

THE PORTRAIT OF WOMAN IN CHOPIN'S SHORT STORY *THE STORY OF AN HOUR*



THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirement to Thesis
in English*

FARDHILLAH HANIFAH

F21116305

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
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HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY
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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences Number 382/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft by Fardhillah Hanifah (F21116305) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

Makassar, 27 October 2020

Approved by

First Supervisor,



Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 196301031988032003

Second Supervisor,



Dra. Nadira Mahaseng, M.Ed.
NIP. 195512241986012001

Approved for the Execution of *Skripsi* Examination
by The Thesis Organizing Committees

On Behalf of Dean
Head of English Literature Study Program



Dr. Abidin, M.A., Dipl. TESOL.
NIP 196012311986011071

THESIS
THE PORTRAIT OF WOMAN IN CHOPIN'S SHORT STORY *THE*
STORY OF AN HOUR

BY:
FARDHILLAH HANIFAH
Student Number: F21116305

It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on December 3th,
2020 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

Approved by
Board of Supervisors

Chairman

Secretary



Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 196301031988032003



Dra. Nadira Mahaseng, M.Ed.
NIP. 195512241986012001

Dean Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Program

Hasanuddin University



Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, MA.
NIP. 196407161991031010

Head of English Literature Study

Faculty of Cultural Sciences









Dr. Abidin Pammu, MA., Dipl. TESOL
NIP. 196012311986011071

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

Today, December 3th, 2020 the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by FARDHILLAH HANIFAH (No. F21116305) entitled, **THE PORTRAIT OF WOMAN IN CHOPIN'S SHORT STORY *THE STORY OF AN HOUR***, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, December 3th, 2020

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| 6. <u>Dra.</u> Nadira Mahaseng, M.Ed. | Second Supervisor | 6.  |

DECLARATION

This thesis by **FARDHILLAH HANIFAH** (No. F21116305) entitled, **THE PORTRAIT OF WOMAN IN CHOPIN'S SHORT STORY *THE STORY OF AN HOUR*** has been revised as advised during examination on December 3th, 2020 and approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:


1. Dr. Abidin Pammu, MA., Dipl. TESOL

First Examiner



2. Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin, M.Hum.

Second Examiner



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Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Fardhillah Hanifah
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : F211 16 305
Jenjang Pendidikan : S1
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris

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(Fardhillah Hanifah)

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Makassar, 10 November 2020

Best Regards,

Fardhillah Hanifah

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ABSTRAK

Fardhillah Hanifah. *The Portrait of Woman in Chopin's Short Story in The Story of an Hour* (Dibimbing oleh Herawaty dan Nadira Mahaseng).

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menggambarkan Potret Perempuan yang tercermin dalam sebuah cerpen *The Story of an Hour*. Dalam hal ini penulis menunjukkan bagaimana gambaran perempuan Amerika yang terefleksikan dalam cerpen tersebut.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini penulis menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif dengan mengaplikasikan pendekatan strukturalisme genetik yang dapat dilihat dari karya sastra itu sendiri (unsur intrinsik) dan menganalisis gambaran perempuan (unsur ekstrinsik) pada masyarakat Amerika pada saat karya itu dituliskan. Dalam pembahasan masalah penulis menggunakan metode kepustakaan di mana penulis mengumpulkan data dan informasi melalui pembacaan beberapa buku, journal dan artikel yang berkaitan dengan objek penulisan.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis tersebut, ditemukan bahwa Potret Perempuan yang tergambar dalam cerpen *The Story of an Hour* yaitu perempuan hanya tinggal di rumah dan tidak melakukan pekerjaan sesuai yang dia inginkan, hal tersebut menyebabkan perempuan pada saat itu tidak bahagia.

Kata Kunci : Gambaran Perempuan, Pernikahan, Kebebasan

ABSTRACT

Fardhillah Hanifah. *The Portrait of Woman in Chopin's Short Story in The Story of an Hour* (Supervised by Herawaty and Nadira Mahaseng).

The purpose of this research is to describe the Portrait of Woman that is reflected in a short story *The Story of an Hour*. In this case, the writer shows how the portrait of American woman was reflected in these short stories.

In conducting this research, the writer uses the descriptive analysis method by applying a genetic structuralism approach which can be seen from the literary work itself (intrinsic elements) and analyzes the portrait of women (extrinsic elements) in American society at the time the work was written. In discussing the problem the writer uses the library method where the writer collects data and information through reading several books, journals, and articles related to the object of writing.

Based on the results of this analysis, it was found that the portrait of woman is depicted in the short story *The Story of an Hour*, as of only stayed at home and did not do the work they wanted this causes women at that time to be unhappy.

Keywords : Portrait Woman, Marriage, Freedom

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of a background of the study, identification of problems, scope of problem, research questions, objective of study, significance of study and sequence of chapter.

1.1. Background of Study

Literary works are something that is related to literature. The type of literature is divided into written literature and oral literature. Therefore, written literature is different than oral literature. Literary works are not only judged as imagination or a work of art but have been considered as a means to convey messages of the reality of people's life.

The main function of literary works is to describe human life and tell the events that happen in real life when it is created. Written literature includes ballad, folklore, joke, and fable are passed down by word of mouth. Day by day, the number of female authors increases after woman inequalities are spread around the world. Woman inequality usually happens in marriages relationship.

In people's life, there are several dreams. One of them is marriage. Marriage is something sacred to be carried out and is a necessity that is in each of one's beliefs. Everyone also wants to have a prosperous and harmonious family, to have happiness

and peace in the household. To create a harmonious family, people should understand one another, between husband and wife supporting each other.

Based on the illustration in the paragraph above, many writer inspired to write prose, especially with marriage theme. One of the great writers who wrote prose about marriage is Kate Chopin in *The Story of an Hour*.

In this case, the writer chose a short story which is a story that only has one plot. The writer finds one of the arguments put forward by Poe. Poe 's argument not only provides a critical framework for saying what a short story is not, it also provides a constructive base on which to describe a short story that calls a short story. This description includes two items in the story: (1) that it is brief and (2) that it has ample coherence to sustain the reader's or listener's unflagging attention from the beginning to the end. The words of the description are inherently descriptive. This is, of course, difficult to draw a clear and quick line and conclude that any story that contains fewer than a hundred words is short, whereas the story that contains one word more than the part specified is long. The personal equation entering into the question often makes it difficult to define some fixed estimate of the degree of coherence needed for the region to be preserved, Lawrance (1917:275)

Among the works of Kate Chopin, the writer chose to study the short story of *The Story of an Hour*. It was originally published in Vogue on December 6, 1894. Chopin's work is included in the category of 20 great American short stories. When it

was published in 1894, it was a very controversial short story early feminist writer. In many of her stories Chopin's settings are in north central Louisiana, often in Natchitoches. She published two important collections of short stories; *Bayou Folk* in 1894, then *A Night in Acadie* in 1897. For her exceptional skill with vocabulary, use of irony and selection of evocative writing themes she remains one of the favorite writers. This implies that people at the time may be dismissed more easily than expected. That's why the writer used this literary works as an object of research.

This work tells the story of a woman who is married to a man who is only busy with his work, a woman who does not get freedom in marriage in general, she only focuses on domestic matters and takes care of her husband but does not get freedom for herself. When she heard the news that her husband died in an accident she felt very happy and thought that she would get freedom but her dream was lost when she learned that her husband was not dead.

So, based on the topic, the reason why the writer chose this literary work is because the writer feels curious in analyzing it which discusses the portraits of women in this short story. The writer also wants to prove to the reader about feminist issues in this short story. By doing this research, the writer can provide reading material to the reader to be used as a reference for further research. The purpose of the writer in conducting this research is to be used as reference material for subsequent writers to have the same content, but the author has another goal, to see how the description of feminism in America in 1894 and the comparison of feminism

in Indonesia in this era. American women at that time were still fighting for equality but were repeatedly denied the request.

Compared to women in Indonesia in this era, there is no longer any limit to the role in a marriage, for example, Indonesian women today are free to do what they want to do without having to be prohibited by their husbands. Men who already have the obligation to fulfill a family income and are free to have careers, women can do this without having to limit marriage. Another reason why the writer wants to do this research by taking the title *The Portrait of Woman in Chopin's Short Story The story of an Hour* because the writer wants to know how the portrait of women at that time in America is reflected in this literary work, the writer also wants to know what is the life of the women as the main character in his marriage.

1.2. Identification of Problem

After reading *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin, the writer discovered some problems related to the background. They are follows:

1. Gender inequality in woman main character
2. Freedom in marriage
3. Feminist background in America.
4. How the main character gets freedom in marriage

1.3.Scope of Problem

The gender inequality is one of the topics which one can research in this short story. This short story has a fully element subject that containing about gender in equality. So, the writer chooses genetic structuralism approach to be analyzed as subject of problem in this study and the writer only focuses on the main character to see how the portrait of women occurs in this story.

1.4.State of Problem

Based on the scope of problem the writer wants to describe that Kate Chopin in her work entitled *The Story of an Hour* to explain the portrait of women in America in 19's especially in Mrs. Mallard live in this short story, that she did not get freedom and happiness in his marriage as a normally women. Therefore, the writer formulates two questions of the following issues as :

1. What is the portrait of female main character in Chopin's short story *The Story of an Hour*?
2. To what extent does this portrait of women represent American in 19's?

1.5. Objective of Study

In this research, the writer is going to accomplish some goals to be attained according to the statement of problem as follows:

1. To explain the portrait of female main character in Chopin's short story *The Story of an Hour*
2. To explain this portrait of women represent in America 19's

1.6. Sequence of the Writing

The writing consists of five chapters. Chapter one is an introduction that consists of background of study, identification of problem, scope of problem, state of problem, objective of study, and sequence of the writing. Chapter two consists of literature review that covers some previous studies and theoretical background of theories that support this analysis. Chapter three consists of the kind of methods the writer uses in analyzing the short story, including method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data. Chapter four consists of analysis of the genetic structural, the portrait of woman in America in the short story. The last, chapter five, consists of conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer discusses about literature review, which consists of previous study, genetic structuralism and theory of feminism.

2.1.Previous Study

The previous study aims to find and to expand the idea of the writer about the thing that will be done in this thesis and to prevent the similarity of the concept. Previous study is one of the references which were used by the writer to support this thesis. There are four previous studies in this thesis. They were written by Siti Aminah (2014), Anton (2019), Panji Ari Kusuma (2015), and the last is Nurfitriana (2011).

The writer found several references that related in *The Story of an Hour*. First, the writer reviewed former theses that applied genetic structuralism into drama. The first research was done by Siti Aminah (2010), whose title is *Social Class Influence to the Main Character in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest"* the author found that changes in attitudes that occurred or done by the main character, Jack, represents the effect of the existence of social classes, as reflected through the other characters in this play. These characters are the symbols of certain community groups that occupy a particular social class and creating a social gap that existed in the Victorian-era, which has inspired the author to create this work.

Another research is Anton (2019) in his research entitled *Portrayed of Social Class in Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities*. The research tells about the French Revolution era, the nobles suppressed lower-class people with forced labor, slavery, and execution. The people are fed up with the treatment without hesitation in resisting the nobility. One of the main characters is willing to sacrifice his life because of the execution for the person he loved. This research used the Structuralism Approach and social class theory from Gaetano Mosca and Karl Marx.

The next researcher was Panji Ari Kusuma (English Study Program Faculty of Humanities, 2015) entitled *Liberal Feminism Values in Kate Chopin's Story of an Hour*. This analysis focused on liberal feminism values that as a devoted wife, a woman is expected to think only about her husband and her children and not to think about herself as an individual. Through Mrs. Mallard's one-hour freedom, she becomes a different image of a wife. Therefore, in an hour Mrs. Mallard realizes her existence as an individual and forgets about her universality as a wife. After a long time, she can feel her spirit and freedom and becomes alive. Her marriage has oppressed her, and the death of her husband is a sign to regain her freedom as an individual. The writer conducts a structural approach in doing this literary research focusing on analyzing the intrinsic elements especially on the main character, conflicts, and the extrinsic element on liberal feminism values by using Tong's framework.

The last research by Nurfitriana (2011) in her research entitled *Social Criticism in Morris West's Children of The Sun*. In this thesis, the researcher uses Genetic Structuralism method which combines the intrinsic and extrinsic. The result of analysis indicates that so many social gaps involving economic, education, and political aspects, as well as and the role of parents to form the personality of children reveal the unstable social condition.

So based on the research, the writer got an idea to represent this research entitled *The Portraits of Women in Chopin's short story The Story of an Hour*. The writer conducted genetic structuralism approach and theory of feminism, in doing this literary research focusing on analyzing the intrinsic elements especially on the main character, conflicts, and the extrinsic element on the portrait of women in America.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. Genetic Structuralism

This approach combines the intrinsic analysis and extrinsic analysis to achieve the meaning of the literature itself. This research is an approach in sociological literature. The study of genetic structuralism is quite appropriate to find out the socio-cultural background and to answer what the world view is when making literary works. The founder of the genetic structuralism approach theory is Lucian Goldman, is a literature expert from France in 1963. Genetic structuralism is an approach of literature which appears after pure structuralism.

According to Goldmann in Anwar (2010: 114) literary works are expressions of an imaginary world view, so that literary works contain the worldview of the author which can be found through figures, objects, and the relationship between characters and objects that takes place imaginatively, because the author needs adequate social experience to build imaginary relationships in his literary works.

Based on Teew (1988:153) Goldmann argues that every important literary work has a significant structure, which Goldmann says is autonomous. And according to Goldmann, the structure of meaning represents the world view (*vision de monde*) of the author not as an individual but as a class of society. Researchers compare with data and analysis of social conditions.

In Anwar (2010:117) Goldmann's dialectical method is also known as a term genetic structuralism. In addition according to Laurensen and Swingewood in the sociology of literature (1997), Genetic structuralism is an approach that pays attention to text and socio-cultural background, as well as the subject that gave birth to it. This theory combines the structural analysis of literary works with sociological analysis of literary works.

Based on Anwar (2010:118), that Genetic Structuralism is understood as a view that emphasizes the importance of the views of the author in literature. The basic understanding is that the context of literary works cannot be separated from the existing social class. Literary work is the ideology of authors who occupy a certain

social class. Therefore, the process of reading through genetic structuralism begins with a search for the internal structure of the literary work and then connects it with the external structure of the literary work. What is meant by external elements are the author, social class, environment and ideological aspects that exist outside of literary works.

Based on Endraswara (2013:56), Genetic structuralism research was originally developed in France with the services of Lucian Goldmann. In some novel analyzes, Goldmann always emphasizes the historical background. Besides literary works have autonomy and cannot be separated from extrinsic elements. This research is inseparable from intrinsic and extrinsic elements that will connect various elements of social reality. Literary texts at the same time represent historical facts that condition the emergence of literary works. For him structuralism has two frameworks. First, elements of literary works that are interconnected, secondly, they have mutual bonds. Therefore the author cannot have his own views. So basically the author has a collective view of the world and that view is not realistic, it is just an imaginative reflection.

In Ratna (2004: 122), stated that Genetic Structuralism is one of the approaches used in literary research. Genetic Structuralism is a branch of literary analysis that is not pure structurally. Goldman frames three basic methods in genetic structuralism analysis. Those are: a study on literary work is considered as a unity, a literary work should have tension between complexity and unity on coherent whole, if that the

unity has been found the process is continued by analyzing the relation between the work and the social background.

Based on Golmann, 1973:117 in (Sri Muniroch, 2011:88) The third is the dynamic nature, in other words the tendency to change and develop the structures of thinking, behavior and feeling before, were formed. Goldmann calls this type of trend the Tendency to 'transcendence' which has a similar meaning to that of Pascal The notion of transcendence, that is, practicality, activity and all social and historical movements dynamic. According Burns, 1973:118 in (Sri Muniroch, 2011:88) There are three fundamental characteristics of human behavior are the fundamental principle of the theory of genetic structuralism or, in other words, of concept covers or is the foundation of certain principles in the Structural Genetics. Also Goldmann believes the fundamental the characteristics of human activity form the foundation of all literary activities. Researchers, These three fundamental characteristics seem to me human actions are fundamental to all positive literary research.

Regarding Jabhorim, 2012:80 in (Nurlinda, 2018:9) said that the background of the author is very influential in the process of the creation of literary works, both in terms of content and in terms of structural. Thus, the history and social conditions of society certainly have an important role on the author to create a literary work. This tendency was based on as assumption that social order is normative. So, characteristic and behaviors shown by the representation of that characters. He comes from where.

This represents the climate. On the basis of the aforementioned description, Show the relationship between character and atmosphere that in literary works help each other.

Based on Faruk “Strukturalisme Genetik dan Epistemologi sastra (1989) in Anwar (2010) said Genetic literary structuralism emerged as an autonomous structural approach in understanding literary works. Genetic structuralism bridges two extreme tendencies in the development of literary theory and social literary theory by paying attention to two aspects at once, namely the structure of the literary text and the realities that exist outside the literary text.

So, based on some of the references above, the writer can conclude that genetic structuralism is an approach in literary studies in researching an object (literary work) which contains extrinsic and extrinsic elements, namely elements that build literary works from within, namely characters, settings, themes. , etc while extrinsic elements are elements that build from the outside, namely based on the author's experience, social conditions, etc.

2.2.2. Intrinsic Elements

The structure of literary works consists of form and content. The form is the writing style of the author, whereas the content is the idea expressed by the authors in their works. Literary works structure and the writer focuses on character, setting, plot, and theme.

a. Character and Characterization

According to Potter (1967:3) in Nugroho (2001) Character is a person who typically refers to his entire literary work nature like its personality, its life behaviors, its spirituality both his qualities and moral conduct. Characterizations refer to the placement of certain figures with certain characters in a story.

b. Setting

According to Scott (1957:536) in Nugroho (2001) Setting is the time, location and environment in which a part of the story occurs. So, that readers can analyze where the story setting is.

c. Plot

According to Stanton (1965:14) in Gunawan (2007) said that defines the history of the tale that triggered or occur in certain cases by casual occurrences. It is a plot of the story that makes it easy for the reader. Based on Fooster in Nurlinda (2018) there are some elements of plot they are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

d. Theme

According to Abrams (1993:121) in Rukmiadi (2010).Defines the theme as a general idea or theory, whether implied or stated in a literary work intended to integrate and encourage the reader to consider the essence or imagery of the literary work and the intent of the author.

2.2.3. Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements are elements that build literary works from outside the literary work, namely including the social conditions of society, the social conditions of the author.

Extrinsic elements are non-literary elements that have an intrinsic influence on the structure or framework of a literary organism Nurgiyantoro (2010:23) in Lestari (2019). Such extrinsic factors include, but are not limited to, the state of subjectivity of particular writers who have perceptions, values and conceptions of life that can all influence the fictional work they have written.

2.3. American Women In 19th Century

The male-dominated nineteenth-century culture was represented and promoted in literature, not only by male writers but also by women. Not only did women and men have different spheres of life, they even had distinct literary canons. As Elaine Showalter points out, women's 'sentimental' prose or 'literary domesticity' was opposed by 'male creative brotherhood,' which omitted female authors ('Tradition and Female Talent' 11). Women authors tended to consider themselves the founder of a "profession rather than a calling" (11) and had more religious than esthetic motivations in their prose. According to Showalter, female authors can only begin to think about themselves as artists in the 1870s.

It took three generations to win the vote for American women. Pioneers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucy Stone. The movement dominated much of the nineteenth century. The second generation, represented by Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw, entered the scene in the 1890s and early 1900s, when suffrage was about to break out of the doldrums. And the third generation, epitomized by the indomitable Alice Paul, helped to push it over the top with militant tactics in the last decade.

Women writers generally welcomed the new female commitment independence and self-sufficiency. In the short stories of Marry Wilkins Freeman, for example, women's expanding role is implicitly compared to the frontier ideal of freedom. Feminist Kate Chopin pushed the debate to the extreme by having Edna Pontellier, the married heroine of her novel 1899 *The Awakening* , violate social conventions by first falling in love with another man and then taking her own life when his ideas about women prove as narrow and traditional as those of her husband. Despite the efforts of these and other champions of the new women, attitudes changed slowly. The broadened understanding of the role of women in society exercised the strongest effect on middle-class women who enjoyed the luxury of higher education, enjoying a considerable amount of free time, and may fairly have wished for advancement in the small variety of professions that were available to them. While many women wanted greater freedom and power over their lives, most still viewed the home as their primary responsibility.

The Church of Real Female Hood also set the groundwork for the future. The developments of xenophobia by virtue of qualities that the majority of American women in the nineteenth century couldn't have achieved. The vision of women as "wan, subtle, spiritual beings has nothing to do with the real world, especially the working class, where women operate machines, work in the fields, wash clothes and work on large kitchen stoves" (O'Neill 7 -8). And middle-class girls who are born feel lazy and quiet as they have to take care of domestic duties like wives and daughters. Cruca (2005:190)

As late as 1910, women could vote in only four sparsely populated western states: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho. In six state referenda after 1896, women suffrage went down to defeat. But rushing social and ideological currents infused the suffrage movement the new vitality after 1900. Finally, the larger climate of the progressive movement in which women played leading role, powerfully boosted the cause. In 1917-1918 the patriotic slogan "A women's place is the war" temporarily replaced "A women's place is in the home", Boyer (1993:743)

So the writer conclude that, the picture of women in the 19th century in America is still under the auspices of patriarchy, where men dominate more than women. Women who have not received freedom and do not have the right to voiced their opinions and get education. However, those who only live at home carry out their obligations as wives or their obligations as women.

2.4.Feminism

The feminist theory first emerged as early as 1792 in publication of *A Vindication of the rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects* by Mary Wollstonecraft that contained her responds of eighteenth century's educational and political theorists who stated that women should not receive a rational education and rights, but only men do. Feminism is a term used by women who started to questioning their inferior status and claiming a tolerance over their social position, also most of feminist have pointed the cause of women's social status is because of their ability in produce children, Fatih (2012:75-76)

The First Wave Feminism of the 19th and early 20th century concentrated on women's civil rights , in particular the right to vote (see Women's suffrage), the Second Wave Feminism of the Women's Rights Movement touched on every dimension of women's experience — including politics, employment, culture, and sexuality. Organized campaigning for and on behalf of women continued during the third and fourth periods of xenophobia in the mid-19s and early 20s, respectively. See Feminism for more discussion of historical and contemporary feminists and the women's movements they inspired, Burkett (2020)

In Rasanen (2018:18), The new women progress has been taken on shifting views towards women's rights and their place in society. The fight for women's rights during this time was considered the first surge of xenophobia, widely known in America as the time between the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention of 1848

and the adoption of the 19th amendment in 1920, when women were elected in every state.

In 1890, the two opposing factions merged as the American National Feminist Association of Suffrage (NAWSA). At the point, the reasons in favor of the vote it. It's going through a slight but significant transition. While the early claims rested on questions of freedom and citizenship — women's right to vote as citizens — in the 1890s, the reasoning turned increasingly to what people should do with the vote, the question of expediency. Suffragists often focused on women's perceived intellectual dominance. Around the same time, the focus of the campaign changed from a broad interpretation of women's rights (including property rules, abortion, economic freedom and the regulation of dress) to a single-minded emphasis on voting. By the 1890s the suffrage movement was part and parcel of the larger Progressive era reform movement. As civic-minded women dramatically increased their involvement in public life and civic affairs, their contributions strengthened the case for giving women the vote, Boyer (1993:743)

Feminism did not exist in the early 19th century. However, over time in the 1910s it was used as an effort to focus on women's voting, during the mid-19th century the "Women's Movement" developed as a result of women's efforts to increase their status and usefulness for society. it is “to initiate acts of charity of benevolence, modesty, and social welfare and to initiate the struggle for civil rights,

social freedoms, higher education, remunerative work, and ballot”, Cott:3 in Cruea
(2005:187)