

## ABSTRACT

Oscar Wilde was a consciously professional writer whose literary ideas were expressed within a particular situation, whose art was effectively mediation between hopes and possibilities. The Importance of Being Earnest is Wilde's greatest play. This play basically portrays the social condition of the Victorian age that offers pressures for the main characters. Therefore, I am curious to know the social pressures that are experienced by the main characters and the impacts of the pressures on them. Through the study I want to show that family and conventions of the century exert pressures for the main characters. Thus, I also want to show that the social pressures bring some impacts on them since they are stressful because of the pressures. In order to achieve the purpose in studying this topic, I use literary approach such as characterization, conflict and setting to analyze the social pressures of the main characters. Besides, I also use concepts of social pressure, hypocrisy and lying in order to analyze the impacts of the pressures on them. Finally, from my analysis, I find out that the main characters, Algernon Jack, Gwendolen and Cecily, experience the pressures from the society and try to escape from the pressures. Actually, they get pressures from their families and the conventions of the society. Families are considered to be the social pressure for the main characters since families are the representative of the society and are shaped by the society. Algernon get pressures from his aunt and his family duties attending the dinner parties. He is stressful, because of that he becomes a playful person and leads double lives in order to escape from the pressures. However, his double lives have made him live in lying.

Jack is also get pressure from his society because he has to keep his good image as a guardian. He also cannot go to town freely because of his responsibility toward his ward. Therefore, those conditions make him stressful. Then, in order to escape from the pressures, he leads double lives. However, by leading double lives, he lives in lying in order to keep his secret. Gwendolen is also under the domination of her mother, Lady Bracknell. It is shown from her disagreement over her marriage with Jack. However, she cannot oppose her mother directly, that's why she runs away from home. The last main character, Cecily, also gets pressure from her society. She is obliged to study German she disliked. She has to obey the convention of the century to study the prestigious language. Therefore, she becomes a sad person because of the pressure, and she always tries every opportunity to escape from studying German.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I thank God for helping me to finish my thesis. He has given me the strength when I felt desperate. I believe that I cannot do my thesis well without His guidance. Thank You God, I love You so much. Then, I also want to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Gurito who has spent much time for me in order to help me finish my thesis. May God bless him and his family.

I also would like to give my great gratitude to my beloved parents, who have supported me and prayed for me every time. They are my motivation to finish my thesis soon. Then, my special thank is dedicated to my boyfriend, Sony, for his supports, prayers, and for accompanying me to meet my advisor. Finally, I thank all the teachers of the faculty of letters of Petra for their knowledge that they have shared me.

May God bless them all.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

Title.....	i
Abstract.....	ii-iii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Table of Content.....	v-vii
<b>Chapter I: Introduction</b>	
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1-4
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	4
1.4 Importance of the Study.....	5
1.5 Scope and Limitation.....	5
1.6 Methodology.....	5-6
1.7 Organization of the Study.....	6
<b>Chapter II: Review of Related Literature</b>	
2.1 Review of Related Theories.....	7
2.1.1 Literary Theories.....	7
2.1.1.1 Characters and Characterization.....	8-9
2.1.1.2 Conflict.....	9-10
2.1.1.3 Setting.....	10-11
2.1.2 Concepts.....	11
2.1.2.1 Concept of Social Pressure.....	11-12

2.1.2.2	Concept of Hypocrisy.....	12
2.1.2.3	Concept of Lying.....	12-13

**Chapter III: The Social Pressures and their Impacts on the Main Characters in Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest.....14**

3.1	The Social Pressures of Algy and their Impacts.....	15
3.1.1	The Social Pressures of Algy.....	15
3.1.1.1	The Domination of Lady Bracknel over Him.....	15-18
3.1.1.2	The Obligation to Do Family Duties.....	18-19
3.1.2	The Impacts of the Pressures on Him.....	19
3.1.2.1	He Becomes A Playful Person.....	19-23
3.1.2.2	He Leads Double Lives.....	23-24
3.1.2.2.1	The Impacts of Algy’s Double Lives.....	24-25
3.1.2.2.1.1	He Lives in Lying.....	25-27
3.2	The Social Pressures and their Impacts on Jack.....	27-28
3.2.1	The Social Pressures on Jack.....	28
3.2.1.1	He Must Keep A Good Image as A Guardian.....	28-29
3.2.1.2	He Cannot Go to Town Freely Because of His Responsibility toward Cecily.....	30
3.2.2	The Impacts of the Pressures on Him.....	30-31
3.2.2.1	He Leads Double Lives.....	31-32
3.2.2.1.1	The Impacts of Jack’s Double Lives.....	32
3.2.2.1.1.1	He Lives in Lying.....	32-34

3.3	The Social Pressures and their Impact on Gwendolen.....	34
3.3.1	The Social Pressures on Gwendolen.....	34
3.3.1.1	The Domination of Her Mother, Lady Bracknell, over Her.....	34-37
3.3.1.2	The Disagreement of Lady Bracknell over Her Marriage with Jack.....	37-38
3.3.2	The Impact of the Social Pressures in Her Life.....	38
3.3.2.1	She Run Away from Home.....	38-39
3.4	The Social Pressure and Its Impacts on Cecily.....	39
3.4.1	The Social Pressure on Cecily Cardew.....	39
3.4.1.1	She Has to Study German She Disliked.....	39-41
3.4.2	The Impact of the Pressure on Her.....	41
3.4.2.1	She Becomes A Sad Person.....	41-42
3.4.2.2	She Tries to Escape from Studying.....	42-43
<b>Chapter IV: Conclusion.....</b>		<b>44-46</b>

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **APPENDIX:**

- I. Biography
- II. Synopsis