

FEMALE MASCULINITY AS SEEN IN *BRAVE* (2012)

A GRADUATING PAPER

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Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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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 included in the graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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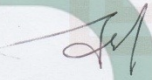
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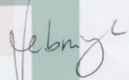
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HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY AS SEEN IN *BRAVE* (2012)

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ABSTRACT

Movie belongs to a visual communication that uses pictures and sounds to tell a story which is usually reflect from human life. Disney, one of familiar movie productions, uses this platform to produce movie that represent universal moral values and can be watched by all ages since it can teach the meaning of life among society. It is *Brave*, one of Disney's movie which tells about princess Merida as main character in breaking the kingdom's rule again against her mother, Elinor. Her mother's oppression that constructed her masculinity side became even stronger. Even though Merida's masculinity was more dominant, it did not diminish her feminine side. Merida's appearance was still feminine and she also had assertive character. Thus, it could be very significant to conduct a research on how masculinity is used by a woman to challenge other masculinity shown by other women or men. In addition, the position of Merida was interesting to be discussed in relation to the use of masculinity valued by Merida in responding to her mother's domination. Regarding to this problem, this research aims to analyze how Merida's characteristic is depicted as a result of the relation of her mother's oppression shown in *Brave* movie. This research belongs to a library research that applies the qualitative method suggested by Judith Halberstam's theory to analyze the research object – which is *Brave* movie. The problem statement in this research is; Is Merida's masculinity constructed by her parents? From this reasearch, it can be concluded that Merida's masculinity is constructed by her mother's oppression and her father's support; it is not innate.

Keywords: *masculinity, female masculinity theory, Brave, movie theory, social construction masculinity.*

HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY AS SEEN IN *BRAVE* (2012)

Oleh: Deni Kurniawati

ABSTRAK

Film merupakan bentuk komunikasi visual yang mengutamakan gambar dan suara sebagai media penyampaian gambar untuk menggambarkan cerita yang biasanya mencerminkan kehidupan manusia. Disney merupakan salah satu produksi film terkemuka yang memproduksi film dengan nilai-nilai moral dan dapat ditonton oleh semua usia. Film *Brave*, salah satu film Disney yang menceritakan tentang putrid Merida sebagai tokoh utama yang melanggar aturan dan menentang ibunya Elinor di kerajaan. Penekanan ibunya membangun sisi maskulinitasnya menjadi semakin kuat. Meskipun maskulinitas Merida lebih dominan tetapi tidak mengurangi sisi femininnya. Penampilan Merida masih feminin dan juga memiliki karakter tegas. Jadi, hal ini sangat penting untuk dilakukan penelitian tentang bagaimana maskulinitas digunakan oleh seorang wanita untuk menantang maskulinitas lain yang ditunjukkan oleh wanita atau pria. Selain itu, posisi Merida sangat menarik untuk dianalisis dalam kaitannya dengan penggunaan nilai maskulinitas oleh Merida dalam menanggapi dominasi ibunya. Sehubungan dengan masalah ini, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana karakteristik Merida yang digambarkan sebagai akibat dari hubungan penindasan ibunya yang ditunjukkan dalam film *Brave*. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode kualitatif yang disarankan oleh teori Judith Halberstam untuk menganalisis objek penelitian - yaitu film *Brave*. Rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah; Apakah maskulinitas Merida dibangun oleh orang tuanya? Dari penelitian ini, dapat disimpulkan bahwa maskulinitas Merida dibangun oleh tekanan ibunya dan dukungan ayahnya; hal ini bukan bawaan.

Kata kunci: *maskulinitas, teori maskulinitas perempuan, Brave, teori film, konstruksi sosial maskulinitas*

MOTTO

**“Remember Allah when life goes
wrong. Allah must have a better
way for you”**



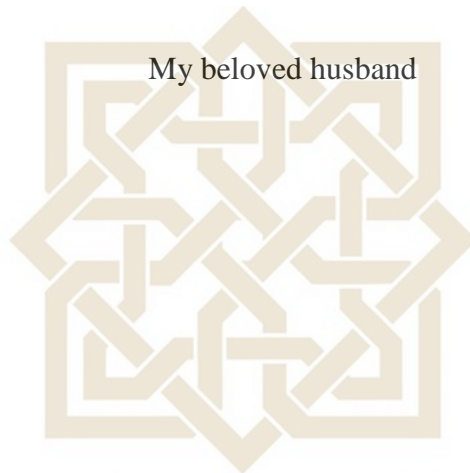
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DEDICATION

This Graduation Paper I dedicate to:

My beloved parent

My beloved husband



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Choosing Subject

Literature is a creative imagination work in the forms of poetry, drama, movie, or prose. Literature is a work that has special characteristics (experience of human life and experience involving the readers' and the writers' imagination) in every work such as poetry, drama, film, and prose. Literature usually uses nature, expression of human's life, or one's power (a figure). According to Storey, literature embodies all that is to be valued in human experience (2009:27).

Literary works can be divided into two categories. The categories are fiction and non-fiction. Fiction talks about poetry, prose, novel and movie while non-fiction work is a form of literature which contains fact and truth based on real information such as scientific works. One of very famous literary works is movie. Movie is a series of moving pictures which often telling a story that is usually shown in a theatre or on television (*dictionary.cambridge.org*). One favored movie is cartoon. Cartoon can be enjoyed by people in various ages. *Brave* is a cartoon movie produced by Pixar Animation Studio on June 10th 2012. The movie tells about princess Merida's life in a kingdom. She has to obey all the rule. (*kusukasuka.com*). This is one of the animation films that was released by Disney. Lee Artz on *Animating Hierarchy: Disney and the Globalization of Capitalism* stated that Animation film has considerably more representational latitude than non-animated film: image, size, movement, color, lighting, and continuity

Brave has different characterization that makes the researcher interested to analyse. It tells about a Princess, Merida, as the main character. This movie tells about *Dunbroch* kingdom with Fergus as the King, Elinor as the Queen, Merida as the Princess, Prince Hamish, Hubert and Harris as Merida's brothers, Maudie as kingdom assistant, clan Macguffin, clan Ding-wall and clan Macintosh as the kingdom who presents suitors for the scion. In this movie, Princess Merida has a strong character to go against the rule as a woman. Princess Merida does not want to obey the rule and the tradition existed in the kingdom. She always does something that makes her mother angry. She always argues with her mother when she is prohibited to practice the archery or prohibited to go to the forest for hunting. However, her mother, Queen Elinor, does not want her daughter to act like a man. She wants Princess Merida to behave and be a good princess. Queen Elinor always tells Merida to be a good woman and to be a good figure for the kingdom. She always tells the princess to wake up early in the morning, not to slack around, to play the musical instrument, not to snigger, to be patient, to be cautious, to be clean, and to be a perfect being. Princess Merida does not like what her mother says (asks her) yet she tries.

In this movie, the Queen Elinor has authority over the kingdom. It is shown by the queen's power to control the rule of the kingdom. Not only does she have power over the kingdom, but also the kings from other kingdoms become obedient with everything she says. They all respect the Queen. Queen Elinor has good attitude as the Queen. She always does everything perfectly. She always wants her daughter to be like her. All of the princess's life has been planned out

by Queen Elinor. As a mother, Queen Elinor never hears what her princess wants. She just prepares for the day her princess becomes a Queen. Princess Merida does not have freedom to choose what she wants to do.

The domination of the queen can also be seen as more powerful than the king when they are talking about the marriage of Merida. The King does not know about the planning of her Queen about the marriage in the middle of the talk between King, Queen and Merida. The Queen shows her domination by telling this plan to Merida. The plan is supposed to be explained by the King as the leader of the family. However, as the leader in the Kingdom, he is not as good as his wife in delivering a speech.

Based on the explanation, what the queen does is challenged by her daughter, Merida. Merida wants to challenge her mother's power in controlling anything. In the researcher's opinion, both Merida and the Queen are exercising masculinity values (controlling and dominating). This can be very important things to be researched on how masculinity is used by woman to challenge other masculinity of women or men. In addition, the position of Merida is interesting to be discussed because Merida is responding to her mother's domination by using the same masculinity values. This is why the researcher takes '*Merida's Masculinity as seen in Brave Movie*' as a graduating paper.

1.2 Research question

Based on the background of the study and the focus of the study, the researcher limits the problem by formulating the research question as follow:

1. How is Merida's masculinities depicted as a female character in relation to the Queen as well as the mother of Merida in *Brave* movie?

1.3 Objective of study

In accordance with the question above, in this paper the objective of this study is to elaborate the practice of female masculinity by a female character who does not have freedom as seen in *Brave*.

1.4 Significances of Study

The significance of this research is to be one of the references for literary study such as theory application in graduating paper, especially for female masculinity study.

1.5 Literary Review

The researcher has found five researches related to the same object, they are:

1. Nevisia Nindya Pradani (2016). Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. This research discusses the Representation Theory and the Concept of Ideology. *The Ideology in Brave through Representation of Princess Merida* (2016), Adab and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. The research aims to find out how Brave film represents princess character and what ideology that Brave film

conveys through its representation. Brave succeeds in building a different perspective to the image of Disney princess by creating Merida as a better and stronger role model to young girls or women.

2. Mirna Pratiwi Sari (2013) from University of Mercu Buana Jakarta. This research is a research on Semiotics Analysis by Ferdinand de Saussure entitled *Pemaknaan Kasih Sayang Ibu disegala Kondisi Dalam Film Animasi Brave* (2013), Fakultas Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Mercu Buana Jakarta. The researcher does not find the abstract of this research.
3. Laely Ade Putri (2014). Universitas Mercu Buana Jakarta. This research is a research on Roland Barthes' semiotic. The title of the paper is *Mitologi Feminis dalam Film Brave* (2014), Fakultas Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Mercu Buana Jakarta. The researcher does not find the abstract of this research.
4. Fanny Puspitasari (2013). Universitas Kristen Petra. This research is a research on descriptive qualitative using narrative analysis of Vladimir Propp. *Representasi stereotype perempuan dalam film Brave* (2013), Universitas Kristen Petra. This paper stated that Brave film had failed on breaking the patriarchal system.
5. Yessi Dita Ariyasni (2014) Brawijaya University. This research is a research on Feminist Theory Downing and Roush. *Feminist Identity of Merida Portrayed in Brave Movie* (2014), with the major of English Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies,

Brawijaya University. Merida as a princess wants to get her freedom to be herself.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In this research, the researcher uses two theories to analyse this paper. The first theory is the female masculinity and the second is movie theory. The research of *Brave* movie aims to analyse the female masculinity as seen in *Brave* movie. The researcher will focus on patriarchal system that limits and controls woman's freedom. According to Bartens (2001:95), Feminism seeks to change the power relations between men and women that prevailed in the late 1960s and the 1970s. It was usually called patriarchy, a term that referred to the (almost) complete domination of men in Western society (and beyond).

In the patriarchal system, men have more power than women. Man is the superior and woman is the inferior. According to Tyson, "gender and sex are different; sex refers to biological constitution as a female or a male, while gender refers to the cultural programming as feminine or masculine" (2006: 85). In other words, not all sexes reflect their gender, not all women born to be feminine and not all men born to be masculine. The society's perspective influences how men are being a man and how women are being a woman. According to Judith Halberstam in her book entitled *Female Masculinity*, "It is crucial that masculinity does not belong to men, has not produced only by men and does not properly expressed male heterosexuality... what we call 'masculinity' has also been produced by masculine women, gender deviants, and often lesbians" (1998:241). Furthermore, she also stated:

“Tomboyism tends to be associated with a “natural” desire for the greater freedoms and mobilities enjoyed by boys. It is read as a sign of independence and self motivation, and tomboyism may even be encouraged to the extent that it remains comfortably linked to a stable sense of a girl identity (6 : 1998)”

The second theory is movie theory. The main data of this research is movie. This research uses movie theory to support the analysis of the data. There are three kinds of theory in film theory: mise-en-scene, cinematography, and also semiotics of Film. The researcher uses mise-en-scene to analyse the data. As cited in Jameson (2012), Mise-en-scene consists of all the elements placed in front of the camera to be photographed: lighting, camera angle and figure behaviour (their gestures and their facial expressions).

1.7 Method of Research

Method of research is one procedure or technique in a study. Research method involves forms of data collection, analysis, and interpretations that the researchers propose for their study. (Creswell, 2009:10). In this sub-chapter, there are types of research. They are data sources, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

1.7.1 Type of Research

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative method. According to Creswell, qualitative is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning of an individual or groups ascribed in regards to a social or human problem

(2009:1). This research applies objective research to question the content of the movie, *Brave* movie. Furthermore, the researcher focuses on interpretation of words, phrases, events or phenomena in the main data source.

1.7.2 Data Sources

In this research, there are several data sources which are called the primary data and the secondary data. Primary data are data that have been collected but have not published yet and which are more reliable. Besides, secondary data are collected from sources that have already been published. (*readingcraze.com*). The primary data source in this movie include dialogues and frames that are taken from the movie and the secondary data sources are taken from the books of literary works and article that can help this study.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

In this research, the primary source is *Brave*. The unit of datum in this research is scene. Scenes chosen are the dialogues in *Brave* movie, actions of the actor which is Merida and the signs of appearances of Merida. The signs used are suitable with Merida's female masculinities. In this research, first, the researcher reads *Brave* Movie to identify and describe the intrinsic elements contained in the movie. After that, the researcher summarizes and eliminates the data that are suitable with the theory that the researcher uses. Next, the researcher collects some supporting data that can help this study. Eventually, the researcher determines the cases of masculinities on female portrayals in the movie based on the theory that has been mentioned above.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The research uses objective approach to analyse the data. The data from the movie will be analysed using the female masculinity theory. Then, the researcher takes some data that contains masculinities that are related to the variable. After that, the researcher analyses the aspects of masculinity such as the characterizations and the signs of the character with female masculinity. To support this research, the researcher also uses film theory to analyse the event from the movie. Then, the researcher draws the conclusion from the analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

In this study, the paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consists of background of study, research question, objective of study, significances of study, literary reviews, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter presents the intrinsic elements of *Brave* movie. The third chapter consists of the discussion of the analysis. The last chapter contains the conclusion and suggestion for further research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

The research applies female masculinity theory by Judith Halberstam. Through the theory, the research analyses practice of masculinity exercised by male and female character and how masculinities are depicted by a female character in *Brave*. From the analysis in the previous chapter above, it can be concluded that the masculinity practiced by Merida is not innate but it is caused by socially constructed. Merida's masculinity is constructed by her mother's oppression and her father's support.

Merida's masculinity is shown without losing her feminine character. She is still a caring person in treating her brothers even with her more dominant masculine character. Her masculinity also makes woman be heard and also gives woman the opportunity to show their desire. She can break the rigid rule that exists in her society. Female masculinity theory shows how men and women are depicted. Based on the Islamic perspective, there is a verse in Holy Quran mentioning about disobedience. Surah Al-Kahfi verse 54 :

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا فِي هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا ﴿٥٤﴾

“We have explained in detail in this Qur'an, for the benefit of mankind, every kind of similitude: but man is, in most things, contentious”

According to this verse of the Koran, people tend to debating, disagreeing, and even denying truth in very nasty ways (QS. Al Kahfi verse 54). It is related to Merida's characteristic who always debating over her Mother, Elinor. As the daughter of her mother, Merida should obey her mother and do good things to please her mother instead of debating her.

4.2 Suggestion

This research still needs to be analysed from the other aspects especially about how the analysis of Merida's masculinity in *Brave* movie is depicted. The next researcher who will analyse this movie can take Merida's masculinity as their subject and analyse more than this research. The next researcher can use other theory such as hero's journey or even psychoanalysis in order to conduct a research about the characters or the movie as a whole.

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Education Background

2001-2007 SD N Nomporejo (Elementary School)
 2007-2011 SMP MTs N Galur (Junior High School)
 2011-2013 SMK N 1 Panjatan (Senior High School)
 -Chemical Analyze
 2014-2020 State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta
 - English Literature

Organizations and Experiences

- Secretary of Village Youth Nomporejo 2018-2020

Job Experiences

- Voting Comitee of General Election Nomporejo 2018-2019
- Community Organizer of Mitra Wacana “Human Trafficing” 2018-2019

Interest

- Make up Artist
- Cooking
- Traveling