



The Shackles of Patriarchy in the Short Story Collection *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* by Tere Liye: A Feminist Literary Study

¹*Az-Zahra Diva Rabbani Yunior, ¹Hartono, ¹Wiyatmi

¹ Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Language, Arts, and Culture, Yogyakarta State University, Jl. Colombo No.1, Karang Malang, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author e-mail: azzahradiva.2024@student.uny.ac.id

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Abstract

This study aims to reveal the reflection of the patriarchal system and the social criticism of women's oppression in three short stories by Tere Liye Kisah Sie Sie, Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay, and Buat Apa Disesali. Using a feminist literary criticism approach, the study finds that patriarchy places women in a subordinate position through male dominance, social norms, and economic as well as cultural pressures. The female characters are portrayed as losing control over their own lives, becoming objects of social transactions, and being forced to submit to male authority. The findings indicate that patriarchy is not only physical and structural but also forms a symbolic power that instills obedience and dependency in women. Through his works, Tere Liye presents a sharp critique of gender inequality and calls for the importance of equality, legal protection, and social reform so that women can become subjects of their own lives. In this research, data were collected through a literature review method by closely examining the forms of patriarchy depicted in Tere Liye's short story collection Sepotong Hati yang Baru. Overall, Tere Liye delivers a strong criticism of the patriarchal system, illustrating how women are often disadvantaged and denied the space to become active subjects in their own existence.

Keywords: Male domination; Feminist; Women's roles; Patriarchy; Literature

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INTRODUCTIOAN

A common issue in feminist studies is the pursuit of equal rights (Adji, 2003). Feminism demands equality for women in all fields as an expression of their desire to achieve parity with men (Assalam et al., 2020). The foundation of feminist literary criticism lies in understanding the position and experiences of women (Amala & Ekasiswanto, 2013).

In general, feminist literary criticism can be summarized as a study focusing on the depiction of women's suffering caused by inequality in various aspects of life (Aspriyanti et al., 2022). The imbalance between men and women can lead men to adopt patriarchal roles, controlling and regulating every aspect of women's lives. The patriarchal culture in society is commonly illustrated through gender inequality such as the differing roles and rights of men and women which positions women as inferior to men (Assalam et al., 2020). Male privilege tends to treat women as the "property" of men, granting them the perceived right to act arbitrarily, including through violence (Diana, 2022). Examples of male control and domination can be found in literary works, both classical and modern (R. Jannah, 2024). In classical literature, such figures include Rama and Arjuna (Mulyadi, 2018), while in modern literature, male

domination and control can be observed in Tere Liye's short story collection *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*. Patriarchy in *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* is represented not only through male dominance but also through the restriction of women's roles and the limitation of their freedom and choices.

Women are often prioritized for domestic and caregiving roles (Windasari et al., 2023), restricting their access to formal education and job opportunities (Anugrah, 2015). This aligns with the patriarchal system portrayed in *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*, where women's roles are limited, illustrating how they are frequently trapped in traditional roles defined by patriarchy (Afiah, 2021). Examples include women being expected to be obedient, gentle, and merely complementary to men (Kusuma & Nuryanto, 2019). The social structure positions men as dominant, thereby structurally restricting women's mobility and freedom (Isnaini, 2021). This reflects Indonesia's patriarchal system. In *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*, women's freedom and choices are constrained by societal norms. The female characters face obstacles in determining their own paths due to patriarchal values (Diana, 2022).

Through Tere Liye's *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*, readers can see how women continue to face discrimination, role restrictions, and social pressures when making life decisions. These phenomena occur not only in fiction but also mirror the real-life experiences of women in various social strata, particularly in cultures that continue to uphold male dominance (Arsita et al., 2023). For instance, in the story, Engtay disguises herself to gain access to education, reflecting how women's access to education remains a struggle in many regions. Similarly, Hesty's story shows how social class and family pressure often suppress women's freedom.

The short stories in *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* vividly depict the inequalities and patriarchal constraints that women continue to experience in society. For example, Engtay's disguise to pursue education demonstrates that women's access to learning opportunities remains limited due to structural and social barriers (Aslamiyah et al., 2020). Hesty's restricted freedom because of her social status reinforces how family and societal expectations often dictate women's lives. These stories reflect not only individual experiences but also broader social realities where women face role limitations, social control, and restrictions on freedom enforced by patriarchal systems (Nafia & Dewi, 2022). Thus, the stories serve as mirrors of gender inequality and emphasize the importance of awareness and collective effort to create equal opportunities for women in real life (Aslamiyah et al., 2020).

Research on feminist literary criticism holds strong social relevance because it raises public awareness of the negative impacts of patriarchy both on women and on the social structure as a whole (Jannah et al., 2018). The patriarchal system not only oppresses women but also generates structural inequality that hinders social and economic progress. Therefore, *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* functions as both a social mirror and a form of cultural criticism, encouraging society to value gender equality. This study also aligns with contemporary feminist movements advocating for women's rights in education, employment, and social life (Nafia & Dewi, 2022). By presenting female characters who fight against limitations, this research provides inspiration and positive representation for modern women to resist oppressive norms.

Previous feminist literary criticism research includes the study by Suaibatul Aslamiyah, Suci Nadilla Aryandini, and Cindy Aprilia Pratami (2020) titled *Analysis of Feminist Literary Criticism in the Short Story "Catatan Hati yang Cemburu" by Asma Nadia*. This study shows that the emancipation of women throughout history has been a long and evolving process requiring sacrifice for women to gain freedom from oppression in education, economics, politics, and other spheres. This mindset stems from the feminist movement initiated by Virginia Woolf in the early 20th century.

Before this movement, women faced restrictions in nearly all aspects of life; now, such limitations are less common, allowing women greater freedom (Aslamiyah et al., 2020).

Another relevant study is by Rauzatul Jannah (2024), titled *A Feminist Approach in the Analysis of the Short Story "Kunang-Kunang dalam Bir" by Djenar Maesa Ayu*. The research highlights women's struggles against patriarchal norms and injustices that hinder their pursuit of happiness. Symbolism in the story reinforces social criticism against persistent gender inequality. Overall, the story serves not only as a portrayal of personal conflict but also as a sharp social critique of the norms that affect women's mental and social well-being. The author emphasizes that women should have the freedom to choose their own paths without being limited by harmful norms. The feminist analysis reveals that the female characters experience not only personal dilemmas but also systemic oppression (Jannah, 2024).

Another prior study by Khoniq Nur Afifah and Aziz Muslim (2021), titled *Feminism in Islamic Boarding Schools: A Feminist Literary Criticism Study of Najhaty Sharma's Novel "Dua Barista"*, shows that the type of feminism used in the novel is socialist feminism, as the oppression of women stems from polygamous practices reinforced by social class and patriarchal culture. Thus, the oppression in the story aligns with socialist feminist perspectives. *Dua Barista* serves as a medium for Najhaty Sharma to express her critique of patriarchal traditions in pesantren (Islamic boarding schools), presenting images of strong women and support for monogamy, thereby challenging institutionalized gender-based oppression (Afiah, 2021).

Based on the studies above, this research shares similarities and differences with previous works. The similarity lies in the shared focus on feminist literary criticism (Lugones & Spelman, 1983). The difference, however, lies in its focus on three central aspects of feminism: male control and domination, women's role limitations, and restrictions on women's freedom and choices (Wulandari & Sholihin, 2019). Furthermore, this study differs in its object of analysis, as it focuses on romantic short stories (Latifi, 2016) that still contain meaningful life values for women (Islahuddin et al., 2021).

Tere Liye's *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* is a short story collection consisting of eight titles: *Hiks*, *Pikirkan Itu Sungguh-Sungguh*, *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, *Itje Norbaja dan Kang Djalil*, *Bila Semua Wanita Jelek*, *Percayakah Kau Padaku?*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* (Liye, 2023, pp. 7–197). This study focuses on three stories *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* because they vividly portray the constraints of patriarchy through limited female roles, male domination, and restricted freedom of choice.

Kisah Sie Sie depicts a woman of weak social and economic standing who demonstrates emotional strength, persistence, and enduring love despite her suffering (Liye, 2023, pp. 29–47). *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay* tells of Engtay disguising herself to access education, illustrating structural inequality faced by women in pursuing learning opportunities (Liye, 2023, pp. 57–93). *Buat Apa Disesali* narrates the story of Hesty, the daughter of a priest, and Tigor, the son of a servant, whose social class differences restrict Hesty's choices under family and societal pressure, showing how patriarchal norms often dictate women's decisions (Liye, 2023, pp. 197–211).

Based on this background, the study focuses on the patriarchal constraints particularly women's role limitations, male control and domination, and restrictions on women's freedom and choices depicted in Tere Liye's *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*. The goal is to reveal how patriarchy is reflected in literature and how Tere Liye critiques oppressive social structures through narrative and character development.

In conclusion, feminist literary criticism highlights the gender inequality still embedded in patriarchal societies. This study emphasizes three main aspects: male control and domination, the restriction of women's roles, and the limitation of women's freedom and choices (Afiah, 2021). The stories *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* portray women's struggles with social pressure, limited access to education, and restricted autonomy under patriarchal norms. These depictions not only represent fictional realities but also mirror the actual conditions of women in society. The study affirms the relevance of feminist literary criticism as a tool for raising social awareness about the effects of patriarchy and inspiring women to pursue freedom and equality in all aspects of life. In Tere Liye's *Sepotong Hati yang Baru*, patriarchy is reflected through male control and domination, women's restricted roles, and the limitations on their freedom and choices illustrating gender inequality and the broader social impacts of patriarchal norms.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The research methodology is divided into two parts: data collection methods and data analysis methods (Mahmood, 2001). The data collection method refers to the techniques used to gather factual information related to the research problem (Mackay et al., 2010). Meanwhile, the data analysis method refers to the approach used to identify relationships between data that cannot be directly observed from the data itself (Pertiwi, 2016). In this study, data were collected using the literature review method (Arsita et al., 2023). The literature review method serves as a way to conduct an in-depth examination of the forms of patriarchy depicted in Tere Liye's short story collection *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* (Mukhibun & Wardani, 2023). Although the collection contains eight short stories, this research focuses on three of them *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* selected through purposive sampling. This technique was used to identify stories that specifically portray the constraints of patriarchy (Afiah, 2021). The data collected consist of quotations from the short stories that reflect male control and domination, women's role limitations, and the restriction of women's freedom and choices.

Research Objects

The selection criteria for *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* by Tere Liye are based on the stories' ability to clearly depict patriarchal oppression, including male control and domination, women's restricted roles, and limitations on their freedom and choices. Out of the eight stories in the collection, this study focuses on three *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* because these stories specifically present social conflicts and women's experiences that mirror gender inequality in a patriarchal society (Pertiwi, 2016). This selection aims to ensure deeper and more relevant analysis aligned with the research focus, so the results can comprehensively represent the phenomenon of patriarchy (Pertiwi, 2016).

Instruments and Data Collection Technique

The research instruments used in this study include Tere Liye's short story collection *Sepotong Hati yang Baru* and observation notes containing relevant quotations from the analyzed stories (Mackay et al., 2010). These instruments serve as the primary sources of qualitative data, providing narrative texts that illustrate women's experiences in facing patriarchal oppression. In addition, the instruments include an analytical framework outlining the research categories male control and domination, women's role limitations, and restrictions on

women's freedom and choices ensuring that the identification and data collection processes are conducted systematically (Mackay et al., 2010).

The data collection technique used in this study is the literature review method (Arsita et al., 2023). This technique involves a close reading of the short story collection, marking relevant quotations, and recording examples that reflect gender inequality, male dominance, and limitations on women's roles and freedoms. The use of a literature review allows the researcher to gather factual and in-depth information from written sources without direct intervention with the subjects, ensuring that the data can be systematically analyzed to support the research (Arsita et al., 2023).

Data Analysis

The data analysis technique employed is qualitative content analysis using a feminist approach (Arsita et al., 2023). The analysis process involves identifying relevant quotations from the three selected stories and categorizing the data into the research themes: male control and domination, women's role limitations, and restrictions on women's freedom and choices. After categorizing the data, the researcher analyzes the relationships among these elements to uncover how patriarchy is reflected in the stories and how Tere Liye critiques the social structures that oppress women. This process leads to comprehensive conclusions about the studied phenomenon.

Based on the described methodology, the steps of this research are as follows: first, data related to male control and domination in quotations from *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* are identified. Second, data regarding the limitation of women's roles in quotations from these texts will be identified. Third, data pertaining to the restriction of women's freedom and choices in quotations from the same texts are identified. After the data collection, the next step is to analyze the three sets of obtained data. Finally, conclusions are drawn based on the findings of the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Tere Liye portrays the shackles of patriarchy in his short stories *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali*, focusing on the limitations of women's roles, male control and domination, as well as the restrictions on women's freedom and choices. These aspects are reflected through the depiction of female characters in the stories.

Table 1. Summary of Women's Role Limitations

Short Story	Forms of Women's Role Limitations	Impact on Female Characters	Social Implications and Patriarchal Critique
Kisah Sie Sie	Life choices are restricted by economic pressure and social norms. The status of "a purchased wife" is accepted as a way out. Threats of physical violence and false accusations.	Loss of control over one's life. Dependence on others for safety. Vulnerable and passive position.	Highlights women's subordination. Emphasizes the need for legal protection and social reform. Women become objects of social and economic transactions.
Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay	Major life decisions (such as marriage) are determined by others. Freedom to choose a	Passive role in love and personal life. Life is controlled by dominant figures.	Reveals women's subordination in decision-making. Critiques traditions

		partner is restricted by patriarchal norms.		that suppress women's rights. Promotes awareness of the right to choose.
Buat Disesali	Apa	Freedom and decisions depend on male figures (father). Women conform to patriarchal structures.	Must endure and use adaptive strategies. Subordinate role to gain acknowledgment or fulfill desires.	Highlights the restriction of personal freedom. Critiques male dominance and advocates for gender equality.

Short Story: Kisah Sie Sie

“Her mind went blank; for Sie, it was more honorable than begging or selling herself like other girls. After all, there was no law against buying a wife, right? It was legal consider it as paying a dowry.” (Liye, 2023, p. 34)

“As far as the sky, as far as the earth, Wong Lan even accused Sie of being pregnant by another man and hit his wife, who was in the early stages of pregnancy. The situation was urgent; Sie could not let her pregnancy be endangered, so she decided to run away and was taken in by her consultant’s family in Indonesia.” (Liye, 2023, p. 40)

The excerpts from *Kisah Sie Sie* by Tere Liye illustrate the limitations of women’s roles through Sie’s experiences of social pressure and patriarchal norms. In the first quotation, Sie’s life choices are restricted by social and economic conditions that limit women’s ability to determine their own fate. Her only options are to “beg or sell herself,” so she views accepting the status of a “purchased wife” as a more honorable path. This shows how social norms and certain cultural practices confine women’s autonomy, where freedom and the right to choose their own life path are constrained by patriarchal standards and traditions that treat women as objects of transaction.

The second quotation reveals the consequences women face when they resist or are trapped within patriarchal systems. False accusations, physical violence, and threats to Sie’s safety illustrate how women occupy a vulnerable position, with limited means to protect themselves or make independent life decisions. Sie is forced to flee and depend on others for safety emphasizing women’s lack of full control over their lives within patriarchal structures. Both excerpts clearly reflect the restrictions imposed on women’s roles, where norms, family pressure, and male authority structurally limit women’s freedom, choices, and security.

Sie’s experience in *Kisah Sie Sie* carries significant feminist social implications, showing how women are often placed in subordinate positions due to patriarchal norms and cultural pressure. Women are forced to choose between limited, unfavorable options such as “begging or selling themselves” or accepting socially imposed roles, such as becoming a “purchased wife.” This highlights how patriarchal social structures normalize gender inequality, turning women into objects of social and economic exchange while restricting their rights to education, independence, and personal safety. From a feminist perspective, such injustice is not merely individual but structural, demanding social awareness and reform.

Additionally, Sie’s story critiques contemporary patriarchy by exposing the real consequences of male domination physical violence, false accusations, and threats to women’s safety. When women attempt to resist or protect themselves, they still face high risks, forcing dependency as the only survival strategy. This shows that patriarchy not only restricts women’s freedom in theory but also places them in tangible situations of physical and psychological harm. This critique remains relevant in modern society, emphasizing the need for legal reform, women’s rights protection, and social change so that women can

have full control over their lives and decisions without fear of violence or gender-based discrimination.

Short Story: Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay

“Our marriage has already been decided, Sampek. The seventh day of the seventh month. I can’t imagine wearing a long white lace gown without you.” (Liye, 2023, p. 69)

This excerpt highlights women’s limited roles through the control of life choices and personal decisions dictated by social and patriarchal norms. The statement “Our marriage has already been decided” reflects how significant life decisions such as marriage are often not made by women themselves but by others or due to social pressure. It emphasizes women’s passive position, where their freedom to determine their own lives, including love and marriage, is constrained by societal expectations and traditional roles that position men or families as the dominant decision-makers. Thus, this quotation portrays women’s restricted roles in determining their own destinies and personal choices.

From a feminist social perspective, this excerpt illustrates how patriarchy restricts women’s freedom to make critical decisions, particularly regarding marriage. In societies where men or families hold the main authority, women are often compelled to conform to expectations that do not stem from their own will, rendering their roles passive and subordinate. Feminist theory criticizes this practice as a form of gender inequality and advocates for women’s right to self-determination in love, marriage, and life decisions. The critique of patriarchy in this story serves as a reminder that women’s choices should be based on personal freedom, not dictated by restrictive traditions or social norms.

Short Story: Buat Apa Disesali

“Hesty, who deeply loved her father, decided to be patient and began devising a long-term plan tirelessly persuading her father until she succeeded. She presented many arguments and involved her mother as an ally.” (Liye, 2023, p. 204)

This excerpt illustrates the limitations of women’s roles through family pressure and social norms that require Hesty to be patient and persuasive to achieve her goals. Her freedom and decision-making power are not entirely her own but depend on the approval of a male figure in this case, her father. Hesty must use strategy, persuasion, and alliances to have her voice heard, showing how women often need to adapt to patriarchal structures to achieve their aims. This demonstrates that women’s roles remain constrained by social norms that position men as dominant figures in making crucial life decisions.

From a feminist social perspective, this excerpt reveals how women in patriarchal societies must navigate male-dominated power structures even within their own families. Hesty cannot make direct decisions; instead, she must rely on patience and diplomacy to achieve her goals, highlighting the limited freedom women have in decision-making. From a contemporary feminist critique, this situation underscores the need for social change to ensure that women have the right and space to determine their own futures without depending on male approval thus advancing genuine gender equality in everyday life.

The excerpts from *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* illustrate various forms of limitations faced by women in social, cultural, and personal contexts (Islahuddin et al., 2021). Female characters are portrayed as trapped in difficult situations forced to submit to pressure or resist silently within patriarchal systems. These short stories reveal that in patriarchal societies, women’s roles are frequently restricted in households, decision-making, and personal autonomy (Isnaini, 2021). They face stigma, violence, limited choices, and social as well as familial injustice. Nonetheless, the female characters also demonstrate resilience, strategy, and courage, even within these constraints.

Based on the three analyzed short stories, it can be concluded that the limitations of women’s roles in Tere Liye’s works are clearly evident through the experiences of female

characters under the pressure of social norms and patriarchal culture. In *Kisah Sie Sie*, Sie is forced to accept her status as a “purchased wife” due to economic and social limitations and faces threats of violence that make her dependent on others for safety illustrating how women often lack full control over their lives and remain confined by patriarchal standards that render them passive and vulnerable (Arsita et al., 2023). Meanwhile, in *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, major decisions such as marriage are predetermined by social norms, limiting women’s autonomy and placing them in passive roles with restricted personal freedom.

In *Buat Apa Disesali*, Hesty’s patience and strategic persuasion toward her father show that women’s agency remains dependent on male approval within the family. This process reveals how women must adapt to patriarchal systems to gain limited autonomy. Overall, the excerpts from these three stories demonstrate that women still experience significant constraints across various aspects of life education, marriage, and personal decision-making due to male dominance and social norms that subordinate them. Thus, Tere Liye’s works effectively present a critique of the patriarchal system that restricts women’s roles and freedoms in society.

The findings of this study differ significantly from the research conducted by Suibatul Aslamiyah, Suci Nadilla Aryandani, and Cindy Aprilia Pratami (2020), titled *Analysis of Feminist Literary Criticism in the Short Story “Catatan Hati yang Cemburu” by Asma Nadia*. Although both studies examine feminism, the focus differs. Asma Nadia’s work primarily explores love and harmony in marriage emphasizing the importance of understanding one’s partner and maintaining a happy household by avoiding conflict and resolving issues peacefully. Moreover, their study highlights that achieving women’s emancipation throughout history has been a long process, requiring sacrifice for women to attain freedom from oppression in education, economics, politics, and social life (Aslamiyah et al., 2020).

Control and Male Domination

Table 2. Summary of Male Control and Domination

Short Story	Male Character / Perpetrator of Domination	Forms of Domination	Feminist Implications
Kisah Sie Sie	Wong Lan	Physical violence (slapping, kicking, pulling hair). Psychological violence (humiliation, verbal abuse). Social manipulation (posing as a servant).	Highlights gender inequality. Emphasizes the need for legal protection and social awareness.
Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay	The Prince	Crown Social and family pressure. Unilateral decision-making (wedding arrangements).	Emphasizes equality in decision-making. Advocates respect for women’s autonomy.
Buat Apa Disesali	Hesty’s Father	Emotional intimidation and control. Information manipulation (arranging photos and letters). Restriction of personal relationships.	Expose subtle and structural patriarchal domination. Emphasizes women’s right to personal and relational autonomy.

Short Story: Kisah Sie Sie

“Only to his lawyer did Wong Lan admit that Sie was his wife, while to guests and visiting friends, he casually said Sie was an imported domestic worker from Indonesia, with low pay, three meals a day, and that he was satisfied. ‘Want me to find you one?’ Wong Lan said, pointing at Sie’s forehead.” (Liye, 2023, p. 38)

“Sie always put on a cheerful face, despite Wong Lan throwing plates, insulting her cooking, tearing the tie she wore, or stepping on her hand while removing his shoes.” (Liye, 2023, p. 38)

“The flow of money began to slow, debts piled up, and Wong Lan’s anger and desire to hit reached their peak. Who else could he scold and strike at will? Sie Sie.” (Liye, 2023, pp. 39–40)

“The girl was twenty years old when the physical abuse began. Slapped in the morning, her hair pulled in the afternoon, kicked at night—and the situation worsened day by day.” (Liye, 2023, p. 40)

The excerpts from *Kisah Sie Sie* vividly portray male control and domination through Wong Lan’s abusive behavior toward Sie. In the first passage, Wong Lan explicitly places Sie in a subordinate position before others by disguising her as a maid, even though she is legally and socially his wife. This reflects how male domination manifests through social and symbolic manipulation—where men hold the power to define a woman’s status and role, exploiting her for personal or social gain. Wong Lan’s degrading remarks and threats further highlight the imbalance of power that enables men to control women’s lives without meaningful resistance.

The subsequent excerpts emphasize systematic physical and psychological abuse. Sie is forced to maintain a cheerful façade despite being humiliated, struck, and injured revealing how male control penetrates both the physical and emotional aspects of a woman’s life. Wong Lan’s repeated acts of violence slapping, kicking, hair-pulling depict structural domination that places women in vulnerable and powerless positions. This domination extends beyond physical harm, encompassing control over behavior and expression, underscoring how men in patriarchal systems exercise near-total authority over women, restricting their freedom and autonomy.

From a feminist social perspective, *Kisah Sie Sie* exposes how women become victims of male domination and violence symbolic, psychological, and physical. Sie endures humiliation and abuse without power to resist, reflecting systemic inequality between men and women. This condition calls for social awareness and cultural transformation to challenge the normalization of violence against women and advocate for women’s rights to equality, bodily autonomy, and safety, free from male control and exploitation (Arsita et al., 2023).

Short Story: Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay

“The Crown Prince wanted the wedding to be hastened after seeing the situation. He forced Engtay’s family to summon her back while she was studying poetry. Under pressure, the family finally complied so that she would return.” (Liye, 2023, p. 69)

This excerpt illustrates male control and domination through the Crown Prince’s imposition of his will over Engtay’s life. The major life decision when to marry is determined solely by him, without consideration for Engtay’s wishes or circumstances. The pressure he exerts forces her family to comply, demonstrating how patriarchal authority not only subjugates women directly but also influences the environment and others around them to conform to male power. This reinforces women’s subordinate position and lack of autonomy over their own life choices.

From a feminist lens, this passage highlights how women are trapped in patriarchal systems that position men as the ultimate decision-makers in significant life matters. The

Crown Prince's unilateral control over the marriage timeline exemplifies how women's rights and voices are often dismissed. Feminist critique underscores the need for social and cultural reform that values women's autonomy, promotes equality in decision-making, and rejects coercive male dominance showing that patriarchy impacts not only individual women but the broader family and community dynamics.

Short Story: Buat Apa Disesali

"The remnants of anger over that camera were still palpable, so Tigor could only wave timidly as the car carried his family to the city station." (Liye, 2023, p. 200)

"Hesty was utterly convinced. It was touching and somewhat amusing to see them waving at each other. Hesty's head stuck out the train window as Tigor ran alongside waving. The train kept moving. This time, Hesty's father had nothing more to say; his face puffed up in anger." (Liye, 2023, p. 201)

"Tigor spent a week reflecting, thinking deeply, and finally gathering the courage to propose to Hesty. At that time, Hesty's father was nearing the end of his career as a minister. Accepted? Of course not. He was flatly rejected and humiliated." (Liye, 2023, p. 204)

"That marriage never happened. Tigor was terribly mistaken when he saw the photos and letters. Those photos were the final scheme of Hesty's father, who despised their relationship. Indeed, there was such a wedding, but it was Hesty's sister who married. On several occasions, Hesty had been photographed with the groom and others, and since all five sisters wore identical dresses and posed strategically, it appeared as if Hesty were the bride. And the letter? That was even more painful. The handwriting so much like Hesty's was her mother's. Unable to refuse her ill and aging husband's request, she tearfully agreed to write that single sentence." (Liye, 2023, p. 208)

These excerpts depict male control and domination through Hesty's father, who holds complete authority over his daughter's life choices particularly regarding love and marriage. The first two passages reveal how both Tigor and Hesty are constrained by fear of the father's temper and intimidation, creating an atmosphere where neither can express their emotions or decisions freely. This underscores how patriarchal male dominance restricts not only physical actions but also emotional and psychological space.

The father's strategic manipulation of information using Hesty's family members to fabricate an illusion of her marriage demonstrates a deeper form of domination. He controls key decisions and narratives, effectively erasing Hesty's agency. This manipulation exemplifies patriarchal authority that overrides women's autonomy and erases their ability to shape their own destinies.

From a feminist standpoint, these excerpts reveal how patriarchal domination limits women's freedom to make personal choices and maintain relationships. Hesty's father's intimidation and deceit symbolize the broader system of male control that subordinates women and denies them emotional and personal independence. Feminist critique calls for awareness and social transformation to ensure women's autonomy, challenge familial domination, and establish equality in decision-making allowing women to live freely without structural manipulation or coercion.

Across all three of Tere Liye's stories, male control and domination manifest through physical violence, psychological abuse, and social manipulation that restrict women's freedom. Wong Lan in *Kisah Sie Sie* exerts absolute power over Sie, degrading and controlling every aspect of her life; the Crown Prince and Hesty's father in the other stories use social pressure and deceit to dictate women's decisions. Male domination in these narratives is not only physical but also structural and psychological, placing women in subordinate positions with minimal autonomy.

The male characters embody patriarchal authority exercised through violence, manipulation, and unilateral decision-making (Isnaini, 2021). Such control creates painful

gender imbalances where women must submit, sacrifice, and lose their rights over their bodies, choices, and futures. The domination often appears subtle expressed through emotional pressure and deceit making it difficult to resist directly. Nonetheless, these stories collectively deliver a strong critique of patriarchal social structures (Aslamiyah et al., 2020), urging readers to recognize gender-based injustice and advocate for more equitable gender relations.

The findings of this study differ significantly from the research conducted by Suaibatul Aslamiyah, Suci Nadilla Aryandani, and Cindy Aprilia Pratami (2020) in *Analysis of Feminist Literary Criticism in the Short Story “Catatan Hati yang Cemburu” by Asma Nadia*. While both address feminism, Asma Nadia's focus centers on love and harmony within marriage emphasizing the pursuit of happiness, conflict resolution, and understanding one's partner. Her study also notes that women's emancipation has been a long historical process requiring sacrifice to achieve freedom from oppression in education, economics, and sociopolitical spheres (Aslamiyah et al., 2020).

Restrictions on Women's Freedom and Choices

Table 3. Summary of Women's Freedom and Choices

Short Story	Women's Constraints	Impact on Female Characters	Social Implications and Patriarchal Critique
Kisah Sie Sie	Economically and socially constrained. Mobility restricted by a man.	Loss of control over life. Dependence on others.	Highlights women's subordination. Critique of patriarchy and the need for legal protection.
Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay	Life choices controlled by men and social norms. Education, marriage, and safety curtailed.	Passive, subordinate position. Faces physical violence.	Highlights patriarchal domination. Need to protect women's rights.
Buat Apa Disesali	Decisions depend on a male figure. Bound by the patriarchal family structure.	Must be patient; feelings of doubt and guilt. Subordinate role in the family.	Critique of male dominance and psychological pressure. Emphasizes gender equality in daily practice.

Short Story: Kisah Sie Sie

“Sie Sie had nothing. She truly had no choice. Her father was imprisoned, her mother was dying, and her younger siblings needed food. This marriage would provide a way out. At that time, hundreds of thousands of rupiah were considered a large amount, and the monthly installments promised by the Taiwanese young man were three times the family's income so far.” (Liye, 2023, p. 34)

“Sie wanted to return to Singkawang, at least to visit her mother's red grave. She missed her siblings. She also wanted to embrace her father. What could she do? In that big house, she didn't hold a single penny; her passport and documents were locked tightly in Wong Lan's safe. Should she show the telegram to her husband? Wong Lan never cared

about Sie's affairs; his expression was always the same step aside, mind your own business!" (Liye, 2023, p. 39)

The first quotation shows restrictions on women's freedom and choices through economic and social conditions that force Sie to accept marriage as the only way out for her family. Sie is cornered: her father is in prison, her mother is dying, and her siblings need help. Her "choice" is not her own will but one shaped by the family's need to survive, indicating that under social and economic pressure, women often lose the freedom to determine their fate, and crucial decisions like marriage become matters of necessity rather than personal desire.

The second quotation underscores limitations on physical and administrative freedom. Sie cannot control her passport and personal documents because Wong Lan has locked them away, leaving her without freedom of movement or the ability to make decisions about herself—even to visit her family. Wong Lan's indifference and the shifting of all responsibility onto Sie reveal how patriarchal control directly constrains women's lives by restricting mobility and autonomy.

These quotations reflect feminist social implications by highlighting how patriarchy and economic pressure limit women's freedom to determine their own lives. Sie is compelled to accept marriage as the sole solution for her family, showing that key decisions are often driven by social demands and economic burdens placed on women. Moreover, the physical and administrative control exercised by Wong Lan such as locking up Sie's passport and documents demonstrates how patriarchy directly curtails women's freedom, mobility, and autonomy. From a contemporary feminist critique, this points to the need for social awareness and policies that protect women's rights, grant them control over life decisions, and promote equality within family and society.

Short Story: Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay

"With a heavy heart and keeping many things from her relatives in the Imperial Forbidden City, Engtay was permitted to go to the Shaolin Monastery." (Liye, 2023, p. 59)

"Worse still, Engtay who had been the Crown Prince's fiancée since childhood rebelled and wanted to study at the Shaolin Monastery." (Liye, 2023, p. 67)

"Why are you wearing this cursed pendant? Are you part of the rebels? ANSWER!" shouted the Crown Prince angrily, shaking Engtay's body." (Liye, 2023, p. 89)

"Engtay instead tried to crawl backward and cling to Sampek's legs. The Crown Prince, enraged and not understanding what was truly happening, suddenly drew his sword. Without a second thought, he stabbed Engtay. Blood flowed profusely before the royal throne." (Liye, 2023, p. 89)

These quotations depict restrictions on women's freedom and choices through Engtay's experience under social norms and male dominance. Her wish to go to the Shaolin Monastery is granted only conditionally and must be hidden from relatives, signaling that her freedom to shape her own path is tightly controlled. Her childhood betrothal to the Crown Prince further shows that decisions regarding marriage and education are not fully hers, but dictated by male authority and a social structure that places women in a subordinate position.

The escalation into physical control and violence culminating in the Crown Prince stabbing Engtay reveals the extreme of male domination that disregards women's rights to safety and self-determination. This affirms that in patriarchal systems, restrictions on women's freedom extend beyond social conventions to threats, intimidation, and violence that constrain their ability to choose and to protect themselves.

From a feminist perspective, these passages highlight how patriarchy curtails women's freedom socially and physically. Bound by childhood betrothal, Engtay faces deep constraints over education, marriage, and life direction decisions often controlled by

male figures and social norms (Arsita et al., 2023). The violence she suffers shows that patriarchal domination also imperils women's safety and basic rights, underscoring the need for societal awareness to protect women's autonomy and to oppose gender-based coercion.

Short Story: Buat Apa Disesali

"Be patient, Tigor. Please, she will come back to persuade her father. Be patient; she will not give up. They had promised each other since childhood, even before they knew what love was." (Liye, 2023, p. 205)

"I increasingly hated myself for being too afraid to go with Tigor. Papa raised us very strictly. Full of discipline. He instilled the understanding that whatever we did would carry consequences in life. At the time, I should have understood that perhaps Papa's firmness toward Tigor was the best choice for me, not the opposite, which blocked our path as I always thought. Perhaps Papa's firmness toward Tigor was only to see how certain I was about the decision I made. But what could be done? It happened twenty years ago." (Liye, 2023, pp. 210–211)

These quotations portray limits on women's freedom and choices through Hesty's life under her father's authority. Although she has a long-standing emotional bond and promise with Tigor, her decision to be with him is restricted by her father's control. She must wait and "persuade her father," showing that her personal will is not fully respected and that her freedom in life choices is constrained by a male figure in the family.

Hesty's reflections on fear and the discipline imposed by her father reveal the psychological imprint of such constraints. Feelings of guilt and doubt shape her choices, demonstrating how patriarchal pressure not only limits external actions but also fosters internalized fear and self-adjustment, further restricting women's independence in matters as personal as love and relationships.

From a feminist angle, these passages show how patriarchy limits women's freedom in life choices, especially in love and personal relationships. Despite her bond with Tigor, Hesty must conform to her father's will reflecting male dominance within the family. Beyond external limits, paternal pressure shapes her psyche, making her fearful and hesitant to pursue her own desires. This illustrates how patriarchal norms control women both externally and internally, leaving their freedom and independence tightly constrained.

Quotations from *Kisah Sie Sie*, *Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* depict how women live with constraints and cannot freely determine their life choices due to economic pressure, cultural expectations, and male and familial authority (Assalam et al., 2020). Their freedom is curtailed by patriarchal systems and repressive social norms; even when they resist or choose their own path, it often results in suffering or tragedy (Diana, 2022). These restrictions show that women frequently lack control over their own lives (Afiah, 2021). Economic factors, male authority, family rules, and patriarchal culture become major barriers to free decision-making. When women try to resist or act independently, they face painful consequences sometimes risking their lives or happiness. Indirectly, these stories function as social critique of systems that fail to provide safe space for women to be subjects of their own lives (Wulandari & Sholihin, 2019). The narratives mirror realities that remain relevant for many women today.

The excerpts demonstrate that across various social and economic contexts, women often face significant restrictions on freedom and choice. Through economic pressure, administrative control, social norms, childhood betrothal, and male dominance, women lose the ability to determine their futures, education, marriages, and personal relationships. These constraints are not only social or traditional but are also enacted through psychological pressure and physical violence, placing women in subordinate positions that limit their movement, choices, and independence.

The findings of this study differ markedly from the research by Suaibatul Aslamiyah, Suci Nadilla Aryandani, and Cindy Aprilia Pratami (2020), *Analysis of Feminist Literary Criticism in the Short Story "Catatan Hati yang Cemburu" by Asma Nadia*. Although both examine feminism, the focus differs: Asma Nadia's work centers on the "seasoning of romance" within marriage achieving family harmony, avoiding conflict, and resolving issues amicably. "Know your partner, know yourself, and be wise in life." Their study also notes that attaining women's emancipation has been a long historical process that continues to evolve; achieving such status requires sacrifice so women can gain standing and be free from pressures in education, economics, sociopolitics, and other fields (Aslamiyah et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

Tere Liye depicts the shackles of patriarchy in three short stories *Kisah Sie Sie, Mimpi-Mimpi Sampek-Engtay*, and *Buat Apa Disesali* focusing on three core aspects: the limitations placed on women's roles, male control and domination, and restrictions on women's freedom and choices. Regarding role limitations, characters such as Sie, Engtay, and Hesty are shown as unable to live according to their own wishes. Their roles are confined within a social system that requires them to be obedient, patient, and submissive to the decisions of others, especially the men in their lives (Mukhibun & Wardani, 2023). Even when they attempt to strategize and resist, the space available for action is extremely narrow and fraught with risk.

In terms of male control and domination, patriarchy is portrayed not only as a social system but also as a form of personal power exercised directly by husbands, fathers, or other influential male figures. Men hold full control over women's bodies, decisions, and even identities, wielding this power through physical violence, psychological manipulation, and unilateral, indisputable rules. With respect to restrictions on women's freedom and choices, the women in these stories are depicted as victims of circumstances and systems that leave them little room to choose their own life paths. Their decisions are shaped by economic pressure (Sie), cultural pressure and social status (Engtay), as well as family constraints and fear of disobedience (Hesty). Even when opportunities to choose for themselves arise, the price is often very high, frequently resulting in long-term emotional trauma or even death.

These excerpts reveal feminist social implications by highlighting how patriarchy restricts women's freedom to make life choices, particularly in matters of love and personal relationships. Although Hesty has a promise and emotional bond with Tigor since childhood, she is forced to wait and adjust to her father's will, reflecting the dominance of male figures within the family. Beyond limiting actions, her father's pressure and discipline also shape Hesty's psychology, making her feel fear, doubt, and guilt when she wishes to follow her own desires. This shows how patriarchal norms not only control women's decisions externally but also implant internalized fear and self-adjustment, leaving women's freedom and independence in society severely limited.

These passages likewise underscore the broader feminist implication that patriarchal structures curtail women's autonomy in personal decision-making, especially in love and relationships. Despite her longstanding promise and emotional closeness with Tigor, Hesty must wait and plead for her father's approval, demonstrating how a dominant male figure in the family can restrict women's freedom. Moreover, strict discipline and psychological pressure instill fear, hesitation, and guilt, confirming how patriarchal norms internalize control within women themselves. This situation illustrates that in contemporary patriarchal societies, women often lose the independence to determine their own futures because male power comprehensively narrows their decision-making space and freedoms.

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