

### **3. ANALYSIS**

#### **Frances Henri is ahead of time in terms of career and family**

In this chapter, I analyze Frances Henri's life in order to show that she is ahead of her time. The analysis is divided into two subchapters. The first subchapter analyzes Frances Henri as ahead of time in terms of career. The second subchapter analyzes Frances Henri as ahead of time in terms of family.

#### **3.1 Frances Henri is ahead of time in terms of career**

Frances Henri is a self-supporting woman. She gets used to work. She is working not only to fulfill her need but also to have a personal satisfaction. Furthermore, she has an ambition to have a school of her own. Frances Henri's effort to achieve her career and ambition shows that she is ahead of time. Besides, Frances Henri can be seen as ahead of time since she continues her career after her marriage. Therefore, this subchapter will be divided into three. First is Frances Henri's tendency to be self-supporting which support her actions in attempting to gain her career and continue it. Second is Frances Henri's effort to achieve her career. The last, Frances Henri's decision to continue her career after marriage.

##### **3.1.1 Frances Henri's Tendency to be Self-supporting**

Frances Henri tends to be self-supporting. The main reason is because she is not a rich woman. She is also an orphan and does not have brothers or sisters. She lives with her aunt who also cannot be depended on, as Frances Henri said to Crimsworth, "She is not rich; she has only annuity of twelve hundred francs, it would be impossible for her to send me to school" (p. 135). Therefore, Frances Henri has to depend on herself in order to survive.

Frances Henri realizes that the possible career for her is being a needlewoman. In fact, she does not have much choices of work since she never receives regular education. Moreover, in the Victorian, there are only two possible careers open for women, governess or needlewomen (Klein, 1984, p.52). From those choices of career, Frances Henri has the opportunity to be a needle woman, and this is what Frances Henri realized.

“ Monsieur, I begged my aunt to have me taught lace-mending soon after we came to Brussels, because I knew it was a metier, a trade which was easily learnt, and by which I could earn some money very soon. I learnt it in a few days and I quickly got work, for all the Brussels ladies have old lace very precious which must be mended all the times it is washed...” (p. 136)

Frances Henri action of begging to be taught lace mending shows that Frances Henri really wants to be self-supporting. In addition, it shows her idea to use lace mending as her way to be self-supporting.

Furthermore, Frances Henri's action by using her talent as the way to be self-supporting reflects Charlotte Bronte's idea about self-supporting. Charlotte Bronte says that a girl should develop her particular talent, so that if she 'is fated to make her way in the crowd and to depend on herself' she may have the satisfaction that she is her 'own mistress' (Wise, T.J and Symington, 1980, p.215). The word 'her own mistress' has a deep meaning in the concept of feminism. It relates to the idea of independency. As stated in Women's Realities Women's Choices, "Feminist value autonomy and work for conditions that favor their independent control of their destinies" (1983, p.4). Therefore, in this case, by being self-supporting, Frances Henri means to be independent and to have freedom in doing her own wish.

In fact, Frances Henri's idea in using her talent in lace mending as the way to be self-supporting rebels the Victorian value. Victorian value considers that talent for woman only allowed as a hobby, but forbidden as a career (Gorham, 1982, p.24). On

the other hand, Frances Henri uses her talent more than just a hobby since she is poor and has no brothers; so that she has to support herself.

Frances Henri holds the idea of self-supporting firmly. She does not give up although meets obstacle. She is dismissed by Mademoiselle Reuter. It makes her lose her occupation as a lace-mending teacher in Mademoiselle Reuter's school. However, it does not make her give up. She returns to do her lace-mending trade, as she does before teaching lace-mending in Mademoiselle Reuter's school, as she said, "I have still my lace-mending trade; with care it will keep me from starvation,..." (p. 169). That quotation proves that Frances Henri holds the idea of self-supporting firmly. In addition, it shows that Frances Henri does not easily give up although she has been treated unfairly. Her return to do her lace-mending trade is a proof that she is aware of the other way to be self-supporting.

Furthermore, Frances Henri's idea to be self-supporting does not change even she is in the miserable situation. As it is known, Frances Henri is not a rich woman. Her income as a lace-mender is far from enough to support her needs. However, she refuses to accept Crimsworth's financial aid. For Frances Henri, it is a satisfactory to owe no man anything (p. 182).

Frances Henri's actions by using her talent as the way to be self-supporting, returning to do her lace-mending trade when she is dismissed, and refusing to accept Crimsworth's financial aid show her tendency to be self-supporting. Moreover, her idea to be self-supporting contrasts with the Victorian value, which says that the ideal woman is willing to be dependent on man (Gorham, 1982, p.4). In addition, it differentiates her from Victorian women in common. Thus, she can be said as ahead of her time.

### **3.1.2 Frances Henri's Effort to Achieve Her Career**

There are two main efforts, which Frances Henri does in order to achieve her career. First is eager for increasing knowledge, as Frances Henri believes that more

knowledge will help her in achieving her career. Second, is asking her husband, Crimsworth's tolerance. This can be Frances Henri's trick to achieve her career in dealing with the conventional value, which support the male domination in working sphere.

### **3.1.2.1 Frances Henri's Eagerness to Increase Her Knowledge**

Frances Henri is eager for increasing knowledge. She forces herself to be able to spend some of her money to join courses of some studies although her occupation as a lace mender gives only a little money. She says, "I earned money a little and, and this money I gave for lessons in the studies I have mentioned..." (p.136). As the result of those courses, she has knowledge about grammar, history, geography and arithmetic (p. 135).

Furthermore, Frances Henri always tries to find an opportunity to increase her knowledge. As happened when she has a chance to be in the post of teaching lace mending in Mademoiselle Reuter's school. She uses this opportunity to ask Mademoiselle Reuter's permission to join the English class. Since Frances Henri works in that school; therefore there will be no difficulty to have a chance in joining the English class (p. 111).

In studying in the English class, Frances Henri seems to be serious. She studies hard. In addition, she is capable in contending with difficulties. She likes to learn her mistake in study by self-studying. Moreover, helping her in contending with difficulties in study is considered by her as degrading. (p. 124) Besides studying hard, Frances Henri also diligent. She accomplishes the task quickly and eager to demand more. Therefore, Frances Henri gains a progress soon. The most important is that the progression depends upon her. (p. 125)

Frances Henri's reason in joining the English class is to perfect her knowledge in English, as Mademoiselle Reuter said to Crimsworth when she drives Frances Henri to his class, "...and has asked permission to attend your lessons in order to

perfect her knowledge in English...” (p. 111) Perfecting her knowledge in English means that Frances Henri wishes to have individual change and self-fulfillment.

This reason meets one of the focuses of feminism concept, which is stated in Women’s Realities Women’s Choices. It says that the focuses of feminism are on the individual change and self-fulfillment (1983, p.4). By doing some efforts to increase the quality of her knowledge in English, Frances Henri has made a change from Frances Henri who knows only a little in English to Frances Henri who is expert in English. Moreover, by the time she achieves her intention to perfect her knowledge in English, she also achieves her self-fulfillment. The advantage of doing the individual change and self-fulfillment is the possibility to have a wonderful future. In the case of Frances Henri the advantage is having a good career.

Another reason why Frances Henri is eager to increase her knowledge is because she wants to have a better occupation by having a position as a governess or a schoolteacher. As she said to Crimsworth, “ ...soon I shall try to find a place of governess or schoolteacher, when I can write and speak English well...(p. 136). By being able to write and speak English well, she hopes that she can fulfill the requirement of being a governess or a schoolteacher.

Frances Henri perceives a governess or a schoolteacher as a better occupation rather than a lace-mender is because she thinks that a governess is more respectable than a lace-mender. As Frances Henri says, “ ...because those who know I have been a lace mender will despise me, as the pupils here despise me...” (p. 136). In addition, Frances Henri feels that in lace mending she can show no superiority since lace mending is a subordinate art, which can be easily learnt. As Frances Henri says, “...here I only teach sewing, I can show no power in sewing, no superiority, it is a subordinate art...” (p. 138). It is different from a governess or a schoolteacher who has a deep knowledge about some important studies.

Frances Henri’s reason to have a better occupation suits with the concept of feminism, which looks at similarities between the sexes and concludes that women and men have equal potential for individual development (Freeman, 1984, p.xiii). It

means that Frances Henri is aware of the equal potential of each individual. She does not believe the society's assumption that says that women are naturally less intelligent and less creative than men (Strachey, 1969, pp.45-46). Therefore, she tries to dig her potential in English to develop her career into a governess or a schoolteacher.

Through her action, we can see that Frances Henri acts differently from the Victorian value. Victorian sees the education of girls is aimed to produce accomplished ladies, not educated women; so that they lack of training for an independent life (Klein, 1984, p.5). On the other hand, Frances Henri personally sees education is important. Since she never receives a formal or regular education (p.111), she tries to increase her knowledge by joining some courses of studies and joining the English class in the place where she works. Therefore, she can also be an educated woman. By being an educated woman, Frances Henri thinks that she will be able to have a good career based on her knowledge. Frances Henri's eagerness to increase her knowledge in order to perfect her knowledge and to have a better career shows that she is ahead of time.

### **3.1.2.2 Frances Henri's Request of Crimsworth's Tolerance**

Frances Henri needs to ask Crimsworth's tolerance to continue her career. Crimsworth's tolerance becomes the need for Frances Henri since in the Victorian, there is a separate sphere between woman and man. The public sphere of business, politics, and professional life is defined as the male sphere. The private sphere of love, the emotions, and domesticity is defined as the sphere of woman. That is why women needed tolerance in working in the male sphere, as they are not allowed to work in the male sphere (Gorham, 1982, pp.4-5). In addition, the Victorian prevented women to "meddle in politics or legal matters"; instead they were expected to "leave all business and public affairs" to men (Marjorie and C.H.B Quennel, 1958, p.128).

In other words, women depend on men's tolerance to have activities outside the domestic sphere.

Frances Henri realizes the fact about women's limitation in the working sphere. Nevertheless, Frances Henri also realizes about her intellectual and economical capability. She knows that there should be an opportunity to prove that she can achieve her ambition. Her request of Crimsworth's tolerance is her way to have that opportunity.

Frances Henri's awareness about her intellectual and economical capability meets the concept of feminism. It said that women have both, intellectual and economical capability like men. If women are given the opportunity, they can show that they are as advantageous as men (Bell, 1983, pp.2-3).

Therefore, it can be said that Frances Henri's wish to continue her career cannot be realized without Crimsworth's tolerance. Crimsworth personally looks for a wife who is intelligent and companionable (p. 104). Thus, he gives a chance for Frances Henri to continue her career. His approval is the form of his chance for Frances Henri's wish to continue her career. As Crimsworth says "...and you shall have your own way, for it is the best way...(p. 216). This statement becomes his permission for Frances Henri to continue her career. Without the permission, it would be impossible for Frances Henri to be able to continue her career after marriage.

Crimsworth also gives his tolerance for Frances Henri to do an improvement in her career. As he says, "You wish to change-you have a plan for progress in your mind; go on and put your bonnet; and, while we take our walk, you shall tell me of it" (p. 236). Furthermore, not only understanding that Frances Henri needs to continue her career. She also needs Crimsworth's emotional support in order to make a progress in her career, which is having a school of her own. Besides giving his approval and support, he also offers his assistance to Frances Henri (p.237)

As a result of Crimsworth's tolerance, Frances Henri can achieve progress in her career. As Crimsworth says, "...years in which I and my wife, having launched ourselves in the full career of progress..." (p. 237). In addition, Frances Henri

succeeds in beginning a school with the assistance of Crimsworth, “Our school become one of the most popular in Brussels, and as by degrees we raised our terms and elevated our system of education,...” (p. 238). From that quotation, the word “our” means that the school does not belong to Frances Henri only. Crimsworth also takes part in that school. Without Crimsworth’s understanding, tolerance, and support it would be impossible for Frances Henri to achieve her ambition.

By asking Crimsworth’s tolerance and cooperation, Frances Henri wants to show her trick to achieve her ambition. Since women are not allowed to work in the public sphere as men, women need to cooperate with men by taking them as equal partners. Since both men and women are partner, it will be easier for women to give their opinions for the best result of their work. Therefore, by having this trick, Frances Henri can also be said as ahead of her time.

### **3.1.3 Frances Henri’s Decision to Continue Her Career After Marriage**

Frances Henri decides to continue her career. She even gives one condition in accepting Crimsworth’s marriage proposal. As she said, “Well, monsieur, I wished merely to say that I should like, of course to retain my employment of teaching...” (p.215). That quotation shows the indication of Frances Henri to continue her career after marriage.

The reason that Frances Henri gives to Crimsworth to continue her career is because she likes an active life. In addition, she thinks that she has to take a part in supporting the family’s needs in their marriage life. By working together, she has a thought that they will respect each other highly. (p. 216)

In this case, Frances Henri’s reason meets several concepts of feminism. Her reason to take part in supporting the family needs matches with the feminist idea about equal rights and equal duties for both partners. As Jo Freeman says, “Equality is characterized as equal rights and equal duties for the partners in both economic and domestic spheres. The principle of equality prescribes that those conditions and goods

should be equally shared” (1980, p.120). In addition, by taking part in supporting the family needs, Frances Henri also indicates that she wants to be considered as an equal partner in the marriage. This idea meets the concept of feminism, which says that; the status of a married woman has been changed from a wife as a property to a wife as an equal partner (Scanzani, 1972).

Furthermore, by working together, Frances Henri might mean to determine her power status comparative to her husband. Since she wishes to work together, she deletes the husband’s role as the sole economic provider. Therefore, it will decrease the husband’s authority over. Frances Henri’s thought in this case meets the concept of feminism which says that whether or not a wife works for pay, then, may be the single most important factor in determining her power status comparative to her husband (Freeman, 1984, p.117).

Nevertheless, Frances Henri’s reason in continuing her career after marriage in order to take part in supporting family’s need seems to be unacceptable. It is because actually, with Crimsworth’s income only, both of them (Frances Henri and Crimsworth) can live well. As Crimsworth says,

“But, Frances, I have not yet told you what my prospect are. I have left M. Pelet’s; and after nearly a month’s seeking, I have got another place, with a salary of three thousand francs a year, which I can easily double by a little additional exertion. Thus you see it would be useless for you to fag yourself by going out to give lessons; on six thousand francs you and I can live, and live well.” (p. 215)

However, Frances Henri still wants to continue her career. It proves that her decision to continue her career is because of personal satisfaction. In addition, she wishes to have betterment in her career. As she said to Crimsworth,

“I am not satisfied,” returned she: “ You are now earning eight thousand francs a year”....,” while Iam still at my miserable twelve hundred francs. I can do better and I will” (p. 235)

That quotation shows that she is not satisfied with her achievement in the career. She also wishes to have an improvement.

Frances Henri's reason of having personal satisfaction matches with the concept of feminism, which says that for women, adopting a career can be a source of personal satisfaction. By having a career, women may have feeling of importance and useful. The important thing is that the more education and training a woman has, the more likely she has personal satisfaction rather than the need as her reason for being employed (Women Today, 1980, p.130).

Frances Henri's decision to continue her career with all of the reasons contrast with the conventional view. Victorian believes that if women are married they have to surrender their ambitions for their husbands' success (Gorsky, 1992, p.25). In this case, Frances Henri not only continues her career after marriage but also attempts to have betterment in her career. Thus, Frances Henri can be said as ahead of her time.

### **3.2 Frances Henri is Ahead of Time in Terms of Family**

Foster in her book says that even the most radical feminists feel that wifehood and motherhood are the most important aspect of female experience. What the feminists argue is the habit of making matrimony as the aim of woman's life. The feminists states that since women have already known the risks of an unhappy marriage and trapped in the miserable marriage, women should be cautious in holding the idea of wifehood (Foster, 1985, p.11). The most important is that women should have the independent control of their destinies (Hunter College Women's Studies Collective, 1983, p.4). It means that all of women's actions should be based on their own wish.

Frances Henri also feels the same thing. She cannot deny her wish as a woman to have a happy family. However, she does not want to get married and have a family merely because of the society demanded so. On the other hand, Frances Henri does it because she wants to.

Therefore, in analyzing Frances Henri as ahead of time in terms of family, this subchapter will be divided into three. First is Frances Henri's thought about marriage, which becomes the foundation of her decision in getting married. Second is Frances Henri as ahead of time of wife. The last is Frances Henri as ahead of time of mother.

### **3.2.1 Frances Henri's Thought About Marriage**

Frances Henri has her own thought about marriage. She sees marriage as something, which should be based on love. Without love, in Frances Henri's opinion, marriage will be the same as slavery. Furthermore, it is important for her to fight for her own freedom in terms of choosing the man that she wants to marry with, and deciding whether she wants to get married or not. As she says,

“Monsieur, if a wife's nature loathes that of the man she is wedded to, marriage must be a slavery. Against slavery all right thinkers revolt, and though torture be the price of resistance, torture must be dared: though the only road to freedom lie through the gates of death, those gates must be passed; for freedom is indispensable. Then, monsieur, I would resist as far as my strength permitted; when that strength failed I should be sure of refuge. Death would certainly screen me both from laws and their consequences.  
(p.244)

The quotation above shows that Frances Henri realizes that wives can be the slaves of their husbands. The term “slave” is used since the wives do all the things that their husbands wish. In addition, wives cannot give their opinion since they are in the position similar to slaves. Frances Henri thinks that this is not right, and women have to fight for equal position rather than similar to the position of slaves.

The reason why Frances Henri has that kind of opinion about marriage is based on the fact, which happened in the Victorian age. Most of Victorian women were trapped in the matrimony. In addition, they suffered for the certainty of the law of England, which made a marriage as a legal slavery to the women and stated that

the wife had to surrender entirely to the will and pleasure of their husband (Dennis, 1987, p.33).

On the other hand, Frances Henri has a different opinion. Her thought about marriage against the conventional view and meets the concept of feminism, which says that women should not obtain matrimony as their sole means of social position, so the principle of female independence should be a fundamental in her choice of life style (Foster, 1985, p.8-9). Thus, by having different opinion about marriage, Frances Henri can be said as ahead of her time.

### **3.2.2 Frances Henri as a Wife**

As a wife, Frances Henri is ahead of time. Nevertheless, she seems to be similar with other Victorian women by adopting the conventional value about wife's responsibility. However, she has different view from most Victorian women. The thing that differentiates her from Victorian women in common is her reason in taking the role as a wife, which based on her own wish.

She seems to adopt the conventional view about woman's responsibility. Victorian value believes that it is a woman's responsibility to make a happy home and devote herself to the service of others within it. In addition, "women's noblest occupation is in the household sphere, fulfilling the domestic duties which call forth the best energies of female character" (Kanner, 1972, p.21). This is what Frances Henri does in running her role as a wife. She creates a happy home, as Crimsworth said, "...I then came home, for my home was my heaven..." (p. 240). Crimsworth's feeling about his home, and described it, as 'heaven' is a proof for Frances Henri's success in fulfilling her duty as a wife by creating a happy home.

Moreover, as a wife Frances Henri not only seems fulfill her 'duty' to make a happy home, but also fulfills the 'demand' of Victorian value which said that woman must consider herself inferior both mentally and physically to her husband (Pooley, 1963, p.491). Frances Henri looks up to Crimsworth and considers him as master in

all things. This is what Crimsworth feels, "...it was her pleasure, her joy to make me still the master in all things." (p. 240). In addition, although Frances Henri has become a directress, she still considers Crimsworth as her senior and director. As Crimsworth says, "...to be like child and a novice, and to acknowledge me as her senior and director" (p. 241).

Frances Henri does those things with the consideration that Crimsworth is also a Victorian. Although as a husband Crimsworth gives much understanding toward Frances Henri, he is still a Victorian man who, more or less adopts some conventional view about his position as a husband. No matter what position Frances Henri has outside the house, Crimsworth only likes to see Frances Henri as the little, sweet lace mender in her home as his wife. As he says, "...as I entered our private sitting-room, the lady directress vanished from my eyes, and Frances Henri, my own little lace-mender, was magically restored to my arms..." (p. 240).

However, the thing that differentiates Frances Henri's attitude as a wife is the reason behind it. The reason why Frances Henri wants to fulfill the demand of Victorian about women's duty as a wife is because of her own wish. As she says,

"I should have been, though, but for my master. I should never have suited any man but Professor Crimsworth- no other gentleman, French, English, or Belgian, would have thought me amiable or handsome; and I doubt whether I should have cared for the approbation of many others, if I could have obtained it..." (p. 244).

The quotation shows Frances Henri's freedom in taking her role as a wife since she does it based on her own wish. Her action suits with the concept of feminism in Women's Realities Women's Choices, which stated that women work for conditions that favor their independent control of their destinies (1983, p.4).

In this case, Frances Henri seems to be submissive toward the Victorian value concerning a wife should be. Nevertheless, the most important is that Frances Henri does it because of her own wish. This reason which differentiates her from most

Victorian women in common. Thus, Frances Henri can be said as a person who is ahead of time.

### **3.2.3 Frances Henri as a Mother**

As a mother, Frances Henri is ahead of time. She is called so since she is able to handle two roles well. She is different from Victorian women in common who only 'concentrate' in their roles as mothers without having other roles as workingwomen.

In acting as a mother, Frances Henri seems to be a good mother. She can be a tender nurse for she comforts her son best. As Crimsworth said, "...and then I lifted him in my arms and carried him to his mother, sure that she would comfort him best." (p. 252). Crimsworth's certainty proves that Frances Henri is a good mother for she comforts her son best.

Moreover, Frances Henri gives much attention to her son. She always gives her son a goodnight kiss. She also Checks her son's health.

"...she bent above the pillow and hung over a child asleep; its slumber (that evening at least, and usually, I believe) was sound and calm; no tear wet its dark eyelashes; no fever heated its round cheek; no ill discomposed its buddy features.....She stooped closer over him, breathed the softest of kisses on his brow..." (p. 242)

It is not easy to handle two roles all at once. As it is known, Frances Henri is not only a housewife, but also a career woman. However, she is able to handle her two roles as a workingwoman and a mother. The quotation above proves that Frances Henri is able to do her 'duty' as a mother although she also has another responsibility by having a career.

Frances Henri seems to be similar with the other Victorian women who become mothers. Besides, Frances Henri's attitude as a mother fulfills the demand of Victorian value about woman as a mother. Women, in the appropriate arena of home must be "the tender nurse, the patient instructress, the sympathizing and forgiving

counselor, receiving back from her children the recompense of her own filial affection” (Foster, 1985, p.6).

Nevertheless, by having a close relationship with her son, Frances Henri also proves that her role as a workingwoman does not obstruct her in being a good mother. It matches with the concept of feminism, which says, “ A working mother can establish just as warm and secure relationship with her children as a mother who does not work” (Women Today, 1980, p.34). Frances Henri succeeds in proving it. Moreover, what Frances Henri does in combining two roles as a workingwoman and a mother is different from most Victorian women who take a housewife as their only role. In addition, her action is against the Victorian value, which forbids woman to have other choices besides marriage, and it will be regarded as unnatural thing (Foster, 1985, p.7). Hence, Frances Henri can be said as a person who is ahead of time.

