



GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN JENNY HAN'S *THE*

***SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY* (2016)**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for S-1 Degree Majoring Literature in the English Department

Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Faithita Fayzaseva Fauzy

NIM 13020122120032

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

I truly state that this thesis is written independently by myself and does not contain any material previously published or written by others, except those that are cited and listed in the references. This work has never been submitted for any academic degree.

Semarang, 11 May 2026



Faithita Fayzaseva Fauzy



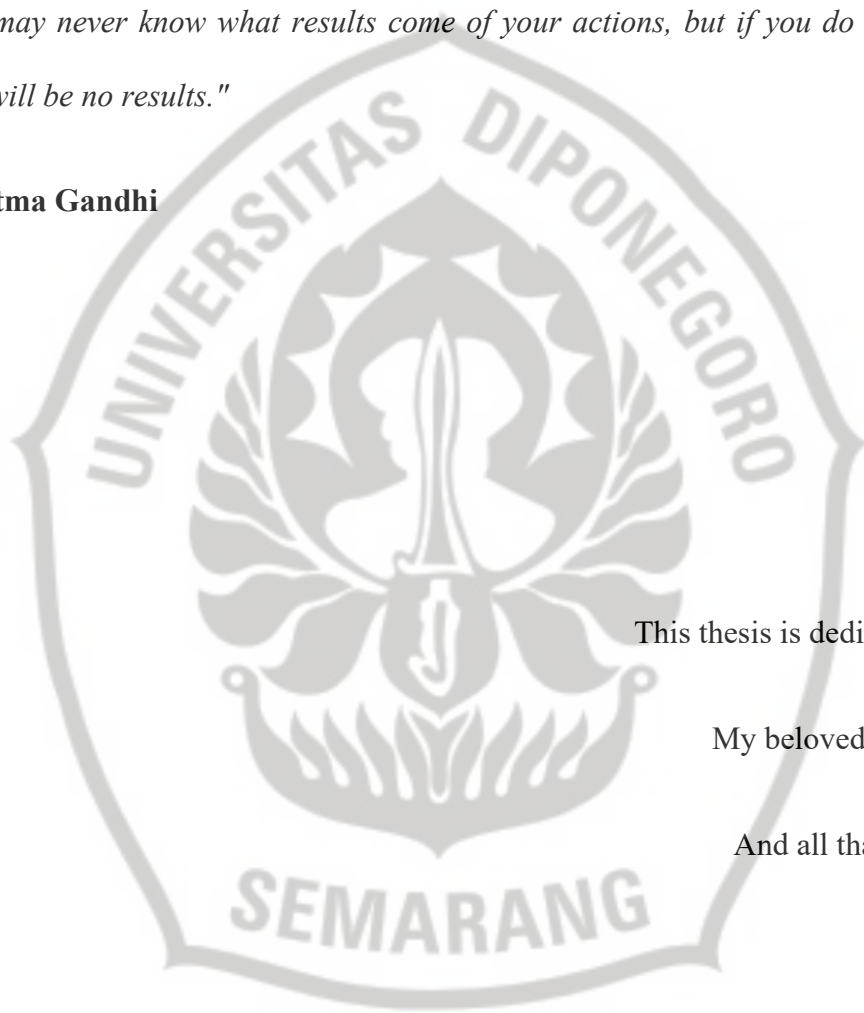
MOTTO AND DEDICATION

"Allah does not burden a person but according to his ability."

(QS. Al-Baqarah: 286)

"You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results."

Mahatma Gandhi



This thesis is dedicated to

My beloved Family,

And all that i love.

APPROVAL

**GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE COMING-OF-AGE OF THE MAIN
CHARACTER BELLY CONKLIN IN JENNY HAN'S *THE SUMMER I
TURNED PRETTY* (2016)**

Written by:

Faithita Fayzaseva Fauzy
NIM. 13020122120032

Is approved by the thesis advisor
On 11th May 2026

Thesis Advisor



Sulistya Ningtyas, S.S., M.A.
NIP. 199007102024062002

The Head of English Department



Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M. Hum.
NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN JENNY HAN'S *THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY* (2016)

Written by:
Faithita Fayzaseva Fauzy
NIM. 13020122120032

Approved by
Strata I Thesis Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University
In 2026

Chairman
Eta Farmacelia N, M.Hum.,M.A.,Ph.D
NIP. 197205292003122001

Member
Zietha Arlamanda Asri, S.Hum., M.A.
NIP. 199311132024062001

Member
Sulistya Ningtyas, S.S, M.A.
NIP. 19900710202402002

Accepted and declared in Semarang on ... June 2026
The Dean of Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197211191998021002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, my deepest gratitude is to be expressed to Allah SWT for His endless blessings and strength throughout the process of completing this thesis. Without His grace, this work would not have been possible.

I am very thankful to my advisor, Sulistya Ningtyas, S.S., M.A., for her help, helpful comments, and support. Her guidance significantly contributed to the development and completion of this study. I would also like to express my appreciation to the following individuals:

1. The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Dr. Alamsyah S.S., M.Hum.
2. The precious head of the English Department, Dr. Retno Wulandari, S.S., M.A.,
3. To all lecturers of the English Department Diponegoro University, for their insightful teaching and meaningful support throughout my academic journey.
4. My beloved family, whose unwavering love and prayers have always been my greatest source of strength.
5. My childhood friends who feel like family, Keysha, Chantika and Gisella, for endless support, laughter, and encouragement during this journey. Their presence has made this journey all the more meaningful and unforgettable.
6. Magenta, Jesslin, Stella, Indah, for being by my side since the beginning of my journey, for sharing laughter, for growing and learning together.
7. To all my friends from class A and EDSA, Caca, Kayra, Imel, Teges, Niken, Safira, Kania, Jema, Nacip. for being there and making it a fun experience.

8. My inner circle KKN 67 Sangubanyu, Vian, Clara, Ajel, Jidan, Monica, Iki, Wanda. Whose presence has made this period of my life truly memorable.
9. To my friends from middle school, Rara and Inez, for their unwavering support all this time.
10. For the best of the past, I thank myself for having persevered and made it this far.

This thesis still has much room for improvement and further study. I hope any suggestions, input, and recommendations are helpful.

Semarang, 11 May 2026



Faithita Fayzaseva Fauzy

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the representation of gender discrimination in Jenny Han's *The Summer I Turned Pretty* (2016). The novel portrays the coming-of-age journey of a young woman whose identity and emotional development are shaped by patriarchal values and gender-based expectations. This study aims to analyze how gender discrimination is represented through patriarchal cultural intuitions, patriarchal relations in sexuality, and patriarchal violence. This research is library research and qualitative research. The study applies feminist literary criticism and uses Sylvia Walby's theory of patriarchy as the main analytical framework. The primary data source is the novel *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. The findings reveal that gender discrimination is represented through beauty standards, social control over female appearance, unequal expectations in romantic relationships, and emotional domination that place women in subordinate positions. These patriarchal structures influence the protagonist's self-perception, emotional maturity, and personal growth. Despite these limitations, she gradually develops self-awareness, confidence, and independence throughout her coming-of-age journey.

Keywords: Gender Discrimination, Patriarchy, Feminist Literary Criticism, Gender-based expectations, Gender Inequality.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER	i
PRONOUNCEMENT	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION	iii
APPROVAL.....	iv
VALIDATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
ABSTRACT.....	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	3
1.4 Previous Studies	4
1.5 Research Method	6
1.6 Scope of the Study	7
CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	9
2.1 Narrative Elements	9
2.1.1 Character and Characterization	9
2.1.2 Setting	11
2.1.3 Conflict.....	11
2.2 Gender and Gender Discrimination	12
2.3 Sylvia Walby's Theory of Patriarchy	14
2.3.1 Patriarchal Relations in Paid Work	15
2.3.2 Patriarchal Mode of Production	16
2.3.3 Patriarchal Relations in Cultural Institutions	16
2.3.4 Patriarchal Relations in Sexuality	17
2.3.5 Male Violence	18
2.3.6 Patriarchal Relations in the State	18
CHAPTER III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	20
3.1 Intrinsic Elements	20

3.1.1	Character and Characterization	20
3.1.1.1	Isabel “Belly” Conklin.....	21
3.1.1.2	Conrad Fisher	23
3.1.1.3	Jeremiah Fisher	26
3.1.2	Settings.....	28
3.1.3	Conflict.....	30
3.1.3.1	Internal Conflict: Belly’s Growth from Girlhood to Womanhood	30
3.1.3.2	External Conflict: The Love Triangle between Belly, Conrad, and Jeremiah	31
3.2	Representation of Gender Discrimination through Patriarchal Cultural Institutions	34
3.2.1	Beauty Standards and Female Identity.....	34
3.2.2	The Internalization of Patriarchal Femininity	36
3.2.3	Social Control over Female Appearance.....	38
3.3	Representation of Gender Discrimination through Patriarchal Relations in Sexuality.....	39
3.3.1	Belly as an Object of Romantic Selection.....	39
3.3.2	The Love Triangle and Female Sexual Agency	41
3.3.3	Social Expectations Regarding Female Sexuality.....	43
3.4	Representation of Gender Discrimination through Patriarchal Violence	44
3.4.1	Verbal and Emotional Violence	44
3.4.2	Controlling Behavior and Social Domination.....	46
3.4.3	Humiliation and Gender-Based Marginalization	47
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION.....		49
REFERENCES.....		51