

**A DEFENCE OF WOMEN'S RIGHT  
AGAINST THEIR HUSBANDS' ABUSES  
IN ANNE BRONTE'S THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL**

**In partial fulfillment of the requirement  
For the Sarjana Pendidikan degree  
In English Language Teaching**



**By**

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(1)

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Abuses In Anne Bronte's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

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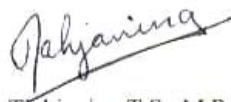
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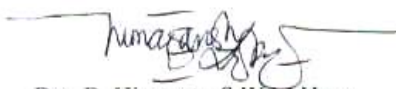
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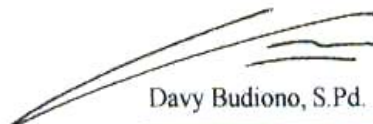
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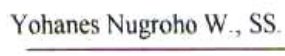
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## ABSTRACT

Dewi, Nike Budiarti Indra, A Defence of Women's Rights Against Their Husbands' Abuses in Anne Bronte's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, S – 1 Thesis, The English Department Of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, 2003

Advisors : - Drs. Antonius Gurito

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Literature is inevitably recognized as one of the significant subjects exclusively offered in the curriculum of the English Department of FKIP Unika Widya Mandala. Students are supposed to learn it because it is an art of words that can help students become more sensitive to language and other people the condition of all living things. In this thesis, the writer chooses literature as the subject of her study because of two substantial points. First, literature is part of life, concentrated and interpreted in real life. Second, literature plays an important role in language application, as it is an example of language in use.

After comparing with the other literary genre, the writer chooses Anne Bronte's novel as a study of analysis with consideration that Anne Bronte is regarded as a great writer. Her styles in her novels are bold, naturalistic and passionate.

After doing difficult selection, the writer decides to take *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* as the subject of analysis. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* is chosen because this novel is one of English Literature's most powerful cries on behalf of women. It challenges the social conventions of the mid-nineteenth century in strong defence of women's rights against their husbands' abuses.

This thesis is conducted to answer the following questions ; (1) What kind of abuses does the main character's husband commit?, and (2) How does the main character defend her rights against as a woman against her husband's abuses ?

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses feminist literary criticism as a methodology of the study, for it is regarded suitable for this analysis. Feminist literary criticism examines the social and cultural aspects of literary works especially for what those works reveal about the role, position and influence of women. Anne Bronte's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) is regarded as the first manifesto for women's liberation. The main character of the book (Helen Huntingdon) is driven to leave her atrocious her husband for an independent existence. The writer also attempts to analyze the literary work by using literary tools, such as : character, plot and setting. Besides, she uses some references, which are related to the discussion, and contributes her ideas and opinions.

After analyzing Anne Bronte's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, the writer finds that abuse happens in the story mental abuse. There is no physical abuse involved. Arthur Huntingdon is a kind of husband who is possessive, selfish and cruel to his wife. He can't be a good husband and he creates a miserable life for her in their marriage. He abuses her mentally and his demeanors are getting



worse and worse. The writer also finds that Helen graham is a strong character. From the beginning, every time Huntingdon abuses her, she always confronts him in order to show him that his abuse is unsuccessful. She feels deep anxiety inside, but she seems strong with her arguments. As a worthy wife for Huntingdon, even though he abuses her, she continually tries to do her inclination that is to change his bad characters and save him from destruction.