

**NEGOTIATING IDENTITY AND AGENCY: THE DILEMMAS OF
WOMEN IN FUMIO YAMAMOTO'S SELECTED SHORT STORIES**

SKRIPSI

BY

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
JAKARTA**

2026

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Submitted to fulfill the academic requirements for the Sarjana Sastra (S.S) degree in the English Literature
Study Program, Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia

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FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
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Jakarta, 25th June 2026



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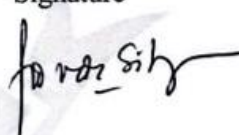
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2221150045

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Hopefully, this *skripsi* can be helpful and provide readers with new knowledge. Therefore, the authors expect constructive criticism and suggestions from readers to improve to be better.

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi hubungan antara ekspektasi sosial, dilema identitas, dan agensi perempuan dalam masyarakat Jepang modern dengan mengkaji tiga cerita pendek karya Fumio Yamamoto: “*Naked*”, “*Planarian*”, dan “*A Tomorrow Full of Love*”. Skripsi ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan kritik sastra feminis untuk menunjukkan perjuangan spesifik perempuan Jepang modern dalam menghadapi aturan patriarki dan tekanan kapitalisme. Penelitian ini menggunakan gagasan tentang agensi sehari-hari (*everyday agency*), perlawanan tersembunyi (*hidden resistance*), dan pandangan psikologis feminis mengenai cara berpikir perempuan untuk menganalisis berbagai perjuangan tersebut. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama perempuan terjebak dalam situasi sulit di mana mereka harus memilih antara memenuhi ekspektasi masyarakat dan menjadi diri mereka sendiri. Konflik ini dapat dilihat dalam tiga bentuk spesifik: dilema identitas dan pekerjaan, dilema tubuh dan ekspektasi sosial, serta dilema kebebasan dan definisi sosial. Temuan kedua menunjukkan bahwa karakter-karakter ini tidak menunjukkan agensi mereka melalui protes publik yang besar, melainkan melalui tindakan sehari-hari yang tenang dan disengaja. Dengan menolak bekerja dalam kondisi yang buruk, menolak standar kecantikan patriarki, dan memilih gaya hidup alternatif, karakter-karakter ini melakukan bentuk perlawanan tersembunyi demi melindungi kesehatan mental dan kemandirian mereka. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kebebasan perempuan di dalam masyarakat yang kaku sering kali dicapai melalui tindakan pembangkangan yang kecil namun konsisten. Hal ini membuktikan bahwa menjalani kehidupan yang mandiri, bagaimanapun, tidak biasanya dapat memberikan kebebasan yang nyata dan identitas diri yang sejati.

Kata kunci: dilema perempuan, agensi, resistensi tertutup, identitas, masyarakat Jepang

ABSTRACT

This study explores the relationship between social expectations, identity problems, and female agency in modern Japanese society by looking at three short stories by Fumio Yamamoto: “*Naked*”, “*Planarian*”, and “*A Tomorrow Full of Love*”. This skripsi uses a qualitative descriptive method and feminist literary criticism to show the specific struggles of modern Japanese women as they try to deal with patriarchal rules and capitalist pressures. The study uses ideas about everyday agency, hidden resistance, and feminist psychological views on how women think to analyze these struggles. The results show that the main female characters are trapped in a difficult situation where they must choose between meeting society's expectations and being true to themselves. This conflict can be seen in three specific ways: the dilemma of identity and work, the dilemma of the body and social expectation, and the dilemma of freedom and social definition. The second finding is that these characters do not show their agency through big public protests, but through quiet and intentional daily actions. By refusing to work in bad conditions, rejecting patriarchal beauty standards, and choosing alternative lifestyles, these characters practice a hidden form of resistance to protect their mental health and independence. The study concludes that women's liberation in a strict society is often achieved through small but consistent acts of rebellion. This proves that living an independent life, no matter how unusual it seems, can bring real freedom and a true sense of identity.

Keywords: women's dilemmas, agency, hidden resistance, identity, Japanese society