

ABSTRACT

This study examines how gender roles, internal conflict, and women's empowerment are represented through the character of Eloise Bridgerton in Julia Quinn's *To Sir Phillip, With Love* (2003). The study aims to analyze the gender roles reflected in Eloise's character, examine how her perception of marriage generates internal conflict, and explore how her negotiation of traditional gender norms represents women's empowerment. This study employs a qualitative method using feminist literary criticism, with close reading as the primary technique for analyzing characterization, dialogue, narration, and significant events in the novel. Alice Eagly's Social Role Theory is applied to examine how socially constructed gender expectations shape Eloise's experiences and responses. The findings reveal that gender roles are reflected through communal expectations, agentic responses, and role negotiation. Eloise's perception of marriage creates internal conflict through marriage as a socially prescribed duty, the tension between autonomy and social belonging, and the fear of identity erasure caused by role incongruity. Furthermore, her negotiation of traditional gender norms represents women's empowerment through taking control of her own life, asserting intellectual agency, and demanding equality in marriage. The study concludes that Eloise's empowerment is achieved not by rejecting the existing social system, but by negotiating its constraints while preserving her autonomy, intellectual identity, and equality within marriage.

Keywords: gender roles, internal conflict, women's empowerment, Social Role Theory, *To Sir Phillip, With Love*.