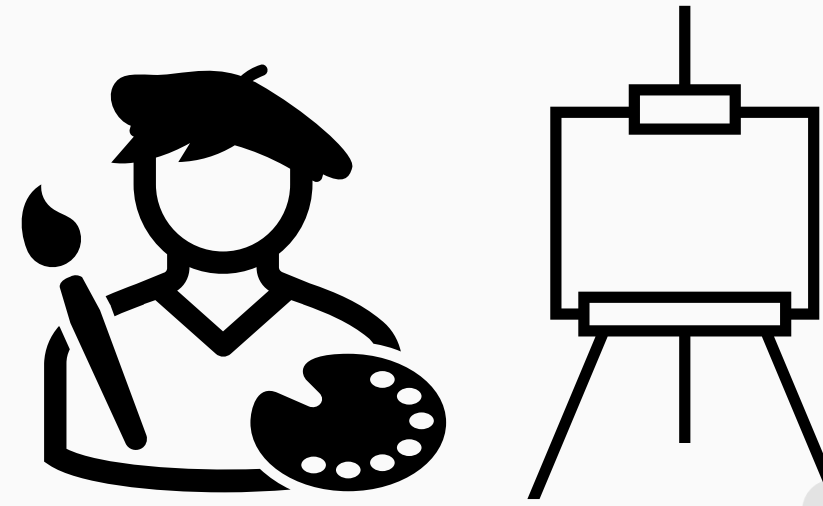

卒論発表

**Women's Oppression in *The Moon and Sixpence*:
From the Perspective of Feminist Criticism**

200111 Akari Saito

Summary

Main character · · · Strickland

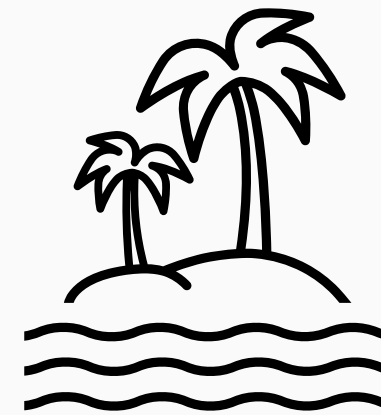


The story of a genius painter's life

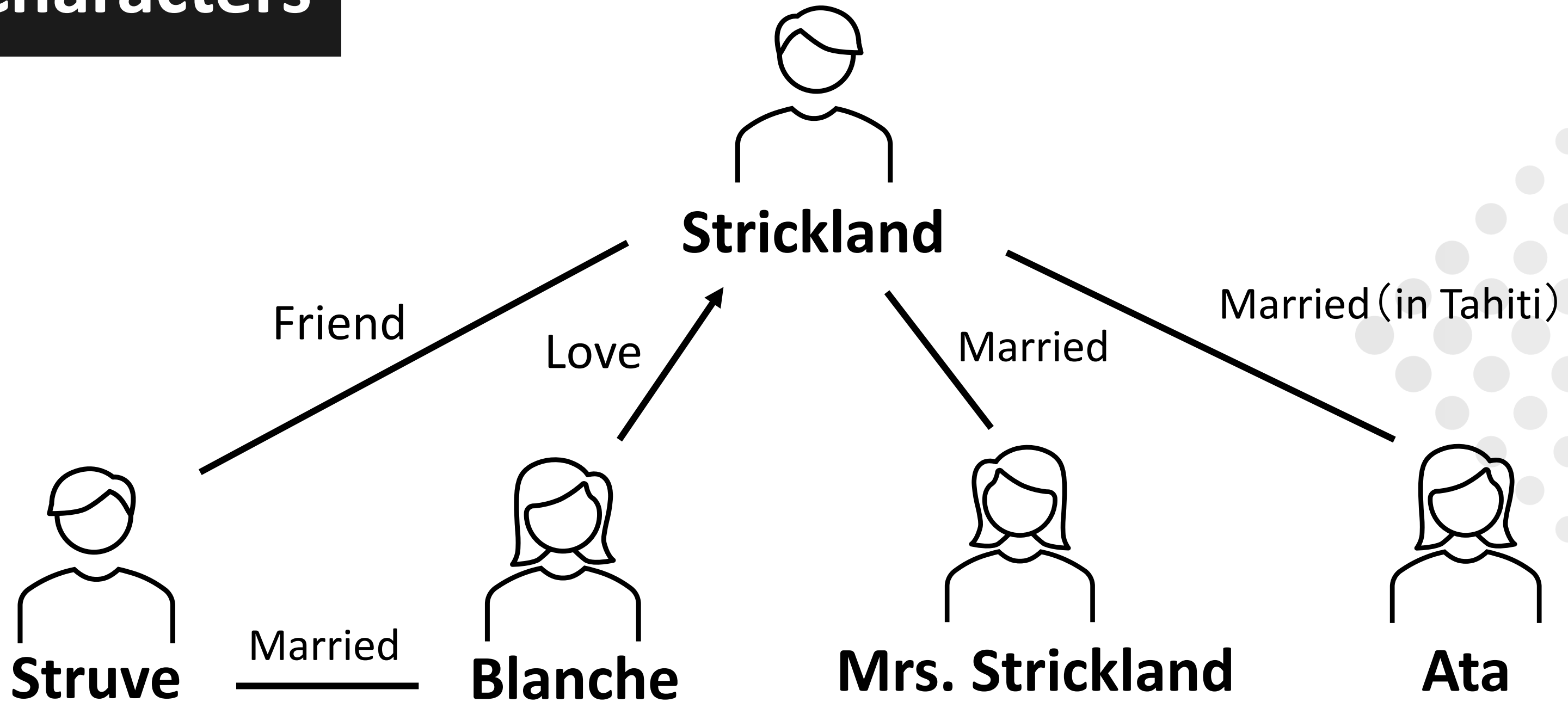
Strickland suddenly immersed himself in painting after the age of 40.

He abandoned his family and moved to Tahiti.

Eventually, he completes his masterpiece.



Characters



01

About this thesis

01



BACKGROUND

Few previous studies focused on female characters

→ From the perspective of feminist criticism, “*The Moon and Sixpence*” has **NOT** been sufficiently examined.

SUBJECT

To critique “*The Moon and Sixpence*” from the perspective of feminist criticism

PURPOSE

To identify what values about gender this work affirms or denies

METHOD

Analysis of the text from the perspective of feminist criticism

02

Depiction of male characters

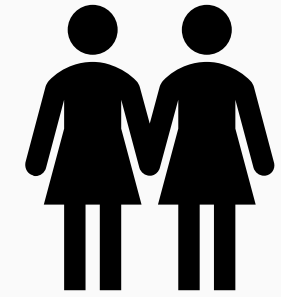
02

Disrespectful values towards women

“Women are mentally poor”

“Women are merely an outlet for sexual desire”

He puts his wife, Blanche in the role of “gentle wife”



His wife did not want to nurse Strickland. He said “Where is usual kind you?”

“You had some help when you were in a very difficult situation, didn’t you?
Don’t you want to help someone in the same way?”

He blames Blanche

“When I was a kid, I had declared that I was going to marry the neighbor’s daughter.
She would have given me a son who would have taken over my business.”

→He expects his wife to give birth to a child as a part of wife’s role. **He blames Blanche.**

03

Depiction of female characters

03

03

Mrs. Strickland

Caring about other's opinions and be manipulative

Spread **false** rumors



Strickland eloped with a woman



Gathering sympathy from others

Ashamed to earn money

“I am ashamed to have a successful business even though I am women.”

【To summarize . . .】

Because she is woman, she has to care about other's opinions

Because she is a woman, she is ashamed of her business talents

→ **Gender-based oppression**

03

Blanche (Stuve's wife)

She has a history of being **saved** by her husband



She was a live-in governess in an aristocratic home.

She became pregnant by the family's son and expelled from home.

When she tried to commit suicide, Struve walked by and took her as his wife.

【To summarize . . .】

Because she is woman, she suffered from pregnancy

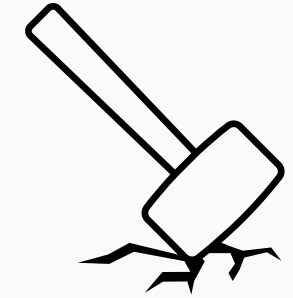


She may feel pressure to be a good wife because she owed him and needed male presence to be accepted in society

→ **Gender-based oppression**

She is a convenient and **slave-like** existence for Strickland

She does all the housework and does not ask for anything in return from him
Strickland says “Ata gives me everything I want in women”



She supports Strickland **financially** as well

→Freeing Strickland from the burden of being a man in the patriarchal system of “providing for the family”, and subordinate to men as under patriarchy.

【To summarize . . .】

She is portrayed as the embodiment of the ideal for men, and must do everything by herself

→ **Gender-based oppression**

04

Comparison of male and female portrayals

04

【Common feature of men】 · · · · · Imposing their ideals on women

【Common feature of women】 · · · Oppressed because they are women

① Compared to men, women's innermost feelings are less discussed

→ **Women's dissatisfaction may not have surfaced**

② Women are judged by men's values

→ **This work affirms masculine values**

05

Conclusions

05



Conclusions

Female characters are subject to **gender-based oppression**.

Women who are convenient for men are valued as “good women”.



This work was written based on **masculine values** and previous studies **overlooked** that.

Significance

The comparison of male and female characters, which had not been done in previous studies.

Suggested an interpretation of this work as affirming masculine values.

Pointed out Struve's oppression of women.
