

An Analysis of Women Harassments in “*Mad Max: Fury Road*” Movie Using Feminism Theory by Simone de Beauvoir

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze women harassments in *Mad Max Furry Road* movie. The data was taken from the dialogs and the scenes in the movie that mostly displayed women harassment and how the main character struggled to fight back against those harassments. The method used in this study is qualitative method. The researcher analyze the data using the theory of Simon de Beauvoir namely feminism theory. The study answered three questions related to the kinds of harassments, the struggles of the main character and the impacts of the harassments. The result showed that there are some kinds of harassments. They are physical violence, sexual violence and Reproductive Coercion harassment. The study also showed how the main character struggled by fight the oppression experienced by them that is to, namely by the female lead to save the other women, is by kidnapping them, use weapons and drive war cars and then fighting against the men who oppress them together with the other women. Lastly the study displayed the impacts of the harassments. They feel traumatized and afraid if they meet men, they also live alone without men, they find it difficult to communicate with men again because they are worried that they will be bullied again.

Keywords : Feminism, Masculinity, Women Harassment, Furiosa.

INTRODUCTION

Movie is an entertainment that is very common in society. almost everyone likes the movie. Not only entertaining people but movies have moral values, culture, education and many others. Like the movie *Mad Max Fury Road*, it shows feminism and masculinity as well as violence against women. In the film, it can be seen that there are gender inequalities and also violence perpetrated by men against women. But in the end, the main female character can fight for her rights as a woman and make gender equality.

Based on the explanation from the background, then the problem statements in this study are:

1. What kind of harassment to women reflected of “*Mad Max: Fury Road*” in the perspective of liberal feminism theory?
2. How was the actions of the main character that saved the other women experiencing harassment viewed from liberal feminism theory?
3. What are the impact of the harassment based on the movie?

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

In the study the writer used Liberal Feminism and theory of Simone de Beauvoir. The reason of the writer use it because the story of the movie is related to liberal feminism and

related to Simone de Beauvoir about feminism. Feminism is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes. Feminism incorporates the position that societies prioritize the male point of view, and that women are treated unfairly within those societies. Efforts to change that include fighting gender stereotypes and seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to those for men. In *The Second Sex*, she produced an articulate attack on the fact that throughout history women have been relegated to a sphere of “immanence,” and the passive acceptance of roles assigned to them by society.

The political view of liberalism is the basic thought of this flow of feminism by experiencing reconstruction and reconceptualization. The view of Liberalism that is included in liberal feminism is its focus on individuals, individual reasoning and self-satisfaction, individual autonomy, and the minimization of state intervention in the individual realm. Liberal feminism seeks to free women from oppressive gender roles. This role refers to the social roles attached to women which are used as justification to place women lower than men in all social fields. According to liberal feminism, patriarchy is a source of oppression against women and patriarchal societies tend to confuse the meaning of sex and gender.

METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative descriptive study as a reference in the preparation of research. The data collected is by watching a film, analyzing data and classifying data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Kinds of harassment to women reflected of “Mad Max: Fury Road” in the perspective of liberal feminism theory

In the midst of his wanderings she (Max) was caught by a group of pale skinned bald men for accidentally entering their territory. They, who call themselves the War Boys, are the subordinates of a horse-toothed skull masked Warlord, Immortan Joe. Joe is not just any Warlord. He rules in a canyon named Citadel, He has a mission to rule the world and fill it with pure blood. To achieve this, he controlled the remaining beautiful women as his wife and at the same time controlled a spring called Aqua Cola so that no one would dare to fight him. Furiosa (the main character) who could not bear to see “the breeders” of Immortan Joe's wives, trying to escape and save the wives from Joe's violence. Joe uses his wives only to conceive, give birth and breastfeed because that is the nature of women according to him, he assumed his wives are “things”. Joe also thinks that women can't do what men do. That's what makes Furiosa not accept Joe's treatment and invites his wives to fight Joe.

1.1 Reproductive Coercion harassment experienced by Splendid

*Imperator : Hey, Joe!
Boss!
Your girly's breathing her
last! Joe : What about the
child? It's gone awful quiet*

in there.
Get it
out.
Get it
out!
Imperator : Patience!
The Bullet Farmer : Oh, you stay here with your grief, Daddy.
I'll fetch them for you.
The People Eater : Be careful! Protect the assets!
The Bullet Farmer : Just one angry shot...
...for Furiosa.
H
ut!
Ye
ah
!
Imperator : Crying shame. Heh.
Come.
Another month...
...could have been your viable human!
Joe : Was it a male?
Imperator : Your A-1 Alpha
prime.(01:06:13 – 01:07:23)

Splendid, one of Joe's pregnant wives, fell from a war car on his way to escape and was found by Joe on the way, dying. Joe is on a trip with the Imposter, War Boys and Miss Giddy asking for help from Miss Giddy and one of the Imposter to get the baby in Splendid's stomach. Splendid eventually died because she was bleeding profusely but the baby she was carrying was still saved. Joe who wants a boy finally happened. Joe doesn't care about Splendid's death, because what she hopes for is a boy's presence. that is why joe uses wives only as his property, because he wants to make his son into a war troop.

Reproductive coercion is behavior that interferes with the autonomous decision-making of a woman, with regards to reproductive health. It may take the form of birth control sabotage, pregnancy coercion, or controlling the outcome of a pregnancy. Based on liberal feminism theory, namely Liberal Feminism by Simone de Beauvoir, some of these citation are closely related to one of the books written by Beauvoir, namely "The Second Sex" which described how women are made objects by men. Beauvoir stated that there are three characteristics of malafide women, namely the prostitute, the narcissic, and the mystic. However, in this research is related to The Prostitute, which is where they are always willing to be objects of men, especially they are willing to be colonized from the point of view of the body and sex.

1.2 Harassment experienced by the Mothers Milk

Imposter : Today we're hauling Aqua Cola.
War Boys : Aqua Cola!
Imposter : Today we're hauling produce!
War Boys : Produce!

*Imposter : And today we're hauling...
War Boys : Mother's Milk!
Mother's Milk!
Joe! Joe! Joe! Immortan Joe!
Imposter : Rev it up for the Immortan Joe!*

Joe has many breeders that he keeps in a special room for producing breast milk. He used breastfeeding mothers only to store a supply of breast milk for the benefit of him and the War Boys. because Joe thought, breast milk can strengthen him and the War Boys to go war or guard the base. This action included in harassment or oppression of women, because men only use women as their property like producing breast milk and not treat them properly.

Based on b point, I can say that this point is included in sexual harassment, because milk mothers experience sexual harassment and gender inequality which is only treated to produce milk because the mother milk is women. Liberal feminism means that women should be free from gender roles that oppress them, namely roles that are used as an excuse to place women at the bottom or even make them out of place. Sexism, which is discrimination based on sex, is the main cause of inequality that affects women.

2. Physical abuse experienced by Furiosa (the main character)

*Furiosa : Hey, you! Aargh!
Max : Are you okay?
Chedo : I think she's hurt.
Max : Hey!
No!
N
o
!
H
e
y.
Stay with
me. Stay
with me.
Stay with
me.
Hey.
Hey! Are you there?
Max : You finish that! I'll finish her!
Unh!*

Furiosa, the main character, was injured while fighting with the troops of Immortant Joe and the War Boys. Then Max helps Furiosa to fight the war boys.

The theory of liberal feminism argues that liberal feminism wants the state to guarantee women by effectively protecting women from violence in any place. The state is also required to guarantee women's freedom to control their own reproduction. From a more critical perspective, several feminist theorists have argued that some of the central categories of liberalism occlude women's lived concerns; for example, the central liberal private/public distinction sequesters the private sphere, and any harm that may occur thereto

women, away from political scrutiny (Pateman 1983).

2.1 Physical abuse experienced by Splendid

Splendid: We're going to the Green Place.

Nux: Wait, it's you and me. Ugh!

Splendid: We're going to the Green

Place of Many Mothers.

Furiosa: How does it feel?

Splendid: It hurts.

Furiosa: Out here, everything hurts.

You wanna get through this?

Do as I say.

Now pick up what you can and run.

(00:38:10 – 00:38:57)

In the middle of a long journey, Joe's wives, Furiosa and Nux meet one of the War Boys, he physically injures Splendid (one of Joe's wives) because Furiosa doesn't want to hand over Splendid to Joe. This action can be categorized as physical violence because one of the wives is injured.

Based on this point, Splendid experienced a physical abuse. The theory of liberal feminism argues that liberal feminism wants the state to guarantee women by effectively protecting women from violence in any place. More than any other approach, liberal feminist theory parallels developments in liberal feminist activism. While feminist activists have waged legal and political battles to criminalize, as just one example, violence against women (which previously, in marital relations, hadn't been considered a crime), feminist political philosophers who have engaged the liberal lexicon have shown how the distinction between private and public realms has served to uphold male domination of women by rendering power relations within the household as "natural" and immune from political regulation.

2.1 The actions of the main character that saved the other women experiencing harassment viewed from liberal feminism theory

In Liberal Feminism Theory, women's actions to deal with harassment are to run away or fight against the men who harass them. as reflected in this film, which I will explain at the following points.

2.1.1 The main character (Furiosa) runs away with the wives to save them

Nux (War Boys) : Hey. Hey, what's happening?

Slit!

What's going on? Slit!

Slit (War Boys) : Treason. Betrayal.

An Imperator gone rogue.

Nux : An Imperator.

Who?

Slit : Furiosa! She took a lot of stuff from Immortan Joe.

Nux : What stuff?

Slit : Breeders! His prize breeders!

*He wants them back!
Not a hand laid on
them. By my deeds I
honor him.*

(00:15:00 – 00:15:23)

Furiosa, one of the impostor of Joe, betrayed him because she did not accept if Joe only made his wives his property and tried to save the wife by kidnapping the wives quietly. Nux and Slit, the War Boys heard the news that Furiosa had run away with Joe's wife, they were ready to get ready for war and look for Furiosa with Immortan Joe. Joe's entire army is angry and wants revenge and harms Furiosa for his actions.

Based on this point, the writer focuses on the main character actions and the other women to save themselves go to war. Liberal feminism means that men and women should be equal, so in this point I think the action showed that women are equal with men because the main character went to war, I can say like that because who went to war is men. Liberal feminism also means that women can do job like men, but some people thought that women are weak. So this point can be shown as gender equality

2.1.2 Furiosa, the Wives, Nux went to war in the end of scene

*Furiosa : Ha!
Nux : Engine one's good.*

For now.

She's hurt! She's hurt...

...real

bad!

Chedo :

Aah!

Nux : You hear that?

We're gonna see two airborne V8s.

*Furiosa : I'm gonna need you to
drive.*

I'll get him out of our way.

(01:41:08 – 01:41:45)

In this scene this is part of the ending story. Furiosa against Joe and the War Boys along with Nux, Max and the Wives. Furiosa asks Nux to drive the war rig, meanwhile Furiosa shoots Joe's troops by climbing to the roof of the war rig.

As in the journal I found about Equity Feminism on the Oppression of Women, there are some words I can use to explain this point. Equity feminists argue that the differences in outcomes between women and men can be explained, not by violence against women and sex discrimination, but by differences in the preferences of women and men (Epstein 2002: 33; Stolba & Furchtgott-Roth 1999: xii). "In many cases where women remain behind men, personal choices explain outcomes more readily than does overt discrimination" (Stolba & Furchtgott-Roth 1999: xii). Liberal feminism seeks to make women aware that they are the oppressed group. The American culture that is materialistic, measures everything from matter, and is individualistic is very supportive of the success of feminism. Women were led out of the house, have careers freely and no longer depend on men. The roots of this theory

rest on freedom and equality of rationality. Women are rational beings, their abilities are the same as men, so they must be given the same rights as men. The problem lies in the product of gender biased state policies. Therefore, in the 18th century there were frequent demands for girls to receive the same education. In the 19th century there were many attempts to fight for opportunities for civil and economic rights for women, and in the 20th century women's organizations began to be formed to oppose sexual discrimination in the political, social, economic and personal fields.

2.1.3 Furiosa convinces Max to save the Wives and drive the War Rig

*Furiosa : Kill
Switches I set the
sequence myself.
This Rig goes nowhere without me.
Max : You can get
in. Not without
them. Max : So we
wait.
Furiosa : You're relying on the
gratitude of a very bad man.
You've damaged one of his wives.
How grateful do you think he's gonna be?
You're sitting on 2000
horsepower of nitro-boosted war
machine.
I'd say you got
about a five-minute head start.
You want that thing off your
face?
Let's go.
(00:39:53 –
00:41:10)*

In this scene, Max doesn't believe and know Furiosa well, and Max doesn't want to help the wives. Max thinks that Furiosa will do it because of Joe's orders, but Furiosa tries to convince Max by explaining Joe's cruel and cruel treatment to the women. When going to travel to Green Place, the War Rig (Furiosa's war car) suddenly broke down on the road while being driven by Max. Furiosa saw it then approached Max and told the button to run the vehicle's engine. Furiosa also said that the War Rig could only be driven by Furiosa because he understood the buttons and engine of the vehicle. Finally Max allowed Furiosa to get back on the War Rig and continue the journey.

This scene shows that women can drive a war vehicle and understand vehicle engines. This action shows a masculinity. Masculinity and femininity are stereotypes based on biological differences, but not something that has been around since born, it is a cultural construction, made by culture. Therefore, these differences refer more to gender differences, namely the situation in where individuals who are born biologically as male and female who then acquire mental and social characteristics as male and women through the attributes of masculinity and activities that behave like men (Moore, 1988: 13-14).

2.1.4 Furiosa ask Splendid to reload the gun to shoot the riders.

Furiosa :
Aah! Reload
the clip.
Splendid : I
*can't.**Furiosa :*
Gun! Gimme
the gun!
Splendid : Not loaded yet!
Now!
(00:55:05 –
00:55:19)

This scene shows that women can use weapons and reload bullets for war. usually this action can only be done by men, but Furiosa and the wives can do it when they are urgent and war to protect themselves. Based on this citation, Liberal Feminism is a view to place women who have full and individual freedom. This school states that freedom and equality are rooted in rationality and the separation between the private and public world. Every human being, according to them, has the capacity to think and act rationally, as well as women. The root of oppression and backwardness in women is due to the woman's own fault. Women must prepare themselves so that they can compete in the world within the framework of "free competition" and have an equal position with men. Liberal feminists have a view of the state as an impartial ruler between the interests of different groups that comes from the theory of state pluralism. They realize that the country is dominated by men, who are reflected in interests that are "masculine", but they also think that the state can be dominated by the arrogance and influence of these men. In short, the state is a reflection of the interest groups that have control over the country. For most Liberal Feminists, women tend to be "in" the country only as citizens, not as policy makers. Therefore, there is inequality of women in terms of politics or the state. Even in subsequent developments, the views of Liberal Feminists regarding "equality" at least have their own influence on the development of "the influence and equality of women to carry out political activities such as making policies in a country".

2.2 The impact of the harassment based on the movie.

2.2.1 The Vuvalini (the many mothers) questioned and doubted about the presence of the men.

The Vuvalini : Furiosa.
What happened to your mother?
Furiosa : She
died. On the third
day.
The Vuvalini : From where did you come?
Furiosa : The West. Citadel. Beyond the mountains.
The Vuvalini : The men.
Who are
they? They're
reliable.
They helped us get

*here. (01:19:37 –
01:20:06)*

According to this citation, the Vulvalini asked the presence of men, namely Max and Nux. the Vulvalini somewhat doubt the presence of Max and Nux because they are traumatized by men. they have been oppressed by men and abused, so that they live together only with women without men, because they are afraid that they will be mistreated by men again. The psychological impact of sexual harassment does not stop there. In some cases, sexual harassment can also cause post-traumatic stress disorder, especially if the harassment leads to assailants, rape, intimidation or threats of rape, to sexual abuse. Among women who have experienced sexual assault, 90 percent who experience sexual violence show symptoms of acute stress.

Based on this subheading the writer focused on the impact of the harassment. As we can see by the citation, the women who experienced harassment felt afraid to men and traumatic. I found a sentence in a journal that said that Joan Kennedy Taylor argues that women can avoid sexual harassment or lessen its impact if they learn to diffuse conflicts with men and understand the role of sexual banter in male culture (Taylor, 1999). Equity feminists also recommend that women make full use of their right to contract by turning their preferences. Like in some journal said, Violence will impact on trust self, hindering women's abilities to participate in social activities, interfere with his health, reduce autonomy, both in the fields of economy, politics, socio-cultural and physical. (Pasalbessy, 2010).

2.2.2 Furiosa feeling frightened and inferior.

On their way to safety place (The Green Place) Max, Furiosa, and The Wives, Furiosa is terrified of an attack by Joe and his troops. Because Furiosa betrayed Joe and kidnapped his wife's and ran away from Joe. But Max tried to convince Furiosa that Joe will not find them in a safe place (The Green Place), but Furiosa still feels scared, worried and insecure because Furiosa also wants to protect Joe's wives.

Max : He's not gonna hurt us. He needs us.

Furiosa : Why?

Max : To bargain.

Furiosa : Oh, he'll hurt us. Think he's coming to the Green Place?

Max : Never! He's a crazy smeg. who eats Schlesinger! Nah, stay out of there.

From the citation and scene above, it can be understood that the main character, Furiosa felt traumatized by men and she is afraid she will be injured again. Because in the previous scene she was caught kidnapping Joe's five wives and then she was attacked by Joe's troops, and she suffered injuries to her arms and legs as a result of being shot and beaten. The impact of the violence Furiosa experienced was psychological trauma. Examples of psychological trauma include nightmares related to violence, flashbacks, difficulty concentrating, depression, to post-traumatic stress disorder. And then she experienced physical pain, mental stress, decreased self-confidence and self-esteem, experiencing feelings of helplessness, experiencing post-traumatic stress, experiencing depression. But Furiosa fought her fear and traumatic by fighting Joe and his troops to stop the violence and to set her and the others women character free.

2.2.3 Living solitary or with homogeneous groups

When they are arrived to the safety place (The Green Place) Max, Furiosa, and The Wives, Furiosa and Max look around about the situation of The Green Place, because it looked quiet and no one lived there. But they wanted to live in Green Place because it was a safe place.

Furiosa : We're the only ones left. Look.

Max : Do you think there's still..... somebody out there? Those are the Plains of Silence.

From the citation and scene above, it can be understood that the main character, and the other female characters living solitary with other women on The Green Place, because they are afraid and traumatized and they tried to avoid Joe and his troops. Furiosa also tried to protect the wives from being taken back by Joe, therefore Furiosa decided to live without any men except Max. This action is the one of example of the harassment impact experienced by women.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the data and interpreting it using theory, I will write the conclusions in this chapter V. This conclusion will be based on findings on chapter IV.

The types of violence that I found based on the movies I chose were physical violence, sexual violence and Reproductive Coercion harassment.

The actions of the main character and other female characters to fight the oppression experienced by them that is to, namely by the female lead to save the other women, is by kidnapping them, use weapons and drive war cars and then fighting against the men who oppress them together with the other women.

The impact of violence experienced by women is that they feel traumatized and afraid if they meet men, they also live alone without men, they find it difficult to communicate with men again because they are worried that they will be oppressed again.

Feminism is one of literary approach which always develops. Here the writer hopes that later the audience can choose the right media to be researched, such as movies, short stories, or novels and can understand them. so that through this research, feminism can be applied in everyday life. Besides that, the author also hopes that in the future there will be more students who are interested in researching feminism. so that Feminism can be widely spread and understood in the general public.

The writers hope that this paper can be used or read by readers so that it can become knowledge in the general public about Feminism. Because what I know is Feminism is not yet widespread in society and there are still many who do not know about it. and the author also hopes that this paper can be used as a learning or reference for future students.

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