

**WOMAN VOICE AS SEEN IN SHARAZ'S *A PAIR OF JEANS*:**

**A FEMINIST STYLISTIC READING**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for gaining  
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this research is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other researcher's opinions or findings included in this research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

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A FEMINIST STYLISTIC READING**

Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper for

My beloved Parents *Bapak Mujamil alm*, and *Ibu Maryati*,

My dearest Brothers Mas'an Pratama and Zuli Ariyanto

My dearest Sisters Salma Salsabila and Salwa Khirunnisa

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## WOMAN VOICE AS SEEN IN SHARAZ'S *A PAIR OF JEANS*:

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By: Rina Kurniyati

#### ABSTRACT

*Pair of jeans* is one of an interesting short story to be discussed. This short story tells about Miriam who lives and grows in two cultures, Western and Pakistani culture. In one side, she influenced by the Western lifestyle, but on the other side she must hold Muslim traditions. Normally she copes with the role change, but everything changes when she wears Western clothes and meets her future parents in law. It occurs because her future parents-in-law think that Western culture does not match with Pakistani culture. Miriam is seen as a bad girl by her parent-in-law and also her mother. Researcher interest to analyze the way Miriam portrayed in this story and also the narrator attitude toward Miriam. By knowing the narrator attitude toward Miriam, is essential to understand how Miriam are placed in this story. The researcher uses feminist stylistic theory by Sara Millis to analyze this short story. The researcher uses qualitative method to analyze the data in this short story. By this research researcher finds that Miriam seen becomes a bad girl and powerless, but researcher also find out that she has power that she does not realize.

Keywords: *Short story, Feminist stylistic, Main character,*

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### ABSTRAK

*Pair of Jeans* adalah salah satu cerpen yang menarik untuk dianalisa. Cerpen ini menceritakan tentang seorang gadis yang tinggal diantara dua budaya Barat dan Pakistan. Di satu sisi, dia merupakan bagian dari budaya Barat dan di sisi lain dia tetap memegang budaya Pakistannya. Biasanya dia mengikuti perubahan perannya tetapi kemudian calon mertuanya melihatnya sebagai bagian dari budaya Barat yang tidak sesuai dengan budaya Pakistan. Miriam, di pandang sebagai gadis yang tidak baik oleh calon mertuanya dan juga ibunya. Penulis tertarik untuk mengetahui bagaimana Miriam di gambarkan di dalam cerpen ini dan bagaimanakah sikap narator dalam cerpen ini. Dengan mengetahui bagaimana sikap narator terhadap Miriam, dapat di lihat bagaimana Miriam di posisikan di dalam cerpen ini. Penulis menggunakan teori stilistika feminis oleh Sara Millis untuk menganalisis cerpen ini. Penulis juga menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis cerpen ini. Dari analisis yang telah dilakukan, Miriam dilihat sebagai gadis yang tidak baik dan tidak berdaya, tapi ditunjukkan juga bahwa Miriam memiliki kekuatan yang tidak dia sadari.

Kata kunci: *Cerpen, Feminis Stylistik, Tokoh Utama*

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

The word “literature” has been commonly used since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It also equals with the word “*belle lettre*” in French which means fine letter or to designate fictional and imaginative writings such as poetry, prose, and drama (Abrams, 2009:177). Literature plays an important role in human life because it aims to entertain, to inspire, to motivate, and to inform. Moreover, literature also affects people in some aspect, especially on how they express their feeling, attitude, and behaviour. Some facts recently show that many authors create literary works based on what has happened in their life or what they have experienced.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, prose is one of the kinds of literary works, and it can be defined as an inclusive term for all discourses, either spoken or written, which is not patterned into the lines or metric verse (Abrams, 2009:288). Additionally, Abrams also explained that a discourse here means a concept of the general text. It is conceived of social practice or language in use that need to consider some particular social conditions, class structures, and relational power that have altered drastically in the course of history (2009:282). In addition, prose in the sense of literature is used to denote fiction since it is on account of events that actually do not exist in real life, or on the other hand it includes in imaginative works

(Nurgiyantoro, 2012:2). Thus, to define it simply, the term fiction sometimes is used as the synonym of the novel and the short story.

Novels and short stories have the same intrinsic elements, namely plot, character, characterization, theme, setting, and point of view. These make short stories can be analysed using the same approaches as in novels. A short story is different from a novel in some aspect, and it is the length of the story. The length here shows that a novel is written longer than a short story. Edgar Allan Poe said that a short story is a story that can be read and finished in one sitting (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:10). This also becomes one of the reasons why a short story is interesting to be analysed. A short story is not too long, and it also has a concise story which does not need many various details that can make the story longer. Moreover, a short story also gives more implicit information than what was written or told in it.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested to analyse a short story written by Qaisha Sharaz entitled *Pair of Jeans*. There are some reasons why it is chosen. First, Qaisha Sharaz is a British-Pakistani novelist, scriptwriter, college inspector, a teacher trainer, education consultant, and freelance journalist. Then, most of her works focus on the diversity of mankind exploring some aspects such as racial, gender, and cultural divides. Last, *Pair of Jeans* has been published twelve times including eight in Germany and was featured in the local literary scenes of many other countries( <https://qaisrashahraz.com/>);).

The story of *Pair of Jeans* starts with the description of a young woman called Miriam. She is a student of Geography at the University in Northern England. She is arranged marriage with Farook by her parents. In this story, Farook's parents, especially his mother, is the one who firstly falls in love with Miriam.

“..Begum was sure that, not her son, but she herself had fallen in love with Miriam at first sight..” (Sharaz 1998:7)

In the beginning of this story Miriam comes home from hiking with her friends, and she wears a pair of jeans at that time. When her future parents-in-law come to visit her, she does not have enough time to change her clothes. Her future parents-in-law never see her wearing those clothes before. She appears in her Western clothes that definitely surprise her future parents-in-law. Miriam's clothes at that moment are very contrasting with her future mother-in-law's style.

“Their eyes fell straight to the inch of flesh at her waist. The woman was her future mother-in-law, a slightly frail woman dressed in *shalwar* and *kameez* with a chador around her shoulders” (Sharaz 1998:1).

Miriam's mother finds the situation more uncomfortable, and Miriam also feels ashamed of her clothes and directly change them with different ones in her room. Afterwards, she is back to the living room. She senses the strange atmosphere there.

“Miriam sat up, noticing that they were ill at ease and had made no direct eye contact with her. This was so unlike their usual behavior” (Sharaz 1998:4).

Then, her parents-in-law go home without talking about the preparation of marriage. They obviously show that he cannot accept Miriam as his daughter-in-law anymore. He can bear to see Miriam wearing a pair of jeans that makes them think that she is not a good girl.

“Well, what do you think of your future daughter-in-law? I thought you told me that she was a very “sharif”, a very modest girl. Was that naked waist what you would call modest?” He glanced at her” (Sharaz 19985).

Ayub, Miriam’s future father-in-law, asks his wife to speak to Miriam’s mother to cancel the arrangement. Undoubtedly, Begum, Miriam’s future mother-in-law explains what has happened to Miriam’s mother and wants the plan of the arranged married between Farook and Miriam to be canceled because they already found another girl for Farook.

When Miriam knows about the news that her future parents-in-law want to cancel the marriage, she gets upset and wants to know what the reason is from Farook. Farook actually does not know anything about it. Then, Miriam decides to meet him and tells what really happened at that time. When Miriam wants to meet Farook, her mother tells her that this ought to be her parents’ duty not hers.

“...It’s just that I thought that instead of you contacting Farook, it should be us, your parents, doing it in the first place – that is the seemly thing to do” (Sharaz, 1998:12).



Finally, Miriam meets Farook to make it clear, and she turns up there in her pair of jeans.

The researcher is interested to analyze this short story because it tells about the woman who lives and grows in two cultures, Western culture and Pakistani culture. In one side, she is influenced by the modern Western lifestyle, but on the other side, she must hold Muslim traditions. Normally, she copes with the role as what Farook's parents like, but everything changes when she wears Western clothes and meets her future parents-in-law. She is seen as bad woman by her parents-in-law and her mother. It occurs because her future parents-in-law think that Western culture does not match with Pakistani culture. In this story Miriam is not only seen as bad girl but also is treated unfairly by her future parents-in-law. Miriam is judged bad just because she wears Western clothes..

Learning the narrator's attitude toward Miriam is essential to understand how women are placed in the story. In addition, this attitude will also explain how struggles and situations are experienced by women. Thus, it can also give the narrator and the reader some experiences and facts.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the description written in the background of study, a problem statement that can be formulated is:

1. How Miriam is portrayed as a young college woman with her Western style in the middle of her Pakistani conservative family in the short story *A Pair of Jeans* by Qaisra Shahraz?

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

The objective of study in this research is to discuss about the portrayal of a young woman that lives and grows with two cultures, Western culture and Pakistani culture.

### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The object of this research is analysed using feminist stylistic. This makes the researcher understand that different word choices can give different impacts to the story. The researcher also finds that women inequality can be found in some unexpected ways.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

After looking journals or papers up with the same object as this research *A Pair of Jeans* written by *Qaisra Shahraz*, the researcher did not find any of them. Then, the researcher searched the same theory used in this research to explain about the literature review. The first study is a journal written by Bassey Garvey Ufot entitled, “A Lexico-grammatical Study of the Female Sentence in Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Hume-Sotomi’s *The General Wife*”. This research focuses on the major aspects of lexis and grammar which exemplify the dialectics of gender lexical

linguistics in Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Hume-Sotomi's *The General Wife*. This research aims to discover that women's writing is stylistically unique or just a deviation from men's writing considered as a norm.

The second study is a journal written by Abbas Deygan Darwesh and Husein Huwall Ghayadh entitled "Investigating Feminist Tendency in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* in terms of Sara Millis's Model. A Feminist Stylistic Study". That study explores the relationship between linguistic structures and socially constructed meanings in the narrative text.

From those two researches, it can be concluded that this research has not been conducted before especially using the short story entitled *A Pair of Jeans*.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

Feminism can be understood both as a diverse body of theoretical work and as a social and political movement (Barker, 2004: 6). He also said that feminism asserts that sex is a fundamental and irreducible axis of social organization that is subordinated women to man. Feminists have been divided over the contrasting values and meaning associated with the central terms of their struggle, such as equality, different in diversity (Page, 2006: 6). Feminism was a principal agenda for women in some countries as told by Margaret Walters, over the centuries and in many different countries, woman have spoken out for their sex, and articulated, in different ways, their ways, their complaints, their needs, and their hopes (2005:13).

### **a. Feminist Stylistic**

Feminist stylistic is an analysis which identifies feminist using linguistic or language analysis to examine the text. This analysis concerns not only sexism but also the points of view, agency, metaphor, or transitivity that are unexpectedly closely related to gender to discover whether women's writing practice can be described or not (Mills, 1995: 1). Millis in her book also said that:

..explicitly that stylistic to move away from the analysis of literary texts to an analysis of literature in context of other forms of writing; for example, advertising, newspaper reports and so on. Since literature is one of many forms of writing which play a role in constitution of the subject and the production of message about what woman and like in society (1995: 4).

In the level of word, the analysis concerns to examine specific text of sexist language and the effect which they claim with this type of language usage. It shows that language use can present and perpetuate a particular view about women. The analysis deals with the question of gender bias as the level of the analysis of the word. It focuses on the general and theoretical aspect of sexism and gives an account of generic usage.

The analysis at the level of phrase and sentence concerns the way how to analyze the language beyond the word. This analysis focuses on the way whether phrases and sentences can be accepted with the context and the background knowledge needed to make sense. The researcher argued that meaning must be often involved in the process of meaning-production.

The analysis at the discourse level examines the way how feminists can undertake a gender analysis focusing on the larger-scale structures at the level of discourse, which is above the level of sentence. This analysis focuses on seeing the content as the substance of the texts as something which is negotiated with textual elements and codes and forces outside the text which can influence both how the text is constructed and how it is written.

## **1.7 Research Method**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

The method of this research is descriptive qualitative using feminist stylistic theory. The data of this research is described by reviewing words, sentences, and discourse. This research also does not need any observation to collect the data, but the data are taken from referential books, websites, and other data sources. Moreover, the data are also collected by doing library research and from some literature and other supporting literary documents in order to get sufficient and necessary data to analyse this short story.

### **1.7.2 Data sources**

The main data of this research is taken from a short story entitled *A Pair of Jeans* written by Qaisra Shahraz. The supporting data are collected from various data that still relate to the focus of this research, such as websites and book references, that can support the data.

### **1.7.3 Data collection technique**

Data collection technique which is used in this research is documentation. Documentation is the observation that directly to the object of research to see more closely to the object of research (Keraf, 2004: 104). The techniques applied to collect the data are reading the short story thoroughly and documenting it by underlining the text of the story.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

The researcher selects words, sentences, and paragraphs as the discourse in this short story as the data. To analyse the words, the researcher collects the words that consist *double entendres* or sexual play. After finding those words, researcher analyses them by determining whether those words demean the woman or not. In the sentence level, the researcher analyses the words that contain metaphor and transitive verbs to know the position of the character. In the discourse level, the researcher analyses the characters in the short story and sees how they are portrayed in the short story. For example, when women are described by their look or men are described by their power.

## **1.8 Paper Organization**

This paper consists of four chapters. The first chapter explains the reasons why the researcher chooses prose and takes the short story entitled *A Pair of Jeans* as the object of study. Chapter two describes the intrinsic elements that give more information about the short story chosen, *A Pair of Jeans*. Chapter three analyses the short story using the theory selected. The last chapter is the conclusion. This chapter

tells about the answer of the problem statement which has been discussed thoroughly in the previous chapter. Moreover, this chapter also gives the suggestion to other researches who are interested in the same short story or the same theory to do further researches.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that Miriam, a young college woman, is seen as a bad woman by her future parents-in-law because they see her as a person who applies the Western culture in her life, and they think it is bad and does not match with their culture, Pakistani culture. To examine the story about Miriam, the researcher employs feminist stylistic proposed by Sara Millis. This makes the researcher understand that gender inequality can be shown by the things that have never been expected before.

In the story, Miriam is seen powerless, and it is proven by the words chosen to describe her. The words used are not only to show affection but also to demean her as a woman. She tends to be seen and treated as an object rather than a human. Moreover, the discourse in this short story also shows that Miriam is powerless, and it is depicted in the patriarchy domination treated by Ayub, Miriam's future father-in-law. Her conservative family makes Miriam look like a bad woman because she is judged as person who applies Western culture. Her family thinks that Pakistani culture is better than Western culture. Then, if it is seen from the transitivity verb used by Miriam, it also shows that she is a passive victim from the other characters.

After Miriam's future parents-in-law sees her wearing a pair of tight jeans, her life changes a lot. It turns her good image into bad image. For her future parents-in-



law, wearing a pair of jeans is seen as part of western culture. Later on, her marriage plan is cancelled because of that reason as well. Even though Miriam is seen as a bad and powerless woman, she actually just does not realize what her power is. She has power, and it is proven by how she could adapt the cultures around her. She can be a Western woman that still holds Pakistani culture.

A pair of jeans owned by Miriam is the symbol of her power which shows that she can be herself and stands for what she think it is right. She also struggles for everything she thinks right. She fights for her marriage plan even though her mother says that it is not her concern anymore. She struggles to get her justice because she has been treated unfairly after her marriage plan is cancelled. In the end of the story, Miriam realizes that Farook must know that she actually has some parts of Western culture in her life. In a pair of tight jeans, then she bravely meets Farook.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

*Pair of jeans* is one of short stories that talks about gender inequalities. Gender becomes one of exciting topics to talk. After applying feminist stylistic to examine the gender inequality as portrayed in the main character of *Pair of Jeans*, the researcher hopes that other further researchers are willing to discuss other gender issues using other theories, one of which is Islamic feminist.

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