

REPRESENTATION OF FEMINISM IN SCIENCE FICTION FILM (SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS RELATED TO FILM LEVEL 16)

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Abstract: The development of the film world is very diverse and produces films with various styles. Broadly speaking, films can be grouped by story, making orientation, and by genre. This study aims to determine the representation of feminism contained in the science fiction film entitled Level 16. This study uses a qualitative method with the semiotic analysis technique of Ferdinand De Saussure's model which examines the signs in life. Through this method, several scenes are selected in the level 16 film, then these scenes are revealed into denotative and connotative meanings and then interpreted in signifier and signified. In this study, the researcher found ten scenes that presented feminism in level 16 films.

Keywords: Representation, Feminism, Semiotics

INTRODUCTION

Mass media is one of the various ways of fulfilling human needs in terms of reports and performances. The mass media embody one of the outputs of trendy technology for mass communication intermediaries. The order of mass media as an information center makes mass media a part of

194



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human life to this day. It is very easy to get/testify about the social reality that is happening in other parts of the world, either directly or through the media.

Film is considered as one of the media in mass communication, where film has a major influence in influencing or shaping a society according to the message contained in the film. Films in general are a picture of the reality of the society in which they are made. Oey Hong Lee (2016) in Sobur mentions "film as the second tool of mass communication that appeared in the world, had mass growth at the end of the 19th century" in other words when the elements that hindered the development of newspapers had been made to disappear.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, film can be interpreted in two senses. The first, film is a thin membrane made of celluloid which is used to store negative images of an object. Film is an art form that is currently receiving the strongest response from some people and is the medium people turn to for entertainment, inspiration, and insight. For hundreds of years, people have been trying to understand why film can captivate people. Actually this happens because films are designed to have an effect on the audience. Film also has great strength from an aesthetic point of view because it teaches dialogue, music, scenery, and action together visually and narratively (Danesi, 2012: 100).

Graeme Turner (Irwanto, 1999:14) opposes the view of films as a reflection of society. For Turner, the significance of film as a representation of social reality is different in that films reflect reality. As a reflection of truth and film alone "moves" facts onto the screen, without changing them. At the same time, for the sake of illustrating the truth, paper works film and "produce" the truth according to cultural norms, conventions and ideologies.

Feminist film theory is a theoretical film criticism originating from feminist politics and feminist theory brought under the influence of Second Wave Feminism around the 1970s in the United States. The development of feminist film theory was stimulated with the help of second wave feminism



(Second Wave Feminism) and women's research (women's research) in the Sixteenth and 1970s (Freeland, 3 October 1996).

Feminist theory films began to be seen through an intersectional lens in the early 1980s. The film journal *Jump Cut* published a special issue entitled "lesbians and Film" in 1981 which examined the lack of lesbian identity in films. Jane Gaines' essay "white privilege and looking relations: race and gender in the feminist film theory" examines the elimination of black women in cinema by white filmmakers. Meanwhile Lola Young argued that filmmaking of all races failed to escape the use of tired stereotypes when portraying black women. Other theorists who wrote feminist theory and race include Bell Hooks and Michele Wallace.

Stevi Jackson (Contemporary Feminist Theories, 2009:2), feminist theory is a theory that thinks for itself where women produce knowledge about women and gender for women. The feminist theory seeks to analyze the various conditions that shape women's lives and investigate various cultural understandings of what it means to be a woman.

People who use feminism are called feminists. They are divided into several streams. According to the book *Feminist Thought* written by Rosmarie Tong, there are eight types of feminism supported by feminists. Among them are: Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Marxist and Socialist Feminism, Psychoanalytical and Gender Feminism, Existentialist Feminism, Postmodern Feminism, Multicultural and Global Feminism, and Ecofeminism (Tong, 2010:1).

This film has a very interesting story concept. The film with the Sci-Fi genre (science fiction) tells the story of a 16-year-old girl Vivien Leigh (Katie Douglas) and many other girls studying at a boarding school called The Vestalis Academy. Among them are Sophia (Karina Martin), Rita (Amelia Williams), Veronica (Joel Farrow), Olivia (Josett Hull) Burt plays), Clara (Qiana Madria plays), Greta (Kelly Schica interiors) and Ava (Alexis Whelan plays).

Islamic boarding school for girls. They come from the streets, then go to school, then are fed and educated with high discipline. They were promised that if they could pass the highest level, level 16, they would be



adopted by the rich. The hostel they live in has very strict rules. Everything is neatly arranged until they gather in one room, get vitamins and clean their faces. The entire dormitory is completely isolated from the outside world and never even feels the sun. They are only given lessons through audio-visual about how to be good and obedient, the same is the case with describing the outside world.

Each corner of the washroom, no longer consisting of a bathroom, has a camera to reveal and modify the current structure. If one of them no longer performs or misses the allotted time, then he must carry out the punishment. The school system initially ran smoothly, but a student named Sophia (Celina Martin) began to suspect that something was wrong. He started to stop taking vitamins since he was at Level 13. Sophia then told her suspicions to her friend, Vivien (Katie Douglas). Vivien initially denied it, but after they found the body of another friend named Rita (Amalia Williamson) who had been adopted earlier, evidence of irregularities emerged one by one. It turns out that Rita's organs are being harvested for the benefit of a beauty business run by the school principal, Miss Brixil (Sara Canning), with Dr, Miro (Peter Outerbridge).

The researcher gets in this film the details of feminism, which manifests itself in the very emotional resistance of Vivienne and Sophia, who strangely reveal the practices that occur in the hostel. To find out more deeply what level 16 film means, the Reviewer wants to extra-analyze how illustrations of feminism in science fiction (sci-fi) films, particularly in stage sixteen films are shown. This study aims to determine the representation of feminism contained in a sci-fi film entitled Level 16.

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative research. According to qualitative research, in-depth research descriptions and explanations are used by qualitative researchers. In qualitative research, data is collected in the form of words (detailed descriptions) not numbers, so no calculation process is needed. (Moleong, 2005: 5). Semiotics is a science, and since the last four years it has shown an increasingly important influence, not only as a research method (decoding), but also as



a creative method (coding). Yasraf added that semiotics has developed from a very broad field of knowledge into a model or paradigm for studying signs, including art semiotics, film semiotics, style semiotics, television semiotics and so on. (Amir Yasraf, 2003:23) With semiotics, we will deal with signs. Semiotics, as Lachte said (2001:191 in Sobur, 2018:16) is a theory about signs. More specifically, semiotics is a discipline that investigates all forms of communication that occur by means of signs.

Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis provides a detailed description of the representation of feminism in the film Level 16 which is a science fiction genre. Ferdinand de Saussure's research describes signs which are divided into: Markers (Markers), Signs are the forms of medium that are captured by signs, such as pictures, sounds, or strokes in the form of words on a page. In this study, dialogues and scenes were taken from grade 16 films containing feminist values. Marked, And pampered is the concept and its meaning. In this study, the concept and meaning of dal will be explained, namely dialogue and scene images from grade 16 films that contain feminist values.

The types of data sources used by researchers in this study are divided into two types, namely: **Primary Data**, Primary Data in the form of a 16-level printed film with subtitles or subtitles in Indonesian, with a duration of about 102 minutes. Secondary Data. **Secondary data** is in the form of written documents, namely literature or books, articles from the internet and other sources that support the data and are relevant to this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSION

1. Rotation at Film Level 16

Cinema is a work of cultural art which is a social institution and means of communication with or without sound that can be demonstrated. Cinema is a means of communication that functions as a means of conveying messages to its audience. In this case, the researcher focuses on the depiction of feminism in the film "Level 16". There are continuous scenes in this film.



The scene is a part of the scene that describes the atmosphere of the drama. Meanwhile, acts are parts of two or three plays, or even known as the beginning, clipping, and ending. The scenes in the film are very important. Because through the scenes performed by the actresses and actresses, the messages in the film can be conveyed to the audience. Just like in the movie level 16, the different scenes are able to drain the emotions, stimulate the audience's adrenaline and arouse the audience's curiosity in each scene. In the film Level 15, findings that can be searched using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis to find representations of feminism in the film include:

- (a) Sophia who fantasizes about being adopted by a new family
- (b) Vivien says that she is the best
- (c) Vivien and Olivia in offer to prospective buyers through Miss Brixil
- (d) Miss Brixil has punished Vivien.
- (e) Sophia stops the dormitory guard from doing sexual harassment and Sophia gets violent treatment.
- (f) Vivien tries to stay awake.
- (g) Vivien tried to get out of the room.
- (h) Vivien and Sophia find Rita's body who was a victim of murder and a facial skin transplant.
- (i) Sophia acts as a leader.
- (j) Vivien injured her face which became Dr Miro's investment.

2. The results of the Semiotic Analysis which describes the representation of Feminism in the Level 16 film

Then several scenes in the Level 16 film which describe feminism and the interpretation of the scenes which will be described using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis, include:

a) Dreaming of Adopting a New Family.

Semiotic Analysis: In minutes 00.48 and 01.04 determine 1 can be seen from a Medium angle near Top. This technique is a variety of shots showing the subject's face so that it is more obvious and the length of the shot is limited to the chest to leave. The scene shows Sophia asking Vivien with a confused look on her face. Figure 2 shows the technique

199



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of taking Medium Close Up. Scene 1 begins where Vivien answers Sophia's question loudly that she will be the first to be chosen. With the help of pictures, dialogues, signifiers and markers, a conclusion can be drawn before the formation of the final meaning. that these children do not have parents and hope to get a good new family through the hostel where they live. As women have the right to live properly and safely with the nature of feminism they have. this depicts that. To have a dream, you have to be persistent in fighting for it as long as it's a good thing. A child who has reached puberty, boy or girl, has the right to make choices. It discusses how women and men are equal in the aspect of success.

b) Vivien Says He is the Best.

Semiotic analysis: at 08.33 minutes it shows the two-shot technique. This technique is a type of recording that shows two people in one image from the camera. The scene shows Vivien who has the criteria to be the best in the room. Through pictures, dialogues, markers and markers to finally form a meaning, it can be concluded that to be the best, dormitory residents must have obedience, patience, cleanliness, and humility. The qualities that must be possessed to be the best shape the understanding of thinking for yourself and what it means to be a woman. Vivien represents women

c) Vivien and Olivia are offered to prospective buyers through Miss Brixil

Semiotic analysis: At 24.29 and 25.53 minutes, the recording technique uses the wide-shot technique, the subject image can be seen clearly because it has filled the photo frame, even though there is distance above the head and underfoot. Through pictures, dialogues, signifiers and signifiers, until they finally form a meaning, it can be concluded that Miss Brixil is offering Vivien and Olivia to Ms Danison and Mrs danison. This scene shows that someone who has power and strength can do anything, including buying women for personal gain. In relation to feminism, this scene depicts the oppression of women, where Vivien and Olivia are subordinated to husband and wife.

d) Miss Brixil Punishes Vivien.

200



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Semiotic Analysis: At 56.04 and 56.08 minutes, close-up photography is used. where this technique emphasizes the emotional state of the subject. This can be seen by the expression on Miss Brixil's face, whose emotions are punishing Vivien. In picture 7 still using the same photography style as picture 6 where Vivien looks sad and looks upset. With the help of pictures, dialogues, signifiers and markers to finally form meaning, it can be concluded that this scene is the oppression of women. This scene begins with Rita making a complaint to the hostel that Vivien does not apply the good qualities of women that apply in the hostel, these good qualities include: obedience, friendliness, patience, and humility. This represents that women are treated unfairly and have no freedom to live, this can be seen where all dormitory residents are required to have characteristics that are in accordance with their nature.

e) Shopia Stops the Action of the Dormitory Guard Who Will Be Conducting Sexual Harassment and Shopia Gets Violent Treatment.

Semiotic analysis: at minutes 1.00.25 and 1.00.59 exposure technique uses Medium exposure, where the exposure shows some parts of the subject in more detail; in human subjects, this type of exposure is indicated from the waist to the head. In the picture, Sophia stops Alex's behavior by using a rope made of interwoven sheets. a shooting technique using general shots in which the frame is clearly identified as having filled the entire frame. Through pictures, dialogues, signifiers and signifiers, to finally form meaning, it can be concluded that what Sophia is doing is a form of defense against women, where Alex is trying to commit sexual harassment. Sophia fights her fear to do the right thing and manages to overwhelm alex, who in any way alex can beat Sophia. This scene depicts the form of physical violence perpetrated by Alex against Sophia. This breaks the societal notion that women are weak, unreliable creatures and women are placed in second class after men.

f) Vivien Trying To Stay Not Sleeping

Semiotic analysis: at 1.06.38 minutes using an extreme close up shooting technique where this shooting technique is an illustration from a very close distance, the aim is for the object to be very, very clear, visible from



Vivien's palms which being hurt by himself. Through illustrations, dialogues, signifiers, and signifiers, until they finally form a meaning, it can be concluded that what Vivien is doing is a form of women's toughness. Because, the stigma that develops in society that women are weak creatures, but in fact many women are tough when defending their honor and dignity. It can be seen from the scene where Vivien intentionally injures her own hand to stay awake from her sleep.

g) Vivien Trying to Get Out of the

Semiotic Analysis Room : at minute 1.10.06 this illustration technique uses a close up technique where this technique is used to emphasize the emotional state of the subject. This type of shot is only used for people with head injuries. You can see that Sophia is seen alone trying to break open the dormitory door. Through pictures, dialogues, signs and signs, to finally form a meaning, it can be concluded that actions that are usually carried out are carried out by men, which can be carried out by men. women, can be seen from the tenacity and unyielding nature of vivien to get out of the dorm room. This shows that women also have the same mindset and thinking power as men.

h) vii. Vivien and Sophia find Rita's corpse who was a murder victim and facial skin transplant.

Semiotic analysis: at 1.18.17 and 1.19.19 minutes, the illustration technique uses medium range shooting. , where the focus of the image is not only on Vivien and Sophia but the entire room including the three body bags in front of them. In figure 11, this shot uses the Close-up technique where the shooting technique only takes the human subject, only the head. In figure 11 it can be seen that the focus of the image is only visible on the face of Rita's corpse. Through photography, dialogue, markers and signifiers, we can conclude that it is women who ultimately shape meaning. women are sensitive to something that they think is a mistake in a system. Vivien and Sophia work together to find out the irregularities that have occurred so far in the dormitory, this is evidenced by the discovery of Rita's body which was between two other body bags. Rita, who was a victim of bullying and murder, describes Rita as belonging to a group of radical feminists. Women Associated



with dependability, community, and relationships. Male, on the other hand, is associated with dependability, independence, and autonomy. In terms of breaking women is not related to independence and autonomy.

i) viii.Sophia Acts as Leaderof

Semiotic Analysis: at 1.23.05 minutes, the shooting technique for this image uses the middle frame technique, where this type of shot displays the subject's face in a clearer and more detailed manner, with an emphasis on frame size from waist to head. This can be seen in the picture of Sophia and five other women walking while having a conversation. Through illustrations, dialogues, signifiers and markers to finally form an advantage that is drawn to the conclusion that women have leadership qualities and break the negative stigma that is spread that women cannot act as leaders. The picture shows that women are able to coexist for men and balance men, especially in acting as leaders and solving problems. This can be seen how Sophia tries to give orders and act as a leader in the scene

j) ix.Vivien Injures Her Face Which Becomes Dr. Mir

Semiotic Analysis: at 1.34.35 and 1.35.08 minutes the shooting technique uses a medium close-up shooting technique, where this shooting technique shows the subject's face so that it is clearer with the size of the shot limited to the chest to the head. This shooting technique is medium close-up, limited to the chest to the head. The scene shows Dr. Miro trying to persuade and explain the investment in Vivien's face. In shot 14, we still use the capture technique to see Vivien's face for the sake of focusing the camera like a camera focus. With the help of pictures, dialogues, signifiers and signifiers to finally form meaning, it can be concluded that Dr. Miro only makes all female dormitory residents an investment tool for him. Women are always always placed in the second class after men, this can be seen from Dr. Miro who is concerned with his own interests to gain wealth by committing violence against women or dormitory residents and oppressing women. This illustrates that women try to defend themselves by injuring their own faces. In order to survive, this shows that women have the same opportunity as men to



live. Vivien destroys the concept that women tend to follow men's orders and ideas.

CONCLUSION

Mass media is a product of modern technology as a channel of mass communication. Audiovisual media such as films are rich in signs that have unlimited interpretation possibilities. However, thanks to the characters shown directly in the film, the character's meaning contained in personal interpretation, literature review and facts in society, level 16 films seem to be able to describe the feminism behind science fiction and complex themes. storyline Through Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis, there are several scenes that completely show the characteristics of feminism, and these scenes have signs of feminism. The scene in the film level 16 shows that there is an equal value in the interaction of Vivien and Sophia where they want to have a family that loves them. The scenes shown in the film level 16 break the stereotype that has developed in society that considers women to be whiny and unreliable creatures. The entire scene in the cinema also does not eliminate the feminine side of women. It can be seen from the style of clothing worn by all the female actors.

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