

The Representation of Liberal Feminism through the Main Character in

“The Post” Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research is aimed to find out representation of liberal feminism through the main character. This research used qualitative descriptive method and focused Marilley theory. The researcher used feminism concept to identify how the liberal feminism is presented in the movie. The supporting data were obtained from some sources, such as books, articles, and journals, related to gender discrimination, women's stereotypes, and feminism. In collecting the data, read-write technique was used. The data analysis was conducted using feminism approach. The researcher found that there are three types of liberal feminism. First the feminism of equal rights, second the feminism of fear, and last the feminism of personal development, in this research is dominant with feminism of personal development and liberal feminism representation in the movie.

Keywords: *Liberal Feminism, Main Character.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is one way for human to expressing their feel, using literature human can write an idea from reality and every human have different experience in they life in addition to the element of imagination, literature is art there are like music, drama, poetry, text, etc. According to Meyer (1997 v. 41) Literature is a word in the English language; like all words, it is used by perhaps millions of speakers, speakers who come from vastly different backgrounds and who have quite divergent personal experiences with, and views on, literary texts. And like all words, it is used fairly successfully; speakers and listeners generally communicate adequately, despite this variety of experience, background, and training. There is approach in the literature that is Feminist.

Feminist is one way to try to get the rights and obligations equal to men, and woman can show figures of strong images of women and support the values of feminism, feminism is a tool to criticize literary works. From feminism, the literary

work can be analyzed from women's perspective. Every human being basically has the equal roles in the society, however, in many societies; men are regarded more superior than women. It means men have a right to control women. As a result, women cannot control their life, and they have to accept all men's orders without any right to reject the orders.

Some feminist scholars distinguished approaches to feminist theory that (1) problematize women's exclusion from the major institutions of the public world (social, political, economic, religious, academic) from approaches that (2) focus on difference as a primary category of analysis (women's differences from men, as well as systemic differences among women based on race, class, nationality, sexuality, historicity), and approaches that (3) embrace the postmodern refusal of categorization (Disch and Hawkesworth 2016:3). Early efforts by Western feminist theorists in the academy to analyze the proliferation of

rich and diverse feminist theories gave rise to a classification system commonly referred to as the *hyphenation model*. Within this framework, approaches to feminist theorizing were analyzed in the context of the larger Western philosophical traditions to which they had affinities, such as liberal feminism, socialist/Marxist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism (Disch and Hawkesworth 2016:2).

Liberal feminism emerged as one of the most dominant ideologies of the early women's movement. Liberal feminism has been represented in broadcast and major print media as the most viable political alternative for women's equality and women's rights. Thus, the central problem with liberal theory is that it creates protection for a human subject that only a certain number of human bodies can claim or occupy. It assumes that we are all independent, autonomous subjects, and when we are not, it assumes that we have freely chosen such a position (Rudy:1999).

The stereotype of women also makes the film world give birth feminist films. A film, also called a movie, motion picture, moving picture, theatrical film, or photoplay, is a series of still images that, when shown on a screen, create the illusion of moving images. Movie is cultural artifacts created by specific cultures. They reflect those cultures, and, in turn, affect them. Movie is considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment, and a powerful medium for educating or indoctrinating citizens. The visual basis of film gives it a universal power of communication.

Some movies have become popular worldwide attractions through the use of dubbing or subtitles to translate the dialog into other languages. Some film or movie explains about history, fact, etc. One of the movie is "THE POST" in this movie tell about American historical political direct and produced by Steven Spielberg and write by Liz Hanna and Josh

Singer. The post depict the true story of attempts by journalists at the Washington post to publish the pentagon papers, classified documents regarding the 30 year involvement of the United State government in the Vietnam War. The film premiered at the Museum in Washington D.C. ON December 14, 2017, and went into limited release in the United State on December 22, 2017. It entered wide release on January 12, 2018.

The White House retaliates, and in short order the Post and Times appear together before the Supreme Court to plead their First Amendment case for the right to publish the material. Meanwhile, newspapers across the country pick up the story in solidarity with the Post and Times. On June 30, 1971, the court rules 6-3 in the newspapers' favor, vindicating Graham's decision. A short while after, Nixon demands that the Post be barred from the White House. One year later, on June 17, 1972 (two weeks before the first anniversary of the court's ruling), security guard Frank Wills discovers a break-in in progress at the Watergate complex.

This is the main reason why the researcher is interested in analyzing feminism in The Post Movie is because there are some people in movie don't believe if woman can be a leader in a big company such as Katharine Graham. She is tries to balance her social life with her responsibility as owner and publisher of The Washington Post, following the deaths of her husband, Phil Graham, and her father, Eugene Meyer.

From the explanation above the researcher will identify the problem of woman can be a good leader in social or family in The Post movie there are values of feminism in modern era. However in this movie, the representation of liberal feminism through the main character is identified.

FEMINISM

Feminism came into use in the united state, and the women who used it the appearance of feminism in the 1910 signaled a new phase in the debate and agitation about women's rights and freedoms that had flared for hundreds of years. People in the nineteenth century did not say feminism. They spoke of the advancement of woman or the cause of woman, woman's rights, and woman suffrage. In any recent history of women in the united state you are likely to find comment on the demise of feminism in the 1920s rather than recognition that the name and phenomenon had just recently cropped up.

LIBERAL FEMINISM THEORY

According Marilley (1996) In the struggle, woman's rights reformers and woman suffragists developed three types of liberal arguments, each predominant during a different phase of the movement:

1. Feminism Of Equal Rights

The feminism of equal rights prevailed from the Jacksonian era until the mid-1870s. Inclusive egalitarian liberal principles, spelled out in the 1848 Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments, a feminist version of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, insisted that women's natural rights be recognized as no less sacred than men's. Collective support for feminist ideals of equal rights grew in the Garrisonian antislavery movement where, in the 1830s, Maria Stewart and Angelina and Sarah Grimké practiced an inclusive equality that was derived as much from the Scriptures as from the 1776 Declaration. In the 1850s, proponents of this feminism called for radical structural changes in marriage, the political system, and society; but these reformers' debates revealed a willingness to put limits on divorce rights and to portray female enfranchisement as unthreatening to the family. After the Civil War, the feminism of equal rights

diminished in power but did not disappear entirely.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, daughter of a lawyer and mother of seven, was the movement's most consistent and daring liberal thinker during the 1850s. Stanton applied the universal concept of equal rights to all aspects of women's lives and endorsed women's rights to divorce and to control the timing of pregnancies. Opposed to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments because they failed to grant women rights extended to black men, Stanton later became known for her introduction of natives feminist arguments for woman suffrage. Stanton rapidly subordinated her convictions about the universality of natural rights and condemned the political inclusion of black and new immigrant men; she argued that the early suffragists' commitment to "equal rights for all" clashed with their Americanism identities. After 1870, mainstream woman suffragists never recovered their original commitment to equality for *all* as a natural and a political right.

2. Feminism Of Fear

During the mid-1870s, Frances Willard, the temperance leader, developed the themes of a liberal "feminism of fear." Instead of focusing on political equality for women, Willard concentrated on creating secure conditions for women's freedom. To do so, she appealed to the masses of women who organized spontaneously during the early 1870s to protest male drinking. For women resistant to the idea of political equality, reluctant to join a political, nonreligious organization, or both, Willard focused on the threat of male physical abuse, particularly from drunken husbands. During the 1850s Amelia Bloomer and Stanton had used similar arguments to fortify temperance reformers in New York State. Willard's focus made suffrage expedient for prohibitionist reforms: she argued that dutiful women could guarantee physical

security for themselves and their children only if they made "home protection" their primary goal and secured their ability to achieve it by winning the vote.

For Willard, female enfranchisement constituted the first step in integrating the separate social and political spheres and making women authoritative moral leaders. By tapping women's fears of violent abuse and invoking religious symbolism, Willard provided traditional women with both personal reasons for seeking the vote and the moral authority to do so. In defining the vote as the chief means to achieve "home protection," her arguments were initially perceived as less threatening than the suffragists' feminism of equal rights, at least outside of the South. Willard's success as a political mobilizer is shown by the steady increase in membership in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), from 27,000 to over 200,000, during her tenure as president. Willard made ecumenical appeals, and she aimed to mobilize black women, but her role as the leader of a "Christian" female association and her periodic criticisms of "foreign influences" limited the scope of her authority and fed natives sentiments. In many respects, Willard, along with her suffragist cohorts, was limited by Americanist biases.

3. Feminism Of Personal Development

The feminism of personal development was grounded in the view that because individuals generate ideas and achieve goals, no government or custom should prohibit the exercise of personal freedom. This feminism gained some momentum during the 1840s from the campaigns for married woman's property reform: educated, white, middle-class women saw opportunity to gain control of their inheritances and earnings in order to exercise choice over their investment. But after 1890 a new generation of educated, more urbane suffragists gave these themes

prominence. For example, Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw emphasized the personal losses that each woman suffered without the right to vote, and they concentrated on drawing attention to the basic injustice of women's political exclusion.

Catt, the major architect of a national strategy to win women the vote during the twentieth century, initially joined the WCTU but later joined the suffragists due to her unwillingness to align with the Prohibitionists. During the late 1880s and 1890s, she echoed Stanton's nativistic feminism. Catt denounced the political exclusion of qualified women in favor of unqualified men as a personal injustice suffered particularly by educated, moral, and responsible American women. In the 1890s, Catt's arguments, most of which are unpublished, were far more chauvinistic than Willard's and exemplify social Darwinism and other racialist theories adapted by suffragists. As supporters of white supremacy, southern suffragists also contributed some racist feminist arguments, but most opposed violent racial domination. Southern reformers made the movement national, which was a necessary ingredient for the passage of a federal constitutional amendment.

Generally, woman's rights reformers and woman suffragists defined their goals as liberal: they cared more about personal freedom for each woman than about making the powers of government more equally divided, increasing voter turnout, or encouraging women to agree on a comprehensive feminist reform agenda. Indeed initially the reformers relied so heavily on the rationality of liberal egalitarian principles that they expected educated persons to revise both laws and personal behavior to fit such principles. But their arguments were rejected, and early liberal feminists had to search for ways to counter the

assumption that only men deserved full citizenship.

Their quest resulted in a clash between egalitarian "liberal" and inegalitarian "illiberal" ideas about "woman's proper place. The liberal principle held that because all persons possess natural rights, all must be guaranteed political rights and stand as equal citizens. Opponents argued that natural rights could not displace naturally ordained differences between the sexes. The premise of this still popular illiberal perspective is that females possess natural talents for child-raising and men possess natural talents for protecting women and children. Illiberal argued, in short, that even if women possessed natural rights, they lacked the talents, knowledge, and informed perspective necessary to make appropriate political judgments.

The politics of Reconstruction brought three changes for woman's rights reformers. First, the woman's rights nongovernmental social movement became a single-issue political movement for woman suffrage led by two competing organizations. Second, women reformers learned that when men agreed as men about what issues belonged on the government agenda, women could not stop them. Women required male allies to support and promote their cause; they also needed to exploit conflicts between men. Third, majority rule and many points of access into the power centers of the American political system encouraged woman suffragists to design multiple strategies, occasionally to eschew principle for expediency's sake, and to discover favorable entry points onto the legislative reform agenda.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

The story in a movie is told is called its narrative, the narrative structure of a movie has several elements, by (Brasam & Monhan 2010) which are:

- a. Story and Plot: story consists of (1) all the narrative events that are explicitly presented on the screen plus (2) all the events that are implicit or that we infer to have happened but are not explicitly presented. plot is a structure for presenting everything that we see and hear in a film: (1) the diegetic events arranged in a certain order plus (2) nondiegetic material.
- b. Order is the way the events in the movie sequenced.
- c. Events are what happen in the movie.
- d. Duration is this length of time. When talking about narrative movies specifically, we can identify three specific kinds of duration: story duration is the amount of time that the implied story takes to occur; plot duration is the elapsed time of those events within the story that the film explicitly presents.
- e. Suspense and surprise: suspense is what audience expects to happen but does not happen, while surprise is what audience does not expect to happen, but happens.
- f. Repetition is the number of times an element recurs in the plot.
- g. Characters are individual who are involved in the movie story. Major characters, the most important characters to the plot, make the most things happen or have the most things happen to them. Setting is the time and place in place in which the story occurs.
- h. Scope is the range of the time and place from which to which the plot occurs.
- i. Narration and Narrator: Narration is the story telling of the movie. It can be visually (by camera work) or orally (by narrator).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research used descriptive qualitative method. According Creswell (2003: 207/20) Qualitative research is emergent rather than tightly prefigured. Several aspects emerge during a qualitative study. The research questions may change and be refined as the inquirer learns what to ask and to whom it should be asked. The data collection process might change as doors open and close for data collection, and the inquirer learns the best sites at which to learn about the central phenomenon of interest. The theory or general pattern of understanding will emerge as it begins with initial codes, develops into broad themes, and coalesces into a grounded theory or broad interpretation. These aspects of an unfolding research model make it difficult to prefigure qualitative research tightly at the proposal or early research stage.

The data is taken from the Softcopy of “*The post* ” movie by Liz Hanna and Josh Singer that have subtitle or text in Indonesian Language, articles, E-Book and Journal related to gender discrimination, women’s stereotypes, and feminism.

FINDINGS

In this research there are data which contain of liberal feminism in the main character and there are some criteria the researcher find in the post movie.

1. Feminism of Equal Rights

Proponents of this feminism called for radical structural changes in marriage, the political system, and society; but these reformers' debates revealed a willingness to put limits on divorce rights and to portray female enfranchisement as unthreatening to the family. After the Civil

War, the feminism of equal rights diminished in power but did not disappear entirely. There are some of data the which researcher finding in the movie as feminism of equal rights :

Katharine : yes are you, because I know I talk to you about this before, are you losing female readership you know and I think, you may work focus more what woman hope.	Focus about society
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2. Feminism of Fear

The feminism of fear, Instead of focusing on political equality for women, Willard concentrated on creating secure conditions for women's freedom. To do so, she appealed to the masses of women who organized spontaneously during the early 1870s to protest male drinking. For women resistant to the idea of political equality, reluctant to join a political, nonreligious organization, or both, Willard focused on the threat of male physical abuse, particularly from drunken husbands. There are some of data which the researcher finding in *The Post* movie as feminism of fear:

Katharine : Gentleman, thank you all for helping make The Washington Post more the best company.	Focus on poliical equality for women
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3. Feminism of Personal Development

The feminism of personal development was grounded in the view that because individuals generate ideas and achieve goals, no government or custom should prohibit the exercise of personal freedom. There are some of data which the

researcher finding in The Post movie as feminism of personal development:

<p>Katharine : let's, let's go, let's do it, let's go, let's go, let's we publish.</p>	<p>Use oppourtunities as a leader</p>
<p>Katharine : I know I just try become dissolved what I want.</p>	<p>Use oppourtunities as a leader</p>
<p>Katharine : prospektus also talk about the mission of the paper which is outstanding news collection in reporting, it's not right?</p>	<p>Use the idea to get Goals</p>
<p>Katharine : and it</p>	<p>Use the idea to</p>

<p>also says the newspaper would be dedication to well the nation safety and to the principle free press.</p>	<p>get Goals</p>
<p>Katharine : are they, are they, for newspaper? One of include nixon white house can you certifying that we could publish, without endanger anyone soldier .</p>	<p>Opurtunities to become full person</p>
<p>Katharine :</p>	<p>Opurtunities to</p>

alright than. My decision persistent.	become full person
Katharine : Arthur, this company has been in my life for long time for most people working there still a life, so i don't need lecture on legacy, and this is not longer my father company, is not longer my husband company, it's my company, and	Opurtunities to become full person

anyone who think it's not mine.	
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DISCUSSIONS

In this part the researcher discussed the data analysis that had been found in "THE POST" movie. Generally, woman's rights reformers and woman suffragists defined their goals as liberal: they cared more about personal freedom for each woman than about making the powers of government more equally divided, increasing voter turnout, or encouraging women to agree on a comprehensive feminist reform agenda. Indeed initially the reformers relied so heavily on the rationality of liberal egalitarian principles that they expected educated persons to revise both laws and personal behavior to fit such principles. But their arguments were rejected, and early liberal feminists had to search for ways to counter the assumption that only men deserved full citizenship.

**Representation Liberal Feminism Of The Main Character In The Post Movie
1. Feminism of equal rights**

The feminism of equal rights, which called for freedom through equality, In the post movie the main character Katharine Graham get some trouble forget the rights to be a leader, because some people in her company don't believe woman can be a good a leader for the company. But Katharine never give up to make her company grow and to be good a leader as a woman, she is can balance her social life and her political. She is believed can do the best for all, for company and her family, that's way for people underestimate woman. We can identify by dialogue to analyze the main character Katharine Graham.

Scene 1 Duration(14:36-15:01)

Ben : oh, come on.

Katharine : I just, are you sure we are straight right down here Dan?
Ben : oh, we do this again.
Katharine : no, the new style sometime, stiletto party scope, can be mean.
Ben : I handle, I working for new editor.
Katharine : yes are you, because I know I talk to you about this before, are you losing *female readership* you know and I think, you may work focus more what woman hope.

Based on Scene 1

In the morning at restaurant Katharine and her partner Ben talk about the business and political, and Kay give the suggestion for her friend. In the dialogue above in scene 1 *Italic* word explain Katharine make her friend more thinking about what women hope, and he try make her friend understand what woman need in social, her just to give suggestion to more better for the newspaper to female, her friend don't think about female reader for his newspaper Katharine just represent women reader feeling for the newspaper. Her friend makes female reader think not comfortable with the newspaper. As a woman Katharine just say what her feel and that can make her friend think how women can comfortable in social life, although it's through read newspaper. With her suggestions she is represent what women want and get rights freedom through equality in society like a man.

2. Feminism of Fear

The feminism of fear, which advocated putting an end to men's cruelty

to women; Instead of focusing on political equality for women, Katharine not easy as woman be a leader in big company after her father and her husband death, she is began deep understanding about political. There are many situation to make her more hard work to maintain her company as family legacy, although her get underestimate from her partner, but she have equal rights to be a leader for big company and can lead man.

Scene 3 Duration (50:41-50:56) (51:09-51:16)

Man : And this is great my prevariance to welcome washington post company to america stock exchange, more than respectability.

Katharine : Gentleman. Thank you all for helping make The Washington Post more the *best company*.

Based on Scene 3

In the morning at America Stock Exchange Company Katharine meeting and speech with some Gentleman to welcome the washington post company to America Stock Exchange to be more the best company From dialogue scene 3 above can identified from *italic* word Katharine begin make her company be better than before, her company get position in America stock exchange and her practiced speeches simple in many people and just her woman in the meeting as a leader, not easy to be a leader in the big company, and speech in front of many people, but Katharine try to do the best for her company, and her get her positive respond from her partner support and helper from her partner who believe Katharine can be a good a leader. That is make Katharine more confidence to be leader in her company, she relationship

with other people who encourage her goal, she make approach by speech and doing go thing. And in this moment her can prove women can get equal rights in society as a leader for man and change the situation more better than before for her company and make who don't believe woman can be a good leader realize that's woman can be good leader and prove she is get same position wit man as a leader, to make Katharine be a good leader she is must get support and freedom equality that way to make her comfortable and confidence.

3. Feminism of personal development

The feminism of personal development, which called for women's freedom through opportunities to become full persons was grounded in the view that because individuals generate ideas and achieve goals, no government or custom should prohibit the exercise of personal freedom. In the post movie Katharine as main female character can show her can use opportunities to be a good leader for her company and she is can achieve goals from her decision to publish pentagon papers that is government secret.

Scene 5 Duration (01:20:52-01:21:42)

Arthur : I'm not sure how much you think to make decision, but we have time, the printer last midnight.

Katharine : I know when the printer

Arthur : listen, I'm still learning, how do this, but everything I know about bussines, but you making serious mistake here. Only your paper get expansive cost dealing, and you hurt every person

and the hundred person get work for you.

Katharine : *I know I just try become dissolved what I want.*

Arthur : Kay, I just want best for you and your bussines, but I just call out with the bankir, and they think is possible, likely, and the number institusional investor full out, if you persist to publish, they are thinnk collapse. Kay, you got the couple hour for you kidnees everyone work for you, I hope you concider back.

Based on Scene 5

In the night after Katharine and her partner talk about her decision, one of her partner Arthur still in the party at Katharine house and they talk again about decision of Katharine. From the dialogue above scene 5 in *italic* word Katharine keep with her decision to publish newspaper to change the situation for better situation and to help many people for the next. Katharine not changes her decision although her partner tries to make her change her mind. Katharine makes these opportunities to change the situation better and government can't lie again with her decision. She is tried to do something for the government through her company to make better situation with her decision. Katharine use her opportunities not just for her company, but this is make big influence for the government and for many people, Katharine is just try do something what her can do for make situation more better and make people believe that's woman can be good a leader and can use

the opportunities from decision to achieve the goal.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Feminism and gender is about woman have figure of strong, equal rights and suffrage, in feminism there are knowledge about woman movement and equal position with man in society. In The Post movie Katharine can prove that women can be a good leader in a big company although she get discrimination from some people, from three type of liberal feminism that is feminism of equal rights, feminism of fear, and feminism of personal development, she is show people can't underestimate woman and she can proof women can be a good a leader. Another struggle she can make her company grow and Katharine Graham be first woman publish newspaper. And then she is successful and struggle of her inspiration her father and her husband be a good leader. Katharine worked tirelessly to change the perception of women in workplace, and proof women can be leader in a big company and success.

The Post movie is interesting movie from picture and story, Katharine as main woman character also proves morality message. The Post movie can be object for English literature and deeply to understand about feminism especially liberal feminism. The researcher analyzed the main female character can representation liberal feminism. The researcher suggest to anyone who interest in liberal feminism and other supporting references.

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