

**OVERCOMING MARITAL DEPENDENCY IN DOMENICO**

**STARNONE'S "TIES" (2017)**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement to Obtain Strata One (S1)  
Degree in English Department*



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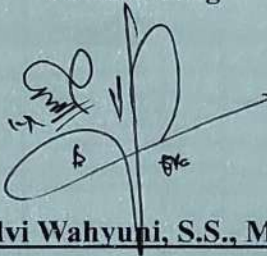
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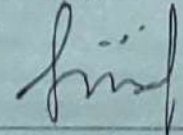
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## ABSTRACT

SAKTI, ANDHIKA DWI (2023). **OVERCOMING MARITAL DEPENDENCY IN DOMENICO STARNONE'S "TIES" (2017)**. Padang: English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Padang

This research is an analysis of the novel "Ties" by Domenico Starnone. The novel portrays the woman character's marriage life, where she depends on her husband. This study explores the issue of wife's dependency on the husband. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative by applying Simone De Beauvoir's theory of existentialist feminism about independent woman. This research aims to find out what are the circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband and find out how does the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency on her husband. The data in this research were obtained by reading and citing several quotations that match the focus of the problem in this research. The result of this research found three circumstances that led the woman character to become dependent, namely traditional gender roles, economic dependency and emotional dependency. Then the research shows how the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency by showing awareness of her existence, making her own decisions and being productive. Based on the results, the woman character shows her capability of being independent woman.

**Keywords:** *Ties, Marital Dependency, Feminism, Traditional Gender Roles, Overcoming Dependency, Independent Woman*

## ABSTRAK

SAKTI, ANDHIKA DWI (2023). **OVERCOMING MARITAL DEPENDENCY IN DOMENICO STARNONE'S "TIES" (2017)**. Padang: English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Padang

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis dari novel "Ties" karya Domenico Starnone. Novel ini menggambarkan kehidupan pernikahan karakter perempuan, di mana ia bergantung pada suaminya. Studi ini menjelajahi isu ketergantungan istri pada suami. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan menerapkan teori feminisme eksistensialis Simone De Beauvoir tentang perempuan mandiri. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui situasi-situasi apa yang telah menyebabkan karakter perempuan menjadi bergantung pada suaminya dan mencari tahu bagaimana upaya karakter perempuan dalam mengatasi ketergantungan pada suaminya. Data dalam penelitian ini diperoleh dengan membaca dan mengutip beberapa kutipan yang sesuai dengan fokus masalah dalam penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian ini menemukan tiga situasi yang mengarahkan karakter perempuan menjadi bergantung, yaitu peran gender tradisional, ketergantungan ekonomi, dan ketergantungan emosional. Kemudian penelitian ini menunjukkan bagaimana upaya karakter perempuan dalam mengatasi ketergantungannya dengan menunjukkan kesadaran akan keberadaannya, membuat keputusan sendiri, dan menjadi produktif. Berdasarkan hasil tersebut, karakter perempuan menunjukkan kemampuannya sebagai perempuan mandiri.

***Kata kunci:*** *Ties, Ketergantungan Pernikahan, Feminisme, Peran Gender Tradisional, Mengatasi Ketergantungan, Perempuan Mandiri*

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

As humans, we constantly rely on others and cannot live by ourselves. As a result, we felt motivated to start having close relationship. There are many different types of relationship styles in our life, and probably the most important one is marriage. Marriage is an interesting topic to talk about. The idea of marriage refers to a recognized relationship between a man and a woman that is governed by laws, regulations, conventions, beliefs, and attitudes that specify the partners' rights and obligations (Britannica, 2023). Marriage can be summed up as the union of two people who take on the roles of husband and wife and become parents to the offspring of their sexual union (Anderson, 2013).

There are numerous topics related to marriage that can be discussed, one of which is wife's dependency on husband. Dependency is often perceived as a bad trait among people today, with psychological and moral faults compounding concerns of legal, social, or economic standing (Fine & Glendinning, 2005). Dependency can become a problem if it affects the independence, freedom, and emotional health of one or both partners. In marriage context, woman as a wife tended to depend on their husbands, especially when they have little work experience (Killewald, 2016). A wife who only works in household might be more dependent to the husband. However, some women are less dependent than others

on their husbands for financial support, status and self-esteem (Kalmuss & Straus, 1982).

Marriage and patriarchal culture are related to each other. In the traditional societal construct shaped by patriarchal norms, marriage is perceived as a predetermined fate rather than a voluntary decision for women (Winarti & Kusuma, 2017). Patriarchy is a men-centered social system. Patriarchy means a social structure in which men's actions and thoughts are more dominant than women. Women are exposed to the margins of economic dependency, violence, domestication, and decision-making in this system (Adisa, Abdulraheem, & Isiaka, 2019). According to Walby (in Sultana, 2011), within the patriarchal mode of production, housewives assume the role of the producing class, whereas husbands assume the role of the expropriating class. Despite the physically demanding, ceaseless, and repetitive nature of their labor, the work performed by housewives is often devalued and not recognized as legitimate work. Consequently, housewives are perceived as dependent on their husbands.

In patriarchal culture, there exists inequality between men and women. Patriarchal culture does not provide equal access to economic and non-economic resources for women (Astuti, Indrawati, & Astuti, 2006). This inequality is especially reflected in the area of the family where the father or oldest male is appointed as the authoritative figure known as the "head of the household" (Soman, 2009). Dobash and Dobash (Tonsing & Tonsing, 2019), patriarchy results in gender disparity in relationships and the family, and patriarchal practices are frequently associated with wife abuse and wife beating, which can be seen as one way that

men exert power over women. Consequently, women are expected to conform to conventional gender roles, including obedience, upholding the family's reputation, and performing household chores.

The societal expectations regarding the specific behaviors and responsibilities assigned to individuals based on their sex are referred to as gender roles. Wienclaw (Zahro, 2014) defines gender roles as how men and women act in society; act within the norms of behavior. For instance, a woman might fulfill the traditional feminine gender role by taking a full-time job at home rather than seeking employment outside the home in order to support her family. On the other hand, men are typically viewed as leaders in traditional gender roles. Therefore, according to the conventional interpretation of the masculine gender role, males should be the heads of their houses by supporting the family financially and making crucial decisions for the family (Blackstone, 2003).

The issue of wife's dependency on the husband can appear in literary works, since literary works are human's creation. Literary works serve as a means of conveying human concepts, emotions, and depictions of individuals or objects. The society is significantly influenced by literary works. Additionally, it has the capacity to influence how persons or societies are socially constructed. Literature itself is "the imitation of social reality" (Wellek & Werren, 1949).

In this paper, the researcher analyzed a novel entitled *Ties* (2017) by Domenico Starnone. Domenico Starnone is an Italian author, screenwriter, and journalist who was born in 1943. He resides in Rome and was born in Naples. He

has written thirteen fiction books, including *First Execution* (Europa 2009) and *Via Gemito*, which won the Strega, Italy's most esteemed literary award. *Ties* was originally written in Italian and translated into English language by Jhumpa Lahiri in 2017 and won the inaugural edition of The Bridge Prize for best novel.

*Ties* tells the marriage story of Vanda and Aldo. After years of their marriage, Aldo has committed infidelity with a young girl. Vanda, who puts her husband at the center of her life and depends herself on her husband, suffers after Aldo reveals his infidelity. Aldo left and abandon her and their children. As the impact, she faces challenges in managing the responsibilities of caring for her children, maintaining the household, handling financial obligations, and navigating daily life, because of her dependency on her husband.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in discussing what circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband and how does the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency. Feminist approach is used to conduct this research. This approach is deemed appropriate because of this novel's issue of wife's dependency on husband and the attempt to overcome it.

## **1.2 Focus of the Problem**

This research focused on what circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband and how does the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency on her husband in "*Ties*" (2017) by Domenico Starnone.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

This research focused on several problems, namely:

1. What are the circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband in the novel *Ties*?
2. How does the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency on her husband in *Ties*?

### **1.4 Purpose of the Research**

This research aims to find out:

1. The circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband in the novel *Ties*.
2. The woman character's attempt to overcome her dependency on her husband in the novel *Ties*.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

This chapter concludes the analysis of this research. This research reveals the circumstances that have led the woman character to become dependent on her husband and how does the woman character attempt to overcome her dependency in the novel *Ties* by Domenico Starnone. This research focuses on one of the woman characters in *Ties* by Domenico Starnone, named Vanda.

In this study, it was found that Vanda is depicted as a dependent wife. There are three circumstances that have led Vanda to become dependent on her husband. The first circumstance is the traditional gender role instilled in Vanda which requires her to be a wife who only take care the family and household chores. The second circumstance is economic dependency because Vanda has no job and her own income which causes her to experiences difficulties in meeting the children and her daily needs after her husband left her. The last circumstance is emotional dependency with the sign of separation anxiety, fear of loneliness and seeking attention and borderline expression.

However, Vanda does attempt to overcome her dependency on her husband. The first attempt she does to overcome her dependency on her husband is by showing awareness of her existence. Vanda shows awareness of her existence as a person who has thoughts, feeling and voices of her own. The second attempt she does is by making her own decisions. Vanda begins making decisions about her relationship with her husband and she asserts their separation. The last attempt

Vanda does to overcome her dependency is by being productive. She starts working to provide for herself and her children.

Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that there are dependency patterns that are formed in Vanda's character due to traditional gender roles, economic dependency, and emotional dependency. However, Vanda also shows active efforts to overcome her dependency through showing awareness of her existence, making her own decisions, and being productive. At the end, Vanda shows her capability of being an independent woman.

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