Analysis of Gender Discrimination in Precious Movie

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Abstract

This research discusses gender discrimination in the "Precious" movie. This research has two objectives. (1) To find the forms of gender discrimination in Precious movie. (2) To investigate the factors cause gender discrimination in the Precious movie. This study used descriptive qualitative method. This is related to data descriptions in the form of conversations and descriptions of actions in the his. The analysis in this research uses analysis from spreadlay and theory from Zulhayatin and Relawati. The research's findings demonstrate that 3 of the 5 forms of gender discrimination namely violence, stereotypes, and marginalization were discovered. Additionally, the rationality factor and the patriarchy factor are the two causes of the gender discrimination that Precious experienced in the "Precious" movie. Based on the research that has been completed, there are 7 data sentences or actions that contain gender discrimination experienced by the character Precious in the "Precious" movie. In accordance with the data, researcher found that 5 data were caused by patriarchy factors, and 2 data were caused by rationality factors.

Keyword: Movie, Gender Discrimination, Factors, Precious

A. Introduction

Life in society cannot be separated from literature, which is part of culture. As time goes by, literature also develops. One form of literary work that is popular among various groups is movie. According to Pallapah and Syamsuddin (1986) in (Supardi, 2022)a movie is an entertainment tool that combines storyline, moving images, and sound in one artistic frame. In mass communication, a movie's message can take various forms depending on its mission, including educational, entertainment, and informative messages based on the explanation in (Gracia et al., 2020b). One of the movies analyzed in this research is *Precious*, which is adapted from the novel "Push" by Sapphire. This movie narrates the life experiences of Claireece Precious Jones, a 16-year-old girl who faces various forms of violence and gender discrimination. Through this movie, the researcher aims to examine the gender discrimination occurring and its underlying factors, particularly in the context of black women who should have the same rights and freedoms as other women. Based on the background, the problems addressed in this thesis are: 1. What forms of gender discrimination are found in *Precious* movie? and 2. What are the factors causing gender discrimination in *Precious* movie? This study aims to: 1. To find the forms of gender discrimination in *Precious* movie. 2. To investigate the factors cause gender discrimination in *Precious* movie. This introduction provides a general overview of the research context and explains the problems and objectives that the study seeks to address through the analysis of gender discrimination in *Precious* movie. It is hoped that this research can contribute both theoretically and practically to understanding and addressing gender discrimination in society.

B. Methods

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. According to Lexy J. Moleong (2011) in (Maryam et al., 2022), qualitative research generates descriptive data from people's spoken and written words as well as behavior observations. This type of study aims to characterize or explain events that are currently occurring, including both technological and natural phenomena. In qualitative descriptive research, individuals, events or activities, places or locations, items, different images, notes, documents, and archives can all serve as data sources (Maryam et al., 2022), primary data source for this research is *Precious* movie, directed by Lee Daniels and written by Geoffrey S. Fletcher based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire. The lead actress, Gabourey Sidibe, was a psychology student when she was cast for the role of Precious Jones. The movie also stars Mo'Nique, who won the Best Supporting Actress award at the 2010 Academy Awards. The researcher watched this movie via the provided link: https://youtu.be/D-KOAVqU3QU?si=aH5XcItipsy-PwDp

In collecting data, the researcher uses the following steps:
1. Watching the *Precious* Movie.
2. Understanding the story and conflict in the movie.
3. Writing the conversation into a transcript.
4. Highlighting parts of the conversation that show gender discrimination in the movie.
5. Analyzing forms of gender discrimination and factors of gender discrimination.
6. Making conclusions.

This research uses the qualitative data analysis method proposed by James Spradley (1979) in (Maryam et al., 2022). Spradley proposed four stages in data analysis: domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, componential analysis, and theme analysis. This research utilized three stages of analysis:
1. Domain Analysis: This involves searching for larger units of cultural knowledge, called domains. The researcher watches the *Precious* movie and gathers data at this stage.
2. Taxonomy Analysis: This classification system inventories domains into flow diagrams or other pictorial representations to help understand the relationships between domains. The taxonomy starts from the domain and divides it into more specialized parts to find accurate results.
3. Componential Analysis: This is a systematic search for the attributes associated with cultural symbols. The researcher evaluates the moviecollected data and creates a table with percentages.

This detailed methodology outlines the processes of collecting, analyzing, and presenting data in this study on gender discrimination as portrayed in *Precious* movie. The methodological approach ensures that the research is thorough, systematic, and provides a clear framework for addressing the research questions.

C. Result

This section contains findings regarding forms of gender discrimination and factors causing gender discrimination in *Precious* movie. In the movie, not all sentences and actions show gender discrimination. The data presented was based on sentences and actions experienced by the character Claireece Precious Jones in the *Precious* movie.

Tabel 1. Table Componential Analysis

Type GD ⟋ Factor GD	Rationality	Patriarchy	Total
Violence	-	4	4
Stereotypes	1	1	2
Marginalization	1	-	1

The table above shows a componential analysis table where of the 5 forms of gender discrimination, 3 forms of gender discrimination were found, namely marginalization, sterotypes and

violence. The most common form of gender discrimination found in this research is violence. Furthermore, 2 factors were found that caused gender discrimination out of 4 factors that caused gender discrimination, namely rationality factors and patriarchy factors. Of these two factors, the most frequent cause of gender discrimination is the phatriarchy factor. The forms of gender discrimination that have been found in the *Precious* movie in this study are as follows:
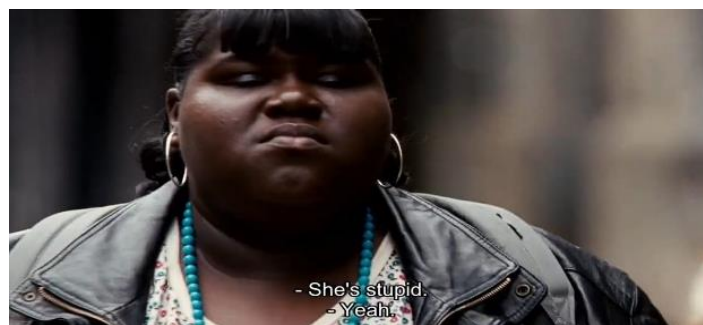
Tabel 2. Domain Analysis Forms of Gender Discrimination

No	Forms of Gender Discrimination	Number of Data	Percentage
1	Violence	4	57,1%
2	Stereotypes	2	28,6%
3	Marginalization	1	14,3 %
4	Subordination	-	-
5	Double Burden	-	-

Based on the table above, there are 3 forms of gender discrimination experienced by Precious that were found in this research. There were 4 data (57.1%) of violence, 2 data (28.6%) of stereotypes, and 1 data (14.3%) of marginalization.

1. Marginalization

When an individual or group is marginalized as a result of gender differences, this is known as marginalization. Women are frequently marginalized as a result of gender discrimination. Women may face discrimination at work, at home, in communities, in cultures, and across national borders. There is 1 data on gender discrimination in the form of marginalization out of 7 data found.

This is one part of gender discrimination in the form of marginalization that occurs when Precious is walking home from school and accidentally meets men who tease her on the street, but she ignores them so they call her stupid.

Time: 00:20:44 - 00:20:45
Boys: ***"She's stupid.** Yeah."*

The assertion that women are "stupid" or less intellectually competent is a particularly pernicious form of gender discrimination and marginalization. It negatively impacts women's self-confidence and self-esteem. Historically, women have often not had the same access to education as men. This hinders women's full participation in various spheres of life, from education to employment, and impedes social and economic progress. This has led to inequalities in knowledge and skills, which are then used to reinforce the view that women are less competent.

2. Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are prejudices or beliefs about a particular gender based on social norms, cultural expectations, or historical biases. Gender stereotypes can be harmful and limiting because they can shape a person's expectations, behaviors, and identities in ways that are inauthentic or reinforcing, and they necessarily harm both genders and create injustice. Stereotypes lead to discrimination and injustice, leading to hardship, marginality, and poverty. There are 2 data on gender discrimination in the form of stereotypes out of 7 data found.

This is a form of stereotyping in the *Precious* movie, this part occurs when Precious is scolded by her mother after Precious' teacher comes to their house.

Real motherfucking women sacrifice.

Time: 00:13:17 - 00:13:24

Mrs. Mary: *"I'm gonna show you what real women do bitch. See, you don't know what real motherfucking women do. **Real motherfucking women sacrifice.** I should've aborted your motherfucking ass. 'cause you aint shit."*

Based on the diatribe Precious received from her mother, this sentence can be said to be a form of stereotypes gender discrimination because gender stereotypes are common views or prejudices about how men and women should behave based on their gender. The idea that women should make sacrifices is one example of a long-standing gender stereotype that is influenced by various cultural, social, and historical factors. Women are often placed in supportive and caring roles, which require personal sacrifice for the benefit of the family and community. These traits are often associated with sacrifice as women are expected to put the needs of others before their own. The claim that women must make sacrifices not only disadvantages women, but also narrows the space for them to reach their full potential and hinders gender equality.

Another form of stereotyping found in this movie is when Precious feels pain when she is having contractions about to give birth to her second child, there is a male nurse who tells her to stop screaming.

Stop screaming.

Time: 00:55:43 - 00:55:45
Nurse: *"Stop screaming."*

Women being asked to endure the pain of childbirth is an example of gender discrimination in the form of stereotyping for several reasons including that society normalizes pain as the duty of women not men, because there is a strong stereotype that pain in childbirth is something natural and natural for women, and therefore they should accept it without complaint. This stems from the traditional view that women were created to give birth and endure pain as part of their nature. Patriarchal cultures often teach men to see women's roles and experiences as less significant than their own. Traditional masculinity often glorifies physical strength and endurance, which can lead men to trivialize women's experiences of pain, including the pain of childbirth.

3. Violence

Violence is a multifaceted form of gender discrimination that can be defined differently depending on the situation and perspective. Violence can be divided into non-verbal and verbal violence. Violence is an act that causes bodily harm, death, physical damage to property, or coercion. There are 4 data on gender discrimination in the form of violence both non-verbal and verbal violence out of 7 data found.

This situation depicts Precious imagined how she had been sexually violenced or raped by her own biological father. Not just once, Precious has often experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment from her father, even to the point where she gave birth to two children as a result of her and her father's sexual relations.

Time: 00:06:34 - 00:07:51
Carl: *Yes. Yeah. Right there. Yeah. Daddy loves you. **(Precious was raped by her father).***

The rape experienced by Precious in this movie is classified as a form of gender discrimination in the form of violence for several reasons, including because rape is often a tool to enforce power and control over women. It reflects patriarchal social structures in which women are considered objects and subordinates that can be exploited by men. It affirms male dominance and devalues women's position in society. Rape has a very damaging impact on the victim, including psychological trauma, shame, social stigma, and isolation. Women who experience rape are often socially blamed or punished, which reinforces gender discrimination and compounds women's suffering.

Not only did Precious experience non-verbal violence, she also experienced verbal violence from people in her neighborhood. For example, when she returned from school and was walking home, there was a group of men on the side of the road who teased her.

Let me get some of that sweet ass, orca!

Time: 00:20:28 - 00:20:34
Boys: *You heard what the fuck I said? I said give me some fucking ass. I'm serious! When you gonna let me hit that?*

Teasing or implying sexual desire towards women because of their bodies is behavior that can be viewed as a form of gender discrimination and verbal or psychological violence depending on the context and intensity. Teasing a woman because of her body is often a form of sexual objectification, where women are treated as sexual objects to satisfy men's desires

13

without regard to the woman's own humanity or desires. It dehumanizes women's dignity and self-esteem, and reinforces the view that women exist only for male sexual gratification. For many women, the experience of being exposed to unwanted or unsolicited sexual comments or actions can make them feel unsafe and uncomfortable. This can create an unpleasant and disruptive environment at work, at school, or in public spaces.

Furthermore, gender discrimination is a form of violence that Precious experiences in this movie when she continues to ignore a group of men who tease her and these men continue to insist on enjoying Precious' body.

Time: 00:20:35 - 00:20:40
*Boys: **Let me get some of that sweet, orca! What up mama?***
Precious: Why boys always grabbing on themselves?

Flirting by forcing women to let men enjoy their bodies or satisfy men is a form of violent gender discrimination because it involves exploitation, unequal power, and violation of women's basic rights. It is all the more accurate because forcing women to do anything they don't want to do with their bodies is a violation of human rights and an abuse of unequal power between men and women. Everyone has the right to determine what to do with their own bodies, and forcing women to satisfy men's desires is an affront to their rights. Forcing women to let men enjoy their bodies or satisfy men is a form of sexual exploitation and objectification. Women are treated as sexual objects to fulfill men's desires without regard to the woman's own wants, needs or comfort.

The last form of gender discrimination in the form of violence that researcher found in this study was when Precious remained ignorant of the men who teased her, so the men were upset and pushed Precious to the ground.

Time: 00:20:29 - 00:20:51
Precious: I wish they'd leave me alone.
*Boys: She's stupid. Yeah. **(One of them pushed precious until she fell and they laughed at her).***

Pushing a woman to the ground for ignoring and obeying a man's will is a form of gender discrimination in the form of violence because it involves abuse of power, unequal control, and humiliation of women's dignity and rights. The underlying reasons for this include men using their power to force women to do what they want, without regard for the woman's wants, needs or rights. Pushing women to the point of physical or emotional collapse is an affront to women's dignity and

self-respect. It shows a demeaning and harmful attitude towards women, which can undermine their self-confidence and emotional well-being. This kind of violence can have serious psychological and emotional effects on women, including trauma, depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems.

The study found that the most prominent form of gender discrimination in *Precious* movie is violence. The violence experienced by the main character includes physical, emotional, and sexual violence, which depicts the deep suffering faced by women in the context of gender discrimination. Gender stereotypes were also identified, where negative views based on gender affected the way the main character was treated. In addition, marginalization is found to be another form of gender discrimination, suggesting that women are often ignored or marginalized in society.

Tabel 3. Taxonomy Analysis of Factors Causing Gender Discrimination

No	Factors Causing Gender Discrimination	Number of Data	Percentage
1	Patriarchy	5	71,4%
2	Rationality	2	28,6%
3	Public Belief in Myths	-	-
4	Capital System	-	-

The patriarchal factor is the main cause of gender discrimination in this movie. Patriarchy reflects a power structure dominated by men, which governs and controls women's lives. This is seen in the way the main character is treated by the people around her. The rationality factor also contributes to gender discrimination, where social norms that consider certain roles more natural for men or women reinforce discriminatory treatment. Here is example of factors that cause gender discrimination:

Time: 00:55:43 - 00:55:45
Nurse: ***"Stop screaming."***

Trivializing the pain of women who are about to give birth by men because of rationality is a form of gender discrimination because it reinforces the view that women are not comparable to men in terms of suffering, experience and health care. The rationality that leads to the trivialization of women's pain during childbirth creates inequality in health attention between men and women. This ignores women's need for appropriate medical care and reinforces the view that women do not have an equal right to adequate health attention. The trivialization of women's pain during childbirth by men is often based on the assumption that women "should" be able to endure pain or that their pain is not comparable to the suffering experienced by men.

D. Discussion

Apart from being the winner in the Best Actress Performance category and winner of the Best Adapted Screenplay of All Time at the 2010 USA Academy Awards, and many other nominations in other categories, the *Precious* movie is very interesting because Precious is very tough, fighting, and being able to survive in a toxic environment until finally being able to do things beyond her mother's control. The character Precious Jones in the *Precious* movie offers several valuable lessons that can be applied to our lives. Precious' lack of education and literacy skills is a major obstacle to her success and well-being. Her story highlights the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty and improving one's life. Despite the challenges she faces, Precious finds the strength to stand up for herself and fight for her rights. Her story shows that even in the darkest times, we have the power to take control of our lives and make positive changes. Precious' experiences with physical and emotional abuse had a major impact on her life. Her story reminds us of the long-term impact of trauma and the importance of seeking help and support.

Based on the findings of gender discrimination that have been researched, researcher analyzed the types of gender discrimination in the *Precious* movie experienced by the character Claireece Precious Jones. Zulhayatin in (Apriliandra & Krisnani, 2021) explains the forms of discrimination against women into 5 forms, namely stereotypes, subordination, marginalization, double burden and violence. In this analysis, researcher found 3 forms of gender discrimination in the *Precious* movie experienced by the character Claireece Precious Jones, namely marginalization, stereotypes, and violence. The findings of this research are based on the researchers' considerations and the results of discussions with the co-researcher, Dhanu Ario Putra, M.Hum. This character condition causes her to often experience discrimination, both because of physical, economic, fear and lack of self-confidence. There are two factors that cause gender discrimination found in this movie based on Precious' experience, namely the rationality factor and the patriarchy factor. Then the factor that is most often found is the patriarchy factor which is the most important factor.

Precious' family is a classic example of a patriarchal society. Her mother, Mary Lee Johnston, herself was a victim of patriarchy, and she perpetuated the cycle by abusing and controlling her children. The father figure, Coke, is absent and abusive, reinforcing patriarchal norms. That is why the models of patriarchy is the factor that mostly appeared in the movie. Precious is a student who has not worked, she only relies on welfare funds so that she does not experience gender discrimination with the capital system factor.

This finding is in line with (Gracia et al., 2020a) who analyzed the signs of gender discrimination and found 5 indicators of gender discrimination, such as workload, marginalization, subordination, stereotyping, and violence. Apart from that, the factors found in this research can support the findings from (Delfina Fatihayah & Marudut Bernadtua Simanjuntak, 2022) research, which said that gender equality for women is very important. With the findings of this research, we can find out which factors of gender discrimination in women are very important for overcoming stigma and discrimination against women, as well as increasing awareness and protecting their rights in developing power and quality.

This research highlights the importance of social support and policies that support gender equality to reduce gender discrimination. These findings show that gender discrimination not only harms the victimized individual, but also reflects a systemic problem that requires attention and action from the wider community. The study has limitations in its focus on a single movie, so it may not cover the broader spectrum of gender discrimination experiences. Future research may explore a variety of movies or combine quantitative data to provide a more comprehensive understanding of gender discrimination in media.

E. Conclusion

This thesis entitled "An Analysis of Gender Discrimination in *Precious* Movie" highlights various forms of gender discrimination experienced by the main character, Precious. This movie clearly depicts the physical, emotional and sexual violence she experienced, reflecting the reality of systematic and multi-layered gender discrimination. Precious represents many women from marginalized groups who are trapped in a cycle of oppression, which is exacerbated by factors such as

race, social class, and lack of education. The analysis shows the importance of social support and policies that support gender equality.

This research has answered the question of how gender discrimination is depicted in this movie and its profound impact on the lives of the protagonists. There is a series that has been carried out to get answers to two statement of the problems, namely what forms of gender discrimination are found in *Precious* movie? and what are the factors causing gender discrimination in *Precious* movie, using descriptive qualitative methods and using theories from Zulhayatin and Relawati and for the flow of data collection using theories from Spredley. Based on the findings and analysis that researcher conducted on the *Precious* movie, researcher found 7 gender discrimination data in the *Precious* movie. Researcher found 3 forms of gender discrimination and 2 factors causing gender discrimination experienced by the character Precious in the movie.

The implications of these findings underscore the urgent need for policies and support systems that promote gender equality and protect vulnerable individuals from harassment and discrimination. This research acknowledges limitations such as focusing on a single movie, which may not capture the full spectrum of experiences of gender discrimination. Future research could explore a wider range of movies or include quantitative data to complement the qualitative analysis, thereby providing a more comprehensive understanding of gender discrimination in the media. With this research, it is hoped that readers can understand the severe impact of gender discrimination and highlight the need to build a society that is fairer and more equal for all individuals, regardless of gender.

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