Evidences of Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex* in Poems *A Work of Artifice* by Marge Piercy and *Mr. Mine* by Anne Sexton

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Abstract

Many people notwithstanding believe that women are created in a lower level than men. Women are also stereotyped as weaker while men as stronger creatures. That women are still treated unfairly is also reflected in literary works such as *A Work of Artifice* and *Mr. Mine*, that share issues meaning and characteristics, however have different times of writing. Simone de Beauvoir theory *The Second Sex*, aids this study from the perspective of feminism to see how *A Work of Artifice* and *Mr. Mine* reflect Beauvoir’s binary oppositions, which dichotomize men and women. Both poems criticize woman’s issues in gaining her equality to man. Significantly, those two poems describe and characterize man as the subject, strong, superior, powerful, and important. In contrast, woman is characterized as the object, weak, inferior, powerless, and unimportant. However, women become weak, powerless, and unimportant since men limit women’s life and activities. This study is to present women’s stereotypes and to help female readers to be more confident and strengthened.

Key words: men, women, the object, subject, weak, strong, inferior, superior