

**THE PORTRAYAL OF GRETEL'S FEMALE MASCULINITY  
IN *HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTER* MOVIE**

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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writer's opinions or findings include in the graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris. Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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# **THE PORTRAYAL OF GRETEL'S FEMALE MASCULINITY IN *HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTER* MOVIE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie is one of the interesting movies because it becomes the most important and most renowned operas in German in 19<sup>th</sup> century. This movie tells about two siblings, man and woman who have same characterization in the story of the movie. It leads to an assumption that Gretel action same as her brother, Hansel. This shows that Gretel has masculine nature. That are the reasons which makes the researcher interested to observe how is Gretel's female-masculinity portrayed in *Hansel and Gretel* movie. This analysis uses the theory of female-masculinity by Jack Halberstam. This research uses descriptive qualitative type of research in order to analyze a phenomenon of a woman with female masculinity model by describing the occurrence in the form of words. After following the techniques of collecting data and analyzing data, the researcher could conclude that Gretel character in *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie represents female-masculinity sign and appearance: being powerful (Thinker, active, creative, strong, brave, fighter and hero) and being dominant.

**Keywords:** *Gretel, Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter, female masculinity*

# **THE PORTRAYAL OF GRETEL'S FEMALE MASCULINITY IN *HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTER* MOVIE**

By: Krisma Anggara Ramdani

## **ABSTRAK**

Film *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* adalah salah satu film yang menarik karena menjadi opera paling penting dan paling terkenal di Jerman pada abad ke-19. Film ini bercerita tentang dua saudara kandung, pria dan wanita yang memiliki karakterisasi yang sama dalam kisah film tersebut. Ini mengarah pada asumsi bahwa Gretel bertindak sama seperti kakaknya, Hansel. Ini menunjukkan bahwa Gretel memiliki sifat maskulin. Itulah alasan yang membuat peneliti tertarik untuk mengamati bagaimana maskulinitas wanita Gretel digambarkan dalam film *Hansel and Gretel*. Analisis ini menggunakan teori maskulinitas perempuan (*female-masculinity*) oleh Jack Halberstam. Penelitian ini menggunakan jenis penelitian deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisa suatu fenomena wanita dengan model *female-masculine* dengan menggambarkan kejadian dalam bentuk kata-kata. Setelah mengikuti teknik pengumpulan data dan analisis data, peneliti dapat menyimpulkan bahwa karakter Gretel dalam film *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* mewakili tanda dan penampilan maskulinitas perempuan: kuat (Pemikir, aktif, kreatif dan kompetitif, kuat dan berani, pejuang dan pahlawan) dan dominan.

**Kata kunci:** *Gretel, Hansel dan Gretel: Witch Hunter, maskulinitas perempuan*

## MOTTO

*Believe in yourself*

*Do whatever you like, be consistent and success will come naturally*

*Open your mind before open your mouth*

*Love changes everything*

*All the studying you are doing will be worth in the end*



## **DEDICATION**

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

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English Department

Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences

State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

My Beloved Parents

Dedeh Kurniasih

&

Dedi Hendriadi



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The Writer

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature has been known since eighteenth century. It is a term to represent imaginative and fictional writings such as, poetry, prose, and drama (Abrams & Harpham, 2009, p. 177). This definition implies that in the early present of literature, it only has little design of the work. It is in the form of writings. Therefore, literature in twentieth century was not only used for imaginative writings only but also for philosophy, history, and even scientific works which have special form, expression and emotional power (Abrams & Harpham, 2009, p. 178) and it has been formed in many kind of works along with the technological development.

One of the literary works which combine imaginative writing and technology is called movie. According to Villarejo, movie reveals its dimensions that are deeply political, aesthetic, social, historical, personal, philosophical, psychological, industrial, technological, and so forth (2010, p. 9). By seeing movie, people can enjoy the literary work in multiple dimension form.

Movie has a genre. Genre is a common term in designating type of films. Genre proposed rules used in the literary works in common to specified the subject matter, structure, style, and emotional effect proper and related to the story (Abrams & Harpham, 2009, p. 134). Some of the genres are; comedy, action, romantic, science fiction, crime, sports, war, and so on (Friedman, Desser, Kozloff,

Nochimson, & Prince, 2014, p. 20). In making a movie, a story can have more than one theme. One genre is above other and it is called as subgenre. Most of the movies combine some genres to make the story more attractive.

This study takes one of the interesting movies in 21<sup>st</sup> century as the object. It is *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters* movie, a fairy tale which is originally from German and then adapted to various media. It tells about orphan brother and sister who struggle their life to defeat cannibalism of an ogre or a witch.

The researcher chooses this movie because *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck (December 1893) is one of the most important and the most renowned operas in German. It was collected and popularized by Brothers Grimm, the first and the best-known collectors of folktales (Raedisch, 2013, pp. 180–181). It was also considered as unique because it featured an edible house as an enticement of the movie. Hence, to do this research, the researcher uses movie version which is directed and produced by Tomy Wirkola. Moreover, it becomes a worldwide theatrical run gross exceeded \$226 million. It also wins the Lumiere Award for best 3D feature and many more (*Hansel & Gretel*, n.d.). This film is also interesting because what initially was folktales for children was transformed into adult teenage film.

Furthermore this movie contains of female-masculinity which is discussed in this research. Therefore, there is a possibility female masculinity is found in the character played by Gretel because she is brave and strong women. In this movie, Gretel is a girl who has an attractive appearance. She dresses in blackish clothes



and acts as same as her brother, Hansel. Gretel chooses not to get married and does house activities like other women in common. She follows her brother's adventure everywhere. She can fight, fire a gun, shoot an arrow, and other manly action. This direct an assumption that Gretel's action is nearly masculine. In OALD, woman who acts more like a man is called as tomboy (Hornby, 1995, p. 455).

Hansel and Gretel wander and defeat witches they meet. This movie highlights Hansel and Gretel as siblings who serve their lives to be witch hunter. Therefore, this research focuses on discussing Gretel, as the main character and her big role as a woman in that movie.

In *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie, Gretel and her brother arrive in a town called Augsburg. They prevent Sheriff Berringer to kill a young woman named Mina for being accused as a witch. Meanwhile, Mayor Engleman tell people in the town that he has asked Gretel and her brother to rescue children who are allegedly kidnapped by witch. Berringer also hire several men for the same mission and hope to disrupt the mayor's mission and restore his power. However, everyone who is hired by Berringer is killed by a powerful witch named Muriel and leave a man to send him back to warn the townspeople about the Blood Moon agenda. Gretel is the only woman with men-power showed off in this movie.

To analyze the movie, the researcher uses a female masculinity theory to describe action of Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* movie. Female masculinity is highly related to a potential of female rebellion, no fear gear and sometimes it can be identified by a refusal of clothing girl type (Halberstam & Halberstam, 1998, pp.

5–7). In addition, it also uses film theory, the formal study of film to support the main theory used in this research. It includes covering cinematography, *mise-en-scene*, editing, sound, and narrative. Film theory is used to understand how the film works, how film solicits the attention and responses of its viewer (Villarejo, 2010, p. 11). Then, those two theories are used in this research.

## **1.2 Research Question**

From the problem stated in the background of the study above, this research is proposed to answer the question below:

How is Gretel's female masculinity portrayed in *Hansel and Gretel* movie?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

Related to the research question above, the objective of this study is:

To describe female masculinity in action of Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* movie.

## **1.4 Significances of Study**

This study aims to give both theoretical and practical contribution for the readers. Theoretically, this study can enrich the base of literature study, especially in the field study of feminism and masculinity. Moreover, it gives supplementary contribution to the students who study gender. Practically, it gives an insight and knowledge to the reader about a phenomenon of distinctive action between men and women. Thus, it can give information about the characteristic of female-masculinity.

## 1.5 Literature Review

The researcher has found that there are many researchers discussing about *Hansel and Gretel* movie and also female-masculinity theory, as the following:

The first research is about Hansel and Gretel movie was conducted by Muhammad Rizal entitled "Psychoanalytical Approach Analysis of Hansel and Gretel Using Anna Sigmund Freud Theory". The object in this study is the storybook of Hansel and Gretel by Deanna MacFadden. This study discusses psyches functioning and defense mechanisms from several stories of Hansel and Gretel that have been selected by the researcher. With qualitative descriptive method, this study explains how psyches functioning and defense mechanisms are owned by each character in the story, and MacFadden could describe both of these things very clearly in her writing (Rizal, 2016, p. v).

The second research entitled "Subtitling Analysis of *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter*" written by Triasmi Anggraeni. This research uses descriptive qualitative research to emphasized on scrutinizing the subtitling strategy used by the subtitle of *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie by Jack and the Wilee. Moreover, it also analyses the subtitling quality. The researcher finds nine strategies of subtitle used in *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie. They are: to transfer, to expansion, to paraphrase, to condensation, to decimation, to imitation strategy, to transcription strategy, to deletion strategy, to resignation. Therefore, the researcher finds that there is no dislocation strategy. Moreover, there are three aspects for good quality

that subtitling should fulfill: accuracy, acceptability, and readability (Anggraeni, 2016, p. v).

The third research is written by Muhammad Ra'is from Jember University who analyzes "Hansel and Gretel" movie from the grammatical cohesion and lexicon cohesion perspective. The analysis of this research shows that the two main characters in Hansel and Gretel movie use coherence text. It is proved by the continuity established by the grammatical and lexical cohesive devices. They combine one element and other in the text to make the elements related in a logical way (Ra'is, 2013, p. v)

Those researches have similar objects with this research, those are about Hansel and Gretel movie. The first previous research analyzes Hansel and Gretel movie by using psychoanalysis theory proposed by Sigmund Freud, the second research analyzes Hansel and Gretel movie by using subtitling strategy, and the third research is using linguistic study that analyze Hansel and Gretel movie by using grammatical cohesion and lexicon cohesion theory. Hence, this research is different from those previous researches because it uses female-masculinity theory to analyze "Hansel and Gretel" movie. Here, the researcher also finds some previous research using female-masculinity theory, as the following:

One of the researches is written by Jazilatuz Silfiyah by the title "The portrayal of Letty's Masculinity in *Fast and Furious 6* Movie". This research uses qualitative methods to determine the side of masculinity on Letty character in deeper understanding. By using theory of masculinity in women by Judith



Halberstam and R.W Connell and film theory by Amy Villarejo, the reasearcher describes Letty's masculinity in the form of habits, gestures, and physical appearance. The researcher finds that Letty's character can be a portrayal of masculinity from gesture and physical. Gesture deals with her displacement and attitude. Physical can be seen from her appearance, her dominance, power (physical strength and physical forces), and competition relates to racing and driving cars (Jazilatus Silfiyah, 2017, p. v).

From the explanation above, it can be assumed that this research is different from the previous studies. This research aims to discuss about female-masculinity of Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter* movie. It uses the theory of female-masculinity proposed by Jack Halberstam and also uses film theory to support the main theory. Therefore, this research is different in the object of the study.

### **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

The theory used to answer the question in research question above is theory of female-masculinity proposed by Jack Halberstam and the film theory. According to Sugiyono, theory is a part of a system used to process the data to classify and define them in a meaningful way (2008, p. 84). The theory of female-masculinity arises from the gender issues in society between female and male. In society, men and women are conformed with gender stereotype. This happens in all societies.

Here is the explanation:

People in an 'age' could be stereotyped as masculine or feminine based on the social and culture production of the place people lived and also the world. The tomboy, is a masculine identity temporarily adopted by young girls but which, if maintained for too long into young womanhood, raises doubts about their heterosexuality (Beynon, 2002, p. 8). Masculinity could come across women or men. When tomboys raise in that way without any changes, it could bear female-masculine action when the tomboys become adult.

Female masculinity then appears to reject the scraps of dominant masculinity in a society (Halberstam & Halberstam, 1998, p. 2). Sometimes it is called as androgynous or masculine women. This term arises as a thing comes out from power and domination in gender issues. In Abrams, gender's behavior is largely but not entirely being product of cultural process. Masculine is widely identified as active, dominating, adventurous, rational, and creative while feminine more traits by systematic opposition. They tend to be passive, acquiescent, timid, emotional, and controversial (2009, p. 111). In other side, women also repress in the way they use language.

Therefore, female-masculinity is cross-identifying women with men's characteristics and behavior based on society's point of view. And those are already mention in some description in the above. Female-masculinity is not coinciding with biological maleness, it also not a female version of male masculinity but more in this research, according to Hansel and Gretel story, Gretel more likely to act that

ways because of the minority. She lives only with her brother and has no girlfriends. So, being powerful and being dominant are the models of Halberstam's female-masculinity identifications (Halberstam & Halberstam, 1998, pp. 17–42).

In addition, the researcher also uses the film theory to support the analysis of the data.

1. Cinematography, every element of the story will be recorded in the camera.

So that cinematography is every single thing has to be done in relation with the camera. It includes: camera distance, camera angle, depth of field, camera's movement. One of the important parts to be analyze in cinematography issue is framing. It is related to the distance between the camera and the object.

- the extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;
- the long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background;
- the medium long shot (MLS), or plan americain, in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- the medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from the waist up;
- the medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up;
- the close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently);

- and the extreme close-up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips).
2. Mise-en-scene has six components, including: setting (setting and properties), lighting (three-point lighting: key light, fill light, backlight), costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior (based on the genre of the movie).

## **1.7 Method of Research**

Commonly, method of research including some components below:

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

This research uses qualitative research. Creswell said that qualitative research is a method used to explore and to understand human or social problem (Creswell, 2014, p. 4). Based on explanation above, this research uses qualitative method because it explores the roles of Gretel character as reflection of woman equality in *Hansel and Gretel* movie. In addition, Satori says that in qualitative research, the real setting and context is important thing that cannot be found by using questionnaire (Satori & Komariah, 2013, p. 27).

### **1.7.2 Data Sources**

The main source in this research is *Hansel and Gretel* movie, especially the scenes that shows female-masculinity action of Gretel. The data are in the form of scene, acts and utterances form that could be taken as data. Moreover, data of this research is also taken from literature reviews, books and websites that support the analysis of this research.



### 1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

This research uses documentation technique as a method of collecting data. The steps of collecting the data that used by the researcher are:

- a. Reading *Hansel and Gretel* movie closely so that the researcher is able to identify the theme, character, setting, plot and other information related to the data of *Hansel and Gretel* movie.
- b. Taking the screenshot of Gretel scene that could be portrayal proves of Gretel's female-masculinity action.
- c. Taking other data from the scene that can be used as additional data, it is in the form of conversation.

### 1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

After collecting the data with the techniques mentioned above, there are some steps done by researcher to analyze the data. They are:

- a. Classifying all scene and other documentation of Gretel action based on the female-masculinity theory.
- b. Analyzing and discussing in detail Gretel's female-masculinity action.
- c. Drafting conclusion.

## 1.8 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction. It consists of background of study, reason of choosing topic, and significances of the study. Then, it includes research questions, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper

organization. The second chapter consists of intrinsic elements of the movie. The third chapter contains the discussion of data analysis. It discusses action of Gretel by using female-masculinity theory and film theory. The fourth chapter consists of the conclusions of the analysis, and suggestions based on this paper.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The researcher found that Gretel character represented those models of female masculinity identifications. They are: appearance and power.

Before explaining the characteristics of Gretel female masculinity, the researcher also explains some of the reason that lead Gretel to have this masculinity aspect in her life. Most of the things are coming from her tough life, since she was a child until the day she life in her every day.

In Gretel's appearance, there are two strong argument and characterization that could be a prove that she is a portrayal of female masculinity woman. Firstly, she is dressing in black, it shows blackness in general, black coat and black trousers in most of the scenes while there are no women appeared in that movie using black trousers and black boots like her. Secondly, it is from her care about neat and cleanliness of her appearance when she fights with the enemies.

Then is Gretel's power. She is being powerful in some of the scenes in that movie. It can be seen from three actions she takes in many chances, they are: taking up a position against masculine power, battling with the usual array of bad guys, and working with weapon and martial art. She could resist herself from any kind of enemies. Moreover, Gretel also a thinker who can think and relate all clues she gets to solve the problem.

Afterwards, there are many characters in Gretel's personality that could make her more female masculine. They are: active, creative, intelligent, and fearless. She is an active because she actively looks for things that she could help, not just wait for a command. She is also creative in order that she could think many strategies and back up for some nasty conditions. Intelligent and fearless of course always in her, she could solve and think about the 'thing' other people could not solve and she could fight all the enemies she found courageously without knowing fear and give up.

She is also strong and brave. She has a very unfrighten soul to help people in need and to fight her enemies. Moreover, the fighter is in her because she is very active in battling with the enemies she found especially the witches. While 'the hero' is because of her intention to defeat all the witches is not only for her own profit but also to help people in danger. Hence, after all of this, she is becoming a hero who can safe people life. She also could dominate amongst men and women with her strength.

Hence, because of the researcher's belief, the researcher found that what has been done by Gretel is in line with Islamic teaching that encourage women and men to do good deeds, the ma'ruf and avoiding the evil things as Allah said in Quran At-Taubah verse 71 as the following:

بِالْمَعْرُوفِ يُأْمُرُونَ ۖ بِبَعْضِ أَوْلِيَائِهِمْ بَعْضُهُمْ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ  
اللَّهُ وَيُطِيعُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُقِيمُونَ الْمُنْكَرَ عَنْ وَيَنْهَوْنَ  
حَكِيمٍ عَزِيزٌ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَدِيرُ حَمِيمُهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ ۖ وَرَسُولُهُ

“The believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil: they observe regular Prayers, practice regular Charity, and obey Allah and His messenger. On them will Allah pour His Mercy, for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise.” (Yayasan Penyelenggara Penerjemah Al-Quran & Lajnah Pentashih Mushaf Al-Quran, 2010, p. 323)

#### 4.2 Suggestion

In conducting this research, the researcher realizes that this graduating paper is far from perfect. This research contains many mistakes, especially from the minimum knowledge of the researcher about the movie and also about the theories. Therefore, the researcher has some suggestion for the academic society in general to understand about female masculinity theory in order to make your knowledge wider and more it could create a certain model of female masculinity identification. the further suggestion is also for those who study about gender especially on female masculinity theory that the theory Halberstam still could be analyze deeper and wider for other different object of study. The female masculinity theory has some potential academic researches to be studied.

Moreover, the researcher also has one suggestion especially for the students of English literature of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta that it

is worth it and will be the new one if someone want to observe about the theory of female man which is become the binary opposition of this female masculinity theory.





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# CURICULUM VITAE

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