DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMAN IN *ALADDIN* (2019)

A GRADUATING PAPER

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

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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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Yogyakarta, 24 November 2022

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MOTTO

We don't need to fight each other, we just need to fight ourselves.

~unknown

DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

First, myself as an ordinary person who just want to live in peace,

Second, my beloved mom and dad who always provide all I need to support me.
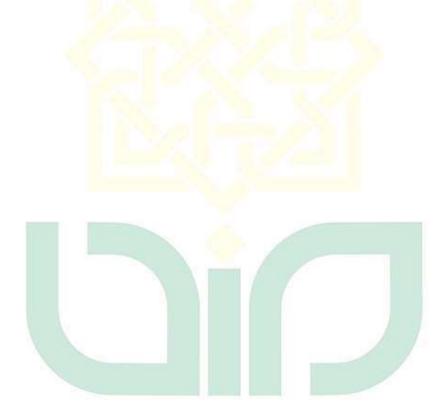
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ABSTRACT

Discrimination still often afflicts women from various aspects, so the film *Aladdin (2019)* describes how the anxiety of a female character faces a world that is not friendly to her conditions. The researcher focuses his study on discrimination against Jasmine's character as an oppressed woman. This study uses feminist approach in viewing the phenomena of oppressions and discriminations against woman, with the aim of understanding more deeply the forms of discrimination against woman. This research uses descriptive-analytical method. The researcher finds discriminatory actions, oppression, and violence against woman, carried out by male individuals, state institutions, or by law. In the name of tradition, women are treated in an unfair way in order to maintain the good name of tradition. From these findings, the researcher concludes that tradition is a powerful legitimating tool used by individuals and institutions to hinder women's movement and development. Thus, tradition needs to be criticized and developed in a better direction in order to pay more attention to the space for human development.

Keyword: *Discrimination, Feminism, Woman.*

ABSTRAK

Diskriminasi masih sering menimpa perempuan dari berbagai aspek, sehingga film *Aladdin (2019)* menggambarkan bagaimana keresahan karakter perempuan dalam menghadapi dunia yang tidak ramah terhadap kondisinya. Peneliti memfokuskan kajiannya pada diskriminasi terhadap karakter Jasmine sebagai perempuan yang tertindas. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan feminisme dalam memandang fenomena penindasan dan diskriminasi terhadap perempuan, dengan tujuan untuk memahami lebih dalam bentuk-bentuk diskriminasi perempuan yang terjadi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif analitis. Peneliti menemukan tindakan diskriminatif, penindasan, dan kekerasan terhadap perempuan baik dilakukan oleh individu lelaki, lembaga negara, maupun undang-undang. Atas nama tradisi, perempuan diperlakukan sedemikian rupa demi menjaga nama baik tradisi. Dari berbagai penemuan tersebut, peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa, tradisi merupakan alat legitimasi yang kuat yang digunakan oleh individu maupun lembaga dalam menghambat ruang gerak dan perkembangan perempuan. Sehingga, tradisi perlu dikritik dan dikembangkan ke arah lebih baik agar lebih memperhatikan terhadap ruang perkembangan manusia.
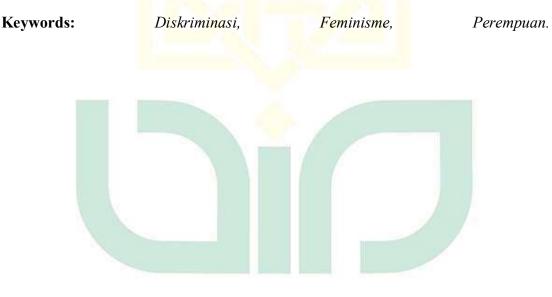
Keywords: *Diskriminasi, Feminisme, Perempuan.*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The discussion about discrimination against woman is opposed by many groups, especially, the religious community that justifies and legitimize discriminatory constructions using sacred texts (Rohmaniyah, 2014:6). As time went by, from 1985 to 1995, the importance of this discussion began to be realized by many scholars, activists, and non-government organizations (Rohmaniyah, 2014:3-4). For example, on a small scale, such as in the scope of an organization, many people still underestimate women (Erdianto, 2016). Their identity of gender and sex of women is still a consideration rather than seeing what competencies they have in their field. Viewing the superiority of men over women is one of them so we often see phenomena within the scope of organizations that belittle the gender of women when they run in a contest for the election of the head of the organization. Looking inferior to women causes them to be trapped in a social system that does not support their rights as human beings equal to others and will continue to experience a discriminatory system just because they are born as women. This is the problem point in the critique of feminism in viewing misogyny, male centrality, and male superiority (Beasley, 2005:16)

Culture and social life as phenomena that oppress and restrain women are the main reasons for this research. The various legitimacy expressed by most individuals

or institutions using religious arguments to restrain and oppress women is completely irrelevant to the nature of religion. Religion is supposed to be an enlightener that brings justice to its people, but some people interpret sacred texts which are sometimes gender biased then become a justification for discrimination against women (Mursalin, 2020:48).

In the verse of the Qur'an (9:71) containing God's commandment to apply good and forbid bad things, it is also emphasized on believing men and believing women. Mentioning the two sexes of humans is God's message to mankind, both men and women have the same rights in the application of goodness and prohibition of bad things. For example, men and women have the same right to be leaders of a group if they are competent in their fields so that their competence can be applied for the good of all mankind.

The development of an increasingly modern society provides more space for each individual to move faster because each individual is free to come up with any ideas to contribute to technological progress and the development of any science (Rosana, 2011:32-40). So, restraints on women's rights and obligations which are considered to be disproportionate to what is obtained by men have become strong criticisms of feminists because they greatly hinder the role of women in contributing to the development of human life in the public sphere which should be free for anyone regardless of their identity of gender or sex. This is very closely related to the belief of society, both men and women, who still think that women do not have the

same physical, intellectual and other abilities as men. Therefore, in her statement, Rosemarie Tong emphasized (2009:2) to the extent that society holds the false belief that women are, by nature, less intellectually and physically capable than men, it tends to discriminate against women in the academy, the forum, and the marketplace.

People's beliefs that are not based on logical scientific facts that compare and classify roles in unequal life between men and women also make women more constrained because women are not allowed to achieve what they want. For example, women are forbidden to be leaders because of stereotypes against them that women are not as smart as men. Whereas, we often see good leaders from Angela Merkel, Cut Nyak Dhien, etc. It proves that the success of a person is no longer determined by their gender, but based on their abilities. So women should have as much chance to succeed in the public realm as men do (Tong, 2009:2). Gender justice, insist liberal feminists, requires us, first, to make the rules of the game fair and, second, to make certain that none of the runners in the race for society's goods and services is systematically disadvantaged (Tong, 2009:2)

The existence of inequality and discrimination in social life makes the space for women to be very limited. One of the reasons for this inequality and discrimination is people are often unable to distinguish natural and constructional things between men and women which we usually refer to as sex and gender. It is hereditary to maintain a general perception of seeing a woman as seen in Aladdin film, minutes 22:05 there is an explanation about Jasmine's dedication to their

kingdom that jasmine show to her father that she has the ability of leadership but she is refused to be the next sultan even though she dedicates herself throughout her life to learning the conditions of her people and kingdom. Misunderstanding gender is often a problem that can lead to gender imbalances in social life (Rohmaniyah, 2014:8).

The researcher chooses the topic in Aladdin film because there is the problem of a woman character that experiences an act of discrimination and oppression which is considered a tradition in general This research takes the theme of discrimination against women with the film Aladdin as the main object of this study. The importance of using the feminist paradigm in understanding women's issues is aimed at uncovering things that are discriminatory and oppressive. The position between men and women built-in society is influenced by environmental and socio-cultural conditions so that gender provides a way to describe it and explore several socio-cultural mechanisms and various instruments that give birth to what is called 'women' and 'femininity' (Rohmaniyah, 2009: 210-211). Taking a little story from the film, namely Jasmine, the daughter of a king, however, she cannot replace her father's role in government just because she is born as a woman. Their culture teaches that women are not allowed to carry out royal leadership at all. Therefore, the selection of this film is important because it contains elements of education about awareness of bad traditions and persistence in fighting for justice.

The researcher chooses the film Aladdin because the film depicts a social condition in which a woman has no power over her desires and no rights over herself. This is illustrated by the placement of women in the second position after men, both in economic, social, and political life. The woman is also not given many opportunities to regulate matters outside domestic affairs. The construction depicted in the film is a form of discrimination against human rights.

The inequality of rights obtained by women has received a lot of criticism from various groups, especially academics. The defense of inequality and discrimination experienced by women is further examined in the feminist movement. Feminism comprehensively can be interpreted as an idea or awareness of discrimination and injustice which is obtained by women. Feminism can be used as a theory to identify what is known as sexism, misogyny, or patriarchy (Finlayson. 2016:4).

In this study, the researcher uses feminist theory as critics focus on woman's discrimination issues to look at the problems that occur in the story of the film that contains elements of injustice against the existence of women. Jasmine experiences this because she does not get the same rights as men and she is exploited by men. If we look at the context of what happened at 26:59 minutes, then we will understand that Jasmine was forced to marry a prince who even Jasmine thought was useless to deal with her royal problems. That scene explains to us that Jasmine is cornered by a tradition that is not in favor of women in general.

More info about film Aladdin, this film was directed by Guy Ritchie and he chose Naomi Scott as Jasmine and Mena Massoud as Aladdin. And the producer of the film was Dan Lin. This film is distributed by a company from the United States, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the description of the background above, the author will raise the problem formulation used as a boundary in this study. The formulation of the problem is:

What are the forms of discrimination that occurs to a woman in the film Aladdin?

1.3 Objective of Study

As academic research, this study has the objective of answering the problem statement that has been previously described, namely:

To understand the forms of discrimination that occurs to a woman in the film Aladdin.

1.4 Significances of Study

The benefit of this research is to explain the awareness of traditions that discriminate against and oppress women. The theoretical benefit is to contribute ideas

for the development of knowledge about construction in social life for the next research.

1.5 Literature Review

The theme of discrimination against women is a discussion that attracts much attention, especially in the academic realm. Discrimination against women is widely criticized because it is considered a form of inequality of human rights, as a value shared by every human being in particular and in every sphere of the state in general. With this theme in this study, the authors refer to several previous studies.

First, Dwi Noviati (2019) from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga entitled *"Women as Consumers of Men's Ideals in Upside Down Film"*. This research takes the object of the study of a film relating to women who are used as consumers in the sale of beauty products. That is because there is a description that 'beautiful' is always identified with women. Dwi Noviati, in her research, uses an approach with Marxist feminist theory. The theory is used to look further at inequality and exploitation, both physically and economically, towards women. The exploitation is manifested by the demands and standards of beauty against women, with beautiful criteria carried out by self-preservation, one of which is by using beauty products. From this brief explanation, there is a very clear imbalance, namely that women must meet certain requirements to achieve the ideal standard of beauty, for example with smooth, white skin, without acne, and so on. In addition, there is

exploitation in the economic field as well as targeting women, namely making women a sales target. This is what Marxist theory regards as hegemony by the capitalist system, which makes an object as a trading object. Thus this study has links with the research that will be carried out by the author because it has a common theme and academic anxiety, namely discrimination against women.

Second, Gilang Nur Alfi Jauhari (2019) from University of Airlangga entitled "*Objektifikasi perempuan dalam Film "Aladdin 2019": Pendekatan Strukturalisme Aktansial A.J. Greimass"*. In his research, he questions how the objectification of women occurs in the film Aladdin through patriarchal culture. His discussion focuses on woman as object or tool used by men to get what men want. Jasmine is fought over by several men, Jafar and Aladdin so that they could become the successors of Agrabah's power because the Sultan had no son as the successor to the throne of his kingdom. He uses A.J. Greimass in his research as an understanding of the objectification of women.

Third, Jean Chapman (2014) from Social Scientist with the title "*Violence against Women in Democratic India: Let's Talk Misogyny*". In this research, the author explains the roots of discrimination in Indian society that adheres to a democratic system. This discrimination in India is motivated by the concept of patriarchy in Brahmanical understanding. The caste gap in Indian society means that women do not have the same rights. Women who have high caste have the glory and opportunity to get a good life, both from social and economic status. Women with

this upper caste also tend to have a high level of interest, especially men. While women with low caste more often get unpleasant treatment from men, namely in the form of physical violence to become victims of rape. This imbalance is the author's anxiety, especially because India is a country that adheres to a democratic system in which it embraces human rights values. This research is used as a reference to see the forms of violence experienced by women in India and how misogynist concepts apply there.

fourth, Muhammad Hafidz Firmansyah (2022) from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga with the title "*Female Masculinity on Princess Jasmine as seen in Aladdin (2019)*" this research explains about how Jasmine's masculinity traits is seen in her character and behavior. This research concludes that leadership and courage are not only present in male role, but woman can do so.

This research is important because this study combines the three studies above. The combination of research in question is due to the fact that there are three contents that are studied in this research. There is a study of the objectification of women in Aladdin, but he uses the structuralism approach to analyze it. Furthermore, there is a root problem in Arab society which is depicted in the film Aladdin which is similar to what is studied by Jean Chapman in examining discrimination against women in Indian society which adheres to a democratic system.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In academic research, a theory is needed to build a foundation. The theory is an important understanding about the nature of knowledge and a tool to be employed consequently. It is the guide on which to build and support your study and also provides the structure to define how you will, epistemologically, methodologically, philosophically, and analytically approach the research as a whole (Grant, 2014:12-13)

1.6.1 Feminism Study

Mansoer Fakih's concept of inequality provides an analysis of how discrimination and oppression occur. Until now gender has become a problem of injustice between men and women. Mansoer Fakih (2008:12-13) states that several injustices occur in the community, as below:

a. Marginalization

It refers to social group exclusion and they are denied to get access to areas of society (MasterClass, 2022). Gender-based marginalization, in this case, women, can come from government policies, beliefs, religious interpretations, traditional beliefs, habits, and even scientific assumptions (Fakih, 2008:14). Marginalization serves as a tool to describe how the phenomenon of marginalization of women occurs.

b. Subordination

According to Cambridge Dictionary, Subordination is the act of giving someone less importance or power. The notion of women as irrational and emotional beings has resulted in women being prohibited from occupying leadership positions, thus giving rise to the perception that women are sufficient in unimportant positions (Fakih, 2008:16).

c. Stereotype

Stereotypes that are pinned against women always lead to harmful practices and unfair practices (Fakih, 2008:17). Stereotypes against women are often a reason to further discredit women.

d. Violence

Violence in general is an attack or incentive for the physical and psychological integrity of one's person. Violence against fellow human beings basically comes from various sources, but one of the violence against certain sexes is caused by gender assumptions (Fakih, 2008:18).

In this study, the author also uses the feminist approach by Chris Beasley as a stand to criticize actions and words that contain elements of discrimination and oppression against women. As an analysis tool, Feminism is one of two subfields (along with masculinity studies) that arguably can be situated under the term 'gender' (Beasley, 2005:11). Feminism is an intellectual, social, and political awareness of the phenomena of forms of discrimination and rejects various actions that give rise to discrimination (Rohmaniyah, 2014:47). Feminism started a critique of the so-called

mainstream norms that exist in people's lives (Beasley, 2005:16). Feminism, is a tool to criticize the existence of a misogyny culture that is rooted in society (Beasley, 1999: 4). Misogyny can arise in various ways that make women trapped in a discriminatory world and are considered as destinies in their lives. Discrimination and oppression against women is what they consider to be the main reason women have lower social status and fewer advantages over men with the same education, class background, religion, racial category, and ethnic group (Lorber, 2001:9).

Chris Beasley provides feminist approach to look at phenomena of discrimination and discoveries that occur against women and the attractive rights that women should get to be equal to men. Men have the freedom of choice and activity in the public world, and women should have the same rights in life and activities in the public sphere and should also have the freedom to choose their way of life. Chris Beasley describes it in terms of 'malestream' which gives men too many special powers that should be questioned (1999:3). In her book entitled *What is Feminism, Anyway?: Understanding Contemporary Feminist Thought* shows a feminist approach to understanding those injustices.

Furthermore, Chris Beasley also stated that the analysis of women as 'partial helpmates' is a form of discrimination. Women are depicted in the mainstream world as creatures that are needed by men to accompany the way of life of a man. The pleasure of men and the provision of services to men must be prepared by women as

the goal of life (Beasley, 1999: 6). This concept is used in understanding how events require women to accept a life that does not consider their existence.

The idea of 'women as different but complementary' is also awareness of oppression that occurs against women. In practice, women are not only seen as different beings but are also seen as the opposite of men. Women are not as whole beings as men so it gives birth to the definition that men are the norm and women are defined negatively in that norm relationship. One more thing, defining women in their various shortcomings brings the assumption that men are associated with rationality, while women are associated with non-rational so women are limited in the space of rational thinking (Beasley, 1999:7).

The sexual hierarchy that places women in a low and unfair position causes a tendency in social and political life to take men as the main subject in holding a central role so that they are vulnerable to hierarchical violence from dualism, men and women, and so on. (Beasley, 1999:9). Feminists view sexual differences as sharpening differences in social life, such as men being regarded as standard, rational, universal, and appropriate in the public and political sphere (Beasley, 1999:10).

In order to be more helpful in revealing the findings of discrimination against women in the film Aladdin, the researcher borrows the thoughts of liberal and radical feminism so that it is clearer in expressing the problems in the research. The

following is an explanation by Chris Beasley (1999:51-58) regarding the critical focus of each liberal and radical feminist thought.

1. Liberal Feminism

   Generally, liberal feminism approaches focus on criticizing women's unequal position with men in society (Beasley, 1999: 51). Liberal feminism views the limitations of women in participating in the public sphere as a form of discrimination. Women are basically human beings who also have the same values and individual freedoms as men and women should not be restrained just based on their sex (Beasley, 1999: 53).

2. Radical Feminism

   The radical feminist approach focuses on criticizing the 'patriarchal' system (a social system dominated by men and governed by men's wishes). Inequality of power between men and women is a form of discrimination and oppression of women. Thus giving birth to a culture of male supremacy that causes men as superiors who are vulnerable to abuse of power in committing acts of sexual-based violence.

   Gender is a concept in social analysis that refers to nature, roles, responsibilities, and functions. Rights and attitudes are attached to men and women as a form of culture (Cleves, 1996: 1-7). The radical feminist view is that discrimination and oppression of women occur because of the patriarchal system, where women are

dominated by men (Storey, 2009:135). While liberal feminists view the oppression

and discrimination experienced by women because of male prejudice against women,

embodied in law or expressed in the exclusion of women from particular areas of life

(Storey, 2009:135)

1.6.2 Film Theory

The ability of films to develop and manage time and motion can reveal

dimensions that are thick with social, historical, political, philosophical, aesthetic,

technological, and so on. (Villarejo, 2007:9). So the film, it can reveal what messages

are contained in a visualization of the story that is formed. According to Vllarejo in

his book entitled *Film Studies: The Basics* states that the basics of film analysis can

be started by understanding *mise-en-scene* which is a design, picture, and various

arrangements that are processed on a stage (2007:28). Reality takes a big part in

optimizing the function of *mise-en-scene* because viewers of a film will get their

experience when they feel transported to a 'real world'.

Amy Villarejo also outlines several aspects that are an important part of *mise-en-scene*.

1. *Setting*, as an important part, to designate the location of a scene so that
   the audience can understand the situation and conditions that are
   happening. That way, it will become a force that brings the emotional
   character of the film.

2. *Lighting,* as an effective property in presenting the atmosphere so that it can be understood by the observer. Observers will know whether the atmosphere is tense, scary, or happy.

3. *Costume and Hair,* as an important factor in building a picture of the character being studied.

4. *Make Up,* as an important factor similar to costume and hair to create an imaginative dimension.

5. *Figure Behaviour,* describes movements, expressions, and actions to create the behavior of an actor.

Furthermore, Villarejo reveals that cinematography is also as important as *mise-en-scene*, because any elements in the film will be recorded by the camera resulting a *framing*, where framing has one of its functions, it can be as a provider of information (2007:37). Framing depends on how the cinematography technique is applied. Here are some cinematography techniques described by Villarejo.

1. The extreme long shot (ELS), where people can barely distinguish human figures.

2. The long shot (LS), Humans can be distinguished, but still excluded by the background.

3. The medium long shot (MLS), human as an object, framed from knee to top.

4. The medium shot (MS), where humans are framed from the waist up.

5. The medium close-up (MCU), where humans are framed closer from the chest up.

6. The close-up (CU) which isolates a portion of a human.

7. The extreme close-up (ECU), where we only see part of the face.

1.7 Method of Research

In conducting scientific research methods are used to collect data that are tools to achieve the objectives of the research. Determining the right method in research determines the results of the achievement of a researcher. Therefore, before the author conducts field research, several research methods need to be held, which are as follows:

1. Types of Research

This type of research is library research, which is research sourced from library data that has the theme of women's discrimination in the social system and culture of the community. Thus the analysis conducted will be descriptive by describing existing sources.

2. Data source

This study takes primary data sources and secondary data. Primary sources are the main reference of the writer to be used as a research foundation. While secondary data sources are additional references to primary data sources. The primary data source of this research is the Aladdin film. While the secondary

data source is writing related to discrimination of women in the social and cultural systems of society as in the main book of Mansur Fakih or Chris Beasley, article, previous research on discrimination against women's rights, as well as academic work supporting the validity of the data to be examined by the researcher.

3. Data analysis technique

Data analysis method that is used in this research is a descriptive-analytical method. The author explains descriptively the description of the discrimination experienced by Jasmine in the film Aladdin. From the descriptive explanations from various sources, the writer conducted the analysis process.

1.8 Paper Organization

Chapter I discusses the background of the study, the problem statement, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the literature review, the theoretical approach, the methods of study, and the paper organization.

Chapter II contains the object of research to be studied in which there are various data and information that will be needed to support discussion and analysis activities. By understanding the main sources of data from the sources to be studied, it will be easier for research to process the data using the theories that have been prepared.

Chapter III contains the core part of the discussion of data analysis that has been obtained by researchers on the theme of woman discrimination in the film Aladdin. The analysis is based on the theoretical framework to understand the various forms of discrimination problems experienced by a woman.

Chapter IV is the result of the research in the form of conclusions and suggestions related to the research theme. In this chapter, the author describes the conclusion obtained during the research process to answer the problem formulation that has been described. In this chapter, the author also gives suggestions for further research.

Chapter IV
Conclusion

4.1 Conclusion

Understanding the various forms of discrimination that occur against a woman in the film Aladdin is the aim of this study. The feminist perspective is a paradigm that is applied in understanding various discriminations that give rise to oppression and violence against woman in it, both in the form of words and actions. The continuity of discrimination against woman is strengthened by traditions. From understanding the forms of discrimination described as a tradition that is considered right and runs in everyday life for many years, it does not mean that it is absolutely right. Sometimes it takes a very big resistance and change to meet the needs at that time so that social life becomes more dynamic and progressive and always develops in a better direction.

The prohibition against a woman in carrying out public activities is an impact the marginalization of women so that it is difficult for them to implement independent life. The following are laws that are not in favor of the existence of a woman as human beings. The forms of discrimination against a woman depicted in the film are woman restrictions, generalizing verbal objectification of a woman, marginalizing woman's involvement in policy-making, forced marriages, violence

against women, laws that discriminate against women, underestimating a woman's intellectual abilities, and prohibition of woman in leadership.

4.2 Suggestion

The film Aladdin depicts a lot of injustice problems. So the researcher finds a picture of social life that is thick with elements of discrimination against a woman. That is the reason why the researcher uses a feminist perspective in exploring the story in the film so that it can easily reveal various forms of discrimination against women that are usually not realized by many people.

Interesting problems that are suggested by the researcher for further research in addition to the problems above, namely regarding the character of Jasmine. The character described in Jasmine's figure is a tough, brave, rational, and unyielding soul. The discussion of masculine traits that exist in a woman becomes something that can be investigated for further research.

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