**THE INFLUENCE OF PURITANISM TOWARD HESTER DUE TO HER PENALIZATION IN THE NOVEL ‘THE SCARLET LETTER’ BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

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1. **Background of the Topic**

Some people think that woman has a natural behavior. They believe that woman created to give a birth, follow the rule of their husband especially they do not to what men do. Since the earlier era, this view of woman has raised the debates.

Then raised the thought about woman equality when it assumes that women can do what men do.

In this novel entitled ‘The Scarlet Letter’, there are many issues about woman since the main character who is the main subject of the story is a woman. Hester Pryne who is the suspect of adultery should face the justice because she has an affair with Mr. Dimmesdale, the pastor. The court gives her the punishment. She has to wear an A sign on her breast for her entire life. This novel took set on puritan era.

As we know, Puritanism is an era where a group of people become faithful to their Christianity. They have some believes and rule. That’s why, when they found out about Hester’s affair, they give her punishment because they think that Hester bring the shameness and she’s a sinful creature.

In this research, the writer make an approach to socialist feminist in the novel ‘The Scarlet Letter’ especially due to Hester Pryne penalization. The result of this research is that the reader is expected to be better understand about the issue of woman’s right.

1. **Scope**
2. What are the influence that brought by the puritans toward Hester Pryne’s right as the suspect of adultery?
3. What treatment that Dimmesdale get since he’s a puritan pastor?
4. **Objectives**
5. To describe the elements that influence the Hester Pryne’s right as the suspect of adultery
6. To compare the treatment by the people between Hester and Dimmesdale.
7. **The Significant of the Knowledge**

This research is expected that the reader can understand the construction of woman’s figure and what influence that brought the punishment through the Puritanism era.

1. **The Framework of the Theory**

In order to make the analysis clear, it is used the theory of socialist feminist

*‘Early second-wave socialist feminist came to see women as a class oppressed by the structures of capitalist patriarchy.’* (Eagleton 114:2003)

The author of the statement is actually Chris Weedon. Weedon mention the patriarchy in his works. Therefore, to make you better understand about the theory.

1. **Research Method**

The theory used in this research is analytic descriptive. The data is described to find the elements in it then it will be analyzed (Ratna, 53:2012). In order to make the analysis clear, the writer uses the steps below:

**6.1 Data Collection**

In analytic descriptive, the writer collected some data then analyze it to make the research in appropriate.

* 1. **Data Analyzing**

Based on the data that has been collected and selected, the writer analyzes the data and describe it into proper explanation.

*The age had not so much refinement that any sense of impropriety restrained the wearers of petticoat and farthingale from stepping forth into the public ways and wedging their not unsubstantial persons, if occasion were, into throng nearest to the scaffold at an execution. (*Hawthorne 43:1850)

This data quoted in chapter 2, describes one of the puritan law. Their rule has no exception whether the person who commits the sin is a man or woman. However in the text, Hawthorne focuses on the woman’s figure when he said ‘the wearers of petticoat and farthingale’. He actually wants the reader to focus on the issue about woman.

The rule said that every sinful woman deserve to get the punishment. The Puritan does have the strict rules against those who do the adultery. It’s because the Puritan believes on the bible. Bible contains the strict rule about the sin.

Another data shows that the puritan really disappointed with Hester behavior. When Hester was being judged by the people, many people talk about her sin and how shame she is.

*“What do we talk of marks and brands, whether on the bodice of her gown, or the flesh of her forehead?” cried another female, the ugliest as well as the most pitiless of these self-constitued judges. “This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there not law for it? Truly there is, both in the scripture and the statute-book. Then let the magistrates, who have made it of no effect, thank themselves if their own wives and daughters go astray!”*

Related to this data, that woman of puritans judges Hester in the court. The puritans who do not accept what just Hester did still judge her like a person who just murdered someone. They don’t think about the child that Hester hold.

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