CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF MARY ASHLEY BASED ON FEMINISM APPROACH IN THE NOVEL WINDMILLs OF THE GODS BY SIDNEY SHELDON

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Strata One Degree

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ABSTRACT


This analysis aims to know how the major female character is characterized and how those characteristics reflect the feminism ideas. The data of the main character and characterization are collected by finding the evidence from the dialog in the novel and based the behavior and the attitude of the main character. To get the feminist values, the data are analyzed by using descriptive analyses technique.

From the analysis of character and characteristic of the main female character, the writer finds that, Mary Ashley is an educated woman, a good negotiator, courageous, obstinate, heroic, decisive, and independent. The writer also finds out that Mary is not a stereotype woman character who keeps the household and be passive and dependent on men. She is independent in economic, mind and action; she does not depend on man although she has a husband.

According to the feminist, the only way to enter the political fields is by education. It is proven by Mary when she becomes an ambassador, although she has no political experience but with her education and cleverness she can enter the political field. After all struggles in Romania, the country that believe woman to be inferior to man, she finally proved who she is. From an amateur become a professional ambassador.
APPROVAL SHEET OF ADVISOR

CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF MARY ASHLEY BASED ON FEMINISM APPROACH IN THE NOVEL WINDMILLS OF THE GODS BY SYDNEY SHELDON

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The thesis entitled “Character Analysis of Mary Ashley Based on Feminism Approach in the Novel *Windmills of the Gods* by Sydney Sheldon” has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on March, 5th 2008. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Strata 1.

Jakarta, March, 5th 2008

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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 to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, February 2008

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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The writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Sidney Sheldon was born on February 11, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois. He was the son of Onto Schechtel, a German Jewish father, and Natalie Sheldon, a Russian. Sheldon began and continued his career as a writer and wrote fifteen novels. His first book, *The Naked Face* (1970), won the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America. Most of the novels became major picture, films, or TV miniseries, and there were more than 275 million copies of his book in print throughout the world\(^1\).

Sidney Sheldon’s usually makes a beautiful woman as a main character in his novel. When he was asked about this case, he said “I like to write about women, who are talented and capable, but most important, retain their femininity. Women have tremendous power — their femininity, because men can't do without it.”\(^2\) And one of his novels raised women as a main character is *Windmills of the Gods*.

*Windmills of the Gods* describes Mary Ashley, as the main character. Mary is a young Professor in Kansas State University for East European Political Science subject. She is a great teacher with a good sense of humor. Her husband, Edward Ashley, is a surgeon in Geary Community Hospital. Mary has a good life


with two young children, Tim and Beth, until an accident which caused her husband
died.

The story begins when Mary accepted the offering of new President of
United States, Paul Ellison, to be a US Ambassador for Romania. The President is
interested in Mary through her article about Eastern European politics in Public
Affairs News. Paul thinks that Mary’s idea was brilliant in combining the four major
world economic facts. Although Mary has no political experience, she decides to
accept the offer because of some reasons. First, she wants to forget her husband’s
death, and second she wants to prove to people that woman can actually improve
herself.

Being alone and a stranger in a foreign country are not easy for Mary,
because she is a woman, and most of people there assume that men are more govern
than woman. Many of Mary’s consular staffs are men, and they do not like if they are
led by woman. The conflicts arise when her staff always attends meeting and sends
letter to Minister at governance center without her authorization. And then she makes
a decision to dismiss the staffs that do not in line with her. To Mary it is an engaging
challenge, because she wants to prove to people that woman is as good as man in
working world.

There are many other things that make this novel interesting to study
deeper. In the novel, Sidney describes about Mary’s struggle for keeping her life and
family. She tries hard to be a good Ambassador. Mary proves it through her dialogue
on the novel, and based on her attitude, and her behavior.
Moreover, this paper’s analysis will discuss the feminist ideas in the novel *Windmills of the Gods* by Sidney Sheldon. The writer is interested to analyze the novel, because the main character is a woman, a widow with two children who works in political area (man’s sphere). To study the image of woman in the literary work, it will be better to use feminist approach. It can be analyzed through that approach if the literary work is related to woman as one of the character in the story or talks about women.  

**B. Focus of the study**

This study focuses on the novel of “*Windmills of the Gods*” by Sidney Sheldon, which is only analyzing the character of Mary Ashley through feminist approach.

**C. Research Question**

Relating to the limitation of problem above, the lifted problems in this research are:

1. How is the character of Mary Ashley in the novel of “*Windmills of the Gods*”?  
2. How is Mary’s character reflecting the ideal feminist?  

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3 Soenarjati Djajanegara, *Kritik Sastra Feminis*, (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2003), P. 5
D. Research Methodology.

1. The Objective

   The objective of the study is to analyze a woman's conditions and to prove the existence of feminism movement in the novel “Windmills of the Gods” by Sidney Sheldon. This study tries to analyze:

   1. Mary’s character in the novel of “Windmills of the Gods”
   2. The reflection of ideal feminist on Mary’s characters.

2. The Methods.

   The writer tries to prove the feminist movement based on this novel using the Descriptive-Qualitative method by finding evidences taken from the woman characters in it, and then relating them to the theory of feminism.

3. The Technique of Data Analysis.

   The writer analyzes Mary’s character in the novel “Windmills of the Gods” by using descriptive qualitative analysis technique. In this analysis, the writer explains the data that exist in the novel with theories characterization and feminist, especially women ideal feminist.

   To get the right characterization of Mary Ashley and the feminist values, the writer reads the work deeply and understands it comprehensively. Then the writer gives marks to some words or line as evidences.
4. **The Instrument.**

The writer is the instrument of this study by reading deeply and identifying the feminist values that occurred in Mary Ashley, the writer analysis the obtained data, the novel of “*Windmills of the Gods*”, to find out the evidences and other aspects related to the characterizations Mary Ashley and the feminist.

5. **The Unit of Analysis.**

The unit of analysis is the novel “*Windmills of the Gods*” which is written by Sidney Sheldon and published by Harper Collins in 1987.

6. **Place and Time**

This research is conducted in Ciputat, in the faculty of “Adab” and Humanities, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta, and it started since March 2007.

E. **Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes the result of this study can give some significant information for other researcher who wants to do a deeper study about feminism on “*Windmills of the Gods*” novel especially, or in another literary works.
A. Character and Characterization

A character is someone in a literary work who has some sort of identity (it need not to be a strong one), an identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name, and (possibly) thoughts going in the head. A story cannot be called as a story without any characters in it. In narrative or dramatic works, it usually uses the terms characters and characterizations.

In the theory of character and characterization, usually many authors will take two ways or methods to provide and consider the character in their book. The first is direct method (telling) and, the second is indirect method (showing). Telling method used to be used in the past, so the characterization of the character was clearly felt, and the reader could understand fully the character of figure based on the author’s explanation. The showing method (indirect) indicates that the author placed himself outside of the story and the audience must deduce for themselves what are the characters’ thought, actions, speeches, looks and interactions with other characters.

Richard said that: a character is a person in a literary work: characterization is the way in which a character is created. From those distinctive, characterization as

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a method and character is the product.\textsuperscript{6} From those definitions we can conclude that characterization is a method used by author in developing story and character is the product of the story. Characters are all the product of characterizations, they have been made in a particular way, and characters are what they are like because of the way they have been made. The kinds of conversation they have, the things they do, their appearance and so on are the particular ways in which the author has chosen to characterize his or her character.

Character can be defined as the people created by a playwright, imagined by the audience. He or she must be fiction and non-real but then a story inspired or based on a real fact in the writing, the character usually must be real. They may be round or flat, static or dynamic. Generally speaking, major character are likely to be round, while minor characters are to be flat.\textsuperscript{7} Round characters are characters that become the center of the story and have complex personality, while flat characters are characters that support and illuminate the major characters.

Based on the function, character in literary work can be divided into two: they are the main character and the subordinate character. The main character has the highest involvement in the story.

\textbf{1. Main Character}

Main character has an important role and highest intensity of involvement in the story. Attar Semi says that the central figure in a story is also called the main

\textsuperscript{7} Mario Klarer, \textit{an Introduction to Literary Studies}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} ed. (New York: Routledge, 1999), P. 17.
character; this character plays the biggest role in a story. “Main character is the central character of a story; it refers to the people who take part in most of the events”.\textsuperscript{8}

2. Subordinate Character

Subordinate character is a character that supports the main character. He/she has fewer roles or in other words he/she is less dominant. But he/she still needed to support the main character in developing the story.

According to Panuti Sudjiman in his book \textit{Memahami Cerita Rekaan} “Subordinate characters support the main character in building the story but they have less position than the main character”.\textsuperscript{9}

F.C Lucas divides six methods to understand the characterization, they are:

1. Direct statement of the author. The author through the power of omniscience may explain what he wants public to know about his characters in the story.

2. Action. What a person does in the story often give public insight into his very nature and from this insight public can make judgment about him.

3. Externals. May be a clue to develop perception of the character through the use of physical detail, including the facial features, voice, walk and clothes. Public is able to make a judgment about the inner traits, value and attitudes of character.

4. Speech. From the character speech, public learn his or her education and environment; often it reveals the way he thinks about people and thinks.

5. Reaction from the others. This method often includes a slanted view. If the person talking about the character has a biased opinion, public get a distorted picture. Therefore, the reliability of the character must always be uppermost.

6. Environment. The presentation of a person’s surrounding, particularly those he deliberately chooses, including the recreations author’s prefer, contributes to an understanding of the character.\textsuperscript{10}

\textsuperscript{8} Attar Semi. \textit{Anatomi Sastra}, (Bandung: Angkasa Raya, 1988). P. 39.

B. Feminism

Feminism derived from Latin word *Femina* meant women’s character.\(^{11}\) Actually the definition of feminism is always changing based on the reality of socio cultural, conscious rate, and the act which is done by the feminist itself. But the main objective of feminism is to encourage the idea that women and men are totally different in biology but have the same position and right in social life.

Feminism is a social concept or a kind of women’s emancipation movement that focuses on the efforts of societies’ awareness onto the suppression and gender injustice upon women in society. However, more than a social concept, feminism is a concept about equality between men and women in politic, economic, education and social; or organized activities, which struggle women’s right and their needs. Thus, feminism takes sides to women, who are discriminated, exploited and ignored.

Feminism in general, of course has a long political history, developing as a substantial force, in America and Britain at least, throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Women’s right and women’s suffrages movements were the crucial, determinants in shaping this phase, with their emphasis on social, political and economic reform.\(^{12}\) Many of the arenas of the society give a great supports to increase women’s status. The movements itself can be divided into three waves.


The first wave of feminist movement began in the 19th century, precisely in 1848. In that year, a convention in Seneca Falls, USA is held. The convention tried to declare another version of the Declaration of Independence, which did not represent the women aspiration, just because the Declaration of Independence declared, ‘All men are created equal’ as held. Therefore, to bring the equality between men and women, the convention declared another version, ‘All men and women are created equal’. This event was the first bar of feminist movement and noticed in history as women great rebellion.\textsuperscript{13} Then, in middle of 1960’s, it could be found as a second wave of feminist movement. This second feminist movement is born by publishing of the Feminine Mystique, written by Betty Friedan.\textsuperscript{14} In a specific objection, the second wave of the feminist movement tried to condemn the sexual discrimination, sexual insulting and get a fairer house job description. Finally, the movement of feminism rises into the third wave, as known as “the rebirth of feminism”\textsuperscript{15} which gives a new formulation to bring a new concept of life of women. Moreover, it also produces fundamental transformations in many fields of life.

Therefore, all of educated feminists tried to absolve the women from all oppression and science restrictions. One of their efforts is to make them as an object of study. Then gender studies, women studies or women assessment are appeared in all sorts program of studies. These assessments enhanced our knowledge about

\textsuperscript{14} \textit{Ibid}, p. 10.
experience, importance, and women’s life. Women study includes many topics that are related to women studies, such as women history, women labor, women psychology, lesbianism, etc.

Feminism views the lives of women and men through the lens of gender. How we think of ourselves (gender identity), how we act (gender roles), and our sexes social standing (gender stratification) are all rooted in the operation of our society.

Generally, gender is the differences of the character between men and women; that are the characters of masculine and feminine, which socially constructed.¹⁶ For example; men have some characters such as strong, brave, rational and courageous, which are always called as masculine. While women have some characters such as weak, irrational, gentle and emotional, which are called as feminine. And those characters can be exchanged one and other, for example there are women that have a man nature like strong, brave and rational, and there are men that have a women nature like gentle, weak and emotional.

Feminism is a movement, and set of belief, they value women’s lives and concern, and work to improve women’s status. Because for a long time women were subordinated through men’s greater power, that variously expressed in different arenas, such as politic and economic field.

¹⁶ Euis Amalia, Pengantar Kajian Gender, (Jakarta: Pusat Studi Wanita UIN Syahid, 2003), P. 56.
In the beginning of 20th century, the issues of women ideal feminist were found among novelists, playwrights, journalists, pamphleteers, political thinkers, and suffragettes. These writers and thinkers created a body of work that explored the new social and psychological possibilities in women’s lives—as well as the limitations. The literary images of women of the women ideal feminist varied, but it included: women trapped by social conventions and whose lives were devastated by a lack of choice; women who challenge the racial and political orthodoxies of the day; and women who re-imagine history and myth from feminist perspectives.

Some of the general characteristics of the New Woman included:

- The achievement of a satisfactory education—primary, secondary, and preferably some college—and to be able to use that knowledge wisely
- The ability to earn her own money and thus be financially independent
- Participation in political discussion and decision-making processes
- The willingness to decide for herself if, when, and whom she wants to marry and how many children to have (if any)
- A demonstration of her difference by wearing less traditional—and less constricting—clothing, where comfort is privileged over fashion
- Overall, a desire to defy convention and social norms in order to create a better for all women (and men as well)\(^{17}\)

C. Feminist Literary Criticism

The feminist tried to liberate women from their inferior knowledge. They did their struggle by making women as a field of study, so that gender studies or women studies has occurred. In the relationship to literature, there is a new mainstream that tries to discover about women in literary work and anything related

to women in literary work. The study aim to enrich the knowledge about experiences, needs, and life of women. Afterward, the study that makes women as a field of study that occurred in literary work is denied as feminist literary criticism.\(^\text{18}\)

Feminist literary criticism appears contextually in western; directly related to development of socio-economic-politic-and western culture since 1960’s.\(^\text{19}\) Feminist literary criticism is one of component in women studies interdisciplinary field, which is begun in western as a social movement for grass root\(^\text{20}\) society. Since women study considered as a part and package from political feminist agenda, for feminist critics, all interpretation have the quality of political characteristic. Feminist critics analyze how women are showed, how the text discuss about gender relations and sex differentiation. From the feminist perspective, literary is not isolated from the context or culture, because the literature is a part of culture.

Feminist literary criticism is literal criticism formed by feminist theory or by the politics of feminism more broadly. Its history has been broad and varied, from classic works of nineteenth-century women authors such as George Eliot and Margaret Fuller to cutting-edge theoretical work in women's studies and gender studies by "third-wave" authors.\(^\text{21}\) In the most general and simple terms, feminist literary criticism before the 1970s in the first and second waves of feminism was concerned with the politics of women's authorship and the representation of women's

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\(^{20}\) Grass root is a technical term in social studies which described the under class in society.

condition within literature. Since the arrival of more complex conceptions of gender and subjectivity and third-wave feminism, feminist literary criticism has taken a variety of new routes. It has considered gender in the terms of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis,²² as part of the deconstruction of existing relations of power, and as a concrete political investment. It has been closely associated with the birth and growth of queer studies. And the more traditionally central feminist concern with the representation and politics of women's lives has continued to play an active role in criticism.

Briefly, feminist criticism aims to reinterpret literature from a female point of view. This is accomplished in several ways. Some feminist critics seek to interpret the works of male authors, with particular attention to women characters, in order to explore the moral, political and social restrictions women traditionally faced. Other feminist critics choose to analyze the works of women authors that have been previously overlook by male critics. Nevertheless, feminist criticism challenges and opposes an opinion and traditional view and men’s superiority toward women’s basic attitude and how women feels, thinks, etc, and how women generally perceive a life. However, feminist criticism also make a problem out of prejudice towards women which is formed by men, and did not let about men’s dispose for drop women on for being a trifling characters. This case has opened as much as a problem, as example there is an ecriture²³ feminine, which is about women’s writing in style and language.


²³ Ecriture Feminine means a women’s writing.
Feminist literary criticism appears contextually in literary text such as in novel and rather rare in drama or poetry. In novel for example, it can be analyzed by using some approaches as feminism approach. By using feminist criticism women’s experience, feels, and their thought are identified.
CHAPTER III
CHARACTER ANALYSIS

A. The character of Mary Ashley

Characters are people in the story. They are the important elements in building a story. In narrative or dramatic work, they do some actions according to their part and role in the story. The presentations of the characters can be flat, round, static or dynamic. These types depend on the role of characters in the story. The way are presented characters is called characterizations. Characterizations means how the writer tells the readers about the physical and non-physical characteristic of the person told in the story. The description of the characters can be done by words or shown in actions or through the comments given by other characters.

*Windmills of the Gods* is a literary work, which describes life experience of female character in the middle of patriarchal country. Mary Ashley is the main character in this novel, struggles her voice and her acquisition for the identity of a woman. As a central figure, Mary is a dynamic character. At the beginning of the novel, Mary is described as a bright teacher in Kansas State University for East European Political Science subject, her wide knowledge of European politics brings her to a high position as an ambassador. Her amateur standing in politics make people hesitated. However, in the last stage, Sydney shows how Mary develops into a brave person. She never intended to resign from her position, although much people try to
treat her. Mary shows that woman actually has self-confident to faced public sphere. She directly attempts to become equal with man.

B. Mary’s Characteristics

After reading and understanding the novel deeply and comprehensively, the writer gives some marks in some words as evidence of characterizations. Then, the writer classifies Mary’s character into several characterizations.

Here are the characteristics of Mary Ashley and the evidence of her characterizations based on the novel Windmills of the Gods written by Sidney Sheldon.

1. Mary as an educated woman

As already known in traditional society, women are proposed only to be good wives and mothers who stay in private and domestic sphere to take care of the household.24 They are not allowed to have higher education. They assume that it is enough for women to have ability of writing, reading and counting. Even though they have opportunity for having higher education, it is only for supporting their part as wives and mothers.

In this case, Mary has been given an opportunity for having higher education. She is able to reach a Master Degree at the age of 23, and also on that age she meets and married with Edward Ashley. Two years later after her marriage Mary

has taken her PhD in political science and teaches in Kansas University for East European Political Science subject.

Although she is married and has husband with a good job and two beautiful children it does not withdraw her intention to get high education. She does not want to become woman who is only active in domestic sphere to take care the household, to be passive and depend on man.

Not only educated, Mary also represents a bright woman. Her cleverness does not only draw attention people around her, but also Paul Ellison, the President of United State of America, is interested with her intelligence and asked Mary to become an ambassador in Rumania. His decision is taken regardless the fact that Mary is an amateur and does not have experience in the field of politics.

‘Except that she’s damned bright, and that we’re on the same wavelength. I want you to find out everything you can about her.’ He picked up a copy of Foreign Affairs and glanced at the table of contents. ‘Her name is Mary Ashley.’ (Sheldon 1987, 32)

Mary is a woman who has a strong desire for education. Although she never visited European states but she gets the knowledge about Europe from her grandfather, the only member of her family who comes from Voronet, Romania, and also she gets the knowledge from studying. As the quotation below;

‘No, Sir. My knowledge of the world comes from studying it. I have a PH.D. in political science and I’ve been teaching at Kansas State University for five years, with an emphasis on the Iron Curtain countries. I’m familiar with the current problems of the Romanian people and what their government thinks of the United States, and why.’ (Sheldon 1987, 132)
The high education and wide knowledge have brought her to a high position where originally belongs to male. The achievement she gets is in line with feminist ideas which always suggest women to get the knowledge as high as possible and develops them continuously.

2. A good negotiator

As an ambassador, hence it has become obligation for Mary to solve all interconnected problem that happens between America and Romania. One way to solve the problem is by conducting negotiation. Mary’s first success in having negotiation is when she succeeds to save Hannah Murphy from imprisonment. Hannah is an American student, she is 19 year old. She is alleging to bring some marijuana. In fact she is snared by her boyfriend which is a Romanian policeman, who is a son in-law of Captain Aurel Istrase.

At first, Captain Aurel Istrase would not release Hannah from prison and he insisted that Hannah was a dealer of marijuana. But with Mary’s intelligence, she is able to release Hannah from prison. She uses the situation to threat Istrase and gets benefit from it.

Mary said in a conciliatory tone, ‘I see no need for your daughter to know how her husband conducts himself. I think it would be much better for all concerned if you quietly released Hannah Murphy from jail, and I shipped her back to the States. What do you say, Captain?’ (Sheldon, 1987, 212)

In this event, Mary does not only appear to become a brave woman but also clever and invincible because she has outwitted a police officer.
Her cleverness continues when Mary negotiated with Negulesco, the Romanian Finance Minister. Negulesco intends to borrow money from America to assist his state’s finance. Initially, Mary tells Negulesco that America does not give the loan; because one of the American senators feels offended that Romanian government does not allow the priest to visit the church at Utah, America.

Actually the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee agreed with Romanian loan request. But for Mary that is a commensurable exchange, if Romanian government could help priests to fulfill the invitation from Utah church, so that she would help Romanian government to get the loan.

Negulesco moved over to the chair next to Mary. ‘Madam Ambassador– if I could arrange for this group to visit your country, do you think the senate Finance Committee would approve the loan?’

…and at 2.30 Negulesco called. ‘Madam Ambassador – I have wonderful news! The church group is free to leave at any time! Now do you have any good news for me?’ (Sheldon 1987, 236)

From the quotation above, it proves that Mary is a wise person, she is able to take a decision that yield advantage for everybody.

3. Courageous

Courageous is ability to control fear when facing danger, pain and opposition. Mary is a brave woman; it is proven when she gets a threatening sentence in her office wall with red paint ‘Go home before you die’ (Sheldon 1987,

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239). Even though Mary is frightened and annoyed, she tries to face it and even tries to find who threatens her.

*If you believe in what you’re doing, then you must fight for it. You must stay. Do not let anyone frighten you away* (Sheldon, 1987, 242)

From the quotation above, we can see how Mary tries to be a brave person. She is aware that it is not easy for her to become an Ambassador, because many of her staffs are men. And properly man does not want to be lead by woman. Because man thinks that they are more entitled to lead than woman.

Another event which shows Mary as a brave woman is when she is almost kidnapped by unknown people after she watch a Romanian folk-dance at Rapsodia Romana Theatre. If at the time there was no police patrol, it might be possible that Mary would die. But none of her consular staffs gives support for her; they oppositely suggest Mary to resign her position.

*She could feel her face getting red. ‘Mr. Slade, I made a mistake. It’s not the first I’ve made, and it probably won’t be last one. But I was appointed to this post by the President of the United States, and until he fires me, I don’t want you or anyone else telling me to go home.’ She fought to keep control of her voice. ‘I expect the people in this embassy to work with me, not against me. If that’s too much for you to handle, why don’t you go home?’ she was trembling with anger* (Sheldon 1987, 228)

*I have no choice. I’m representing our country. How would it look if I hid in a closet every time someone threatened my life? If I do that once, I’ll never be able to show my face again. I might as well go home. And colonel – I have no intention of going home.*’ (Sheldon 1987, 287)

As seen from the quotation above, the writer can conclude that Mary is a brave woman, although she often gets some threat, but she never intends to resign from her position, unless the President asking her for it. Mary’s speak about woman’s
power as men, which is woman is proper to have equal right in many opportunities. Mary intends to face all problems related to her position; she does not wish to be seen weak.

4. An obstinate woman

Mary was an obstinate woman when she faced the bitter reality that her husband died by an accident after returning from hospital to help patient. This situation drove her to despair, because she had undergone so many sweet memories that she passed by with Edward. She wanted to die. But with her strength in her self, she survived and tries to cheer up her children.

‘It’s all right.’ Mary stroked Tim’s hair. ‘Don’t cry, darling. Everything is going to be all right.’ (Sheldon 1987, 97)

In this event Mary appears to become an obstinate woman. She would not let herself down, she is aware that her children still need her. Although Edward was gone, she must move on for her children. She knows very well what she has to do, it means she never gives up and always be obstinate to face problems.

5. A heroic woman

Mary’s heroism appeared when she saves Nicu’s life from botulism poisoning. At that moment none of European countries have the anti-serum, because all their stocks have used since the poisoned epidemic attack the countries. Then

\(^{26}\) Son of Romanian President.
Mary asks for serum to Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. The distance between Atlanta and Bucharest is far, so that Mary needs the fastest jet to fly the serum to Bucharest, and then she asks Ralph Zukor, the Air Force General, to borrow her jet. But the loaning procedure is not easy, there are some forms to be filled Mary. Since the poison effect spreads very quickly, she menaces Ralph if he does not give her the jet, she will make a press conference and told the world that Ralph Zukor is someone who make son of Romanian President died.

‘I’m not in the United States,’ Mary told him. ‘I’m in Bucharest. I need that serum immediately.’ (Sheldon 1987, 252)

‘General, if that boy dies because some form hasn’t been filled out, I promises you that I’m going to call the biggest press conference you’ve ever seen. I’ll let you explain why you let Ionescu’s son die.’ (Sheldon 1987, 253)

From the quotation above, Mary could prove that she had courage and had sense of heroism. She spontaneously helps Nicu from botulism poisoning even without asked by Ionescu. And as a woman she proves that she is brave to menace Ralph Zukor, because she is in the right decision.

6. Decisive Woman

In patriarchal society, women have no excuses to decide what they want, because everything is controlled by men and only men who have authority. In other word, women are subordinate through men’s greater power. But it does not work for Mary. Although she has a husband, she remains to have rights to choose what she likes. It is proven when she rejects the offer to become an Ambassador for Romania.
She has some reason, that Junction City is still needed a kind doctor like her husband and also she could not leave the Kansas University. Edward does not prohibit Mary to accept the offer. He tries to give way out for Mary, if Mary accepts the offer; she and their children are prior to go then Edward will come afterward.

‘I can’t just leave my practice and walk out on my patients. I have to stay here. I don’t know how long you’d have to be away, but if it really means a lot to you, well, maybe we could work out some way where you could go over there with the children and I could join you whenever.’

‘The following morning Mary dialed the telephone number that the President had given her…. Would you please tell him that I’m very, very flattered by his offer, but my husband’s profession ties him down here, so I’m afraid it would be impossible for me to accept? I hope he understand.’ (Sheldon 1987, 73-74)

From the quotation above, we can see how Mary is a decisive woman. Although the offer comes from the President but she is not afraid to reject it. Her rejection is not because she depends on her husband, it is because she loves her family so much and she does not want if she lives away from her family. It shows that, although Mary is a woman, but she has a good conviction and not influenced by anyone. She is not afraid to take a good decision for her and her family.

It also appeared when she knows that some of her senior staffs often attend meeting and send letter to Minister at governance center without her authorizations. And then she makes a decision to dismiss those staffs.

‘Good afternoon,’ Mary said crisply. ‘I won’t take much of your time. I know how busy you all are. It has come to my attention that senior staff meetings have been called without my knowledge or sanction. From this moment on, anyone attending such a meeting will be instantly dismissed. ‘Out of the corner of her eye, she saw Dorothy taking notes. ‘It has also come to my attention that some of you are sending cables without informing
me. According to State Department protocol, each ambassador has the right to hire and fire any member of the embassy staff at his or her discretion.' (Sheldon 1987, 205)

As seen from the quotation, though Mary is a woman and had no political experience, but she does not be trifled by her staffs though they are more senior and have a lot of experience.

7. Independent woman

According to the meaning of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, independent is someone who is not dependent on other people or things; is not controlled by other people or things. Mary is independent woman; it shows from the beginning of the novel. Although she got married, but her thought are not controlled by other people and without compulsion from other people. This desire appears from her self-consciousness as a person. She feels that she has the rights to choose her desire.

She gets her freedom and independence to run her life as she pleased. She also will have enough money by accepting to become an ambassador. As it is explained in the quotation below;

When he came on the line, she said, ‘Mr. Rogers, would you please tell the President that I will be honored to accept his nomination for the ambassadorship.’ (Sheldon 1987, 110)

From those explanations, we can conclude that Mary is a brave woman. With her brave personality, she could solve the entire problems that occur in her embassy. As a woman who has no political experience and many people doubted her,
Mary succeeds to prove that she is able to be an ambassador with her cleverness in the country who believes woman to be inferior to man.

C. The relationship between Mary Ashley’s characteristics and feminist ideas

According to book *A Vindication of the Right of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft, one of the feminists argues that equality of right and opportunities should be extended women in all areas of life. In other words, women should have opportunities in all sectors for example in politics, economy and also social life. *Windmills of the Gods* by Sydney Sheldon is a novel that consists of woman right in political field.

Based on the feminist movement existed in *Windmills of the Gods* by Sidney Sheldon, the writer analyzes through feminist approach, by using a concept of woman ideal feminism. All of women’s problems never stop up to now. Women have been struggling for equal right over the past 150 years and growing successfully. This struggle is to show their existence in public, in order to get their right and their identity, as in dependent women. Therefore, feminists’ critics struggle to destroy the patriarchal system that is believed as the root of women’s oppression.

Sydney Sheldon describes Mary Ashley, as a main character, with some characterizations such as educated, a good negotiator, obstinate, heroic, courageous, and decisive woman and all characteristics that the feminist submits for all the

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women in the world. So, women are able to be in the same position as men, to stand up in their own feet and to be proud of her self.

In traditional society, women do not have opportunity to get higher education, to hold office, or to have a certain job. Traditional society assumes that it is enough for women to have the ability of writing, reading, and counting. Even though when a women has given an opportunity for having higher education. Usually it is only just for supporting her part as a wife and mother.

Wollstonecraft in *Feminist Thought* by Rosemary Putnam Tong, explains that society must give an education to all women, just like to men, because all human being have an equal right to get an opportunity to expand the capacity of their intellectual activity and morality, so they can become a personhood. The feminist uses education to free themselves as people who are able to achieve the happiness and pleasure fulfillment. With education women can get a job that she really likes and also can show herself, her ability and her capacity.

Feminist is fully aware the only way to enter political fields is by education. That proved when Mary becomes an Ambassador, although she had no political experience, but with her education and cleverness she can enter the politic fields.

Mary Ashley struggled continually to achieve equality, that she must fight patriarchal domination in her new position as ambassador in Romania, against the country who believes woman to be inferior to man. As the quotation below:
The doctor ordered drinks, and then said. ‘It can’t be easy being an ambassador – especially a woman in this country. Romanians are male chauvinists, you know.’ (Sheldon, 1987, 240)

In the novel, Mary has a high position, not only as main female character but also she is a decision maker in her family and work. Her decision to reject the position of an ambassador is not influenced by other people even it from her husband. She has her own opinion which is good or not to her family. As a person who has a high position at government, she asserts herself to be able to take a good decision in order to run her reign better.

Mary’s characteristics reflect the ideal feminist who does not depend on man. She is independent in economic, although she has a husband which is work as a doctor. She has an ability to earn her own money by becoming a lecturer in Kansas State University.

Those brief analyses of Mary Ashley based on the primary concept of feminism. The study’s aims are to enrich the knowledge about experiences, needs, and life of women. Feminist literary criticism according to Annette Kolodny is a tool to help in analyzes a text which is tells about women according to sexual stereotype in literature as literary criticism and it shows that ideology or ways, which is not satisfied, are used to analyze women’s writing unfairly and insensitively.

Mary is a character who reflected women ideal feminism. All her experiences of life journey were the feminism. After all the struggles Mary went

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28 Male chauvinists means the belief held by some men that men are superior to women.
29 Arimb Heroeputri and R. Valentina, Percakapan Tentang Feminisme vs Neoliberalisme, (Jakarta: Institut Perempuan dan Debt Watch, 2004), P.19.
through, she finally proved who she is. From an amateur become a professional ambassador. The ambassadorship just not for man, but woman also could occupy that position. She wants to prove to people that she can do what man can do.
A. Conclusion

\textit{Windmills of the Gods} is a novel by Sydney Sheldon, one of the world’s favorite storytellers. His admiration of woman makes him almost takes a woman as a main character in his works.

In this novel, Sheldon describes about woman struggles in running her assignment as an ambassador in Romania, which is a male chauvinist country. Mary Ashley as a main female character shows that although she has no experience in her new job, but she succeeds to run her job with her cleverness and bravery. All those things are proven from the negotiation result that always makes some profit for both countries.

The thesis analyses the characteristics of Mary Ashley and the concept of women ideal feminist that occur in Mary’s character. Through feminism concept, this analysis focuses in Mary’s characteristics that implied women ideal feminist such as; educated woman, a good negotiator, courageous, obstinate, heroic, decisive, and independent. Therefore, from the analysis, the writer can see that Mary is a person who is aware of unfair treatment from people in her embassy. Nevertheless, she is able to defend her life and to overcome her problems that always approach her alone, through her behavior and attitude. She always struggles to be obstinate, not easy to give up in facing any problem.
From those explorations of a strong character’s consciousness of Mary, the writer analyzes that it has made Mary as a feminist character who lived in the environment that dominated by men. Mary’s courage to solve her problem of life and to describe her situation and her experiences through her actions and her thoughts can be assumed as her success as a feminist.

B. Suggestion

The writer suggests for those who are interested in this study about literature, especially in the novel *Windmills of the Gods*, they can use feminist approach in comprehending and enhancing the image of women in the novel. Anyone who is interested to do deeper study about character and characterization that related to women ideal feminist, can also uses feminist perspective as an approach in analyzing the literary work. The writer also expects that the research will be useful to the reader who wants to analyze characters and their characterization in any type of the novel.

Finally, the writer hopes this study will enrich reader’s knowledge of literature, especially for the students of English Department, faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University Jakarta, as an additional reference.
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