

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Patriarchy or gender inequality is a crucial issue which that still inherent in the daily lives. Women are often underestimated and are considered inferior to men, women's clothes are often blamed when they are victims of sexual harassment, women must be able to take care of and resolve all household needs such as cooking, caring for children, washing clothes, cleaning the house etc. They are limited in terms of a career, restrictions on the role of women by patriarchal culture make women become fettered, hopes to pursue their goals often disappear and their high dreams must be buried deep inside.

The issue of patriarchy is now slowly being discussed in a literary work like a film. Film is a communication medium that is audio visual to convey a message to a group of people who gather in a certain place. (Effendy, 1986: 134), besides to entertaint, movie is also considered as a medium to convey an idea about a thing and one of it is patriarchy. There are a lot of movies which showing about patriarchy theme, such as Mustang (2015) a film about women from a female director Deniz Gamze Erguven which that presents a piece of feminist nuances through five orphanage girls in the face of oppression and patriarchal culture in Turkey, a film from Indonesia entitled Perempuan Berkalung Sorban (2009) tells the story of a priest daughter with a modern mind who rejects conservative traditions where a woman's position must always be below a man's. Another film from Indonesia is Kartini (2017), this film teaches how women's struggle to break through equality through Kartini's efforts to break the patriarchy in Javanese culture. Then is Marlina Pembunuh 4 Babak presents a different struggle for independent women, telling story about the struggle of women to get justice for the rape she experienced. Next is Iron Jawed Angels (2004) is a historical drama film that elevates the struggle of the women's movement in the 20th century to get suffrage. The next film with the theme of patriarchy is Promising Young Woman is a 2020 American drama film, written and directed by Emerald Fennell who is making his directorial debut.

Emerald Lilly Fennell she was born on 1 October 1985 is a British actress, writer, screenwriter and director. She is best known for her role in the second season of the critically acclaimed BBC America television series *Killing Eve* which earned her two Primetime Emmy Award nominations. She is also known for her appearances in films and television which include, *The Crown*, *Call the Midwife*, *Anna Karenina*, *Albert Nobbs*, and *Vita and Virginia*. In 2020, Fennell made his directorial debut in the film *Promising Young Woman*, starring Carey Mulligan.

Promising Young Woman Tells how a woman will take revenge on men as a form of resistance to sexual harassment experienced by her friend, Cassandra Thomas aka Cassie lives a dangerous double life armed with ingenuity and revenge for the bad luck of her best friend, Nina. He was willing to leave everything behind, as if revenge was the only goal in his life. One night Cassie was in a bar it didn't mean to get drunk But just wanted to set a trap for sexual predator like that instill fear in the hearts of would-be sexual predators everywhere.

This film raises the issue of feminism, Nina, her friend, who was depressed and committed suicide because of the sexual harassment she experienced, from that Cassie (main character) wants to defend her right that women are not just sexual objects that can be used or abused at will, by way of revenge. Cassie makes it happen by trapping a man to sleep with her then Cassie bullies the man. This way Cassie feels a little relieved when she gets a sexual predator to bully her.

“*Promising Young Woman*” initially draws in viewers by presenting a compelling, refreshingly ruthless protagonist in Cassie. Her crusade against sexual violence opens with a ruse we learn she’s repeated many times: She acts fall-down drunk in a bar so that supposedly well-meaning men will take her home, then turns on them when they try to assault her. With ominous shots of Cassie returning home the next day and adding a tally to a notebook full of them, Cassie is implied to be some kind of feminist “Dexter,” exacting bloody vigilante justice. This, on its own, is a positive step away from the “rape revenge” genre popular in the 1970s, which generally began with gratuitous depictions of rape. “*Promising Young Woman*” resists this tendency to subject viewers to unnecessary, exploitative depictions of sexual violence that set up a later rampage, and

instead skips straight to Cassie's revenge mission. The feminist innovation essentially ends there. By framing Cassie as a bloodthirsty avenger yet inverting the tropes of the rape-revenge genre, the film could have still had a substantive message.

First, while the film initially implies that Cassie exacts violent revenge on the predators from bars who take her home, successive scenes reveal she really just warns them to stop and then goes on her way. This could be viewed as a criticism of the eye-for-an-eye ethos of rape-revenge stories, which often deprive their heroines of the chance to substantively process trauma and push them towards blunt violence.

Not just a dangerous female character who is blinded by revenge, Cassie has clear points to justify her "sadistic" actions. Emerald Fennell shows his seriousness in raising this issue as a woman, as well as showing his creativity and wildest revenge imagination as a filmmaker.

With the case format that we have often encountered, there are different reactions and approaches conveyed through Cassie's character. His dialogues are always right on target and definitely make us excited. Cassie not only managed to become an iconic character through this film, but managed to voice the points felt by every woman who is a victim of sexual harassment.

The film was chosen by the writer to analyze because the plot of the story describe about daily life with strong patriarchy, everything is told clearly. This film raises the issue of feminism with a story that is wrapped not only from the story of the main character, but also includes stories about revenge and how to defend yourself.

Based on the explanation above the film is very interesting to analyze. The writer choose the topic about patriarchy and using feminist theory to get data. So because of that the title of this study is Facing Patriarchal Culture in the Film of "Promising Young Woman" (2020) directed by: Emerald Fennell a Feminist Study.

B. Research Questions

After reviewing the background of the above research, the authors decide to formulate the problem into the questions below:

1. What kinds of gender inequalities depicted in the film?

2. How Does Cassie's struggle to achieve gender justice?

C. Research Objective

The writer hopes that this research will be useful for those who want to know deeper about patriarchal culture. This research would identify the portrayed of patriarchy in film Promising Young Woman(2020) and describe the characteristic Cassie (Casandra Thomas) of as the main character of revenge for the sexual harassment experienced by her friend Nina.