancing Men (1903), The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist (1903), The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton (1904), The Adventure of the Abbey Grange (1904), The Adventure of the Second Stain (1904), The Adventure of the Red Circle (1911), The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax (1911), The Adventure of the Three Gables (1926), and The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place (1927)

6. Place and Time of The Research

The writer accomplishes the research during the academic year 2013/2014, at Department of English Letters, faculty of Adab and Humanities, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Representation Theory

Representation began with early literary theory in the ideas of Plato and Aristotle, and has evolved into a significant component of language, Saussurian and communication studies.\(^4\)

Representation describes the signs that stand in for and take the place of something else. It is through representation people know and understand the world and reality through the act of naming it. Signs are manipulated in order to make sense of the world. For many philosophers, both ancient and modern, man is regarded as the “representational animal” or homo symbolicum, the creature whose distinct character is the creation and manipulation of signs – things that “stand for” or “take the place of” something else.\(^5\)

Representation is one of important practice producing culture. Culture represent very wide concept, representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between numbers of culture. Representation is the production of the meaning from a concept in our mind through language. To explain how representation of the meaning through language works the writer can use three theories of representation:


\(^5\) O’Shaughnessy, M & Stadler J, Media and Society: An Introduction, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, South Melbourne, 2005
First, the reflective approach, it means thought to lie in the object, person, idea, or event in the world, and language functions like mirror, to reflect the true meaning as it already exist in the world.

Second, the intentional approach, it means that it is the speaker, the author who imposes his or her unique meaning on the world through language. Words mean what the author intends they should mean.

Third, the constructive approach, acknowledges that neither things in themselves nor the individual users of language can fix meaning in language. Things do means: construct meaning, using representational systems-concepts and signs. According to this approach, the writer must not confuse the material world, where things and people exist, and the symbolic practices and processes through which representation, meaning, and language operate.\(^6\)

The concept of representation has come to occupy a new and important place in the study of culture. Representation connects meaning and language to culture. Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent the world meaningfully, to other people. Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between members of a culture. It does involve the use of language, of signs and images which stand for or represent things. Three different accounts or theories of representation are: the reflective, the intentional, and the constructionist that the writer had explained above.

\(^6\)Ibid., p. 25.
B. Character and Characterization Theory

1. Character

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms defining character as personage in a narrative or dramatic work; also a kind of prose sketches briefly describing some recognizable type of person.\(^7\) Character is a person created for a work fiction.\(^8\)

In fiction, the author usually has many characters in their story. Character created from the imagination of the author. Character is the most important element of the story because in reading a fiction, the reader concerned in one character to know what happened with that character in the story.

Jane Bachman Gordon and Karen Kuehner in their book, *Fiction: The Elements of the Short Story* classified character into three types, there are:

First, round and flat character. Round character is a three-dimensional character complex enough to be able to surprise the reader without losing credibility. Flat character is one whom Forster deems incapable of surprising the reader (two dimensional characters).

Second, major and minor characters. The major character is sometimes called a protagonist. Protagonist is the main or the central character. The opposite of protagonist is antagonist, antagonist is the

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character whose conflict with protagonist. The minor characters are confident, the person in whom the protagonist confides. Foil is the character whose contrast physically and personality with the main character.

Third, active and static characters. Active character is one who changes because of what happens in the plot. Static character, however, remain unchanged; their character is the same at the end as at the beginning. In analyzing character, we need observe their actions. We should listen to what they say and the way they say that. We should notice they relation to other characters and how other characters respond to them, especially to what they say about each other.10

2. Characterization

Characterization is the depicting of clear images of a person. There are two methods of characterization: dramatic and analytic. In dramatic, we form our opinions of the character from what they do and say, from their environment, and from what other characters think of them. In the analytic method, the author comments upon the characters, explaining their motives, their appearance, and their thoughts.11

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9Ibid., Pp. 95-97.
C. The Concept of Victorian Women

Women in the mid-19th century had no such choice; most of them lived in a state little better than slavery. They had to obey men, because in most cases men held all the resources and women had no independent means of subsistence. Women in Victorian England were believed to be inferior to men; they were subjected to their (men’s) authority in many ways.

1. Married and Domestic Life

During the reign of Queen Victoria, a woman's place was in the home, as domesticity and motherhood were considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfilment for females. These constructs kept women far away from the public sphere in most ways, but during the 19th century charitable missions did begin to extend the female role of service, and Victorian feminism emerged as a potent political force. Victoria came to be seen as the very model of marital stability and domestic virtue. Her marriage to Albert represented the ideal of marital harmony. She was described as 'the mother of the nation', and she came to embody the idea of home as a cozy, domestic space.

a. The Right and Property of Married Women

When a Victorian man and woman married, the rights of the woman were legally given over to her spouse. Under the law the married couple became one entity where the husband would represent

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12Helena Wojtczak, Women’s Status in Mid 19th Century England: A Brief Overview, article accessed in March 2013 from http://hastingspress.co.uk/history/19/overview.htm
this entity, placing him in control of all property, earnings and money. In addition to losing money and material goods to their husbands, Victorian wives became property to their husbands, giving them rights to what their bodies produced; children, sex and domestic labour. Marriage abrogates a women’s right to consent to sexual intercourse with her husband, giving him ‘ownership’ over her body. Their mutual matrimonial consent therefore became a contract to give herself to her husband as he desired. One can make a connection between slavery and marriage, waiting on their husbands and giving in to their every whim and desire. In Victorian Era, every man had the right to force his wife into sex and childbirth. He could take her children without reason and send them to be raised elsewhere. He could spend his wife’s inheritance on a mistress or on prostitutes.

Rights and privileges of Victorian women were limited, both single and married women had hardships and disadvantages they had to live with. Victorian women had disadvantages both financially and sexually, enduring inequalities within their marriages and social statuses, distinct differences in men and women’s rights took place during this Era.

16 Helena Wojtczak, Women’s Status in Mid 19th Century England: A Brief Overview, article accessed in March 2013 from http://hastingspress.co.uk/history/19/overview.htm
b. Divorce and Legal Discrimination

The law regarded men as persons, and legal recognition of women's rights as autonomous persons would be a slow process, and would not be fully accomplished until well into the 20th century. Women lost the rights to the property they brought into the marriage, even following divorce; a husband had complete legal control over any income earned by his wife; women were not allowed to open banking accounts; and married women were not able to conclude a contract without her husband's legal approval. These property restrictions made it difficult or impossible for a woman to leave a failed marriage, or to exert any control over her finances if her husband was incapable or unwilling to do so on her behalf.

Domestic violence towards wives was given increasing attention by social and legal reformers as the 19th century continued. The first animal-cruelty legislation in Britain was passed in 1824, however, legal protection from domestic violence was not granted to women until 1853 with the Act for the Better Prevention and Punishment of Aggravated Assaults upon Women and Children. Even this law did not outright ban violence by a man against his wife and children; it imposed legal limits on the amount of force that was permitted.

Great changes in the situation of women took place in the 19th century, especially concerning marriage laws and the legal rights of women to divorce and/or gain custody of children. The situation that fathers always received custody of their children, leaving the mother
without any rights, slowly started to change. The Custody of Infants Act in 1839 gave mothers of unblemished character access to their children in the event of separation or divorce, and the Matrimonial Causes Act in 1890 gave women limited access to divorce. But while the husband only had to prove his wife's adultery, a woman had to prove her husband had not only committed adultery but also incest, bigamy, cruelty or desertion. In 1873 the Custody of Infants Act extended access to children to all women in the event of separation or divorce. In 1878, after an amendment to the Matrimonial Causes Act, women could secure a separation on the grounds of cruelty and claim custody of their children. Magistrates even authorized protection orders to wives whose husbands have been convicted of aggravated assault. An important change was caused by an amendment to the Married Women's Property Act 1884. This legislation recognized that wives were not chattel, or property belonging to the husband, but an independent and separate person. Through the Guardianship of Infants Act in 1886, women could be made the sole guardian of their children if their husband died. Women slowly had their rights changed so that they could eventually leave their husbands for good. Some notable dates include:

1) 1857: violence recognized as grounds for divorce  
2) 1870: women could keep money they earned  
3) 1878: entitlement to spousal and child support recognized

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2. Unmarried Women

Remaining single for most of men and women was not a choice: it was what happened when choice was taken away. Women know what would happen if they fail to capture a husband. In Victorian era, they regarded women who remained unmarried had failed to fulfil their destiny, both biological and psychologically because the central event in any woman’s life in this era was marriage. Marriage was a necessity for women. Marriage was success, spinsterhood was failure: it was stark.¹⁹

3. Victorian Morality and Sexuality

Women in Victorian era were expected to have sex with only one man, their husband. However, it was acceptable for men to have multiple partners in their life; husbands participated in lengthy affairs with other women while women stayed with their husbands on the grounds that divorce was not an option.²⁰ If women did have sexual contact with another man, they were seen as ruined or fallen.

In the Victorian era, sex was something that was not discussed openly and honestly, public discussion of sexual encounters and matters were met with ignorance, embarrassment and fear. A public opinion of women’s sexual desires was that they were not very troubled by sexual urges. Even if women’s desires were lurking, sexual experiences came with consequences for women and families. Limiting family sizes resulted in resisting sexual desires, except

when a husband had desires which as a wife women were ‘contracted’ to fulfil.

Many people within the Victorian Era were “factually uniformed and emotionally frigid about sexual matters”.\(^{21}\) To discourage pre-marital sexual relations the New Poor Law argued that “women bear financial responsibilities for out-of-wedlock pregnancies”. In 1834 women were made legally and financially supportive of their illegitimate children.\(^{22}\)

Sexual relations for women could not just be about desire and feelings like men had the luxury of, the consequences that were associated with sexual interactions for women took away the physical desires that women could possess.

4. Women Education

Education in nineteenth-century England was not equal - not between the sexes, and not between the classes. Gentlemen would be educated at home by a governess or tutor until they were old enough to attend Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, Westminster, Charterhouse, or a small handful of lesser schools. The curriculum was heavily weighted towards the classics - the languages and literature of Ancient Greece and Rome. After that, they would attend Oxford or Cambridge. Here they might also study mathematics, law, philosophy, and modern history. Oxford tended to produce more Members of Parliament and government officials; while Cambridge leaned more towards

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\(^{21}\) Jan Marsh, *Sex & Sexuality in the 19th Century*, article accessed in March 2013 from [http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/s/sex-and-sexuality19th-century/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/s/sex-and-sexuality19th-century/)

the sciences and produced more acclaimed scholars. However, it was not compulsory, either legally or socially, for a gentleman to attend school at all. He could, just as easily, be taught entirely at home. However, public school and University were the great staging grounds for public life, where you made your friends and developed the connections that would aid you later in life. Beau Brummel met the Prince of Wales at Eton and that friendship helped him conquer all of London Society despite his lack of family background.

A lady's education was taken, almost entirely, at home. There were boarding schools, but no University, and the studies were very different. She learned French, drawing, dancing, music, and the use of globes. If the school, or the governess, was interested in teaching any practical skills, she learned plain sewing as well as embroidery, and accounts.23

5. Working Women

Many women in Victorian Britain supported their families with wage-paying jobs alongside their already heavy domestic burdens. Many young people, especially young women, migrated to towns and cities in search of work as the possibilities of agricultural employment declined. Migration was facilitated by family and other connections: communities were recreated in towns and cities through local concentrations of settlement of particular ethnic, religious, regional or familial groups and by the possibility of finding accommodation through lodging or domestic service in the homes of contacts of this kind.

Most households necessarily drew income from a number of sources, with many women and juveniles adding to wage earning even if their employment was usually more intermittent and low-paid than that of adult males. Although the male breadwinner wage was increasingly regarded as the ideal and even the norm, in practice many households were dependent upon female earnings, especially those households run by widows. As the mid-Victorian boom got underway the demand for female and juvenile labour expanded, particularly where new technologies or patterns of work were resented by skilled men. Cheap female and immigrant labour was often used to undercut male workers. Urbanization created manifold opportunities for female employment despite the regulation of hours and conditions of work for women and juveniles in certain sectors, and the coming of compulsory education after 1871. Thus most women in Victorian society, in the two thirds of the population below the upper and middle classes, worked for wages.24

6. Victorian Class in Society

a. Upper Class Women

The woman of the "high or elite class" enjoyed all the amenities and favours that one could think of. Dancing was a preferred pastime among most of the upper class women and men. The unmarried women generally spend a great deal of time chatting with their friends. The high class women did very little or almost no home chores. The ladies did not

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24 Pat Hudson, *Women’s Work* article accessed in May 2013 from www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/womens_work_01.shtml
do things themselves but told others what to do. They were just supposed to marry and raise children.\textsuperscript{25}

b. Middle Class Women

The ideal Victorian women have been portrayed as a member of the middle classes. The 19th-century middle-class domestic life from the perspective of those living it, it becomes clear that women actively moulded a culture that served their own interests. The domestic sphere was a cultural expression of the female world. Their fashions, etiquette, domestic furnishings, social engagements, religious devotion and charitable activity all served to delineate a universe within which women could demonstrate their power.

It is only in prescriptive literature that the bourgeois woman, who idly spent her days exercising her creative talents, socialising with other women and supervising the servants, can be found. In reality most middle-class women were active both within and outside the home.\textsuperscript{26}

In the working sphere, respectable employment for women from solidly middle-class families was largely restricted to work as a school teacher or governess. Once telephone use became widespread, work as a telephone operator became a respectable job for middle-class women needing employment.

c. Working Class Women

\textsuperscript{25} Helen Nickson, \textit{Life of Women in the Victorian Era}, article accessed in August 2013 from \texttt{http://EzineArticles.com/2359711}

\textsuperscript{26} Lynn Abrams, \textit{“Ideals of Womanhood in Victorian Britain”}, article accessed in June 2013 from \texttt{www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/victorian_britain/women_home/ideals_womanhood\_print.html}
The women of working class worked in the factories, garment industries, laundries or various other jobs to support themselves. Another employment for "Lower" working class women was the domestic service. It was a tough job as the domestic servants were supposed to work seven days a week and twelve hours a day. A large percentage of women also worked as nurses in hospitals and were employed in offices during the later part of the century. Some women also entered into professions such as medicine, law, and journalism. However, this revolution took place mostly in the later part of the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{27} Ibid
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

*Sherlock Holmes* is generally considered to have been written by men, for men and about men. Most of stories in *Sherlock Holmes* told about greatness and masculinity of Sherlock Holmes and James Watson in solving criminal cases. *Sherlock Holmes* stories were written in Victorian era. In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the reader can see the social and political changes of Victorian England as a background of the plot and character development in the instalments of *Sherlock Holmes*’s adventures.

In *Sherlock Holmes* adventures, the reader also can found many female characters. Many things happened to the female characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories as Victorian England society. From the women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the reader can find many pieces of information on Victorian women and their lives at the end of the nineteenth century.

In this chapter, the writer would like to analyze the representation of Victorian women and their position in selected *Sherlock Holmes* stories. In analyzing the representation of Victorian women, the writer will present the discussion into several topics; the representation of Victorian women as single women, the representation of Victorian women’s marriage, the representation of Victorian women as married women, educated women, working women, upper and middle class women, and criminal women.
The representation will be discussed by using the data from the narrative, the character’s appearance, behaviours, and their interaction with the other characters.

A. The Representation of Victorian Women

1. The Representation of Victorian Women as Single Women

The central event in any woman’s life in Victorian era was marriage. People in this era considered single woman was the person who had failed to fulfil their destiny, both biological and psychologically. In that era, marriage was a necessity for woman. Marriage was success, spinsterhood was failure: it was that stark.28

One of the single women characters in Sherlock Holmes stories was Lady Frances Carfax whom appeared on The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax. In this story, Lady Frances Carfax described as a beautiful woman even in her middle age. She was the heiress of noble family. She didn’t have estates inheritance, but she got very remarkable old Spanish jewellery and diamonds. Lady Frances Carfax lived shift about from country to country and hotel to hotel and she always brings her jewellery wherever she goes. Lady Frances Carfax has no family left. It makes her live alone without protection from her family, especially from men.

“She is the most harmless and often the most useful of mortals, but she is the inevitable inciter of crime in others. She is helpless...She is lost, as often as not, in a maze of obscure pensions and boarding

From the text above, the writer found that Conan Doyle described single woman in this story as harmless and useful of the mortals, but she is the inevitable inciter of crime in others. It means single woman who live individually is not safe and easily became criminal target. Conan Doyle also described single woman of this story as helpless woman, but even she is helpless she is lost. She is must have someone to accompany her and protect her. The author of this story also described single woman as a stray chicken in a world of foxes. That is means woman in Victorian era that lived alone with no family, especially male figure, has a risky position while the male in that era was a powerful figure or superior.

In other hand, the other woman character in The Adventure of Beryl Coronet story is Mary Holder. She is 24 years old. She is the daughter of Alexander Holder whom a banking of firm of Holder & Stevenson.

“She is a sunbeam in my house—sweet, loving, beautiful, a wonderful manager and housekeeper, yet as tender and quiet and gentle as a woman could be. She is my right hand. I do not know what I could do without her.” (Doyle 1892, 253)

In this story, Mary Holder described as sweet, loving, beautiful, and a wonderful manager and housekeeper. She is tender, quiet, and gentle as a woman could be in that era. Mary Holder lived with her uncle and cousin. She is never leave her house and usually stayed alone at her house.

“It is unfortunately more than possible; it is certain. Neither you nor your son knew the true character of this man when you admitted him into your family circle. He is one of the most dangerous men in
England—a ruined gambler, an absolutely desperate villain, a man without heart or conscience. Your niece knew nothing of such men. When he breathed his vows to her, as he had done to a hundred before her, she flattered herself that she alone had touched his heart. The devil knows best what he said, but at least she became his tool and was in the habit of seeing him nearly every evening.” (Doyle 1892, 259)

Mary who is a single woman and usually lives alone at the house knows nothing about men. George Burnwell, one of the most dangerous men in England and a ruined gambler utilized Mary’s loneliness in doing criminal. He attracted Mary and made her fall in love with him, and then he asked Mary to steal her uncle’s Beryl Coronet and elope with him.

From these two stories The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax and The Adventure of Beryl Coronet, the writer analyzed those Victorian single women especially who lived alone very dangerous from criminality. Their single status makes them very impressionable.

2. The Representation of Victorian Women’s Marriage

As it was explained previously that marriage was the culmination of a woman’s life. In that era, women get married not only because of love. Many girls in this era came to their marriage with a lack of information not merely about married life itself but even about how a household functioned29.

Less of women in that era didn’t find their husband by herself. They never attracted men to make them in love with her because in that era, women who flirted with men were to some no better than prostitutes. In cast about their husband, the parents usually arrange their marriage. A suitable man was brought into the social circle for the girls to see if she likes him enough to marry. Or she did not even have to like him.

29 Ibid, p.242
Arranged marriage also happened to some women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

“Well, though I had her heart, her father was set upon her marrying Barclay. I was a harum-scarum, reckless lad, and he had had an education, and was already marked for the sword-belt. But the girl held true to me, and it seemed that I would have had her when the Mutiny broke out, and all hell was loose in the country.” (Doyle 1893, 358)

Nancy Devoy was a beautiful and popular daughter of sergeant who was married to Colonel James Barclay. Actually Nancy Devoy married James Barclay was not because of love. Nancy Devoy was only in love with Corporal Henry, but his father arrange her marriage and she should follow her father’s wishes because at that time women did not have the right to choose and express his feelings.

“A marriage has been arranged [it says] and will, if rumour is correct, very shortly take place, between Lord Robert St. Simon, second son of the Duke of Balmoral, and Miss Hatty Doran, the only daughter of Aloysius Doran, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.” (Doyle 1892, 246)

The other evidence of arranged marriage could be seen in the quotation above. It proof that every parents in Victorian era arrange the marriage of their children.

“Oh the whole, he thinks that Barclay’s devotion to his wife was greater than his wife’s to Barclay. He was acutely uneasy if he were absent from her for a day. She, on the other hand, though devoted and faithful, was less obtrusively affectionate. But they were regarded in the regiment as the very model of a middle-aged couple.” (Doyle 1893, 354)

The children must be accepted their parents choice. In In *The Adventure of Crooked Man*, Even though Nancy Devoy or Mrs. Barclay didn’t
love her husband; the wife should devote her life to her husband. She should be ruled the household as it functioned, because whatever happened to their marriage life women cannot get divorced from her husband. For Victorians, divorce was not only extremely expensive; it was very hard to do. Women and men stayed in unhappy marriages for numerous reasons. Many stayed away from divorce because of the stigma attached to divorced women. It was also considered a societal taboo.³⁰

Equality of social level as well as income was essential, but the hierarchical structure devolving authority from the man remained. In Sherlock Holmes stories, it stated in The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor.

“We were engaged to each other, Frank and I; but then one day father struck a rich pocket and made a pile, while poor Frank here had a claim that petered out and came to nothing. The richer pa grew the poorer was Frank; so at last pa wouldn’t hear of our engagement lasting any longer, and he took me away to Frisco. Frank wouldn’t throw up his hand, though; so he followed me there, and he saw me without pa knowing anything about it. It would only have made him mad to know, so we just fixed it all up for ourselves. Frank said that he would go and make his pile, too, and never come back to claim me until he had as much as pa. So then I promised to wait for him to the end of time and pledged myself not to marry anyone else while he lived. Why shouldn’t we be married right away, then,’ said he, ‘and then I will feel sure of you; and I won’t claim to be your husband until I come back?’ Well, we talked it over, and he had fixed it all up so nicely, with a clergyman all ready in waiting, that we just did it right there; and then Frank went off to seek his fortune, and I went back to pa”. (Doyle 1892, 246)

Hatty Doran married secretly with Frank who was a poor man without anyone knew about it especially her father; because her father wanted her

³⁰ Rachael Hurvitz, Women and Divorce in the Victorian Era, article accessed in May 2013 from www.clas.ufl.edu/users/agunn/teaching/enl3251/vf/pres/hurvitz.htm
married to a rich guy whom as rich as their family. From the text above, the writer get pictured that in that era, marrying man was not only for love but also for a social status. Women who married with the lower social status will be the object of scorn.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, some of women’s family did not let their daughter’s married because they afraid the daughter’s properties will be owned by her husband.

“He takes the obvious course of keeping her at home and forbidding her to seek the company of people of her own age. But soon he found that that would not answer forever. She became restive, insisted upon her rights, and finally announced her positive intention of going to a certain ball. What does her clever stepfather do then? He conceives an idea more creditable to his head than to his heart. With the connivance and assistance of his wife he disguised himself, covered those keen eyes with tinted glasses, masked the face with a moustache and a pair of bushy whiskers, sunk that clear voice into an insinuating whisper, and doubly secure on account of the girl’s short sight, he appears as Mr. Hosmer Angel, and keeps off other lovers by making love himself.”

(Doyle 1891, 157)

The text above is an explanation from the story *A Case of Identity*. Mr. Windibank, a step father of Mary Sutherland and his wife, Mary’s mother, didn’t want Mary married to a man because they want use their daughter’s money as long as she lived with them.

The similar story also happened in *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*. Helen Stoner was a spinster, her father didn’t allow her married because he want take-over his daughter’s properties. In *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches*, Mr. Rucastle made an agreement with his daughter, Alice. He wanted her to sign a paper, so that whether she married or not he could use her money.
In Victorian era, when a man and woman married, the rights of the woman were legally given over to her spouse. Under the law the married couple became one entity where the husband would represent this entity, placing him in control of all property, earnings and money. That policy probably utilized by men to did a criminal thing. It proved in *The Adventure of Solitary Cyclist*.

“So you came over, the two of you, and hunted up the girl. The idea was that one of you was to marry her and the other has a share of the plunder. For some reason Woodley was chosen as the husband. Why was that?” (Doyle 1903, 467)

The explanation above proved that some men in Victorian era utilized a marriage for seize his wives properties. As the situation goes by, in 1870 women got law protection from the government with Married Women’s Property Act which allowed for women to keep their earnings and even inherit personal property and money. Everything else still belonged to her husband if she had acquired it before or after marriage.

The other problem of marriage life in Victorian era was domestic violence. Domestic violence towards wives was given increasing attention by social and legal reformers as the 19th century continued. The first animal-cruelty legislation in Britain was passed in 1824, however, legal protection from domestic violence was not granted to women until 1853 with the Act for the Better Prevention and Punishment of Aggravated Assaults upon Women and Children.

‘Here is the first heading upon which I come. ‘A husband’s cruelty to his wife.’ There is half a column of print, but I know without reading it that it is all perfectly familiar to me. There is, of course, the other
woman, the drink, the push, the blow, the bruise, the sympathetic sister or landlady. The crudest of writers could invent nothing more crude.” (Doyle 1891, 151)

From the text above it could be seen that the headline news about husband’s cruelty to his wife was familiar to Sherlock Holmes. The domestic violence usually caused by the presence of the other woman. The violence usually occurs by pushing, slapping, until causing bruises.

“Can you imagine what it means for a sensitive and high-spirited woman to be tied to him for day and night? It is a sacrilege, a crime, a villainy to hold that such a marriage is binding. I say that these monstrous laws of yours will bring a curse upon the land—Heaven will not let such wickedness endure.” (Doyle 1904, 558)

The quotation above is told about Lady Brackenstall in The Adventure of the Abbey Grange. Her marriage was not happy because Sir Eustace Brackenstall was a violent, abusive drunkard husband. Nevertheless she have to tied to him for a day and night.

After reviewing some stories of Sherlock Holmes, the writer analyzed that marriage is very important for the life of women in those days but because of restrictiveness women's rights in those days make men take advantage of marriage to do something crimes against women. However as a function of time on reign of Victoria, the women who get domestic violence get the protection of law in the year 1853.

3. The Representation of Victorian Women as Married Women

The Victorian era was characterized as the domestic age *par excellence*[^31], epitomized by Queen Victoria, who came to represent a kind of

[^31]: *par excellence* means better than all others, [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/par+excellence](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/par+excellence)
femininity which was centred on the family, motherhood and respectability. Accompanied by her beloved husband Albert, and surrounded by her many children in the sumptuous but homely surroundings of Balmoral Castle, Victoria became an icon of late-19th-century middleclass femininity and domesticity.32

The Victorian married women could be the best in servicing their husband and families. The women’s place was in the home, as domesticity and motherhood were considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfilment for females. These constructs kept women far away from the public sphere in most ways.

“Well, you know father didn’t like anything of the sort. He wouldn’t have any visitors if he could help it, and he used to say that a woman should be happy in her own family circle. But then, as I used to say to mother, a woman wants her own circle to begin with, and I had not got mine yet.” (Doyle 1891, 153)

In A Case of Identity, Mr. Windibank didn’t want his wife and stepdaughter to go anywhere and his ideas correspond with the ideal of home as a place closed against dangerous outside effects. Woman should be happy in her family circle.

In that era, married women were expected to wear dressier outfits than single women. Women who did not take care of her appearance were as disgraceful as one who cared openly about it.

“She was a well-grown young woman. I suppose you might say she was handsome. Perhaps some would say she was very handsome. ‘Oh,

“officer, do let me have a peep!” says she. She had pretty, coaxing ways, as you might say, and I thought there was no harm in letting her just put her head through the door.”
“How was she dressed?”
“Quiet, sir—a long mantle down to her feet.” (Doyle 1904, 579)

The text above is the characterization of Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope. She is the youngest daughter of the Duke of Belminster. She is married to Trelawney Hope, Secretary for European Affairs, and the most rising statesman in the country. Lady Hilda dressed very well because women's clothes represent women's function. In the 19th century women's fashions became more sexual - the hips, buttocks and breasts were exaggerated with crinolines, hoop skirts and corsets which nipped in the waist and thrust out the breasts. The female body was dressed to emphasize a woman's separation from the world of work. By wearing dresses that resembled their interior furnishings, women became walking symbols of their social function - wife, mother, domestic manager.  

As the domestic manager, Victorian married women only manage their household; they never get involved in other problems of their household.

“You must see that this is so, madam. If your husband thinks fit to keep you in the dark over this matter, is it for me, who has only learned the true facts under the pledge of professional secrecy, to tell what he has withheld? It is not fair to ask it. It is him whom you must ask.” (Doyle 1904, 579)

The quotation above is from The Adventure of the Second Stain story.

Mr. Trelawney Hope never discuss about his business with his wife, because

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33 Ibid
the duty of a wife is only take care of the household. She should not interfere in any other affairs. She just only focused on her domestic life.

Marriage signified a woman's maturity and respectability, but motherhood was confirmation that she had entered the world of womanly virtue and female fulfilment. The ideal married women in Victorian era were the women who became a good wife, mother, and only take care of the household like the icon of that era, Queen Victoria.

4. The Representation of Victorian Women as Educated Women

Women’s education was almost taken entirely at home or in the boarding school. She didn’t attend University. She learned French, drawing, dancing, music, and the use of globes. If the school, or the governess, was interested in teaching any practical skills, she learned plain sewing as well as embroidery, and accounts. It proved by explanation below:

‘My accomplishments, sir, may be less than you imagine,’ said I. ‘A little French, a little German, music, and drawing—’ (Doyle 1892, 266)

In The Adventure of Cooper Beeches, Violet Hunter who works as a governess only leaned French, German, music, and drawing when she was in school, so she only taught that subjects to her students because her education was limited.

I could see that Holmes was favourably impressed by the manner and speech of his new client. He looked her over in his searching fashion, and then composed himself, with his lids drooping and his finger-tips together, to listen to her story. (Doyle 1892, 266)
As a man, Sherlock Holmes very appreciated with woman who has a good education background. It could be seen from his manner to Violet Hunter. Sherlock Holmes who rarely had special feeling to a woman, he got impressed by a smart and educated woman, Violet Hunter.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, an educated woman represented as a smart and has opportunity became a success person.

As to Miss Violet Hunter, my friend Holmes, rather to my disappointment, manifested no further interest in her when once she had ceased to be the centre of one of his problems, and she is now the head of a private school at Walsall, where I believe that she has met with considerable success. (Doyle 1892, 276)

Violet Hunter who worked as governess before, she successfully became a head of private school. She can get the better career because she had good education.

After reading some Sherlock Holmes stories, the writer analyzed that the education for women in that era was limited. Women who got education, they would get better social status. In the later part of the century, a proper education became more important for Victorian women and girls. Education between girls and boys must be equal. The expansion of the educational system for poor children meant that both boys and girls of the working class were guaranteed a basic education. By the proper education, women in Victorian era can improved their fate.

5. The Representation of Victorian Women as Working Women

Victorian woman supported their family with high-paid job. Female employment in the 1850s, 60s and 70s appears to have been higher than any
recorded again until after World War II. Family budget evidence suggests that around 30-40 per cent of women from working class families contributed significantly to household incomes in the mid-Victorian years. This might have been even higher during the industrial revolution decades, before the rise of State and trade union policies regulating female labour and promoting the male breadwinner ideal.35

In Sherlock Holmes, most of the women characters do not work, they are managers of their households and lead respectable lives, spending most of their time at home and hardly ever going out because most of women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* are from middle class family. However, there are also some women characters from working class and their jobs were varieties.

“I have been a governess for five years,” said she, “in the family of Colonel Spence Munro, but two months ago the colonel received an appointment at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and took his children over to America with him, so that I found myself without a situation.” (Doyle 1892, 266)

Being a governess or a teacher is an option for woman at the time. Violet Hunter in *The Adventure of Cooper Beeches* worked as a governess.

Since education for women at that time was limited, usually women who work as teachers only teach certain subjects like some kind of art, music, sewing, and etc.

“You will excuse me, I am sure. It is my business,” said he, as he dropped it. “I nearly fell into the error of supposing that you were typewriting. Of course, it is obvious that it is music. You observe the

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35 Pat Hudson, “Women’s Work” article accessed in May 2013 from www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/womens_work_01.shtml
spatulate finger-end, Watson, which is common to both professions? There is a spirituality about the face, however”—he gently turned it towards the light—“which the typewriter does not generate. This lady is a musician.” “Yes, Mr. Holmes, I teach music.” (Doyle 1903, 459)

Violet Smith who had ability in playing music became music teacher. She worked in accordance with her talents.

Not only as a governess or teacher, but also some women at that time choose to work in some industries outside their house.

“I could do with much less than that, Mr. Holmes, but you understand that as long as I live at home I don’t wish to be a burden to them, and so they have the use of the money just while I am staying with them. Of course, that is only just for the time. Mr. Windibank draws my interest every quarter and pays it over to mother, and I find that I can do pretty well with what I earn at typewriting. It brings me two pence a sheet and I can often do from fifteen to twenty sheets in a day.” (Doyle 1891, 152)

Mary Sutherland worked as a typist. Typewriters were something novelty at that time. With the industrial revolution in the era of Victoria, it was allow greater job opportunities for woman.

Based on the thing that has been discovered earlier, majority of single Victorian women or widows worked in industrial and educational scope. For married women, they usually worked in other people’s homes as domestic servants.

“Their governess is a Miss Burnet, an Englishwoman of forty or thereabouts. There is also one confidential manservant. This little group forms the real family, for their travel about together, and Henderson is a great traveller, always on the move. It is only within the last weeks that he has returned, after a year’s absence, to High Gable. I may add that he is enormously rich, and whatever his whims maybe he can very easily satisfy them. For the rest, his house is full of butlers, footmen, maidservants, and the usual overfed, underworked staff of a large English country house.” (Doyle 1908, 756)
Married woman in that era, prefer worked in the house than outside the house like industrial place. It caused by at that time, women were required to do all various household things at home. For women who had limited education, worked as maidservant or governess is the best profession for them, because the work did not need any special skills.

“He said, ‘I’ll pay you five pounds a week if I can have it on my own terms.’ I’m a poor woman, sir, and Mr. Warren earns little, and the money meant much to me. He took out a ten-pound note, and he held it out to me then and there. (Doyle 1911, 777)

The reason women worked in that era, they want help their family’s economical situation, especially for them who came from lower-middle class family.

“Yet, with all this, you made me reveal what you wanted to know. Even after I became suspicious, I found it hard to think evil of such a dear, kind old clergyman. But, you know, I have been trained as an actress myself. Male costume is nothing new to me. I often take advantage of the freedom which it gives. I sent John, the coachman, to watch you, ran up stairs, got into my walking-clothes, as I call them, and came down just as you departed.” (Doyle 1891, 133)

Irene Adler in Scandal in Bohemia is the only woman character who worked as an artist, which again makes her different among other characters. As compared to others characters, Irene Adler is an American woman. In Britain, became artist or performer was illegal.

In Sherlock Holmes stories, most of women’s works were same with the social condition in Victorian era. Women’s work in 19th century: mending of apparel, washing, cooking, cleansing, nursing, teaching, and other offices.  

6. The Representation of Victorian Women as Upper and Middle Class Women

There were three social classes in Victorian era such as working class, middle class, and upper class. Working class is for men and women who performed physical labour, paid daily or weekly wages. Middle class is for men performed mental and paid monthly or annually. Upper class is for men or women who did not work and their income came from inherited land and investments.\(^\text{37}\)

In Sherlock Holmes stories, most of women characters came from upper and middle class.

“A moment later our modest apartment, already so distinguished that morning, was further honoured by the entrance of the most lovely woman in London. I had often heard of the beauty of the youngest daughter of the Duke of Belminster, but no description of it, and no contemplation of colourless photographs, had prepared me for the subtle, delicate charm and the beautiful colouring of that exquisite head. And yet as we saw it that autumn morning, it was not its beauty which would be the first thing to impress the observer. The cheek was lovely, but it was paled with emotion; the eyes were bright, but it was the brightness of fever; the sensitive mouth was tight and drawn in an effort after self-command. Terror—not beauty—was what sprang first to the eye as our fair visitor stood framed for an instant in the open door”. (Doyle 1904, 575)

One of upper class woman in Sherlock Holmes stories is Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope in *The Adventure of the Second Stain*. She is the wife of Trelawney Hope, Secretary for European Affairs and a daughter of the Duke of Belminster. Arthur Conan Doyle described Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope as beautiful and queenly figure.

“Lady Brackenstall was no ordinary person. Seldom have I seen so graceful a figure, so womanly a presence, and so beautiful a face. She was a blonde, golden-haired, blue-eyed, and would, no doubt, have had the perfect complexion which goes with such colouring had not her recent experience left her drawn and haggard.” (Doyle 1904, 558)

Lady Brackenstall is the woman character in The Adventure of the Abbey Grange. She is described as graceful, womanly, and beautiful.

“Because an illustrious client has placed her piteous case in my hands. It is the Lady Eva Brackwell, the most beautiful debutante of last season. She is to be married in a fortnight to the Earl of Dovercourt.” (Doyle 1904, 499)

Lady Eva Brackwell is the woman character in The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton. She is to be married to the Earl of Dovercourt. Because of her beautiful face, she was became the most beautiful debutante of the last season.

“Mrs. Barclay was, it appears, a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and had interested herself very much in the establishment of the Guild of St. George, which was formed in connection with the Watt Street Chapel for the purpose of supplying the poor with cast-off clothing. A meeting of the Guild had been held that evening at eight, and Mrs. Barclay had hurried over her dinner in order to be present at it. When leaving the house she was heard by the coachman to make some commonplace remark to her husband, and to assure him that she would be back before very long. She then called for Miss Morrison, a young lady who lives in the next villa, and the two went off together to their meeting. It lasted forty minutes, and at a quarter-past nine Mrs. Barclay returned home, having left Miss Morrison at her door as she passed. (Doyle 1893, 354)

In another Sherlock Holmes stories, the woman from middle class were described as pure-hearted women. It can be seen from the character of Mrs. Barclay on the story The Adventure of the Crooked Man. Mrs. Barclay described as a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and her activities was helping the poor people. Mrs. Barclay and Miss Morrison as middle class
women of the Victorian era were leave their homes - and not just to socialise but to visit the homes of the poor. These women used their position of privilege to export expertise in domestic affairs to those regarded as in need of advice, so they might attain the same high standards of household management. The power that middle-class women had achieved in the home was now used by them in order to gain access to another world characterised by, as they saw it, poverty, drink, vice and ignorance.³⁸

“Of Mrs. Hilton Cubitt I only know that I have heard she recovered entirely, and that she still remains a widow, devoting her whole life to the care of the poor and to the administration of her husband’s estate.” (Doyle 1903, 456)

In the story The Adventure of the Dancing Men, Mrs. Hilton Cubitt, the wife of Mr. Hilton Cubitt whom a nobleman, spent her life to help poor people by using her deceased husband’s inherited.

“Well, you know father didn’t like anything of the sort. He wouldn’t have any visitors if he could help it, and he used to say that a woman should be happy in her own family circle. But then, as I used to say to mother, a woman wants her own circle to begin with, and I had not got mine yet.” (Doyle 1891, 153)

In Victorian era, there was a stereotype of the middle-class woman as the angel of the house. For the middle class, the woman as the centre of home was an important concept. As stated in previous part that the women’s place was in the home, as domesticity and motherhood were considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfilment for females.

“That also I have been able to discover. Miss Marie Devine was the maid of Lady Frances Carfax. Why she should have paid her this

check we have not yet determined. I have no doubt, however, that your researches will soon clear the matter up.”. (Doyle 1911, 816)

Lady Frances Carfax who was the heiress of noble family or upper class has a maid. The women who came from upper family usually have one maid to help her.

“Who keeps Lady Beatrice Falder company?” he asked at last. “There is her maid, Carrie Evans. She has been with her this five years.” (Doyle 1927, 969)

In *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place*, Lady Beatrice also has a maid even she was a widowed because she was from upper class. Having maids was a characteristic of middle and upper class in Victorian era. The women who came from middle and upper class have maids to assist them take care of their selves and manage the household.

Arthur Conan Doyle as the author of *Sherlock Holmes* very clear about gave the descriptions and the exact pictures of their client’s social status. Arthur Conan Doyle always detail in described the appearance, conduct, and in most cases also housing of various classes of English society.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, women from upper and middle class described as pure-hearted woman, queenly figure, beautiful, educated, and usually have maids to assist their activities. In these stories also most of women characters came from middle and upper class. The writer analyzed that because only middle and upper class who can afford Sherlock Holmes to solved their case. The other reason is in Victorian era, many people live in better classes like middle class or upper class because Victorians created
astonishing innovation and change: democracy, feminism, unionization of workers, socialism, Marxism, and other modern movements took form.  

7. The Representation of Victorian Women as Criminal Women

In the *Sherlock Holmes* stories, not all women characters portrayed as a good woman who came to Sherlock Holmes and asked for help. However, there were also some women characters that actually became a criminal figure in several *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

“Let me see!” said Holmes. “*Hum!* Born in New Jersey in the year 1858. *Contralto*—*hum!* *La Scala, hum!* *Prima donna Imperial Opera of Warsaw*—*yes!* Retired from operatic stage—*ha!* Living in London—*quite so!* Your Majesty, as I understand, became entangled with this young person, wrote her some compromising letters, and is now desirous of getting those letters back.” (Doyle 1891, 126)

Irene Adler was the villain in the story *Scandal in Bohemia*, she was a mistress of King of Bohemia. At the time of King Bohemia wants to get married, she threatened to spread her intimate photos with King Bohemia. Irene Adler who threatened King Bohemia is an American woman. She was not a Victorian Englishwomen.

“Exactly! But does the name Isadora Klein convey nothing to you? She was, of course, the celebrated beauty. There was never a woman to touch her. She is pure Spanish, the real blood of the masterful Conquistadors, and her people have been leaders in Pernambuco for generations. She married the aged German sugar king, Klein, and presently found herself the richest as well as the most lovely widow upon earth. Then there was an interval of adventure when she pleased her own tastes. She had several lovers, and Douglas Maberley, one of the most striking men in London, was one of them. It was by all accounts more than an adventure with him. He was not a society butterfly but a strong, proud man who gave and expected all. But she is the ‘belle dame sans merci’ of fiction. When her caprice is satisfied

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the matter is ended, and if the other party in the matter can’t take her word for it she knows how to bring it home to him.” (Doyle 1926, 896)

In the story *The Adventure of the Three Gables*, the villain of this story is Isadora Klein. She is a beautiful woman from Spain and became the mastermind of robbery. She wanted to get rid of a novel which told about her scandal with an Englishman because she will be married to a Duke who was younger than her.

“But how come you into this matter, Miss Burnet?” asked Holmes. “How can an English lady join in such a murderous affair?”

“I join in it because there is no other way in the world by which justice can be gained. What does the law of England care for the rivers of bloodshed years ago in San Pedro, or for the shipload of treasure which this man has stolen? To you they are like crimes committed in some other planet. But we know. We have learned the truth in sorrow and in suffering. To us there is no fiend in hell like Juan Murillo, and no peace in life while his victims still cry for vengeance.” (Doyle 1908, 758)

Women’s villains in *Sherlock Holmes* stories were not an Englishwomen. However, the murder in *The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge* is Miss Burnet, a Victorian Englishwoman. Even though Miss Burnet is a murder, she did criminality because she wanted revenge for the death of her husband.

The writer analyzed that Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of *Sherlock Holmes* represented Victorian Englishwomen as a good and gracious women in his stories, so he made women characters who did criminal were not Victorian Englishwomen.
B. The Position of Women Characters on Sherlock Holmes Stories

1. Women as Second-Class Citizen

After analyzing the representation of Victorian Women in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the writer found that the women characters in this novel were represented negatively. Men in these stories, which portrayed in Sherlock Holmes and James Watson characters represented as strong, smart, logical, independent, contrary with women characters who represented as weak, dependent, limited education, and soft-hearted. It can be seen from this following evidence.

“*She is the most harmless and often the most useful of mortals, but she is the inevitable inciter of crime in others. She is helpless...She is lost, as often as not, in a maze of obscure pensions and boarding houses. She is a stray chicken in a world of foxes. When she is gobbled up she is hardly missed. I much fear that some evil has come to the Lady Frances Carfax*”. (Doyle 1911, 815)

In the story above, woman character described as a stray chicken in a world of foxes. Chicken is means for the woman, and foxes are means for men in that era. Therefore, from the story above the writer can see the comparison between woman and men in that era.

Then, the writer analyzed Arthur Conan Doyle intentionally uses the women in his stories to further the impression that Sherlock Holmes is a man of unmatchable deductive skills. Doyle contrasts the wit and knowledge that Sherlock Holmes possesses with women characters who are typically silent and reserved.
Women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories came to Holmes and need his help, make it clear that they are subservient to Holmes both for his talent and for his protection. The women are incapable of assisting in their cases before Holmes, as though they are incapable of dealing with their personal affairs without the assistance of a man.

Men in *Sherlock Holmes* stories also dominated all activities and would not allow for equality with the women so that women could be known and heard at the same time with men. In most *Sherlock Holmes* stories women are regarded as second class to men, most of them are the victims of criminality. They came to Holmes to need his assistant. Therefore, from *Sherlock Holmes* stories we can see that in Victorian era, women regarded as second class citizen.

Second class citizen means a person whose rights and opportunities are treated as less important than those of other people in the same society. In Victorian era, women became second class citizen because their right was restricted.

The restrictiveness of their rights can be seen from some of the stories. Women in Victorian era got limited education, limited workspace, and limited in earn the legal protection from the country.

> My accomplishments, sir, may be less than you imagine,’ said I. ‘A little French, a little German, music, and drawing—’ (Doyle 1892, 266)

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In education, education for Victorian women was not equal with the man. In Victorian era, women only get the opportunities to study refined subjects such as history, geography, music, drawing, and literature. Because of the limitation of their studies, Victorian women did not get a chance to get a higher education. Victorian women were rarely given the opportunity to attend university. In a contrast, men in this era studied various subject such as law, mathematics, physics, engineering, science and art and they got higher education by attending university.

“I could do with much less than that, Mr. Holmes, but you understand that as long as I live at home I don’t wish to be a burden to them, and so they have the use of the money just while I am staying with them. Of course, that is only just for the time. Mr. Windibank draws my interest every quarter and pays it over to mother, and I find that I can do pretty well with what I earn at typewriting. It brings me two pence a sheet and I can often do from fifteen to twenty sheets in a day.” (Doyle 1891, 152)

Solely because of they were second-class to men, during the Victorian era women did not have a lot of freedom and when it came to their job choices. Women workers during this time were unable to advance their positions and were given no opportunity within society to even be accepted.

In conclusion, from Sherlock Holmes stories the writer could find that women in Victorian era were in a stagnant position and were unable to really find any hope or success when they were forced into these life- long roles and independent because they were second class to men.
2. The Status of Englishwomen in Sherlock Holmes Stories

After analyzing the representation of Victorian women in *Sherlock Holmes* stories the writer also found that women from upper class and middle class are in focus of *Sherlock Holmes* stories. Arthur Conan Doyle use them in *Sherlock Holmes* stories to advance the perception of the English as the elite, and all other cultures as lesser.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories women whom showed stealing, blackmailing, bullying and killing such as Irene Adler and Isadora Klein are not Englishwomen. Irene Adler is from America and Isadora Klein is from Spain. It makes the reader think that English have the better culture and moral than the other countries.

The other comparison between Englishwoman and other country woman can be seen from Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope character and Miss Hatty Doran Character. Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope is presented as perfectly level headed. The direct contrast between these women of different and conflicting nationalities intentionally serves to portray the Englishwoman, and the English as a whole, as the elite. Contrary with Miss Hatty Doran, a woman from California, America, the characterization of Miss Hatty Doran is that of a seemingly vanished bride and is a portrayal of a woman who is: new age, has a mind of her own, manipulative, tomboyish, and self-sufficient. This type of woman is not one who is likely to be accepted among the Victorian English society, and in fact it is probable that had Miss Hatty Doran not been engaged to a noblemen her world-view would have resulted in her being ostracized.
It is no coincidence that Arthur Conan Doyle attributes the above characteristics to an American woman in his stories. Miss Hatty Doran is then contrasted with her English maid, Flora Millar, who despite aiding and abetting the disappearance of Miss Hatty Doran, is presented as loyal and sympathetic while also virtuous.

In the other story, even though Miss Burnet is an Englishwoman who did criminality. She did it to revenge and protects herself. Conan Doyle gave exception to Englishwomen who did criminality. While both women committed acts unbecoming of women, and certainly less that truthful form the onset, the Englishwoman is written by Arthur Conan Doyle to gain the audience’s sympathy and forgiveness. Therefore, in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, Conan Doyle wants represented Victorian women are better than others.

C. Data Analysis Table

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<td>Victim &amp; Accomplice</td>
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CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the writer concludes that *Sherlock Holmes* stories shows about marriage, domesticity, education, employment, social class were important concepts for the Victorians.

For Victorian women, marriage is very important for the life of women in those days. Social status and wealth of partners was still very important. At the same time in this stories also proves that it was possible for young people to disregard their parents’ opinion concerning future spouses and that marriages negotiated by parents only were not found in the second half of the nineteenth century. Marriage also signified a woman’s maturity and respectability, but motherhood was confirmation that she had entered the world of womanly virtue and female fulfilment. The ideal married women in Victorian era were the women who became a good wife, mother, and only take care of the household like the icon of that era, Queen Victoria.

With limited education that most Victorian women received, it was difficult to find any other employment. They only learned French, drawing, dancing, music, and the use of globes. Further educated women are rare in the stories which only confirm the reality of the end of the nineteenth century.

For working women, in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, most of women’s works were same with the social condition in Victorian era. Women’s work in
19th century: mending of apparel, washing, cooking, cleansing, nursing, teaching, and other offices.

Women from upper class and middle class are in focus of *Sherlock Holmes* stories. Many women from upper class and middle class appeared in *Sherlock Holmes* stories. Women from upper and middle class described as pure-hearted woman, queenly figure, educated, and usually have maids to assist their activities.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, Doyle shows women stealing, blackmailing, bullying and killing such as Irene Adler, Isadora Klein are not Englishwomen. Irene Adler is from America and Isadora Klein is from Spain. It makes the reader think that English have the better culture and moral than the other countries.

The life of women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories is same with the real condition of Victorian era. Arthur Conan Doyle describes women at home, at work, single and married. Wherever in the stories female characters appear and whatever their actions are, they are depicted realistically and reflect the social situation. Readers can learn about the era and its women and, as a result, Holmes stories might be considered not only as texts for men and about men, but also for women and about women. This gives the stories a new dimension.

**B. Suggestion**

The writer suggests for other researchers who want to analyze short stories collection, they have to read carefully, repeatedly, and clearly. After
they read and find the issue to analyze, they observe for many sources that connect with their research. They should relate the right theory or approach in order to have the right understanding of the novel and the role of theory or approach should be matched with our analysis.

The writer also suggests that the researchers, who are interested in the cultural studies, can use the representation theory by Stuart Hall and study about culture from history books.
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SUMMARY OF THE REPRESENTATION OF VICTORIAN WOMEN IN SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

The literature of the long reign of Victoria (1837-1901) presented the features natural in an era of great social change and intellectual advancement. With the growth of democracy, elementary education became generally accessible, and the number of readers increased rapidly. A vast body of people who heretofore had little or no access to literature were now reached by it, and in turn influenced its character.

Almost all the great Victorian writers attempted to move, instruct, or inspire the huge unleavened mass of society. The astonishing development of the practical arts, applied science, and machine-production, while it increased the comforts of living, led to deep-seated materialism against which nearly every great writer lifted his voice in protest and warning. The discoveries of science gave rise to a multitude of conceptions of the most revolutionary kind, unsettling many of the old bases of religious belief, and affecting literature in numberless ways.

The humanitarian spirit that was an integral element in the Romantic Movement was stirred by the hideous social and economic consequences of the Industrial Revolution, and reformers felt it their duty to publicize these horrors and to attempt to alleviate them by legislation. They set their faces sternly against the conservative believers in the doctrine of laissez-faire, with its assumption that if the economic instinct were given free play, the result would be, not the good of a single social class but the good of the whole social order. They also opened the early Utilitarian who proposed as the goal of morality the greatest good of the greatest number but who also believed that this goal would be attained through the operation of the policy of laissez-faire. Social unrest was the great distinguishing feature of the
Victorian era and the demand for social justice coloured, in one way or another, the whole thought of the time.

It follows from all this that the most striking characteristic of Victorian literature was its strenuousness, its conscious purpose. Both poets and prose-writers worked under the shadow and burden of a conscious social responsibility.¹

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a writer in Victorian era literature. He was a Scottish physician and writer who is most noted for his fictional detective stories, *Sherlock Holmes*. Conan Doyle capitalized on the taste for mystery and problem-solving in the sphere of criminal investigation. Conan Doyle’s achievement was to hit upon a formula that allowed him to exercise the intellect without too much strain, to locate the deductive procedures in the mind of a fascinating personality, and then to reproduce the atmosphere of a Victorian environment that is somehow more nineteenth-century than nineteenth century could possibly have been.

*Sherlock Holmes* has a nice blend of acuteness over what matters with donnish withdrawal from what does not, a super-professionalism that denotes the super-amateur reticence and an unerring capacity to sort the world out after the fashion of the reader’s dreams; and the reader just sufficiently distanced by reverence to feel privileged when, in company of Dr. Watson, the reader admitted in to the great man’s confidence. It is, after all, a dream world in which all resources of metropolis and provinces, railways, post office, cabs, and the specialized knowhow of every department of officialdom at the reader’s immediate disposal for getting in with the job. This sort of thing answers a lot of frustrations. Holmes’s adventures began with *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) and from 1981 he made regular appearances in the Strand Magazine. Collected stories were published as *The Adventures of Sherlock*

Holmes (1982), Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (1894), and The Return of Sherlock Holmes (1905).²

Sherlock Holmes is generally considered to have been written by men, for men and about men. However in Sherlock Holmes stories the reader found that Sherlock Holmes stories also for women and tells about women. Many things happened to the female characters in Sherlock Holmes stories. From the women characters in Sherlock Holmes stories, the reader can find many pieces of information on Victorian women and their lives at the end of the nineteenth century, so the writer will find out the representation of Victorian women and their position in selected Sherlock Holmes stories.

**Representation Theory**

Representation is the production of meaning through language. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary suggests two relevant meanings for the word:

1. To represent something is to describe or depict it, to call it up in the mind by description or portrayal or imagination; to place a likeness of it before us in our mind or in the senses.

2. To represent also means to symbolize, stand for, to be specimen of, or to substitute for.³

Representation is one of important practice producing culture. Culture represent very wide concept, representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between numbers of culture. Representation is the production of the meaning from a concept in our mind through language. To explain how representation of the meaning through language works the writer can use three theories of representation:

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First, the reflective approach, it means thought to lie in the object, person, idea, or event in the world, and language functions like mirror, to reflect the true meaning as it already exist in the world.

Second, the intentional approach, it means that it is the speaker, the author who imposes his or her unique meaning on the world through language. Words mean what the author intends they should mean.

Third, the constructive approach, acknowledges that neither things in themselves nor the individual users of language can fix meaning in language. Things do means: construct meaning, using representational systems-concepts and signs. According to this approach, the writer must not confuse the material world, where things and people exist, and the symbolic practices and processes through which representation, meaning, and language operate.4

The concept of representation has come to occupy a new and important place in the study of culture. Representation connects meaning and language to culture. Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent the world meaningfully, to other people. Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between members of a culture. It does involve the use of language, of signs and images which stand for or represent things. Three different accounts or theories of representation are: the reflective, the intentional, and the constructionist that the writer had explained above.

*Sherlock Holmes* is generally considered to have been written by men, for men and about men. Most of stories in *Sherlock Holmes* told about greatness and masculinity of Sherlock Holmes and James Watson in solving criminal cases. *Sherlock Holmes* stories were written in Victorian era. In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the reader can see the social and political

\[4\text{Ibid.}, \text{p. 25.}\]
changes of Victorian England as a background of the plot and character development in the instalments of *Sherlock Holmes*'s adventures.

In *Sherlock Holmes* adventures, the reader also can found many female characters. Many things happened to the female characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories as Victorian England society. From the women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the reader can find many pieces of information on Victorian women and their lives at the end of the nineteenth century.

In this chapter, the writer would like to analyze the representation of Victorian women and their position in selected *Sherlock Holmes* stories. In analyzing the representation of Victorian women, the writer will present the discussion into several topics; the representation of Victorian women as single women, the representation of Victorian women’s marriage, the representation of Victorian women as married women, educated women, working women, upper and middle class women, and criminal women.

The representation will be discussed by using the data from the narrative, the character’s appearance, behaviours, and their interaction with the other characters.

A. The Representation of Victorian Women

1. The Representation of Victorian Women as Single Women

The central event in any woman’s life in Victorian era was marriage. People in this era considered single woman was the person who had failed to fulfil their destiny, both biological and psychologically. In that era, marriage was a necessity for woman. Marriage was success, spinsterhood was failure: it was that stark.⁵

One of the single women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories was Lady Frances Carfax whom appeared on *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax*. In this story, Lady Frances Carfax described as a beautiful woman even in her middle

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age. She was the heiress of noble family. She didn’t have estates inheritance, but she got very remarkable old Spanish jewellery and diamonds. Lady Frances Carfax lived shift about from country to country and hotel to hotel and she always brings her jewellery wherever she goes. Lady Frances Carfax has no family left. It makes her live alone without protection from her family, especially from men.

Woman in Victorian era that lived alone with no family, especially male figure, has a risky position while the male in that era was a powerful figure or superior.

In other hand, the other woman character in *The Adventure of Beryl Coronet* story is Mary Holder. She is 24 years old. She is the daughter of Alexander Holder whom a banking of firm of Holder & Stevenson.

“She is a sunbeam in my house—sweet, loving, beautiful, a wonderful manager and housekeeper, yet as tender and quiet and gentle as a woman could be. She is my right hand. I do not know what I could do without her.” (Doyle 1892, 253)

In this story, Mary Holder described as sweet, loving, beautiful, and a wonderful manager and housekeeper. She is tender, quiet, and gentle as a woman could be in that era. Mary Holder lived with her uncle and cousin. She is never leave her house and usually stayed alone at her house.

From these two stories *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* and *The Adventure of Beryl Coronet*, the writer analyzed those Victorian single women especially who lived alone very dangerous from criminality. Their single status makes them very impressionable.

2. The Representation of Victorian Women’s Marriage

As it was explained previously that marriage was the culmination of a woman's life. In that era, women get married not only because of love. Many girls in this era came
to their marriage with a lack of information not merely about married life itself but even about how a household functioned\(^6\).

Less of women in that era didn’t find their husband by herself. They never attracted men to make them in love with her because in that era, women who flirted with men were to some no better than prostitutes. In cast about their husband, the parents usually arrange their marriage. A suitable man was brought into the social circle for the girls to see if she likes him enough to marry. Or she did not even have to like him.

Arranged marriage also happened to some women characters in \textit{Sherlock Holmes} stories. The children must be accepted their parents choice. In In \textit{The Adventure of Crooked Man}, Even though Nancy Devoy or Mrs. Barclay didn’t love her husband; the wife should devote her life to her husband. She should be ruled the household as it functioned, because whatever happened to their marriage life women cannot get divorced from her husband. For Victorians, divorce was not only extremely expensive; it was very hard to do. Women and men stayed in unhappy marriages for numerous reasons. Many stayed away from divorce because of the stigma attached to divorced women. It was also considered a societal taboo.\(^7\)

Equality of social level as well as income was essential, but the hierarchical structure devolving authority from the man remained. In \textit{Sherlock Holmes} stories, it stated in \textit{The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor}.

\begin{quote}
“We were engaged to each other, Frank and I; but then one day father struck a rich pocket and made a pile, while poor Frank here had a claim that petered out and came to nothing. The richer pa grew the poorer was Frank; so at last pa wouldn’t hear of our engagement lasting any longer, and he took me away to ‘Frisco. Frank wouldn’t throw up his hand, though; so he followed me there, and he saw me without pa knowing anything about it. It would only have made him mad to know, so we just fixed it all up for ourselves. Frank said that he would go and make his pile, too, and never come back to claim me until he had as much as pa. So then I promised to wait for him to the end of time and pledged myself not to
\end{quote}

\(^6\) \textit{Ibid}, p.242
\(^7\) Rachael Hurvitz, \textit{Women and Divorce in the Victorian Era}, article accessed in May 2013 from \texttt{www.clas.ufl.edu/users/agunn/teaching/enl3251/vf/pres/hurvitz.htm}
marry anyone else while he lived. ‘Why shouldn’t we be married right away, then,’ said he, ‘and then I will feel sure of you; and I won’t claim to be your husband until I come back?’ Well, we talked it over, and he had fixed it all up so nicely, with a clergyman all ready in waiting, that we just did it right there; and then Frank went off to seek his fortune, and I went back to pa’. (Doyle 1892, 246)

Hatty Doran married secretly with Frank who was a poor man without anyone knew about it especially her father; because her father wanted her married to a rich guy whom as rich as their family. From the text above, the writer get pictured that in that era, marrying man was not only for love but also for a social status. Women who married with the lower social status will be the object of scorn.

In Sherlock Holmes stories, some of women’s family did not let their daughter’s married because they afraid the daughter’s properties will be owned by her husband.

“He takes the obvious course of keeping her at home and forbidding her to seek the company of people of her own age. But soon he found that that would not answer forever. She became restive, insisted upon her rights, and finally announced her positive intention of going to a certain ball. What does her clever stepfather do then? He conceives an idea more creditable to his head than to his heart. With the connivance and assistance of his wife he disguised himself, covered those keen eyes with tinted glasses, masked the face with a moustache and a pair of bushy whiskers, sunk that clear voice into an insinuating whisper, and doubly secure on account of the girl’s short sight, he appears as Mr. Hosmer Angel, and keeps off other lovers by making love himself.” (Doyle 1891, 157)

The text above is an explanation from the story A Case of Identity. Mr. Windibank, a step father of Mary Sutherland and his wife, Mary’s mother, didn’t want Mary married to a man because they want use their daughter’s money as long as she lived with them.

The similar story also happened in The Adventure of the Speckled Band. Helen Stoner was a spinster, her father didn’t allow her married because he want take-over his daughter’s properties. In The Adventure of the Copper Beeches, Mr. Rucastle made an agreement with his daughter, Alice. He wanted her to sign a paper, so that whether she married or not he could use her money.
In Victorian era, when a man and woman married, the rights of the woman were legally given over to her spouse. Under the law the married couple became one entity where the husband would represent this entity, placing him in control of all property, earnings and money. That policy probably utilized by men to did a criminal thing. It proved in The Adventure of Solitary Cyclist.

“So you came over, the two of you, and hunted up the girl. The idea was that one of you was to marry her and the other has a share of the plunder. For some reason Woodley was chosen as the husband. Why was that?” (Doyle 1903, 467)

The explanation above proved that some men in Victorian era utilized a marriage for seize his wives properties. As the situation goes by, in 1870 women got law protection from the government with Married Women’s Property Act which allowed for women to keep their earnings and even inherit personal property and money. Everything else still belonged to her husband if she had acquired it before or after marriage.

The other problem of marriage life in Victorian era was domestic violence. Domestic violence towards wives was given increasing attention by social and legal reformers as the 19th century continued. The first animal-cruelty legislation in Britain was passed in 1824, however, legal protection from domestic violence was not granted to women until 1853 with the Act for the Better Prevention and Punishment of Aggravated Assaults upon Women and Children.

After reviewing some stories of Sherlock Holmes, the writer analyzed that marriage is very important for the life of women in those days but because of restrictiveness women's rights in those days make men take advantage of marriage to do something crimes against women. However as a function of time on reign of Victoria, the women who get domestic violence get the protection of law in the year 1853.

3. The Representation of Victorian Women as Married Women
The Victorian era was characterized as the domestic age *par excellence*\(^8\), epitomized by Queen Victoria, who came to represent a kind of femininity which was centred on the family, motherhood and respectability. Accompanied by her beloved husband Albert, and surrounded by her many children in the sumptuous but homely surroundings of Balmoral Castle, Victoria became an icon of late-19th-century middleclass femininity and domesticity.\(^9\)

The Victorian married women could be the best in servicing their husband and families. The women’s place was in the home, as domesticity and motherhood were considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfilment for females. These constructs kept women far away from the public sphere in most ways.

In *A Case of Identity*, Mr. Windibank didn’t want his wife and stepdaughter to go anywhere and his ideas correspond with the ideal of home as a place closed against dangerous outside effects. Woman should be happy in her family circle.

In that era, married women were expected to wear dressier outfits than single women. Women who did not take care of her appearance were as disgraceful as one who cared openly about it.

“*She was a well-grown young woman. I suppose you might say she was handsome. Perhaps some would say she was very handsome. Oh, officer, do let me have a peep!’ says she. She had pretty, coaxing ways, as you might say, and I thought there was no harm in letting her just put her head through the door.*”

“How was she dressed?”

“Quiet, sir—a long mantle down to her feet.” (Doyle 1904, 579)

The text above is the characterization of Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope. She is the youngest daughter of the Duke of Belminster. She is married to Trelawney Hope, Secretary for European Affairs, and the most rising statesman in the country. Lady Hilda

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\(^{8}\) *par excellence* means better than all others, [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/par+excellence](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/par+excellence)

\(^{9}\) Lynn Abrams, “Ideals of Womanhood in Victorian Britain”, article accessed in June 2013 from [www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/victorian_britain/women_home/ideals_womanhood_print.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/victorian_britain/women_home/ideals_womanhood_print.html)
dressed very well because women's clothes represent women's function. In the 19th century women's fashions became more sexual - the hips, buttocks and breasts were exaggerated with crinolines, hoop skirts and corsets which nipped in the waist and thrust out the breasts. The female body was dressed to emphasize a woman's separation from the world of work. By wearing dresses that resembled their interior furnishings, women became walking symbols of their social function - wife, mother, domestic manager.10

As the domestic manager, Victorian married women only manage their household; they never get involved in other problems of their household.

Marriage signified a woman's maturity and respectability, but motherhood was confirmation that she had entered the world of womanly virtue and female fulfilment. The ideal married women in Victorian era were the women who became a good wife, mother, and only take care of the household like the icon of that era, Queen Victoria.

4. The Representation of Victorian Women as Educated Women

Women’s education was almost taken entirely at home or in the boarding school. She didn’t attend University. She learned French, drawing, dancing, music, and the use of globes. If the school, or the governess, was interested in teaching any practical skills, she learned plain sewing as well as embroidery, and accounts.11 It proved by explanation below:

‘My accomplishments, sir, may be less than you imagine,’ said I. ‘A little French, a little German, music, and drawing—’ (Doyle 1892, 266)

In The Adventure of Cooper Beeches, Violet Hunter who works as a governess only leaned French, German, music, and drawing when she was in school, so she only taught that subjects to her students because her education was limited.

10 Ibid
As a man, Sherlock Holmes very appreciated with woman who has a good education background. It could be seen from his manner to Violet Hunter. Sherlock Holmes who rarely had special feeling to a woman, he got impressed by a smart and educated woman, Violet Hunter.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, an educated woman represented as a smart and has opportunity became a success person.

Violet Hunter who worked as governess before, she successfully became a head of private school. She can get the better career because she had good education.

After reading some Sherlock Holmes stories, the writer analyzed that the education for women in that era was limited. Women who got education, they would get better social status. In the later part of the century, a proper education became more important for Victorian women and girls. Education between girls and boys must be equal. The expansion of the educational system for poor children meant that both boys and girls of the working class were guaranteed a basic education. By the proper education, women in Victorian era can improved their fate.

5. The Representation of Victorian Women as Working Women

Victorian woman supported their family with high-paid job. Female employment in the 1850s, 60s and 70s appears to have been higher than any recorded again until after World War II. Family budget evidence suggests that around 30-40 per cent of women from working class families contributed significantly to household incomes in the mid-Victorian years. This might have been even higher during the industrial revolution decades, before the rise of State and trade union policies regulating female labour and promoting the male breadwinner ideal.\(^\text{12}\)

\(^{12}\) Pat Hudson, “*Women’s Work*” article accessed in May 2013 from www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/womens_work_01.shtml
In Sherlock Holmes, most of the women characters do not work, they are managers of their households and lead respectable lives, spending most of their time at home and hardly ever going out because most of women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* are from middle class family. However, there are also some women characters from working class and their jobs were varieties.

Being a governess or a teacher is an option for woman at the time. Violet Hunter in *The Adventure of Cooper Beeches* worked as a governess. Since education for women at that time was limited, usually women who work as teachers only teach certain subjects like some kind of art, music, sewing, and etc.

Violet Smith who had ability in playing music became music teacher. She worked in accordance with her talents. Not only as a governess or teacher, but also some women at that time choose to work in some industries outside their house. Mary Sutherland worked as a typist. Typewriters were something novelty at that time. With the industrial revolution in the era of Victoria, it was allow greater job opportunities for woman.

Based on the thing that has been discovered earlier, majority of single Victorian women or widows worked in industrial and educational scope. For married women, they usually worked in other people’s homes as domestic servants.

Married woman in that era, prefer worked in the house than outside the house like industrial place. It caused by at that time, women were required to do all various household things at home. For women who had limited education, worked as maidservant or governess is the best profession for them, because the work did not need any special skills.

The reason women worked in that era, they want help their family’s economical situation, especially for them who came from lower-middle class family.
Irene Adler in *Scandal in Bohemia* is the only woman character who worked as an artist, which again makes her different among other characters. As compared to others characters, Irene Adler is an American woman. In Britain, became artist or performer was illegal.

In Sherlock Holmes stories, most of women’s works were same with the social condition in Victorian era. Women’s work in 19th century: mending of apparel, washing, cooking, cleansing, nursing, teaching, and other offices.¹³

6. The Representation of Victorian Women as Upper and Middle Class Women

There were three social classes in Victorian era such as working class, middle class, and upper class. Working class is for men and women who performed physical labour, paid daily or weekly wages. Middle class is for men performed mental and paid monthly or annually. Upper class is for men or women who did not work and their income came from inherited land and investments.¹⁴

In Sherlock Holmes stories, most of women characters came from upper and middle class.

One of upper class woman in Sherlock Holmes stories is Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope in *The Adventure of the Second Stain*. She is the wife of Trelawney Hope, Secretary for European Affairs and a daughter of the Duke of Belminster. Arthur Conan Doyle described Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope as beautiful and queenly figure.

Lady Branceknstall is the woman character in *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*. She is described as graceful, womanly, and beautiful.

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Lady Eva Brackwell is the woman character in *The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*. She is to be married to the Earl of Dovercourt. Because of her beautiful face, she was became the most beautiful debutante of the last season.

In another Sherlock Holmes stories, the woman from middle class were described as pure-hearted women. It can be seen from the character of Mrs. Barclay on the story *The Adventure of the Crooked Man*. Mrs. Barclay described as a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and her activities was helping the poor people. Mrs. Barclay and Miss Morrison as middle class women of the Victorian era were leave their homes - and not just to socialise but to visit the homes of the poor. These women used their position of privilege to export expertise in domestic affairs to those regarded as in need of advice, so they might attain the same high standards of household management. The power that middle-class women had achieved in the home was now used by them in order to gain access to another world characterised by, as they saw it, poverty, drink, vice and ignorance.  

In the story *The Adventure of the Dancing Men*, Mrs. Hilton Cubitt, the wife of Mr. Hilton Cubitt whom a nobleman, spent her life to help poor people by using her deceased husband’s inherited.

In Victorian era, there was a stereotype of the middle-class woman as the angel of the house. For the middle class, the woman as the centre of home was an important concept. As stated in previous part that the women’s place was in the home, as domesticity and motherhood were considered by society at large to be a sufficient emotional fulfilment for females.

Lady Frances Carfax who was the heiress of noble family or upper class has a maid. The women who came from upper family usually have one maid to help her.

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In *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place*, Lady Beatrice also has a maid even she was a widowed because she was from upper class. Having maids was a characteristic of middle and upper class in Victorian era. The women who came from middle and upper class have maids to assist them take care of their selves and manage the household.

Arthur Conan Doyle as the author of *Sherlock Holmes* very clear about gave the descriptions and the exact pictures of their client’s social status. Arthur Conan Doyle always detail in described the appearance, conduct, and in most cases also housing of various classes of English society.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, women from upper and middle class described as pure-hearted woman, queenly figure, beautiful, educated, and usually have maids to assist their activities. In these stories also most of women characters came from middle and upper class. The writer analyzed that because only middle and upper class who can afford Sherlock Holmes to solved their case. The other reason is in Victorian era, many people live in better classes like middle class or upper class because Victorians created astonishing innovation and change: democracy, feminism, unionization of workers, socialism, Marxism, and other modern movements took form.\(^\text{16}\)

7. **The Representation of Victorian Women as Criminal Women**

In the *Sherlock Holmes* stories, not all women characters portrayed as a good woman who came to Sherlock Holmes and asked for help. However, there were also some women characters that actually became a criminal figure in several *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

Irene Adler was the villain in the story *Scandal in Bohemia*, she was a mistress of King of Bohemia. At the time of King Bohemia wants to get married, she threatened to

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spread her intimate photos with King Bohemia. Irene Adler who threatened King Bohemia is an American woman. She was not a Victorian Englishwoman. 

In the story *The Adventure of the Three Gables*, the villain of this story is Isadora Klein. She is a beautiful woman from Spain and became the mastermind of robbery. She wanted to get rid of a novel which told about her scandal with an Englishman because she will be married to a Duke who was younger than her.

Women’s villains in *Sherlock Holmes* stories were not an Englishwomen. However, the murder in *The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge* is Miss Burnet, a Victorian Englishwoman. Even though Miss Burnet is a murder, she did criminality because she wanted revenge for the death of her husband.

The writer analyzed that Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of *Sherlock Holmes* represented Victorian Englishwomen as a good and gracious women in his stories, so he made women characters who did criminal were not Victorian Englishwomen.

B. The Position of Women Characters on Sherlock Holmes Stories

1. Women as Second-Class Citizen

After analyzed the representation of Victorian Women in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the writer found that the women characters in this novel were represented negatively. Men in these stories, which portrayed in Sherlock Holmes and James Watson characters represented as strong, smart, logic, independent, contrary with women characters who represented as weak, dependent, limited education, and soft-hearted.

In the story above, woman character described as a stray chicken in a world of foxes. Chicken is means for the woman, and foxes are means for men in that era.
Therefore, from the story above the writer can see the comparison between woman and men in that era.

Then, the writer analyzed Arthur Conan Doyle intentionally uses the women in his stories to further the impression that Sherlock Holmes is a man of unmatchable deductive skills. Doyle contrasts the wit and knowledge that Sherlock Holmes possesses with women characters who are typically silent and reserved.

Women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories came to Holmes and need his help, make it clear that they are subservient to Holmes both for his talent and for his protection. The women are incapable of assisting in their cases before Holmes, as though they are incapable of dealing with their personal affairs without the assistance of a man.

Men in *Sherlock Holmes* stories also dominated all activities and would not allow for equality with the women so that women could be known and heard at the same time with men. In most *Sherlock Holmes* stories women are regarded as second class to men, most of them are the victims of criminality. They came to Holmes to need his assistant. Therefore, from *Sherlock Holmes* stories we can see that in Victorian era, women regarded as second class citizen.

Second class citizen means a person whose rights and opportunities are treated as less important than those of other people in the same society. In Victorian era, women became second class citizen because their right was restricted.

The restrictiveness of their rights can be seen from some of the stories. Women in Victorian era got limited education, limited workspace, and limited in earn the legal protection from the country.

In education, education for Victorian women was not equal with the man. In Victorian era, women only get the opportunities to study refined subjects such as history,
geography, music, drawing, and literature. Because of the limitation of their studies, Victorian women did not get a chance to get a higher education. Victorian women were rarely given the opportunity to attend university. In contrast, men in this era studied various subjects such as law, mathematics, physics, engineering, science, and art and they got higher education by attending university.

Solely because they were second-class to men, during the Victorian era women did not have a lot of freedom and when it came to their job choices. Women workers during this time were unable to advance their positions and were given no opportunity within society to even be accepted.

In conclusion, from Sherlock Holmes stories the writer could find that women in Victorian era were in a stagnant position and were unable to really find any hope or success when they were forced into these life-long roles and independent because they were second-class to men.

2. The Status of Englishwomen in Sherlock Holmes Stories

After analyzing the representation of Victorian women in Sherlock Holmes stories the writer also found that women from upper class and middle class are in focus of Sherlock Holmes stories. Arthur Conan Doyle use them in Sherlock Holmes stories to advance the perception of the English as the elite, and all other cultures as lesser.

In Sherlock Holmes stories women whom showed stealing, blackmailling, bullying and killing such as Irene Adler and Isadora Klein are not Englishwomen. Irene Adler is from America and Isadora Klein is from Spain. It makes the reader think that English have the better culture and moral than the other countries.

The other comparison between Englishwoman and other country woman can be seen from Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope character and Miss Hatty Doran Character. Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope is presented as perfectly level headed. The direct contrast between
these women of different and conflicting nationalities intentionally serves to portray the Englishwoman, and the English as a whole, as the elite. Contrary with Miss Hatty Doran, a woman from California, America, the characterization of Miss Hatty Doran is that of a seemingly vanished bride and is a portrayal of a woman who is: new age, has a mind of her own, manipulative, tomboyish, and self-sufficient. This type of woman is not one who is likely to be accepted among the Victorian English society, and in fact it is probable that had Miss Hatty Doran not been engaged to a noblemen her world-view would have resulted in her being ostracized.

It is no coincidence that Arthur Conan Doyle attributes the above characteristics to an American woman in his stories. Miss Hatty Doran is then contrasted with her English maid, Flora Millar, who despite aiding and abetting the disappearance of Miss Hatty Doran, is presented as loyal and sympathetic while also virtuous.

In the other story, even though Miss Burnet is an Englishwoman who did criminality. She did it to revenge and protects herself. Conan Doyle gave exception to Englishwomen who did criminality. While both women committed acts unbecoming of women, and certainly less that truthful form the onset, the Englishwoman is written by Arthur Conan Doyle to gain the audience’s sympathy and forgiveness. Therefore, in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, Conan Doyle wants represented Victorian women are better than others.

Based on the analysis of *Sherlock Holmes* stories, the writer concludes that *Sherlock Holmes* stories shows about marriage, domesticity, education, employment, social class were important concepts for the Victorians.

For Victorian women, marriage is very important for the life of women in those days. Social status and wealth of partners was still very important. At the same time in this stories also proves that it was possible for young people to disregard their parents’
opinion concerning future spouses and that marriages negotiated by parents only were not found in the second half of the nineteenth century. Marriage also signified a woman's maturity and respectability, but motherhood was confirmation that she had entered the world of womanly virtue and female fulfilment. The ideal married women in Victorian era were the women who became a good wife, mother, and only take care of the household like the icon of that era, Queen Victoria.

With limited education that most Victorian women received, it was difficult to find any other employment. They only learned French, drawing, dancing, music, and the use of globes. Further educated women are rare in the stories which only confirm the reality of the end of the nineteenth century.

For working women, in *Sherlock Holmes* stories, most of women’s works were same with the social condition in Victorian era. Women’s work in 19th century: mending of apparel, washing, cooking, cleansing, nursing, teaching, and other offices.

Women from upper class and middle class are in focus of *Sherlock Holmes* stories. Many women from upper class and middle class appeared in *Sherlock Holmes* stories. Women from upper and middle class described as pure-hearted woman, queenly figure, educated, and usually have maids to assist their activities.

In *Sherlock Holmes* stories, Doyle shows women stealing, blackmailing, bullying and killing such as Irene Adler, Isadora Klein are not Englishwomen. Irene Adler is from America and Isadora Klein is from Spain. It makes the reader think that English have the better culture and moral than the other countries.

The life of women characters in *Sherlock Holmes* stories is same with the real condition of Victorian era. Arthur Conan Doyle describes women at home, at work, single and married. Wherever in the stories female characters appear and whatever their actions are, they are depicted realistically and reflect the social situation. Readers can learn about the era and its women and, as a result, Holmes stories might be considered not only as
texts for men and about men, but also for women and about women. This gives the stories a new dimension.