

The Struggles of Women Toward Gender Inequality Portrayed in *Enola Holmes: The Case of The Missing Marquess* Novel by Nancy Springer

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ABSTRAK

Ketidaksetaraan gender telah lama terjadi di berbagai aspek kehidupan, yang sering kali menempatkan perempuan sebagai bawahan laki-laki. Ketidaksetaraan ini telah menimbulkan perjuangan berkelanjutan oleh perempuan untuk mencapai hak dan kesempatan yang sama. Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana ketidaksetaraan gender digambarkan dalam *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* karya Nancy Springer, dan menganalisis bentuk-bentuk perlawanan yang ditunjukkan oleh tokoh-tokoh perempuan. Dengan menggunakan teori ketidaksetaraan gender Judith Lorber dan pendekatan sastra feminis, penelitian kualitatif ini menganalisis dialog dan elemen naratif dalam novel yang mencerminkan penindasan berbasis gender dan perjuangan perempuan untuk kesetaraan. Temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa tokoh-tokoh perempuan—termasuk Enola Holmes dan Eudoria Holmes—mengalami dan melawan ketidaksetaraan di bidang-bidang seperti pendidikan, ekonomi, pernikahan, partisipasi politik, dan otonomi seksual. Perjuangan-perjuangan ini menyoroti pesan feminis yang lebih luas dalam novel dan kritiknya terhadap norma-norma patriarki.

Kata kunci: Ketidaksetaraan Gender, Feminis, *Enola Holmes*

ABSTRACT

Gender inequality has long persisted across various aspects of life, often positioning women as subordinate to men. This inequality has given rise to ongoing struggles by women to achieve equal rights and opportunities. This study aims to examine how gender inequality is portrayed in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer and to analyze the forms of resistance demonstrated by female characters. Using Judith Lorber's theory of gender inequality and a feminist literary approach, this qualitative research analyzes dialogues and narrative elements within the novel that reflect both gender-based oppression and women's struggles for equality. The findings reveal that female characters—including Enola Holmes and Eudoria Holmes—experience and resist inequality in areas such as education, economics, marriage, political participation, and sexual autonomy. These struggles highlight the broader feminist message within the novel and its critique of patriarchal norms.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Feminist, *Enola Holmes*

A. INTRODUCTION

In social life, how women act and what women do have always been never-ending conversations until now. The role of women has always been a matter of much discussion and debate. Most women get different treatment from men and society in everyday life, for example, in politics, economics, and education. Women should prepare themselves for married life because they will always do activities in the home environment, such as taking care of the household, taking care of children, and serving their husbands. Women are also considered not to have a higher education because, in the end, they will only work in the kitchen. Also, they are

given limits to express their opinions and are not given opportunities in the political field, namely in the suffrage section. Gender Inequality still occurs today, and even though women today can continue their education to a higher level or when they can go to work, women are still expected to be able to take care of the household, take care of children, and serve their husbands. In the efforts to fight for gender equality between men and women, a social movement emerged, namely the feminist movement, women's struggles, criticism from society, critics, and writers, both female and male. This effort to fight gender inequality aims to make women get the same rights and positions in social life as men.

This research focuses on *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* (2006) because the novel portrays various forms of gender inequality experienced by female characters such as Enola Holmes, Eudoria Holmes, and unnamed women in the narrative. The novel provides a compelling depiction of how women resist and challenge patriarchal constraints, making it a relevant text for examining gender inequality and women's struggle through a feminist lens.

Based on the background above, the aims of this research are (1) to identify the gender inequality problems depicted in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer. (2) The women's struggles against gender inequality are depicted in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer. Therefore, this research is expected to first increase knowledge and give a significant contribution to the study of analyzing how women's struggle against gender inequality is shown in the novel using feminist theory. Second, this research is expected to be an example of the struggle for equality in literature or real life, and raise awareness about gender inequality that happens to women in everyday life.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Literature

In everyday life, literary works are one of the things that are often encountered in today's era and influence everyday life. Literature can be interpreted as a form of expression that is shown through writing, but not all writing can be interpreted as literature (Klarer 1). It means that everyone can show their creativity and imagination through literature. According to Klarer, literature or "literature" is derived from the Latin word "Littera," or letter, which means the smallest element of alphabetical writing (1). Meanwhile, according to Abrams and Harpham, literature comes from the Latin *litteraturae*, which means to write (199).

2. Novel

A novel is a work of fiction that can be interpreted as a collection of words that make up the world written by an author. Novels can exist because they are created in a special form based on events written by the author and then combined into one, which then forms an orderly story (Gill 105). According to Abrams and Harpham, a novel is the term used for a work of fiction written in prose. A novel is different from a novelette or short story because the novel has many more diverse characters, more complex plots, character development, and more complex settings in the story (252). It can be understood that a novel is a work that originates from the author's fictional thought, which is then developed into a complex story and given plots, characters, settings, and developments of characters and plots that will make the story more interesting.

3. Character and Characterization

Character is one of the important elements in the narrative. Characters are people who are represented in literary works that have emotions, intellect, and morals, which are shown by how their dialogue and behavior are described in the story when read by the reader (Abrams 32-33). Characters have a big influence on the plot of the story because it is the character who determines how the story continues. Characters in literature can be anything, such as an animal, a person, another creature, or an object.

Characterization is how the character is created and the method to understand the character. Characterization can be seen through how the characters carry out conversations, what they do, how they look, and so on (Gill 127). Characterization is also a form of identifying the characters in literary works. This helps to distinguish how one character differs from another. According to Kenan, characterization is divided into two ways, namely through direct presentation and indirect presentation. In the direct presentation is done by the narrator of the story directly tells the traits of the characters in the story to the reader (61). In indirect presentation, not mention directly how the traits of the characters but are conveyed through several ways, such as through action, speech, external appearance, and environment.

4. Feminism

Feminism is a movement that has emerged over a long time, initially in Western culture for centuries it was assumed that women were inferior creatures. Aristotle and Charles Darwin agree that women are inferior (Dobie 103). It leads to a stigma that states that women are creatures who are lower than men, giving rise to figures who fight for women's rights. Elaine Showalter traced the history of feminism and divided it into three phases. The feminine phase (1840-80), the feminist phase (1880-1920), and the female phase (1920-Present).

5. Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is mostly experienced by women, who usually get different treatment from men. Gender inequality is something that feminist activists strive for, namely to achieve equality between men and women in 13 various fields (Lorber 4).

a. Gender Inequality in Educational Fields

In educational fields, women usually receive less education than boys, even though they are in the same social class. The difference in education obtained between men and women makes most women illiterate (Lorber 4). It is also because most people in society believe that women do not need to get a higher education because, in the end, it will not be used. After all, women will only take care of the household and not work. Even if they were able to get a higher education, most of them would not receive a degree from what they have studied (Jenainati and Groves 8).

b. Gender Inequality in Economic Fields

An example of gender inequality is when, in the economic field, women get lower wages than men even though they do the same work. Most women also cannot be in a higher position than men in terms of work (Lorber 4). Most women are not given high positions because they are considered to stop working outside when they get married and focus on doing the work in the home environment. This gender inequality in the economic fields has

been going on for a long time, where most women have questioned their status in the workforce and what their conditions are in unfair conditions when compared to male workers (Jenainati and Groves 11).

c. Gender Inequality in Marriage Life

In marriage life, women are considered more obliged to spend time at home, only focusing on the household and raising children. Even though the things that are done at home are of equal value to what men do at work, they are still considered to be doing less work than men. Most women are expected to take care of their children and educate them properly (Lorber 4).

d. Gender Inequality in Sexual Exploitation and Violence

Sexual exploitation and violence against women are also situations that include gender inequality. This can happen because of the assumption that women aged 16 are objects that satisfy men. So, there are so many women who are used as sex workers, for pornography, and prostitution. They will be employed and featured in various media, such as movies, television, and advertisements advertising in Western culture. In a relationship, most women also experience acts of violence from men and get unpleasant behavior such as being raped, beaten, and even killed. In fact, in some countries, most girls will be ignored, and if they are pregnant with girls, most of them will be aborted (Lorber 5)

e. Gender Inequality in Political Fields

In the political field, some boundaries prevent women from participating in political activities, such as voting or voicing their rights (Lorber 1). The form of injustice in the political field is also stated in a book entitled introducing feminism, where Jenainati and Groves stated, “Women had no formal rights and were not represented in the law” (8). These boundaries are very unfair because women are prohibited from voicing their opinions while men are permitted to voice their opinions and voices in public.

6. Women’s Struggle

Women’s struggle is a form of effort carried out by women to get equal rights in various fields with men. Seeing the many inequalities experienced by women makes women struggle to achieve that equality. This struggle aims to fight the existence of sexist oppression and to build a view of equality between every individual, both men and women, based on the belief that women and men have rights and equal degrees, not to make women above men (Hooks 28). This struggle carried out by women was done in various ways, such as writing, becoming an activist, and carrying out activities to promote women's rights that were equal to men (Tyson 92).

C. METHOD

1. Research Design

The researcher used the qualitative method to analyzed the data in this research because the data to be used consists of words obtained through observations made from reading the data and not in the form of numbers, which means using a qualitative method means that the researcher should do observation, analysis, and interpretation from the text (Powell and Renner 1). In analyzing the problem formulation, this research used the feminist approach to identify gender inequality and women’s struggles portrayed in the novel. The feminist approach is focused on what is experienced by women today, which gives rise to incorrect

assumptions and the emergence of marginalization of women (Guerin et al. 222). So the feminist approach is the most suitable approach to find out the gender inequality and women's struggles portrayed in the novel.

2. Data and Data Source

The data in this research are the dialogues and also the narration that contain the gender inequality and the women's struggles in the novel. The data source of this research is *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer novel, published in 2006 and consists of 240 pages, as the data source. *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* is the first in a series of The Enola Holmes Mysteries, which consists of nine novels with different titles.

3. Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher applies some steps: 1) The first step was to read the work thoroughly by doing a close reading to be able to find details in the novel, 2) In the second step, the researcher marked the data from the novel that shows the existence of gender inequality and women's struggles in the novel, 3) The researcher separated the data according to the research questions that have been made, namely separating the data based on gender inequality and women's struggles in the novel.

4. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data in this research according to Dobie in *Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism*: 1) The researcher examined the data that had been collected using feminist theory. The researcher classified the data that has been obtained according to the research question that has been made, namely in groups based on gender inequality and women's struggles in educational fields, economic fields, marriage life, sexual exploitation and violence, and political fields which are shown through the female characters in the novel, 2) The researcher related the data that has been obtained based on the feminism perspective with Judith Lorber's theory of gender inequality and women's struggles in educational fields, economic fields, marriage life, sexual exploitation and violence, and political fields (Dobie 121), 3) The researcher drew conclusions from the data that has been obtained to answer the research questions that have been made, namely by linking the gender inequality that has been obtained with the women's struggles that happen to the female characters in the novel (Dobie 123). The researcher also used Rimmon-Kenan's theory of characterization to draw the conclusion about the gender inequality and the women's struggles in the novel

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

a. Gender Inequality towards the Characters

This section explores the gender inequality experienced by the female characters in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer, utilizing Judith Lorber's theory of gender inequality. The female characters in the novel encounter gender inequality across several domains: education, economics, marriage, sexual exploitation, and politics. The following

paragraphs examine how these forms of inequality manifest in the novel and how they highlight the societal limitations placed on women

1) Gender Inequality in Educational Fields

Gender inequality in education is evident in the different educational experiences afforded to boys and girls, even within the same social class. These differences highlight the societal norms that shape gender-based expectations and roles in educational settings (Lorber 4). The education that will prepare them is obtained through a boarding school, where they will learn to wear clothes that are appropriate for a young lady and learn how to behave as a young lady, and learn manners.

“Enola,” Sherlock demanded, **“you have at least had a governess, haven’t you?”**

[...]

As I hesitated, Mycroft restated the question: **“You have had the proper education of a young lady?”** (Springer 45).

From the data above, it shows the dialogue in which Sherlock asked whether Enola had at least a governess, namely someone who would teach Enola the ethics that a young lady should have, because Enola also did not attend boarding school. This was then also questioned by Mycroft by repeating the question given by Sherlock. This shows that there is gender inequality in the educational fields when a young lady does not go to boarding school; at least she has to have a governess who will also provide the same learning that will be obtained at boarding school. Getting an education to prepare yourself as a young lady is something that must be followed. This is in contrast to men or gentlemen, where men have no obligation to attend boarding school, where men are more focused on attending public schools, where they will learn about knowledge that they will use in earning a living for their families in the world of work in the future. Mycroft and Sherlock’s insistence that Enola must receive a traditional “young lady’s education” reflects the entrenched gender norms that restricted women’s intellectual development to domestic roles. This interaction highlights how education was used as a tool to reinforce women’s subordinate status in Victorian society, supporting Lorber’s argument about the institutionalized separation of male and female social roles.

2) Gender Inequality in Economic Fields

In the economic field, gender inequality is evident in the disparity between men’s and women’s rights to property and financial independence. Women were often financially dependent on men, and their economic rights were severely restricted. Also, in most married life in the Victorian Era, if a woman was married, then their property would be given to the husband, and if the husband later died, then the property would belong to the first son in the family.

“As I am the firstborn son, the estate is mine,” he went on,” and mother did not dispute that, but she could not seem to see why she should not manage things for me, rather than the other way around. **When Sherlock and I reminded her that, legally, she had no right even to live here unless I permitted it, she became quite irrational and made it clear that we were no longer welcome in our own birthplace.”** (Springer 48)

From the data above, it shows that Mycroft, who is the first son in the family, has the right to the estate and all the assets left by their father, not their mother. Also, Mycroft said that legally, their mother had no right to the estate or even the right to live in the existing place except with permission given by 33 Mycroft himself. Mycroft being in charge of the family estate shows that, in the Victorian era, women were not allowed to own property. They had to rely on men for

money and a place to live, which fits with Lorber's idea that the economy was set up to keep men in control.

3) Gender Inequality in Marriage Life

Marriage in the Victorian era also perpetuated gender inequality by restricting women's roles to the domestic sphere. Married women were expected to focus on household duties and raising children, and society often considered a woman's body as belonging to her husband. This aligns with Lorber's argument that gender inequality in marriage confines women to domestic roles, where they are expected to focus on household responsibilities and child-rearing (Lorber 4). The following data in the novel shows an example of such gender inequality.

I never questioned my disgrace, for to do so would have been to broach matters of which a "nice" girl must remain ignorant. **I had observed, however, that most married women disappeared into the house every year or two, emerging several months later with a new child, too the number or perhaps a dozen, until they either ceased or expired.** My mother, comparison, had produced only two much older brothers. Somehow this prior restraint made my late arrival all the more shameful for a gentleman Rationalist logician and his well-bred artistic wife. (Springer17)

From the data above, it shows that Enola sees that most women after marriage will disappear for one to two years at home and will then have children until they are considered expired, and when Enola was born at a time far enough from her two older siblings, she was considered a disgrace by society. Enola's observations of married women's lives reveal how societal expectations confined women to the domestic sphere, valuing them primarily for their reproductive roles. This reflects the broader system of gender inequality in marriage, where women's identities and contributions were strictly limited by patriarchal norms.

4) Gender Inequality in Sexual Exploitation and Violence

In terms of sexual exploitation and violence, the novel highlights how women were often objectified and commodified. As Lorber states, gender inequality can also occur in the form of sexual exploitation and violence when women are often viewed as objects for male satisfaction, leading some to work as sex workers in prostitution, where they face abuse such as rape, violence, or even murder (Lorber 5). The following narration depicts how gender inequality happened through sexual exploitation and violence.

At the next street-lamp, she sees a woman with painted lips and smudged eyes waiting in a doorway. A hansom cab drives up, stops, and a man in a tail coat and a shining silk top-hat gets out. Even though the woman in the doorway wears a low-cut evening gown that might once have belonged to a lady of the gentleman's social class, the black-clad watcher does not think the gentleman is here to go dancing. **She sees the prostitute's haggard eyes, haunted with fear no matter how much her red-smeared lips smile. One like her was recently found dead a few streets away, slit wide open. Averting her gaze, the searcher in black walks on.** (Springer 3)

The data above shows that in the East End of London there is prostitution where women are employed, judging from how Enola explains the appearance of women who are there dressed up in excess who are unable to cover their faces that look scared, wearing low-cut clothes, Enola also explains that there are cab drives up with a man heading towards the woman and Enola also mentioning that a woman was working in prostitution who died some time ago. The depiction of prostitution and the violence faced by sex workers in East End London underscores how women's bodies were commodified and endangered within a patriarchal society. This

portrayal aligns with Lorber's theory that gender inequality is deeply embedded in practices that objectify and exploit women.

5) Gender Inequality in Political Fields

Women's exclusion from political participation is another form of gender inequality depicted in the novel. During the Victorian era, women were denied the right to vote or express their political opinions. According to Lorber, in the political fields, women are given boundaries in participating in political activities such as voting or voicing their rights (Lorber 1). This gender inequality in the political field is very unfair because men are given permission to voice their opinions while women are not, so women can only obey and follow men's choices rather than follow what is their own opinions. The following data illustrates the inequality faced by women at that time.

He rolled his eyes. "Just like her mother," he declared to the ceiling, and then he fixed upon me a stare so martyred, so condescending, that I froze rigid. In tones of sweetest reason he told me, "**Enola, legally I hold complete charge over both of your mother and you.** I can, if I wish, lock you in your room until you become sensible, or take whatever other measures are necessary in order to achieve that desired result. Moreover, as your older brother I bear a moral responsibility for you, and it is plain to see that you have run wild too long. I am perhaps only just in time to save you from a wasted life. **You will do as I say.**" (Springer 69)

The data above shows that Mycroft has rights over Enola and their mother, who are women, so both Enola and her mother cannot act as they wish and must obey what Mycroft says. Mycroft's legal authority over his mother and sister demonstrates how women were politically marginalized and denied agency over their own lives. By portraying women as subjects to male control, the novel critiques the legal and political systems that institutionalized women's subordination during the Victorian Era.

b. Women's Struggle against Gender Inequality

This section explores how the female characters in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* fight against the gender inequalities they face in education, economics, marriage, sexual exploitation, and politics. The analysis reveals how the women in the novel challenge traditional norms and assert their agency in a patriarchal society. Their struggles are marked by resistance, rebellion, and the assertion of their rights.

1) Struggle against Gender Inequality in Educational Fields

Gender inequality in educational fields has led to women's struggle, where women have tried to get the same education as men.

In any event, "You will do very well on your own, Enola," she would tell me nearly every day as I was growing up. Indeed, this was her usual absent-minded farewell as she went off with sketch-book, brushes, and watercolours to roam the countryside. And indeed, alone was very much how she left me when, on the July evening of my fourteenth birthday, she neglected to return to Ferndell Hall, our home. (Springer 5)

From the data above it shows that her mother always told Enola that she would do well in her way, here it shows that her mother educated and raised Enola differently from women in general at that time, her mother wanted Enola to be able to grow up in her way, different from what's in society. Eudoria's speech can be concluded as the act of women's struggle through educational fields because she indirectly said to Enola that she believes that Enola can grow

according to her way regardless of the binding rules where girls must attend boarding school to get a young lady's education, while Enola is not because Eudoria believed that Enola was capable of developing independently without conforming to the traditional expectation of attending a formal girls' boarding school. This reflects her resistance against societal norms that restricted women's access to broader and more individualized forms of education.

2) Struggle against Gender Inequality in Economic Fields

Gender inequality in the economic field has led to women's struggles in an effort to defend what should be theirs.

"I assure you, Mother is neither in her dotage, nor demented," said Mycroft to Sherlock.

"No senile woman could have compiled the accounts she has sent me over past ten years, perfectly clear and orderly, detailing the expense of installing a bathroom -" "which does not exist," interrupted Sherlock in acid tones. (Springer 44)

From the data above, it can be seen that Eudoria's action in managing and claiming the money given by Mycroft represents a form of women's resistance against economic inequality. Although legally she had no formal right to the property or financial resources, Eudoria carefully recorded fictitious expenses to secure funds for herself. This strategy reflects her silent rebellion against the patriarchal system that denied women ownership and financial independence. Through her actions, Eudoria not only challenged the traditional norms that restricted women's economic rights but also demonstrated that women could find intelligent and strategic ways to assert their agency even within oppressive structures.

3) Struggle against Gender Inequality in Marriage Life

Gender inequality in marriage life creates women's struggle, where women try to be free from the things that bind them in married life.

But in the end, **she had managed it. Glorious rebellion.** (Springer 72)

From the data above, it indirectly shows that women's struggle in marriage life is when Eudoria through her action is able to rebel against her married life, so far she has only followed and obeyed what her husband and other children have said until finally, with various preparations she succeeded in carrying out a noble rebellion. Which made her free from a married life that made her look weak and helpless. Eudoria broke free from the unfair rules of marriage. Her brave actions show that women can stand up and fight for their own lives and happiness.

4) Struggle against Gender Inequality in Sexual Exploitation and Violence

Gender inequality in sexual exploitation and violence has given rise to efforts by women's struggle, where women try to be free from the stigma that states that women are weak and are objects of male satisfaction.

Where she comes from, **it is unthinkable for a female to venture out at night without escort of a husband, father, or brother. But she will do whatever she must in order to search for the one who is lost.** (Springer 1)

From the data above, it indirectly shows that there is a women's struggle in sexual exploitation and violence, when Enola walks alone without assistance from men, which is uncommon for a woman to go out at night alone without assistance from men. This shows that Enola is capable and trying to be able to explore alone at night, and proves that she is able and able to be careful in her efforts to find her mother, even though she has to go out alone in the middle of the night without any assistance. Even though it was dangerous, Enola dared to go

out at night by herself. She showed that women are strong enough to take care of themselves without depending on men.

5) Struggle against Gender Inequality in Political Fields

Gender inequality in the political field gives rise to women's struggle efforts where women try to be able to be involved in activities that exist in the political field, and also so that women can voice their opinions.

Parting the velvet drapes to admit light from the windows, I threw open the wardrobe doors, then stood trying to make sense of the jumble of clothing inside: wool, worsted, muslin, and cotton, but also damask, silk, tulle, and velvet. **Mum was, you see, very much a free thinker, a woman of character, a proponent of female suffrage and dress reform, including the soft, loose, Aesthetic gowns advocated by Ruskin—but also, whether she liked it or not, she was a squire's widow, with certain obligations.** So there were walking costumes and “rationals” but also formal visiting dresses, a low-necked dinner dress, an opera cloak, and a ball gown—the same rusty-purple one Mum had worn for years; she did not care whether she was in fashion. Nor did she throw anything away. There were the black “widow's weeds” she had worn for a year after my father's demise. There was a bronze-green habit left over from her foxhunting days. There was her grey, caped, pavement-sweeping suit for city wear. There were fur mantles, quilted satin jackets, paisley skirts, blouses upon blouses . . . I could not make out what garments might be missing from that bewilderment of mauve, maroon, grey-blue, lavender, olive, black, amber, and brown. (Springer 21-22)

The data above indirectly shows that in women's struggle in political fields, Eudoria Holmes is a free-thinker, participating in efforts to fight for women's suffrage because, in the Victorian Era, women were not given the right to voice their voices in politics, and Eudoria also participated in efforts to clothing reform for women where she fought for freedom in dresses so that women were not only bound by tight dresses and the use of corsets in everyday life for women. Therefore, Eudoria's action can be concluded as the women's struggle because she indirectly, through her action, shows that there is an effort in fighting for women's rights. Through her actions, she showed that women deserve freedom and a voice in society.

2. Discussion

Based on the findings of the research, the female characters in the novel experience gender inequality in various fields from the male characters or society, as well as from the female characters in the novel. Gender inequalities that are experienced are in the educational field, the economics field, marriage life, sexual exploitation and violence, and the political field. These gender inequalities are experienced by Enola Holmes, Eudoria Holmes, and other female characters whose names are not mentioned by the author.

The women's struggle that is being carried out is shown in the areas of the educational field, economic field, marriage life, sexual exploitation and violence, and political fields. These female characters struggle in an effort to deal with the gender inequality they are experiencing with the aim of getting equal rights and the same position.

D. CONCLUSION

Women have long faced gender inequality across various aspects of life, often being regarded as subordinate to men and restricted from expressing their rights. This condition, especially prominent during the Victorian era, is depicted in *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer. Through the lens of Judith Lorber's theory, this study found that female characters—including Enola Holmes, Eudoria Holmes, and unnamed others—encounter gender-based discrimination in areas such as education, economic opportunities, marriage, politics, and personal autonomy. These characters also demonstrate various forms of resistance, reflecting the broader theme of women's struggle for equality. The analysis revealed that gender inequality and women's responses were conveyed both directly—through narrative descriptions—and indirectly—through characters' speech and actions. Overall, the novel highlights the persistence of patriarchal norms and the enduring fight of women to challenge and overcome them.

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