

**AGAINST THE STEREOTYPE OF BLONDE GIRLS IN ROBERT
LUKETIC'S *LEGALLY BLONDE* MOVIE (2001):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. **Background of the Study**

This movie based on a novel which has the same title *Legally Blonde* written by Amanda Brown. Formerly a student at Stanford Law School, Mrs. Brown is now a full-time novelist who lives with her family in San Francisco, California. Robert Luketic as the director makes the story into the movie.

The story is drama comedy which has duration 96 minutes which supported with popular actress, such as Reese Witherspoon as Elle Wood, Luke Wilson as Emmet Richmond, Selma Blair as Vivian Kensington, Matthew Davis as Warner Huntington, Ali Larter as Brooke Wyndham, and Victor Garber as Prof. Callahan. Screen play by Karen McCullah Lutz by Metro Goldwyn Mayer. This film setting in Los Angeles in the summer of 2001, which grossed close to \$100 million domestically and was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards, another 6 wins and 9 nominations marked Luketic's feature film directing debut.

In BMI Film and TV Awards in 2002 won BMI Film Music Award Recipient Rolfe Kent, In British Comedy Award in 2002 nominated British Comedy Award Category Best Comedy Film, In Casting Society of America, USA in 2002 nominated Artist Category Best Casting for Feature Film, Comedy Joseph Middleton, Michelle Morris, In

Costume Designers Guild Award in 2002 nominated CDG Award Category Excellence in Costume Design for Film Contemporary Sophie Carbonell, In Golden Globes, USA in 2002 nominated Golden Globe Award Category Best Motion Picture- Musical or Comedy and Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture- Musical or Comedy Reese Witherspoon, In Hollywood Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist Guild Award in 2002 won Hollywood Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist Guild Award Category Best Contemporary Hair Styling- Feature Joy Zapata, Linda Arnold, In Kids' Choice Award, USA in 2002 nominated Blimp Award Category Favourite Female Movie Star Reese Witherspoon.

In MTV Movie Awards in 2002 won MTV Movie Award Category Best Comedic Performance Reese Witherspoon, Best Dressed Reese Witherspoon, Best Line Reese Witherspoon” Oh, I like your outfit too, except when I dress up as a frigid bitch, I try not to look so constipated.” Nominated MTV Movie Award Category Best Female Performance Reese Witherspoon and Best Movie, In Satellite Awards in 2002 nominated Golden Satellite Award Category Best Original Score Rolfe Kent and Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Comedy or Musical Reese Witherspoon, In Teen Choice Awards in 2001 won Teen Choice Awards Category Film – Choice Movie of the Summer, In Young Awards in 2002 nominated Young Artist Award Category Best Family Film- Comedy.

Robert Luketic was born on 1 November 1973 in Sydney, Australia from an Italian mother and Croatian father, Robert, eldest of two children has a younger sister, Marie Luketic. Robert Luketic cultivated his film career early when he won his first award for "Best Film" at the ATOM Film Festival at the age of 15. Luketic went on to study at the Victorian College of Arts – School of Film and Television (VCA), one of Australia's most prestigious film schools.

Luketic first attracted Hollywood's attention with his award-winning short film *Titsiana Booberini*. After screening to much acclaim at several festivals within Australia, *Titsiana Booberini* became a hit at many internationally renowned festivals including Sundance, Telluride, Aspen and Santa Barbara.

Luketic directed the smash hit comedy *Legally Blonde* for MGM in the summer of 2001. Next, Luketic directed the Dreamworks Pictures film *Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!* The 2003 film, produced by Doug Wick and Lucy Fisher at *Red Wagon*, stars Kate Bosworth, Nathan Lane, Josh Duhamel and Topher Grace. In 2005, he directed *Monster in Law*, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda, who had come out of a 15-year hiatus for this film.

In 2008, Luketic released *21*, based on the book *Bringing Down the House* by Ben Mezrich. The film tells the true story of five MIT students who became experts at counting cards and subsequently took

Vegas casinos for millions in winnings. The film stars Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth, Jim Sturgess and Laurence Fishburne.

Luketic also directed the romantic comedy *The Ugly Truth*, opening in July 2009. Starring Katherine Heigl and Gerard Butler, the film follows a morning show producer (Heigl) who sets out to disprove the outrageous relationship theories of her chauvinistic correspondent (Butler). Luketic is currently in production on the action-comedy *Five Killers*, again teaming up with Katherine Heigl, this time opposite Ashton Kutcher.

Legally Blonde is all about Witherspoon as a totally Val blonde from Beverly Hills who goes to Harvard and makes good. Predictable formula fun, *Legally Blonde* gets off to a good start with the freshness of "Clueless", pushes its own envelope of believability in the middle, and ends with a major feel good moment. Along the way, this fun family flick makes some good points about life's priorities.

The reasons why the writer chooses this movie, the first reason this movie popular in that year, it is caused by the packages by simple story and the writer interesting with the fight of Elle to prove if blonde also have the same ability with another and to remove negative people's view about blonde especially in education. The second reason is when a blonde sorority queen is dumped by her boyfriend, she decides to follow him to law school to get him back and, once there, learns she has more legal savvy than she ever imagined. By so doing, the writer gives the title **"AGAINST THE STEREOTYPE OF BLONDE GIRLS IN**

ROBERT LUKETIC'S *LEGALLY BLONDE* MOVIE (2001): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

B. Literature Review

The movie *Legally Blonde* by Robert Luketic is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the movie *Legally Blonde* has been conducted by three research papers.

The first research by Fakhrurozi (2008) under titled “ *Self Actualization of Elle Woods in Amanda Brown’s Legally Blonde Movie Directed by Robert Luketic: a Humanistic Approach*. The study shows that *Legally Blonde* of Robert Luketic describes about the blonde girl’s life that is changes from Miss Hawaiian into serious life. Second, Robert Luketic describes the levels of Elle’s needs which are valuated in Humanistic psychological perspective. The major character, Elle Woods can complete the four basic needs with easily, while the last needs is mostly satisfied by Elle Woods.

The second by Zanita (2008) the title is *Gender Equality in Robert Luketic’s Legally Blonde: a Feminist Approach*. Based on the social historical background of American society in the late twentieth century, gender inequality happened in America. The author through Elle as the main character wants to extend that women are equal to men. Women have struggled to get equality in position, role, right and

participation in the society. In the film, Robert Luketic criticizes the views that put women subordinate to men.

The last research paper by Anggraini (2009) the title is *Self Actualization in Robert Luketic's Legally Blonde: a Humanistic Psychological Approach*. Firstly, the structural elements of the movie consist of character and characterization, casting, plot, point of view, theme, cinematography, mise-en-scene, sound and editing. Secondly, the psychological analysis shows that self actualization has nothing to do with hair color.

Different from three literary review researches this study focuses on against the stereotyping of blonde girl of Elle, as the major characters in this movie by Sociological approach. In this study the writer gives the title "*Against the Stereotype of Blonde Girls in Robert Luketic's Legally Blonde Movie: a Sociological Approach*"

C. Problem Statement

The main problem of the research is "How is against the stereotype of a blonde girl reflected in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will focus on analyzing against the stereotype of Elle as a blonde girl as major character in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde*, viewed from the sociological perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the research for the reader is to explore how Elle's against the stereotype as a blonde girl is reflected on the character in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde*.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are that, through this study, the writer hopes that the study will provide benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. The theoretical benefit is for getting deeper understanding about sociological issue in *Legally Blonde*
- b. This study is expected to contribute to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies

2. Practical Benefit

- a. It can be reference in doing researcher of other case
- b. Practically, this study can develop the writer's skills and ability in applying the sociological approach in Robert Luketic's movie.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyses against the stereotype of blonde girl in *Legally Blonde* movie by using qualitative method.

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data source are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using sociological perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Legally Blonde* movie directed by Robert Luketic and publishing by Metro Goldwyn Mayer in 2001. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of Data

The data in the research can be divided into two kinds of data; they are primary and secondary data. Primary data is the main data consisting dialogue, action, and description about the character of the movie. Secondary data is supporting data consist of theoretical approach; in this case, the secondary data is data concernin g sociological approach.

b. Data Sources

1) Primary Data

Primary data in the research consist of data collected from the movie of Robert Luketic *Legally Blonde*. The data taken from the dialogue, character's description, plot and all of the statement related to the problems.

2) Secondary Data

Secondary data in the research from the script of the movie and information from books and internet that was relevant to the subject matter.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of collecting data was purpose sampling where the researcher took sample of dialogue and ellipse of picture of the movie then the researcher used it as a starting point to analyze the issue. The analysis of the sample and dialogue and ellipse of picture could be used as a representation of general phenomena in social life. In order to make the data more complete, the researcher is doing some steps are as follows, watching movie and finding out the important sentence on the dialogues, reading script of the movie, and reading the books that are connected to the research, browsing to the internet to get some information article that related to the research, finding out the

important data, arranging the important data based on its, and developing the data that are provided.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis concerns with structural element of the movie and sociological analysis. The steps are; classifying the data, verifying the data, and interpreting the data based on underlying theories.

H. Research Paper Organization

Research paper organization is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory, which consists of notion of sociology of literature, major principles, notion of stereotype, structural elements and theoretical application. The third chapter consists of social background of America society in early 21st century. The fourth chapter consists of structural analysis of the movie which involving the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, and discussion. The fifth chapter is of sociological analysis. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.