



*Corresponding author: Supriyono,
Universitas Gajah Mada, Yogyakarta,
Indonesia

E-mail: supriyono_english@ugm.ac.id

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Ambiguity of Men's Hegemony In American

Supriyono

Universitas Gajah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Abstract: Women in male domination and at the same time defends men with the dominance they have. This shows that there is an ambiguous attitude of a woman in responding to the discourse of male domination, injustice in the role of women and affirming women's resistance to male domination. From this, the main problem is the subject's response in dealing with the discourse of male domination through women's resistance strategies through participation in society. The concept or theory and research method used is hegemony. The results obtained are the idea of equality in education being used as a resistance strategy in the discourse of male domination and at the same time strengthening women's resistance to male domination. In addition, the strategy also developed the idea of women's strength based on educational equality, namely through access to higher education

Keywords: women, male domination, resistance, Ambiguity

1. Introduction

This woman finally got into college and worked as a school librarian who made her meet with her future husband. Despite their social and economic differences, they eventually get married. And it is also known that after they get married, these women and men have different political views. The woman supports the Democratic Party while her husband supports the Republican Party. Including in the presidential election, when there is a question that arises when an American female writer writes about the subject of women in which shows how the role of women is still dominated by the central role of men. The conclusions in some American women's literature show that they show the central point of women with various traditions defending the position of women in the family, in the work environment and also in society or social life.

The position of the author shows in literary works showing an ambiguity, partiality in the way of a woman's mind and at the same time disagreement over the way of thinking of male subjects. This fact makes the point of view that literature is a form of subject struggle in the midst of encounters of various traditions of male domination in the family, job titles and also social positions in society, (Stoddart and Stoddart 2015).

Elizabeth Curtis Sittenfeld, an American female writer, produces several novel works that discuss the world of women in twenty-first century America. Some of the works produced were *The Man of My Dream* (2006), *American Wife* (2008), *Eligible* (2016), *Sisterland* (2013) and *Prep* (2005). Researchers see Sittenfeld's three works namely *The Man of My Dream* (2006), *American Wife* (2008), and *Eligible* (2016) as a form to compare research based on the theme of the title and also aspects of the novel content discussed that illustrate the dynamics of the community's perceptions that surround it.

Curtis Sittenfeld *The Man of My Dream* (2006) presents the socioeconomic conditions at that time. In this novel it is stated that a woman has dreamed of an ideal man who will be her soul mate in the future. After experiencing some problems in relationships with some of the



men she met from adolescence to college, she finally tried to make peace with herself when she was in her late twenties. He found that the adventure of love carried out so far had been strongly criticized by his father and proved that in the end he needed a man who could look after him both materially and socially. The idea of a man living in prosperity contested by some of the women around him became real to the woman. By gaining prosperity, he will achieve what he wants. They must get a lot of money if they want to spend a lot of things to meet their needs. The dominance of money with all aspects that can be achieved by people who get it, influences how hegemony finally formed from the social and cultural about money that is in this society. In the social view of money shows money acts as a medium of exchange in trade. In the view of money culture shows social status. The more money they have, the person will be seen as someone with power.

When one's profession determines the prosperity and lifestyle that he wants to live in the twenty-first century, it can be seen that *The Man of My Dream* shows how an independent woman still needs or depends on men in a stable married life. In such conditions, *The Man of My Dream* tells how the power of money and social status as a medium of self-existence are accepted by the community. It represents how money and social status have a profound impact on life. Researchers here will identify how male hegemony towards women is part of the impact of prevailing views in a financially and economically dominated society on the main characters in the novel.

The novel is used as mental evidence for this research as a product of the ongoing circumstances including people, and society that cannot be separated from one another. Novels are a form of reflection or imitation of society. So that a novel describes what the writer faces in the society where he lives. As a social phenomenon, literature cannot come out of traditions and norms that are held in high esteem in the society in which the author lives (Wellek 1977) As stated by Goldmann

The literary work must be related to historical subjects, not to some sphere outside history. It is in this way that a text's sociality and communicability can be captured. [...] The literary work is critical insofar as it displays the author's creativity and originality in his relation to society. [...] the writer is caught between the need to deform and to organize, to remember and to forget in relation to the cultural system from which he takes his language (Goldmann 1981)

Meanwhile, in Sittenfeld's other work *American Wife* (2008), how the role of a wife is very important in supporting a husband's career. In the field of politics that shows how women who actually have a very large role as the wife of a politician and on the other hand also have the same power as the politician must be hegemony by the views of men in power. In the novel outline shows that the dominance of men in the political field hegemony women in their roles as citizens who have the same rights in government. When reflecting on the American government system since its establishment until now there has never been a female president. In this novel, it is told how women who have the same rights in the political system are hegemony by views about leaders according to their society.

The woman who is the main character is described as a woman who has experienced relationships with several men before finally becoming a politician. In his youth, this woman had a boy friend during school. The male friend died due to an accident caused by him. As a form of remorse and guilt, he allowed himself to have a relationship with the brother of the man. This relationship makes her pregnant out of wedlock which in turn is a disgrace for her future. And finally, she decided to have an abortion in her pregnancy. Her husband becomes a presidential candidate, the woman still has her own choices about presidential candidates that are different from her husband.

In the end, her husband was elected president and when this woman became the first lady and accidentally met a doctor who had an abortion on her first, the doctor threatened to expose her past. The woman experienced doubts when knowing this, on the one hand politically she was at odds with her husband but in family life this could threaten her

husband's political career. In the end this threat was not too dangerous because with the power of her husband, the doctor became silent and a few days later was found dead.

The third novel, *Eligible* mentioned that how the position of women is mentioned as dependent and hegemony by social status and by material needs which shows how this view is so gripping the women told in the novel that are then viewed from the point of view of American female writers. How about a family with several women who live in the same house, see a woman who is very dependent on the presence of men. Having a man as a companion gives him certainty in the material and needs that must be met.

In this novel it is mentioned that there are families with five daughters who are old enough to get married. Two of them approached the age of forty, namely Liz and Jane, 38 and 39, who had just returned to their home in Cincinnati from New York after learning that their father Bennet had suffered a heart attack. The other three daughters in their twenties are Kitty, Mary and Lydia. At one time it was mentioned that there was a doctor named, Chip who was invited to a barbecue party. On this occasion Bennet tried to introduce the two eldest children to Chip and his friend, Darcy.

In the end Liz is in a relationship with Darcy and Chip is in a relationship with Jane. Chip thinks his relationship with Jane is short and hurried. Meanwhile, Liz thought the relationship with Darcy was not smooth from the start because he knew that Darcy was rude and annoying but their relationship was only related to sex. In the end Jane and Liz realized that Bennet was managing this all because of his deteriorating health which made him spend a lot of money on his medical expenses. The house occupied by them will also be sold and the other three children have been advised to rent an apartment for each of them.

Jane finally proposed to Chip. Chip has a contract with the TV show program, *Eligible*, where he can get married a year later or make his wedding a part filmed on the show. Jane agreed that their marriage was filmed and made an *Eligible* event. All families here are given a live interview session, including a private family discussion. Including the problem of the relationship between Darcy and Liz, where there is no clarity about their status. It was also directly stated that Liz asked Darcy to want to marry him and finally Darcy said he was willing. When the Bennett family appeared on the *Eligible* program, Mary reflected on how her sister was so obsessed with men. He thinks that he is still happier by pursuing a career, working on his hobbies and staying single.

The phenomenon of women's dependence on men in both relationships and social status is reflected in the works of E C Sittenfeld *the Man of My Dreams* (2006), *American Wife* (2008) and *Eligible* (2016). Researchers show three novels with an American female writer with several reasons for the selection are as follows: a) The three novels have the same characteristics, namely how men dominate women in social life and society and also the side of women's dependence, b) The similarity of problems namely how social status in society is greatly influenced by male domination. c) There are similarities about the problem of women who are always not confident with the social status they have in society and how they compromise it from the point of view of women writers. the hegemony.

Some preliminary studies have confirmed the initial assumption that in American women's literary work put forward by Curtis Sittenfeld shows resistance to male hegemony and also considers the prevalence of male domination of women, this ambivalent attitude is the impact of male domination of women in several fields of family, profession and social life.

Ambiguity is an inseparable part of this discussion. Based on the previous statements and discussions, the main problem of this paper is women in male domination written by American women writers, one of which is embodied in the idea of ambiguity represented by Curtis Sittenfeld's work in the text *American Wife* (2008). Based on this background, the problem questions in this paper are 1. *American Wife* (2008) by Curtis Sittenfeld represents the hegemony of men to women, using social views to describe the hegemony in society that

occurs. Second, how American women negotiate men's hegemony. Third, what resistance is formed.

The purpose of this study is as follows, the first, revealing how Curtis Sittenfeld represents male hegemony over women, using social views to describe the hegemony in society that occurs. The second, reveals how American women negotiate men's hegemony. The third, expressing the resistance that occurs.

The main benefit of this research is as an effort to reconstruct the idea of women's struggle, namely the articulation of women in facing male domination as a fact of mentality in women's lives. Another benefit that can be obtained is that women's resistance to male hegemony is an inseparable part in the dynamics of global society that will continue.

The relationship between families in America and the social conditions around them also shows the relationship of power and economy. Therefore, researchers use the concept of Gramsci hegemony. As referring to Gramsci's difference between 'civilian' and society, 'political', and hegemony 'non-coercive' units such as families, schools, trade unions, and state institutions (Williams 1977).

The approach using Gramsci's theory is used to see that even in families there is hegemony between men and women. This hegemony can be seen clearly or through the narration conveyed in the novel. Some of the things that often happen are because of prevailing social views.

Raymond Williams in *Marxism and Literature* (1977) points out several key concepts regarding hegemony, especially hegemony referring to the ruling class oppressing the people. So for this analysis the researcher focuses on the concept of hegemony which refers to forces that are suitable for analyzing novels of how power is used to dominate the mastered. And this is more to see men who hegemony women by using existing social and cultural views.

1. Hegemony constitutes lived experience, "a sense of reality for most people in the society, a sense of absolute because experienced reality beyond which it is very difficult for most members of the society to move, in most areas of their lives"
2. Hegemony exceeds ideology "in its refusal to equate consciousness with the articulate formal system which can be and ordinarily abstracted as 'ideology'"
3. Hegemony is dynamic - "It does not just passively exist as a form of dominance. It has continually to be renewed, recreated, defended, and modified. It is also continually resisted, limited, altered, challenged by pressures not all its own."
4. One can argue persuasively that "the dominant culture, so to say, at once produces and limits its own forms of counter-culture."
5. Hegemony is not necessarily total – "It is misleading, as a general method, to reduce all political and cultural initiatives and contributions to the terms of the hegemony."
(Williams 1977)

Gramsci even emphasized that basic politics, political activities and culture were centered on achieving and maintaining power. The popular beliefs, the traditions, the customs, and the past usages that together form the "common sense" of the masses, and that tend to preserve the supremacy of the ruling groups, are to be transcended into a new philosophy and a new knowledge defined by a critical self-consciousness, a "*comprensione critica di se stessi*." (Fontana 1993)

Gramsci uses hegemony as a way to describe the position of class leadership in the alliance of other classes. Furthermore, power is based, according to Gramsci, with "dual opposition: strength and consent, violence and persuasion, authority and hegemony, individual and universal moments" (Fontana 1993). Thus, hegemony in general can be expressed as superiority or supremacy that the state, social groups, or even individuals can carry out more than anyone else. Hegemony cannot be separated from power and individuals who hold power. Individuals making up the ruling class have among other consciousnesses, and

therefore think and regulate the production and distribution of ideas, and thus their ideas are the ruling ideas of that era (Munslow and Munslow 2011). All quotes imply that hegemony can change in any type of form. This can be in the form of attitudes, rules, and other material things to force people to decide to obey or adhere to norms.

Elite people in society have power, where they have knowledge and through power and knowledge they create a dominant culture. When holding a dominant force manifested in a culture, the elite try to defend the privilege of this authority. Thus, hegemony and dominance are related to each other and inseparable where they are, thus, creating a new culture for people to decide to carry out. Therefore it makes sense that Gramsci stressed in particular the role of culture as the center of hegemony (Lipsitz 1988).

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Gramsci's ideas about hegemony especially ideology, culture, philosophy, and organizers are in line with and truly support the ideas of researchers in an effort to express hegemony referring to people from social, cultural, political and economic. So in *the American Wife* novel (2008) we will see how men control their resources socially, culturally, politically and economically. After all is seen as a strength of men over women, it will be seen further how men use that power to hegemony the women described in *American Wife* (2008)

2. Research Method and Materials

By applying qualitative research methods the results of the research will emphasize descriptive data in the form of words. According to Bogdan and Taylor "Qualitative methods are a research procedure, which produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people and their behavior that are observed ((Bogdan, Taylor, and Wiley-1975), h.241-243) Denzin and Lincoln reinforce that qualitative research includes multimethod approaches to understanding human experience "Qualitative research use semiotics, narrative, content, discourse, archival, and phonemic analysis, even statistics, tables, graphs, and numbers" ((Dezin, Norman K. and Lincoln 2005), h.5). In this research design, researchers used the Myth and Symbol approach and Discipline Reconciliation, using data from the novel to explore narratives, story content and also the implied meaning of symbols and myths. Researchers dig deeper according to the Discipline Reconciliation approach, using historical, political, social, economic and cultural approaches.

In this research, information gathering is also related to personal experiences, introspection, life stories, observations, history, interactions and visual texts at important and meaningful moments in human life depicted in the novel by using the concept of hegemony. This shows that qualitative research involves interpretation to analyze the subjects in the study. In this case, each researcher has a different interpretation from one another so it is necessary to check the data repeatedly and thoroughly for maximum results. This research focuses on analyzing selected literary works, namely: Elizabeth Curtis Sittenfeld's *The Man of My Dreams*.



The object of material study of the research is the text of *American Wife* (2008) by Curtis Sittenfeld. The formal object is the ambiguity of the subject of American female authors who are hegemony by men in facing male domination. Data sources were obtained from the text of *American Wife* (2008) and all libraries that have relevance to the research topic. Data collection techniques are done by reading and recording the information needed. Based on these objectives, in general the data analysis method used in this hegemony study uses the deconstruction method (Faruk. 2007)

This method includes several steps. First, read the text by reading the binary opposition to the hegemony discourse contained in Curtis Sittenfeld's *American Wife* (2008), to find basic ideas, thematic unity, and rhetorical means that allow delay and make the assumption split. The second step is to analyze the intended subject, as a marginalized subject and at the same time decentralize the unity of male hegemony discourse by basing on the articulation revealed by the text he wrote. This reading is also carried out deconstructed by revealing the hegemony of the subject's relationship with male domination.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. *Inauguration of Male Hegemony: Men as breadwinners*

Men are seen as responsible for making a living in family life and in social life. Men play a big enough role in making a living. History also notes that men become breadwinners seen from the American workforce in general that the labor force in the early 20th century until the 21st century shows that America itself is dominated by men. Domineering men in general have a huge influence as a workforce. Not only the labor force but in everyday life that men are positioned as those who are more responsible in sustaining the family economy. Big responsibility and also the demands that are carried out are also great, making men as breadwinners increasingly confirms that men are worthy and also have the right to get something more respectful in society (Connell and Messerschmidt 2005).

Society views that working men are a form of responsibility and an inseparable part as a dominant role in the family and community (Chase-Dunn et al. 1994). Conversely, if a man does not work he will be demeaned and also considered lazy and dishonorable. Seeing that men as breadwinners is a very clear part of showing that men are the main source of the economy that sustains a family. Families that become one of the small institutions that are supported will be easily influenced and also treated as an inferior part in the context of power or power. So thus, when men are seen as the main breadwinners in the family so that it also dominates the family. This is the order of society which affirms the hegemony of men in society. (Christensen and Jensen 2014)

My parents both had grown up in Milwaukee and met in 1943, when my mother was eighteen and working in a glove factory, and my father was twenty and working at a branch of Wisconsin State Bank & Trust. They struck up a conversation in a soda shop, and were engaged by the time my father enlisted in the army. After the war ended, they married and moved forty-five miles west to Riley, my father's mother in tow, so he could open a branch of the bank there. My mother never again held a job. As a housewife, she had a light touch—she did not seem overburdened or cranky, she didn't remind the rest of us how much she did—and yet she sewed many of her own and my clothes, kept the house meticulous, and always prepared our meals. The food we ate was acceptable more often than delicious; she favored pan-broiled steak, or noodle and cheese loafs, and she taught me her recipes in a low-key, literal way, never explaining why I needed to know them. Why wouldn't I need to know them? She was endlessly patient and a purveyor of small, sweet gestures: Without commenting, she'd leave pretty ribbons or peppermint candies on my bed or, on my bureau, a single flower in a three-inch vase.

My mother was the second youngest of eight siblings, none of whom we saw frequently. She had five brothers and two sisters, and only one of her sisters, my Aunt Marie, who was married to a mechanic and had six children, had ever come to Riley. When my mother's parents were still alive, we'd drive to visit them in Milwaukee, but they died within ten days of each other when I was six, and after that we'd go years without seeing my aunts, uncles, and cousins. My impression was that their houses all were small and crowded, filled with the squabbling of children and the smell of sour milk, and the men were terse and the women were harried; in a way that was not cruel, none of them appeared to be particularly interested in us. We visited less and less the older I got, and my father's mother never went along, although she'd ask us to pick up schnecken from her favorite German bakery. In my childhood, there was a relieved feeling that came over me when we drove away from one of my aunt's or uncle's houses, a feeling I tried to suppress because I knew even then that it was unchristian. Without anyone in my immediate family saying so, I came to understand that my mother had chosen us; she had chosen our life together over one like her siblings', and the fact that she'd been able to choose made her lucky ((Sittenfeld 2008), p.4)

A single daughter who lives separated from her extended family which ultimately makes it the best and profitable decision ever made. Sittenfeld illustrates in this novel how family life can make a person stronger or even better in terms of quality of life. The text of *American Wife* (2008) says that the life of a woman in the family will become disorganized if the family member consists of many children and lives in one family in one house. Male hegemony over women occurs when men who are the head of the family or breadwinner are the only ones who produce material or money to support the existing family,(Ortner 1989). The father of the main female character is described as the owner of strength and power which includes the financial capabilities and head of the family that sustains the economy of a family. The mother shown in this picture also shows how she is hegemonyed by men in relation to the life of the role they are living. When deciding to get married, this mother becomes without work and without pay, which means she has to serve in domestic jobs related to food and cooking, also related to clothing and clothing. By doing domestic work like that, Alice depends on the income given by her husband. However, based on the above quote it is also stated that the woman mentioned as a mother finally chose the new life as a gift also because in life with a large family also experienced things that are less pleasant due to lack of material and inadequate living space when gathering with family the size of which consists of more brothers than sisters.

I'm pretty sure that rather than resisting this less than flattering view of herself, my grandmother shared it. In another era, I imagine she'd have made an excellent book critic for a newspaper, or even an English professor, but she'd never attended college, and neither had my parents. My grandmother's husband, my father's father, had died early, and as a young widow, my grandmother had gone to work in a ladies' dress shop, waiting on Milwaukee matrons who, as she told it, had money but not taste. She'd held this job until the age of fifty—fifty was older then than it is now—at which point she'd moved to Riley with my newlywed parents (Sittenfeld 2008),

The text of *American Wife* (2008) confirms in this view that a woman can be independent without the presence of men. However, the applicable value is not as easy as it is. A woman becomes the backbone of the family when her husband dies when her husband is young and the wife also tries that she must work independently to support the family's economy. Hegemony of men to women that occurs is when the situation develops in such a way, then women seem to be forced by circumstances to work not because they have previously worked (Sallach and Sallach 2016). Men become leaders in the family as part of the responsibilities and order in force in the existing community(Chase-Dunn et al. 1994). Men get this position makes men have a dominant position in their family. As the head of the household, he has greater responsibilities and rights. Men make the family a place where they get their hegemony(Demetriou 2001).

3.2. Discussion and Finding

The text of *American Wife* (2008) has a general idea, namely that men are dominant with women who are strong. This is described as two beings who actually complement each other but there will always be a tug of strength with each other.

Charlie with all his abilities and also Alice with experience that according to him extraordinary but in the end shows how Charlie is so powerful in front of Alice. Alice herself admits that looking at Charlie is greater in this journey. Men's hegemony over women as an inseparable part of social relations makes it natural that when men are economically and financially stronger than women, they will strengthen one another, even though men basically have control more towards women without these women feeling controlled by men.

“You lecture me on how to behave, but you might want to save some of your etiquette lessons for your grandmother.”

“Charlie, she’s eighty-two years old. And she was joking around.”

“You must find her a hell of a lot funnier than I do. You’ll give me crap for saying this, but there are quite a few nice Republican girls out there who’d be plenty happy to date me.”

“I’m sure that’s true.”

“If we’re going to stay together, I need your support. Running for office puts pressure on a man. I’ve watched my father go through it, and now my brother, and it ain’t easy. It’s exhausting. I have to go out there and convince voters that I deserve to be elected, but if I can’t even convince the girl I’m dating, how ass-backward is that?” (Sittenfeld 2008), p. 19)

The 2008 *American Wife* text states that the relationship between men and women that can occur is also closely related to ambitions and also men's ideals about the future to be achieved. Even men who have strength and power basically have weak points with their date. Alice is described as an ordinary girl and Charlie says that he deserves to be respected and also respected with all social status and also the strength he has. Charlie forced his will on Alice and also threatened with his position that he could get what was more than just Alice. Alice was looked down on and also considered less valuable. But from here also it appears how the hegemony counters happened from the hegemony of men to women into a resistance from Alice's own family, namely her grandmother who was eighty-two years old. From the conversation that emerged, Charlie felt that he could not control what he was supposed to control with the power he had. The grandmother of Alice showed strength as an educated woman and also with her position she was able to express her opinion that was contrary to Charlie. Alice herself realized that herself and also her family could be considered only a small thing compared to the position of Charlie and his family at that time. This did not prevent Alice's grandmother from expressing her opinion and also that opinion was considered offensive and different with Charlie.

The hegemony counters appear and respond to Charlie by showing his position and also his class. Though it does not make Alice feel depressed even though on the other side still recognizes the power that Charlie has. So it can also be mentioned that Charlie tried to show his position and strength but Alice himself did not really care and also Charlie himself even pleaded to get support from the people closest to him, including here is Alice as her date.

“As a public servant, you rally your supporters, and you try to win over the people on the fence, but your detractors, forget it. You’ll never get ’em. If you’re smart, that’s not how you use your time.”

We both were quiet, and I said, “What about this: What if we don’t talk about the political stuff? Spending time with you this summer has been the most fun I’ve ever had. It really has. But I don’t want to pretend that I believe things I don’t. I don’t want to stand at a rally chanting slogans.” (The number of times I have stood at a rally chanting slogans, chanting

onstage, with cameras rolling—years and years ago, I lost count.) “What if I support you not as a politician but as a person?” I continued. “What if we put our differences to one side, you don’t try to convince me and I don’t try to convince you, and we just appreciate being together? Am I crazy, or is that possible? I can assure you I’ll never tell anyone if I disagree with you—that’s no one’s business but ours.”

“Let me get this straight,” he said. “I’m running for Congress on the Republican ticket, you’re a hippie who promises not to admit it in public or around my family, and together we make beautiful music?”

I hesitated. “Something like that.”

“And I can’t even try to convince you that Jimmy Carter is a pathetic chump?” But his tone had lightened; I didn’t need to hear him say we were on the same side again to know we were. “To answer your question,” he added, “no, you’re not remotely crazy. I’ve dated crazy girls, and you don’t qualify.”

“Thank you.” (Sittenfeld 2008)

Sittenfeld (2008) in a quote in this novel states that although women have differences with men and even though the position of women may be considered weak and helpless compared to men who are partners. When Alice expresses a personal opinion that is contrary to political attitudes that are different from her male friend, Alice tries to reveal the truth that is also bitter that she has different choices with men who date her. Alice realized that the man she was dealing with had power and power. Alice considers that a serious relationship with Charlie as a relationship between two human beings, it does not need to involve politics and all its consequences. The love relationship between two people who support each other but not with political choices. For Charlie this is not a natural thing. Charlie (*American Wife* 100) remains with his conviction that he has power over his partner. Alice tried to emphasize that the political choices need not be shown in public disclosure. Only as a political choice as possible in public will be shown by Alice's support of Charlie for politics but not necessarily by his political choices.

Alice declared by humbling herself before Charlie. By saying crazy with all the madness that he said in front of Charlie, Alice is actually showing herself who has better quality in diplomacy. By humbling himself also finally makes Charlie heart melted and can accept the reasons Alice put forward about his political choices. Charlie forced his will on Alice, Alice tried to express her opinion by thinking herself crazy to finally get her approval from Charlie. The hegemony counters that emerge from this indicated attitude are by succumbing to showing their weaknesses but still trying to show their opinions or opinions. Not by whining but acknowledging the shortcomings they have.

The ambiguity of the writer of this novel is a form of finding ways that women's resistance to men's hegemony cannot be directly opposed, but a form of surrender as part of diplomacy is needed (Christensen and Jensen 2014), (Sallach and Sallach 2016). In the context of position, the author of the novel shows the male dominance in family, political and social life. On the other hand, he also showed that women who have high educational intelligence and physical form that are considered attractive can also defeat the dominance of men. This is often referred to as ambiguity because it becomes a form of negotiation to trick the discourse that is encountered. This is as seen in the literary text of *American Wife* (2008) as well as in cultural practices or the life history of the author. Ambiguity hides a woman's resistance and also broadens the perspective that women and men are complementary forces in family, social and political life.

4. Conclusion

The ambiguity in the *American Wife* (2008) by Curtis Sittenfeld is an American women's writer's strategy in responding to men's hegemony towards women based on family, political and social life as well as affirming the role of women in the field. This ambiguity shows the assessment that women who oppose men are considered a bad part of society because women depend on the resources provided by men. However, in other practices the idea that women have the same role as men in the equal right to access higher education makes women strong on the one hand and on the other hand judged to be out of value. The subject of such writers who are considered ambiguous is basically an attempt to defend and fight at the same time, that women and men basically have sides to complement each other.

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