

Chapter III

Research Methodology

This chapter contains the research method and the data presentation of the research. This chapter covers the research questions, the research subject and context, the research procedure, the data collection, the data analysis, and the data presentation.

3.1. Research Questions

The research is directed towards answering the following research questions:

1. How is women inferiority in the Irish Aristocracy represented as evidenced in the text?
2. How does the aristocracy affect the marriage of the main characters as evidenced in the text?

3.2. Research Context

The context of the research is a novel entitled *Rebel Daughters* written by Janet Todd. The novel was published in 2003 by Viking Penguin. The novel is written in English and consists of 13 chapters and 400 pages. The novel portrays the biography of the daughters of Robert Lord Kingsborough, later Earl of Kingston, of Mitchelstown Castle during the time of Irish Rebellion in 1798.

The research focuses on analyzing how women inferiority is represented in the Irish Aristocracy and how Aristocracy affects the marriage of the main female characters as evidenced in the novel.

3.3. Research Procedure

The research employs a qualitative descriptive method, particularly text analysis. Qualitative approach focuses on specific situation or people and it emphasizes on words rather than numbers. The research describes the phenomena of how women inferiority is represented in the Irish Aristocracy and how Aristocracy affects the marriage of the main characters as evidenced in the novel.

3.4. Data Collection

The data are in the form of words, utterances and expressions which are collected by reading the novel *Rebel Daughters* closely, selected words, utterances, expressions that serve as textual evidences are selected to answer the research questions.

3.5. Data Analysis

The collected data are then categorized into how women inferiority is represented in the Irish Aristocracy and how Aristocracy affects the marriage of the main characters as evidenced in the text. The collected data are then analyzed using feminist literary criticism that is proposed by K. K. Ruthven. In conducting the research, the following steps have been taken.

1. Reading and re-reading the novel carefully to get thorough understanding, about the marriage of two main female characters in the novel.
2. Identifying textual evidences that answer the research questions.
3. Categorizing all textual evidences into the representation of women inferiority and how Aristocracy affects marriage of the female characters in the Irish Aristocracy.
4. Analyzing and interpreting the data.
5. Making conclusions and suggestions for further research.

3.6. Data Presentation

The following tables are the samples of the analyzed data in *Rebel Daughters* that answer the research questions. The complete tables can be found in the Appendix of the paper.

Table 3.1.

Samples of Women Inferiority represented in the Irish Aristocracy

| No. | Kind of women inferiority | Textual Evidence | Context |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Women inferiority in education | Her sons George and Robert Edward at Eton were now beyond Lady Kingsborough's concern, but since aristocratic daughters had no | The textual evidence shows that aristocratic sons get formal education while |

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| | | <p>formal schooling, the girls were hers to mould, and, although she lacked warmth, she was dutiful (pages 73).</p> | <p>aristocratic daughters get informal education at home. Women's education is limited by their parent. Women are not allowed to be smarter than men.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Women inferiority in physical appearance</p> | <p>Like other daughters Margaret suffered from the tyranny of stays and tight lacing, both meant to give girls exaggerated feminine shape of minute waist, high plumped breast and upright figure (pages 81).</p> | <p>To look beautiful, women have to use tight lacing clothes that hurt their body and to stays calm when they were using the clothes to show their femininity.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Women inferiority in marriage</p> | <p>It was common to arrange marriage in the basis of barter, and young women usually had little say in a matter which fathers had agreed (page 4).</p> | <p>The marriage is arranged by the father, and women have to agree weather they like it or not.</p> |

Table 3.2.

Samples of How Aristocracy affects the Marriages of the Main Female Characters

| No. | Aristocracy affects the marriages | Textual Evidence | Context |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | In Matchmaking process | The marriage would unite the old King estate, Boyle and Rockingham, with the Southern Mitchelstown ones, and cut a swathe of ownership trough Roscommon and Sligo to the north down to Cork and Tipperary in the south. The children, Robert and Caroline, were young but the deed must be done quickly with so many eager young men sniffing round (page 11). | Aristocracy teaches their people to become materialistic. There is always a negotiation about money and property before they make a deal, even in marriages. The marriage is arranged by the parents, they match their daughter with the person from higher social class. |
| 2. | In dowry | So he proposed a one-off gift of £ 12.000; he did not call it payment for Caroline, but the meaning was | In the aristocratic marriage, dowry is negotiated before the |

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| | | <p>clear. With this money Richard could settle his debts. Edward was candid: 'if your daughter shall live to the age of 21 years My Family will gain far more than the £ 12.000 by the marriage' (page 12).</p> | <p>marriage is held. The family of the groom paid some money to the family of the bride and the dowry will bring fortune for the groom.</p> |
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