

ABSTRACT

Tria Pratiwi, 1125030272: Gender Roles in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. An undergraduate thesis, English Studies Department, Adab and Humanities faculty, Universitas Islam Negeri sunan Gunung Djati. Supervisor: 1. Lili Awaludin M.A.; 2. Pepen Priyawan, S.S., M. Hum.

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Essentially, everyone has been created equal in all aspect. However, the fact shows that there is dichotomy that has been emerged in the study of men and women toward gender. The one is between how men and women act and how they are perceived. Gender which is constructed culturally has placed man and women in a social structure. The problem above is illustrated in the plays namely Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The researcher proposed two problems, 1) How are the masculinity and femininity represented in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 2) How is the relationship between men and women based on their gender. In order to analyze the problems, the researcher has used "perspective of gender" which is limited by characteristics of masculinity and femininity's representation.

As the result, the plays *The Importance of Being Earnest* represented the uncommon role of men and women in society. All of characters were totally supported the existence gender roles. Men portrayed weak in front of women's power and their positions have to run any rules made by the women. Women are involved in making decision of households. Women have an important role in society. The main characters (men and women) represented the position of men and women in society. Married, job, and love relationship are not reflected as the reason why the men is definite to have the higher position than women or conversely, yet it is according to the trait, what they want to be emerged. In this phase, women can be more masculine and man can be more feminine, while their social perceived are reduced. That is the general overview of the gender role which is represented through the plays.