

THE EXISTENCE OF WOMEN'S FREEDOM IN EAT PRAY LOVE MOVIE (2010): AS FEMINISM STUDY

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Abstract

This final project is focused on the study of Feminism which is based on Simone de Beauvoir's theory to achieve women's freedom. It is aimed to explain the reason what are causes of the main character experiencing gender inequality and explain how the main character's efforts to gain women's freedom. This theory relates to the struggle of a woman to achieve gender equality in her marriage. The data of this research is taken from the film Eat Pray Love Script (2010) which focuses on the main female character. This study discusses the struggle of the main female character to achieve gender equality in education, economics, and freedom of expression in their marriages to achieve women's freedom. The results of the study that the main female character succeeded in achieving gender equality and achieving women's freedom by fully actualizing herself.

Keywords: [Feminism, Women's Freedom, Gender Equality, Eat Pray Love (2010) Movie]

INTRODUCTION

Feminism is an awareness of the inequality of gender division experienced by women, covering various perspectives, both in the family environment and in the social environment, thereby encouraging awareness by women and men which is then manifested in actions to change this inequality (Yubahar Ilyas:1997). Feminism is also a word for building and achieving gender equality in the political, economic, personal and social. Feminism combines the position that society prioritizes the viewpoint of men and women are treated unfairly in that society. Feminism is also an effort to change and combat gender stereotypes and seek to build educational and professional opportunities that are equal to men, it also fixed the bad thoughts about women in the past.

Women's freedom explains about women must be aware of their freedom in determining their life paths. This theory states that women must actualize themselves to the maximum and prove that women can determine their path in life. Simone De Beauvoir argues that women should have the awareness to make choices, women can work according to their wishes, become intellectuals, and women are free to reject various rules and values norm in society that bind them.

Simone de Beauvoir's theory explains many things about women, one of which is discussing gender equality. Simone de Beauvoir states that women must have the same capacity and rights as men, even though men have greater biological power. Like Elizabeth who dared to free herself from gender inequality in her marriage, she was able to fight for women's freedom by being aware of her freedom and actualizing herself to the fullest so that she could find her way in life as a woman.

The film tells a woman is independent in determining her life path. Elizabeth Gilbert is a modern woman who has everything but she has to experience the most pain since then Elizabeth Gilbert has actualized herself to the fullest and released the burden of a man. Based on the description above, the goals are set as follows: (1) To find the kind of Gender Inequality action that exists in the movie. (2) To explain the main character effort to gain women's freedom

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

This research focuses on the feminist approach and Simone de Beauvoir's theory which explains the feminism movement for women.

Feminism

Feminism is a series of social or political motions and ideologies that have the intention to set, expand and get equality in the different spheres of both sexes. This movement seeks to help women develop education and equality chances for men to combat gender stereotypes. the feminism movement has campaigned for many women's rights including the right to vote, hold public office, work, get fair and equal wages, receive education, sign contracts, equality in household relations, etc. feminism has also worked hard in strengthening the law to protect women from acts of rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism>)

Simone De Beauvoir Feminism Theory

Simone De Beauvoir states that feminism is gender equality between women and men which invites women to be able to live freely to determine their future autonomously without any encouragement or direction from others. In other words, Simone De Beauvoir invites women to be able to work according to desire, become intellectual, and refuse the female self to be made another. Women are even free to refuse various things rules, values and norms in society that shackles them.

Furthermore, Simone De Beauvoir also states that feminism is a movement and action of women to be aware of their freedom from being trampled by men. Women should be able to actualize themselves, be free to determine their way of life and be able to work. Because Simone de Beauvoir theory explains that there are facts about women who are weaker than men, have small muscles, can't lift heavier weights and can't fight. These facts are undeniable, but there is not significant because muscle strength cannot be the basis for dominance. Therefore, according to Simone De Beauvoir, feminism must be developed so that women can achieve gender equality and equal rights between women and men. From feminism's point of view, women want to have material and psychological advantages that are obtained from men.

Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism is the theory with the most adherents in the US, which has a view to place women have full and individual freedom and has an emphasis on rationality for morality and wisdom towards women. Women's issues formulated by feminist theories become three major parts of the theory, that's the first wave was born in the 18th Century about Equal Education for Women, and the second wave was born in the 19th Century about Civil and Economic Rights Opportunities for Women and Man and third wave that's Action of 20th Century Liberal Feminism.

a. Liberal Feminism in the 18th Century: Equal Education for Woman

Simone de Beauvoir said that women should have equal access to education opportunities. In the past, women could only take care of the household and could not move beyond that, Simone de Beauvoir wanted to invite women to fight for women's rights in the field of education so that they are not free from men. Even though women have to take care of their children and husbands someday, it doesn't mean they can't pursue the careers they've always wanted because Simone de Beauvoir believes that women can have a positive influence on their environment, and educated women are expected to be able to fix the wrong order in society, because women have the same rights as men, especially when it comes to education, they can take the highest education possible to achieve their dreams.

b. Liberal Feminism in the 19th Century: Civil and Economic Rights Opportunities for Woman and Man.

The second wave is fighting for women's rights as career women and must embrace their identity as a woman who has gender equality and maximum self - actualization of women. Simone de Beauvoir says that women must be independent women in any way. It is through work that women have been able, to a large extent, to close the gap separating them from male work alone can guarantee her concrete freedom. The second wave of Feminism also explains women's freedom which is not only about freedom for themselves but also emphasizes the importance of rationality and equality for women in the field of civil rights which includes freedom of opinion, freedom of choice and gender equality between women and men in any way

c. Action of 20th Century Liberal Feminism

In the 20th-century women's organizations began to be formed to fight sexual discrimination on the political, social-economic and personal.

Women's Freedom

Women's freedom is a women's right that all women in the world should have, because "women's rights are human rights" this means that women are entitled to all rights. According to the United Nations, women's rights are human rights that have 23 the right to live free from violence, slavery and discrimination, to be educated, to vote, and to receive a fair and equal wage.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, the writer analyzed the movie "Eat Pray Love" using a Feminist approach. This approach discusses self-actualization of women then it also focuses on the struggle for a women's freedom in the view of men and freeing the women economically & sexual needs.

To analyze this research, the writer uses the feminism theory of Simone De Beauvoir. Several steps have been conducted before analyzing the data and they are as follows: First, the writer watches the film Eat Pray Love, reads the film script, and understands the topic of the problem. Second, the writer identifies the problem formulation, collects the appropriate theory, and looks for journals and references. After that, the writer analyzed the data based on Simone De Beauvoir feminist theory. In the last step, the writer interprets the results of the data that has been analyzed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Causes of Female Character Experiences Gender Inequality

The main female character in the movie has an imbalanced position in her marriage. The obligation that the main male character to do is unbalanced so that women's rights that should be owned are not obtained. The main female character in the movie is Elizabeth, she has everything a modern woman should dream of a husband, a home, and a successful career also her husband is a career man. During their marriage, they have not been blessed with a child. Elizabeth or the main female character in the movie suffers from gender inequality and does not get the same rights as women because Elizabeth is ordered by her husband to stop working, and just staying at home and having a child. Meanwhile, Elizabeth finds herself lost and confused with her marriage.

The power of rights of Men over Women

a. Self Interest

Elizabeth and her husband have everything, a good career, a house, and a good life but they don't feel respect after marriage because they are both very busy and Elizabeth's husband decides to continue his study abroad for a few semesters and leaves Elizabeth at home.

Elizabeth's Husband: *"But I was thinking Getting my master, going back to school."*
"you can stop working and enjoy at home"

Based on the quotation above, Elizabeth's Husband's dialogue is more selfish and ignores his wife even though they have everything in their life. He decides to continue his study abroad for a few semesters and leaves Elizabeth at home. Here it can be seen that men's rights are greater than women's which causes

gender inequality because Elizabeth's husband is more concerned with continuing his master's degree but wanting Elizabeth to stop working and stay at home.

b. The Rights to Order Women to Working and Stay at Home

Men always have greater rights than women and can freely control women. Here it can be seen Elizabeth's husband commenting on Elizabeth who always works and tells Elizabeth to stop working

Elizabeth's Husband: *"That's just not fair You always work, work and work"*
"I will cancel my school abroad"
"But you must stop working and stay at home"

Based on Elizabeth's husband's dialogue above Elizabeth's husband commented on Elizabeth who always works and busy he told Elizabeth to stop working and he will cancel his master's school on the condition that Elizabeth stops working and stay home taking care of the house and her husband. Elizabeth experiences gender inequality because she feels injustice between her and her husband, even though as a woman have the right to be independent women and have equal work between men and women.

c. The Rights to Force a Woman to Give Birth

For several years of marriage, Elizabeth and her husband are always busy with their work and neglect to have children, because of that Elizabeth's husband always talks and asks Elizabeth about children but Elizabeth is not ready to have children because she still likes to work and doesn't want to be complicated. As shown citation:

Elizabeth's Husband: *"So when do we have kids?"*
"Do you want to have children as soon as possible?"

In the quotation above, it can be seen that Elizabeth's husband wants to have children soon. Elizabeth feels gender inequality because her husband has his own opinion, Elizabeth feels that she does not have freedom of opinion. Elizabeth had previously explained to her husband that she was not ready to have children because she still wanted to live her life as a career woman without the burdens of being at home, and continue her dream but her husband did not support her and told Elizabeth to stop working.

The efforts of Female Character to gain women's freedom

The gender inequality experienced by the main female character in the film is caused by the absence of the right to work and an opinion toward women. After the main female character experiences gender inequality, Elizabeth decides to

divorce. After that, Elizabeth steps out of her comfort zone, risking everything to change her life, embarking on a journey around the world that becomes a quest for self-discovery. On her travels, she discovered the true pleasure of food by eating in Italy, the power of prayer in India, and, finally unexpectedly, the inner peace and balance of true love in Bali.

a. Elizabeth is Aware of Her Own Freedom

After, the main character experienced gender inequality, the main character decides to divorced because she feels imbalance of the rights between men and women rights to work and right to have opinion. This is in line with the following quotation:

Elizabeth: *"I'm deeply unhappy with our wedding."*

Elizabeth's Husband: *"what's wrong lizh?"*

Elizabeth: *"I know this awful"
"I feel I'm in the wrong place in our marriage"
"I want to divorce"*

In the quotation above, it can be seen that Elizabeth decides to divorce, Elizabeth is starting to realize that there must be freedom for herself with opinions and Now Elizabeth has experienced gender equality because Elizabeth has fought for rights and freedoms as a woman, Elizabeth has come out of the gender inequality that she experienced during her marriage.

b. Elizabeth Self-Actualized by Eating in Italy

After their divorce, Elizabeth steps out of her comfort zone, risking everything to change her life, embarking on a journey around the world that becomes a quest for self-discovery. She began to actualize herself in Italy, she discovered the true pleasure of food by eating in Italy. Elizabeth also met many friends who taught her Italian to sign language taught by her friends. Is shown when Elizabeth learns Italian and eats Italian food. Her freedom can be found in the following citation:

Elizabeth: *"What a beautiful word"
"It the perfect of combination of Italian sound"*

Based on Elizabeth's quotation above Elizabeth already learned something new and evidence that Elizabeth began to actualize herself by relieving stress and returning to normal life. Here it is seen that Simone De Beauvoir's theory is used which says that women must be aware of their freedom and freely determine their way of life.

c. Elizabeth Self-Actualized by Praying in India

After 4 months ended, then she continued her journey to India. Elizabeth's goal in India is to get closer to God. Elizabeth has the intention to get closer to God so that God makes things easier for her and helps her with his affairs. besides praying Elizabeth also got many life lessons that made her calm and forgive herself. As shown in a citation:

Elizabeth's Friend: *"Send him some light and love every time you think of him then drop it."*

"Rush in, God would rush in"

Elizabeth: *"God dwells within you as you."*

In the quotation above that Richard advises the expert that if she can forgive his past he will meet God, proper and achieve women's freedom. Richard continues to accompany and advise until finally, Elizabeth has started to focus and believe in God.

d. Getting A Balance Life with Love in Bali

After her time in India was over, Elizabeth's last visit is to Bali, Indonesia. in Bali, Elizabeth has learned life lessons to peace and be grateful for her life. As shown in a citation:

Elizabeth: *"You healed me, you healed me too Ketut"*

"If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have come back to Bali"

"I wouldn't have come back to my self"

"I have forgiven and made peace with myself"

"I realized sometimes to lose balance for love is part of living balanced life."

Based on the Elizabeth's quotation it seems that Elizabeth has stepped out of the zone of gender inequality and has found her normal self. After Elizabeth has learned many life lessons, is aware of her freedom and has fully actualized herself, Elizabeth has found a balance in her life again.

CONCLUSION

This study discusses the gender inequality experienced by the main female character Elizabeth in *Eat Pray Love* Movie (2010). The main female character in this movie experienced gender inequality actions because of the imbalance of rights between men and women when they are married but do not have children because they are both busy with work so they don't care about having children. The imbalance of rights occurred when after several years of marriage and they had not yet been blessed with a child, Elizabeth's husband decided to tell Elizabeth to stop working and stay home. Here, it can be seen that the rights of men are more powerful than women. Men can have more rights to organize and have an opinion. While women cannot express their opinion freely even though they want to pursue their dreams.

This study also discusses women's freedom experienced by the main female character in this movie. The gender inequality experienced by the main female character in the film is caused by the absence of the right to work and an opinion toward women. After the main female character experiences gender inequality, Elizabeth decides to divorce. After that, Elizabeth steps out of her comfort zone, risking everything to change her life, embarking on a journey around the world that becomes a quest for self-discovery. On her travels, she discovered the true pleasure of food by eating in Italy, the power of prayer in India, and, finally unexpectedly, the inner peace and balance of true love in Bali.

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