The Symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper" that Represent Gilman's Messages for Women in Patriarchal Society

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A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

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And seek not ye what ye shall eat,
or what ye shall drink,
neither be ye of doubtful mind.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
(Luke 12 : 29, 31)

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:
also he hath set the world in their heart,
so that no man can find out the work that God maketh
from the beginning to the end.
(Ecclesiates 3:11)

This Undergraduate thesis is dedicated to

My Great Jesus,

My beloved mother and father,

&

My nice brother

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First of all, I would like to thank Jesus Christ for the wonderful grace upon my life. I dedicate this thesis to my lovely parents and brother. I thank them for the prayer and the support to finish my study.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE …… i
APPROVAL PAGE …… ii
ACCEPTANCE PAGE ……... iii
MOTTO PAGE ……... iv
DEDICATION PAGE ……. v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS …… vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS …… vii
ABSTRACT …… ix
ABSTRAK …….. x

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION …… 1
A. Background of the Study ……... 1
B. Problem Formulation …… 6
C. Objectives of the Study ……..... 6
D. Definition of Terms …….. 7

CHAPTER II: THEORITICAL REVIEW …… 9
A. Review of the Related Studies ……..... 9
B. Review of the Related Theories ……..... 13
1 Theory of Symbol ……..... 13
2. Theory of Character ……. 16
3. Theory of Setting …….. 18
4. Theory of Plot …… 19
5. Theory of Theme …… 19
6. The Relationship of Character, Setting, and Theme, to Symbol 21
7. Ideas on Literature and Society …… 22
8. Theory of Feminism …….. 23
9. Theory of Message ……... 26
C. Theoretical Framework …… …… 28

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY ……… 30
A. Object of the Study …….. 30
B. Approach ……. 31
C. Method of the Study …… 32

CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS …….. 35
A. Symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper" …….. … 36
1. The Nursery Room …….. …… 38
2. The Narrator's Journal Paper …… 41
3. The Yellow Wallpaper ……. 44

4. The Image of Creeping Women ……..... 48
B. Gilman's Messages through the Symbols ……... ….. 52
1. The Nursery Room …… 52
2. The Narrator's Journal Paper …… 55
3. The Yellow Wallpaper ……..... 59
4. The Image of Creeping Women …….. 62

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION ……. 65

BIBLIOGRAPHY …….. 70

APPENDICES
SUMMARY OF "THE YELLOW WALLPAPER" ……. 73

ABSTRACT

Zakarias Petronius Heru Budhianto Kesumo Putro (2008): "**The Yellow Wallpaper": The Symbols that Represent Gilman's Messages for Women in Patriarchal Society.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma.

The study is about "The Yellow Wallpaper", a poetic short story that is written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. The study is based on the amazement of the writer to the beauty of the symbols in the story; and the firmness and the strength of a woman who lives in a place which is imprisoning and oppressing her. Gilman, as a feminist author, is trying to show the firmness and the strength of woman who lives in a patriarchal society.

The aims of this study are clarifying how the author, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, conveys her messages to the citizen or the readers from the symbols of the story. The writer has two problems in conducting this study. First, the writer will try to find the symbols and what do they represent. The second, the writer will try to find Gilman's messages revealed in the symbols of "The Yellow Wallpaper".

To accomplish this study, the writer has conducted a desk research. The primary data of this thesis is taken from the short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper", and the secondary data are taken from some relevant theories, such as theory of symbols, theory of feminism, and theory of the relation between the literate and the society. The approach of this study is taken from Birenbaum's theory because it describes feminist criticism study of literature with special attention to the roles of women in society and literary creation.

The writer is finding four symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper. They are the nursery room, the journal activity, the yellow wallpaper, and the image of creeping woman. If they are related to the real situation of the society, they have each representation, and from the representations of the symbols the writer will try to find the messages of "The Yellow Wallpaper". From all of the messages, it can be found that patriarchal rule should be reformed into a better rule that is guarantying and supporting the same rights and the same freedom between the men and the women.

ABSTRAK

Zakarias Petronius Heru Budhianto Kesumo Putro (2008). "The Yellow Wallpaper": **The Yellow Wallpaper": An Analysis about Symbols that Represent Gilman's Messages for Women in Patriarchal Society.** Yogyakarta. Jurusan Sastra Inggris. Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Studi ini membahas tentang "The Yellow Wallpaper", sebuah cerita pendek yang puitis, yang ditulis oleh Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Studi ini berdasarkan pada kekaguman penulis pada keindahan simbol dalam cerita; dan ketegaran serta kekuatan seorang wanita yang mendiami tempat yang meringkukkan dan mengekangnya. Gilman, sebagai seorang feminis mencoba menunjukkan ketegaran dan kekuatan yang dimiliki wanita yang tinggal di dalam masyarakat patriarkhal.

Tujuan dari studi ini adalah menjelaskan bagaimana pengarang, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, menyampaikan pesannya kepada masyarakat dan pembaca melalui simbol-simbol yang terdapat dalam cerita. Penulis memiliki dua rumusan masalah yang mendasar. Yang pertama, penulis akan mencoba untuk menemukan simbol-simbol dalam cerita dan menentukan makna nyata dari masing-masing simbol. Yang kedua, penulis akan mencoba menemukan pesan-pesan yang terkandung dalam masing-masing simbol.

Untuk menyelesaikan studi ini, penulis melakukan studi pustaka. Data pokok dari thesis ini diambil dari cerita pendek, "The Yellow Wallpaper", dan data tambahan diambil dari data tembahan yang diambil dari teori-teori yang mendukung, seperti teori simbol, teori feminisme, dan teori hubungan antara karya sastra dan masyarakat. Pendekatan dari studi ini diambil dari teori Birenbaum, karena teori ini menjelaskan kecaman yang berbau feminis dari karya sastra, khususnya menjelaskan peran wanita dalam masyarakat dan dunia kesusastraan.

Penulis menemukan empat simbol di dalam "The Yellow Wallpaper" yaitu kamar anak-anak, kegiatan menulis yang dilakukan narator, kertas dinding yang berwarna kuning, dan bayangan dari wanita yang merayap. Jika dihubungkan dengan keadaan sosial secara nyata, simbol-simbol tersebut memiliki makna masing-masing, dan dari makna-makna tersebut bisa ditemukan beberapa pesan yang ingin disampaikan Gilman melalui karyanya, "The Yellow Wallpaper". Dari semua pesan-pesan Gilman, dapat disimpulkan bahwa hukum patriarkhal harus diperbaharui menjadi sebuah hukum yang menjamin dan mendukung persamaan hak dan persamaan kebebasan antara laki-laki dan perempuan.

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(ZP. Heru Budhianto. KP)

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary works are very interesting objects to explore. They are created to be understood and to be enjoyed. When the readers read literary works, they are being given the opportunity to learn about many things; they are the experience, history, adventure, love, life, the autobiography of the author, and the author's messages in the story that are expressed in the work of art. Some of the readers like to read the literary works just for pleasure, but some of them try to analyze them, in order to know and to understand the literary works deeper.

In addition, literature describes the reality of the world. Several aspects of life such as politics, economy, society, and culture can be revealed through literature. Abrams says, "Literature as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is that the truth of its representation to the objects it represents, or should represent (1981: 36)." It can be said that literature always concerns about the development of the world and reveals its reality. It means that there is a close relation between literature and society. The development of the society influences the development of the literature, and the literature influences the development of the society.

In a country, there are many people live together. They can be divided as men and women. God creates us with all of our weaknesses and strengths, we are created with all of our imperfectness, and nobody is perfect. That is why we have to help others because of our strength, and we will need others because of our weakness. The most important thing that we must bear in mind is that we are created equal, despite of our sex, social status, race, and other differences.

Women in the twenty-first century are privileged to have equal rights to men. To marry anyone they like, to have any jobs, to express something, even to get divorced are possible to be done by women. Women, who do not get married, become a single mother, or who are homosexual are accepted in American society today. They are free to do something as men. They can choose their own fate and their way of life. There is no strict rule who is confining and oppressing women's freedom. Ann J. Lane in *To Herland and Beyond: The Life and Work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman*, said "Women are human beings as much as men, by nature; and as women are even more sympathetic with human processes. To develop human life in its true powers, we need fully equal citizenship for women." (1990: 231). It is the example of the strength or special characteristic of women. In the real life, it will be a reason why men will need women as a complement, and make the world be better.

However, less than a century ago, the world was not as understanding as it is today. Women were trapped inside the house, and were placed in a worthless position with no respect. The society placed women in the lower position than men. The unfair condition of the society, that was called patriarchal society, made problems socially

and individually. Women were tortured physically and psychologically. This condition made them depressed and some of them tried to rebel.

The unfair position of women and men in patriarchal society made bad effects for women. Men could get their freedom to choose their way of life and fate, different from women, who spent all of the days in the house, to do house jobs. They did monotonous jobs in their life.

This condition made some women, especially the feminist ones, tried to make a kind of rebellion and struggle. Gilman was one of feminist women, who tried to struggle and express her own ideas through literary works to share her own idea. Ann J. Lane is her book, *To Herland and Beyond: The Life and Work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman*, said about Gilman, "She used her energies and her gifts in an effort to understand the world and her place in it and to extend that knowledge and those insights to others (1990: 229)." Furthermore, "She saw the submergence of women as a critical handicap retarding the best development of society (1990: 232)." Thus, although she was never trained in the methods of social science research and critique, Gilman should be recognized for her contribution to our knowledge in this area in addition to her recognition as a utopian author and a feminist. Gilman grew up in an unhappy, cheerless home. She lived on the edge of poverty, moving nineteen times in eighteen years to fourteen different cities.

During most of her adult life, Gilman was heavily involved in politics and continued publishing her ideas through critical essays, novels and *The Forerunner*, a

journal that she had written and published almost entirely by herself. Her views of a woman's societal place were made clear, not only in her novels and in her essays, but also by her most famous work, *Women and Economics* (Goodman, 1996: 126).

Soon after her marriage to Charles Stetson and the birth of her daughter, she fell into a deeply depressed condition and consulted Dr. S. Weir Mitchell who prescribed his famous rest cure. It is her experience with Mitchell's "treatment" that inspired her to write "The Yellow Wallpaper". When the story first came out, in the *New England Magazine* about 1891, a Boston physician made protest, "Such a story ought not to be written . . . it was enough to drive anyone mad to read it". This statement implies the thought that any woman who would go against the grain of society could be insane because of her journal activity. On the other hand, more importantly Gilman says in her article in *The Forerunner* "It was not intended to drive people crazy, but to save people from being driven crazy, and it worked" (Goodman, 1996: 126).

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" is an example of the feminist literary works. In *Out at Last*: *'The Yellow Wallpaper' After Two Decades of Feminist Criticism."* Elaine R. Hedges said that ""The Yellow Wallpaper" is a story about a nineteenth-century white, middle-class woman, but it addresses a 'woman's' situation in so far as women as a group must still contend with male power in medicine, marriage and indeed most, if not all, of culture and that the post-

structuralist project to problematize and displace identity is difficult to reconcile with the feminist project to reclaim the story" (1992: 231).”

This condition was the same as Gilman’s condition and some other women at that time, who try to get their happiness and freedom. Gilman’s herself was an upper class woman who tried to use her feeling and experiences to express her dream and disagreement about the situation and condition of the society; and made a kind of struggle by a literary work to get her and other women’s dreams for the better life of the country.

The feminists believe that the equal rights between men and women could solve the problems; and the condition of the society could be better. This study is about gender and literature. There are many topics in the gender and literature reflected in many literary works. They can be the relation between women and poetry, women and politics, homosexuality, women and social status, women in a family, women and education and some other topics. In this thesis, the writer chooses the relation between women and society.

The study contains relations between women, literature, and society. In this case, the women are the basic object who gets the effect of the patriarchal society. The focus of this study is on the late nineteenth and early twentieth century American society.

Human beings always face many kinds of symbols in their life, as it is a vital part of their experience. In Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the symbols can be

the author's imagination existing in the story to guide the reader's understanding toward the story.

The use of symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper", indirectly and smoothly conveys the messages of the works; women's struggle to the male dominated society. Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" contains many symbols. The symbols in this story have its own representations or meanings. The writer tries to analyze the meaning of each symbol and the revelation of each symbol in supporting Gilman's message through her literary work.

B. Problem Formulation

1. What are the symbols in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", and what do they represent?
2. How do the symbols reveal Gilman's messages for women in patriarchal society?

C. Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to answer the question of the writer has already mentioned above that deal with the social condition as described in the story and its effect to the member of the society.

The analysis on Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" has to have goals to make the analysis valuable and to contribute something to the study of literature. The writer has three objectives in conducting this study.

First, the writer will try to find the symbols in “The Yellow Wallpaper” and analyze them. There are many words in the story. Some of them can be called as symbol. The theories of symbol are very important to prove that the words are included as symbols.

Second, the writer believes that in “The Yellow Wallpaper”, Gilman uses some symbols. Each symbol represents something. In this part, the theories of feminism are very important.

Third, the writer will try to find the messages. An author has his or her own purposes in writing a literary works. The writer will try to find Gilman’s messages revealed in “The Yellow Wallpaper” from the symbols.

E. Definition Terms

Some terms need to be clarified concerning the key words that appear in the title and the problem formulation.

1. Symbol

In Perrine’s *Literature; Structure, Sound, and Sense*, 2nd edition, a literary symbol is something that means more than what it is. It is an object, a person, a situation, an action or some other item, that has a literal meaning in the story but suggests or represents other meanings as well (1974: 211). A symbol may have more than one meaning. It may suggest a cluster meaning. At its most effective, a symbol is like many-faceted jewel; it flashes different colors when turned in the light. This is

not said that it can mean anything we want it to; the area of possible meanings is always controlled by the context (1974: 215).

2. Feminism

Deborah Madsen in her book, *Feminist Theory and Literary Practice*, feminism is women's struggle to obtain an equality between women and men stems from the premises that both sexes have the same human rights as well as opportunities to advance themselves in many aspects of life (2000: 2-11).

3. Message

According to *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of English Language*, message is a "communication containing some information, advice, suggestion, advice, and request, in speech or writing, sent by literature, messenger, radio, telephone, television, magazine, or other means (1989: 899)". If the definition is related to this thesis, the writer concludes that message is a communication containing some suggestions in writing, sent by literature.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of the Related Studies

Women at the patriarchal society were identical with mothers and caretakers of the family. In her book, Ann J. Lane said, “The women who refused this role and chose a life of self-expression and freedom from the social constraints suffered ridicule and punishment from their peers” (1980: x – xviii). It means that women’s roles were just doing the household jobs. They were forced to work in the house; and it was a bad habit and taboo if women went out from the house freely. In patriarchal society "The ideal woman was not only assigned a social role that locked her into her home, but she was also expected to like it, to be cheerful and gay, smiling and good humored” (Lane, 1980: x – xviii). Women were pleasant to look at, seen but not heard. It meant that women were not more than a beautiful statue that can move and doing many household jobs. Their inspiration was never being heard. They were emotional and irrational human beings that were not appropriate to work and to go outside of the house; men should protect women by keeping them in the house, and they should enjoy those role.

Feminism appeared since women were treated unfairly in male dominated society. Most of feminists believed that sometimes they would get the same position in the society as men. Juliet Mitchell declared, “The women novelist must be a

hysteric. Hysteric is the woman's simultaneous acceptance and refusal of the organization and sexuality under patriarchal capitalism. It is simultaneous what a woman can do both to be feminine and to refuse feminity, within patriarchal discourse, and I think that is exactly what the novel is; I do not believe that there is such a thing as female writing, a "woman's voice" (1984: 290). It means that here is the hysteric's voice which is the woman's masculine language talking about feminine experience. The women in patriarchal society were trying to make a struggle. They were using literary work as a medium. Some of women, in their literary work, were using the woman's masculine language to express their rebellion.

Feminists were trying to make struggle with their own experience. Their experiences were expressed in a literary work. As a feminist author, Gilman wanted to give her own ideas about how to get the better life and better condition of the society. Roland and Harris said, "Getting beyond "The Yellow Wallpaper", women defied the corrupted power that men wielded over women, escaped their confinement, and created for themselves a new ideological role, one that included entry into the public sphere, or the market place, in the face of the prevalence of discrimination, and "masculine self-interest (1979: 78)." It shows Gilman's purpose why she wrote "The Yellow Wallpaper". She wanted to make a rebellion and a change in the society. She defied the authority of men and all discrimination; which could make people live in suffering and could gave freedom to anybody in this world to get their own fate.

To expresses their rebellion, some feminists expressed their feeling and thought in a literary works. One of them is Gilman, who wrote "The Yellow

Wallpaper." There were two kinds famous different interpretations can be found when analyzing Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" Lahnstein acknowledges that, "Feminist critics see "The Yellow Wallpaper" as a study of psychology and sexual politics grounded in autobiographical realism, but argues that there exists a 'second story,' a supernatural tale, that is drawn from Gothic conventions typical of Edgar Allan Poe and Charlotte Bronte. Further claims that late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century readers were familiar with the genre of the ghost story and thus read "The Yellow Wallpaper" as such. Asserts that the narrator's 'creeping' supports the notion that the ghost that occupies the room or wallpaper has taken possession of the narrator; therefore the identity of Jane is that of the ghost (1994: 81-82)."

The gothic situation in the story, that was full of mystery and symbols, made the reader had some interpretations about Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper." Some readers thought that "The Yellow Wallpaper" was a gothic story. According to Moers, female gothic refers to writings where" . . . fantasy predominates over reality, the strange over the commonplace, and the supernatural over the natural, with one definite auctorial intent: to scare (1976: 12)." Gilman's story, "The Yellow Wallpaper" has been called gothic because of its focus on madness and its horrifying conclusion.

Early reviewers generally classified "The Yellow Wallpaper" as a horror story, with most commenting on Gilman's use of Gothic conventions. It was not until Elaine R. Hedge's *Afterword* began receiving scholarly attention. Most modern commentators now interpret the story as a feminist indictment of society's

subjugation of women and praise its compelling characterization, complex symbolism, and thematic depth. Hedges said that “The Yellow Wallpaper is a story about a nineteenth-century white, middle-class woman, but it addresses a 'woman's' situation in so far as women as a group must still contend with male power in medicine, marriage and indeed most, if not all, of culture and that the post-structuralist project to problematize and displace identity is difficult to reconcile with the feminist project to reclaim the story” (1973: 222 - 233). The metaphors, images and the basic plot of the story leave a reader with a female character that has broken out in triumph over an oppressive set of male characters. She makes her own way through a hobby of writing, and finds individuality against the norms of her society.

The most important and real interpretation in Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper” that can be found was the female voice and the idea of feminism. Voice and idea is a rather vague term used in analyzing literature. It can be described that the author's purpose and message, a poem's speaker or the point of view from which a literary work was told. When the writer thinks about the message for women in Patriarchal Society, in relation to Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper”, the writer thinks in terms of how a person or an author communicates oneself and how the story is told and beyond the words and the narrator provides. It means that the narrator, in “The Yellow Wallpaper”, represents the author’s own voices and ideas. The one reason why those different interpretations can be found in Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper” because of the use of symbols in “The Yellow Wallpaper.” However,

Gilman's purpose, why she used many symbols, was to hide the female voices and her ideas on feminism revealed in her work. In patriarchal society, feminist literary works were forbidden and were banned by some publishers. The society thought that it was a kind of rebellion and it was not appropriate to be published. That was why Gilman used that smart and tricky way to publicize her works.

There are some topics in Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" that can be analyzed. This study is trying to analyze about the symbols. This thesis is different from others because from this study, the writer and the readers can learn about the beauty of the symbols. In the story, there are some symbols. Each symbol has a meaning that is contradiction to the general meaning or general interpretation in the real life. Something good or beauty, can symbolize a bad meaning. Furthermore, from the symbols, the writer will find Gilman's messages behind the symbols of the story. It will be an interesting topic to be analyzed.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theory of Symbol

Stanton explains that symbol maybe anything about the story; a single object, repeated type of object, a physical substance, a shape, a gesture, a color, a sound, and a fragrance. All these things represent a facet of human personality, the indifference of nature to man's suffering, futile ambition, human responsibility, the romantism of youth (1965: 30). Author can use any kind of symbols. Each symbol will represent

something that has a meaning. The meaning of the symbol is usually related to the real life of the author.

Furthermore, Stanton provides three usual effects of symbolism in fiction depending upon the way it is used. First, the symbol that appears during an important moment of the story underlines the significance of that moment. Second, a symbol repeated several times remind us of some constant element of the story's worlds. Third, a symbol that recurs in varying context helps to defend and clarify the theme (1965: 35).

Symbol can be defined as something that means more than what it is. It can be related to other elements such as character, setting, and the plot of short story. In the book, *Theory of Literature*, Mac Mahan defines symbol as something to represents something else (1965: 189). Sometimes to interpret a word is as not simple as the meaning of the word itself. It probably has more than one meaning that is deeper meaning than the literal meaning.

Rohrberger and Woods also provides three ways of using symbols by the authors in their work; they are: The use of symbols in a more specific sense, the authors may endow object, details, characters, places, or even actions with meaning beyond themselves; e.g. a cross on building says that it is connected with Christianity in some way. Then the use of symbols in a more complex way; it means the use of complex symbol in a literature study or something beyond itself and even for many things by its definition. The last, the use of symbols in "private" and "personal". This kind of symbolism is possibly somewhat misleading, since not all symbols are private

or personal. If it were, there would be no possibility of communication. Nevertheless, there has been a tendency, particularly during the past hundred years for writers to endow object with certain symbolic aspect that is not a part of the public domain (1971: 15-17).

The significance of private and personal is generated mainly for itself; therefore, it arouses a more difficult problem in interpretation. Below are some cautions, Perrine in *Literature Structure, Sound, and Sense,* gives to help readers interpret symbols in literary works.

a. Reader should find clues which are furnished in the story itself. These clues are to tell the reader that a detail should be taken symbolically. In the absence of certain signals or hints, one should be reluctant to identify an idea as symbolical. The signals or hints are through emphasizes, repetitions, implications, or recurring patterns (Perrine, 1972:17). Whenever these hints occur, they indicate that the author is saying one thing in terms of another and these hints should never be neglected for they lead to eventual understanding.

b. The meaning of a literary symbol must be established and supported by the entire context of the story. The symbol has meaning in the story, not outside it.

c. A symbol may have more than one meaning. As it most effective symbols is like many faceted jewel. It flashes many different colors when it is turned in the light. This is not to say that it can mean anything we want it to. The area is possible meaning is always controlled by the context (Perrine. 1972: 17).

Before analyze about the symbols, the writer has to know about the real meaning of symbol. There is a close relation between symbol and other elements in literature, because Stanton said that a symbol that recurs in varying context helps to defend and clarify the theme (1965: 35). Furthermore, Mac Mahan said that symbol can be defined as something that means more than what it is, and it can be related to other elements such as character, setting, and plot of the story (1965: 189). In this case, to help the writer finding the symbols, the theory of symbols, and the theory of elements in literature will be used. They will be combined to the clues that are taken from the quotation of the story.

In previous theory of symbol, Mac Mahan said that symbol can be defined as something that means more than what it is. It can be related to other elements such as character, setting, and the plot of short story. (1965: 189). Furthermore, Stanton explains that a symbol that recurs in varying context helps to defend and clarify the theme (1965: 35). It means that the theory of character, setting, plot of short story, and theme are important to be known and written in this thesis.

2. Theory of character

When the reader began to read fiction, they usually find out the description of figure or person who determines the development of the story. The figure of the person is usually named character. The character in fiction is the person who we usually observe in life. He must be consistent and act throughout the story. The character can also ordinarily behave in a certain or predictable way. Thus, the

behavioral of fictional character is usually based on what people usually do and not on what they occasionally do. The character, however, must be motivated so the story is then not only concerned with what character is, the definition, but also of why he does in the story practically (Jeff and Scot, 1968: 7)

A character often shows considerable wit and psychological insight and has sometimes been regarded as an element in the development of character-drawing in the novel (Yelland et al., 1953:29) Thus, the character is not only represented physically but also mentally that is expressed through dialogue and action in the story (Abrams, 1981: 20). The psychological insight of the character is based on the "philosophical and religious" idea that people were borne for goodness but they are not free from problems and mistakes in their lives. Thus, the characters present the human capacities of concern, sympathy, and disappointment. They try to handle the world around them in their own way (Robert and Jacobs, 1987: 56-57).

Besides, it can be seen through the dialogue and action, a character can present a human being with moral uprightness in all of the good or bad side of being human and when he faces the problem in life. He may interact with another character, with a difficult situation or with ideal or general circumstances that might force him or her to act. Dealing with difficult situations can determine the character to win, loses, or be tied with such circumstances. He may learn and be better for the experience or may miss the point and be unchanged despite what happened (Jeff and Scott, 1968: 56).

3. Theory of Setting

The setting is usually the events or the immediate world in which they occur. The setting may include three parts. First, the setting can be visible background in which the reader can directly imagine, for example the river, the house, or the room. Second, the setting can be time or year, the climate, or the historical period in which the work is written. Last, the setting may include the people in the particular background, for example in Hamlin Garland's Main-Traveled Roads; most of the people who lived in the West in the late nineteenth century are farmers (Stanton, 1965: 18).

The setting is sometimes an episode or scene of physical and spiritual background which the action take place (Foster, 1927: 175). The elements making up a setting are: (1) the actual geographical location, its topography, scenery, and such physical arrangements for example the Mississippi town in the West; (2) the occupations and daily manner of living of the character for example the occupation of the people in the West were mainly farmers; (3) the time or period in which the action takes place for example Hamlin Garland's *Main Traveled Roads* was written in 1891; (4) the general environment of the character, for example religious, mental, moral, social, and emotional conditions through which the people in the narrative move. In *Main Traveled Roads*, the farmers are poor, frugal, uneducated, and depressed (Holman and Harmoon, 1986: 465).

4. Theory of Plot

A plot is defined as "a group of chromatically ordered events that are also related to one another by cause and effect" (Hamalian and Karl, 1978:516). It means that events happen in chorological order are related to one another by cause and effect is plot.

According to Aristotle: "a plot should have a unity; it should imitate one action and that a whole, the structural union of the parts being such that if any one of them is displaced and removed, the whole will be disjointed and disturbed (Holman and Harmon, 1986: 377)." It means that unity is very important thing in plot; it should be arranged in ordered way so that any part of the story will not be missed.

5. Theory of Theme

According to Jaffen and Scott, theme can be defined as "the generalization, stated, or implied, that lies behind the narration of a specific situation involving specific individual (1968: 8). It is not easy to find a theme in a piece of fiction, but they are explained such away to find a theme. They said theme has several characteristics and principle (1968: 9). They are: first, the idea of theme should not be adequate with that moral. They say that a theme is a kind of an object lesson that has something to do with behavior, though sometimes fiction deals with it, but still many other stories do not deal with moral. Second, the theme can not be stated into a principle or general truth like "honesty is the best policy" because human experience is more complex than that.

Jaffen and Scott also give an approach to discover theme in story. They suggest to the reader to pay attention at the characters then the readers should think about the situation where the characters live and how the characters respond to the situation. At last, the reader should see what happens to the characters as a result. A theme may be stated from the result. These factors are not absolute to all thematic stories, but it will work for so many stories and should be considered. It means that the theme is created on purpose since the character in fiction is treated like human beings live in the same world, share similar emotions, react in similar ways to similar situation, and face common problem.

Most work of literature not only implies that individual actions and events reflect more general human patterns; they also take stances and attitudes and express opinions. That is, they express-or, more often imply-a position, a value judgment about behaviors, relationships institutions, about what people do and how they do it. The stance a work takes toward something is its theme (Beaty and Hunter, 1989 1165). It means that everything in a literary work can be called as a theme, but the most important thing that takes toward something is the theme. The role of the reader is very great in determining the theme of a work, but general subject, tone, and other elements in the work sets limits to the reader's freedom to interpret.

To come to the understanding of theme, in *An Introduction to Fiction* (1965: 21) gives his views on how to identify a story's theme. The story itself has already guided us to the theme of a story in sense of providing us with lots of details that may support our interpretation. Stanton said that an important point to start is to ponder

about the character, the situation, and the plot. To see everything in the story is an attempt to help us to convey the theme, therefore we need to go further to the elements of the story particularly characters, setting, and plot.

Furthermore, Stanton (1965: 22-23) gives some criteria that the theme may have, they are:

1. An adequate interpretation should account every prominent detail in the story. It means that the interpretation of the story account all-important details adequately.

2. An adequate interpretation should not be contradicted by any detail of the story. The author is trying to communicate something. He will not willingly defeat his own purpose. Meaning to say that as the reader should be sensitive to contradictory evidence and be ready to change the interpretation if necessary.

3. An interpretation should not rest upon evidence not clearly stated or implied by the story. It means that the interpretation of the story base on the fact on the story that are clearly stated by the story.

4. Interpretation should be directly suggested by the story; -in other words if the theme is courage we may expect to see some explicit appearances of or referent to courage.

6. The Relationship of Characters, Setting, and Theme, to Symbol

It is clear that characters are a major element in the story for there will be no story and plot without characters. Characters play an important role to develop the plot. For a reason, an author may use his or her character to reveal a story's theme.

Perhaps, the author may choose one character to utter the theme explicitly. Besides, as stated by Hamalian and Karl, an author may also suggest his or her theme through character, atmosphere, setting, plot, and style (1978:327).

Stanton says that sometimes we find that the setting directly influences the characters in term of the way of acting, speaking or thinking, but it also exemplifies a theme (1965:18). The writer concludes that setting may suggest the theme of the story by looking at the characters' reaction to the events happen to them.

Pickering and Hopper, in their book *Literature Introduction: Reading, Studying, and Writing about Literature* states about the function of setting. One out of the five functions says that setting may serve as a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story. From the explanation above, the writer concludes that to find a theme we need to pay attention not only to one element, but also other elements are needed. If we relate the relation between character, setting, and theme to symbol, the Stanton's theory is proven that "a symbol that recurs in varying context helps to defend and clarify the theme (1965: 35)".

7. Ideas on Literature and Society

The ideas of literature are defined in several ways. First, literature is defined as everything in print. The second definition is to limit literature to great books, books which, whatever their subject, and is notable for literary form or expression. In the second definition, the criterion is either aesthetic worth in combination with general intellectual distinction. The limitation of literature to the art of literature that

is to imaginative literature is the third definition of literature. Again, the definition has made difficulties in employing the terms. Wellek and Warren, then, distinguished the particular use made of language in literature. The actions defined the use of literary language, everyday language, and scientific language. At the end, Wellek and Warren summarized that definition of literature, as a literature of art is not simple object but rather a highly complex organization of a stratified character with multiple meaning and relationship (1963: 95).

Literature is assumed as a projection of the time and place or life. It can be assumed also as a personal reflection or expression of a certain condition or situation of a certain time or era. Wellek and Warren state that literature is the essence, abridgement, and summary of all history; it is more than a reflection of a social process (1963: 95). Literature is not a social document; it has more values that the history implies in it. Literature teaches the readers and the society with critics, opinions, issues, messages, which are addressed to the readers and the society.

8. Theory of Feminism

Women from time to time, carry great duties and serving the men. Women have to take care the children and serve their husband as their responsibilities. Ashley Montagu says that belief is right, because is believed as what really happens (1953: 23). Men from one generation to the next generation exploit women. Gender discrimination is a great burden for women, because they have the idea of that

discrimination and also they are against men in order to change men's attitude toward women. Women are not only physically oppressed but also mentally (1953: 38).

Women are treated unfairly; it is the fact that from the past, the gender discrimination was seen clearly. Montagu explains it further that women themselves feel that they are weak and inferior. The feelings of weakness make them much weaker than they think. Patriarchy, as a system of oppression, is already destroying women's consciousness about their potential and power, which can be derived from themselves. Patriarchal system limits women's choices for their lives so that they still choose become a mother as a primary choice.

According to Montagu, women and men are physically different. Women should bear the children and nurse them; they are forced to be much more sedentary than men. A woman is the cricket on the heart; man is the eagle on the wing, Women stay at home and care for children, to prepare food. Men leave the home, for the hunt (1953: 28).

However, the significance of the biological difference is often interpreted in such manner as to convey the appearance of a natural connection between conditions which are, in fact only artificially connected, that is by misinterpretation. For example, in almost all cultures pregnancy, birth, and nursing, is interpreted by both sexes by handicapping experiences. As a consequence, women have been biologically, naturally, placed in an inferior position to men, but as we today know well, these biological functions of women are handicapped.

Women's oppression is not caused by the natural factor; it is conditioned by the culture. Feminism is women's struggle as a result of women's consciousness about discrimination and exploitation and desire to be equal with men. Feminism is a call to action. It can never be simply a belief system (Tutle, 1986: 107).

From all evidence above, it can be concluded that women were superior than men, namely, in their ability to bear and bring up children, women have been made to feel that their roles are handicapping ones (Montagu, 1953: 31). Realizing their superiority, women are stronger than men; women are better in handling the bad conditions they face in their life, like, starvation, exposure, fatigue, and illness. They have greater stamina and live longer (Montagu, 1953: 83).

Women are more emotional than men. This shows their superiority to men. Women, unlike men, are not afraid to exhibit their feelings. Women are not crippled by an ability to express their feelings when they should as men are. As a result, women are far greater realist than men (Montagu, 1953: 83).

On the other hand, there is a kind of social point of view for women, which are called "The Cult True Womanhood". The Cult of True Womanhood "purposely did not acknowledge the growing work force of women, did not sanction professionalism and careerism for women . . ." (Papke, 1995: 12). Women were cast as emotional servants that were dedicated to take care of home and family in the preservence of social stability (Papke, 1995: 10). It means that the society forces women to live in their house only, and have no chance to give and express their talents and to get an appropriate job.

Feminism appears since women were treated unfairly just because of their sex. It is more to their consciousness of female oppression. Consciousness arises since feminism means knowledge of existing things in a new light. Some of feminist described the different historical, psychological, sexual, and racial experience of women and how feminism can be a source of power and knowledge. Gilman believes, to have a congenial work is a key to get women's freedom. In fact, from time to time, women always depend on men economically. The result, women's social status is lower than men are.

The theories of feminism not only support the feminist ideas, but also the theory of superior feeling. Actually, women are not inferior, as men and society say. Women are more realistic, effectively controlling their feeling and they can use their power for good purposes. Moreover, the feminist theories have purpose to understand women's oppression in terms of race, gender, class, and sexual preference and also how to change it. That is true that physically women are different from men and some people believe they are also physiologically different, it can be seen that men are more rational and aggressive than women. Women are struggling to show their surrounding about their existence.

9. Theory of Message

Beaty and Hunter in their book *New World of Literature* said that message is the real meaning or some easy conclusion that can be simply stated or summarized inside a work of art (1989: 899). Richard, Plat, and Weber in *Longman Dictionary of*

Applied Linguistics say that message is what is conveyed in speech or writing from one person to one or more other people (1985: 1760), then John Sinclair in *Collins Cobuild Dictionary* defines message as an idea that someone tries to communicate to people, for example in a play or a speech, or the meaning, the suggestion, the thought or idea that is intended to express (1988:490).

The types of suggestion, the thought, or the idea, are related to human problem. In broad line, problem of human life are divided into three problems, namely: the problem in the relationship between a person and himself or herself; a person and his or her fellowman including his or her relationship with his or her surrounding, and between a person and his or her God. (Nurgiyantoro, 1995:325). There are two ways in expressing message. The first is in the direct form and the second is in indirect form.

a. Direct conveying form

Direct conveying form of message can be said identical with the description of the character's catachrestic way that has telling or expository quality. It means that the message is conveyed directly and explicitly. The author seems to teach the readers, and directly give his advice. The direct technique has its own superiority. This form is more communicative, meaning the readers can understand what the author means easily. The readers do not find any difficulties to interpret the message of the work by themselves. Nevertheless, this technique has its shortcomings. The readers would feel that the author seems to compel them to accept the message. This method is also less coherent with the other elements considering its position as an esthetical work that

has function to entertain and to give emotional and intellectual pleasure. A work of an art must have a whole unity among its elements. It will reduce the value of the work itself.

b. Indirect conveying form

In comparison to previous form, the conveying form here has an indirect nature. The message is presented explicitly and in united coherence with another story element. When an author wants to convey or show something, he does not convey it directly and explicitly (Nurgiyantoro, 1995:340).

This thesis is a full of symbols and figurative language or figurative words. The message of the story is not easy to explain. It means that the messages of the story in this thesis includes as indirect conveying form, because the author of “The Yellow Wallpaper” is conveying her message indirectly and implicitly with the symbols.

C. Theoretical Framework

In the review of the related studies, the writer explains about the historical background of the work. It is important for the analysis. It helps the writer to know deeper about the work, especially the reasons or the motives of the work can be created. The theories of symbol are important to solve the first problem formulation. To find the symbols, it is important to the writer to know about the definition or the meaning of symbol. Symbol has close relation with character, setting, and theme. In this case, the writer uses the theory of character, the theory of setting, and the theory of theme to find the meaning of symbol and the symbols in “The Yellow Wallpaper”.

These theories will be combined to Perrin's theory. Perrine's theories will be the most important in this thesis for analyzing the symbols, because all of the symbols in this thesis are private symbols. The writer will find the clues from the quotations in "The Yellow Wallpaper to make the reader understand about the symbols.

The ideas on literature and society are important to know the relation between the social background and the literature, especially when analyzing 'the narrator's journal paper' as a symbol of literature. The last theory is the theories of feminism. The theories of feminism help the writer to know the history of feminism and patriarchal society. The theory of feminism will be related with the work, theory of symbols and other elements; and theory of message to help the writer finding Gilman's messages of the story.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The literary work, which the writer uses in this study is "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 - 1935), a feminist writer, artist, economist, feminist theorist, editor, reformer, lecturer, and activist in Victorian Era. "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a short story that is divided into twelve chapters.

This literary work was first published in 1899, and reprinted in a book, *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Stories*, that was published in 2000. From "The Yellow Wallpaper", Gilman attempted to reach a wide variety of people with her social commentaries, especially women, in an attempt to awaken them to her revolutionary ideas. Although she was well known in her time, "The Yellow Wallpaper" almost failed to truly take root. Firstly, "The Yellow Wallpaper" was rejected by prestigious *Atlantic* monthly, whose editor found it too personally distressing to publish; then it was first published in *New England Magazine*, in January 1892. There were many pro and contra after it was published, that made Gilman created *Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'* in 1913, to support and to defend her own ideas. In 1899, it was reprinted as a chapbook. For this thesis, the short story text is taken from Lizabeth Goodman's *Literature and Gender* that was published in 1996, page 348 until page 359.

"The Yellow Wallpaper" tells about a woman or a wife who is oppressed by men; her own husband, her own brother, and the society she lives in. This oppression causes the narrator, who is suffering from temporary nervous depression, to sink lower and lower into the depths of insanity. The women are trying to escape from her suffering by writing about the room or the nursery she stays in, especially all of everything about the wallpaper that is covering the room.

B. Approach

Analyzing a literary work was important in order to get deep understanding of literary work. It is needed criticism to make a good analysis. The analysis focuses on the narrator as a reflection being different from other women and her relation with the symbols in the work and with feminism, the most appropriate approach for this story is feminist literary critical approach. Birenbaum in his book, *The Happy Critic*, describes feminist criticism study of literature with special attention to the roles of women in society and in literary creation. On a basic level they will focus upon the way a work characterizes girls and women often exposing the prejudice of male authors and male dominated society. They emphasizes the contribution of women writers, especially they who may have been underrated in the past, and advance work that portray female characters with sympathy and understanding (1996: 223).

Feminist literary critics try to explain how power imbalance due to gender in a given culture are reflected in or challenged by literary text. Most researches address such topic as mothering, living within enclosures, doubling characters and on the self,

women's disease, sexual harassment and feminized landscape; and they make interesting argument that some feminist features identified from their female characters. In Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", symbol will be the important part of the story. There are some symbols in the short story that are reflecting something. Focusing the analysis to the symbols and the relation to the female main character, the writer will try to find the messages for the society in the story.

C. Method of the Study

To compose this thesis, the writer used library research method to collect the data resources. To support the study, the writer used two kinds of resources; there are primary source and secondary sources. The primary source of this thesis is the short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" which was written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. The secondary sources were taken from some books in library, online books, and internet websites that could support the thesis. The writer uses reads and learns some books and internet websites about symbolism, feminism, messages, and autobiography. They were very helpful for the writer to understand about the background of the society, the influence of the situation and condition of the society toward the author and her work, the important of symbols in feminist literary works, and the message revealed in the symbols of feminist literary works.

There were some steps the writer takes to analyze the short story. First, in order to understand the object of the study, it was very important to read the whole story carefully. A fully understanding of the whole story is necessary to produce the

answer of the problem formulation. While reading the story, the question already formulated was kept in mind. By doing this, the aim of reading the work was focused on the symbols in the story and a specific issue, in this case, focused on the topic of feminism.

The second step was finding the answer to the first problem formulation. After comprehending the theory of symbols that led to answer the first problem, the writer tried to find the symbols. The theory of symbol is used to give the writer the real definition of symbol. It is important for the writer to know the real definition of symbol before finding the symbols in “The Yellow Wallpaper”. The theory of character, setting, plot, and theme are important in this part, because symbol has close relation to these elements and some of them are the part of that elements, for example: the nursery room as a setting and a symbol.

The third step is finding the reflection or representation of each symbol. Symbol has its own representation, and the representation is related to the real situation of the society. The theory of feminism; and the relation between society and literature are important in this part. Feminism, society, and literature are related each other in human life.

The fourth step was finding the author’s messages in representing feminist ideas through the symbols. The theory of message is very important here. There are some definitions of message. The writer finds that the most appropriate definition of message is suggestion. The suggestion that comes from Gilman’s thoughts and ideas will be related to the symbols and its representation.

In addition, the final step was concluding. The conclusion was made after all the formulated problems were completely answered. The writer was finding some crucial points, as the result of the analysis, and would be put in conclusion with the suggestion for the future research with the same topic, the same work, or the same author.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

The short story is written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, a feminist author. The main character of the story is the female nameless character or the narrator, a wife, and a mother. John, the narrator's husband, thinks that the narrator is in a temporary nervous depression. Her husband takes her to a kind of treatment or therapy to cure her insanity. For some people, the insanity seems without reasons; it is just a kind of judgment to women in patriarchal society, women who can not follow the rule and try to rebel. Women should obey the rule. They will be sufferer if they are trying to make a rebellion.

Gilman, in "The Yellow Wallpaper", used her feeling, emotion, passion, and thought, to make a kind of struggle. She believed that someday her literary work would make a contribution to the society for a better life. The writer, in this thesis, will analyze the symbols in the story and will find the messages revealed through the symbols. From the symbols, the writer will show the reader the beautiful of symbols. Something unpredictable, hidden, difficult to understand, and secret will be clearer in this thesis.

A. Symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

According to Mary Rohrberger and H. Woods Samuel's theories, symbols can be categorized as the use of symbols in 'private' and 'personal' (1971: 15-17). This thesis is trying to find the meaning of the personal symbols. The symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper" can be included as private or personal symbol, because the real meaning of the symbols are very contradiction to the literal meaning of the symbols. Something good can mean something bad. The story is feminist literary works. It will be a key to understand the story especially the symbols deeply. This story has two main interpretations, as a horror or gothic story and a feminist literary work. In this case, the writer will try to find the clues in order to get the meaning of the symbols and to understand the story. The writer is also using Perrine's, Stanton's, and other theories of symbols in analyzing the symbols (1972: 17).

There are four symbols in "The Yellow Wallpaper", they are the nursery room, the yellow wallpaper, the image of creeping woman, and the narrator's journal activity. All of the symbols can be called as private symbol.

Stanton provides three usual effects of symbolism in fiction depending upon the way it is used. First, the symbol that appears during an important moment of the story underlines the significance of that moment. Second, a symbol repeated several times remind us of some constant elements of the story's worlds. Third, a symbol that recurs in varying context helps to defend and clarify the theme (1965: 35).

Stanton's theory will be used to prove that the nursery room, the yellow wallpaper, the image of creeping woman, and the narrator's journal activity are

symbols. They are appeared during an important moment in this story and underline the significance of that moment. The most important moment in the story is happened when the narrator is tearing the yellow wallpaper. This moment is happened in the nursery room, after the narrator is satisfied to write on her journal. The narrator is tearing the yellow wallpaper because she wants to follow what the image of creeping women does. From the explanation, it is proven that the four symbols are related each other in that important moment.

In the story, the four symbols are repeated several times, and remind us of some constant elements of the story's world. The nursery room and the yellow wallpaper as the settings of the story influence the narrator's or the main character's characterization.

The theme of the story is female imprisonment in the domestic sphere. The four symbols that recur in varying context help the writer to defend the theme. The fours symbols have close relation to the theme. The nursery room is symbolizing the imprisonment. The wallpaper is suppressing the narrator when she lives in the nursery room. The image of creeping women, when the narrator is suppressed, appears in the nursery room or in the imprisonment. Lastly, the narrator's journal paper is the way to escape and the way to express the narrator's ideas, feelings, and thought in her imprisonment. These explanations prove that the four symbols remind us about the other elements of the story and help to clarify and defend the theme of the story.

For the next analysis, the writer will combine the Stanton's theory and Perrin's theory of symbol needs some clues. The clues will be taken from the quotation in "The Yellow Wallpaper", the theory of feminism, and the theory of "the relation between literature and society, and some other sources. Perrin's theory will be used, as the main guidelines, by the writer to write the analysis of the story.

1. The Nursery Room

The nursery room, in the story, is repeated several times. The narrator is placed in the nursery room by her husband for a special treatment. It becomes the beginning of the conflicts between the narrator and the husband. The most important moment in the story or the climax of the story happens in the nursery room. That important moment happens when the narrator is tearing the yellow wallpaper.

Mac Mahan, in his book, defines symbols as something to represent something else (1965: 189). Sometimes to interpret a word is not as simple as the meaning of the word itself. It probably has more than one meaning that is deeper than the literal meaning. Moreover, it can be related to the other element, such as character, setting, and plot of the story. The nursery room is a setting, which can also be called a symbol. The nursery is an important symbol and setting of the story. According to Hornby's *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, nursery means a room for the special use of small children (1986: 576). It means that 'nursery room' is commonly identical with a comfort, pleasant, and beautiful place that can make a child happy to stay in that room. The most important thing here is

that the narrator is a mother and adult, moreover, the story is a feminist literary work. The nursery, which is barred, is not appropriate place for the narrator. That is why the writer chooses “the nursery room’ as a symbol of the story. Then the writer will give the explanations and clues that the nursery has relation with the feminism. To complete the Perrin’s theory the writer will find some clues to establish and support the symbol and its meaning or its representation.

If we talk about domination, there are the superior and the inferior. In a patriarchal society, of course the superior is the man and the inferior is the woman. In the story, the superior is John, the husband; and the inferior is the narrator, the wife.

> It is a big, airy room, the whole floor nearly, with windows that look all ways, and air and sunshine galore. It was nursery first and then playroom and gymnasium, I should judge; for the windows are barred for little children, and there are rings and things in the walls (p. 349).
>
> It is an airy and comfortable room as any one need wish, and, of course, I would not be so silly as to make him uncomfortable just for a whim (p. 350).
>
> I lie here on this great *immovable* bed--it is *nailed down* (p. 352).

John is very careful and loving. John shows his love by placing her wife into a nursery room. In the story, the narrator is placed in the nursery by her husband for a special treatment everyday. She is treated like a small child by her husband in that room that is barred and has an *immovable* and *nailed down* bed, that can restrict the narrator’s motion. The room is full of decoration that is special for children. She feels inferior placed in the nursery room. On the contrary, the husband hopes that his wife will be happy and get better condition placed in the nursery room. The narrator tries

to accept this treatment. She has no choice because she knows that the husband will never hear the narrator's opinion. John gives the narrator a schedule prescription for each hour in the day. The narrator should follow the schedule in order to make her mental condition better.

She is talking to her husband like a daughter is talking with his father. Moreover, John treats her like a small child who has to be taken care and who has to be paid attention carefully. John also talks to her using small and comforting gentle words. The husband uses soft and gentle words which are inappropriate for an adult woman like the narrator.

> It is an airy and comfortable room as any one need wish, and, of course, I would not be so silly as to make him uncomfortable just for a whim (p. 350).

The narrator does not want to make her husband disappointed and uncomfortable. The narrator knows that her husband is placing her in the nursery room for her goodness. She hopes that she can make her husband happy always.

In addition to treat her like a small child, John also forbids her to express her feeling in anyway; speaking and writing. John is imposing strict guidelines; he is not allowing his wife from self-expression and forbids her make relation with others. It causes the narrator feel so lonely.

In the story, the narrator feels so bored and uncomfortable with the situation of the room that is inappropriate to her, but again she is prohibited by her husband. She asks to her husband to make a change about the interior of the room.

> I don't like our room a bit. I wanted one downstairs that opened on the piazza and had roses all over the window, and such pretty old-fashioned chintz hangings! but John would not hear of it (p. 349).

John shows his disagreement of any request that is coming from his wife and his authority. He does not want to change anything about the interior of the room. John's prohibitions and rules is poisoning her mind, causing her to cry and to be depressed. The narrator does not want John to know when she is crying. The narrator has no friend to share. Her closest person, John, can not understand her. She becomes frustrated and mad very easily. Moreover, it makes her mind so difficult to think clearly. The unfair condition makes the narrator as a woman is depressed. From the explanations above, and if we related the explanations to the feminism, it can be conclude that the nursery room is symbolizing the male domination.

2. The Narrator's Journal Papers

The writing activity is an important thing in the story. The meaning of writing or journal activity is not that simple. In the book, *Theory of Literature*, Mac Mahan defines symbol as something to represent something else (1965: 189). Sometimes to interpret a word is not as simple as the meaning of the word itself. It probably has more than one meaning that is deeper meaning than the literal meaning. According to Hornby's *Oxford Advanced Dictionary of Current English*, the literal meaning of journal paper is a paper which is used to "record of daily news, events, business accounts, etc." That is why the writer is calling the narrator's paper for her writing activity is called as journal paper, because the narrator is recording her daily events.

In the story, the narrator is writing her journal according to the situation and the condition of the house, she is also writing about her feelings and thoughts.

The writer chooses the journal paper as the symbol because the narrator is doing the journal activity in the whole of the story, especially before the important moment happens. Moreover, the word ‘paper’ is repeated several times. In the imprisonment, the female character is trying to express herself in a paper. In her imprisonment in domestic sphere, the narrator tries to find a way to develop and to save herself according to her experiences, especially her imprisonment. It means that the narrator’s journal paper is inspired by the female’s imprisonment in domestic sphere as the theme.

Moreover, using Perrine’s theories, the writer will find some quotations in the story as the clues. Firstly, the narrator does not know why she should write. In her suppressed condition, the narrator has no bravery to express her feeling to John directly and orally. She needs a friend. The journal paper is her only friend to share.

> I don't know why I should write this.
> I don't want to.
> I don't feel able. And I know John would think it absurd. But I must say what I feel and think in some way--it is such a relief!
> But the effort is getting to be greater than the relief (p. 352).

Her husband will not hear her opinion. The narrator has no other opportunity to express her feelings and thoughts.

> There comes John, and I must put this away,--he hates to have me write a word (p. 349).

> There comes John's sister. Such a dear girl as she is, and so careful of me! I must not let her find me writing (p. 351).

> But I can write when she is out, and see her a long way off from these Windows (p. 351).

The narrator is doing the journal activity secretly. She always tries to hide her paper when John and John's sister are coming to her. The narrator will continue her journal activity when she is sure that nobody is watching her.

> He says that with my imaginative power and habit of story-making, a nervous weakness like mine is sure to lead to all manner of excited fancies, and that I ought to use my will and good sense to check the tendency. So I try (p. 350).

The narrator's opinion and her husband's opinion are always contradictory. The husband thinks that her wife's condition will be worse when she is writing on her journal paper, on the contrary, the narrator wants to prove that she is fine when she is writing on her journal paper.

> So I take phosphates or phosphites--whichever it is, and tonics, and journeys, and air, and exercise, and am absolutely forbidden to "work" until I am well again.
> Personally, I disagree with their ideas.
> Personally, I believe that congenial work, with excitement and change, would do me good.
> But what is one to do?
> I did write for a while in spite of them; but it does exhaust me a good deal--having to be so sly about it, or else meet with heavy opposition (p. 348).

The narrator thinks that congenial work, with excitement and change, will make her better. It means that that appropriate and various jobs will be more useful to make her better. Appropriate jobs means job that are proper with her talents. The only thing she can do and she likes most is her writing activity. She feels better when writing anything about the conditions in the house and the feelings in her heart. On the other hand, she is forbidden to do that by her own husband. She faces a kind of

dilemma. From the beginning until the end of the story, the narrator is writing on her journal paper. In her journal, she shows that she understands about some sciences such as physics, math, and others science.

> I know a little of the principle of design, and I know this thing was not arranged on any laws of radiation, or alternation, or repetition, or symmetry, or anything else that I ever heard of (p. 352).

In this part, the narrator proves that she is really well. There is no problem with her mind. It is proven by her journal paper. The narrator shows that she is talented and skilled. The writing activity is not just a way to escape from the reality; it is a representation of feminist literary work.

3. The Yellow Wallpaper

The Yellow wallpaper is the title of the story. It can emphasize that the yellow paper is a symbol. The existence of the yellow wallpaper is very important in the story. The yellow wallpaper is covering the nursery room. The narrator in the whole of the story is terrified by the wallpaper. She is oppressed by that paper. For many times the narrator is writing about the yellow wallpaper in her journal paper. According to Stanton's theory (1955: 30), in the yellow wallpaper, there are two important objects, a color and a shape; they are the 'yellow' and the 'wallpaper'.

In the story, the imprisonment is the house that is barred and locked by gate, and the oppression is the 'yellow wallpaper'. The 'yellow wallpaper' is covering the room which she stays in. In that room, the narrator is oppressed by the terrible yellow wallpaper. To fulfill Perrin's theory of symbols and to emphasize the yellow

wallpaper as a symbol, the writer will analyze it and find some clues or quotation from the story.

To make it clearer, the writer will analyze the word ‘yellow’, as the color of the wallpaper. The writer thinks that there is a purpose why Gilman chooses “yellow” as the color of the wallpaper.

> It is the strangest yellow, that wall-paper! It makes me think of all the yellow things I ever saw--not beautiful ones like buttercups, but old foul, bad yellow things (p. 355).

The narrator does not like the yellow color. The yellow is strange for her. The narrator thinks that the beautiful yellow is as beautiful as the yellow of buttercup. Buttercup is a kind beautiful flower that the color is yellow. The yellow of the wallpaper is old foul and bad.

> But there is something else about that paper-- the smell! I noticed it
> the moment we came into the room, but with so much air and sun it was not bad. Now we have had a week of fog and rain, and whether the windows are open or not, the smell is here.
> It creeps all over the house.
> I find it hovering in the dining-room, skulking in the parlor, hiding in the hall, lying in wait for me on the stairs.
> It gets into my hair.
> Even when I go to ride, if I turn my head suddenly and surprise it--there is that smell!
> Such a peculiar odor, too! I have spent hours in trying to analyze it, to find what it smelled like.
> It is not bad--at first, and very gentle, but quite the subtlest, most enduring odor I ever met.
> In this damp weather it is awful, I wake up in the night and find it hanging over me.
> It used to disturb me at first. I thought seriously of burning the house--to reach the smell.
> But now I am used to it. The only thing I can think of that it is like is the color of the paper! A yellow smell (p. 356).

The narrator does not like the smell that creeps all over the house. The narrator find the smell is hovering in the dinning room, skulking in the parlor, hiding in the hall, and lying in wait for her on the stairs. The smell infects her hair and her head. The narrator is trying to analyze it. Finally, she finds that the smell is coming from the yellow wallpaper, and she calls it 'yellow smell'. When she is trying to be calm, she is attacked by the yellow smell.

> The color is hideous enough, and unreliable enough, and infuriating enough, but the pattern is torturing (p. 354).

The narrator does not like the pattern of the wallpaper. It makes the narrator's hatred to the yellow color in her room is rising.

> The paint and paper look as if a boys' school had used it. It is stripped off—the paper in great patches all around the head of my bed, about as far as I can reach, and in a great place on the other side of the room low down. I never saw a worse paper in my life (p. 349).

In the story, the wallpaper is depriving the narrator's freedom. The narrator shows her dislikeness to the wallpaper, she never sees 'worse paper' in her life. It surrounds and confines the narrator.

> It is dull enough to confuse the eye in following, pronounced enough to constantly irritate and provoke study, and when you follow the lame uncertain curves for a little distance they suddenly commit suicide--plunge off at outrageous angles, destroy themselves in unheard of contradictions (p. 349).

The narrator's uncomfortable is changing into anxiety and paranoid. She feels that she is being watched by someone because of the pattern. She watches terrible scenery. She is too afraid to do something. The pattern is torturing, not only does the

narrator suffer from being confined, but she is also tormented by the intimidating pattern, and may easily be strangled by it.

> This paper looks to me as if it knew what a vicious influence it had!
> There is a recurrent spot where the pattern lolls like a broken neck and two bulbous eyes stare at you upside down (p. 351).

> I get positively angry with the impertinence of it and the everlastingness. Up and down and sideways they crawl, and those absurd, unblinking eyes are everywhere There is one place where two breaths didn't match, and the eyes go all up and down the line, one a little higher than the other (p. 351).

The wallpaper makes the narrator so weary. In that room she can not do anything. The narrator does not like the paper; moreover she is tormented by it. At last, she says that she is getting really fond of the room because of the 'wallpaper'. It means that she is forced to enjoy the wallpaper that she hates so much.

> I'm getting really fond of the room in spite of the wall-paper. Perhaps because of the wall-paper.
> It dwells in my mind so (p. 352)!

She wants to 'revolutionize' the wallpaper, but she knows it is impossible. She has no choice, one thing she can do is loving the 'yellow wallpaper'. Like a prisoner who has to live in a prison, he or she is forced to enjoy the situation and condition of the prison. In order to enjoy the 'yellow wallpaper', the narrator is trying to analyze and seeking something beautiful about the 'wallpaper', then writing it in her journal. The narrator watches it closely for many times and tries to observe it. She likes to "follow the pattern to some sort of a conclusion."

> You think you have mastered it, but just as you get well underway in following, it turns a back somersault and there you are. It slaps you in the face, knocks you down, and tramples upon you. It is like a bad dream (p. 354).

In fact, she can not enjoy the ‘yellow wallpaper’. When she is trying to analyze it. She is tortured and punished by the wallpaper more and more. It can be conclude that the yellow wallpaper is representing one meaning, it is female oppression. Female oppression means a situation and condition of the society which make women are oppressed mentally.

4. The Image of Creeping Woman

‘The image of creeping woman’ is related to ‘the yellow wallpaper’, because ‘the image of creeping woman’ appears behind ‘the yellow wallpaper’. The writer chooses ‘the image of creeping woman’ as a symbol because of some reasons. Firstly, it is because the ‘creeping woman’ appears and repeated several times in the story especially when the narrator feels depressed and lonely. Secondly, the writer will use Stanton’s theory to analyze the symbol. Stanton explains that symbol maybe anything about the story; a single object, repeated type of object, a physical substance, a shape, a gesture, a color, a sound, and a fragrance (1965: 30). ‘The image of creeping woman’ is a symbols which is a shape, a gesture, and a color (the color of shadow is black). It appears behind the yellow wallpaper and it appears in the house. The purpose is to be free from the house and the yellow wallpaper. The narrator and the ’creeping woman’ want to go outside from the house to get their freedom.

According to Hornby’s *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English*, creeping means move [-ing] along with the body close to the ground or floor,

move slowly, quietly, and secretly (1986: 202). The writer thinks that the image of creeping woman is symbolizing woman's struggle and rebellion to break female's imprisonment and female's oppression, which is done slowly, quietly, and secretly. The struggle in this symbol is the struggle that is done by feminist writers. Feminist writers use feminist literary works to make struggles. They are criticizing the society, giving advices to the society, giving suggestion to the society, and showing women's abilities or talents. Their purpose is to break the patriarchal rule. In reality, feminists struggle and rebellion are unseen, but they exist.

> But in the places where it isn't faded and where the sun is just so--I can see a strange, provoking, formless sort of figure, that seems to skulk about behind that silly and conspicuous front design (p. 351).

Firstly, the narrator finds the 'creeping woman' as a strange, provoking, formless sort of figure that is skulking behind the wallpaper. In the first appearance, the narrator does not pay attention too much to the 'creeping woman'.

> There are things in that paper that nobody knows but me, or ever will.
> Behind that outside pattern the dim shapes get clearer every day.
> It is always the same shape, only very numerous.
> And it is like a woman stooping down and creeping about behind that pattern.
> I don't like it a bit. I wonder--I begin to think--I wish John would take me away from here! (p. 353)

In the next appearance, the narrator realizes that she is the only person who can see the image. The image is clearer and clearer, and then the numbers of 'the creeping women' are increased everyday. The narrator is frightened because the image is coming from the wallpaper. The narrator wants John to take her away from the room, because the 'creeping woman' appears in multitudes.

> At night in any kind of light, in twilight, candlelight, lamplight, and worst of all by moonlight, it becomes bars! The outside pattern I mean, and the woman behind it is as plain as can be.
> I didn't realize for a long time what the thing was that showed behind, that dim sub-pattern, but now I am quite sure it is a woman (p. 355).

At last, the narrator can watch the image clearly, and she is sure that the image is a shape of creeping women. After knowing that the images are shape of creeping women, her anxiety is disappeared. She thinks that she has friends for her; she feels that she is not alone.

> I really have discovered something at last.
> Through watching so much at night, when it changes so, I have finally found out.
> The front pattern does move--and no wonder! The woman behind shakes it! Sometimes I think there are a great many women behind, and sometimes only one, and she crawls around fast, and her crawling shakes it all over.
> Then in the very bright spots she keeps still, and in the very shady spots she just takes hold of the bars and shakes them hard.
> And she is all the time trying to climb through. But nobody could climb through that pattern--it strangles so; I think that is why it has so many heads.
> They get through, and then the pattern strangles them off and turns them upside down, and makes their eyes white! (p. 356)

The narrator watches the wallpaper as a pattern of "bars" that prevent the women inside from coming outside from the pattern. The narrator finally thinks that the condition of the ‘creeping women’ is the same with her. ‘The creeping women’ want to be free from the wallpaper and the pattern that is restraining ‘them’. When the ‘creeping women’ try to remove the bars restraining them, the bars attack ‘them’. The bars shake them hardly and strangle ‘them’ who attempt to escape. The bars do not allow the images to escape.

> I think that woman gets out in the daytime!
> And I'll tell you why--privately--I've seen her!

> I can see her out of every one of my windows!
> It is the same woman, I know, for she is always creeping, and most women do not creep by daylight.
> I see her on that long road under the trees, creeping along, and when a carriage comes she hides under the blackberry vines.
> I don't blame her a bit. It must be very humiliating to be caught creeping by daylight! (p. 356, 357)

The narrator then imagines that the woman can be free from the pattern in the daytime. It is unusual thing for the ’creeping woman’ is creeping outside in the daytime.

> I don't blame her a bit. It must be very humiliating to be caught
> creeping by daylight!
> I always lock the door when I creep by daylight. I can't do it at night,
> for I know John would suspect something at once.
> And John is so queer now, that I don't want to irritate him. I wish he
> would take another room! Besides, I don't want anybody to get that woman out at night but myself.
> I often wonder if I could see her out of all the windows at once.
> But, turn as fast as I can, I can only see out of one at one time.
> And though I always see her, she may be able to creep faster than I can turn!
> I have watched her sometimes away off in the open country, creeping as fast as a cloud shadow in a high wind (p. 358).

> If only that top pattern could be gotten off from the under one! I mean to try it little by little (p. 358).

After imagining that the ‘creeping woman’ can be free from the house, she has a plan to help the ‘creeping woman’ free from the house. She wants to watch the ‘creeping woman’ is creeping in the open country, and creeping as fast as a cloud shadow in a high wind. The narrator has a plan to get off the top pattern from the ‘creeping woman’.

> Hurrah! This is the last day, but it is enough. John to stay in town over night, and won't be out until this evening.

> Jennie wanted to sleep with me--the sly thing! But I told her I should undoubtedly rest better for a night all alone.
> That was clever, for really I wasn't alone a bit. As soon as it was moonlight and that poor thing began to crawl and shake the pattern, I got up and ran to help her.
> I pulled and she shook, I shook and she pulled, and before morning we had peeled off yards of that paper (p. 357).

In her last day, she wants to finish her mission. She wants to help the 'creeping woman'.

> Then I peeled off all the paper I could reach standing on the floor. It sticks horribly and the pattern just enjoys it! All those strangled heads and bulbous eyes and waddling fungus growths just shriek with derision (p. 358)!

Finally, she is tearing the paper in order to make the 'creeping women' free. All of the image can be from the house through the windows, but the narrator can not follow them out from the house because the bars of the window are too strong. It represents woman's struggle and rebellion to break the imprisonment and oppression. The writer thinks that the 'creeping woman' is symbolizing woman's struggle and rebellion because the 'creeping woman' and the narrator have the same purpose.

B. Gilman's Messages through the Symbols

1. The Nursery Room

Usually, a wealthy family has a special room for the baby, which is called the nursery room. A nursery room is decorated very beautifully, with some pretty little things to make the baby happy. The bed will be barred to make the baby safe and comfortable; and to make sure that the baby will always be in the bed. The narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" is placed in a nursery room by her husband.

> He said we came here solely on my account, that I was to have perfect rest and all the air I could get. "Your exercise depends on your strength, my dear," said he, "and your food somewhat on your appetite; but air you can absorb all the time. ' So we took the nursery at the top of the house (349).

> It is a big, airy room, the whole floor nearly, with windows that look all ways, and air and sunshine galore. It was nursery first and then playroom and gymnasium, I should judge; for the windows are barred for little children, and there are rings and things in the walls (349).

The narrator is forced to live in the nursery room by her husband, because her husband thinks that the nursery room is the best place for her health. The narrator thinks that the room is like playroom and gymnasium, a room that is appropriate for children. Though the family is rich, the nursery room is an inappropriate place for her because she is a mother or an adult person.

The narrator feels inferior placed in the nursery room. In that place, she is treated like a small child, which should be taken care strictly. This condition is caused by the different social status between them.

The narrator’s condition is the same as the way of men treating women in patriarchal society. The husband, who is a physician, always thinks that he is right. John thinks that he is more experienced and skilled. This condition makes the narrator feels inferior.

There is a distance between the narrator and the husband that can make problem in communication. Miscommunication and misunderstand are the problems that are easy happen. Women in patriarchal society were controlled by men. Men’s positions in the society and in the family were higher than women. This condition

was caused by the dissimilarity level of education between men and women. In a patriarchal society, men had the higher level of education than women. It caused women had no opportunity to get higher social status than men. The social status was of course related with the profession. Indirectly, women lost their freedom to express their opinion.

> "The repairs are not done at home, and I cannot possibly leave town just now. Of course if you were in any danger, I could and would, but you really are better, dear, whether you can see it or not. I am a doctor, dear, and I know. You are gaining flesh and color, your appetite is better, I feel really much easier about you (354)."

Men could choose the jobs they liked, but women could not. Men could fulfill the family's needs and solve the financial problem, but women could not. Many things could be solved by men, and then women should take care the house and the family well. The different social status and the rule of the society force women's talents, hobbies, socialization needs, and self expression are banned. It made women more and more inferior. Some women were depressed, and in some cases, they were committing suicide because of the male domination.

From this symbol and the explanations above, we can get a message that the society, especially men, should not turn the back upon women. Gilman wants to show her disagreement to the male domination that occurs in the society and wants to break of the terrible effects of male dominated society. Gilman wants to show that male domination is not the appropriate model for the society, especially for women. The same rights in the society and in the family are very important to develop the society. Woman may choose their own fate and career in the politics, arts, social life,

economic, or maybe in military. There are no diversification between men and women. Women and men have the same opportunity to get a job. The weaknesses, strengths, and quality of a person are not related to his or her sex, but his or her talents, ability, skill, and many other considerations that should be concerned. The results, there is no talents, ability, or skill that will be wasted away, men and women can stand together with the same position in the society and in the family, and there is no one who should feel suffering because men and women will understand each other in every condition.

2. The narrator's Journal Paper

Writing activity is a kind of hobby. From that activity, someone can express his or her feelings, emotions, thoughts, and inspirations that is coming from his or her heart and mind. The narrator's journal paper is a way of the narrator to express her feelings, thoughts, and inspiration. From the beginning until the ending of the story, the narrator writes her experiences on the paper.

> I did write for a while in spite of them; but it does exhaust me a good deal--having to be so sly about it, or else meet with heavy opposition (348).

The inspirations written on the paper are influenced by the situation and condition of the narrator. The narrator feels better when she is writing something. On the other hand, this activity is forbidden by her husband.

The situation and condition of someone are influenced by the situation and condition of the society, the environment, and some others influences, then expressed on a

piece of paper. There are some reasons why an author wants to publicize his or her work. The author's main reason is their works can be read by the society. Wellek and Warren said that literature is assumed as a projection of the time and place or life. It can be assumed also as a personal reflection or expression of a certain condition or situation of a certain time or era. They state that literature is the essence, abridgement, and summary of all history; it is more than a reflection of a social process (1963: 95). That is why the writer thinks that the narrator's journal paper is representing feminist literary work. In "The Yellow Wallpaper", the narrator is expressing her feelings and thoughts that are influenced by the situation and condition of the house, that is symbolizing female's imprisonment. In the narrator's journal paper, she is brave to express her thoughts and feelings, especially the thoughts and feelings that are contradictory with her husband's thoughts and opinions. In the story, the narrator does not like John's treatments, but she can never tell John about her hatred to the treatments, but she can honestly write and express in her journal about her hatred to the yellow wallpaper.

In her journal paper, the narrator writes, "The paint and paper look as if a boys' school had used it. It is stripped off--the paper in great patches all around the head of my bed, about as far as I can reach, and in a great place on the other side of the room low down. I never saw a worse paper in my life. There comes John, and I must put this away,--he hates to have me write a word (349)."

This condition is the same as the feminist authors, especially the female ones. In patriarchal society, feminist women authors were not brave to express their

thoughts and feelings openly. They did their works secretly. Ann J. Lane said, “The women who refused this role and chose a life of self-expression and freedom from the social constraints suffered ridicule and punishment from their peers (Lane, 1980: x – xviii).” Their works were well-known as feminist literary works. The journal paper that is written by the narrator is symbolizing feminist literary work.

> I know a little of the principle of design, and I know this thing was not arranged on any laws of radiation, or alternation, or repetition, or symmetry, or anything else that I ever heard of (352).

In the narrator’s journal paper, the narrator writes about her experiences about science. In patriarchal society, science was a study field for men. In this case, the narrator tries to prove that she is fine, moreover, she knows about science as her husband, who is a physician. The narrator thinks that she can actually learn and master the science, if she has an opportunity to do that. In fact, women had no chance to do that, because they were too ‘busy’ with the household jobs.

Feminist women were trying to fulfill their needs for self expression by literary works. They used their experiences to make a literary work as their voice that is called ‘woman’s voice’. In their depressed condition, they wanted the society to know their feelings and inspirations, and they wanted to show that they could do what man could do. They wanted a better live in the society, especially for women in patriarchal society. The problem was not because they were women, but they had no opportunity to get freedom. A freedom that could make them gain an opportunity to develop their talents, skills, and abilities.

> I don't know why I should write this.
> I don't want to.
> I don't feel able. And I know John would think it absurd. But I must say what I feel and think in some way--it is such a relief!
> But the effort is getting to be greater than the relief (352).

The narrator is spending her time to write on her journal paper. She does not know why she should write this. It is a kind of need for self expression that should be fulfilled. She just feels enjoy when she is writing about the situation and condition of the house. Women were part of the society. They had their own opinion about the situation and condition of the society. Literature and society can not be separated. The development of them both will be related to each other. The situation and condition of the society will influence the citizen to make a work, which will be expressed in a literary works. The literary work will be published by someone to make the citizen know about the real situation and condition of the society. The literary work will criticize the situation and condition of the society to make the society know what should be reformed and corrected.

The narrator's journal paper is symbolizing feminist literary work. Women that are judged as weak people by men and patriarchal society want to show their strength. From "The Yellow Wallpaper", Gilman wants women to be courageous to express their inspiration, and literary work is one of the ways to express their inspiration. If a literary work is read by other women, it will give spirit for women to make a struggle and will influence them to be a feminist; and if a literary work is read by the society, especially men, they will be more understand about the real condition of the society and know what should be reformed. There is no reason to become

surrender in a suffering and there is no reason to be weak in a bad condition because there are always some beautiful and good things in every bad condition, and there is always a way to solve any problem. The most important thing is that all of them need a process.

3. The Yellow Wallpaper

Wallpaper is paper to cover the wall. The function is to make a room more beautiful, moreover, if the wallpaper's color is yellow. We may imagine that the room will be more cheerful and glittering. The narrator's room, in "The Yellow Wallpaper," is covered by the yellow wallpaper. For the narrator, the house is imprisoning her. The narrator can not do anything freely in the house. The narrator's condition is worse because of the 'yellow wallpaper'. The 'yellow wallpaper' covering the room is torturing and oppressing her.

> The color is repellent, almost revolting; a smouldering unclean yellow, strangely faded by the slow-turning sunlight.
> It is a dull yet lurid orange in some places, a sickly sulphur tint in others.
> It is the strangest yellow, that wall-paper! It makes me think of all the yellow things I ever saw--not beautiful ones like buttercups, but old foul, bad yellow things (p. 349).

The narrator says that the yellow color is unclean, old, and bad. In this part, the narrator shows that she hates the color of the wallpaper.

> The paint and paper look as if a boys' school had used it. It is stripped off--the paper in great patches all around the head of my bed, about as far as I can reach, and in a great place on the other side of the room low down.
> I never saw a worse paper in my life.
> One of those sprawling flamboyant patterns committing every artistic sin (p. 349).

The narrator does not like the horrible pattern of the wallpaper. She thinks that the yellow paper is the worst paper in her life.

> Even when I go to ride, if I turn my head suddenly and surprise it--there is that smell!
> Such a peculiar odor, too! I have spent hours in trying to analyze it, to find what it smelled like.
> It is not bad--at first, and very gentle, but quite the subtlest, most enduring odor I ever met.
> In this damp weather it is awful, I wake up in the night and find it hanging over me.
> It used to disturb me at first. I thought seriously of burning the house--to reach the smell.
> But now I am used to it. The only thing I can think of that it is like is the color of the paper! A yellow smell (p. 356).

Lastly, the narrator hates the smell of the wallpaper. She calls the smell as a yellow smell. She hates the smell because the smell is disturbing her.

The narrator does not like pattern of the paper, the yellow color, and the smell of the paper. It means that the narrator's sufferings are not only coming from the house or the imprisonment that is limiting her move, but also the 'yellow wallpaper' or the oppression (the pattern of the paper, the yellow color, and the smell of the paper that is called 'yellow smell') that is assaulting her. On the other hand, John has his own opinion about the condition of the room, especially the wallpaper covering the room.

> John does not know how much I really suffer. He knows there is no reason to suffer, and that satisfies him (350).
> I suppose John never was nervous in his life. He laughs at me so about this wall-paper!

> At first he meant to repaper the room, but afterwards he said that I was letting it get the better of me, and that nothing was worse for a nervous patient than to give way to such fancies (p. 350).

John thinks that all of everything are good for his wife. John thinks that his treatment will make his wife better, but she is getting worse because the treatment is not appropriate for her.

> Patriarchy, as a system of oppression, is already destroying women's consciousness about their potential and power, which can be derived from themselves (Montagu, 1953: 38).

Patriarchal rule produced gender discrimination between men and women. Women were oppressed both physically and mentally because of the patriarchal rule. In the society, the discriminations were seen clearly in many aspect of live and some level of the society. Patriarchal rule was not only inflecting women, but also the society. It was caused by unfair condition in the society, that was directly and indirectly torturing both men and women.

Oppression means the condition of being oppressed or treated unjustly or treated cruelly. Like war prisoners, women's freedom is grabbed; moreover they have to be ready to be tortured or to be punished anytime. From this part, Gilman wants to show that women should be treated well, because women are beautiful creatures who have sensitive and soft heart, a woman needs to be understood. In the story, the husband is difficult to understand his wife because he is too busy with his jobs outside the house and the wife is too busy with the domestic jobs inside the house. The different activities that are not related each other causing a different way of thinking and a lacking in communication. The 'yellow wallpaper' is the climax of the

miscommunication between the narrator and her husband. If the communication between the husband and the narrator is running well, the wife will not do that rebellion which is caused by her hatred to the house, the nursery room, and the 'yellow wallpaper'; because the husband will know what her wife want immediately. Gilman's messages that we can take from this symbol is that women should be treated well, not as a small child, but as an adult woman and a wife that should get a freedom to choose her own fate and her own dream. The same freedom to express something can produce a good communication between men and women in the family and in the society.

4. The Image of Creeping Women

The image of creeping woman was an important symbol of the story. The 'creeping woman' is symbolizing the woman's struggle and rebellion to their imprisonment and their oppression. That is why the image appears in the house as the imprisonment and behind the 'wallpaper' as their oppression.

The 'creeping woman' is described as a woman who moves slowly without stands by feet, the most of the body is on the floor, and with no voices. The 'creeping woman' behind the yellow wallpaper depicts the woman's struggle that moves crawly, slowly, secretly, and patiently.

> There are things in that paper that nobody knows but me, or ever will.
> Behind that outside pattern the dim shapes get clearer every day.
> It is always the same shape, only very numerous.
> And it is like a woman stooping down and creeping about behind that pattern (P.353).

Women in patriarchal society were ‘creeping’ from time to time. They did not have bravery to show themselves openly. They were doing their struggle secretly. It was so dangerous for them to struggle openly.

In the story, the narrator firstly has no bravery to strive against the unfair condition. In the end of the story, she is brave to tear the ‘wallpaper’ as a symbol of female’s oppression because the ‘creeping women’ are influencing her. The narrator wants to help the ‘creeping women’ that is tortured by the pattern of ‘the yellow wallpaper’.

> That was clever, for really I wasn't alone a bit! As soon as it was moonlight and that poor thing began to crawl and shake the pattern, I got up and ran to help her.
> I pulled and she shook, I shook and she pulled, and before morning we had peeled off yards of that paper (p. 357).

> Then I peeled off all the paper I could reach standing on the floor. It sticks horribly and the pattern just enjoys it! All those strangled heads and bulbous eyes and waddling fungus growths just shriek with derision (p. 358)!

A person who is struggling to get the same rights and freedom between men and women in society is called feminist. He or she becomes a feminist because he or she watches that there are some bad effects torturing women that is caused by the male domination. A woman becomes a feminist of course because she is experiencing those bad effects and want to be free from those bad effects, moreover, she does not want other women have the same experience with her in the future.

Gilman's message from this symbol is that women should not become surrender. They are not alone. It will be difficult to break a rule that occurs from one generation to the next generation, but the number of feminist will increase, and the power of feminists will be stronger. If women are united with one and similar mission, it is not impossible for them to tear the patriarchal rule and male domination down from the country.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In a literary work, symbols can make a work more beautiful and can make confusions to interpret the work. The purpose of this thesis is helping the readers to understand and to interpret Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper". After reading the analysis of the thesis, the writer hopes that the readers can understand the story clearer and easier.

The narrator of the story is the representation of woman who lives in patriarchal society. In the story, the man, who is represented by John, has the higher position in the family, and woman, who is represented by the narrator, has lower position in the family. John can have many roles in the family and in the society, he has more freedom. On the contrary, the narrator does not have what man can have. The only duty that the narrator has in the society or in the family is to take care her household family; the narrator has to obey her husband's command. The narrator is forbidden to do "unusual" and "inappropriate" things in the society or in her house. In the story, John suspects the narrator that she has a mental problem. To cure her "illness", the narrator is placed in a mansion house for a special treatment. In the house, the writer is finding some important symbols in the story, trying to find the meaning of each symbol, and finding the messages of each symbol.

Firstly, the narrator answers the first problem formulation (What are the dominant symbols in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," and what

they represent?). There are many symbols in the story, but the writer finds five dominant symbols in the story. The five dominant symbols are the nursery room, the narrator's journal paper, the yellow wallpaper, and the image of creeping woman.

The first symbol is the nursery room. The nursery room, which is too beautiful for an adult woman or the narrator, is symbolizing the male domination. It is reasonable, because the narrator is treated as a small child by John in the nursery room. The nursery room is something which is influencing John's way of treating the narrator as she is a small child. This situation is the same as the situation of the patriarchal society. In patriarchal society, the men were treating the women as a baby who had to be taken care strictly. It made woman fall into a depressed condition and difficult to grow up physically and psychologically. The second symbol is the narrator's journal paper. In the narrator's depressed condition and unfair treatment, from the beginning until the ending of the story, the narrator is expressing her thoughts and feeling on a piece of paper that is called the journal paper. The writer thinks that the journal paper is representing feminist literary work. The third symbol is the yellow wallpaper. In the narrator's room, she is oppressed by the pattern, the color, and the smell of the yellow wallpaper. This situation is the same as women in patriarchal society who were oppressed and punished physically and mentally. The last symbol is the image of creeping woman. The creeping woman appears behind the yellow wallpaper, the symbol of female oppression and appears in the house, the symbol of female's imprisonment. The number of creeping woman is increasing from time to time, and then they are trying to get out from the yellow wallpaper. The

images are giving inspirations for the narrator to write on her journal and helping the narrator to find a way to out from the house. The situation is the same as women's rebellion and struggle in patriarchal society, that was oppressing and confining women.

The second problem to be solved is Gilman's messages in her literary work, "The Yellow Wallpaper". The first symbol is the nursery room. The nursery room is symbolizing male domination. In patriarchal society, the position of the men was higher than the women. In other words, the men were the superior and the women were the inferior. From the nursery room, Gilman's wants to show that the same rights between men and women are very important. The message of this symbol is that the society, especially men, should not look the back upon women.

The same rights and the same position between men and women can make them understand each other and can avoid the misunderstanding between men and women. The third symbol is the narrator's journal paper. In the story, the narrator likes to express her feeling and thoughts in a piece of paper. The writer writes anything about the situation and the condition in the house. The writer thinks that the narrator's journal paper is symbolizing the feminist literary work. The narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" is representing Gilman herself. Gilman's message from the narrator's journal paper is about the importance of self expression to anyone. Everybody in this world needs a better condition and situation for his or her environment or society. The contributions of women's inspiration were needed in a patriarchal society. It means that the inspirations were not only coming from the men,

but also coming from the women. If the women's inspirations were banned by the society, they would find a way to express their feelings and thoughts. In this case, the literary work was the best way. The fourth symbol is the yellow wallpaper. In the story, the narrator is forced to stay in a room with the yellow wallpaper. The yellow wallpaper is covering the room and oppressing the narrator. The writer thinks that the yellow wallpaper is symbolizing female oppression. Gilman's message from the symbol is that patriarchal society can oppress women physically and psychologically. It means that the patriarchal rule is bad for women and should be reformed, because a good rule of the society should be good for the society, especially for men and women.

The last symbol is the image of creeping woman. The image of creeping woman is symbolizing the female's rebellion or struggle to break the patriarchal rule. The appearance of creeping women behind the wallpaper makes the narrator feel that she is not alone. She has more bravery to strive against the unfair condition and her strict husband. Lastly, the narrator brave to tear the yellow wallpaper as the symbol of female oppression. Moreover, the narrator can break the door of the room that is symbolizing the broken of the female's imprisonment and male domination. Gilman's message from the symbol is that if women are united with one similar mission, it is not impossible for them to 'tear' the patriarchal rule and male domination down from the country.

Patriarchal rule is identical with the rule occurred in the society, that is called the patriarchal rule. In this part, the writer will try to relate the patriarchal rule with

the symbols of the thesis. In patriarchal rule, the male is the head of the family. It is related with ‘the nursery room’ that is symbolizing the male domination. The male domination is imprisoning and oppressing women. The imprisonment and the oppression are related to the house and the yellow wallpaper as symbols. In the unfair condition, everybody can feel the bad effects of the society. In this condition, someone will try to find a way to escape from the bad effects and to solve the problems. The literary works can be the best way both to escape from the problems and to solve the problems. From time to time, the literary works are very important to the development of a country. In thesis, the literary works are represented by the narrator’s journal paper.

In the unfair condition, that is confining and oppressing women, some feminists appear secretly and slowly. They are not struggling openly, but they exist in the society. They are struggling with the same dreams, to get the same right and the same freedom between men and women in the society. In the thesis, this situation is shown by the ‘image of creeping women’. The relation of the patriarchal rule and the symbols shows the bad effects of the patriarchal rule. It means that patriarchal rule should be reformed into a better rule that is guarantying and supporting the same rights and the same freedom between the men and the women.

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SUMMARY OF "THE YELLOW WALLPAPER"

The story is telling about a family life. The main character of the story is the anonymous character that is called the narrator. The narrator has a husband who is called John. John who is a physician is a strict husband. John and the narrator rent a mansion house during the summer. The narrator is suspected a temporary nervous depression. She has to follow her husband's instruction. She has to live in a nursery room for a special treatment. The purpose of the treatment is to cure the narrator's 'sickness'. On the contrary, the treatment makes the narrator worse.

She is confined in the room. She is treated like a small child by her husband. It makes her more depressed and feels inferior. Moreover, she is oppressed by the yellow wallpaper which is covering the room. She does not like the pattern, the color, and the smell of the wallpaper. This condition makes her oppressed. From the beginning until the ending of the story, the narrator is writing on a journal paper. She writes about the situation and condition of the house, especially the nursery room and the yellow wallpaper.

In her depressed condition, behind the wallpaper, there are images of creeping women trying to break the pattern of the wallpaper. The narrator is trying to help them. Lastly, she is tearing the yellow wallpaper. Her action is known by her husband. John is shocked to watch that. Then she faints. Watching her husband is fainted on the floor, the narrator is creeping on John's body. In the end of the story, the narrator says, "Now why should that man have fainted? But he did, and right across my path by the wall, so that I had to creep over him every time!"

Figure: Goodman, Lizabeth. *Literature and Gender.* New York: Routledge, 1996: p. 113