

**OBTAINING MASCULINITY IN AYÒBÁMI ADÉBÁYÒ'S  
NOVEL *STAY WITH ME* (2016)**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfilments of the Requirement for the Degree  
of Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in English Program*



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Obtaining Masculinity in Ayòbámi Adébayò's Novel *Stay With Me* (2016)

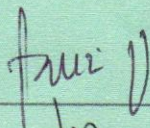
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## ABSTRAK

**Rahman, Arif.** 2019. *Obtaining Masculinity in Ayòbámi Adébayò's Novel Stay With Me (2016)*. Thesis. Universitas Negeri Padang.

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Skripsi ini tentang analisis novel *Stay With Me* (2016) oleh Ayòbámi Adébayò. Masalah analisis ini berfokus pada cara katakter mendapatkan maskulinitas. Tujuan dari analisis adalah untuk mengetahui sejauh mana karakter Akin dan Dotun memaparkan masalah untuk mendapatkan maskulinitas. Analisis ini melibatkan perangkat fiksi seperti karakter, plot (konflik), dan pengaturan untuk mengungkap masalah pencapaian maskulinitas dalam novel. Pengkajian karya ini didasarkan *text-based* dan *context based interpretation* yang berkaitan dengan konsep Roger Horrocks tentang *Patriarchy theory*. Hasil analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa protagonis adalah laki-laki Nigeria yang mendapatkan otoritasnya untuk mencapai maskulinitas. Kedua karakter menjadi arogan, berkompromi, dan terobsesi. Ini dapat dilihat dengan cara licik mereka untuk mencapai maskulinitas.

Kata kunci : *Patriarki, Masculinitas, Laki-laki, Dominasi.*

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The culture which is influenced by patriarchy system could harmful to the personality of men. The society constructs them as certain criteria, the men have to be masculine. They tend to be obsession with the recognition of society as a reflection of patriarchal culture. The men are ambitious to reach these criteria which is one of them be discovered as masculinity. Ironically, the failure in themselves and the social adjustment makes them afraid to fail to reach masculinity. They deceive themselves and society to prove that they have masculinity. They even prefer to use their authority for obtaining masculinity. The effect of it cause the men tend to be selfish to have power in him. They even play in a cunning way to prove that they have masculinity.

Hence, the men want to be regarded as someone who has masculinity, they do not want to be considered as useless people by others. Money politics is one trick to realize masculinity. According to SPEARA dictionary (2016) obtaining means to get something that you want, especially through your own effort, skill, or work. Obtaining masculinity requires the men to challenge the power and privilege conferred to them. The masculinity itself is basically a value that develops in culture and becomes a requirement to the men. Unfortunately, they must obey the rules made

by patriarchy. They have to successful to reach their own rule even they are unable to fulfill it. This situation make them as a victims by patriarchal culture.

One of the cultures influenced by patriarchy system is Nigeria. In Nigeria, the black men are very guarding the prestige of being patriarchy. Their appearance and economy become the selling price to achieve pride. For instance, the men in Nigeria scared to admit their weakness. They cover the fact that being not masculine as patriarchal standard from the society. They become burdened by the culture in Nigeria which requires every married couple must have children. Otherwise, they must accept the consequences of being ostracized even from being kicked out of the customary rules. All men are subject to a social pressure to conform to the dominant ideas of being a man; those who do not, are typically subordinated and socially marginalized.

Furthermore, the example above explains that the men are considered to have an advantage in resources, and perceived as enjoying superior personal characteristics. The men hold full power over their family. They have their own decision to choose anything they want as determined by patriarchy. This dominance is also included in various aspects, such us: intelligence, wisdom, discretion, knowledge, and professional prestige. It reflects a purpose of patriarchal masculinity, which must dehumanize its agents, whilst also promising them power.

The crucial elements of patriarchy as currently experience them are heterosexual marriage. They can marry more than one woman as their ancestors do the same thing. In case of the family member, women have to rear her child and does the housework. Most property and other productive resources are controlled by men and they pass from one man to another, usually from father to son. They believe that this hierarchy has always existed and will continue, and like other rules of nature this one too cannot be changed.

This issue exposed in many literary works, such us poem, novel, prose and drama. This analysis focused on novel written by Ayobami Adebayo. Her novel is related to this topic is *Stay With Me*. Her novel is shown through the effort of two Nigerian men who try to get approved from patriarchal society. Both characters in this analysis do the same underhanded action to maintain masculinity. This involves a distrust of others and a willingness to manipulate them. Further, this situation continues to occur and seems to be legalized by the construction` of patriarchal culture which assumes that the men have power. This issue is very interesting to discuss in this analysis.

## **1.2 The Culture of Nigeria**

Nigeria is a country that has very strong with patriarchal culture. Many black men are in a position to play this role. According to Aina, 1998 in Abidemi R, 2005, many Nigerian men would typically have settled into their procreative familial and



occupational patriarchal roles. In many parts of Nigeria, traditional law favoring the lineage prevailed, and family property was treated as the husband. In the Nigerian traditional law, moreover, husbands often wrote wills giving their managerial rights over all their property, either for life or until their children reached their majorities.

There are two opinions from patriarchy observers about the patriarchal system in Nigeria. The first quotation is from Fredrick Engels (1962), who says that the beginning of patriarchy which favors the supremacy and domination of the male by the male sex. Patriarchy as a system is what operates in the Nigerian society, especially in family life which is clearly male dominated. This is because, in this society, there do not exist any distinction of who were anyone's wife. The man has right to have more than one wife because he had no ties with any woman in particular. Every man, according to Engels (1962), was the husband of every woman in his extended family, and every woman was the wife of all the men in the family and only the woman knew her children.

The second quotation is from Oyeronke Oyewunmi (1997) in her study about patriarchy and gender relation claims that it is not right to believe that patriarchy was always present in the African society. She focuses on the Oyo-Yoruba society in western Nigeria. She argues that in the Oyo-Yoruba culture, social divisions, structures and hierarchies like gender, sexuality, race and class are not determined by visual logic or perception of bodies; rather, it is the concept of "seniority" which orders and divides the society. A patriarchy is considered the head of the household

and within the family he controls productive resources, labor force, and reproductive capacities based on the notions of superiority and inferiority and legitimized by differences in gender and generation.

In southern Nigeria the specifically precludes as an offence any act which does not amount to the infliction of grievous injury and which is done by "a husband for the purpose of correcting his wife, such husband and wife being subject to any natural law or custom in which such correction is recognized as lawful". The law through the condones the widespread problem of domestic violence, by encouraging beating of wives in as much as it does not amount to grievous harm. In case of traditional laws the wife herself is often regarded as property and generally not expected to entertain any expectation. In fact, under some traditional customary law system, especially in south Nigeria, the woman is one of the chattels to be "inherited" after the death of her husband.

Nigeria today is a modern developing third world society. It has evolved from a history of diverse cultures and a common colonial experience. The nature of the patriarchal system that operates in Nigeria today is obviously different from the form that existed in pre-colonial and colonial times. Yet, patriarchy as a system is still the Nigerian way, and it is a force that still contends with the efforts of change in the various sectors of the Nigerian society. This is because the mindset of the Nigerian people is still molded from the onset to view things through the lens of gender.

### **1.3 Obtaining Masculinity**

There are two form the terminologies in this study, they are obtaining and masculinity. According to SPEARA (2016) dictionary obtaining means to get something that you want, especially through your own effort, skill, or work. SPEARA (2017) Indonesian's Higher Education Directorate. Ministry of education and culture dictionary defines masculinity is basically a value that develops in culture and becomes a requirement to the men. In this analysis, Obtaining masculinity requires the men to challenge the power and privilege towards patriarchal society which conferred to them. This condition makes them become selfish to get the power in him. First characters uses the strategies to obtain masculinity. He uses his position to mantain his authority. He takes control his brother by his financial advantages. He set a mission to get a child by paying his brother. To obtain masculinity, the second character sells his physical superiority to get money. He takes advantages of opportunities for the weakness of his brother. He makes woman as an object.

### **1.4 A Brief Description of the Author's Biography**

The description of Ayobami Adebayo's biography base on New York Times Articles (2017, page 3) Ayòbámi Adébayò was born in Lagos, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1988, Nigeria. Her family moved to Ilesa and then to Ile-Ife, where she spent most of her childhood in the University Staff Quarters of Obafemi Awolowo University. She studied at Obafemi Awolowo University, earning BA and MA degrees in Literature



in English, and in 2014 she went to study Creative Writing (MA Prose fiction) at the University of East Anglia, where she was awarded an International Bursary. She has also studied with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Margaret Atwood.

One of Adébayò's stories was highly commended in the 2009 Commonwealth Short Story Competition included in Oxford University Press 2017. Her poems and stories have been published in several magazines and anthologies, including *East Jasmine Review*, *Farafina Magazine*, *Saraba Magazine*, *Kalahari Review*, *Lawino Magazine*, *Speaking for the Generations: An Anthology of New African Writing*, *Off the Coast: Maine's International Journal of Poetry*, *Ilanot Review* and *Gambit: Newer African Writing*. She has also written non-fiction pieces for *Elle UK* and the BBC.

According to The Future Awards Africa 2017 Wordpress. Ayobami Adebayo's won *The Future Awards 2017 held December 9, 2017, at the Federal Palace Hotel, Lagos. African Prize for Art & Culture*. The gifted Ayobami Adebayo has been shortlisted for a year of *Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction (2017)* for her debut novel *Stay With Me (2016)*, a fictional story of the challenges of motherhood and marriage set in 1980s' Nigeria. *The prestigious Bailey Women's Prize for Fiction* is awarded annually to what *the judges consider the best novel of the year* written in English by a female author.

In the interview from The New York Times Article Review (2017, page 5) for literary awards, Adebayo tells her argument about her literary works:

“I wanted to explore expectations we have of people—what a woman should be, what a man should be. And if they don’t meet our own interpretation of who they should be because of their gender, their background, their ethnic group, we then come to conclusions about them that are not accurate”.(p. 5)

From the quotation of this interview, it can be explained that Ayobami Adebayo emphasized which is every human must live based on his own rights without having to impose his own will. Adebayo wants to tell that every human being is influenced by his culture, that culture determines behavior. However, the distinction between stereotypes of the human being is wrong. She wants to see that gender is something that can trigger the destruction of human themselves. It caused the desire of them cannot be gain. Even though, the mindset of society have to construct, for example: the society give a set of standard for the men who were created as masculine since they reach their adult. This issue can be seen in the various works of Adebayo mentioned in the previous paragraph.

### 1.5 *Stay With Me*

The novel entitled *Stay With Me* (2016) written by Ayobami Adebayo reflects the issue of obtaining masculinity. In this analysis obtaining masculinity is shown through the effort of two Nigerian men who try to get the prove from patriarchal society. Both characters are brothers who compromise to attain their authority. The first character is a banker operator who try to maintain his need with his own financial. The second character is unemployment who sells his pride to get money. They are do the cunning ways to achive masculinity from their strategies, that is falsifying heredity and conserving the patriarchy system. They use their potential to make a profit for their future. In this analysis, obtaining masculinity can be seen through falsifying heredity and conserving patriarchy system.

Falsifying heridity can be seen through their first strategy. They use their position to mantain their authority. They take control social life with their financial and physical advantages. They set a mission to get a child to manipulate society. They are trying to save their lineage.

Conserving the patriarchy system can be seen through their second strategy. He takes opportunities from the first character's weaknesses. The second character hides their crimes to get money. They make woman as an object. They apply the patriarchal rule to mantain his domination.



## **1.6 Problem of the Study**

Obtaining masculinity is an important issue in the novel *Stay With Me* (2016) by Ayobami Adebayo. Thus, there are two research questions used to analyze the issue of obtaining masculinity which are formulated as follow:

1. How far do the character in Ayòbámi Adébáyò's novel entitle *Stay With Me* (2016) expose the issue of obtaining masculinity?
2. To what extent do the characters, conflict, and setting in the novel give contribution in revealing the issue of obtaining masculinity?

## **1.7 Purpose of the Study**

This study is going to find out two main points. The first is how character in this novel exposes the issue of obtaining masculinity. The second is to know to what extent the character, plot and conflicts in this novel give contribution in revealing obtaining masculinity.

## **1.8 Previous Study**

The analysis of *Stay With Me* (2016) that focus on analyzing about obtaining masculinity in the same novel has been found yet. However, there are two studies that give contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel. They are 'the analysis of

*Patriarchy and Masculinity in Doris Lessing's The Fifth Child and in Ben in The World* by Björn Sundberg and *The Exploration of the Failure of Idealized Masculinity on the White Screen* by Nese Senel.

The first analysis is from Björn Sundberg in her essay of patriarchy and masculinity (2011) illustrates the causes and the effects of a patriarchal system in the light of feminist ideology deal with Freud's theories about the acquisition of gender roles. Lessing depicts the complexity of the social relations between characters of different social classes and their relations to society's institutions. Her unprejudiced penetration into the minds of society's marginalized people and into the minds of those who represent the oppressive established society illuminates different sides of patriarchy. The male characters described in this section have more or less developed their gender identities in a traditional way. They fit very well in Warren Steinberg's definition of socially constructed male gender characters. Society's accepted gender roles in the patriarchal system are often ironically described in these novels.

The second analysis is from Nese Senel in his journal identity and culture (Aug 2017) Ardahan University. The analysis is how the hierarchies among masculinities and elaborating on the theory of hegemonic masculinity, this study attempts to analyze the journey and the transformation from hegemonic masculinity into masculinity crisis of the protagonists of two crucial films of two distinct cultures, *The Game* (1997) and *Mustafa Hakkında Her Şey (Everything About Mustafa)* (2004). Within this study through a close exploration of the troublesome and curios

stories of both Nicholas and Mustafa, their failure of the idealized masculinity models, that is, the modes of the hegemonic masculinity and their specific masculinity.

Both of the analysis gives contribution to the topic obtaining masculinity. The studies use two different journals in different topic. The first study focuses on the effort of men maintaining his power to achieve masculinity in society and the second study focus on the the failure of men to find their identity based on thier own opinion. Unlike the previous studies, this analysis focuses on the victimization of men as their effort to achieve the certain criteria of masculinity. Moreover, it aims to reveal the act of obtaining masculinity.

### **1.9 Theoretical Framework**

Theories of patriarchy have been criticized as purely descriptive, unable to explain the origins of male power. To argue patriarchy is an autonomous and structured system of oppression is not necessarily to exclude the possibility that it interacts with other oppressive forms such as class and race, or nature. The patriarchal approach have attempted to examine the origins of patriarchy and subjective the standardization of men's criteria of masculinity, the discovery of the male role in reproduction and development of society. However, they makes much of the perceived emotional crisis of masculinity. Underpinning this, though, are the concern with men's emotional difficulties or what they calls male autism. Patriarchal society

seeks to expose this domination, analyze how it is maintained, and thereby challenge it successfully.

The focused of this analysis is about obtaining masculinity. The analysis of obtaining masculinity is related to the concept of patriarchy by Roger Horrocks. According to Roger Horrocks in his book *Masculinity in Crisis: Myths, Fantasies and Realities* (1994) states that the masculine gender is a precarious and dangerous achievement and is highly damaging to men. It could significance attached to autonomy not as equally be an aspect of their identities as adults, or as depression sufferers, rather than an aspect of their identifications of themselves as men. Horrocks in his book said that:

“This is the cryptic message of masculinity: don't accept who you are. Conceal your weakness, your tears, your fear of death, your love for others. Conceal your impotence. Conceal your potency. Disparage women, since they remind you too much of your own feminine side. Disparage gay men since that's too near the bone as well. Fake your behaviour. Dominate others, then you can fool everyone, especially yourself, that you feel powerful”. (p. 25)

The quotation above explains that one of the important ways of masculinity is a concept of men to control their lives, this is a dimension of their masculinity. The men should obedient the patriarchal rule to prove that they are masculine. They devoted themselves to actively confront their ideas and deeds, mocking the women that participated and the men that supported them.

The situation about happened in Nigerian society. The men in a family can controlled any aspects of life to show their authority. They cover their weakness to give oppression to woman and their child. They distorts the fact that failure is only owned by women. It seems to be legalize because the society doing the same act from the generation to the next generation.

The term of masculinity also can be found in another resource. According to Robert Bly in his best-selling book, *Iron John*, in Andrea O'Really (2001:17) argues that the men "*is not happy . . . he is life preserving but not life giving . . . his life is full of anguish and grief*" (p. 2–4). Moreover, the men are, according to Bly, "Many men say to me that they literally don't know what the word man means" (p. 234). It shows that the men are difficult to find their identities as patriarchy concern about it. Horrocks in his book explained that :

"I have found in my work that in fact many men are haunted by feelings of emptiness, impotence and rage. They feel abused, unrecognised by modern society. While manhood offers compensations and prizes, it can also bring with it emotional autism, emptiness and despair". (p. 1)

The quotation above shows that the men deeply feel frustated to follow patriarchal rule. It makes them as a victim of their own ideology. The effort to achieve masculinity makes the men become brutalize and doing anything to dominate society.



This is one way to prove the fact that they do not have masculinity which is intended as the main purpose of patriarchy.

In addition on process of obtaining masculinity, It refers to the process by which these groups and ideals form, the organizational situations and constraints that shape and construct these ideals and groups. Cockburn's (1983) study of British printing press workers illustrates this process: when new technology changed work procedures, systematic efforts were made to exclude women from the trade and to marginalize other categories of younger and unskilled men in order to sustain a definition of printing as a masculine occupation. Horrocks seeks to provide a theoretical overview of work on masculinities and then to consider more empirical evidence of the perceived crisis of masculinity.

“The origin of so much male anger, rage and violence lies within the very way in which we conceptualise ourselves as men and women and the very way we negotiate the difficulties and obstacles of human love and hate”. (p. 37)

The quotation above explains that the understanding of masculinity has demonstrated that masculinity is not 'natural'. Instead, it is seen as a gender identity that is socially and culturally constructed, historical and political. It has represented the social and cultural interpretation of maleness learnt through engagement and participation in the society.

In this analysis, characters in this novel do the same underhanded act to obtain their goal. Both characters are siblings, who were the victims of patriarchal rule. The fears of society punishment make them egoistically attain their domination, power, and authority through social life. They never realize the mistakes are made by themselves. They always force themselves to achieve masculinity in any way. They only follow patriarchal rules so they can reach masculinity. It is because they want to cover their wickedness that they are not masculine as patriarchal purpose.

The analysis of this novel is supported by text and context-based interpretation. Context based interpretation means that the analysis of this novel is not only focused on the text itself, but also involved the phenomenon that really happens in the real world. Meanwhile, the text-based interpretation is done by exposing the fictional devices of the text itself. Guerin (2005:64) says that this approach focuses on the analysis and the interpretation of the text itself. It focuses on character, conflict, and setting.

Character is an important element in literature. Various characters in the story are made by author's creativity. Author creates the characters according to their tastes: for example, the professions, status and attitudes. Every character has a different part in the story. These stories would be nothing without the created characters within them. Characters give the story a purpose, a reason for us to care

what happens. In this analysis, the characters do the cunning way to achieve masculinity through patriarchal society.

Plot is sequence of events that make up the story, there is a conflict in plot. According to Guerin (2005:8), plot is conflict involving protagonist and antagonist. They are internal conflict which occurs within a character and external conflict occurs between two or more characters and environment. In order to analyze this novel, the identification to plot and conflict give contribution character actions getting of the oppression. In this analysis the conflict happened through two characters to other characters. There are many internal conflicts that experienced by the characters in obtaining masculinity. They felling of fear to fail as masculine is the biggest conflict that made up in the story.

Setting has an important role in a novel. Setting can be called as the situations that make up conflicts in the story. According to Abrams (2002:216), setting is refers to the foundation of the story, suggesting the sense of place, time relationship, the social environment and the occurrence of events. Generally, setting serves as background of events in the story, including time, place, and social condition which have influences to the character's life. In this analysis, the setting refers to the patriarchal society which raises the character's mental anxiety in obtaining masculinity.

Bringing description and interpretation together is one way to understand the text by using conflict. Description and interpretation is used as the strategy to understand the nexus of values and norms in the textual world. According to Kind (1999:4), this concept is taken to donate the strategy underlying the selection and ordering the element of narrative text. By bringing description and interpretation together in this analysis, it is easy to find out the meaning of the text and determine the interpretation of the information in the text in finding the topic. Character, conflict, and setting are the fictional devices to support in revealing the information in that text.

#### **1.10 Methodology**

The analysis of novel *Stay With Me* (2016) by Ayòbámi Adébáyò is done by through text and context based interpretation. It is done by analyze fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict), and setting. These devices are related to each other. Characters and conflicts are used to reveal the way to obtain masculinity by analyzing character's reactions toward the conflict. Then, it gives contribution in process of analysis by giving help in revealing the meaning. In addition, this analysis is used the theory of patriarchy who argued by Roger Horrocks.