

THE REJECTION OF PATRIARCHY SYSTEM REPRESENTED IN THE ANIMATED FILM RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (A FEMINIST STUDY)

Satrio Aji Pangestu¹ ✉, Dwi Ario Fajar, S.S. M. Hum.²

^{1,2} Universitas Pekalongan

Email: satrioaji1745@gmail.com ✉

Abstrak

Sistem patriarki yang mendominasi budaya masyarakat menyebabkan kesenjangan gender dan ketidakadilan antara laki-laki dan perempuan. Sistem ini memposisikan laki-laki sebagai kelompok yang cenderung memiliki kebebasan melakukan apa saja terhadap perempuan. Feminisme adalah sebuah ideologi atau paham yang menyatakan persamaan hak antara laki-laki dan perempuan. Artinya feminisme merupakan bentuk penolakan terhadap sistem patriarki. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap penolakan sistem patriarki yang direpresentasikan dalam film animasi "Ralph Breaks the Internet" dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Agar lebih fokus, penelitian ini menggunakan teori pendekatan sosiologi sastra. Pada dasarnya pendekatan sosiologi sastra membahas beberapa masalah sosial yang ada di masyarakat. Dalam film animasi Ralph Breaks the Internet terdapat beberapa temuan yang merepresentasikan penegakan sistem patriarki dan penolakannya oleh tokoh perempuan dalam film animasi ini. Hasil dari penelitian ini: (1) ditemukan beberapa adegan yang menunjukkan penegakan sistem patriarki oleh salah satu karakter laki-laki yang mencakup beberapa isu di bidang Sosial dan Tempat Kerja, terutama pada subordinasi perempuan dan stereotip perempuan. (2) baik penegakan sistem patriarki di bidang sosial dan tempat kerja berhasil ditolak oleh tokoh perempuan dalam film animasi ini.

Kata kunci: sistem patriarki, film animasi, Ralph Breaks the Internet, feminisme

Abstract

The patriarchy system that dominates the culture of society causes gender gap and injustices between men and women. This system positions men as a group that tends to have the freedom to do anything to women. Feminism is an ideology or an understanding that states equal rights between men and women. Which means feminism is a form of rejection to the patriarchy system. This study aims to reveal the patriarchy system rejection represented in the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet" by using a qualitative descriptive method. In order to be more focused, this study uses the sociology of literature approach theory. Basically, the sociology of literature approach discusses several social problems that exist in society. In the animated film Ralph Breaks the Internet, there are several findings that representing the enforcement of patriarchy system and its rejection by the female character in this animated film. The results of this study: (1) several scenes have been found showing the enforcement of the patriarchy system by one of the male characters that covered some of the issues in Social and Workplace fields, especially on women's subordination and women's stereotype. (2) both enforcement of the patriarchy system in the social and workplace fields were successfully rejected by the female characters in this animated film.

Key words: patriarchy system, animated film, Ralph Breaks the Internet, feminism

Introduction

The patriarchy system that dominates the culture of society causes gender gap and injustices between men and women. Men have a role as the main control in society, even in economically, socially, politically, and psychologically. While women

only have little influence on those society fields because they do not have rights in general areas. The restrictions on the role of women by patriarchy system make women shackled and often receive discrimination. Alfian (2016) said that patriarchy comes from the word patriarchate, which means a structure that places the role of men as the sole, central, and the ruler of everything.

Gender discrimination is the distinction, exclusion, limitation and elimination of the rights, dignity, and opportunities of one gender. When talking about acts of gender discrimination, then it is identical with women. The inequalities between the roles of men and women have become one of the structural barriers that cause people in society do not have equal access. Fakihi (2008) describes in detail some aspects of gender inequalities in his book entitled "Analisis Gender dan Transformasi Sosial", there are marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and massive workload.

The patriarchy system positions men as a group that tends to have the freedom to do anything to women. This culture also provides a construction and mindset when men are closely related to the masculinity ego, while femininity itself is ignored and considered as something weak. Feminism itself means movements or other forms of advocacy that promote gender equality, within social, politics, and economics. Feminism is a direct response to the patriarchy system, a system where men dominate women in holding important roles on society. Which means feminism is a form of rejection to the patriarchy system.

Feminism is an ideology or an understanding that states equal rights between men and women. Various issues of discrimination against women in society have led women to make a movement known as feminism. People who adhere to the ideology of feminism are called feminists. The goal of the Feminism movement is the equal opportunities between women and men in social life. Feminism basically covers the equality in some various fields of life, including education, economy, social, culture and politics. Although feminism is a movement of women, there are also many men who support this movement. In fact, this movement is a movement that aims to get equal justice between men and women. Ratna (2014) said that the feminist movement, especially issues related to the nature of women, is generally associated with the emancipation of women, the women's movement to demand equal rights with men, both in the social, political, economic, and cultural fields in general. Therefore, the literature field is one of the places that often used to express supportive opinions about the feminist movement.

Film as similar to literary work has occupied an important position in people's daily lives. Films reach audiences of all ages, from children, teenagers, and adults. One type of film that can be enjoyed by all ages is animated films, although animated films are often identically with films aimed to children. Through films, the audience can learn many things including gender issues. Gender roles are shown in the film will indirectly affect the audience's understanding of how the ideal role of men and women in their daily lives. Especially in the animated film entitled "Ralph Breaks the Internet" that produced by Walt Disney Animation Studio.

Walt Disney Animation Studios often makes some identical themes of the royal princess films. In those films, the royal princess is always portrayed as a beautiful woman, kind, and gentle. While the king or prince described as a man who hold power and can rescue the princess from danger.

Meanwhile, there is the latest animated film from Disney in 2018 entitled "Ralph Breaks the Internet" which is quite interesting to analyze. Although this film is not set in an empire or in the chaos of a battlefield, this film contains several implicit

messages about gender issues related to feminism. The gender issues that are shown in this film are also quite relevant to modern life today. This film shows that gender role injustice did not only occur in ancient times, but in modern life today. There are still many women who are considered unable to be equal to men. Therefore, this study will analyze about the patriarchy rejection represented in the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet".

Research Method

This study was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method. This qualitative research method aims to produce descriptive data in the form of sentences and paragraphs. Then the data will be described in accordance with the qualitative descriptive method which aims to explain or interpret the condition of the subject or object of research. This qualitative descriptive method is very relevant to use for this study, because this study will analyze and describe the data that will be obtained from the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet". After that, the data will be analyzed in depth to find out about the elements of feminism in the film.

The reason for using this method is based on the assumption that in the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet" contains several implicit messages about gender issues related to feminism. However, this study uses the sociology of literature approach theory. Based on Ratna (2003), it can be concluded that the sociology of literature approach discusses several social problems that exist in society. Research in the sociology of literature is carried out by giving meaning to the system and background of a society and discussing the problems that occur in it.

However, this study uses sociology of literature feminist because in this animated film there are social problems of gender issues related to feminism. Feminist sociology is a sociological study that is based on the viewpoint and / or experience of women in questioning or discussing the dominance and influence of the patriarchy system on women's objectification (Dillon, 2020). Finally, the sociology of literature approach will be useful to find out about the feminism problems that exist in this film.

The data source of this research is primary data obtained from the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet", which will be taken with screenshots on the visuals and dialogues of the film scenes related to the research. Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained from various supporting literatures such as; research-related books, dictionaries, and internet references.

There are some steps that will be done for data collection in this study. First, re-watch several times the animated film Ralph Breaks the Internet. This step aims to get more understanding the story in the film. Next, identify the form of gender equality represented in the film as the object of research. Then, classify the research data into several forms of gender equality.

The data obtained from the research results will be analyzed qualitatively. This data will be analyzed using several steps such as; classify data, write some explanation, and making conclusions.

Findings and Discussion

The result of the study will be described in two parts, as follows:

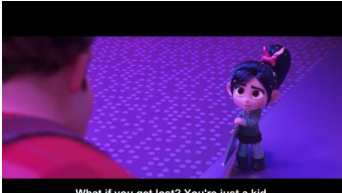


1. Patriarchy System Representation in the Animated Film Ralph Breaks the Internet

In this animated film, Ralph as the main male character has a big role in the issue of the representation of the patriarchy system. Meanwhile, there was a female character as the representation of woman named Vanellope as the victim of the patriarchy system. The form of enforcing the patriarchy system shown by Ralph was the main point of this animated film. Although this form of enforcement didn't lead to the acts of violence and the scenes were interspersed with comedy, this case was an example of a serious case in the real life. The form of enforcement of the patriarchy system shown by Ralph covered some of the issues in Social and Workplace fields. As we know that both social and workplace fields are the areas that often discussed in the enforcement of the patriarchy system in the real life.

a) Patriarchy in Workplace (Stereotype that women aren't capable to work)

The workplace is a place where the enforcement of the patriarchy system often discriminates against women. Many workplaces positioned women as inferior to men. Discrimination against women in the workplace appears in various forms, such as; salary differences where the salary of male workers is higher than the salary of women, men are prioritized as leaders over women, and women are considered physically weaker than men, etc. Those kinds of discriminations are the common thing that we usually find in the real life. Meanwhile, this animated film showed one of those forms of discrimination, it was Ralph's statement as the main male character who thinks that Van isn't capable to work.

Table 1. Patriarchy in Workplace

Screenshots	Dialogue / Action	Time
	Dialogue: - Ralph: If you're going, I wanna go. - Yesss: No, baby. You gotta stay here and be my movie star. - Ralph: What? No, no, no, no. Me and the kid are like shoes and socks. Or peanut butter and bacon. One cannot exist without the other. Go on, kid. Tell her.	Dialogue from 00:50:08 - 00:50:40
	- Van: It's true. In fact, it's so true that we will be fine if we're apart for a minute. - Ralph: B-but	
	- Van: Come on, pal. It's my game we're trying to save. I just wanna get out there and be useful. - Ralph: Without me? What if you get lost? You're just a kid!	

Action:




Van tries to take a job to help Ralph,
but Ralph refuses her.

Based on the dialogue above, Ralph underestimates Van by thinking that she can't do anything without Ralph. From this case, we can see that Ralph as the male main character considers Van as a female character unable to do anything to help him work. In this scene, Van was just trying to help Ralph's job of in the field of promotion. As we know, the field of promotion has a small risk in the work process and it would not give any disadvantages if there was a failure occurred. However, Ralph still refuses to take Van's help. This proves that Ralph as a male character has underestimated Van's ability as a female character in the workplace.

b) Patriarchy in Social (Women's subordination)

Subordination is the situation in which one person is forced to stay under the control of another person. So, women's subordination means the social situation in which women are forced to stay under the control of men. On the other hand, there is a habit that occurs in society that makes men in a superior position over women, such as; the assumption that women are weaker than men which men have to do heavy work, prioritize men, leaders of community organizations, etc. This is a condition that always makes the position of women always under the control of men. The control and exploitation of this area of women's lives shows that men get material benefits from patriarchy, they benefit both socially and economically from women's subordination.

Table 2. Patriarchy in Social

Screenshots	Dialogue / Action	Time
	Dialogue: - Ralph: She's supposed to be my best friend. No, this can't be right. No, she's been brainwashed. That's what this is. Because the Vanellope I know would never abandon me like that. I got to get her out of there now.	Dialogue from 01:08:56 – 01:09:42
	- J.P. Spamley: Hey, easy now, tiger. I admire the impulse, but you charge in there like some white knight, I mean, she's liable to hold it against you. - Ralph: So, what? I'm supposed to just let her stay in a game that's obviously bad for her?	
	- J.P. Spamley: Of course not. - Ralph: Then how do I make her leave? She thinks it's so cool and exciting in there. Unless you know how I can make the game boring or...	



Wait. You know about viruses and stuff, right, Spamley?

- J.P. Spamley: Oh, there's ways. Follow me.

Action:

Ralph tries to send a virus into Van's favorite game.

This is the scene when Ralph realizing his best friend is going to leave him. After overhearing Vanellope's confiding to Shank that she wants to stay at Slaughter Race, Ralph gets out of control and plans to send a virus into Van's favorite game. Ralph's goal of sending the virus into the game is to destroy the Slaughter Race game so that Van will feel uncomfortable and leave the game.

Meanwhile, Spamley as Ralph's male best friend also doing the same. Even though Spamley knows exactly that Ralph is doing something inappropriate, he keeps support him by showing the person who own the virus. It shows that men don't even think what will happen if they commit violence to a woman. They only know that doing violence is the best way to make woman obey to them.

Finally, the scene above shows how strong the desire of men as the holders of patriarchy system to get what they want. They don't care what they do, even if they have to use the violence to achieve their goals. Ralph's desire was simple, but he had never thought about Van's feelings as a woman who wanted freedom.

2. The Rejection of Patriarchy System in the Animated Film Ralph Breaks the Internet



In this animated film, there are some examples of rejection against the patriarchy system. The patriarchy system shown by Ralph as a male character is not always accepted by Vanellope as a female character where Van always shows that she denies the rules and restrictions by Ralph. All forms of enforcement of the patriarchy system shown by Ralph are always opposed by Van, she always succeeds to fight it even though it takes a time.

a) Patriarchy Rejection in Workplace (Women's stereotype rejection)

Discrimination by the patriarchy system in the workplace makes women positioned inferior to men. Starting from this discrimination, women created a movement against the patriarchy system in order to make their position would not be degraded. On the other hand, they have the goal of getting equal opportunities in all social fields in society. One of these areas is the workplace.

In this animated film, there is a scene that shows the rejection of the patriarchy system in workplace carried out by Vanellope as the representation of a woman. The patriarchy system in the workplace enforced by Ralph causes Vanellope to fight back against it. Vanellope's rejection aims to show that women are also capable of doing work and are not always dependent on men.

Table 3. Patriarchy Rejection in Workplace

Screenshots	Dialogue / Action	Time
	Dialogue: - Van: Man, oh, man, that looks so fun! Yesss, can I be a pop-up? - Yesss: I don't know. Can you be annoyingly aggressive? - Van: I don't know. Can I? Can I? Can I? Can I? Can I? Can I? Can I? Can I?	Dialogue from 00:49:55- 00:50:07
	- Yesss: Oh, yes. You're perfect! Here! - Van: Thank you.	
	Action: Van tries to get a job and she hired to the job so fast.	



The scene above shows the process when Vanellope tries to get a job. The job was taken by her because she felt she could do it and she had a goal to help Ralph who worked hard for her. Before getting her job, Vanellope was given special requirements to be able to work at BuzzTube company, then Vanellope was accepted into the job instantly because she could meet the criteria to do the job. Even though this scene doesn't seem difficult compared to applying for a job in the real life, but Vanellope's action is intended to represent women's abilities in their efforts to get jobs. Women get their jobs according to the required criteria without being given different criteria (which are easier) because of their gender.

However, she did her job well without experiencing any problems. Her ability to work as a pop up is also very good because she always succeeds to gain the audience every time when she promotes her services.

b) Patriarchy Rejection in Social (Women's subordination rejection)

Patriarchy rejection in social is a feminist movement against the patriarchy system that restrict them in the social field. Meanwhile, in this animated film, there is a scene that shows the patriarchy rejection in social by Vanellope as a female character who wants freedom from restrictions and pressure from Ralph. Ralph as the representation of a patriarchy, shows that he commits the pressures and restricts Vanellope for his own benefit. In this case, Ralph's benefit is not intended for something negative, but is intended to maintain the friendship between Vanellope and Ralph. Even though Ralph had good intentions, he carried out his actions incorrectly which makes Vanellope become angry.

Table 4. Patriarchy Rejection in Social

Screenshots	Dialogue / Action	Time
	Dialogue:	Dialogue
	- Ralph: I might've, kind of, sort of put a harmless little virus in the game.	from 01:17:42 - 01:18:19
	- Vanellope: A virus? You did this?	
	- Ralph: Well, I wouldn't have done anything if I hadn't heard you tell Shank that you wanted to live in Slaughter Race forever.	
	...	
	- Vanellope: Why would I ever spend another second with you after what you did?	
	- Ralph: Vanellope, where are you going?	
	- Vanellope: Wherever you're not.	
	- Ralph: Wait a minute. I can explain.	
	- Vanellope: No! You will not follow me!	
	- Ralph: Vanellope, please...	
	- Vanellope: A friend would never do what you did. Never! So, you leave me alone!	
	- Ralph: Vanellope, no, no, no! Please! Please! What did I do?	
	Action:	
	Van realizes that Ralph is doing a bad thing too far that makes her angry.	

The scene above shows when Vanellope rejects Ralph's patriarchist actions. Started from Ralph who tries to restrict Vanellope's social freedom by sending a virus into a Slaughter Race game that Vanellope really likes. The reason Ralph sent the virus into the game was to make Vanellope leave her new friends in the Slaughter Race, so that Vanellope could go back to where she came from with Ralph. Unfortunately, Ralph accidentally said that he was the one who ruined the game by sending a virus into it. Finally, Ralph's action made Vanellope becomes angry and she decided to leave Ralph.

Based on the scene above, we can see that there is a patriarchist actions carried out by Ralph as a male character to Vanellope as a female character. The purpose of Ralph's action is only for his own benefit, but Vanellope as a victim of the patriarchy takes an

action to stay away from Ralph because he has gone too far. Vanellope's decision is representing the rejection of the patriarchy system that restricts her social life.

Conclusion

After the animated film "Ralph Breaks the Internet" analyzed, there are several findings that representing the enforcement of patriarchy system and its rejection by the female character in this animated film. Based on the discussion about the form of patriarchy system enforcement and its rejection, we can conclude that this film supports the feminist movement. From this film we can learn that women also have the right to freedom and get the same treatment as men in society. The enforcement of the patriarchy system that harms women must be stopped, because women are not a creature that must be dominated by men.

References

- ALFIAN, M. F. (2016). *The Portrayal of an Independent Woman in Malala Yousafzal and Christima Lamb's: Memoir: I Am Malala*. (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Airlangga).
- Dillon, M. (2020). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Fakih, M. (2008). *Analisis gender dan transformasi sosial*. Insist Press.
- Ratna, N. K. (2003). *Paradigma sosiologi sastra*. Pustaka Pelajar.
- Ratna, N. K. (2014). *Gerakan Feminisme*. Citra Perempuan, 2, 3-14.

