

**Woman's Fight for Survival in Novel *The Scarlet Letter* by
Nathaniel Hawthorne**

THESIS



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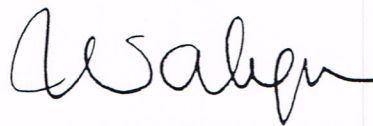


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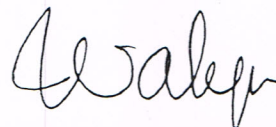
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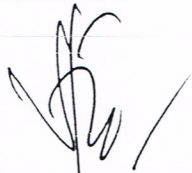
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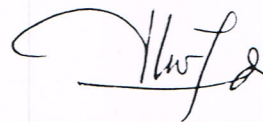
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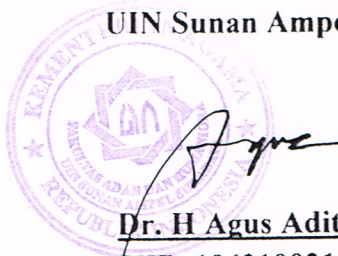


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a term used to describe and also to explain written and at times spoken material. The word *literature* comes from Latin that has the meaning “writing formed with letters.” According to Lombardi (2019: 1) stated that literature most generally talks about the work of the innovative imagination, as well as poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some illustrations, journalism and song. Simply, literature signifies the culture and tradition of a language or a people. The conception is hard to exactly describe, though many have tried. It’s clear that the approved definition of literature is regularly fluctuating and developing.

One of the general work of literature is a novel. Novel is a literary work in the form of prose. The term novel is a truncation of the Italian word *novella* (from the plural of Latin *novellus*, a late variant of *novus*, meaning “new”), so that what is now, in most language, a diminutive indicates historically the parent form. Burgess (1971: 3) stated that the genre of the novel is fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art or craft or contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that diverted by instructor or both. Novel has a complex story and has a moral value in it. Therefore, there are many researchers choosing many novels as the object of their research.

The novel that will be analyzed by the researcher is *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. This novel is very famous and very interesting because

there are many moral values in it that can be taken as the example of life. There are many actions that refer to the feminism and also it refers to the socialist feminism exactly. In a daily life, a woman that has a family and also has a job can manage both of it as well as she can, is an example of an action of socialist feminism. And in this era, that action becomes a common habit for a woman. But, it does not occur in the previous century. It's too difficult to do as a woman in this era.

The novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter*, is a popular romantic effort of fiction in a historical setting that written by the famous author, Nathaniel Hawthorne, in 1850. It is setting in the 17th century exactly in Puritan, Boston, during the years about 1642 to 1649. The first publication of this novel is in 1850 in America, and it was published by Ticknor, Reed, and Field. The novel consists of 24 chapters, which are explained beautifully in 243 pages, whereas the novel which the writer has read consists of 282 pages, 24 chapters, and published by ECM Corporation.

The issue was about the main character in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. She was a young wife whose husband was unknown, and there was no news about him about one year. She committed adultery with a young pastor in Puritan, where it had mentioned in the novel that committing adultery in that era was very taboo, and she had a baby from her love affair. She got a punishment and alienation from the society. In the novel *The Scarlet Letter* (1998) mentioned that law enforcers and local minister ordered Hester to wear a red letter A on the top of her shirt, so the society could know about her adultery and also she had to go to the border city

for expatriates. This punishment was painful, humiliating, and pain feelings. This is discriminating to Hester, so, she had to continue to fight for Pearl, and for survival.

The writer is going to find, show, and describe an issue about a woman's fight for survival, Hester Prynne, in novel *The Scarlet letter*, Hester Prynne, using Feminism theory, based on the explanation of the background of the study that the writer has explained above. The previous study mostly discussed about ideology. The difference with this study are the theory that applied in the novel and the analyzing of the main character of the novel. So that, the researcher wants to reveal the main character's effort and the its effect. Hopefully, this research become useful for the reader and other researcher.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this research will formulated as follows:

- 1.2.1** How does Hester Prynne begin her life with raising her child herself after committing adultery?
- 1.2.2** What are the efforts of Hester Prynne to make the society notice and respect her after committing adultery?
- 1.2.3** What are the effects of Hester Prynne's efforts?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study is will be related to the problems of the study. It will be formulated as:

The researcher tried to answer the research questions by studying about the socialist feminism itself, and then the researcher would use feminism theory that applied in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*, and also would look for another research about the same theory to compare it with this research.

1.6.2 Data Source

The writer took the data from a novel that show many sides of socialist feminism. And the researcher took the novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne as the object of this research.

1.6.3 Technique of Data Collection

The data were collected by the researcher which is using feminism theory that is taken from *The Scarlet Letter*, the novel by the famous author, Nathaniel Hawthorne. While collecting the data from its novel, the researcher collected and found another research that is related to the theory that the researcher used in this research as another opinion to get more knowledge about the theory itself when applying it in the literary work.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

In this research, the writer used descriptive analytical method. There are many steps of procedure of data analysis. The first, the researcher found what kind of small business that Hester Prynne builds to rise her daughter herself after committing adultery, in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. The second, the researcher described what kind of Hester Prynne's efforts in beginning and building the small business to continue her life after committing adultery. The third, the

researcher explained what the effect of Hester's effort. And the last, the researcher made the conclusion from the analysis.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To escape any different opinions between the writer and the readers in understanding the study, it is important to provide some explanations of the key term that is used in this research.

1.7.1 Puritan : a member of a 16th and 17th century Protestant group in England and New England opposing as unscriptural the ceremonial worship and the prelacy of the Church of England (merriam-webster dictionary).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter would like to deliver the related studies associated to be used as an ingredient in completing this thesis. The theory that is used in this research is socialist feminism, in order to make the readers can easily understand this research. And it is useful to give understanding and knowledge on the theory about how it works on the literary works.

2.1.1 Feminism Theory

Theory is a kind of abstract thinking or wise and reasonable generalization, or the result of that thinking. Depending on the context, the results may for example consist of a general explanation of how nature works. This word has a background in ancient Greek, but in modern usage this word has many different related meanings. A theory is not the same as a hypothesis, because theory is a 'proven' hypothesis, which in other words, has never been canceled through experimentation, and actually has a basis. According to the Oxford dictionary, theory is a system of ideas or assumptions intended to explain something, especially those that have a basis on general principles that do not depend on things to be explained (Oxford Dictionary). The researcher uses one theory that is reputed as a relevant theory for this research, feminism.

The word *feminism* comes from Latin, *femina* or woman, used in the 1980. The person who believes in that men or women should be equal in economic,

social, and politic is called as Feminist. Feminism is one of the exciting issue to discuss. Feminism itself used to describe the cultural, political and economical aspect. Those three aspects are important for life, because those three aspects are can make the relation between the Society better. Those three aspects have the purpose and the function in those places, the cultural, the political, and the economics have its influence in those places to make the Society and also the Nation keep the relation well.

According to Lewis (2018: 1) stated that Feminism is a series of ideologies and theories, which primarily strive to achieve equal political, economic and social rights for women and men. Feminism refers to a variety of agendas, ideas, beliefs, and movements to act. It refers to any action, especially organized, which encourages changes in society to end patterns that have harmed women.

To understand more about the problem of feminism, it is better to know the meaning of the word feminism itself. Feminism is a struggle to improve practices and laws that prevent women from adapting to achieving equality that is full of men in all aspects of public and domestic life. But a greater struggle is against all attitudes that strongly support these discriminatory practices (Murphy, 1995). Be aware of the women are concentrated at the lowest and lowest level, and sometimes treated as the second class, feminism begins with the basis that the position of women and men in society is a result of social and natural factors.

Feminism was born in the early 20th century, which was pioneered by Virginia Woolf in her book *A Room of One's Own* (1929). Feminist

etymologically comes from the word *femme* (woman), which aims to fight for the rights of women (women), as a social class. The feminist goal is balance, gender interrelation. In a broader sense, feminists are a women's movement to reject everything that is marginalized, and demeaned by dominant culture, both in the political and economic fields and in social life in general.

Feminism theory as a tool for women to fight for their rights, is closely related to racial class conflicts, especially gender conflicts. In contemporary literary theory, feminism is a women's movement that occurs almost all over the world. This movement was triggered by the awareness that women's rights were the same as those of men (Rahmatania: 2). The diversity and differences of objects with their theories and methods are characteristic of feminist studies. In relation to literature, relevant fields of study, including: the literary tradition of women, female authors, female readers, the characteristics of female language, female figures, and so on.

In relation to cultural studies, women's problems are more related to gender equality. Feminists, especially issues concerning women in general are associated with emancipation, the women's movement to demand equal rights with men, both in the political and economic fields, and the socio-cultural movement in general (Rahmatania: 2). In emancipation literature it has been questioned since the 1920s, marked by the presence of the novel *Balai Pustaka*, by raising the issue of the problem of forced marriage, which was then continued in the 1930s beginning with Sutan Takdir Alijahbana's *Layar Terkembang*.

Examples of male domination, both in the form of the main characters in fiction contained in literary works and factual figures as authors can be seen in both old and modern literary works (Rahmatania: 3). Consciousness has changed since the 1970s, since the birth of popular novels, followed by the presence of a number of female authors and figures. As a female writer is rather rare. Throughout the course of the history of Indonesian literature there were several female authors, including: Sariamin, Hamidah, Suwarsih Djojopuspito, Nh. Dini, Oka Rusmini, Ayu Utami, Dee, and others.

According to Salden (1968: 130-131), there are five problems that commonly arise in relation to feminist theory, namely biological problems, experiences, discourse, unconsciousness, and economic problems. The most important debate in feminist theory arises as a result of the problem of discourse because women are actually marginalized through discourse controlled by men. Basically feminist theory was brought to Indonesia by A. Teeuw. Even this fact also proves that western theories can be used to analyze Indonesian literature, provided that theories are tools, not ends. Feminist thinking about gender equality has been widely accepted and supported by both women themselves and by men. This support can be seen through public acceptance of women in the field of fields which were previously only dominated by men, through writing and media.

On the other hand, there are people who debate the definition of feminism that is more stringent, and, like Delmar (1986: 13) argument

“There are those who claim that feminism does have a complex of ideas about women, specific to or emanating from feminists. This means that it should be possible to separate out feminism and feminists from the multiplicity of those concerned with women’s issues. It is by no means

absurd to suggest that you don't have to be a feminist to support women's rights to equal treatment, and that not all those supportive of women's demands are feminists. In this light feminism can claim its own history, its own practices, its own ideas, but feminists can make no claim to an exclusive interest in or copyright over problems affecting women. Feminism can thus be established as a field (and this even if scepticism is still needed in the face of claims or demands for a unified feminism), but cannot claim women as its domain."

Thus feminism is a term that emerged long after women began to question their lower status and challenged their increased social position. Even after the word feminism emerged, the term was still not acceptable as an identification term by many of those who campaigned for women's rights. In fact there are many of the women's rights organizations that emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s that did not call themselves feminists: the term feminism has a limited use of word meanings in matters relating to specific concerns and certain groups (Delmar 1986).

Feminism is a theory that argues that men and women must have social, political and economic similarities. This is the most important thing in all theories of feminism. Sometimes this definition is also referred to as "core feminism" or "core feminist theory". Note that this theory does not contribute to differences between men and women or similarities between men and women, nor does it refer to without men or simply continues the cause of women. Most other feminism divisions do (2004).

Feminism is a notion to make women aware of their position low in society, and the desire to improve or change the situation (Saptari, Holzner: 47). The position of women in the community has always been under or behind men.

The ninth is the understanding that feminism has not changed over time. This is wrong. The first wave of feminism in the 19th and early 20th centuries focused on equality of civil and political rights, especially the right of women to vote in elections. The second wave, which began in the 1960s and 1980s, expanded the goal to include issues of sexuality, family, workplace, reproductive rights and other legal inequalities. Feminist feminists in the third wave developed the debates to focus on ideas such as the theory of homosexuality, the elimination of role expectations and gender stereotypes. Awareness in feminism in the present is sometimes called the fourth wave of feminism, although it is still debated to embrace the idea of “Intersexuality”, the oppression of multiple oppressions that are interrelated to race, sex, sexuality and class. This is a movement and awareness that advocates for people to make space for those who are politically, economically and socially marginalized because of gender, sexual preference, race, class and other things (Asmarani: 4).

And the tenth is the understanding that feminism is no longer needed because women are equal to men. This is very wrong. Given the demands of the women's liberation movement in the 1970s: the first four demands were equal pay, equal opportunities for education and employment, guaranteed reproductive rights, and elimination of violence or sexual coercion regardless of marital status. Many jobs are still not friendly to women, and the position of the top leadership position in corporate and government companies is still very dominated by men. Second, in many developing countries including Indonesia, the number of girls who drop out of school is still higher than boys because parents see girls as

unprofitable in terms of economic investment. Third, even though contraceptives are now widely available, many countries (including Indonesia) still allow underage marriage, which perpetuates domestic violence and poverty. Fourth, the culture of rape thrives in both developed and developing countries (Asmarani: 4). Adding to these, the grisly tradition of female genital mutilation is still being practiced in Africa and even in Indonesia. and though women will be voting for the first time in Saudi Arabia this year, they are still not allowed to drive or leave home without a male relative chaperone.

2.2 Review of Related Studies

The writer tries to find the earlier research that has a similarity and difference with this research in one research, weather it is about feminism theory, or about the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. Finally the researcher finds the three resaerches that has a relation with this research. The researcher finds these three researches that has the same analyzing from the same novel as the researcher analyzed. Then, the researcher will use these fifth as the erlier studies for this research.

The first earlier study is in 2010 coming from Ika Ambarsari from the library of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The title of the research is “*Against the Dominant Ideology in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s the Scarlet Letter: A Marxist Approach* “. The writer of this research is telling about the struggle of Hester Prynne contrary to the leading ideology to get the right and the freedom from the discomfort and hurt punishment and ability of persecutor in the Government. The result of the study is the struggle of Hester againsts the

dominant ideology changes a law in Puritan. The law should not give a cruel punishment to the criminal people which breaks the human rights in the society life.

The second previous study is the research from Desy Fitriyana Nufiz (2015). The title of the research is “*Theme and Moral Value of Scarlet Letter’s Novel*”. It focuses on analyzing themes in the novels, and Hester judgments based on Puritan and Islamic law. From this connection, the researcher found the theory of formalism, and evaluation of Puritan punishment and Islamic law. In this analysis, the researcher uses a literary background about Puritan life, because the main character is one of Puritan woman. Besides the theory of formalism, Puritan society and Islamic law are also used in it. The researcher analyzes Hester's punishment based on Puritans and Islamic law. After that, the analysis discussed the theory of formalism in the treaty of Hester's punishment with the relationship between Hester and her lover and the puritan tradition and the community in which she lived. Finally, Hester showed her struggle for equality, independence and freedom. Known from her strong accountabilities, and individuality as a wife's lover, and adultery as well as single parents in facing hard situations, reliant on Hester thoughts and will. Making choices, proving that Hester is the indication of formalism.

The third previous study is the research in 2011 from Apriliana Dewi Saptarini “*Unfavorable Effect of Mental Stress in Arthur Dimmesdale’s Role as A Priest in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Novel the Scarlet Letter (1986): A Psychoanalytic Approach*“. The writer accentuated on Arthur Dimmesdale, the

major character, as a minister on his community in the direction of his crime of sin. And the result of the research is showing the human desire and emotion.

The fourth previous study is from Prihastuti Sri Lestari entitled “Hester Prynne Self Adjustment to the Social Experiences as Reflected in *The Scarlet Letter*”. The researcher analyzes it using social psychological approach.

The fifth previous study is from Giyatmi in her paper entitled “*A Comparative Analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter in Original and movie versions :A structural Approach*” focuses on the structural elements on both version. The thesis aims at analyzing the structural element on both version and reveal the similarities and differences between both of them.

From those five previous studies, the researcher uses the same object, the novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne as the research. The difference between this research and those five are the different theories that will be applied and how the researcher analyzed it. In this research, the researcher uses feminism theory that will be focused on analyzing the main character of the novel.

CHAPTER III

Woman's Fight for Survival in Novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

This chapter will answer and discuss according to the research problems that the writer has mentioned above. The writer will find and show how Hester Prynne begin her life with assumption that Hester was a bad girl and has no good moral because she has committed adultery in her era, that it's very taboo. The analysis will be divided into many explanations, in order to make the reader understand easily how strength the struggle of Hester Prynne makes her live well.

3.1 The Beginning of Hester Prynne's Life

Hester Prynne began her life by building a small business, embroidery. This business is actually her creativity that she has, which not many people can do in that era. Hester also started her new life by relying on her daughter power, Pearl. Pearl also one of Hester Prynne's reason to survive. It happens after Hester's affair. Shamed and alienated from the rest of the community, Hester becomes contemplative. She takes a chance on human nature, social organization, and larger moral questions. Hester's misfortunes also lead her to be tolerant and a rationalist. But, before continuing explaining about it, the writer will explain about Hester Prynne herself and how all of the tragedy and the conflict begin.

Hester Prynne is a young girl who comes from Boston. She is a beautiful woman. She has a tall body and a big, very graceful figure. Her hair was black and thick, and so shiny that it reflected sunlight. Her face looks beautiful not only

Hester was a strong willed and impulsive young woman, she remembers her parents as loving parents who commonly has to keep in mind her careless behavior. The reason why Hester marries Roger Chillingworth, the author does not give a clear answer, whereas from the sentence it seemed a fouler felony committed by Roger, than any which had in the meantime been done him, that in the time when her heart knew no well, he had influenced her to impress herself happy by his side, and then the readers can get the idea that their marriage is not based on the basis of love.

As the writer describe that Hester Prynne married Roger Chillingworth, although she did not love him. He is a smart and intellectual man. He is always reading book in his library. He send her wife, Hester Prynne, moving to Boston first because he always around Europe state and other America district for study about medicinal treatment. It can be known in quotation:

“Hester, said he, I ask not wherefore, nor how thou hast fallen into the pit, or say, rather, thou hast ascended to the pedestal of infamy on which I found thee. The reason is not far to seek. It was my folly, and thy weakness. I—a man of thought—the book-worm of great libraries—a man already in decay, having given my best years to feed the hungry dream of knowledge” (Hawthorne: 111).

Although she has a husband, she felled in love with a young priest, Arthur Dimmesdale. He is a young protestant from England University. He has a big brown eyes. He has many knowledge in his mind. He always give many speech to Puritan society, making him very popular and he becomes a respected person in his society. It can be known by this quotation:

”The directness of this appeal drew the eyes of the whole crowd upon the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale—young clergyman, who had come from one

of the great English universities, bringing all the learning of the age into our wild forest land. His eloquence and religious fervour had already given the earnest of high eminence in his profession. He was a person of very striking aspect, with a white, lofty, and impending brow; large, brown, melancholy eyes, and a mouth which, unless when he forcibly compressed it, was apt to be tremulous, expressing both nervous sensibility and a vast power of self-restraint. Notwithstanding his high native gifts and scholar-like attainments, there was an air about this young minister—an apprehensive, a startled, a half-frightened look—as of a being who felt himself quite astray, and at a loss in the pathway of human existence, and could only be at ease in some seclusion of his own” Hawthorne: 100-101).

The story begins when Hester Prynne has a relationship with Arthur Dimmesdale, a young pastor of Puritan society. From that relationship, they get a little baby that make all of Puritan society angry. So, Hester gets a punishment from Puritan society, without telling the father of the baby. She wears a symbol A and stands on a pillory for three hours there, carrying her baby with her. The symbol of A in that time is meaning as a big sin. So, she can be seen and known by all of Puritan society because of that incident. In the meantime, all people are talking about her disgrace and bad destiny.

“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-constituted 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 Scripture¹⁰ 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!” (Hawthorne: 46).

A man known as Roger Chillingworth, that known as Hester’s husband, just arrives and sees his wife is being shamed. Without knowing what is going on, he finally asks to a man next to him. Then, that man tells what is going on in the market place.

“to find yourself, at length, in a land where iniquity is searched out, and punished in the sight of rulers and people; as here in our godly New

hitherward, sustains me, at this dreadful moment, from groveling down upon my face! Lo, the scarlet letter which Hester wears! Ye have all shuddered at it! Wherever her walk hath been—wherever, so miserably burdened, she may have hoped to find repose—it hath cast a lurid gleam of awe and horrible repugnance roundabout her. But there stood one in the midst of you, at whose brand of sin and infamy ye have not shuddered!” (Hawthorne: 240).

Therefore, a lot of Puritans feeling shock, knowing that fact as the consequence of his sin. He dies on Hester’s body after telling about his regret to God and his regret to have adultery with her, and then kissing pearl for the last time and saying goodbye to her, and her daughter. The last word was spoken along with the pastor's last breath. The silence of everyone, who was still quiet at that time, broke in a deep voice filled with a sense of wonder and amazement, but still not able to say a word, except a thundering murmur after the spirit's departure.

“Socialist feminism has a political and intellectual commitment to understanding the problems of women’s oppression in terms of a real synthesis between the traditions of Marxist analysis and feminist theory” (Eseinstein, 1979). Hester, who at that time was judged by everyone because she had committed adultery, and stood for more than three hours above the place of preaching, chose her right to be silent. She did not say who the father of the baby was when she carried it when she was judged in front of all Puritan societies. Even though everyone looked at her sarcastically, and whispered to each other about her ugliness, she preferred not to say it.

Committing adultery at that time was a very taboo thing. For ordinary people, who when judged in front of many people because they make mistakes, let alone commit adultery, then that person will obey if he is judged. She will answer

3.1.2 Hester Relying on Pearl's Strength

One thing that was a Hester Prynne's relief is her daughter, Pearl, who was described in a great detail in the novel. The beautiful flower that grows from a sinful land, named Pearl because she was bought with all the wealth she had. And Pearl is the only treasure for her mother who at that time had it. "she named the infant "Pearl," as being of great price,¹—purchased with all she had—her mother's only treasure!" (Hawthorne: 83). Because in giving its existence, the law of a very large nature has been violated. Pearl is a creature that seems to naturally conflict with the strict rules of Puritan society. Pearl has all the descendants of Hester's despair, passion, and insubordination, and she always causes damage. Hester loved him very much, but Hester was also worried about his daughter.

Pearl is one of Hester's evidence of her struggle. Hester can raise and take care of her baby in the middle of her isolated live in Puritan society. She has no friends, she has no neighbor, and she has no husband beside her. But her struggle to build her life and raising her daughter is unbelievable, considering how hard living in that era. The discipline applied in families in those days was far harder than now. Furious anger, strong rebuke, punishment with bat which is often accompanied by advice from the holy book, all are given not only to punish violations, but also as a support for the growth and formation of all good qualities of children. However, single mother Hester Prynne for her only child, it is impossible for her to make a mistake by acting too hard. Because since the beginning she was aware of her own mistakes and bad luck, she always tried to

instill strict but gentle discipline control for the daughter who was her responsibility.

“The discipline of the family, in those days, was of a far more rigid kind than now. The frown, the harsh rebuke, the frequent application of the rod, enjoined by Scriptural authority, were used, not merely in the way of punishment for actual offenses, but as a wholesome regimen for the growth and promotion of all childish virtues. Hester Prynne, nevertheless, the lonely mother of this one child, ran little risk of erring on the side of undue severity. Mindful, how - ever, of her own errors and misfortunes, she early sought to impose a tender, but strict, control over the infant immortality that was committed to her charge” (Hawthorne: 85).

Pearl herself was responsive to the differences from others, and when Hester tried to teach her about God, Pearl said, ‘I have no Heavenly Father!’ (Hawthorne: 91). Because Pearl is the only partner of her mother's life, he is also subject to the cruelty of men, city dwellers. Other children are very cruel because they can realize and know that something is wrong about Hester and his child. Knowing that he was alone in this world, Pearl created characters in his imagination to accompany him who did not have a friend.

Hester keeps Pearl as well as she can. Even though another people cruelty look them, Hester makes pearl using a good clothes that makes her look more beautiful. Hester uses her skill of her embroidery on Pearl’s clothes. So, it makes Pearl look much lovely than another children. Pearl has natural elegance that does not always exist side by side with perfect beauty. No matter how simple the clothes she wears, always makes the viewer feel impressed, as if her clothes are the most suitable for her. Pearl is not dressed like a peasant. Hester has bought the most expensive clothing materials available, and devoted all her abilities to be creative in arranging and decorating clothes that her child will wear in front of public.

“...little Pearl was not clad in rustic weeds. Her mother, with a morbid purpose that may be better understood hereafter, had bought the richest tissues that could be procured, and allowed her imaginative faculty its full play in the arrangement and decoration of the dresses which the child wore, before the public eye” (Hawthorne: 83).

The small body looked so grand in its clothes, coupled with its beautiful splendor, which shone through a beautiful gown that could turn off simpler beauty, until a circle of brilliant light appeared around it. Even so, even a shirt that is rough still makes it look perfect.

One day, Hester Prynne went to Bellingham governor's house carrying a pair of gloves which she had decorated the edges, and had been embroidered according to the official's wishes. She had heard the intentions of several figures, who wanted to instill stronger principles in religion and government, to separate her from her daughter. The important reason was what prompted Hester to speak with an important pedestrian in the settlement, besides delivering the embroidered gloves. With the thought that Pearl was a demonic child, the pious Christian people argued that her mother's soul needed to be saved from a block that blocked the path of truth. If it turns out that the child really has the ability in moral growth and faith and has the main element of salvation, it is more beneficial for her if the education in that field is given by a wiser and better side than Hester Prynne. Among those who proposed the plan, the governor of Bellingham was among the most busy to support it. It does seem extraordinary and too ridiculous, that such matters are deemed necessary to be discussed publicly by important officials. In this primitive era, problems with problems that did not concern the interests of the community, and which were less qualified than the welfare of Hester and her son, were mixed with negotiations on draft laws and state regulations.

One of Hester's effort that make the Puritan society notice and respect her is being humble. Her service to the weak people, make her avowed. Being lonely, no friends, no husband, and also no neighbor, does not make Hester Prynne weak. She never give up. She continues her life with her embroidery skill, and raises her daughter well. Hester just wants her live being simple. Hester never life greedily. The normal life and the beautiful daughter are enough for her. Hester only wanted to live a rough life, with the simplicity that resembled a hermit for herself, and simple abundance for her child. The clothes she wore were made of the most coarse and very gloomy material, with one of the scarlet letters that had been destined to be worn. On the contrary, her child's clothes stand out with amazing creations which indeed make clear the beauty full of cheerfulness which from the beginning has begun to develop within the little girl, but which also has a deeper meaning. In addition to spending a little on her daughter's clothes, Hester donated all of her strengths to social interests, for poor people who fared worse than her, and who often insulted the hands that had fed them. A lot of time she could actually use to embroider, but instead she spent it by making rough clothes for the poor. Maybe she wanted to atone for her sin by doing such work, which also made her sacrifice a lot of life's pleasures.

“Except for that small expenditure in the decoration of her infant, Hester bestowed all her superfluous means in charity, on wretches less miserable than herself, and who not unfrequently insulted the hand that fed them. Much of the time, which she might readily have applied to the better efforts of her art, she employed in making coarse garments for the poor” (Hawthorne: 78).

By that manner, Hester Prynne gets some characters in this world. With her great embroidery skill that is rare, the society cannot really alienate her in that time.

“In this matter, Hester Prynne came to have a part to perform in the world. With her native energy of character, and rare capacity, it could not entirely cast her off, although it had set a mark upon her, more intolerable to a woman’s heart than that which branded the brow of Cain” (Hawthorne: 79).

But, all of her relation with Puritan society, no one can make Hester feeling that she is the part of them. All of her moves, her words, even the clarity that relates on her, often expressed that she is really wasted. Hester was exercised herself for along of her time to handle it. She never cares about all of it, but sometimes found that her face is red, and she falls into her shoulder where the symbol is used. She also never pray a bad thing for her enemy, because she worries that even though her pray is for forgiving them, her good words will be changed as a damnation.

That all of Hester hard effort in the middle of her loneliness. She never give up to make her life reasonable. She never care the rough talking and the hurt gazing from the townpeople, even though sometimes it makes her remember into her red symbol and make her very sad. Hester Prynne interact with the poor people very well. And year after years, she has opportunity to be the part of them.

As the writer show before, Hester can establish relationships with poor people and people who need a help very well. Because, even though Hester had a very hard life, where she had to support her baby and herself in the bad view of others about her, she used all her energy and everything she had as long as it was beneficial to them. She gives a lot of valuable time by pursuing her embroidery

craft, only to listen to people who need to pour out their heart to her. Hester can live excessively, because she gets a lot of benefits from the embroidery. But, she prefers to live simply, and share her income with the poor.

In her very cruel times, and the harsh treatment that would be carried out by the people against anyone who committed sin, Hester was not afraid to continue her life, which she also partially gave to the people in need. Those who are afraid to do all the good things because they have committed a sin, may never be able to protect the lives of people who need a help. Because they would think that their life were just so tragic, so it was very likely they would ignore other poor people. So, the noble thing that Hester Prynne did was a new breakthrough for women in that time. Therefore, everyone who met Hester on the road, they would happily greet her, although she never responded, or even though they were very compelled to get a response from their greeting, Hester would put her hand on the red symbol which would finally make Hester reflect on it. Hester was highly recognized by the people, and would be proud if they showed and explained about Hester's kindness to them so far, towards foreigners in their city.

3.3 The Effects of Hester Prynne's Efforts

After experiencing and going through some very difficult trials, Hester Prynne's position is now quite different from when she had just served her punishment. Pearl is now seven years old. Hester, with embroidery of red letters glittering on her chest, had long been a common sight for city dwellers. As it is accustomed to happening if someone has a difference with the surrounding community, but does not want to interfere in their activities, a general view is

formed on Hester Prynne. Without worrying about losing anything, and without hope or desire to get something, only her sincere desire to be kind has returned the poor Hester to the path of truth. “It is to the credit of human nature, that, except where its selfishness is brought into play, it loves more readily than it hates” (Hawthorne: 151).

Also seen that Hester who never wanted to get the pleasure of the world, more than just breathing in ordinary air, and daily foraging for Pearl and herself by working hard, it was quickly ready to help fellow humans if needed. In such a precarious situation, Hester showed a warm and friendly attitude, a spring containing human softness, never disappoints, and always gave as much as possible. Her chest, which is a sign of disgrace, is a soft pillow for the head who needs it. She was called the goddess of help, or it could be said that this life full of challenges named it. Something that was never wanted by either the world or herself. The letter is the symbol of her calling. People see how generous they are, there are much power to do and understand, that many don't want to interpret the red symbol *A* in its true meaning. According to Puritan society, the letter means "Able", because Hester Prynne has a very large female ability.

“The letter was the symbol of her calling. Such helpfulness was found in her—so much power to do, and power to sympathize—that many people refused to interpret the scarlet *A* by its original signification. They said that it meant Able; so strong was Hester Prynne, with a woman’s strength” (Hawthorne: 152).

Hester only visit the place where the occupants are facing problems, where it can hold Hester back. When all problems have been resolved, she is no longer there. Her shadow had disappeared through the door of their house. Hester has left, without even looking back to receive a thanks, if indeed that intention is

in their hearts that she has diligently helped. When she met them on the road, she never raised her face to receive their greetings. If they keep insisting on greeting her, she will put her finger on the red letter, and go on. This may be self-esteem, but it resembles humility so that it creates a soft feeling in people's hearts. The public has a cruel nature, they have the heart to refuse to be fair when sued too hard, but often they also provide abundant justice when asked with a minimum. Because they consider Hester Prynne's attitude to be a minimum demand, people tend to show a softer attitude towards their former victims, more than what the woman wants, or perhaps more than she deserves.

In their lives, they had forgiven Hester Prynne for her weakness. More than that, they began to see the red symbol not as the sin anymore, but as how much her great deeds. They will say to strangers that Hester Prynne is their very kind to the poor, very helpful to the sick, and very comforting to those who suffer. 'Do you see that woman with the embroidered badge?' they would say to strangers. 'It is our Hester—the town's own Hester—who is so kind to the poor, so helpful to the sick, so comfortable to the afflicted!' (Hawthorne: 153).

The influence of that symbol on society, in Hester Prynne's heart itself was very large and unique. "The effect of the symbol—or rather, of the position in respect to society that was indicated by it—on the mind of Hester Prynne, herself was powerful and peculiar" (Hawthorne: 153). All her grandeur and elegance had become opaque because of the burning red stamp, and had been all the time long, so that what remained was in nonsense that could actually make people reluctant to approach. Even her physical beauty has undergone the same change. This may

amazing that Hester Prynne can pass all of the trials in that time, with her big power, Pearl, and with her beautiful embroidery skill that makes all of the townpeople amazed about it.

3.3.1 Hester Prynne's Self Reliance

Alexandra Kollontai argues that personal relationship as an important part of each individual's experience, and as such, are important such individual's struggle for a better life (1972). Considering from Hester own experience that build a relation with another, Hester believed that women were regarded as a dependence on men in puritan society. This situation leads to the tragic life of many women. With noble ideals to gain independence, women must take an action as soon as possible, as Hester thought. She thinks that the first step that must be taken is that all existing community systems must be destroyed first, and rebuilt with new and better things. Then, the opposite sex, or previous hereditary habits, which have become like nature for a long time, must be fundamentally changed more properly, before women can be permitted to take positions that seem appropriate and fair. Finally, all other difficulties can be immediately eliminated. Women cannot take advantage of this preliminary reform, until they themselves will experience greater and stronger changes.

With the control of this idea, Hester rebelled against the social order of the puritan society persistently. Not only independence in the economy that she won, but also in thought.

3.3.1.1 Hester Independence in Economy

In Puritan society, they believe that who will succeed and who fails will not be determined by himself, but is determined by God. Humans are divided into two groups. And bad people can't do anything, save something, or defecate until they ask God for help. Li (2006) argues that such thinking is a sacred idea and cannot change. Whereas what happened to Hester was an exception, because they assumed that Hester herself changed it through her actions.

In those days, art was a craft that almost only a handful of people could play their hand at embroidering. It was owned by Hester Prynne who was very good at embroidering, so that Hester could make herself and her growing child fulfill her daily needs. “only a change in the economic role of women, and her independent involvement production, can and will bring about a weakening of these mistaken and hypocritical ideas” (Kollontai, 1972). As mentioned above, many stitches are worn by high officials, governors, military people, ministers, babies and others. Holy and noble places are also decorated with beautiful embroidery. Undoubtedly, Hester gained her independence in the economy she worked on with a very hard effort without asking God for help. She never even asked for and put a burden on her lover Dimmesdale or her husband Chillingworth, who should be responsible for her very sad life. This is the true success for womanhood, which can show interpreting that women do not always depend on men. They can get their lives with their own hands and intelligence.

Thinking of a deeper meaning, the greatness of Hester in playing her hand so that it forms a beautiful embroidery is not only an art, but also a way for

her to let all of her emotions and desires go for what she has been facing. If a woman gets pleasure, it will not be easily understood by the opposite sex. From the difficult hard work where she had to use the needle well, for Hester it might be a way to express her emotions. And therefore, Hester can easily grow her passion.

3.3.1.2 Hester Independence in Thought

“Independence does not mean living alone without requiring the intervention of others in the process of life. The role of other people is needed in a reasonable portion. Considering that human are social beings with simbiotic mutualism” (Sustika, 2018). In puritan societies, a woman must maintain obedience to her husband, even if she does not have a little love for her husband. And furthermore, she must kill her natural love in him, rather than let his family's life be destroyed just because she doesn't love her husband. However, Hester did not heed this rule at all. She broke away from her old husband, Chillingworth, who was not heard, who she did not love and preferred to fall in love with a young priest, Dimmesdale. She dared to bring her freedom with her love. It can be seen from the whole story that Hester never ignores human values such as individuality, personal freedom and personal life. She has her own secret that no one else knows. When asked about the name of her lover, namely the father of her child, she did not disclose it at all. Hester used her individual rights and regarded them as weapons to fire Puritanism.

Her independence in thought was repeated again when she faced the Governor of Bellingham because of the problem of Pearl guardianship. She ventured herself to refuse taking over the trusteeship of Pearl with a very large

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