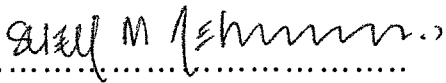


**REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN IN *femina*:**  
**AN INDONESIAN WOMEN'S MAGAZINE**

**SUZY AZEHARIE**

This thesis is presented in fulfilment  
of the Degree of Master of Philosophy  
at Murdoch University, Western Australia, 1997.

I declare that this thesis, for the degree of Master of Philosophy, is my own account of my own research and contains, as its main content, work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any other tertiary institution.

  
.....

Suzy Azeharie  
17 August, 1997  
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# Contents

Abstract	
Acknowledgments	
Introduction	1
General Political Context: The prevalent situation regarding Indonesian women	
Women and The Law	
Representation of Indonesian Women in literature and the media	
Outline	
Chapter 1: The History and Development of <i>femina</i> magazine	28
1. Press Life in the New Order	
2. A Brief History of Indonesia Women's Magazine	
3. <i>femina's</i> Early Story	
4. <i>femina's</i> Founder	
4.1. Mirtati Kartohadiprodjo	
4.2. Widarti Gunawan	
4.3. Pia Alisjahbana	
5. Changes in <i>femina's</i> Editorial and Management Staff	
6. <i>femina's</i> Readership	
7. Cover and Contents: a twenty year overview	
8. Activities conducted by <i>femina</i>	
9. <i>femina</i> From the Researcher's perspectives	
Chapter 2: Women in Marriage	62
1977 Article: <i>Suami Menyeleweng Perlukah Minta Cerai?</i>	
1986 Article: <i>Koq, Tega, ya, Ia Nyeleweng Padahal Istrinya Baik</i>	
1991 Article: <i>Setelah Affair Berakhir</i>	
Comparison and Analysis:	
1. General Representations of women	
a. Women are 'bad' by nature	
b. What constitutes a 'good' woman	
c. Bad women	
2. Differences in expected behaviour between women and men	
a. Men's relationship to women	
b. Women's relationships to men	
3. What allows for compromises	
a. Marriage for the sake of appearance	
b. Middle-upper class women tend to compromise	
Chapter 3: Working Wife	121
1976 Article: <i>Menyoroti Penghasilan Ganda</i>	
1986 Article: <i>Kalau Istri Berpenghasilan Lebih Besar dari Suami</i>	
1992 Article: <i>Masihkah Suami Cemas Bila Istri Bekerja?</i>	

**Comparison and Analysis:**

- 1. Indonesian working women in general**
  - a. Women's destiny
  - b. Discrimination of working women
- 2. Why do Indonesian middle class women work?**
  - a. Islamic and Javanese points of view
  - b. Benefits gained by working
- 3. Conditions acceptable for women to work**
  - a. What is expected from a working wife

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>176</b>

## Abstract

Since the advent of the women's movement, the mass media and literary classics have become targets for intensive scrutiny by some feminists who are concerned with the role and influence the media and literature play in promoting a gendered society. This thesis, focuses mainly on representations of Indonesian women as presented by the Jakarta-based women's magazine, *femina*. By analysing six articles that appeared in the magazine from the 1970s to the 1990s, representations of gender relationships have been highlighted.

Shaped dominantly by Islamic beliefs, and the Javanese values, which consist of a syncretic blend of Animist, Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic beliefs, contemporary Indonesian society is dominated by a strong political state and patriarchal value system which downgrades women. Resulting from the political changes introduced by the New Order, there has been a pivotal transformation of Indonesian women's organisations. The regime strongly encourages wives' organisations, despite the full equality guaranteed to men and women by the 1945 Constitution. It is demanded of Indonesian women that their foremost duties are their motherly and wifely roles. The influence of the *priyayi*, the Javanese elite, who believe that woman's destiny is primarily centred on her role as wife and mother, is partially responsible for the continuing influence of this ideal and the way it subordinates women to men. The religious traditions are also not without considerable influence in this area. These values can be found in the articles examined. Further, the thesis investigates attitudes to women who work outside the home, the double burden that they carry, and any changes in the representations of women and gender relations over the twenty years as revealed in *femina*.

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I thank my son, Hanindya, for being so understanding throughout the writing process, and also for MP.

## **Dedication**

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my mother,  
**Nurwilis bint Noor,**  
the most important Minangkabau woman in my life -  
who I miss so much.  
I only wish she could have been here among her family.