CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer explains the introduction of the research, consists of the Background of The Study, Identification of The Study, Research Questions, Objectives of The Study, and Sequence of The Writing.

1.1 Background of The Study

Social inequalities have existed for a long time, shaping various aspects of life, from economics to culture. These imbalances often arise from power disparities, disadvantaging certain groups, and over time become embedded in social norms, especially regarding gender. Gender discrimination, one of the most persistent forms of inequality, limits women's rights, opportunities, and freedoms. It has appeared in many forms throughout history—from restricting access to education and employment to enforcing rigid gender roles. These inequalities influence how men and women are perceived and treated.

Studying gender discrimination is crucial because it relates directly to social justice and equal rights between men and women. This study aims to understand the factors contributing to gender inequality and how these factors affect both individual development and society at large. Furthermore, such studies can guide policymakers in designing effective measures to combat gender discrimination and strengthen women's rights across sectors such as education, politics, and the economy.

As highlighted by Suleman et al. (2021), discrimination against women remains a global challenge, not confined to any single country. Despite international legal frameworks like the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), many women including those in Malaysia continue to face unequal treatment and limited opportunities to express themselves fully. This underscores the persistent and complex nature of gender discrimination worldwide, emphasizing the need for comprehensive approaches to address it.

To better understand how gender discrimination manifests in specific social contexts, this study focuses on the Regency era in England, the historical setting of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. According to Daquin (2020), early 19th-century English society positioned the household as the central site of economic life, where women were confined to domestic and reproductive roles based on strict Religious ideologies further enforced this segregation, assigning ivate sphere while limiting their access to education, property, and ent. Industrialization, while expanding the workforce, did little to mics; women and children were drawn into low-paid labor not as a erment, but due to perceptions of their physical suitability and

This structural marginalization was reinforced through legal frameworks and cultural practices. Bahri Bohang et al. (2025) argue that the Regency period in England was defined by rigid legal and social hierarchies that disadvantaged women. Coverture laws stripped married women of legal autonomy and property rights, while primogeniture practices excluded them from inheritance. As a result, many women, especially those from the middle class were encouraged to cultivate ornamental skills to increase their chances of securing marriage, which functioned as both a social necessity and a form of economic survival. Together, these conditions reveal how the intersection of law, economy, and social custom worked to constrain women's agency, framing marriage not as personal fulfillment, but as social obligation.

Jane Austen, a prominent 19th-century author, often critiqued these social norms through her novels. *Northanger Abbey* particularly stands out in its portrayal of gender discrimination faced by female characters under these societal constraints. Within this framework, gender discrimination emerges as a central theme, often embedded in the way women are depicted and treated. Examining literature through this lens allows for uncovering hidden power dynamics, stereotypes, and inequities perpetuated by established texts. It also enables exploration of how stories both reinforce and challenge prevailing attitudes towards gender roles and identities.

Though often considered lighthearted and satirical, *Northanger Abbey* offers valuable insight into the gender discrimination faced by women like Catherine Morland, who navigate a world shaped by rigid social expectations and patriarchal norms. Through Catherine's journey from naïve ingénue to self-aware protagonist, Austen highlights complex dynamics of female agency and autonomy in a society that limits women's choices.

Based on the elucidation above, the writer has chosen the title *Gender Discrimination in Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey* as the focus of this study, aiming to analyze how gender discrimination is portrayed and its implications on female characters within the novel.

1.2 Identification of The Study

After reading *Northanger Abbey*, the researcher discovered several issues that can be developed into research, including:

1. The role of imagination and Gothic literary influences in shaping the
   s perspective and interpretation of reality.
   e of social class and economic status on character relationships
   ns about marriage.
   ments used to critique prevailing literary trends and societal norms
   Regency period.
   ectations of gender roles, particularly how women are expected to
   arly 19th-century English society.

1.3 Scope of the Problem

As outlined in the identification of the study, a variety of issues are evident; nevertheless, it is essential for the researcher to prioritize and select a specific issue for detailed analysis. Therefore, the scope of this research is limited to a meticulous examination of gender discrimination as manifested within Jane Austen's seminal work, *Northanger Abbey*.

1.4 Research Questions

Certainly, based on the background of the study as well as the identification and scope of the problem, here are a few research questions:

1. What are the forms of gender discrimination in Austen's *Northanger Abbey*?
2. What impacts are experienced by female characters of gender discrimination in the novel?

1.5 Objectives of The Study

According to the research questions above, here are the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the forms of gender discrimination in Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.
2. To analyze the impacts of gender discrimination by female characters in the novel.

1.6 Sequence of The Writing

This research is divided into five chapters. They are introduction, literature review, and research methodology. The first chapter is the introduction. It is divided into six parts: background of the study, research questions, scope of problem, objectives of the study, and Sequence of the writing. The second chapter is a literature review. It is divided into three parts: previous related studies, theory/approach, and theoretical background. The third chapter is research methodology. It is divided into four parts: methodological design, method of collecting data that is also divided into two subparts (source of data and instrument of research), method of analysis, and procedure of research. The fourth chapter is analysis, and the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer discusses Literary Preview, which consists of Previous Studies, Structuralism Approach, and Concept of Gender Discrimination in literary work.

2.1 Previous Study

This chapter presents relevant research connected to this thesis, focusing on the use of the structuralism approach as the primary method for analyzing the novel. These studies provide valuable insights into research that aligns with or is closely related to the writer's thesis. Previous research addressing similar problems and employing a structuralism approach is examined to highlight connections to this study, particularly regarding the theme of gender discrimination. This chapter identifies both similarities and differences between the current analysis and prior studies, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

The first study is written by Whissell (2017) under the title *Northanger Abbey: Jane Austen's Connexion with Radcliffe and the Gothic*. This study analyzes *Northanger Abbey* as a parody of late 18th-century Gothic novels, particularly Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*. Using the Dictionary of Affect in Language, the writer compares the emotional language of the two novels and models their plot developments through Aristotelian concepts of fortune and misfortune. The research finds significant stylistic and emotional differences between the novels, noting that *Udolpho* is darker, more concrete, and less pleasant than *Northanger Abbey*. Additionally, the study identifies multiple emotional turning points within each novel, with *Udolpho* ending happily and *Northanger Abbey* having a relatively unhappy conclusion. Unexpectedly, the analysis also reveals a two-part structure in *Northanger Abbey*, distinguishing early and later chapters in terms of emotional tone and plot development.

The second study is written by Landh (2018) under the title *The Coming of Age of a Woman: Proto-Feminism and Female Bildung in Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey*. The writer uses a Proto-Feminism Approach based on Mary Wollstonecraft's ideas in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* to analyze Catherine Morland's journey toward maturity in *Northanger Abbey*. The focus of this study is how Catherine's journey reflects the female emancipation advocated, as well as the obstacles that hinder her maturation, challenges faced by women during the Enlightenment in claiming this research examines the critique of sentimental and gothic Catherine's ability to exercise reason improves, and how her choice of reflects the critique of women's inability to express ideas contrary to

The third study is written by Pitaloka (2023) under the title *Female Teenagers' Resistance toward Gender Discrimination in Jennifer Mathieu's Moxie*. This study investigates the types of gender discrimination found in Jennifer Mathieu's American young-adult novel *Moxie*, focusing on how the female characters respond to and resist such discrimination. Using a library research method and analyzing the novel's narrations and dialogues, the study applies a radical feminist framework to examine forms of discrimination such as sexism, sexual harassment, and implicit bias. These are shown to stem from patriarchal cultural dominance that shapes perceptions of gender roles. The research highlights several forms of resistance enacted by the female characters, including creating feminist zines, building women-centered communities, organizing a walkout, and using social media to promote gender equality. These acts are portrayed as effective strategies in challenging discrimination and reflect the feminist spirit of advocating for women's rights and empowerment among teenagers.

The fourth study is written by Zalzadila Desy Sadina (2024) under the title *An Analysis of Conflicts Among the Women Characters in Jane Austen's Persuasion*. This study investigates the conflicts occurring between female characters in Austen's *Persuasion* using a structuralist approach, focusing on character and characterization. By applying structuralism theory, the study explores how Anne Elliot's struggle to uphold her moral values and personal integrity brings her into conflict with Elizabeth, Mary, Louisa, and Lady Russell, thereby illustrating the tension between social norms and individual aspiration. The analysis reveals that Elizabeth and Mary Musgrove embody egoism and materialism, Louisa Musgrove displays impulsive passion, while Lady Russell exerts authority as both advisor and enforcer of social structure. The study identifies both internal and external conflicts among these women, rooted in rationality, emotion, attachment, freedom, and the friction between societal expectations and personal desires. Through examination of language and action, the study demonstrates how patriarchal social structures create restrictive gender roles that ignite conflict among Anne Elliot, Elizabeth Elliot, Lady Russell, and other female characters, providing insight into the broader dynamics of gender and power within Austen's narrative.

After reviewing the previous studies, the writer observes that they commonly adopt a structuralist or feminist approach to analyze how narrative elements reflect social and gender issues. Whissell (2017) examines *Northanger Abbey* as a parody of Gothic novels like *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, identifying its emotional and structural contrasts, including a shift in tone across the novel. Landh (2018) applies a proto-feminist lens based on Wollstonecraft's ideas to explore Catherine Morland's personal growth as a critique of Gothic fiction and era gender norms. Pitaloka (2023) investigates gender in the young-adult novel *Moxie* using a radical feminist framework, teenage girls resist sexism, harassment, and bias through zines, ling, and activism. Sadina (2024) analyzes *Persuasion* through hods to examine conflicts among female characters, revealing how ctations shape female relationships and restrict autonomy.

The primary difference between these studies and the present thesis lies in the scope and thematic focus. While earlier research centers on aspects such as Gothic parody, female emancipation, feminist resistance, or interpersonal conflict, this thesis investigates gender discrimination as a comprehensive theme within the novel, analyzing all female characters in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* through a structuralist lens. Based on the reviewed research, the writer examines gender discrimination in *Northanger Abbey* as the central focus of this study.

2.2   Structuralism Approach

The structuralism approach in literature focuses on analyzing the internal elements that constitute a literary work and examining the relationships between these elements to reveal a unified meaning. According to Pradopo (2012:14), a literary work is not merely a collection of isolated parts, but a cohesive structure where each element is interdependent, contributing to the overall meaning. Structuralism, which originated in France, is a broader philosophical approach that has influenced various fields such as biology, psychology, sociology, history, and linguistics. As Susanto (2012:88) points out, while the term "structuralism" is often associated with literary analysis, its origins can be traced to anthropology, where it sought to understand the underlying structures that govern human culture and thought.

The structuralist approach in literary studies traces its intellectual roots to Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss linguist whose posthumously published *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) laid the foundation for modern structuralism. Saussure redefined language as a structured system of signs, where meaning is generated not by a direct link between words and objects, but through the differences and relationships among signs within the language system itself. As explained by Key and Noble (2017), Saussure's work transformed linguistics from a fragmented field into one governed by a "coherent methodological framework" by laying down "definitions and distinctions" that remain central to modern linguistic theory (p. 3). More importantly, Saussure's emphasis on the role of interpretation in language led to the development of semiotics, or the study of signs, which has since influenced a wide array of disciplines across the humanities, including literary theory.

This interpretative shift from viewing language as a passive medium to recognizing it as an active system of meaning-making allowed later thinkers such as Tzvetan Todorov, Roland Barthes, and Claude Lévi-Strauss to extend Saussurean structuralism into the analysis of literature, myth, and culture. They argued that literary texts, like language, function as systems whose meaning emerges from the interaction of internal elements such as plot, character, setting, [...] is regard, structuralism does not merely examine what a text says, [...] ucts meaning through patterns and relational structures among its [...]

[...] ucturalism approach focuses on examining the connections [...] t components of a literary work. According to Fatihah et al. (2022), [...] w the theme, plot, characterization, and setting interact, readers

can reveal deeper meanings within the text. These elements are interdependent and do not operate independently; they collectively shape the narrative. As a result, the structuralism approach is a powerful tool for understanding the meaning within a novel, especially by emphasizing the relationships between the intrinsic elements. This makes structuralism a crucial approach in literary studies for comprehending how authors craft their works effectively.

Building on the structuralism approach discussed above, the writer understands that structuralism in literature involves analyzing the internal structural elements that constitute a literary work while also examining the interrelationships among these elements. The fundamental components of a literary structure include character, plot, setting, and theme, which the writer has briefly outlined.

2.2.1   Characters and Characterization

Characters and characterization are fundamental components of a narrative. Characterization refers to the method by which an author conveys information about the characters within a fictional work. This information may include aspects such as personality, physical appearance, age, gender, social status, sexual orientation, beliefs, motivations, and other defining traits. Character refers to the individuals or figures within a story, including protagonists, antagonists, and supporting characters. According to Stanton (in Nurgiyantoro, 2010), characters can be categorized into various types, such as the protagonist (main character), antagonist (opponent), and supporting characters. These characters possess traits, personalities, and roles that contribute to the development of the plot. In structuralism, characters are analyzed based on their function within the narrative system, not as isolated individuals but as integral parts of a whole that support the plot, theme, and other elements of the text.

Characterization refers to the process or technique employed by an author to depict and develop characters within a story. According to Suherli (2017), characterization involves the methods used by the author to describe the traits and personalities of characters, often through various means such as dialogue and actions. This process is essential for conveying the complexities of characters and their motivations, helping to build a deeper understanding of their roles within the narrative. By analyzing how characterization unfolds, readers can better grasp the character's development and their contribution to the overall plot and theme.

Character and characterization are closely related in shaping the narrative and meaning of a literary work. According to Stanton (in Nurgiyantoro, 2010), characters not only serve as figures in the story but also play a crucial role in the plot and theme through the traits and behaviors they exhibit. the process of depicting characters, helps readers understand motivations in the story, as explained by Suherli (2017). This process rough various techniques, such as dialogue and action, which not e characters physically but also psychologically, thereby enriching erstanding of the conflicts and changes the characters undergo.

Moreover, character and characterization mutually influence each other in creating the overall meaning of a literary text. Wahyuningtyas and Santosa (2011) assert that analyzing characters and the process of characterization reveals the relationships between elements within the text. When characters are depicted in depth through the characterization process, readers can more easily comprehend how these characters interact with other elements in the story, such as the plot and setting, which ultimately contribute to the overall meaning the author aims to convey. As emphasized by Atmo (2024), characters function as essential elements in the narrative structure that support other components, making an understanding of characterization pivotal in uncovering the hidden meanings within the narrative.

2.2.2. Plot

Plot refers to the sequence of events in a story, shaped by cause-and-effect relationships. According to Suherli (2017), plot involves the interweaving of conflicts between opposing characters and spans from the beginning to the conclusion of the narrative. This structure establishes a framework that links the events throughout the story. Moreover, plot is viewed not merely as a series of events but as a system comprising various components that interact with one another. Kubiak (2016) asserts that the structuralist examination of plot aids in identifying narrative patterns and understanding how these components contribute to the overall meaning of the story.

The plot generally consists of key elements, including:

a. Exposition: Introducing the characters, setting, and initial circumstances.
b. Rising Action: A sequence of events that build tension leading to the climax.
c. Climax: The culmination of the conflict encountered by the characters.
d. Falling Action: Events following the climax that guide the story toward resolution.
e. Resolution: The conclusion of the conflict and the closure of the narrative.

From a structuralist perspective, plot plays a pivotal role in constructing a coherent narrative. Each component of the plot serves a distinct purpose in creating tension and guiding the reader through the progression of the story. Horváth (2019) highlights that the plot structure should be logical and comprehensible, ensuring that the reader can easily follow the narrative. Plot interacts with other essential elements such as character, setting, and theme. Nurgiyantoro (2015) explains that ... lysis explores how these elements work in tandem to create a ... within the text. Plotting refers to the method by which the author ... resents the plot to the reader. This technique may include the use ... gression, flashbacks, or mixed structures to provide a dynamic and ... g experience (Aniemeka, 2019). ... nining the plot as a sequence of interconnected events within the ... rk of the text, readers can gain deeper insights into the work's

meaning. Analyzing the plot helps to uncover narrative patterns and the relationships between various elements, ultimately enhancing the understanding of the themes and messages the author seeks to communicate.

Based on the comprehensive explanation above, it can be concluded that plot refers to the chronological sequence of events, beginning with the initial occurrence, followed by subsequent events, and ultimately leading to the resolution of the story. As is commonly understood, a plot represents the ordered series of incidents that constitute the narrative of a story. The plot is essentially a narration of events, and in crafting the narrative, the author structures these events into a coherent a plot.

2.2.3. Setting

Setting refers to the time, place, and social environment where the events of a story occur. According to Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2010), the setting serves as the foundational framework that establishes the relationship between time, place, and social context, all of which shape the events of the narrative. In structuralist analysis, setting is not merely a physical backdrop but also an integral element that contributes to the overarching meaning of the story. It plays a key role in creating the atmosphere and context that support the characters and plot. As Atmo (2024) suggests, the setting influences character interactions and the development of conflicts within the narrative. Based on the statement, setting generally serves as background of events in the story consists of place, time, and society.

1. Setting of Place
The setting of place pertains to the specific location in which the events of the story unfold. It offers a depiction of the physical environment where characters engage and perform actions within the narrative. This allows readers to visualize the circumstances and atmosphere being portrayed. Beyond serving as a mere physical backdrop, the setting of place also plays a crucial role in shaping the overall meaning of the story. It helps establish the atmosphere or mood that is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the narrative as a whole.

2. Setting of Time
The setting of time pertains to the period when the events in a story take place, encompassing details such as the year, month, day, or specific times of day (e.g., morning, afternoon, evening). As Nurgiyantoro (2013) highlights, the time setting indicates when the story's events occur, either through explicit references to dates .... of prevailing circumstances. This element plays a crucial role in .... xt for characters and events, shaping the narrative's atmosphere, ..haracter development over time. Within structuralism analysis, the ... is viewed as an integral component of the narrative structure, ...ers' comprehension and interpretation of the story.

3. Setting of Society

The setting of society pertains to the social and cultural conditions in which a story unfolds, encompassing societal norms, cultural values, and social structures that shape characters' behavior. According to Nurgiyantoro (2013), the social setting illustrates how the social context influences interactions among characters and drives the progression of the narrative.

The writer concludes that setting encompasses the elements of place, time, and the social or cultural backdrop in which the events of the story unfold. It is a fundamental component of the narrative, as it not only establishes the atmosphere of the story but also immerses readers in the environment created by the writer, thereby enhancing their understanding and engagement with the narrative.

2.2.4. Theme

Theme is a fundamental element that serves as the central or underlying idea in a literary work. It represents the core concept or message that the narrative seeks to convey. Nurgiyantoro (2010) emphasizes that the theme is the essence of a literary work, shaping its meaning and communicating the author's intended message. Themes often address social, moral, or psychological issues that resonate with human experiences. Additionally, theme does not exist in isolation but is intricately connected with other narrative elements such as characters, plot, and setting. As Stanton (cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2010) suggests, themes should be analyzed within the context of the entire work, where each component interacts to create a cohesive and meaningful whole.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the theme serves as the central element of a literary work. It represents the primary idea of a novel or story, encapsulating the overall essence of its content. Unlike the plot, which unfolds in a chronological sequence, the theme is not bound by temporal progression. Furthermore, the theme is typically conceived by the writer prior to the actual process of writing the novel, providing a foundational framework for the narrative.

2.3 Concept of Gender Discrimination

Gender is a concept that refers to differences in roles, functions, responsibilities, and behavior between men and women, which are formed socially and culturally, not biologically. Elaine Showalter (1989) states that gender is a distinction between men and women seen through social and cultural construction. This includes non-biological aspects such as the roles, status, and responsibilities that society assigns to men and women.

This perspective highlights that gender is not something that is innate but is built through a socialization process, where norms and expectations are built and reinforced over time. For example, traditional gender roles often position men as providers and women as caretakers, perpetuating an unequal distribution of power and resources. Recognizing gender as a social construct allows for critical

examination and challenging of these norms, paving the way for greater equality and inclusivity in various aspects of life. Oakley (1972) further reinforces this view by distinguishing between sex and gender. While sex refers to biological differences between males and females, gender refers to socially constructed roles and expectations. These constructions often lead to gender inequality, as traditional gender roles typically place men in dominant positions and women in subordinate ones, both in the private and public spheres.

Gender discrimination remains one of the most enduring social challenges across diverse countries and cultures. Despite significant advancements in recent decades toward promoting gender equality, practices of gender-based injustice persist in various spheres of life, including education, employment, and decision-making processes. This issue highlights not only structural inequalities but also the continued influence of patriarchal social and cultural norms on societal perceptions and treatment of gender. Sarina and Ahmad (2021) identify key factors that perpetuate gender discrimination, such as patriarchal societal norms, unequal power distribution, and limited awareness of the importance of gender equality. Moreover, they underscore the critical role of mass media in shaping public perceptions of gender, often perpetuating stereotypes and reinforcing discriminatory practices. Consequently, gender discrimination should be viewed not merely as an individual problem but as a systemic issue embedded within social structures, necessitating profound and transformative change. Empirical evidence demonstrates that women, in particular, continue to encounter significant obstacles within the workforce. The World Economic Forum (2023) reports that the gender gap in economic participation and employment opportunities is projected to take over a century to bridge completely. Moreover, entrenched gender stereotypes, such as the perception that women are less proficient in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields persist in reinforcing career barriers.

Additionally, in numerous societies, the unequal distribution of domestic responsibilities represents a tangible yet often overlooked form of gender discrimination. Gender too is structurally inscribed into capitalist inequalities, where patriarchal dominance functions not only ideologically but materially. As Gimenez (2005) asserts, capitalism depends on women's agency and undervaluing paid reproductive labor to sustain its workforce while systematically denying them economic ag their waged contributions. This marginalization is sustained by patriarchal family structures that grant men authority over decision-making and economic power, while capitalist systems further commodify women by shaping them to satisfy male-dominated consumer ideals and limiting their social and

(Sunyoto et al., 2022; Asri et al., 2023). The capitalist framework dominance by equating leadership with masculinity and authority, ously reducing women to property and instruments of exploitation al control, devoid of autonomy and protection (Lestari et al., 2025; ., 2024).This ideological structure is upheld by entrenched cultural dition women to depend on male-earned wealth and equate economic reliance, while also normalizing their treatment as

disposable commodities bought and discarded by men for leisure (Asriyanti et al., 2022; Afiah et al., 2022). Social structures reinforce male dominance by conditioning women to find value in obedience, emotional labor, and self-sacrifice, while language itself serves as a mechanism of patriarchal control that limits women's autonomy and assertiveness, collectively illustrating how capitalism and patriarchy institutionalize female oppression under the guise of equality (Yudith et al., 2024; Arafah et al., 2024).

Therefore, gender discrimination transcends being merely a social issue; it is embedded within systemic structures that perpetuate inequality. Addressing this challenge necessitates transformative change, encompassing shifts in societal norms and the implementation of policies designed to advance gender equality. Building on the conceptual understanding discussed above, the writer views gender discrimination as a product of entrenched social norms and imbalanced power structures. This understanding guides the examination of both the forms and the impacts of gender discrimination in the following sections.

2.3.1 Forms of Gender Discrimination

Based on the analysis of various literature sources and empirical, three main forms of gender discrimination can be identified as follows:

1. Marginalization of Social Participation and Economic Status

Marginalization, as a form of gender discrimination, generally refers to the systematic exclusion of women from access to essential resources, opportunities, and positions of influence in society. This includes disparities in employment, education, leadership, and decision-making roles, as discussed by Muallimah and Yusuf (2022) and Suleman et al. (2021). However, in the literary context of *Northanger Abbey*, this concept manifests in a more nuanced yet equally oppressive form. Women are not only institutionally disadvantaged but also socially sidelined through persistent patriarchal expectations that undermine their agency and subjectivity.

In the novel, marginalization is portrayed through the economic dependency of women on male figures, their vulnerability to public judgment, and their restricted access to social acceptance unless validated by male attention. Female characters often face economic rejection and social invisibility when they fail to conform to patriarchal ideals. Their personal value and future prospects are dictated not by their character or capabilities, but by their perceived social desirability, family wealth, or eir male counterparts. Moreover, the commodification of women iage market further exemplifies how structural marginalization ay interpersonal dynamics, reinforcing gendered limitations beyond is.

2. Subordination through Domestic Expectations and Emotional Regulation

Subordination, as a form of gender discrimination, refers to the systematic relegation of women to positions of lesser authority, autonomy, and value compared to men. This process is sustained through culturally enforced norms that prescribe domesticity, emotional restraint, and passive behavior as ideal feminine traits. Women are expected to prioritize familial roles, suppress personal ambition or assertiveness, and conform to emotional modesty, reinforcing their dependent position within both household and society.

As noted by Muallimah and Yusuf (2022), these expectations often limit women's perceived capacity for leadership and decision-making. Firdaus and Yulistiyanti (2022) emphasize how, in some cultural frameworks, women are primarily valued for their roles in domestic management and childbearing, including the production of male offspring. These norms institutionalize subordination by associating women's worth with their compliance to gender-specific responsibilities and their ability to support patriarchal family structures.

In literary contexts such as *Northanger Abbey*, this form of subordination may be reflected in narrative patterns where female characters are confined to narrow behavioral codes and are socially rewarded for passivity rather than personal agency.

3. Socio-Cultural Discrimination through Patriarchal Norms and Gendered Morality

Socio-cultural discrimination refers to systemic inequalities rooted in cultural traditions, moral standards, and societal expectations that often prioritize male dominance while marginalizing women. This type of gender discrimination does not always appear in formal rules or legal frameworks, but instead operates through unwritten norms that dictate how women should behave, what roles they are expected to fulfill, and how their worth is measured in society. These norms are deeply embedded in patriarchal ideology, where men are granted authority and autonomy, while women are positioned in roles of dependency, passivity, and moral responsibility.

In literary works such as Northanger Abbey, this form of discrimination is reflected in how female identity and mobility are shaped by cultural perceptions rather than individual agency. The expectations placed upon women regarding behavior, propriety, and intellectual interest serve to reinforce gender boundaries

_____ male expression. Literature, in this context, becomes a mirror to the _____ f its time, portraying how gender roles are not only socially _____ also strictly maintained through cultural reinforcement. This bias is _____ iction.

_____ orld contexts, patriarchal cultural values influence family dynamics, _____ d access to opportunities. For example, in some societies, sons are

often regarded as more valuable than daughters, creating a gender hierarchy that begins within the household. Firdaus & Yulistiyanti (2022) highlighted cultural norms that view women primarily through the lens of reproduction and lineage, while Suleman et al. (2021) documented ongoing limitations faced by women in areas such as property ownership, political engagement, and public leadership. These findings illustrate how gender-based discrimination persists under the surface of tradition, shaping societal expectations and restricting female participation in various aspects of life. Both in literature and in real life, socio-cultural discrimination plays a crucial role in maintaining gender inequality. Through moral standards, cultural narratives, and institutional practices, women are often positioned as secondary to men, not by explicit exclusion, but by the normalization of limited roles and reduced autonomy.

2.3.2 Impacts of Gender Discrimination

The impacts of gender discrimination can be classified into the following categories:

1. Psychological and Mental Health Impacts

Continuous exposure to gender-based discrimination often leads to emotional distress and mental health issues in women. Firdaus and Yulistiyanti (2022), in their study of the novel *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*, describe how the protagonist experiences feelings of inferiority and emotional repression due to daily discriminatory acts. These experiences significantly affect her mental health and ability to express herself. Similarly, Tameling et al. (2023) report that female medical students and physicians in Germany suffer from stress, depression, and decreased job satisfaction as a result of gender discrimination. These mental health issues contribute to absenteeism and reduced productivity in the workplace.

Beyond measurable symptoms, such discrimination erodes mental well-being by fostering persistent self-doubt and insecurity. In systems where marriageability, wealth, or family background overshadow personal qualities, women may internalize a sense of inadequacy unrelated to their own abilities or moral worth. The unpredictability and arbitrariness of treatment under patriarchal authority, such as sudden withdrawal of acceptance without justification creates emotional instability, reinforcing the perception that their social status is conditional and fragile. Over time, these pressures undermine resilience and long-term mental stability.

2. Economic and Professional Impacts

discrimination limits women's access to economic opportunities and ment. Suleman et al. (2021) highlight that in Malaysia, women face s to education, wage gaps, and underrepresentation in leadership king roles, leading to economic marginalization. Likewise, Larasati zes that women are often subjected to wage disparities and gregation. They are frequently confined to lower-level positions and

pushed into informal employment sectors with poor working conditions, limiting their financial independence and professional growth.

Cultural norms can further distort economic opportunities by valuing women's physical beauty and social charm over intellectual or professional skills, turning appearance into a form of economic capital. This dynamic discourages investment in education or vocational training, narrowing pathways to financial independence. Even when women possess the necessary skills and motivation, entrenched biases can keep them excluded from meaningful economic participation, creating a cycle where dependency is normalized and professional empowerment remains elusive.

3.   *Social and Structural Impacts*

Discriminatory practices reinforce unequal social structures and restrict women's participation in both public and private spheres. Apriliandra and Krisnani (2021) explain that strong patriarchal values in Indonesia limit women's involvement in decision-making processes and access to resources. This structural exclusion increases their vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and marginalization. Larasati (2021) also notes that gender discrimination undermines gender equality and sustainable development. It weakens family cohesion, contributes to social issues such as juvenile delinquency, and limits women's ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

These patterns are sustained by social hierarchies that place women's reputations under external control. A woman's standing may be determined not by her own actions, but by the behavior of others—often men—over whom she has no authority. Such dynamics not only expose women to reputational harm but also pressure them to maintain harmony and decorum, even at personal cost. Within this framework, women's autonomy is frequently sacrificed for the preservation of family or institutional image, normalizing the subordination of their interests to male authority.

4.   *Impact on Aspirations and Empowerment*

Persistent discrimination diminishes women's aspirations and obstructs their empowerment. According to Tameling et al. (2023), female professionals often experience a decline in motivation and career ambitions as a result of constant discriminatory treatment. Suleman et al. (2021) further argue that social structures and cultural norms discourage women's participation in politics and public decision-

ating their subordinate position and limiting their ability to advocate

attitudes that trivialize women's intellectual pursuits—while ...rance, fashion, or social connections—narrow the scope of what is ...ectable ambition. Even when women gain influence in areas like ... event organization, such roles often confine them within predefined ... serve patriarchal interests. By constraining women's capacity to

envision broader possibilities, these norms restrict empowerment and hinder the pursuit of self-determined goals.