

## **FEMINISM ANALYSIS OF MERIDA'S CHARACTER IN BRAVE MOVIE**

Menggala Aninda 1\*), Damayanti Nadia 2\*), Salsabila Dewi 3\*).

Universitas Pekalongan

Indonesia

Aninda029f@gmail.com

Damayantinadia2@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The objective of this study is to explain about feminism of Princess Merida from Scotlandia by analyze through the movies. The analysis method that used is descriptive qualitative method. The results are purpose, theory, method, point of view, and result. The findings of this research include 3 points, they are standart beauty in brave movie, arrangements made by his mother against Merida, and whatever things Merida cannot do. The result of the research is make women aware of being predominantly women, dare to voice their opinions and be able to stand on their own feet.

**Keywords :Feminism, Movie, Princess Merinda, Descriptive Qualitative**

### **Introduction**

Film is a medium that can be a source of comprehensive studies on history, politics, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, art, literature, culture, to the development of science and technology. (Akbar and Handoko).

Film as a medium for delivering messages is used by Disney to encourage women to rise up and fight the patriarchal culture. The culture of patriarchy was written by Alfian in Ade Irma who stated that patriarchy originated from the patriarchal word, the meaning is the structure that places the role of men as the sole, central, and rule everything. The patriarchal system that dominates the culture of society causes gaps and gender inequalities

that affect various aspects of human activities. Men have a role as the main control in society, while women have little influence or can be said to have no rights in the general areas of society, both economically, socially, politically and psychologically, even including the institution of marriage. Restrictions on the role of women in patriarchal culture make women become shackled and get discriminatory treatment.

In this film, Merida, the princess invites women to fight for their rights to choose activities they like even though it is the activity of men, such as riding and archery, opposing the standard of beauty made to refer to a woman as beautiful, and refusing an arranged marriage. In line with the reality in this era even though there

is gender equality, there can still be many patriarchal cultures that have not faded and unfair for women.

Gender according to Bell and Blaeure in Sari (2010: 174) is defined as community expectations about men and women who have been constructed. In addition, Butler (1998) also mentions that gender is intentionally built in accordance with the existing culture, not naturally occurring. In this film, the stereotype of a princess must be graceful and obedient, formed from the habits of ancient kingdoms that considered the king who have great power in his kingdom.

### **Method**

In this study, researchers used the content analysis method. The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach that aims to describe a picture or painting systematically, factually and accurately regarding the facts, the nature and relationship between phenomena that are investigated qualitatively. The data collection techniques that are in accordance with this study are document analysis. In this study, researchers collected and analyzed data on elements of fiction which included characterizations, themes, plot and background and gender discrimination described in the Walt Disney film Brave reviewed from the study of feminism.

### **Discussion**

Based on analysis above, in this study, researchers will discuss feminism depicted in a Disney brave film. In this 1 hour 33 minutes film tells us how a princess's life from an empire was'nt allowed to choose her life freely. Princess Merida who became the main character of this film. She had a hobby that was not allowed by a Queen. One day she was placed in a situation the she did not expect it. That situation was matchmaking. The theory of feminism itself in examining the object of study uses a gender analysis approach. Issues such as the injustice or oppression of the woman turned out to not arise or come just like that but it was the result or impact of gender construction that was unfair to women.

In this section will be discussed is a form of feminism that occurred by the main character, Princess Merida, which was carried out by his mother, which can be found in the film.

#### **1. Standart Beauty in Brave movie**

In this film Merida, a Princess of an empire, is required to be graceful and dignified as a royal princess should be, she is trained by her mother how to eat well, walk briskly and gracefully, speak clearly and loudly, and her mother also tells and or reminded of whatever things Merida should do and whatever may and may not be

done by Merida as a royal princess.

2. Arrangements made by his mother against Merida

And when Merida was a teenager, his mother arranged Merida with Princes from three different Kingdoms. Even though at that time Merida was not ready to get married. His mother held a contest with Princes from three Kingdoms where they had been invited first by the queen, Merida's mother. When the three kingdoms gathered Princess Merida chose what contest the three princes did in the hope that all of them would not have escaped or could not complete the contest.

3. Whatever things Merida cannot do

In the story of this film, the things that Merida cannot do as a Princess, Merida cannot deny the words of the queen or Merida is not allowed to argue about a problem, Merida may not put a weapon on the dining table. In addition, Merida was also not allowed to shoot and ride until one of Merida's scenes was burned by the queen.

### Conclusion

Brave is a 2012 American computer-animated fantasy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. It was directed by Mark

Andrews and Brenda Chapman and co-directed by Steve Purcell. The story is by Chapman, with the screenplay by Andrews, Purcell, Chapman and Irene Mecchi. The film was produced by Katherine Sarafian, with John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton, and Pete Docter as executive producers. The film's voice cast features Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Julie Walters, Robbie Coltrane, Kevin McKidd, and Craig Ferguson. Set in the Scottish Highlands, the film tells the story of a princess named Merida who defies an age-old custom, causing chaos in the kingdom by expressing the desire not to be betrothed.

Chapman drew inspiration for the film's story from her relationship with her own daughter. Co-directing with Mark Andrews, Chapman became Pixar's first female director of a feature-length film.<sup>[3]</sup> To create the most complex visuals possible, Pixar completely rewrote their animation system for the first time in 25 years. *Brave* is the first film to use the Dolby Atmos sound format.

*Brave* premiered on June 10, 2012, at the Seattle International Film Festival, and was released in North America on June 22, 2012, to both positive reviews and box office success. The film won the Academy Award, the Golden Globe, and the BAFTA Award for Best Animated Feature Film. Preceding

the feature theatrically was a short film entitled *La Luna*, directed by Enrico Casarosa.

Brave's film tells of a royal princess who made a decision that caused her father's family and kingdom to be in danger. In Medieval Scotland, Princess Merida of the clan Dunbroch is given a bow and arrow by her father, King Fergus, for her sixth birthday to the dismay of her mother, Queen Elinor. While venturing into the woods to fetch a stray arrow, Merida encounters a will-o'-the-wisp. Soon afterward, Mor'du, a huge demon bear, attacks the family. Merida flees on horseback with Elinor, while Fergus and his men fend off Mor'du, though the fight costs him one of his legs.

Ten years later, Merida is told that she is to be betrothed to the son of one of her father's allies. Elinor explains that failure to consent to the betrothal could harm Dunbroch, reminding Merida of a legend of a prince whose pride and refusal to follow his father's wishes destroyed his kingdom.

The allied clan chieftains and their first-born sons arrive to compete in the Highland games for Merida's hand in marriage. Merida twists the rules, announcing that as her own clan's firstborn she is eligible to compete for her own hand. She easily bests her suitors in an archery contest, shaming the other clans, and after a heated argument with Elinor,

runs away into the forest. Wisps appear, leading her to the hut of an elderly witch. Merida bargains for a spell to change her fate, and the witch gives her an enchanted cake.

When Merida gives Elinor the cake, it transforms her into a bear, unable to speak but still retaining most of her human consciousness. Merida returns to the witch's cottage with Elinor, only to find it deserted, and discovers a message from the witch: unless Merida is able to "mend the bond torn by pride" before the second sunrise, the spell will become permanent. Merida and Elinor are led by the wisps to ancient ruins, where they encounter Mor'du. Realizing that Mor'du was the prince in the legend, Merida vows that she will not let the same thing happen to her mother, and concludes she needs to repair the family tapestry she damaged during their argument.

They return to the castle to find the clans on the verge of war. Merida intends to relent and declare herself ready to choose a suitor as tradition demands, but Elinor prompts her instead to insist that the firstborns should be allowed to marry in their own time to whomever they choose. The clans agree, breaking tradition but renewing and strengthening their alliance.

Merida sneaks into the tapestry room with Elinor. Elinor, who is losing her humanity, attacks Fergus, but suddenly regains her composure and

flees the castle. Mistaking the queen for Mor'du and unwilling to listen to Merida, Fergus pursues the bear with the other clans, locking Merida in the castle. Merida escapes and repairs the tapestry while riding after her father. Fergus and the clans capture Elinor, but Merida intervenes and stops her father before Mor'du arrives. Mor'du batters the clan warriors and targets Merida, but Elinor intercedes, holding off Mor'du and causing him to be crushed by a falling menhir. This releases the spirit of the prince, who silently thanks Merida for freeing him. Merida covers her mother in the repaired tapestry, but she remains a bear. As the sun rises for the second time, Merida realizes the mistakes she has made and reconciles with Elinor, unknowingly fulfilling the true meaning of the witch's message and reversing the spell's effects.

With Mor'du gone, Merida and Elinor work together on a new tapestry when they are called to the docks to bid farewell to the other clans, and ride their horses.

film is a medium for communicating certain things to the wider community. Film can be a medium

for people to study history, technology and culture. One of the things currently being campaigned is an invitation to women to fight patriarchal culture. Efforts to make women aware of being predominantly women, dare to voice their opinions and be able to stand on their own feet.

### References

Akbar and Handoko. (t.t). SinemtekIndonesia. Jurnal Tingkat Sarjana Senirupa dan Desain.

FSRD ITB

Sakina dan Hasana Siti. (t.t). *Menyoroti Budaya Patriarki Indonesia*. Social Work Jurnal

Febryani, Irma. (2018). *FEMINISME DALAM FILM MARLINA SI PEMBUNUH DALAM EMPAT BABAK*.

Jurnal Layar, Vol. 5 No. 2 Desember 2018

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brave\\_\(2012\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brave_(2012_film))