

ABSTRACT

This thesis uses feminist literary criticism to investigate the objectification of Camilla Macaulay and the functioning of the male gaze in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*. The study applies a qualitative descriptive method through a library research approach. The primary data are the descriptions, dialogues, and sentences describing the physical appearance, behaviour, emotions, and social position of Camilla, especially from the male narrator, Richard Papen. The focus of the research is on the construction of Camilla in the narrative and the perception and definition of her identity by the male characters. The theoretical framework for the study is objectification theory (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997). This paper uses this framework to analyze the construction of Camilla's characterization by the male gaze and the restrictions it places on her individuality throughout the novel. According to the findings of the study, Camilla is constantly depicted as an object rather than a full-fledged subject with individuality. Male characters, including the male narrator, constantly emphasize her beauty, innocence, and femininity as a way of objectifying her character for the purposes of admiration and desire.

Keywords: male gaze, objectification, feminist literary criticism, patriarchy.