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PATRIARCHAL CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE IN WOMAN CHARACTERS OF HIDDEN FIGURES MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This research used a research object in the form of movie entitled Hidden Figures. The research had more attention in the study of patriarchal culture in woman characters in that film. Patriarchal culture is a culture which focuses in the theory with a feminist approach. That theory emphasizes in the power of stratification and privilege based on gender. This research aimed to describe how patriarchal culture reflected in Hidden Figures movie. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research design in this research. The data of this research was in the form of utterances. Those utterances were utterances delivered among the characters in that movie. In collecting the data, the researcher conducted a library study. In analyzing the data, the researcher used a feminist approach. The researcher found that patriarchal culture which reflected in Hidden Figures Movie was identified into four kinds of patriarchy types. Those were characters, setting, ploting and conflict.

Keywords: patriarchal culture, woman characters, Hidden Figures Movie

INTRODUCTION

Living together among individuals is a right for every people. The right here refers to anything which all people can obtain, such as in the family or in the work place. Those right should be the same which is given to everyone. However, there are still many different giving of rights. Some people found different right in their live, for example in education, status of power and social. In fact, most of them are woman.

In real life, there is still often found that woman's right will be limited. It relates to the feminism theory. According to (Y, 2018), culture is used to control the social role of women andmen. Another statement comes from (Crawford, M & Unger, 2004), discussing about feminism also relates to the contemporary feminism. Psychology is provided in the contemporary feminism.

According to (Madsen, 2000), pre-feminist or 'traditional' criticism is attacked for its blindness to gender. Based on that statement, the woman cannot do anything they want. It will be different with man's right. It relates to the name of "patriarchal culture." What is patriarchal culture?

Patriarchal culture is a culture which focuses in the feminist theory. According to (Pilcher, Jane and Whelehan, 2004), patriarchy is a rule by a man in the family. It is an ideology which emphasizes in the superiority from the higher to the lowest. The higher here refers to the man who having high position. Meanwhile, the lowest refers to the woman. All needs which man needs become the main priority over than woman's need. For that reason, woman will have different treatment although in the same place. That different treatment is like social system which enforces rule that man's act as the primary authority figure. It also happened that in the real life younger having more authority than old people. According to (Matthews, B&Beaman, 2007), in the real life, young people often holds paying job. This authority figure will be the central in making decision, as the example that man holds full authority over the woman. According to (Widiyantari, Y.,Atmaja, A.K.S.,&Saptaningsih, 2017), the cultures of the source language can be seen in several forms. For example, the name of the characters and events that happened in that story.

According to (Abrams, 2009), the human's condition can be shown through drama and prose. Moreover, (Barry, 2009) explains that moral is used as an approach to the literature. Based on that statement, movie is also used to know the people's character. Patriarchal culture is still often appeared in this movie. In Hidden Figures movie, there are some discrimination happened among the characters. The main characters in that film are Dorothy, Katherine and Mary. As the summary, each of the main character there, having different background of their family. That different background becomes the reason why they cannot do the same thing or the same achievement in the same place. Their achievement is measured by the name of family's status. The woman cannot get the same rights. According to (Fakih, 1996), there are many problems of women, each of them has different analysis. Therefore, actually the women's problem is appeared because of their family's background.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research design. According to (Sugiyono, 2008), qualitative research is a research to investigate, discover, describe and explain the quality of social influence that can be explained, measured or illustrated through a quantitative research. Furthermore, according to Moleong (2000) in (Cahyaningrum, I.O.&Agustin, 2020), in the descriptive research, the data are collected in the form of words and pictures, not in numbers. Based on that statements, it can be concluded that descriptive qualitative research design is a research design which will be described in the form of words and pictures, not in number. The object of the research was movie entitled Hidden Figures. The data in this research was in the form of utterances which were delivered among the characters in that movie. In collecting the data, the researcher did through a library study. The steps used in analysing the data were transcribing, identifying, classifying and interpreting. For the first step, the researcher transcribed the data. In this step, the researcher transcribed all utterances delivered by the characters in that movie.

The second step was identifying. In this step, the researcher identified all utterances including to patriarchal culture. Moreover, in this step the researcher identified whether that utterances was in what criteria. The last was analyzing. In this step, the researcher analyzed all findings with the theory of feminism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As in the aim of the research, the focus of the research was to describe how patriarchal culture reflected in the movie entitled "Hidden Figures." The patriarchal culture reflected in this movie could be found in the following data.

A. Characterization

Based on the analyses of the data, the researcher found that patriarchal culture reflected in the character of Harrison and Mitchell. Those characters referred to as Mr. Harrison and Vivian Mitchell were explained in the following conversation.

a) Mr. Harrison

One of character that described in this film was Mr. Harrison. He was identified as a person who couldn't appreciate people. Just like when Katherine finished her calculations. Mr Harrison knew that the calculations were no longer needed, he immediately threw away Katherine's work. The part that told him about his character would be displayed in the following utterances which were delivered by Katherine and Mr. Harrison:

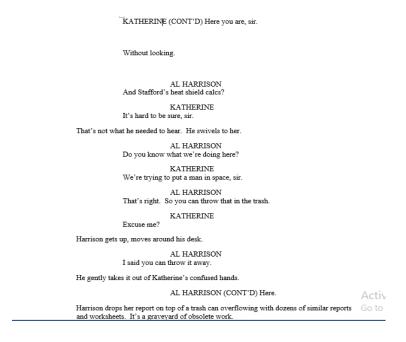


Figure 1. Patriarchal Culture in Mr. Harrison's Character

b) Vivian Mitchell

Vivian Mitchell is supervisor in the coloured computers in West Computing Group division. Her character in Hidden Figures Movie described as self centered and cynic person. Those characters would be explained in the following utterances:

1) Self Centered

One of Ms. Mitchell's character was self centered. In taking control, she was considered as having bad leadership because she did not seem to work with them. The data was proven was that she always gave sassy comments relating to the black computers and their circumstances. In that utterance, she implied to herself that she was bothered to go to West Computing Group by saying in the following figure.



Figure 2. Patriarchal Culture in Vivian Mitchell's Character of Self Centered

2) Cynic

Cynic was also being Ms. Mitchell character that reflected a patriarchal culture based on this film. The data could be seen when Dorothy met herself in the white room, she looked at Dorothy cynically and said that someone would take the job without Dorothy coming into the room. It could be seen through the following part of conversation:

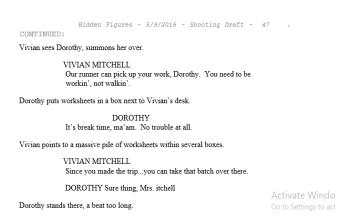


Figure 3. Patriarchal Culture in Vivian Mitchell's Character of Cynic

B. Setting

The patriarchal culture reflected in *Hidden Figures Movie* could be seen from the setting of the story line. The researcher found that there were several parts with various settings in the film that reflected patriarchal culture.

The first setting could be seen when Katherine talked to Mr. Johnson while walking together. Mr. Johnson asked what Katherine worked at NASA. Then, Katherine replied that she worked in launch and landing for the Space Program. Mr. Johnson laughed. He asked why they let women do the work. Katherine felt silent for a moment. The analyses of the data presented below:



Figure 4. Patriarchal Culture Presented in Setting 1

The other situation reflected as patriarchal culture in Hidden Figures Movie was when Katherine volunteered to attend a briefing meeting that had never been participated in before. Yet, in the end Mr. decided that Katherine's presence was not against the rules even though everyone in the meeting looked strangely at Katherine's presence. The following part was situation which told about that event:

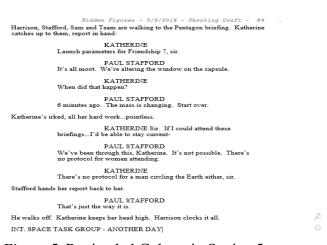


Figure 5. Patriarchal Culture in Setting 2

Thus, patriarchal culture reflected in the Hidden Figures movie could be seen through various settings of the story line.

C. Plot

The sequence of event formed a story line that happened in structure and time sequence. The plot used in *Hidden Figures Movie* is a chronological plot. The story was arranged based on time that went forward, not turning back to the past.

a) Introduction

In introduction, the researcher formed a beginning of story line by the stages of event. The story presented as introduction could be seen from the following conversation:

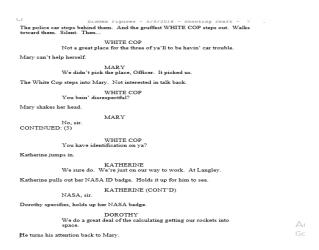


Figure 6. Patriarchal Culture in the Form of Plot (Introduction)

The introduction stage began when Katherine, Dorothy and Mary encountered an obstacle where the car broke down in the middle of the road. While Dorothy was trying to fix it, a white cop suddenly came and said that the place was not for blacks. However, after learning that they were working with NASA and helping NASA to get astronauts into space, the police offered to help them. Dorothy refused and said that she could repair the machine. And of course, the car finally started up again. That utterance was an example that men didn't believe that women were capable of doing jobs that were usually done by men, but actually they were.

b) Rising Action

In the rising stage, the story formed by sequence of event that presented through film's characters. In this stage, the beginning of conflict would be appeared one by one. The part of rising action would be explained below:

```
Excuse me...

Ruth holds her hand over the phone.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)
May I ask you where the ladies' room is?

RUTH
Sorry, I have no idea where your bathroom is.

Ruth returns to her conversation. Katherine walks away.

Katherine rushes down the hall, worksheets in her arms. Searching for a bathroom. Her papers drop.

At the far end of the hall...she sees the bathrooms. Thank God. She scoops the papers up.

A TRIO OF WHITE WOMEN come out of the ladies' restroom. They stand outside the door, chatting away.

Namn. Katherine gathers herself, ducks down another hallway.

Katherine's practically running. No "colored bathrooms" anywhere.

Katherine pushes through steel doors into the blinding sun. Sees the West Campus Building way off in the distance. 1/2 mile away to be exact. She runs.

Katherine sprints down the familiarly dingy West Campus hall.

She crashes through a door labeled: "Colored Restroom."

Katherine plops down on the toilet. She reaches down to her feet, puts the paperwork on her lap...and keeps working. Calculating numbers.

Katherine mus back toward the East Campus. As fast as her legs will take her.
```

Figure 7. Patriarchal Culture in the Form of Plot (Rising Action)

From that situation above, we could conclude that the conflict started when Katherine was asked by Paul Stanford to complete the calculations that had to be completed in the afternoon. When she tried to start doing the calculations, suddenly she wanted to go to the toilet. Unfortunately there was no black toilet in the space task group so she had to go to the western computing room which takes a long time. On the other hand, she also had to keep doing her job.

c) Climax

Climax stage is a turning point or can be called as the point greatest suspense or action. Climax started when the conflict was faced during the main, most dramatic event of the story. The story line about the war in *Hidden Figures's Movie* could be seen in the following event:

```
Hidden Figures - 5/9/2016 - Shooting Draft - 63
CONTINUED:
Katherine's soaked like a wet rat. She walks back to her desk. Stafford's staring at her.
Ruth's staring at her. The whole damn place seems to be staring at her.
             AL HARRISON (O.S.)
             Where the hell have you been? Everywhere I look you're not
             where I need you to be
             And it's not my imagination.
Katherine turns, Harrison's on the floor. Katherine freezes.
             AL HARRISON (CONT'D)
             Where the hell do you go everyday?
                           KATHERINE
                  (quietly) The
             bathroom, sir.
                           AL HARRISON
             The bathroom! The damn bathroom!
                           KATHERINE
             Yes, sir. The bathroom
```

Figure 8. Patriarchal Culture in the Form of Plot (Climax)

The climax of conflict stage showed when Mr. Harrison asked Ruth where Katherine was because she wasn't in the room. Then Ruth replied that Katherine was break.

When Katherine came in with her face drenched in the rain, Mr. Harrison asked where Katherine really was. Katherine said she was from the toilet with some disbelief, Mr. Harrison was angry with Katherine for always being away for such a long time every day, even though Mr. Harrison had been expecting Katherine.

Then Katherine emphatically said that there was no toilet for her, no toilet reserved for blacks in the room, so she had to run and took a long time to the west computing group just to go to the toilet. She felt that she was being treated unfairly, she had to continue to carry out her jobs but no one respected her. After explaining this, Katherine left the people in the room. This situation was a proof that patriarchal culture does happened.

d) Falling Action

Falling action is the action and events that occured after the climax. The part of falling action would be explained below:

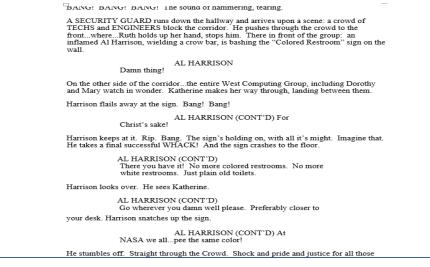


Figure 9. Patriarchal Culture in the Form of Plot (Falling Action)

Based on data above, the falling conflict stage showed when Mr. Harrison tossed the black group toilet sign, he said everyone in NASA is the same. Everyone could get the same facilities. That conflict was evidence of patriarchal that they finally got the rights that they had not got before.

e) Resolution

In resolution, the researcher ended the story line where the conflict and problem was solved. The end of story line was presented through the actor at the resolution stage could be seen from the following part:

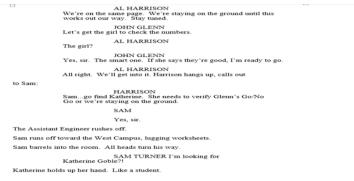


Figure 10. Ptriarchal Culture in the Form of Plot (Resolution)

Based on resolution above, conflict resolution was shown in John Glenn's utterance which asked Mr. Harrison to check the number. John Glenn trusted Katherine to check on him. It is a data that they finally believed that women can do that.

D. Conflict

The patriarchal culture reflected in *Hidden Figures's Movie* could be seen through the conflict in the film. The researcher found that there was evidence with conflict within the film that reflected againts patriarchal culture.

In *Hidden Figures's Movie*, America was experiencing a cold war or war the Second World with the Soviet Union. America was also incessant competed with the Soviet Union to send humans into space. Russia's pre-eminence makes the US administration more aggressive in ordering NASA to push for whatever it was they did, and the Chair of the Space Working Group, Al Harrison (Kevin Costner) needed additional labour assistance.

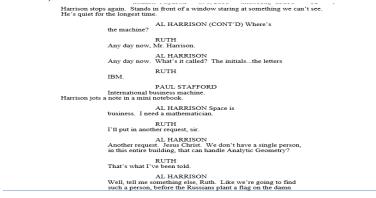


Figure 11. Patriarchal Culture Presented in Conflict 1

Opportunity came to Katherine when the Space Working Group needed a skilled mathematician. The vacancy was also fueled by Russia (then rivals the US in the "Space Race", which succeeded with the first Earth-orbiting launch. The data from the film was down below:

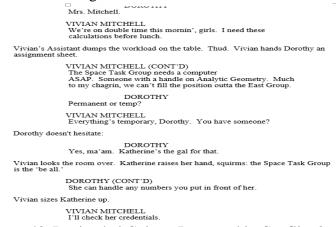


Figure 12. Patriarchal Culture Presented in Conflict 2

However, being the first one did not make it easy for Katherine, even though she felt discriminatory treatment which was supported by the climate of segregation that was still being felt at that time. For example, in the Space Working Group's building, it turned out that there were no special bathrooms for minorities (at that time even white and coloured toilets still had to be separated). As a result, Katherine had to run every day to the West Area building nearly half a mile away from work, just to get some air out.

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding of the research, it can be concluded that the researcher found patriarchal culture reflected in Hidden Figures's Movie through character, setting, plot and conflict. The patriarchal culture could be seen in the characters were couldnot appreciate people, self centered and cynic. Patriarchal culture could be seen in setting. In plot, patriarchal culture could be seen in Introduction, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Resolution. In conflict could be seen in the evident which against the patriarchal culture.

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