ABSTRACT

Independency has always been an important issue for women, for it breaks through their race, religion, age, social status and era. Written by Pulitzer winner Michael Cunningham, The Hours is a novel that tells the lives of three different women from three different eras who are desperate to achieve their independency which leads them to depression and forces them to make controversial escape. The objectives of this thesis are to analyze the women's sufferings, depressive behaviors and desperation for independency through the characters and the symbols in the novel. The analysis is conducted by using feminism theory and depression theory. The result of analysis on the characters and the symbols reveal that women from different eras in the novel are facing discrimination that limits their freedom. It makes them suffer and causes them psychologically depressed. The three characters fight against marriage, family, sexuality and value in society that limits their independency to achieve their freedom and to pursue their happiness. This is a qualitative study conducted through the library research.

Keywords: Michael Cunningham, Novel, Woman, Independency, Depression, Character, Symbol, Feminism Theory.