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Challenging the Patriarchal Norms: Examining Hegemonic Masculinity in *Dickinson* TV Series

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Abstract

In the 19th century, hegemonic masculinity and patriarchal system were part of the society and even became the norms that people believed and obeyed. Emily Dickinson, a female character in Dickinson series, had to deal with gender discrimination practiced by the patriarchal society, specifically by Edward Dickinson who is classified as a hegemonic masculine figure. This research aims to investigate the hegemonic masculinity experienced by the main female character in Dickinson Season 1, and how she challenged the notion of hegemonic masculinity. The writer uses descriptive qualitative method as well as the theory of hegemonic masculinity by Raewyn Connell. This study found that there were various traits of hegemonic masculinity that Emily had to face from the hegemonic masculine figure, such as authority, aggression, technical competence, and subordination of women. It also showed that the character in the series tried to challenge the hegemonic masculinity performed by her hegemonic father. The acts proved that the female character put effort in fighting against the injustice and discrimination toward her as a woman.

Keywords: *Dickinson TV Series, Gender Studies, Hegemonic Masculinity, Patriarchy.*

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Introduction

For the last few decades, it has been argued that men are seen as the dominants in social position. This perspective creates the concept of hegemonic masculinity, which has been utilized as a social structural notion to explain how masculinities are legitimized through social group and institutions (Morrell et al., 2012). Men are considered to embody hegemonic masculinity traits since they need it in order to perform their domination towards women and non-hegemonic masculine men. This is also practiced to other gender identities that are perceived as “feminine” in a given society (Aurita and Huda, 2020).

Hegemonic masculinity has existed for a long time. The existence of the practice sets normative standards because “it embodies the currently most honored way of being a man, requires all other men to position themselves in relation to it, and ideologically



legitimizes the subordination of women to men” (Sollund, 2020; Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005). Therefore, hegemonic masculinity has a really strong connection with the patriarchal system. It is the most basic and global form of gender inequality that privileges men based on their gender (Andersen & Wendt, 2015). Patriarchy also upholds its dominance over women through essentializing men and women as having different traits, sexualizing men and women as objects of desire, and socializing women as being either below or above the standard, i.e. men (Risman, 2017; Risman and David, 2013).

In history, patriarchy had something to do with power relations between two different genders, especially in the U.S. during 19th century. At that time, hegemonic masculinity was practiced by men towards wives and the children in family. This issue of hegemonic masculinity and its relation with patriarchy is reflected in literary work. Film and TV series are the two forms of literary works that are directly linked to the real world. The repetitive messages about hegemonic masculinity that an audience sees on television have an impact on how people assume and view behavior in real life (Cuklanz & Erol, 2021; Scharrer & Blackburn, 2018). Thus, it is essential to examine TV series that focus on hegemonic masculinity to evaluate how the character challenges the gender roles.

The issue about hegemonic masculinity depicted in literary works is often discussed by scholars around the world. For instance, a journal article by A. Deniz Morva Kablamaci, which explores the construction of hegemonic masculinity in film (Kablamaci, 2014). The result of the research is that the film *Şöhretin Sonu* is not simply about the dominance of men because of how it also shows how women submit to the established construction of hegemonic masculinity in marginalization, exclusion, and conflict areas, beginning from family to government institutions and societal establishments. Another research regarding the same theme is the research by Graeme John Wilson entitled “*What’s the Difference Between Men and Women?*”: *Hegemonic Masculinity in The Walking Dead* that focused on how *The Walking Dead*, the most successful and profitable horror series in television history, supports conservative patriarchal ideology and reinscribes “white, male, patriarchal ideology” (Wilson, 2019). The result of the research shows that *The Walking Dead* glorifies patriarchal masculinity and power structures instead of using the zombie subgenre’s disruptive characteristics to challenge and explore its subject’s limits.

This research has a similarity with the previous researches explained above which is the similar discussion about hegemonic masculinity in literary works. However, there are also some differences such as there is no discussion regarding hegemonic masculinity’s connection with the patriarchal system and the discussion about how to challenge the notion. Thus, this research discusses the hegemonic masculinity, its connection with patriarchal system, and how to challenge the notion in deeper and more details.

This research analyzes *Dickinson*, a series which depict the patriarchal system as a big part of the society and culture in the 19th century. This TV series is a period-comedy that revolves around the life of Emily Dickinson, a well-known American greatest poet. It takes place during Emily Dickinson’s era and explores the complexities of society, gender, and family from the perspective of a young poet who thought that she did not fit into the society she lived in. The TV series focuses on Emily Dickinson’s early life and how she tried to publish her poems despite her father hated the idea of women’s publishing.

Most of the time, Emily in the TV series had to deal with a lot of problems, simply because she refused to follow the patriarchal norms that her father and the 19th century’s society firmly held. In the first episode, for instance, Emily’s father was very angry when Emily told her family that she was going to publish her poem. However, her father thought that women’s proper place were only at home doing chores. The way women were depicted as weaker and less active than men in the 19th century shown in the series connects to the

theory of hegemonic masculinity by Raewyn Connell (2005) where men tend to be seen as the dominance while women as the subordinate. According to Connell (2005), masculinity has four different types such as hegemonic, complicit, subordinate and marginalized.

Dickinson TV series is not only a period-comedy series talking about the life of Emily Dickinson, but also as a reflection of what women in the 19th century had to deal with gender issues. The social culture of seeing women as a second class and weaker sex, or other patriarchal way of behaving, are the issues that still needs more attention. It cannot be denied that the patriarchal system is still part of our lives and makes gender-related issues are hard to solve. To discuss this issue, the researcher has investigated how hegemonic masculinity is depicted in the character of Emily in TV series *Dickinson* Season 1, using the theory of hegemonic masculinity by Raewyn Connell (2005). Moreover, this research tries to reveal that the hegemonic masculinity depicted in the TV series with 19th century's background where women were seen as inferior is created by patriarchal system that discriminate the roles of men and women.

Method

This research uses a qualitative method with a sociological studies approach. Descriptive is at the core of qualitative research since it does not focus on numbers because the data collected is in the form of words or graphics (Sugiyono, 2013). This method is used by describing the hegemonic masculinity depicted on the main female character in TV series *Dickinson* season 1. This research used sociological studies because the issue discussed in this research is about social events that happened in society, which is about hegemonic masculinity that is created by patriarchal society which can be one of the causes of gender inequality.

The data in this study were taken from the monologue or dialogue in the TV series, where the monologue or dialogue represented the four main traits of hegemonic masculinity, such as authority, aggression, technical competence, and subordination of women. In this research, the researcher describes hegemonic masculinity and its various traits based on Connell's theory and discusses how the main female character in the TV series tried to fight back the hegemonic masculinity she had to face. The instrument of this research is the researcher herself in order to collect the data needed for this research. However, other sources such as books, articles, journals, etc. that are related to the main issue of the research are used to help the main instrument in the process of analyzing.

The unit analysis of this research is taken from the TV series in a form of screenshot images and the manuscript of *Dickinson* Season 1. *Dickinson* Season 1 itself consists of 10 episodes with approximately 30 minutes duration for each episode. This research closely engaged to the TV series especially from episode 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10. The TV series was selected because it portrayed social problems, specifically gender issues, from the perspective of a young girl and how the writer herself described the TV series as a fun mirror of people's today.

Library research is also used to collect data. The process of data collecting closely engages with the steps, such as: identifying the corpus of the research, which is a TV series entitled *Dickinson*, by focusing on the hegemonic masculinity depicted in the series; reading related secondary sources to get the idea regarding the issue that will be discussed further in this research; reducing the primary data by selecting only some particular episodes and scenes from the TV series that relate to hegemonic masculinity such as Episode 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10; and classifying the data into monologue and dialogue manuscript regarding the issue about hegemonic masculinity in 19th century's patriarchal society depicted in the TV series.

Next, there are some steps in analyzing the data. First, classifying the data of the research by capturing images and dialogues to be analyzed further. Researcher utilized the

theory of characterization by Dennis Petrie and Joe Boggs and the theory of hegemonic masculinity by Connell in order to analyze the data. Second, explaining and interpreting the process of how the two main characters, Emily Dickinson and Edward Dickinson, are described; and also how the hegemonic masculinity faced Emily Dickinson is depicted through the character of Edward Dickinson. In this part, this also observes how the TV series challenges the notion of hegemonic masculinity. The last, concluding the result of the analysis.

Result and Discussion

The data was obtained from watching the TV series *Dickinson* Season 1, particularly Episode 1, 2, 4, 7, and 10. The data were collected based on the various traits of hegemonic masculinity that Emily Dickinson had to face and how the TV series presenting Emily to challenge the notion of hegemonic masculinity.

The Depiction of Hegemonic Masculinity in *Dickinson* Season 1

In this part, the researcher analyzed how hegemonic masculinity, was faced by the main female character and how the character challenged the practice. Hegemonic masculinity itself, according to Connell (1995), has four main marks such as authority, aggression, technical competence, and subordination of women. The result shows that Emily Dickinson, as the main female character, rebelled over her hegemonic father who had the four main traits of hegemonic masculinity.

Authority

Authority is one of the main characteristics of hegemonic masculinity since hegemonic masculinity as the product of masculinity has a strong correlation with power. Men who are classified as hegemonic masculine figures tend to have more power over women and or non-hegemonic masculine men. The concept of hegemonic masculinity by Raewyn Connell can be defined as “the configuration of gender practice which embodies the currently accepted answer to the problem of the legitimacy of patriarchy, which guarantees (or is taken to guarantee) the dominant position of men and the subordination of women” (Connell, 2005; Yang, 2020). Emily, as a woman of the 19th century, had to face hegemonic masculinity that was embodied by her own father, Edward Dickinson. A dialogue below reflects how Emily implicitly showed her father’s authority.

Time: (07:46-07:51) (S1:E1)

Emily: *You can't print my name.*

George: *Why not?*

Emily: *Because my father doesn't approve of women publishing.*

The first evidence of authority that Emily had to face through her father comes from the first episode of the TV series. In the dialogue above, Emily told George that her father would not approve her idea of publishing her poems, which was the opposite of what Emily wanted to do with them, namely to get her voice heard through her poems. The dialogue between Emily Dickinson and George Gould, as seen in Episode 1 above, happened because Emily asked George to help her publish one of her poems since George was the editor of a literature magazine in Amherst College. However, she wanted to publish her poem by not having her name written as the author of the poem. Emily in the dialogue above then told George the reason why she did not want everyone, especially her father, to find out about her publishing her poem. Thus, Edward’s authoritative action limited Emily to the point she could not even choose what she wanted do to with her life.

Edward and Emily had a unique relationship. They loved each other as father and daughter but they were the opposite of each other in term of some beliefs. Edward believed that the only proper place for women is in the home, being good housewives and good mothers. On the other hand, Emily hated the idea of women staying in domestic sphere because it limits her, and also other women. They were not allowed to participate in public sphere to get their voice heard by the society. Edward had that belief because he was a man who lived in a world full of patriarchal beliefs. Patriarchy refers to a collection of rules and values, as well as norms and protocols, which define how men and women should behave and be in the world. Breaking these rules can have significant consequences (Gilligan and Snider, 2018). In the 19th century, patriarchal way of behaving and thinking was part of the society to the point it became the norm that people in the 19th century believed and obeyed

Another scene that shows how Emily's father who got angry by the fact that she published her literary work in the college magazine.

Time: (25:05-25:08) (S1.E1)

Edward: *Do you mean to give the master of the house a chipped plate?*

Emily told her family that her poem would be published in the college magazine with the help of her friend, George. Edward who heard that matter got furious as Emily just disrespected his beliefs about women seeking a literary reputation. He was very angry to the point he even brought up about how incompetent Emily in doing house chores. We can see that Edward scolded Emily for giving him 'a chipped plate' while addressing him as "the Master of the House".

Fathers in households are often referred as the master of the house since they have more power and authority than their wives or even their children. Even before the 19th century, most households were patriarchal in nature. As the only figure with most power in households, fathers can do and say anything they want and have the rest of the family members obey his words and actions. The stereotypical masculine traits are domination, intimacy suppression, and emotional expression suppression (Klein, 2013). Thus, the way Edward addressed himself as "the Master of the House" proves that Edward as a hegemonic figure loved to remind the inferior parties, in this case Emily Dickinson, that he was the dominant party that had full authority over the Dickinson house and the people in it.

Malik (2021) in her journal article says that a character is being authoritative when he is shown to be self-confident and in a dominating position in relation to other characters who respect and obey him. Edward was so confident when it comes to him being a leader and more powerful than other people, especially women. Hegemonic masculinity is a type of masculinities that is considered as the most superior form of masculinity by all types of femininity and alternative masculinities (Rosen & Nofziger, 2018). In the 19th century households, it was very normal to address the man in the house as the "Master of the House" since the patriarchal society found it normal for men to rule over the people in their households.

Aggression

Aggression is another main trait of hegemonic masculinity. As Sculos (2017) states "To be a man is to embrace competition. To be a man is to never be weak or naïve. To be a man is to be in control. To be a man is to be violent (whether virtual or real), especially when it isn't really necessary. To be a man is to never have to ask for permission". In this case, Edward Dickinson, as a hegemonic masculine figure, showed the embodiment of aggression toward the inferior figures. Emily Dickinson, as the main female character, had to deal with Edward's aggressiveness the most on the TV series by having him opposing most of Emily's actions to

the point that it made Emily look weak, or has no control over her life and her mind. The following dialogue illustrates the aggressiveness trait of her father towards Emily.

Time: (23:01-24:07) (S1:E1)

Emily: *My...My poem...will be published.*
Edward: *How dare you. Have I or have I not made myself quite clear that I do not approve of a woman to build herself a literary reputation, Emily? And now you've gone and done it! Is there any way to stop this?*

Emily got scolded by Edward after she told the family that her poem would get published in college magazine. Edward in the show was portrayed to be a male figure who opposed the idea of women seeking literary reputation and he called it a “scandalous behavior”. He even thought it would ruin the name of Dickinson. Aggression itself is when a character is shown to behave in a forceful and decisive manner in order to challenge or attack other characters (Malik, 2021). Thus, Edward’s monologue in the evidence above is considered as his aggressive action because he yelled those words towards Emily in front of the rest of the family members.

Emily was being attacked by her own father with hurtful words because what Emily did was the opposite of his will. Edward became aggressive when his authority was being challenged by Emily Dickinson. Men are more often shown to be perpetuating aggression of all types than women (Sink and Mastro, 2017). Hence, Emily had to face Edward’s aggressiveness because she did something that Edward labeled as “scandalous”.

Another evidence of Emily experiencing Edward’s aggressiveness can be shown in this scene below.

Time: (17:54-18:26) (S1:E2)

Edward: *Did I or did I not expressly forbid you from going to that lecture? Hm? Answer me!*
Emily: *Dad, I...*
Edward: *Emily, This behavior is unacceptable. It's...when I agreed to hire a maid, it was so you could do a bit of scribbling up in your room. Hm? And not so you could go gallivanting around the town of Amherst dressed as a man, making a mockery of me and everything I stand for. What'll people say? What will they think of?*

Emily Dickinson once told Edward that she wanted to go to a lecture about volcanoes, but Edward quickly said no because he and obviously the 19th century’s society would not allow women to go to lectures. The powers that define the role of men and women in society are fed by a masculine desire to emphasize the value of men’s participation in the public sphere while neglecting women (Alsyuf, 2018). Hence, Edward did not allow Emily to go to a lecture designed for young boys because he thought that a higher education was not that important for women. However, since Emily was a young girl who is full of curiosity, she could not just agree with her father’s idea and let go of her only one chance to get a lecture about volcanoes. Therefore, she sneaked into that lecture with Sue by dressing up as noble young men.

Unfortunately, they got caught in the middle of the lecture, so they got kicked out of the class. Edward was quite unpleasant when he heard people talking about two girls sneaking into the lecture, especially when he knew exactly that it was his daughter that

people were talking about. Emily had to face his aggressiveness once again through Edward's monologue: *when I agreed to hire a maid, it was so you could do a bit of scribbling up in your room. And not so you could go...gallivanting around the town of Amherst dressed as a man, making a mockery of me and everything I stand for.* The way Edward delivered his monologue can be considered as an aggression because of how he yelled over Emily. He also mentioned his true intention of hiring a maid was none other for Emily even though his wife opposed that idea. On the other hand, we can see Edward's way of thinking where he considered girls sneaking into lectures full of men is a "mockery" for him. Additionally, in the end of his dialogue, it can be seen that he cared a lot of what people thought about him and his family. He found Emily's action would cause him public humiliation from the patriarchal society. Edward's aggressive towards Emily served as an evidence that "men have a negative influence on women's lives while women say nothing to influence theirs" (Alsyouf, 2018).

Technical Competence

Men who embody hegemonic masculinity are considered to have technological-competence since there is a root link between masculinity and technology. This can be observed when Edward Dickinson had a conversation with his family about bringing the railroad to Amherst.

Time: (21:48-21:51) (S1:E1)

Edward: *That and let's bring the railroad to Amherst. That too.*

His ambition of becoming a congressman made him feels like he was advanced in modern technology. In the 19th century, train was considered as a modern technology because most people still used horses or carriages. Technology familiarity is a quality that all men are shown to have, regardless of individual characteristics (Ali & Batool, 2015). Thus, by having the railroad in Amherst's land, it would make Edward looks technically-competent because he supported the idea.

This characteristic can be also observed when Emily Dickinson was wondering about a train going through her family's woods.

Time: (03:10-03:17) (S1:E4)

Emily: *then the whole town should see a doctor if they think anyone's going to run a train through our woods.*

Edward: *My dear, the train will run through our woods. It's simply the most efficient route.*

Amherst railroad construction was near the place where the Dickinson family lived. In the dialogue above, Emily was also wondering why the railroad surveyors were in the woods because they were Dickinson's private property. After hearing what George said about the railroad surveyors, Emily immediately rushed into her father's office and got a confirmation that he gave them permission to run the train through their woods. It shows that Edward was not against the idea of tearing down some part of his woods for the railroad because he simply thought it was the most efficient route for the train. Malik (2021) stated that characters can be considered as advanced in technology when they can relate to or use any type of technology from the most basic one to the most advanced ones. Edward as a hegemonic masculinity figure was advanced in technology since he was even willing to give up some parts of his private property for modern transportation in order to look technologically-competent. Although Emily was against Edward's idea of demolishing their private woods, she had no power on her hand to stop it because Edward was the one who had full control over their family's properties matters.

Subordination of Women

The concept of hegemonic masculinity is always connected to the notion of men subordination over women whom they see as the inferior parties. Since hegemonic masculinity is the product of patriarchal systems, it has a similar notion which is the subordination of women and the domination of men. Emily Dickinson was subordinated by Edward Dickinson constantly throughout the TV series.

Time: (05:19-05:50) (S1:E2)

Emily: *Why can't women go to the lecture?*

Edward: *Professor Hitchcock was hired to teach students at the college, not girls who live in the town.*

Emily: *Well, so why I can't go to the college?*

Edward: *I wrote about it in my essay, "On the Proper Place of Women." You did read my essay, didn't you?*

Emily: *I skimmed it.*

Edward: *All right, well, let me summarize. A woman should receive an education, to be sure. But that education should not be the same as a man's. And why should it when the role for which she is being trained is so very different? Look, an education prepares one for a career.*

The conversation between Edward and Emily above covers some information about the depiction of women's subordination in the show. First of all, Emily was questioning why women could not go to lectures as Edward did not allow her to go to a lecture about volcanoes. Edward then answered the question by saying "Professor Hitchcock was hired to teach students at college, not girls who live in the town". The reason Edward said like this was probably because he knew and believed that colleges were the place for boys, not girls even if they were from towns. Based on the 19th century's portrayal in the show, the society "banned" women from getting a higher education. Girls in the 19th century were denied access to higher education, forbidden from attending institutions, and could only find low-wage work (Alamsyah et al., 2017).

In the 19th century, women were not as free as today in term of accessing education. Since women were expected to "work" in domestic sphere, the society banned women to go a higher education because it was just a waste of time. The things that happened to women in the 19th century were similar to what happened to Emily in the dialogue above. Not like young boys out there, Emily could not just go to a lecture simply because she wanted it. There was a "rule" that prevented women from going to higher education. Almost without exception, if a woman was unhappy with her status, there was little she could do about it (Alamsyah et al., 2017). The society in the 19th century painted women as the subordinates, the passives, or even the domestic figures since they were expected to obey men's words, to never complain, and to stay at homes doing their main job.

From the dialogue above, we can also see that Edward Dickinson wrote an essay titled *On the Proper of Women*. Edward's summary of the essay is that "A woman should receive an education, to be sure. However, that education should not be the same as men's". It is shown that because of the patriarchal system that influenced how the society behaved, women could not receive an education the same as men since they thought it would be a waste since women would end up working in their own house anyway. Edward as a hegemonic masculine figure in the 19th century agreed to the patriarchal norms where women were expected to stay at domestic sphere. Edward also specifically said "an education prepares

one for a career” while Emily’s mother added “And the career of a woman is in the house” to point out to Emily that women were designed to have a career in their own house, taking care of their husbands, kids, and the household chores. As Chisamy et al. (2012) argues that in the 19th century, girls were expected to marry and have children, the role that did not require formal education.

The earlier explanation concludes that Emily Dickinson faced the four main traits of hegemonic masculinity embodied by her own father. *Dickinson* season 1, as a widespread popular period-comedy TV series, offers a media representation of hegemonic masculinity through the gender performance and the relationship of the two main characters, Edward Dickinson and Emily Dickinson. The way Emily’s femininity was constantly subordinated to Edward’s hegemonic masculinity proves that the show’s portrayal of hegemonic masculinity linked with Connell’s idea about the concept.

The Female Character in Challenging Hegemonic Masculinity

The TV series also shows the main female character, Emily Dickinson, who rebelled over her father’s strict rules that constrained her as a woman from expressing herself. Edward Dickinson who embodied hegemonic masculinity throughout the show used to oppose some of Emily’s actions of trying to prove herself as a woman who wanted the world to hear her voice through her poems. The very first evidence of challenging the notion of hegemonic masculinity and the patriarchal society can be seen in the monologue below.

Time: (04:14-04:16) (S1:E1)

Emily: *Tragically, I am a woman.*

Emily says “Tragically, I am a woman” after her mother, Emily Norcross, tried to make her marry someone. Emily considered herself as a cat for dropping a dead mouse to a suitor’s lap once, but then Emily’s mother responded by saying she was not a cat. Emily then argued that being a woman is a tragical fate for she could not express herself freely.

Besides, the TV series also shows that being a woman was hard, and it was even harder in the 19th century where women had to deal with gender inequality on daily basis. Thus, Emily’s words saying that being a woman is tragical can be considered as the reflection of women in the 19th century. In today’s era, many women can have careers they want and choose whether to marry or to stay single and independent. However, women in the nineteenth century did not have such options. The majority of people lived in conditions that were not much better than slavery. They had to obey men since, in most situations, they dominated all of the assets and made women lack of self-sufficiency (Alamsyah et al., 2017).

Another criticism towards the gender discrimination that happened in the 19th century’s society can be seen in the monologue by Emily Dickinson.

Time: (10:23-10:33) (S1:E4)

Emily: *If I were a man, I would definitely want a wife. Someone to cook for me, clean for me, raise my 500 children. All while I got to do exactly what my heart desired.*

Time: (06:15-06:22) (S1:E2)

Emily: *There is so much I want to learn, and I can’t just go and get taught. I have to steal random bits of knowledge when no one else is looking.*

Emily was voicing her minds out by saying that if she was a man, she would absolutely want a wife. Based on Emily’s monologue above (S1:E4), we can see that being a wife in

the 19th century meant to cook for their family, to clean for their family and to raise their husband's children. Those activities were practiced in domestic sphere. On the other hand, Emily also said that being a man in the 19th century meant to do everything that their heart desired, which correlated with the patriarchal idea where men can do anything they want and have the right to speak in the public sphere.

The monologue (S1:E2) above serves as a reaction of Edward who forbids her to go to a science lecture in Amherst College. The line "There is so much I want to learn, and I can't just go and get taught. I have to steal random bits of knowledge when no one else is looking" said by Emily is such an irony because women who lived in the 19th century had to deal with the patriarchal system and its product, hegemonic masculinity. The patriarchal way of seeing women as people who are less important than men in terms of social participations was what causes women could not access education as easy as men. Women's education is the most effective tool for changing society's position (Bhat, 2015). Hence, the patriarchal society cannot let women go to school easily. Thus, Emily's monologue above serves as a criticism towards the subordination of women by hegemonic masculine figures and the patriarchal societies.

Since the beginning, the series is likely to try to challenge hegemonic masculinity by having the minor character, George Gould, encourages the main female character to do what she had to do, instead of accepting the subordination by the hegemonic masculine figure. This dialogue below reflects how Emily tried to challenge the practice.

Time: (07:45-08:19) (S1:E1)

- Emily: *You can't print my name.*
George: *Why not?*
Emily: *Because my father doesn't approve of women publishing.*
George: *oh, come on. That's stupid. You're a genius Emily. He has to approve of that.*
Emily: *Couldn't you just put my initials or "Anonymous" or something?*
George: *No. No way. You deserve credit. And you should stand up to your father.*
Emily: *You know what? Just do it. Just do it. Publish it with my name and everything.*

In the conversation above, George encouraged Emily to just publish her poem with her name written in it as the author because she deserved the credit. George even said "*And you should stand up to your father*" to Emily because he did not agree with Edward's idea which forbade her to publish her poems.

Edward Dickinson prevented Emily to publish her poems because he thought that women who seek literary fame were not better than "acrobats". In the 19th century, it was quite hard to find women writers because of the existence of gender roles and gender distinction. Moreover, Edward tried to apply the patriarchal norms into Emily by preventing her from publishing her poems. However, Emily was against the patriarchal beliefs because it restricted her as a woman who wanted to get her voice heard through her poems, to the point that she was fearlessly challenging the 19th century's society and the patriarchal system that they believe as the social norm.

In other part of the series, Emily and her friend, Sue, were coming to the Packard's house to help Mrs. Packard sorts through her dead husband's things. When they saw men's clothes piled up in the room, Emily asked Sue to dress as a man and sneaked into the lecture about volcano Mount Vesuvius. This scene happens after she complained about how hard

it was for women to access a higher education while being sarcastic over what men were capable of doing and participating in social events such as, going anywhere they wanted, having the right to vote, legally owning property, and also studying over various things in college while women were expected to be passive in society and just do their household duties instead. Unlike men, women were completely locked out of 19th-century society's public sphere unless they were accompanied by their husbands or fathers (Alamsyah et al., 2017).

In one particular scene, Emily also asked Austin, her brother, to join a poem contest for her in the *Springfield Republican* newspaper under Austin's name. The reason is obviously because her father opposed the idea of Emily as a poet whom society might not like. Emily's action of trying to participate in a poem contest under a man's name was another attempt of her in fulfilling her dream as a woman who also had the rights to do everything her heart desired.

However, an interesting conversation happens in the last few minutes of episode 10, when Edward came to Emily's room after attending Austin and Sue's wedding.

Time: (28:11-28:53) (S1:E10)

Emily: *Father.*

Edward: *Yes?*

Emily: *I am a poet. I am a poet. And I am not going to die. I am going to write hundreds, thousands of poems right here in this room. The greatest poems ever written by Emily Dickinson. And there is nothing you can do to stop me.*

Edward: *Yes, Emily. I know.*

In the dialogue above, Edward's reaction to Emily's confession shows that he was finally aware that if he kept trying to oppose Emily's action and stood by his perspective about what women could do and could not do, it would not do any good for his family and also his relationship with his own daughter. This scene shows that at the end, Edward understood Emily's desire by only saying "*Yes, Emily. I know*", though he remains ambiguous as he still maintained the social values.

Emily's attempts that challenged her father's hegemonic-masculine values, finally made Edward slowly loosened up his authoritativeness and aggressiveness over the subordination of women. Edward's love for Emily as his daughter did help him being less authoritative towards Emily. One thing for sure, Emily's actions of challenging Edward's hegemonic masculinity traits resulted in Edward's approval of Emily's dream to publish her poems and get a literary reputation.

The series shows that women in the 19th century were unaware of their inferior position or did not dare to resist it because society claimed that the difference in treatment of men and women was normal and God-given (Corda, 2016). However, Emily on the TV series thought that the different treatment between men and women by the society was not normal and should not be justified by the 19th century's society. Emily was the opposite of how women in the 19th century are portrayed because she always tried to find a way to do whatever she wanted, just like men were permitted to do so in that era. We can see Emily's efforts in trying to break the patriarchal norms through negating hegemonic masculine ideas. AppleTV+ *Dickinson* Season 1 TV series has succeeded in not only making a semi-historical-biography TV series fun to watch, but also highlighting and bringing back issues like hegemonic masculinity, feminism, and patriarchal society into today's contemporary era.

Conclusion

Dickinson Season 1 is a TV series that focuses on how Emily Dickinson opposes the patriarchal system and its product that limit her as a woman. Edward Dickinson is Emily's father and her biggest obstacle in achieving her dream since he embodies hegemonic masculinity, which is the product of patriarchal system. Edward, as a hegemonic masculine figure, challenges Emily and her actions. Moreover, this TV series depicts how Edward accuses Emily for breaking the norm of patriarchal society and how Emily tries to fight back her father to get her voice heard through her poems.

This research has shown that Emily Dickinson in the TV series faces several types of hegemonic masculinity such as authority, aggression, technical competence, and subordination of women. Edward Dickinson, as a hegemonic masculine figure on the TV series, embodied these four main traits of hegemonic masculinity throughout the show, such as forbidding Emily to publish her poems; opposing the idea of women to go to college; and believing that women's career was only limited in the domestic space. However, the TV series finally challenges this notion by having Emily Dickinson, as the main female character, fight against the hegemonic masculinity traits of Edward Dickinson.

Hegemonic masculinity as the product of the patriarchal system is one of the causes of gender inequality in society. *Dickinson* Season 1 also succeeded in not only describing how women fought for their own voices in the 19th century, but also giving awareness about the impact of patriarchy and hegemonic masculinity. The TV series also succeeded in making a period comedy television series, which focused on the issue of gender inequality as a reflection of social life. *Dickinson* Season 1 is worth watching since it can make us realize that the issue like hegemonic masculinity is still relevant to be discussed until today.

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