

ABSTRACT

Karl Marx's Materialism in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wall-Paper* & Guy Maupassant's *The Adopted Son* Short Stories

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*This study aims to analyze Karl Marx's materialism in the short stories *The Yellow Wall-Paper* and *The Adopted Son*. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wall-Paper* is written as a series of entries in a secret diary, where the narrator recounts her time living in a plantation house. The narrator's behavior in the story is socially unacceptable, and she is limited in her activities inside the house, not being allowed to do any household chores. On the other hand, *The Adopted Son* by Guy de Maupassant tells the story of a poor peasant family who adopts a child named Jean, and the power dynamics that develop between the child and his new family. This study focuses on identifying issues related to materialism in *The Yellow Wall-Paper* using Karl Marx's materialism theory.*

*This study was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method, with the data sources being *The Yellow Wall-Paper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and *The Adopted Son* by Guy de Maupassant. The materialism theory by Karl Marx was applied to analyze the materialism issues in the narration and dialogues of the two short stories. To support the analysis, relevant journals and other research were referenced.*

The findings revealed three materialism issues in the stories based on Karl Marx's theories. These issues are the devotion to material needs and desires, the tendency to make decisions based on social norms, and the neglect of living humans. The analysis of the stories in light of Marx's materialism theory sheds light on how materialistic values and societal norms can impact individuals' behavior, choices, and relationships, ultimately leading to the neglect of human values and well-being.

Keywords: *Karl Marx, living humans, materialism, social norms*