

## WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY IN A JURY OF HER PEERS

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### ABSTRACT

This article presents a gender analysis of the short story "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell using a descriptive qualitative approach. This research explores the roles and perceptions of women reflected in the story and the influence of the author's background on her work. The research data source is the text of the short story "A Jury of Her Peers". The article analyses the story's themes, symbolism and depiction of female characters in depth, and examines the message Glaspell wants to convey about the role of women in the society of her time. The analysis explains how the role of women is presented and interpreted by the author and its relevance to the social context of the time. This study provides a comprehensive understanding of women's representation in literature and its impact on gender perceptions in society. In this short story, Glaspell uses symbolism to reveal the living conditions of women who are often ignored and underestimated. Through the portrayal of strong and complex female characters, the story shows how women struggle with social and cultural boundaries that limit their roles. This article not only outlines Glaspell's contribution to gender discourse but also highlights the importance of women's representation in literary works as a reflection of the social and cultural conditions that influenced gender perceptions during her time. The results of this research are expected to enrich readers' insights into the dynamics of women's roles in literary and social history. As such, this article contributes to a broader understanding of how literature can reflect and influence social change related to gender roles.

**Keywords:** Gender roles, women, short stories, symbolism, representation of women.

### INTRODUCTION

Short stories as literary works are a reflection of the reality lived and understood by the author. In the process of creation, the author tries to capture the existing reality through his own point of view. Thus, in each short story there is a picture of reality perceived by the author, as well as a vision that the author wants to convey to the reader. Literature is a reflection of society. Through literature, an author reveals the problems of life, and he participates in it. Literary works receive influence from society and at the same time are able to influence society itself, it is called. (Nurholis, 2019: 153). The presence of short stories in the literary world is an integral part of the representation of people's lives at a certain period of time. Short stories not only capture specific moments of everyday life, but also describe the social, cultural and emotional dynamics that existed at that time. One of the short stories that talks about this is "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell. Author sociology can be defined as the study of the sociology of literature with a focus on writers as creators of literary works. In literary sociology, writers as creators of literary works are considered social beings whose existence is tied to their social position in society, the ideology they adhere to, their position in society, and their relationship with readers. Cate said that in the creation of literary works, authorial intervention is very important. The reality depicted in a literary work is determined by the thoughts of the author (Nurholis 2019: 44). The reality depicted in literary works is often not reality as it is, but the reality idealised by the author.

Susan Glaspell's short story "A Jury of Her Peers" reflects the social and cultural context of rural America in the early 20th century. In this work, Glaspel exposes the various conflicts experienced by women during this period and attempts to reconstruct them in a new light. The short story focuses on the challenges faced by women and their attempts to struggle and assert themselves in a patriarchal environment. This research highlights the existence of women from the perspective of gender science and to build a new structure in social life. Fakhri (2012: 34)

states that gender studies try to trace and analyse all structural manifestations and systems of gender injustice for the sake of a more just social transformation for women. In Traditional gender values, men are required to be General, and women look Feminine by wearing skirts and high Heels (Farida, 2016: 42-43)

In this regard, it is important to know how the role of women in the short story "A Jury of Her Peers" is reflected in the story and how it relates to the social reality of the time. By understanding the role of women in this story, it is possible to explore the social dynamics that affected women's lives at that time and see how the author uses narrative to convey messages about the conditions of society. Literature is considered as one of the socio-cultural phenomena, and also as a product of society. Literature tries to present the state of society as carefully as possible, which may not be trusted or accepted as a mirror of society. On the other hand, literary works that are not intended to portray society meticulously can still be trusted as material to find out about society. Therefore, the social views of the writer must be considered if literature is to be judged as a "mirror" of society (Sapardi Djoko Damono, 1979: 4).

The purpose of this journal is to explore the representation of women in "A Jury of Her Peers" as a reflection of the social realities of its time. The research will examine how Glaspell depicts the social conventions and restrictions faced by women in the period, as well as exploring their potential and courage in the face of norms that inhibit them. Authors, as creators of literary works, are members of society. In creating literary works, authors also cannot be separated from the society in which they live so that the things described in literary works are often a representation of the reality that occurs in society. (Nurholis 2019:13)

By understanding the female characterisation and interpersonal dynamics in the story, readers can uncover the social messages hidden behind Glaspell's narrative. This analysis will not only explore the themes and symbolism in the work, but also provide an in-depth insight into the struggles women faced in a patriarchal society in the early 20th century. This analysis is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how authors portray women and how their experiences are reflected in literary works.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the short story *A Jury of Her Peers* by Susan Glaspell from a gender studies perspective. The main focus of this research was to find out how gender structures are reflected in the story and how the author interprets women's experiences. Primary data was obtained from the original text of the novel itself, which examines in detail the sentences, paragraphs and dialogues that describe the main female characters such as Mrs Hale and Mrs Petrea. The approach used is a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for a detailed analysis of the nuances and complexities of the relationship between gender, power and social structure that appear in Glaspell's story.

The analysis also draws attention to the historical context of early 20th century rural Iowa in which the story takes place. The traditional roles and expectations of women in a harsh and isolated society are the subject of research to understand how gender norms influence the decisions and actions of the characters in the story. Important quotes from the short story are used in addition to the main text to support in-depth interpretation and analysis. This includes how the story and character descriptions present the daily lives and internal conflicts faced by women, as well as their interactions with the environment and male characters in the story. The purpose of this study is not only to describe what is revealed in the story, but also to relate the results to relevant gender studies theories. This helps develop a broader understanding of how these short stories project and reflect the dynamics of women's lives at the time.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers" is a gripping narrative that investigates themes of gender roles, injustice, and female solidarity in rural Iowa. The story unfolds with the discovery of John Wright's murder in his farmhouse, his neck strangled with a rope. As the authorities investigate, accompanied by Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters, the local farmer's wife, the women gradually uncover important details overlooked by the men. Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters, initially dismissed as mere observers, began to piece together the circumstances surrounding the crime. They visit the Wright family home, where Mrs Hale recalls Minnie Foster, now Mrs Wright, as a vibrant and spirited young woman before marriage. The women notice the deserted state of Mrs Wright's kitchen, a stark contrast to her previous cheerful demeanour. Through keen observation, they uncovered the deep loneliness and oppression Mrs Wright experienced in her marriage to John Wright, a stoic and domineering man who had little regard for his wife's happiness or well-being. Crucially, the men deemed Mrs Wright's domestic problems unimportant to the murder investigation, focusing only on the physical evidence. In contrast, Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters empathise with Mrs Wright's suffering, recognising the subtle signs of her distressed despair and alienation. Their gender perspectives allow them to uncover the motive behind Mrs Wright's alleged crime—an act borne out of years of emotional neglect and hampering domestic life. The story depicts a shocking discovery about women's lives in rural America, highlighting themes such as gender injustice and women's courage in the face of social pressure.

The portrayal of the characters in this short story strongly reflects the social and psychological conflicts faced by women at that time. Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters, despite their different personalities, show a deep understanding of the patriarchal pressures that surrounded women's lives in rural areas in the early 20th century. Mrs Hale, Minnie Foster's neighbour who is known as an energetic and outspoken person, shows a deep understanding of the drastic change in Minnie's personality after her marriage to John Wright. She describes how Minnie used to be a cheerful and energetic girl, a far cry from the solitude and loneliness she now faces. This understanding highlights the impact of social norms that restricted women at the time, curbing their potential and happiness. Meanwhile, Mrs Peters, the local sheriff's wife, initially seemed less engaged in the issue. However, she also shows a growing understanding as she begins to feel empathy for Minnie's plight, especially after discovering evidence of Minnie's life of suffering in her domestic environment. This realisation opened her eyes to a reality that may have often been overlooked or underestimated by the patriarchal society of the time.

Women's solidarity in Susan Glaspell's short story "A Jury of Her Peers" is a central theme that unifies the storyline and reveals the depth of relationships between female characters in the face of injustice and oppression. Hale and Mrs Peters, the two main female characters in this short story, find strong solidarity when they realise the similarity of fate with Minnie Wright. They understand the suffering Minnie must endure as a wife who is ostracised and oppressed by her husband. This realisation comes from their personal experiences as women living under oppressive patriarchal norms. When they find evidence such as dead canaries and a messy house, they feel Minnie's suffering as if it were their own. The solidarity between Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters reflects their decision to protect Minnie Wright by hiding evidence that suggests a motive for the murder.

The setting is a harsh and isolated rural community, where women are often trapped in domestic roles that limit their pursuit of personal ambition or happiness. The community also

shows men's dismissive attitude towards women's role in solving serious problems, as seen in the men's attitudes towards Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters' defence of Minnie. The story "A Jury of Her Peers" was inspired by a real court case she covered as a reporter for the *Des Moines Daily*. On 2 December 1900, a terrible tragedy occurred in Indianola, Iowa, where sixty-year-old farmer John Hossack was murdered in his bed, his skull crushed by an axe. Margaret, then, was tried for her husband's murder. Despite inconclusive evidence, Margaret Hossack was acquitted. In a similar case to the Minnie Wright character in Glaspell's story, Mrs Hossack also claimed that she never saw her husband's killer. As creative beings, authors have a very long history of development, and their participation is considered in every period, genre, era, class, and various other social categories, either by accepting or rejecting them. (Nurholish, 2019:51)

At the time of the trial, many women from the town were present, including the sheriff's wife who showed great sympathy for Mrs Hossack throughout the proceedings, despite initially giving incriminating testimony. Glaspell observed the jury selection process and noted the names of "twelve good men" on the jury. The review highlighted the circumstantial nature of the evidence used in the Hossack case (Bryan:2023). During the experiment, Glaspell saw a shift from objective reporting to a more literary perspective. He saw that sympathy for Hossack was widespread among the community, with some people acting as "unofficial thirteen-year-old jurors", which influenced perceptions and outcomes. Although there was evidence that Hossack may have been a victim of domestic violence, which may have influenced his actions, this aspect received less attention during the trial. (Anwar: 2019)

Her focus was on the sensational aspects of the crime rather than the complexity of Hossack's personal circumstances. Glaspell's experience with this trial shaped her understanding of the legal system and the treatment of women accused of crimes. This understanding greatly influenced her writing of *Trifles* (1916), which later evolved into *A Jury of Her Peers* (1917). Both works address themes of gender inequality, disrespect for women's opinions, and social pressures that lead women to extreme measures.

In the story, Glaspell questions patriarchal norms that exclude women from both the legal process and society in general. Glaspell's legacy is not limited to fiction; her work also criticises the legal and social prejudices of the time and emphasises the importance of empathy and understanding in the pursuit of justice. Glaspell's portrayal of female characters in *A Jury of Her Peers* reflects her commitment to exploring the complexities of women's lives and making their voices heard in both fiction and real life. Critics believe that Glaspell likely portrayed the character of Mrs Peters based on this woman. However, in the context of the time, women were not allowed to serve on juries in trials, so Glaspell created her narrative by forming a jury of her fellow women present in her story. This reflects the important role of women in supporting and understanding the experiences of fellow women, even though they did not have direct access to formal legal processes at the time.

The main purpose of Susan Glaspell's story is to convey a message about the injustices experienced by women in rural American society at that time. Through this story, Glaspell hoped to highlight the courage of women in the face of oppression and gender injustice. Gender theory tries to understand how and why gender is recognised as natural. According to Suryadi and Idris (2010), cultural processes cause gender inequality. Cultural processes that have been running for a very long time are then passed down from generation to generation and formed into social norms or manners in community life. The cultural process also causes the selection of roles between men and women and further causes 3 things namely feminine and masculine, the division of public and domestic roles, and dominating and subordinated positions. In this short story, these concepts are clearly reflected. The story illustrates how roles and perceptions of women are constructed through deeply rooted social norms.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, women's roles in American society were still very limited and constrained by various factors, including patriarchal culture and the dominant discourse of feminism at the time. Men perceived women as not having equal rights with men. They were considered objects and not subjects, and therefore did not have the right to vote, own property, or have the same opportunities as men. Women faced various challenges and discrimination, such as not being given the right to vote, not being allowed to voice their opinions in politics, and not being recognised as equal citizens with men.

At that time, American culture was still very patriarchal, and women were considered as complements to men. The patriarchal system did not give women the opportunity to describe their own identity. Men have always been the measure and standard of how women's nature can be defined and determined, not from the measure of the qualities that women themselves have. (Sylvie Meiliana, 2019)

Women are considered to have limitations to be able to actualise themselves in the public sphere, and they only rely on men who have power and higher social status. They are considered to be feminine, tall, slim, have a beautiful appearance and dress, and must behave well to be the pride of their parents especially.

This puts enormous pressure on women to conform to the standards set by society, making it difficult for them to express themselves freely without fear of being labelled as non-conforming. Not only do they have to fight for recognition and equality before the law, they also have to survive in a culture that prioritises certain appearances and behaviours. In addition, male dominance in social structures also hinders women's advancement in various fields, including education and professional careers, as women are often forbidden or discouraged from pursuing higher education or careers outside the home, considered more suitable to be dutiful housewives than to pursue greater aspirations outside of domestic work.

In "A Jury of Her Peers", men and women have very different gender roles and the story illustrates the different opportunities available to men and women both in terms of the division of labour and society as a whole. The world is controlled by men as social rules limit a woman's ability to move around, choose her own interests, or live apart from her husband.

Minnie Wright and Martha Hale are constantly defined as domestic servants. The responsibility of taking care of the house and the kitchen in particular belonged only to women. Martha Hale still thinks of Minnie Wright as Minnie Foster, emphasising the change of identity that every woman experiences when she marries and takes her husband's name as her own, when she is defined by her husband's identity and her separate personality is lost. One aspect of the social subjugation of women explored in this story is the loneliness of being trapped at home. Men have friends with each other, but women have to stay at home, alone. Women who do not have children, like Minnie Wright, will feel this loneliness more poignantly.

There are various external factors that influence the men and women who investigate the scene. The most obvious external factor is the traditional gender roles and attitudes of early 20th century society in America. There was a view regarding gender-specific education that highly qualified jobs were only important for men. The workplace was not a key area for women. Career and professional advancement were considered unimportant for women. Housework and childcare were the primary duties of a woman.

*"Oh, well," said Mrs Hale's husband, with good-natured superiority, "women are used to worrying over trifles." (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

Here, Mr Hale emphasises how women are always stressed over trivial things, in a very sarcastic and condescending way. This makes women inferior, and unsuitable for important positions in society, or the workplace.



*The sheriff threw up his hands. "They wonder whether she was going to quilt it or just knot it!" There was a laugh for the ways of women, a warming of hands over the stove, and then the county attorney said briskly: (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

Here, Sheriff Peters shows a picture of male superiority over women in the society at that time. In addition to the various external factors that affect both genders in investigations, there are several internal factors that affect investigators, especially women.

*"I think maybe that's why she kept so much to herself. I s'pose she felt she couldn't do her part; and then, you don't enjoy things when you feel shabby. She used to wear pretty clothes and be lively--when she was Minnie Foster, one of the town girls, singing in the choir. But that--oh, that was twenty years ago." (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

how Minnie Wright's personal knowledge and history internally impacted the way Mrs Hale carried out her role in the investigation.

*"The sewing," said Mrs Peters, in a troubled way. "All the rest of them have been so nice and even-but--this one. Why, it looks as if she didn't know what she was about!" (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

Here Mrs Peters demonstrates the utilisation of an internal factor that is specific to women, namely knowledge of the craft of sewing. This helps her to notice things that men do not notice when conducting a murder enquiry. Thoughts of Minnie Foster trying to bake in that oven--and thoughts of her never going to see Minnie Foster Here, Mrs Hale recalls her own crime of never seeing Minnie Foster, leaving her to struggle with her stove alone, year after year. As a result of women's subjectivity, the situation leads to the fragmentation and failure of consciousness caused by patriarchal ideology and women's lived experience of realisation. What applies to women applies to all subordinates, even if their fields are different. Everyone must challenge the use of categories developed by male-dominated fields, in particular, the oppression between structure and agency, and between microsociology and macrosociology (Ritzer and Goodman, 2010).

Stories of female subjugation are not limited to the economic and social spheres. The male characters augment these social rules and expectations with a more personal form of oppression: by belittling women for their weakness and importance. Mr Peters mocks his own wife's fear of travelling to the house where the murder takes place. The men repeatedly say that the items in the kitchen, or the items Mrs Wright requested in prison, are beneath their notice. Marriage is often seen as the ultimate goal for women, but this story reveals the dark side of that expectation. Expectations for a happy married life are often unfulfilled, and women like Minnie must face the harsh reality of a stressful, loveless marriage.

In many ways, Mrs Peters and Martha Hale accept the treatment they receive from the male characters. In fact, they contribute to gender roles by believing that certain things are only the responsibility of men, such as finding serious evidence. However, throughout the story, the women are able to acknowledge their situation to themselves and to others. They are united by Minnie's predicament as they realise that they have each experienced the loneliness, isolation and abuse that led to her killing her husband. Realising their shared experience through Minnie's tragic dilemma, the women begin to see themselves as part of a group of women, and they are unwilling to judge other women who have experienced the same subjugation. To hide the evidence of Minnie's motives, the dead bird, the women counter the oppression they experience by creating a different environment where Minnie's actions are judged and forgiven: a jury of Unified women.

The symbolism in Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers" portrays the role of women deeply and critically, highlighting the injustices and limitations they face in a patriarchal society. Glaspell uses various symbols to show the often overlooked and undervalued living conditions of women. These symbols work together to depict women's limited and shackled

roles in patriarchal society. Women like Martha Hale are trapped in social and cultural norms that limit their freedom and potential. This short story shows how women begin to challenge these norms and fight for their rights.

### The jar of Fruits

*"Asking for an apron, and her little shawl. Worryin' about her fruit."*

...

*She dashed her hand across her eyes. Then, seeing the jar of fruit on the table, she reached for it and choked out: "If I was you I wouldn't tell her her fruit was gone! Tell her it ain't. Tell her it's all right--all of it. Here--take this in to prove it to her! She-she may never know whether it was broken or not."*

*She turned away. Mrs Peters reached out for the bottle of fruit as if she were glad to take it--as if touching a familiar thing, having something to do, could keep her from something else." (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

Minnie Wright's concern for fruit canning symbolises her similar concern for her gender role in society as a wife and housekeeper. Minnie worries about fulfilling her role as wife and housekeeper properly because she has been conditioned by a society that gives men power over their wives. Minnie's concerns are justified by the actions of men in the story who feel, and are able to criticise and correct women without any repercussions. The men criticise Minnie's messy kitchen, but also criticise Martha Hale and Mrs Peters for their concern for "Trifles" in the kitchen. Since men hold all the social power, they are able to criticise women as they wish.

When Mrs Peters and Martha Hale learn that the canning jars have broken if left unattended, Martha Hale proposes to lie to Minnie to protect her from the painful reality. The breaking of the jar is related to the breakdown of Minnie's situation. Her fears have come true, just like when she was tried and found guilty, and she will definitely be guilty. The lies of the other two women show that her friends are willing to protect Minnie, even though her husband is not. Furthermore, this first, smaller lie foreshadows a larger act of subterfuge in which the women hide evidence of the motive for Minnie's murder. It symbolises women's struggle to maintain the dignity and significance of their domestic duties in a patriarchal society.

### The Quilt

*"Mrs Peters went to the back of the room to hang up the fur tippet she was wearing. A moment later she exclaimed, "Why, she was piecing a quilt," and held up a large sewing basket piled high with quilt pieces. Mrs Hale spread some of the blocks out on the table.*

*"It's log-cabin pattern," she said, putting several of them together. "Pretty, isn't it?"*

*They were so engaged with the quilt that they did not hear the footsteps on the stairs. Just as the stair door opened Mrs Hale was saying: "Do you suppose she was going to quilt it or just knot it?" The sheriff threw up his hands. "They wonder whether she was going to quilt it or just knot it!" (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

A quilt the women wanted to bring to Minnie Wright in prison took on symbolic meaning through repeated discussions of two types of quilting styles: regular quilting and knotting. At first, Mrs Peters and Martha Hale discuss these quilting techniques literally, but the story ends with George Henderson asking which quilting technique Minnie will use to complete her quilt. In this scene, Martha Hale's statement that she plans to "knot it" symbolises the act of murder by tying a rope around someone else's neck. At the end of the story, both women are convinced of Minnie's guilt and also understand Minnie's reasons for killing her cruel husband, but they have not discussed the making of the quilt further. Therefore, the certainty of Martha Hale's statement suggests that the act of "tying the quilt" is a symbolic act.

Of course, the men overlook the metaphorical implications of this act and take it for granted. The symbolism of the quilt highlights women's resilience in overcoming challenges and pressures, as well as demonstrating solidarity among them in their shared experiences.

### **Bird Cage**

*"Mrs Peters put the bird-cage on the table and sat down. 'It would be lonesome for me-sitting here alone.'*

*"The sheriff's wife did not reply. The silence made Mrs Hale turn round. Mrs Peters was examining the bird-cage. 'Look at this door,' she said slowly. 'It's broken. One hinge has been pulled apart.'" (A jury of her peers)*

The birdcage symbolises the situation of imprisonment and oppression that Minnie Foster (Mrs Wright) has to endure. Like a caged bird, Minnie feels trapped in a stressful and isolating marriage. The broken birdcage means that Minnie's freedom has been taken away and her life is full of restrictions. The dead bird in the cage reflects Minnie's loss of joy and freedom. The bird was probably the only source of happiness and entertainment for Minnie amidst her lonely life. When the bird is killed, it signifies the final destruction of all Minnie's remaining happiness. The act of violence towards the bird (cutting its neck) shows Minnie's pent-up anger towards her husband. The strangled bird becomes a metaphor for the feelings of suffocation and distress that Minnie experiences. The killing of the bird eventually becomes the catalyst for Minnie to take revenge on her husband. The broken birdcage and dead bird are indirect evidence of the domestic violence Minnie experienced. This helps the women in the story (Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters) to understand Minnie's situation and realise the injustice she faces, which ultimately makes them sympathise and feel obliged to protect her.

### **The Death bird**

*"And then again the eyes of the two women met--this time clung together in a look of dawning comprehension, of growing horror. Mrs Peters looked from the dead bird to the broken door of the cage. Again their eyes met. And just then there was a sound at the outside door." (A Jury of her peers, Susan Glaspell)*

This important evidence discovered by Martha Hale and Mrs Peters exposes Minnie Wright's guilt, but it also shows John Wright's cruelty. Although John Wright's act of strangling the bird is cruel, it symbolises the way he treats Minnie throughout their marriage. This symbolism develops throughout the story as Martha Hale, who knows Minnie as the unmarried Minnie Foster, repeatedly likens Minnie to a bird, emphasising her love of singing and her lively, bright personality. While the songbird was literally strangled by John Wright, Minnie Foster was figuratively strangled by life with a man who was cold, unkind, bad company, and left her isolated. Trapped in her marriage, like a bird in a cage, Minnie desperately needed a companion, which she found in the bird. The act of killing the bird also "kills" Minnie's remaining hope, causing her to retaliate in response to the mistreatment she has received over the years, rather than one single act. The symbol of the dead bird highlights the plight of women in a society that ignores or oppresses their interests, as well as emphasising the importance of women's courage to face difficult realities.

Susan Glaspell's short story "A Jury of Her Peers" offers valuable lessons and deep inspiration about women's lives in the early 20th century. Through strong storytelling and complex characters, Glaspell not only explores a suspenseful criminal case but also presents an in-depth picture of the psychological and social realities of women at that time.

One of the most prominent lessons of history is the power of women's solidarity in the face of injustice. Mrs Hale and Mrs Peters, the two main characters of the story, initially seem



stuck in their traditional roles as wives dictated by law and society. However, when they discover evidence that shows the truth of Minnie Wright's case, both begin to question the social and moral values that support the norms that restrict women's lives. Their solidarity in understanding and supporting Minnie Wright, while not expressed directly to the authorities, illustrates the power of women's solidarity in the face of inevitable adversity and social pressure.

"A Jury of Her Peers" also provides inspiration to be more sensitive to women's perspectives in discussions of justice and morality. Glaspell cleverly portrays how women, who were often considered irrelevant in the legal discourse of their time, had the intuition and knowledge necessary to find the truth. The depth of emotion and understanding demonstrated by Mrs Hale and Mrs John. Dr Peters' insight into the everyday experiences of women shows that this story is not only aimed at solving criminal cases but also affirming dignity and justice for all individuals.

It also teaches to inspire readers to take a stand on relevant social issues. . The realistic depiction of the injustices faced by women in this era invites us to reflect on how gender norms and social structures have affected the lives of individuals and society in general. Through strong storytelling and sophisticated writing, Glaspell demonstrates that literature can be a tool to raise awareness and encourage positive social change.

## CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions about gender inequality lead to the recognition that this phenomenon is not isolated but rooted in complex social structures. Inequality between men and women is influenced not only by individual factors but also by broader systems in society. These include cultural norms, values instilled through socialisation, and established policies. It is also important to consider the role of the economy in creating and reinforcing gender inequality. This imbalance stems from a history of social structures based on male dominance, often referred to as patriarchy. Hopefully, society can achieve its goal of creating an environment that is fair and inclusive for everyone, regardless of gender. Gender equality is not just a women's issue, but an integral part of the vision of a just and civilised society. Overall, this short story not only tells a criminal case, but also investigates the dynamics of women's lives in a patriarchal society. Glaspell meticulously depicts how women of the time were often overlooked or treated unfairly, both in everyday life and in formal legal proceedings. Through the use of strong symbolism and in-depth characterisation, she invites the reader to recognise and reflect on the challenges faced by women at that time, as well as the importance of solidarity and empathy among them. In the context of gender theory, this short story serves as concrete evidence of how social constructions of gender can influence individual experiences and social interactions. The patriarchal norms internalised by society at that time not only limited the role of women in public life, but also affected the perception and treatment of them in the private context. Martha Hale and Mrs Peters experience significant changes in thinking throughout the story, demonstrating that gender awareness can develop through deep personal experiences and social interactions. The lessons learnt from Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers" are the importance of women's solidarity in the face of injustice, and how women's perspectives can provide deep insight into seeking truth and affirming dignity. The story also teaches that literature has the power to raise social awareness and encourage positive changes to restrictive social norms.

Finally, "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell is not only a narratively compelling work of literature, but also a sharp social critique of the gender injustices of its time. Through this story, Glaspell reminds us of the importance of recognising and addressing gender

inequality in all aspects of life, as well as the need to continuously push for change towards a more just and inclusive society for all individuals, regardless of gender. The article also provides useful recommendations for policies and practices that can improve gender equality and make a real impact on science and society. The results of this research are expected to enrich readers' insights and encourage practical steps to achieve a more equal and inclusive society.

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