

BRITISH WOMEN IN MOVIE *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* DIRECTED BY JOE WRIGHT: A FEMINIST LITERARY STUDY

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Abstract: This research focuses on British women who are represented in the film *Pride and Prejudice* directed by Joe Wright. This study uses a feminist literary approach. The qualitative-descriptive method is used as the basis of the research method. Based on the analysis conducted, it was found that the Representation of the British women in *Pride and Prejudice* movie is differences between British women and Elizabeth Bennet. Especially for characters, in British women intelligent cause education but in Elizabeth be brilliant because she loves to read very much and get knowledge from many sources.

Keywords: *British women, movie, representation*

INTRODUCTION

The topic about women is important to analyze because many problems that happen and relate with the phenomenon of life. For example: gender, morality, values and culture. Women are interesting to be analysing especially feminism point of view.

In feminism point of view women statuses as second social class with status that feminize do not get freedom and human right as human. Ideal women image of patriarchy thinks are view points are men ways of thinking about women, the rationale construed men and women stereotype in society. Stereotypes are part of culture and stereotypes are maintained by certain system of action. Women in a literary works are character created to reveal and describe the stereotype.

The statement of women characters in a literary works relevant to Beauvoir statement. Women in literary works are assumed as somebody else. They do not have their own existence. They have to be dependent to men. From this condition, women have to reveal the stereotype. They must have their own existence (Beauvoir, 2003: 375). The statement means women character in literary works describe women are assumed not only as dependent on men but also how to women reveal stereotypes about men and women. In literary works, women must have feminine characteristic and ideal women

image neither from men ways of thinking about men. Women character in a literary works represent of women condition in culture.

British women are the part of English women. When the women are getting married, their husbands are taking care of them. Before approved 1882 property act, when a women have been married and wealth authorized to their husbands. If a woman works after a marriage, the income is also possession of the husband. Women in the middle class and over must still depend on a man: firstly because she is a woman and then as a wife. After marriage, it is very difficult for a woman to divorce. The matrimonial causes act of 1857 give a husband the right to divorce wife with sexual acts outside of marriage reason. But, woman who had married cannot divorce her husband although he has affair. After divorced, children maybe care by husband and a woman who had been divorced is forbidden to meet her sons (Hurvitz: 1990).

The movie *Pride and Prejudice* is important to analyze because still there are little analysis of the topic in the thesis. The film's themes emphasize realism, romanticism and family. British woman gives knowledge about the general life such as culture, social life, and daily life. *Pride and Prejudice* tell about family, friendship, and loved.

The approach that used in this reaserch is feminism literary approach. Feminist come from "Femme" (woman), means that women (single) who fought for the rights of women (plural) as a social class (Ratna, 2004: 184). Feminist goal according to Ratna (2004: 184) is the interrelation of gender balance. The feminist movement made by women to reject everything that marginalized, subordinated and demeaned by the dominant culture, whether at the level of political, economic, and the social life.

Basically the feminist movement emerged because of the urge to equalize rights between men and women during this time as if women are not valued in opportunity and decision making in life. Women feel constrained because of the superiority of men and women just considered as "seasoning" in the life of men. The existence of such thinking seems to have been entrenched that women should strive to demonstrate the existence of himself in the eyes of the world. Feminist is the theory of equality between men and women in the political, economic, an social; or activities organized for the rights and interests of women.

Feminist approach is an approach of literature by focusing on the gender imbalance and promotion the well-balanced level of men and women. Feminism is not an uprising of women to men, the fight against social institutions, such as intuition household and marital or view women attempt to deny his nature, but rather as an attempt to put an end to the oppression and exploitation of women. In the study of literature, feminism is

related to the concept of feminist literary criticism, literary that is study which directs the focus of analysis to women. Feminist literary criticism does not mean critics woman, or criticism about women, or criticism about the author conceived simple woman. The meanings are looking literary critic, with a special awareness; awareness that there are many gender related to culture, literature, and life.

METHOD

The method used for the analysis in this article is a descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative is a research method that aims to describe the results of the analysis of objects (Denzin & Lincoln, 2017; Tjahyadi, Andayani, & Wafa, 2020). This method was chosen because the purpose of this research is not only to analyze, but also to try to describe the representation of British women in the film *Pride and Prejudice*. The data collection technique used in this study is the data collection technique document. The data analysis technique used is observation technique and note-taking technique. In this stage, the data that has been listened to or analyzed is then recorded and poured into the form of a result document analysis.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of a culture. It does involve the use of language, of signs and images which stand for or represent things. But this is a far from simple or straight forward process, as will soon discover (Hall, 1997: 15). In the statement means representation in an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced use of language, of sign, and images to represents a culture society. Meaning is idea, purpose of come in sight or come not in sight in presentation process. Meaning, consequently, will always change, from on culture or period to another because meanings are always changing.

Representation is a major study in cultural studies; representation it is defined as how the world is socially constructed and presented to us and by us in certain meanings (Barker, 2000: 8). Representation the commensense meaning of the concept of representation is that of a set of processes by which signifying practices appear o stand for or depict another object or practice in the „real“ world. Representation is thus an act of symbolism that mirrors an independent object world. However, for cultural studies

representation does not simply reflect in symbolic form „things“ that exist in an independent object world, rather, representations are constitutive of the meaning of that which they purport to stand in for. That is, representation does not involve correspondence between signs and objects but creates the „representational effect“ of realism (Barker, 2010: 177).

Women all over the world, in force to marry with parental choice was without given the opportunity to choose his own partner have long struggled for equality. In British, women did not have the right to vote, sue, or own property. Women’s rights were extremely limited in this era, losing ownership of their wages, all of their physical property, excluding land property, and all other cash they generated once married. When a Victorian man and woman married, the rights of the woman were legally given over to her spouse (Parkin, 1993: 189).

Pride & Prejudice is a 2005 British romance film directed by Joe Wright and based on Jane Austen's novel by the same name. It was published in 1813. The film depicts five sisters from an English family of landed gentry as they deal with issues of marriage, morality and misconceptions. Keira Knightley stars in the lead role of Elizabeth Bennet, while Matthew Macfadyen plays her romantic interest Mr Darcy. It produced by Working Title Films in association with Studio Canal, the film was released on September 16th 2005 in the United Kingdom and Ireland and on November 11th in the United States (*Pride & Prejudice: 2005*).

Elizabeth is an British woman living in English with her family. She is the second daughter in the Bennet family, and the most intelligent, Elizabeth is the protagonist of *Pride and Prejudice* and one of the most well-known female characters in English literature. Her admirable qualities are numerous; she is a polite, cheerful, stubborn, pride, feminine, clever and converses as brilliantly as anyone. Her honesty, virtue, stubborn and lively wit enable her to rise above the nonsense and bad behavior that pervade her class-bound and often spiteful society. Nevertheless, her sharp tongue and tendency to make hasty judgments often lead her astray; *Pride and Prejudice* is essentially the story of how she (and her true love, Darcy) overcome all obstacles including their own personal failings to find romantic happiness.



Figure 1. Scene of Elizabeth reading in the garden at the morning
(Source: Pride and Prejudice Movie)

In *Pride and Prejudice* movie we can see character named Elizabeth Bennets has brilliant women. Brilliant are much more intelligent than most people (Merriam-Webster). When Elizabeth every time she loved reading especially literature. She reads the book at morning in outdoors. Although she live in village but her extensive knowledge thoughts about life, education, art, social and environment. She also women who are good idea and good thinking.

Beside as intelligent women, in *Pride and Prejudice* movie, British women also represented as polite woman. In that movie, Elizabeth Bennets is also described as women polite when she meet Mr.Darcy in the party she bowed head as lifted her dress. Elizabeth is a woman protagonist and very care to her family, she loved family very much (Wright,33 2004: 38). The polite women in england are has said words were polite when talking to others, bowed his head and lifting dress when meet with others, silent when eating, and say goodbye when they want to go.

Mr. Darcy looked at Elizabeth when he walks in front of him, but she ignored just bowed her head. For the first time Mr. Darcy looked at Elizabeth. When Mr. Darcy go she laughing happy. In addition she is a polite very different from the parents and sisters of her irreverent.

Representation of the British women *Pride and Prejudice* movie by Joe Wright, British women has a limit freedom to choose and determine its future. Representation British women are represented British people. The representation of British women in *Pride and Prejudice* movie though is brilliant women, representation women in this section there are every time loved reading especially literature. Have extensive knowledge thoughts about life, education, art, social and environment as other representation pointing out in *Pride and Prejudice* movie.

The most common marriage in which the bride and groom share the same ethnicity, social class and level of reputation (Maureen and Mike, 2012: 20). Most British

women want to freedom, like Elizabeth character. She is stubborn character. When Elizabeth forced marriage with choose her parent, she refused, cause stubbornness she successfully opposed the request of his mother. She able to show that women can't force do what you do not want to do. Elizabeth just want marriage with people in loved not cause of any wealth or coercion from others.

Representation is part important of culture. When, discussion or describe British women use representation theory, also describe about British culture. Because of, British women are part of British culture. A culture influence people society member, and people society representation a culture identity. British women are member of British people society. Representation of British women morality as polite in *Pride and Prejudice* movie, when Elizabeth meet other she always bowed his head, as a mirror to all women in the world. The polite very important especially for a culture.

in *Pride and Prejudice* movie, British women also represented as a feminine women. Elizabeth is a woman feminine. Each went to a party she was always wear makeup and wearing a pretty dress. Sometime, he went to the market to buy the tape as the needs that will be used for the party. Elizabeth also likes to help his brothers to make up. In addition, he can also play the piano so making it look feminine, she playing the piano with her heart.

Lady Cathrine : Come, miss Bennet, and play for us
Elizabeth : No, I beg you..
For music is my delight..
Lady Cathrine : In fact there are few people in England..
Who have more true enjoyment of music..
Or better natural taste... If I had ever learnt, I should've been
a great proficient... So would Anne, if her health would've
allowed her..
Elizabeth : I'm not afflicted with false modesty, when I say I play
poorly..
Mr. Collins : Come, Lizzie, her Ladyship demands it.
(*Pride & Prejudice*, 2005)

Based on conversation above, Lady Cathrine ask Elizabeth to play the piano. Elizabeth playing the piano with a very beautiful tone that room can be quiet. Mr. Darcy amazed to see Elizabeth play the piano gracefully. Elizabeth seen graceful, pretty and feminine.

Stubbornness is also represented in *Pride and Prejudice* movie as British women character. Elizabeth Bennet has a stubborn character. She always hears a voice heart and uses a mine to solve a problem. Elizabeth always maintain to its stance, if she feels what is happening not in accordance with his heart and mind she would not let it happen. She will

try to correct a situation according to her logic. Because logic more rasional than of heart. But many women use heart in making decisions instead of logic (Kathryn: 2009).

Mr. Collins : And no reproach on the subject of fortune
Will cross my lips once we're married

Elizabeth : You forget I have given no answer

Mr. Collins : Lady Catherine will thoroughly approve when I speak to her of
your modesty, economy and other amiable qualities.

Elizabeth : Sir, I am honored by your proposal, but I regret that I must
decline it

Mr. Collins : I know ladies don't seek to seem too eager...

Elizabeth : Mr. Collins I am perfectly serious. You could not make me
happy.... and I'm the last woman in the world who could make
you happy

Mr. Collins : I flatter myself that your refusal is merely a natural delicacy
Besides, despite manifold attractions, it is by no means certain
another offer of marriage will ever be made to you.

I must conclude that you simply seek to increase my love by
suspense, according to the usual practice of elegant females.

(*Pride & Prejudice*, 2005)

From the picture and conversation, when Mr. Collin declared its intention proposes to Elizabeth and make her as a wife. Mr. Collins tried to convince Elizabeth to be able to receive it but Elizabeth refused and would not give in despite her mother said she was stubborn and stupid. Elizabeth tried to explain that she could not get married because she did not love Mr. Collin, she only marry with the man she love. Moreover she is only known with Mr. Collins.

Representation of the British women in *Pride and Prejudice* movie by Joe Wright, British women has a limit freedom to choose and determine its future. Representation British women are represented British people. Most British women want to freedom, like Elizabeth character. She is stubborn character. When Elizabeth forced marriage with choose her parent, she refused, cause stubbornness she successfully opposed the request of his mother. She able to show that women can't force do what you do not want to do. Elizabeth just want marriage with people in loved not cause of any wealth or coercion from others

CONCLUSION

Pride and Prejudice is a 2005 British romance film that tells story of a British women who lives in the village with a happy family. When she falling in love with a man, began to be a conflict. But they can love each other because of a prejudice and finally getting a married. *Pride and Prejudice* is a love story with romantic movie. Representation

of the British women in *Pride and Prejudice* movie is differences between British women and Elizabeth Bennet. Especially for characters, in British women intelligent cause education but in Elizabeth be brilliant because she love read very much and get knowledge from many sources.

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