

## ABSTRACT

**DYAH AYU PURWATI. 2017.** The portrayal of women's oppression in Louise O'Neill's *Only Ever Yours*. ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM, FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS, STATE UNIVERSITY OF JAKARTA.

This study is aimed at investigating the portrayal of women's oppression in Louise O'Neill's *Only Ever Yours*. This study focuses on the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the narrations, dialogues, and quotations in the novel that indicate the issues about women's oppression in form of traditional traits and beauty and body construction using descriptive analysis method with qualitative approach. By applying the theory of Simone de Beauvoir about women's oppression and traditional traits as well as theories by Sheila Jeffreys and Naomi Wolf about beauty and body construction, the writer finds out that female characters in *Only Ever Yours* are oppressed by patriarchy; specifically their traits and appearance. Their characteristics are described in traditional traits and their appearance is constructed to fit into the beauty and body construction, which is socially and culturally made by patriarchy. The female characters are required to possess the traditional traits, such as passive, willing, uneducated, fertile, nurturing, loving, etc. To fit into the ideal beauty, they must have silky hair, lighter eye colours, fair, hairless, and flawless skin, and also thin and toned body.

Keywords: Oppression, traditional traits, beauty and body construction, *Only Ever Yours*