

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Yentl is the film directed by Barbra Streisand and it is written by Jack Rosenthal (screen play) and Isaac Bashevis Singer (Story). The film was released in 5 March 2002. It has 2 hours 15 minutes of the duration. The genre is drama, musical romance. *Yentl* set in 1983. This film was produced in United Kingdom with filming location in Liverpool, Merseyside, England and it was presented by Barwood films, and spend budges US \$ 14.5 million for the most popular film of 2002.

([http : // www. Yentlmovie.com/ htm/ egro](http://www.Yentlmovie.com/htm/egro))

Yentl is one of the movies that have awards and nominations. They are Academy Awards, for the best original score; Golden Globes, for the best motion picture; Gramy Awards, for the best album and Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalist, for the best new director of foreign film (<http://www.movie.com/yentlaward/html>).

Yentl is starred by Barbra Streisand as Yentl/Anshel, Mandy Patikin as Avigdor, Amy Irving as Hadass, Nehemiah Persoff as Reb Mendel “papa”, Steven Hill as Reb Aflter Vishkower, Allan Corduner as Shimele, and Ruth Goring as Esther Rachel, David de Keyser as Rabby Zalman, Bernard Spear as Tailor, Dorean Mantle as Mrs. Shaemen, Lynda Baron as Peshe, Jack Lynn as

Bookseller, Anna Tzelniker as Mrs. Kovner, Mirriam Margolyes as Sarah, Mary Henry as Mrs. Jacobs.

([http : // www. Yentlmovie.com/ htm/ egro \)](http://www.Yentlmovie.com/html/egro)

Barbra Streisand as an extremely talented artist director and producer of this film. She describes the real life problem about feminism as her theme in *Yentl*, and she tells about the story of women's struggle for their rights especially to get an education equal as men. Most of people said that *Yentl* is Barbra Streisand's masterpiece; *Yentl* is her baby of directing, producing, co writing and starring as a girl who wants to study.

Yentl is the film that tells about women struggle for their rights. Eastern Europe, in 1904 a time when the world of study belonged only to men, there lived a girl named Yentl (Barbra Streisand), she is a young Jewish woman who lives in Poland during the early 20th century. Her widowed father has encouraged his knowledge curious daughter by teaching her the talmud in secret, despite religious restriction barring women from such study, so her father teaches Talmud to Yentl secretly because girls are not allowed to learn the law in those days. When her father dies, Yentl is all alone in the world, she takes the momentous decision to leave the village and she disguises as a boy and calling her self by the name of other late brother, Anshel and travels to another town in order to continue these studies at Yeshiva (a religious school) finally she gets admitted to a Yeshiva to study the texts, traditions, subtleties and complexities of Torah, Talmud, etc. she is a friend Avigdor who is engaged to Haddas, but her family discovers his brother committed suicide so

they call off the wedding (in case Avigdor possesses the same madness) Yentl then finds “him” self in the awkward position of being called into service as substitute bridegroom, so that the wedding can go ahead and Haddas will have a husband. It is a marriage that never gets consummated, a part from the more obvious reasons, because Haddas still wants Avigdor (though she eventually fall in love with Yentl, too) after numerous complications including Avigdor and Yentl falling in love with each other briefly after she reveals her secret to him, along with her bosoms, the film ends with everybody getting what they want. Haddas and Avigdor, live together happily ever after, while Yentl goes off to America to pursue her dream of serious study in Yeshiva where she will be able to study without needing to hide her identity as a woman.

Yentl film reflects the struggle for women’s rights, that women have the same rights with the men especially to get an education. It can be found in the main character of Yentl herself. Yentl is a clever woman who lives in a time when the world of study belonged only to men but she tries hard to get education because she loves to study so much especially study Talmud, kind holy book of Jews. Her mother is dead and she is raised by her scholarly father, who teaches her behind draped windows and locked the doors, women did not openly study Talmud in the ambience of Jewish Eastern Europe. After her father’s death, Yentl leaves her home town, she cuts her hair and dresses like a man and takes on the guise of a boy, assumes her dead brother’s name, that is Anshel. Then she enters a Talmudic academy. In Yeshiva. She experiences many adventures taking place as circumstances that force her into

playing many roles simultaneously, daughter, man, student, friend, husband, women, until she finally reveals her identity to the young man, Avigdor along with her bosoms. The film ends with everybody getting what they always wanted, Yentl goes off to America to pursue her dream of serious study in Yeshiva, where she will be able to study without needing to hide her identity as a woman.

Yentl describes differences between men and women, in this film there are many problems arising because men dominated the women and it is reflected in unequal right in education. *Yentl* is one of the films that have different opinion about women. The film tells women had been regarded as inferior to men physically and intellectually. Because there is no chance for women to get an education, in this film women's place was in the home, women have been involved in the domestic area and will always be associated with domesticity, their task were about childcare and housekeeping so that the home is a peaceful place for their family. This film tells the position of the women is just at home, because the societies think that women should get married and have children. A woman is not expected to work unless she is in the lower class, they remain uneducated. They have no control over their education and they are thought only about domestic duties, so in this film describes that there are many differences between men and women, especially inequality roles between men and women. Men can get absolute education in society but the women's role is about childcare, cook and housekeeping.

Considering the above explanatory ideas, the writer turns to analyze the film because there are many reasons, they are: (1) The character and characterization of the major character, (2) The theme of the film, and (3) The quality of this literature in the society.

Character is “presumably, an imagined person who in habits of a story” (Kennedy, 1983: 45). There are two characters in this film, the major character and the minor character, the major character in this film is a woman named Yentl, Yentl is Reb Mendel’s daughter and her mother has died. Yentl is a beautiful woman, she has a long hair, a bright skin, and she has beautiful blue eyes also long eyelash. In this film many men ask to Reb Mendel to marry Yentl, they want Yentl to be his wife but Yentl always refuses it because she wants to study in Yeshiva.

Yentl characterized as ambitious woman and motivates herself to get education equal at the same level with men, Yentl decides to leave her village and travels to another town in order to continue to study at Yeshiva, even she has to cut her hair and cover her identity as a woman when she studies at Yeshiva.

Yentl is a patient woman. She has no family beside her. After her father died, she is alone in the world, but it does not matter for her because people around her love Yentl very much. There is an old woman named Mrs. Kovner who always persuades Yentl to marry to a good man, but Yentl is patient to answer Mrs. Kovner’s question, because Yentl will not marry before the role between men and woman is equal at the same level with men to get in education.

Yentl is a clever and hard working woman. Actually *Yentl* is clever, because getting education is prohibited for women so *Yentl* cannot develop her cleverness by following the education. She is disappointed with the law at this time because only men that can follow the education system, that time the world of study belonged only to men.

The theme that is lifted in this film is interesting to be analyzed, the theme that is lifted in this film is unequal roles between men and women. This film represents the oppression and inferiority of women in the society. Because of femaleness or woman disabilities, men always have dominant or masculine role and that women have the subordinate or feminine ones. Women become absorbed primarily in domestic activities as childcare and housekeeping because of their role as mother.

Men who are physically and socially distant from their children may well have political and economic claims on them, but their claims tend to be based more on their abstract authority than on personal commitment in their absence or failure to perform as providers and symbols of status, they may lose their place in home, the men assumes the dominant role again and women lose.

Yentl has a good quality of literature in the society. Barbra Streisand is an extremely talented artist, director and producer who describe the real life problem about feminist as her theme in *Yentl*, she tells about the story of one a women's struggle for their rights especially to get an education equal as a men. Most of people said that *Yentl* is Barbra Streisand's masterpiece. *Yentl* is her baby of directing, producing, co

writing and starring as a woman who struggle for women's rights to get education.

Barbra Streisand is the greatest and influential figure in American literature and lifted up this feminine issue. She is the most popular actress and director of American film; women, men, young people, and also old people in 47 countries and 28 languages watch her film that the writer chooses to be analyzed. *Yentl* is also one of the film that win awards and nominations. Societies also give comment about, Barbra Streisand as an extremely talented artist. *Yentl* is her masterpiece her baby of directing, producing, co-writing and starring. Streisand had fought the studio for 15 years to get it made, and she puts her heart into this, Barbra is gifted director and the film is beautifully shot, the society like her acting in *Yentl*.

Related to the previous description, the writer intends to analyze the film using feminism approach because of some considerations. The first reason is *Yentl* wants to struggle for women's rights especially to get the same education with men because at that time the world of study belonged only to men, and forbidden for women. She tries to prove that women have the same rights with men. The second is the film has great possibility to know the phenomenon of feminism in the character. Therefore, this study is entitled: **“STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN BARBRA STREISAND’S YENTL: FEMINIST APPROACH”**.

B Literature Review

Yentl is a film representing the struggle of women to get education, it is interesting to be analyzed. As long as the researcher knows, there is no research which has been conducted to study the movie “Yentl” of as least among the students in all around Surakarta. So, this research is the first study.

C. Limitation of the Study

Based on the title and background, the writer focused on analyzing the struggle for women right emphasized on *Yentl*, viewed from the feminist approach, especially liberal feminism.

D. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems as follows: “How is struggle for women right reflected in Barbra Streisand’s *Yentl*?”

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on feminist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

By presenting this research paper, the writer hopes that it will gives some benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researcher who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. To give contribution to other literary research especially in the study of movie *Yentl*.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For getting deeper understanding about feminist issues in movie *Yentl*.
- b. For developing the writer's ability in applying the feminist approach, especially liberal feminist in Barbra Streisand's *Yentl*

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

Based on the problem statement and the discussion, this study can be classified as descriptive qualitative research. It is suitable with Surhmat's opinion about descriptive method. He states that one characteristic of descriptive of descriptive method is that the data are collected, described, and then analyzed (1995: 3)

In brief, descriptive qualitative research is research employing the method of collecting, describing, classifying, and analyzing the data, and then drawing conclusion. The data can be sentences, discourse, picture, diary and memorandum. By using the descriptive method, this research is aimed to describe struggle for women's rights as reflected in the movie *Yentl* through feminist approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is movie entitled *Yentl*, which is directed by Barbra Streisand. The film is based on Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story "Yentl, the Yeshiva Boys". It centers on a Young girl who defies tradition by discussing and debating Jewish law and theology with her rabbi father. When he dies she cuts her hair, dresses as a man, and sets out to find a Yeshiva where she can continue the study and live secretly as a male named Anshel. The movie was released on 5 March 2002; it has 2 hours 15 minutes of the duration. It was produced by Barwood Film Company.

3. Type of the Data and The Data Sources

a. Type of Data

The data in this study can be divided into two kinds of data, namely primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is the main data consisting the dialogue, and the action of the movie. Secondary data is supporting data consist of theoretical approach: in this case, the secondary data are the data concerning feminist approach.

b. Data Source

1) Primary Data Source

Primary data in this study consist of data collected from the movie of Barbra Streisand's: *Yentl*. The data are taken from the dialogue, character's description, plot and all of the statement related to the problems.

2) Secondary Data Source

Secondary data are collected from the other literatures discussing structuralism, women's psychology, feminist approach and other related source

4. Techniques of the Data Collection

The method used in this study is library research by collecting and recording both of the secondary data. Some steps of collecting data applied in this applied in this study are as follows.

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Identifying the topic of the film.
- c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis. This is interpretation of the text and content analysis to get characteristics of the data for feminist analysis at the movie *Yentl*

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter contains introduction, which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter deals with the underlying theory, including the notion of feminism, liberal feminism, major issues in liberal feminism and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural background of American society in the late 20th and in the early 21st century. The fourth chapter deals with the structural analysis of Barbra Streisand's *Yentl*. The fifth chapter deals with feminist analysis and the last chapter presents conclusion and suggestion.