

**THE STRUGGLE OF WOMEN EQUALITY AS SEEN IN *QUEEN OF THE
DESERT* MOVIE (2015)**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor
Degree in English Literature



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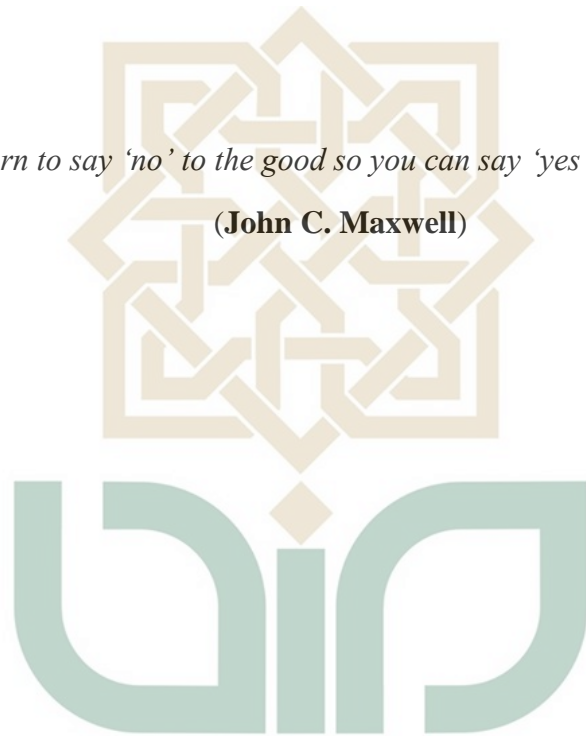
MOTTO

“Never make other people the source of your happiness,

Because if that person leaves, your happiness too”

“Learn to say ‘no’ to the good so you can say ‘yes’ to the best”

(John C. Maxwell)



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DEDICATION

The researcher dedicates this graduating paper to;

His beloved family, especially grandma as a role model of a mother, mom and
dad, grandpa, brother and sister

And

Everyone who has struggled to help the researcher complete this research



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11. All friends in English Literature chapter '15 especially class A

Finally, the researcher realizes that nobody is perfect in this world. There are many lacks and mistakes in writing this graduating paper. Thus, the researcher really allows all readers to give suggestions to improve this graduating paper.

Wassalamu'alaikum wr.wb.

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DESERT MOVIE***

By: Rahmat Maulana

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the struggle of women in achieving their dreams. It is shown by Gertrude Bell as the dominant character. In this movie, her effort to become a great woman politician is important to be discussed. The researcher wants to analyze the struggle of woman, Gertrude, especially on how she fights for her career and also how she manages to be the pioneer of women equality. This research uses liberal feminist theory as the main theory and film theory as the supporting theory. Liberal feminism emphasizes that individual autonomy and equality of opportunity is significant. This research focuses on concept of equality measured by Merle Thornton. This research explains Gertrude Bell's steps to be a great woman politician and a heroine. The researcher finds that everyone, with no exception must struggle to achieve their life goals. In this movie, Gertrude Bell shows the struggle eventhough she owns the intelligence, the beauty, and even the wealth.

Keywords: *Feminism, Heroine, Movie*

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk memaparkan bagaimana perjuangan seorang wanita yang tergambar pada tokoh utama, Gertrude Bell, untuk mencapai apa yang ia impikan selama ini, yaitu menjadi politisi wanita yang hebat. Peneliti ingin menganalisis tentang perjuangan perempuan, Gertrude, terutama karir politiknya karena sangat menarik untuk mengetahui bagaimana dia berjuang demi karirnya dan bagaimana dia mampu menjadi pelopor kesetaraan hak pada wanita. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Liberal Feminisme sebagai teori utama dan teori Film sebagai teori pendukung. Liberal Feminisme menekankan pada kebebasan individu dan kesetaraan dalam sebuah kesempatan. Penelitian ini fokus pada konsep kesetaraan menurut Merle Thornton. Penelitian ini menjelaskan langkah-langkah Gertrude Bell hingga menjadi politisi perempuan yang berpengaruh dan menjadi seorang pahlawan. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa setiap orang harus berjuang untuk mencapai apa yang menjadi tujuan hidupnya selama ini, dan Gertrude Bell menunjukkan hal tersebut dalam film ini walaupun dia memiliki segalanya seperti kepintaran, kecantikan, dan bahkan kekayaan.

Kata kunci: *Feminisme, Tidak berdaya, Kuat, Pahlawan, Film*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature is human creative works. Therefore, it can be seen as a reflection of human life. Literary works can be presented not only in written form but also in visual form. The forms of literature are poetry, prose, fiction, and drama (Abrams, 2009:177-178). Movie is included in visual form of literature.

Since the first time movie has existed, it gradually evolves until the current era when they become very popular culture (Turner, 1999:2). It is shown by the enthusiasm of people to watch new movies in cinemas. People can also watch old movies from electronic media, such as computers and televisions. Movie can entertain people with the audio, the visual, and the story. Thus, the audiences can enjoy the movie and understand the movie more easily.

Popular culture is the entirely perspectives, ideas, images, attitudes, and other phenomena that are within the mainstream of a given culture, especially Western culture (Barker, 2000:50). Popular culture is massively influenced by mass media spread through the people in society. Here, popular culture refers to the aesthetic products created and sold by profit-seeking firms operating in the global entertainment market. Hollywood which is known as a popular movies company is involved in the inclusion of movie as a pop culture.

The integration and relationship between literature and culture can be described by the movies that deal with human daily life and depict the issues that happen in real life. Movie is a representation of people's daily life and culture. According to Villarejo, movie reveals the dimension of "social, historical, industrial, technological, philosophical, political, aesthetic, psychological, personal, and so forth" (2007:9).

Movie combines the cinematographic and literature aspect with narrative structure. It represents the imagination into the screen and allows the human mind to see the project in brain screen of objects and events (Midega, 2010: in <http://blog.jaluo.com/?p=11700>). Thus, the audience of the movie can understand the real object of the movie and the events of a story by watching and seeing the moving pictures in the movie. It makes a movie daily literature and the most popular literature consumed by people. In other words, movie is known by the people as popular literature containing popular culture inside.

Movie has many genres such as action, comedy, drama, adventure, horror, science-fiction, romantic, and biography. One movie can combine two or more genres in its story. In this research, the researcher chooses a movie with drama genre. However, this movie not only has drama genre, but also biography and romance genre. Drama is serious presentation of movie with plot-driven story, portraying realistic characters, settings, and life situations involving intense character development and interaction.

The researcher chooses *Queen of the Desert* movie as the object of research. This movie is based on the true story of Gertrude Bell, the most powerful woman in the British Empire in the early 20th century. This movie is interesting to be discussed because this movie tells the audiences about political journey of a British woman. In the middle of her journey, she began to love all about the Bedouin. In the end, she was loved by all of the Bedouins because of her concern for them. As a western woman, she gave them support that the Bedouins had never felt before.

Queen of the Desert tells us about Gertrude Bell's biography; how Gertrude Bell struggled from a bridled woman to be an independent woman who was crowned as 'the noble lady'. Gertrude Bell was a daughter of a wealthy industrialist family and had a relationship with British Royal Family. She was an Oxford graduate and undoubtedly owned good intelligence. Although Gertrude Bell was very smart, her mother was afraid that Gertrude would intimidate every young man with it. This movie told us the struggle of the woman, Gertrude, from zero to finally become a Heroine for the country in the Middle East area especially Iraq and Jordan.

Although Gertrude Bell was Oxford graduated; beautiful; wealthy industrialist family's daughter, she needed to struggle to achieve her dreams and it was not easy at all. Men and women could be successful as they have equalities of opportunity and equalities of obligations in society. Women are not objects of men; they can also be the subjects, the protagonists, and the heroine.

Queen of the Desert movie is directed by Werner Herzog under the production of Benaroya Pictures and Evolution Entertainment. This movie was first released on 6th February 2015 in Berlin and 14th April 2017 in the USA. Substantively, *Queen of the Desert* movie conveys not only the gender issue, but also the political and social class issue. This movie tells a little bit of the British's role in World War I and the circumstances in Europe and Asia in the early 20th century.

The researcher wants to examine the struggle of women equality in *Queen of the Desert* movie, especially in Gertrude's character. Smith says in "*The Image of Woman in Film*" that many movies generally manifest woman as a confused person, helpless and in danger, or passive, or as a purely sexual being (as cited in Thornham, 1999: 14-15). However, the woman characters in this movie imply that women have enough power so women can do what men do. It is proved by the main character. It is shown that Gertrude had leadership, was well educated, and could make right decision for her and people around her.

Thus, the researcher uses feminist theory to analyze how Gertrude Bells struggled as a woman in this movie. There are many thoughts of feminist theory, such as liberal feminism theory, socialist feminism, radical feminism, and psychoanalytic feminism. According to Stevi Jackson, "Feminist theory seeks to analyse the conditions which shape women's lives and to explore cultural understandings of what it means to be a woman" (1998: 1). In short, feminism refuses the inequalities between women and men because feminism believes that women and men have equal nature.

The researcher decides to use liberal feminism as the proper thought to analyze the case, stressing particularly on women's equality. The researcher prefers to use liberal feminism because it focuses on giving the equality of opportunity between women and men. Women and men should not be treated differently under the law. Classical liberals think that the state should confine itself into protecting civil liberties such as property rights, voting rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of association (Tong, 2009: 12). Thus, basically liberal itself upholds the freedom, and in this movie, a freedom to deserve a destiny.

There is a concept of equality between women and men as Merle Thornton explained. The concept explains that the nature of women and men is equal. The fact is undeniable because it is the reality. Therefore, if women get equal opportunity in the same manner as men get, women can also do what men do. Thus, the results will be equal too. However, it must be noted that the term "equal" does not mean "same" (Hughes, 2002: 34-35).

The concept of equality is also seen in Islam's perspective. To see it from the Islamic perspective, the researcher connects this research with Islam to integrate and interconnect literature and Islamic value. Islam has embraced the concept of equality between men and women. Every person, woman or man has the same right. In addition to that, Islam does not legalize the caste, and all human beings are considered equal in Almighty God's perspective. It is according to Almighty God's saying in the Holy Qur'an, surah An-Nahl, verse 97:

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ (٩٧)

Meaning: Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer-we will surely cause him to live a good life, and we will surely give them their reward (In the Hereafter) according to the best of what they used to do.

The verse of Qur'an above explains that man or woman, male or female is not different in the perspective of Almighty God. What makes man or woman different is just what they do in their lives, either good or bad.

Allah as Almighty God also said in the holy Qur'an, surah Al-Ahzab, verse 73 :

لِيُعَذِّبَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ وَالْمُشْرِكَاتِ وَيَتُوبَ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا

Meaning: (It was) so that Allah may punish the hypocrite men and hypocrite women and the men and women who associate others with Him and that Allah may accept repentance from the believing men and believing women. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.

The verse of the Holy Qur'an above explains that hypocrite people and people who associate Allah the Almighty God with others, either man or woman are the same. They will be punished by Allah SWT the Almighty God. There is no difference, the believing people, men and women are the same. Allah may accept their repentance because Allah is forgiving and merciful.

The two verses conveyed above imply that women and men have equal right. Thus, the assumption about the weakness of women is not a reason for women to give up in facing every difficult circumstance.

Finally, in this research, the researcher analyzes the equality which is shown by woman characters in *Queen of the Desert* movie, especially Gertrude Bell. The researcher also analyzes the factors of woman characters which are shown by the dominant character in this movie. The researcher wants to examine how Gertrude Bell in her political struggle is and how she manages to help Bedouins in the name of humanity. Therefore, the researcher attempts to explain it in this analysis.

1.2. Research Question

The question for this research analysis is “How does Gertrude Bell struggle for her will to help the Bedouins in *Queen of the Desert* movie?”

1.3. Objectives of Study

According to the research questions above, this research aims to find out more about how Gertrude Bell determines her steps in her political career in *Queen of the Desert* movie.

1.4. Significance of Study

This research can help the researcher understand better about the Liberal Feminism and film theory by Ed Sikov; and the application to the literary works, especially movie. The researcher can also understand more about the *Queen of the*

Desert movie, especially the intrinsic element of the movie. Then, finally the researcher can see the struggle of Gertrude Bell to be a heroine in this movie by applying Liberal feminist theory. For the audiences, this research can explain the application of Liberal feminist theory in this movie. Besides, if they want to use this movie as object of research, this research can be one of the the literature reviews.

1.5. Literature Review

For literature reviews, the researcher uses researches which have the same theory but different discussion object. The first research is entitled "The Representation of Women Equality As seen in *Elysium* movie". This research was written by Ayu Karomah in 2016, a student of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. This research is categorized as qualitative research and the method of analyzing data is objective-descriptive approach. This research tells the readers about the woman equality as portrayed in Delacourt character in *Elysium* movie.

The second research is entitled "Women Equality as seen in a Horror Movie: *Silent Hill I*". This research was written by Irwan Zaeni in 2014, a student from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. The analysis of data was conducted using the liberal feminism approach. The purpose of this research is to find out how women are depicted in the movie, and why they are shown as the dominant characters. This research focuses on the concept of equality measured by Merle Thornton. *Silent Hill I* tells about a mother who struggles to

find a solution in a mysterious town due to irregularities in her adopted daughter who often sleepwalks and calls Silent Hill town.

This research differs from the researches above in object material. This research has the same theory as the researches above which is liberal feminism. Although having the same theory, this research has different aspects to discuss from both researches above. This research emphasizes the struggle of Gertrude Bell's transformation from a powerless woman to be a heroine.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

1.6.1. Liberal Feminist Theory

Since this research engages with female character, the researcher decides to use feminist theory to be applied in this paper. Feminist theory explains the equality of men and women in rights and obligations in society. There are some kinds of feminist thought: liberal, radical, Marxist, psychoanalytic, existentialists and postmodernism, women in color feminism, and eco-feminism (Tong, 2009: 1).

Feminism is centrally concerned with sex as an organizing principle of social life that is full of power relations. Most feminists have argued that the subordination of women occurs across a whole range of social institutions and practices with a degree of regularity that makes it a structural phenomenon. This structural subordination of women has been described by feminists as patriarchy with its derivative meanings of the male-headed family, mastery and superiority (Barker, 2004: 68).

Women are supposed not to be in inferior position or secondary status in our life. As human beings, woman and man have the equal right, but the statement above explains that women are only subordinated by men (Barker, 2004: 68).

The researcher concerns with liberal feminism theory in this research. Liberal feminism focuses on giving equality of opportunity and right between men and women. The equal opportunity and right means that women are also entitled to what men can do, and have opportunity as men without violating her nature. Rosemarie Tong said that women need places where they can keep their public persona, among family and friends, to shed their public persona and save their privacy as a woman (2009: 12).

Theoretically, liberal feminism claims that gender differences are not based on biology, and therefore women and men are not all that different -- their common humanity supersedes their procreative differentiation (Lorber, 2007: 9). It means that women and men are not different. They are the same and shouldn't be treated differently under the law.

Carter explained that feminist is divided into two stages, the first wave and the second wave. The first wave is influenced by social and economic reforms. There are many aspects endorsed by men such as politics, social, and economy. It becomes the main factor for women to attempt developing a comprehensive account of the subordination of women and becoming liberate women. Meanwhile, the second wave is influenced by various liberalist movements and sexual difference that is the central concern (2006: 92-93). However, there is also

the third wave called postmodern feminism. It is different from the first wave and second wave because it concerns women's question about their identities and what they want that has never been answered before (Tong, 2009: 9).

As the focus of liberal feminism, equality has a measurement. It is measured by Thornton as the following concept (as cited in Hughes, 2002: 35):

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Women and men have equal nature → | Axiom |
| So if women are given equal treatment with men → | Programme |
| The outcome will be equal performance → | Goal |

However, the term "equality" does not mean that woman is the same as the man in every sector. Women and men have their own nature. According to Thornton (1986), there are three elements of this standard argument for sex equality, these are:

1. Women's nature;
2. The social treatment of women; and
3. Women's performance.

Related to the three elements above, the concept of the equality can be stated that axiom is the women nature. Next, programme means women treatment. Meanwhile, goal is the result achievable by women. Therefore, each of these issues should be considered in terms of the concept of equality itself (Hughes, 2002: 36).

Madsen in her book “*Feminist Theory and Literary Practice*” about the Declaration of the Sentiment that is drafted by Elizabeth Cady Stanton that also contains about equality stated that “we hold these truth to be self-evident: that all men and women create equal... ” (2000: 6).

1.6.2. Film Theory

Film theory is considered as the supporting theory in this research. Film theory is also important in this research because the pictures in the movie or film can help the researcher to find the data. Film theory deals with the problems of reality and representation by making logical assumptions from it. It means that all representations in the movie or film have meaning.

The researcher uses Film theory from Ed Sikov in this research. Film theory by Ed Sikov focuses on analyzing the shot within the image, the camera movement, and the cinematography. In this research, the researcher only uses the shot analyzing, the subject camera distance –why it matters (medium close up, close up, extreme long shot, etc.). This research also analyzes the cinematography, especially lighting as the part of cinematography.

Film theory composes the basic analysis of the film by echoing *mise-en-scène* that is the theatrical process of staging. *Mise-en-scene* is the first step in understanding how film produces and reflects meaning (Sikov, 1983: 16). In other words, to find out how to analyze the movie and know the meaning of each picture that appears, *mise-en-scène* can be applied. Film theory assumes that

everything within the picture has expressive meaning. By analyzing it with *mise-en-scène*, the researcher can see what kind of meaning it might convey.

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research uses qualitative methods to examine and explain social conditions and problems that appear within the society. Judith Preissle stated about the notion of qualitative research as follows “Qualitative research is a loosely defined category of research design or models, all of which elicit verbal, visual, tactile, olfactory, and gustatory data in the form of descriptive narrative like field notes, recording, or other transcripts from audio and video tapes and other written records and pictures on movies” (1998: 24).

1.7.2. Data Sources

The source of the data for this research is the *Queen of the Desert* movie by Werner Herzog which was released in Hollywood in 2015. The primary data are taken from the movie *Queen of the Desert*. The supporting data come from the feminist theory from compatible books and academic writings that can support the research.

1.7.3. Data Collection Technique

The researcher watches the movie *Queen of the Desert* properly and reads the script of the movie. After watching the movie, the researcher takes screenshots from some scenes which can support the research. The image can be the data

source to strengthen the proof. Then, the researcher also writes down the events to describe the plot and summary in chapter two.

In short, the researcher writes down the part of conversation from the movie and puts it on chapter three as a proof to strengthen the research. Then, the researcher also puts several scenes which support the variable and strengthen the analysis in an image form to be the proof and collection of data material. Furthermore, the researcher puts the image of scene and script. Then, the researcher writes down the events from the image to excel database.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

In this data analysis, the researcher specifically observes the character and how the steps of Gertrude Bell's struggle in *Queen of the Desert* movie. The researcher focuses on analyzing the struggle of Gertrude Bell's character in *Queen of the Desert* movie using liberal feminist theory. The researcher uses the collected data such as images and script. Then, the researcher writes down the events which can strengthen the proof. After that, the researcher finds the variable from the theory, such as the equality, the power, and the woman as heroine. The equality is divided into three; they are woman nature, equal treatment, and performance.

The researcher uses liberal feminist theory to analyze the movie particularly the equality of opportunity because liberal feminist states on individual autonomy. Furthermore, the researcher uses the concept of equality from Merley Thornton. Then, the researcher applies the concept of equality to the

discussion in chapter three, especially in the struggle steps of Gertrude Bell in being a heroine.

The goal of this research is to find out Gertrude Bell's political career and how she becomes a heroine. In her political journey, she encountered many obstacles, but that could not dampen her intention. Previously, she went on an archeological journey in the desert of the Bedouin tribe and her hospitality made her loved by the Bedouins.

1.8. Thesis Organization

Chapter one provides the background statement that explains why the discussion of *Queen of the Desert* movie is significant and interesting to study. It also explains the objective of study; which is to describe Gertrude Bell struggle for her will to help the Bedouins. The question is answered using Liberal Feminist Theory.

Chapter two provides the content of the literature; the intrinsic element. In addition to the intrinsic element, it also elaborates the shot from the scene which is analyzed using Film theory in *Queen of the Desert* movie.

Chapter three is the most essential part of the research; data analysis. This chapter elaborates the result of the research with explanation using Liberal Feminism Theory. Finally, the last chapter shall answer the question of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

From what has been analyzed in the previous chapter, the conclusion drawn from this research is that women position is not inferior and they are not passive human beings. In this movie, the film maker shows us historical background of Gertrude Bell as a woman and how the role of women in the 1900s. They were still considered as passive persons. Gertrude Bell proved that as a woman, she also had leadership and had the right to feel the meaning of freedom.

The film maker also emphasizes that the statement representing male character as more perfect and more powerful hero, and women as powerless character, is totally wrong. The dominant character in this movie, Gertrude Bell is not powerless character, and in the end of the movie she becomes a heroine. As an individual, Gertrude has anything that she needs such as wealth, beauty, intelligence. Even though she has anything as an individual, in social life, she can not be anything that she wants. In order to reach her dreams, she struggles not only for herself, but also for others. She fights for the women equality for women in the world.

Gertrude Bell struggles for her life from powerless person who cannot determine her own destiny, especially her love life, to a heroine. By time, she becomes a powerful woman, has good intelligence, good leadership, good

decisions making, and is also wealthy. In fact, Gertrude Bell is from the wealthy family and this privilege cannot be received by most women. However, with the privilege, Gertrude Bell just feels restrained. The restraint of her soul comes from her surroundings. Ultimately, she becomes a heroine for the people she loves, the Bedouins.

Furthermore, a woman should be given the opportunity to decide what she believes the best. It can be applied if the readers know that women and men have equal natures (Axiom). Then, women should be given equal treatment as men (Programme). Finally, the outcome is the equal performance between women and men (Goal).

4.2. Suggestion

Queen of the Desert movie tells us about life and biography of Gertrude Bell, British archeologist and politicians. For the next researchers who are interested in analyzing this movie as well, the binary opposition can be used to examine this movie because this movie also shows the life between the East and the West. The other researchers can also use post-colonial and ecranitation (diversion from novel to film or otherwise).

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