Representation Of Liberal Feminism in Greta Gerwig's Little Women Movie

Amanda Riskia Salam [1,a], Merry Rullyanti [2,b], Lina Tri Astuty B. Sembiring [3,c]

Affiliation
1. Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu
2. Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu
3. Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu

Correspondence
1. amandariskiasalam758@gmail.com
2. merry.sasing@unived.ac.id
3. sembiringlina07@unived.ac.id

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the portrayal of liberal feminism in Greta Gerwig's film "Little Women" This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach. This method aims to elucidate the formation of the Representation of Liberal Feminism by analyzing each scene and speech in the movie "Little Women". This research focuses on the film "Little Women" directed by Greta Gerwig in 2019. The research use an observation checklist as the primary tool. This study observation checklist is derived from Stuart Hall's theory (1997), which categorizes Representation into three distinct components: Intentional, Construction, and Reflective. The writer also found moral values based on the theory of Kinnier (2000) which combines moral values into six categories. The results showed that there were seven results of the types of representation shown in the movie " Little Women". Each of these categories, the one that reflects liberal feminism the most is intentional representation. Another finding is the moral values, the most common moral values is a commitment to something greater than oneself.

Keyword: Representation ofLiberal Feminism, Little Women Movie.

A. Introduction

Literature, as we all know, reflects society and its realities. A literary work can take many forms, including novels, poetry, stories, movie, plays, and fiction. It may also include texts that are based on facts and imagination. It may also include texts that are both informative and imaginative. (Akhater, 2020).

One form of scientific work that is very popular with various groups is movies; this can be seen in people's penchant for watching movies. A movie is an oral narrative piece that often airs on television or in theaters for two hours. According to (Sofia et al, 2024) a movie is a type of media that takes the shape of a video and is based on a true story before adding elements of meaning and amusement. People can access multiple artistic elements, such as sound and visuals, through movies. Because movies are a representation of real life, viewers will learn lessons from the content of the movie as conveyed by the characters through the visual aspect. However, Graeme Turner states that he rejects the idea that movie is a representation of real life (Pricilia, 2021). Turner argues that the meaning of movie is limited to depicting social reality, not a representation of life. Movies only represent reality on the screen without changing anything.

Little Women is a movie that revolves around four sisters who each have unique aspirations. Margaret March, also known as Meg, possesses an aesthetically pleasing countenance. Josephine March, commonly referred to as Jo, exhibits tomboyish traits and takes pleasure in the activities of reading and writing, with aspirations of becoming an esteemed author. Elizabeth March, known as Beth, is characterized by her timid nature and finds delight in playing the piano. Amy March, simply referred to as Amy, derives pleasure from the pursuit of artistic endeavors. In spite of their contrasting characteristics, Meg and her sisters are facing difficulties in order to stay alive. Director Greta Gerwig employs the characters of Jo and Amy to effectively communicate a feminist ideology. Gerwig aims to portray Alcott's cherished novel as a critique of the prevailing disparity between genders in the institution of marriage and family, both in the past and potentially in the present.

According to (Dewi and Medina, 2020) "feminism is a movement to end sexism, exploitation, and oppression." This demonstrates how society expects women to be valuable members of society with the same equality as men, free from oppression and exploitation. The dehumanizing treatment of women by men in the home and in society is opposed by feminism. In light of gender inequality, feminism brings up questions about individual freedom and autonomy. Feminism theory is divided into several types, namely: liberal, radical, marxist/socialist, global, social, postcolonial, existential, psychoanalytic, ecofeminism, and postmodern.

The subject of the study is liberal feminism. A feminist movement called liberal feminism supports women's individual independence in the fields of politics, economics, education, and society at large. It may also be referred to as the pioneering feminist movement. Giving women the flexibility to follow their goals based on their abilities is the goal of liberal feminism.

Previous academics have conducted reviews on multiple papers pertaining to the concept of gender discrimination. The initial study undertaken by Siregar in 2023 was titled The Portrayal of Liberal Feminism in the Main Character of the Novel "The Little Women" and its Implications in Education. The objective of this study is to ascertain the specific liberal feminist principles that the main heroine of Little Women experienced. The study's findings elucidate the main character's engagements with liberal feminism in Little Women and underscore the impact of liberal feminism on the main character's educational encounters. A shared characteristic across the works is their emphasis on liberal feminism.

However, there is variation in the models chosen for analysis and the specific subject matter examined. The second study, undertaken by Sutrisno et al. in 2023, is titled "An Analysis of How Women's Struggle Was Portrayed from the Main Character in the Movie "Little Women." This study aims to explore the challenges faced by women in their resistance against the character of Jo March in the film adaptation of Little Women (2019) via the perspective of feminism. The writer's inquiry resulted in two discoveries. Initially, the protagonist confronts challenges associated with societal expectations around gender roles, including the pressure for women to enter into advantageous marriages. The second aspect revolves with the protagonist's endeavor to fulfill her future aspirations, exemplified by her decision to sacrifice her hair for sale, notwithstanding the societal significance of hair as a symbol of femininity during that era. The research shares resemblance solely in the movie to be examined, while the distinction resides in the methodology and subject of study.

The final study, undertaken by Syafitri (2022), is titled "Representation of the Liberal Feminism Movement in Moxie Film" (Semiotics Analysis of Roland Barthes): A Semiotic Analysis by Roland Barthes." The objective of this research is to examine the semiotics of how the liberal feminist movement is portrayed in the film Moxie. The findings of this study indicate the emergence of feminist movements, characterized by the recognition that (1) women possess intellectual capabilities, (2) women are entitled to exercise their reasoning abilities in decision-making processes, (3) every woman has autonomy over her own body, (4) the principle of gender equality between men and women, and (5) the rejection of the notion that women are inherently weak. Liberal feminists aim to liberate women from the constraints of restrictive gender roles. This study shares a commonality in that it focuses on the same issue, which is liberal feminism. However, there is a distinction between the model theory and the object of investigation.

The fourth research was by (Fathumakka, 2023) "Representation of Liberal Feminism in Little Women's Movie Script." The purpose of this study is to represent feminism in the main character of

little women, namely Jo. This research uses instrictic and extrictic methods. Although the similarity of this research is about the same theme of feminism, the difference is in the object to be studied.

The latest research is by (Sofia et al, 2024) entitled "Liberal Feminism in the Little Women Movie". The goals of the research are to (1) identify the many forms of gender discrimination that Jo March encountered in the movie Little Women and (2) examine how Jo March embodies liberal feminism in the film. The writer makes use of Mukarovsky's dynamic structuralism theory. The writer conducted the investigation using library research. This study is similar in that it uses liberal feminism as its central focus. However, there is a distinction between the research object and the model theory.

From the five previous studies, the writer found similarities and differences with this research. For similarities with this study, the previous studies above also both analyzed liberal feminism in Little Women. But for the difference, the theoretical analysis used is more specific compared to previous studies, and the writer will apply Stuart Hall's representation theory in this study. The Little Women movie will be the object of this research because, based on preliminary observations, this movie is one of the most popular movies in 2019. Besides that, there are also many implied feminist messages. By using Stuart Hall's model, the writer will represent signs that include language (dialogue) or various symbols that reflect the meaning of the Little Women movie. The reason why the writer chose the title "Representation of Liberal Feminism in Greta Gerwig's Little Women Movie" is because the writer is interested in gender issues that arise in society and cannot be separated from everyday life. In this study, the writer wants to know how the representation of liberal feminism is depicted in the Little Women movie, and the writer also wants to know the moral value of liberal feminism in the movie Little Women.

Feminism serves as a means for women to achieve parity in terms of rights and responsibilities with males. Additionally, feminism functions as a tool for scrutinizing literary works. Feminism is the analysis of literary works from a woman's standpoint. Some feminist researchers differentiate between a feminist methodology and a feminist theoretical approach that focuses on addressing women's difficulties inside important institutions in the public sphere, such as social, political, economic, religious, and intellectual institutions. (2) The main focus is on analyzing differences, such as the differences between women and men, as well as the systemic differences that exist based on factors like race, class, nationality, sexuality, and historicity. (3) The approach involves incorporating Western feminist theorists in academic research to examine the wide range of feminist theories, resulting in a classification system known as the hypernational model. This framework examines feminist theories within the context of Western ideologies that they are linked to, including liberal feminism, socialist/Marxist feminism, and psychoanalytic feminism. Fitri (2019).

Liberal feminism is an ideology that prioritizes women's complete autonomy and personal choice. This people's battle seeks equal chances and rights for all genders, especially women because they equally exist as social creatures. Freedom and balance are rooted in logic; in essence, there is no difference between men and women. (Syafitri, 2022).

The term "represent" has two meanings: it can stand for "to mean" or it might act as a delegate for something, acting as a symbol for it. The process of communicating reality through words, images, or combinations there is referred to as representation. reality that may be conveyed through communication via words, visuals, or a combination, which connects notions and ideas about something using certain symbols and signs (Pricilia, 2021).

The writer employs Stuart Hall's Representation theory in this research, aligning with its central theme. According to Hall (1997), representation refers to the creation and dissemination of meaning using language. Representation refers to the use of language to convey meaningful information about the world to others. Representation is a crucial component of the process by which meaning is created and shared among individuals within a culture (Pujiati et al., 2019).

This implies that the act of representing something is a vital component in the process of generating and sharing the understanding of a concept through language. Language serves as a medium for understanding and creating meaning in our world. Language employs signs and symbols to convey thoughts, ideas, and emotions, all of which are rooted in a particular culture (Pujianti et al., 2019).

The research conducted by the writer is different and more interesting than the previous study because it focuses attention not only on signs (dialogue) but also on actions in movies. The study used a different theory of the literature review in previous research, it used the theory of representational techniques from Stuart hall, where one of the previous studies used analytical analysis techniques from Charles s. Pierce.

(Hermayanthi, 2021) created three keywords of Representation, namely: Intentional Representation, constructionist representation, and reflective representation. Intentional representation is a way of talking about something to convey the personal intentions of the owner of the idea. Constructionist representation is the way in which ideas are reconstructed 'in' and 'through' language. Reflective representation is a way of conveying that reflects an idea or meaning.

B. Methods

Research Instruments

This research is descriptive qualitative. According to (crotty, 1998) qualitative methods are approaches that use numerical data and even statistical data. that the majority of the data used in qualitative research is non-numerical, whether in the form of text, graphs, pictures, diagrams, audio, video, and other non-numerical data.

Data Collection

According to (Creswell (2012:276) in (Sidiq & Manaf, 2020) the data analysis technique is processing and preparing data, reading data that has been obtained, analyzing more detail by encoding data, applying coding processes, demonstrating how the focus of the research will be represented in the form of a narrative/qualitative report, producing comparisons chart, interpretation or interpretation of data. Data are collected with these steps: 1. Watch a little women movie, 2. Understanding the story and looking for the liberal feminist movement contained in the movie, 3. To write a conversation or dialogue in some of the scenes in little women movie to explore the representation of liberal feminism that is expressed through language or dialogue that appear in every movie in its transcripts, 4. Data the speech part in the scene that shows the representation of liberal feminism in the movie. 5. And look for the moral values found in the movie

Data Analysis

This research uses representation analysis from Stuart Hall, namely qualitative data analysis proposed by Stuart Hall 1997 in (Hermayanthi, 2021). Hall proposed 3 representations in data analysis, namely Intentional Representation, constructionist representation, and reflective representation. Intentional representation is a way of talking about something to convey the personal intentions of the owner of the idea. Constructionist representation is the way in which ideas are reconstructed 'in' and 'through' language. Reflective representation is a way of conveying that reflects an idea or meaning.

The writer used the all of representation types, At the end of this analysis the writer will find out how much data the writer has collected. Analysis of several sentences related to the title of this study.

C. Result

Table 1. Table Example

Nr	Types of representation	Data
1	Intensional	5
2	Constructionist	1
3	Reflective	1
4	Total	7

D. Discussion

This research aimed to find out the representation of liberal feminism in the Little Woman movie. The writer's findings showed that three types of representation presented in Little Women movie. The representation were divided into five types of intensional, one types of constructionist, and one types of reflective.

In this research, the position of the subject in Stuart Hall's representation theory refers to the characters or actors who have the opportunity to portray themselves. In this case, that is introduced from the side of liberal feminism. This can be seen from several scenes of dialogue that she utters. The intensional representation found in this study is the dominant frequency of all types identified. This may be due to the fact that this movie is a drama movie. As in the cut scene when Meg March & Jo March talk about their ambitions and dreams, through Meg March's character who aspires to build a family with John. The passion and determination that Meg has for this is one of the illustrations of the concept of intentionality in this movie. This deliberate representation of ambition and dreams illustrates the character's determination and struggle to achieve a goal, as well as the internal conflicts that arise from society's expectations of women at that time. Representation, as it is described, plays a crucial role in the process of conveying and sharing the significance of ideas in our thoughts using language. In the realm of language, signs and symbols are employed to convey our cultural conceptions, thoughts, and emotions to others (Pujianti et al., 2019).

Moreover, this study identified seven ethical principles depicted in the Little Women movie. The research has found that the most prevalent sort of moral values is a dedication to a cause or purpose that surpasses one's individual interests. According to (Apriliana, 2022) that moral values are universal truths that are considered good and important by humans, are ethical principles that humans strive to achieve and apply in their daily lives. Therefore, we can see in one of the cuts of the scene/dialogue where there is one scene of Amy talking to Lauri, where in that scene Amy shows a huge commitment to her family by being willing to do anything to help them in difficult financial circumstances, namely being willing to sacrifice her dreams of becoming a famous painter and deciding to get married.

The findings of this research confirm several theories from (Sarsono et al, 2024) which state that there are special categories of moral values, one of which is commitment to something greater than oneself, where the main moral principle that guides a person who believes in something greater than oneself is goodness. this can also refer to someone or something that is considered to have power outside oneself. In this discussion, the writer purposively took several pieces of scene/dialogue as samples. In Greta Gerwig's Little Women, the writer tries to position herself as a woman herself either in the subject or object position displayed by the characters. especially in the character Jo who is the most dominant subject position with her thoughts and behavior to uphold equality between women and men.

E. Conclusion

In this research, the writer concludes that there are seven scenes that represent liberal feminism in the Little Women movie. and can be grouped into three categorizations.namely, intentional, constructionist, and reflective representation. In each of these categories, the one that reflects liberal feminism the most is intentional representation. Every scene and dialogue in the movie conveys themes of liberal feminism through complex characters and in-depth narratives, emphasizing the importance of choice, personal freedom, equality, and women's rights in social and historical contexts.

In the section on moral values, the writer identified seven scenes in the movie Little Women that exemplify moral principles. These scenes can be classified into six categories, namely: commitment to something greater than oneself , Self-respect with humbleness or respect for others, caring for other living things and the enviroment, respect and caring for others, courage , and also faith. Within each of these categories, the prevailing moral norms are centered around a commitment to something greater than oneself

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