

## ABSTRACT

### **An Analysis of Masculinity in Victorian Period in Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest***

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This research was designed to know the portrayal of Victorian masculinity in Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Masculinity describes about what man generally behave in a society. Victorian masculinity has specific perspective in constructing a man in society, in which he will be seen from certain character, manner, behavior that make man behave supposed to be. Descriptive qualitative method was applied in this research because this type of research is based on data expressed mostly in the form of narrative dealing with the portrayal of Victorian masculinity rather than numbers. The writer collected the data from one of drama script of Oscar Wilde that published 1981 entitled *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In analyzing the data, the writer applied Tosh's theory (1999) covering the portrayal of Victorian masculinity. The result of this analysis shows that the concept of Victorian masculinity in *The Importance of Being Earnest* can be viewed from manner, behavior, and attitude rather than physical appearance. A man can be said as masculine if he has positive attitudes, such as kind, honest, responsible, and serious. Therefore, a masculine man is one of the ideals of Victorian women since they want a future husband who can bring them to a better life and respect by their society. In addition, a masculine man also can be seemed from just success of married.

**Key Words: tosh's theory, the important of being earnest, victorian masculinity**