

WOMEN EMANCIPATION IN JAMES KEACH'S *BLIND DATING*

MOVIE (2006):

A FEMINIST APPROACH



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Blind Dating is a movie directed by James Keach. In this movie, James Keach is not only as a director but also as a producer with David Shanks and it is written by Christopher Theo. Its title comes from the date that the main actor did with some one that he never met before, beside the fact that he is blind too. That is the reason before it was released, it is also known as *Blind Guy Dating* or *Blind Guy Driving*. It is not only telling about the story of blind men that searches for his love but also raises issue about a woman in India family living in USA with different culture. This movie was distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films. *Blind Dating* first release was at 28 July 2006 in USA (Stoneybrook Film Festival). The next release was done at 26 April 2007 in Malaysia, 10 May 2007 in Russia, 15 June 2007 in Italy. This movie is starred by Chris Pine as Danny and Anjali Jay as Leeza Raja. *Blind Dating* has running time 95 minutes or 1 hour 35 minutes. This movie consists of one language, which is English. This movie takes setting in Ogden, Utah, USA in 2006 and it is made with the combination of genres between Comedy and Drama.

Blind Dating tells about an India girl that already has engaged but falls in love with a blind man. She is Leeza, an India girl that works in Dr. Perkins Medical Research Facility in the United States of America. Her parents were originally from India. Her mother was single when she arrived in the U.S.A., and her contact with a male Caucasian made her fall in love as he

looked just like a movie star. Her dreams were shattered when this male decided to wed a prettier Caucasian, leaving her to marry Leeza's dad. Now her husband has arranged Leeza's marriage with Arvind, also an American-Indian, the engagement has taken place, and the marriage is soon to be finalized. Then Leeza meets with Danny, a Caucasian who is blind since his premature birth, who has enrolled himself with Dr. Perkins to try out a new procedure that will result in surgery to a part of his brain, to restore his visual cortex, enabling him to partly use his vision albeit in fuzzy black and white images. Although Leeza feels attracted to Danny, who lives a middle-class lifestyle with his mom, dad, brother, Larry (of Lorenzo's Limo) and a younger sister, Marie; is still a virgin; and anxious to meet someone from the opposite sex, she has made a commitment to marry Arvind and feels it would be against her Hindu culture (where love is measured with loyalty, trust, respect, and commitment) to break off her engagement and get involved with Danny - especially when it seems that Danny may get his vision and get involved with a much more attractive female Caucasian.

Blind Dating invites pro and contra. Many people are interested in this movie because this movie raises the freedom of a girl to choose. Isaac Keyet (ievolver) from Sweden in *IMDB* noted that, after seeing *Blind Dating Movie*, he really liked it. For him, it was fairly well acted and had heart. Another comment comes from Andym from United Kingdom, he said that this is an enjoyable movie. The start was a bit off-target for him, and he thought it was going to be very slap-stick but actually it turned out it was making a few points about how kids deal with differences. From then he started to contrast the way adults deal with disabilities like blindness not in a heavy way because

the use of humour. Until it came to love, then it changed the approach again. He would perhaps have liked a bit more of the "contrasting cultures". (*imdb*, 2007)

Nevertheless, *Blind Dating* invites some contrast, one of them is noted by Philip French in *Guardian* that said "This movie was made in 2006 and is presumably getting a belated British release to cash in on the recent success of its star, Chris Pine. The humor is tasteless, the sentimentality outrageous." (*Guardian*, 2009)

The review aggregator *Rotten Tomatoes* gave *Blind Dating* a rating of 26%, based upon 23 reviews (6 fresh and 17 rotten) (*rotten tomatoes*, 2006).

James Keach in this movie wants to share about woman in conflict with her promise. Women emancipation in this movie can be gotten by following her heart. There are three points that make this film interesting. Firstly this movie deals with women emancipation. *Blind Dating* is not like usual comedy romance movie. This movie drew another dream of a woman from India. Leeza's dream is going to the medical school and joining in a research team, but her fiance wants her on the restaurant. In this era, women emancipation is shown by choosing what they want. James Keach skilled in choosing the issue of her movie. *Blind Dating* draws women position in her family; Parents do not always know who is the best man for his daughter. This movie becomes motivator for women who loves someone to listen to her heart.

Secondly this film reflects cultural values in India. *Blind Dating* describes the culture and custom that is still being hold by Indian family. India for ages has had a prevailing tradition of the joint family system. The head of the Indian family that makes all important decisions and rules system is the

elder-most, usually the male member, whereas other family members abide by it. Although women and men are equal before the law and the trend toward gender equality has been noticeable, women and men still occupy distinct functions in Indian society. Woman's role in the society is often to perform household works and pro bono community work. They are still lag behind men in terms of income and job status (Kamakshi, 2009).

Thirdly this movie illustrates conflicting culture. This movie tells about Indian family that lived in America with different culture. The difference that is seen in this movie is the love mean. leeza's family still apply the India culture; they prepare the marriage with out love as the basic. In western culture which is reflected in the Danny's family are crossing with eastern culture. They are individual and live with free lifestyle; the women didn't care about their behaviour. They also easily do what they want. This crossing culture is reflected in *Blind Dating* movie, so that many researchers take study about the issue multiculturalism.

Equality of women with men in economic, social, political and religious is the meaning of women emancipation. Women emancipation is applied in women's right. It is the equal opportunity for women in all aspect of life. Women are entitled to live in dignity, freedom in want and from fear. Give power to the right women is also the way to advancing development and reducing poverty. In this era, women basically can do everything like man can do although sometime hindered by the culture. Finally, women are not as the second sex, they can explore their opportunities, capabilities, and opinions in the all part.

According to those reasons, the researcher would like to explore analyze women emancipation in James Keach's *Blind Dating* movie based on the Feminist Perspective, and the title is **WOMEN EMANCIPATION IN JAMES KEACH'S BLIND DATING MOVIE (2006): A FEMINIST APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who had conducted the study of *Blind Dating* movie. The first is matthew richardson (2006, eujacksonville) entitled "to catch a girl blind dating movie review". It focuses on the double meaning of the title *Blind Dating*. The first meaning is, Danny didn't know who are the person who will meet with him until he is actually on it. It means that he never knows or meets that person, usually it can be happened if the couple knows the same person. The second meaning is the date of a blind man.

The second is Danelle Karth (2007, Helium) entitled "Movie reviews: Blind Dating". It focuses on the funny moments of this movie; the most parts are honest humor and not the retarded. This is included the differences kind of joke compare with "Dumb and Dumber" or "American Pie". One of them is when Danny didn't understand how to use condom. He asks for direction from his brother who that moment is driving his limo. Danny even enjoys chewing it because of his unknown.

The differences of this study and two previous studies are in the theme and the perspective. This research is focused in women emancipation reflected in *Blind Dating movie* uses feminist approach while the first previous

focuses on the double meaning of the title and the second previous focuses on the funny moments in *Blind Dating* movie.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the research is “How is women emancipation reflected in *Blind Dating* movie directed by James Keach?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing woman character and it is focused in women emancipation based on feminist approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Blind dating* movie.
2. To analyze women emancipation in James Keach’s *Blind Dating* based on feminist approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The study of women emancipation reflected in *Blind dating* movie has two benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will improve the study of literature as the modern art especially in *Blind dating* and the elements.

2. Practical Benefit

The results of the study will improve the writer’s knowledge of gender equality as reflected in *Blind dating movie*

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Blind Dating* movie. This movie is directed and produced by James Keach, written by Christopher Theo and distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films LLC.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this research the writer classifies the data source into two categories namely primary and second data sources.

a. Primary Data

The primary data source of the study is movie *Blind Dating* directed and produced by James Keach, written by Christopher Theo and distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films LLC.

b. Secondary Data

The writer takes the secondary data source from many sources as references, author's biography, criticisms in relation to the problems and material related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this case, the writer uses two techniques of collecting data

a. Observation

This step is used to make the analysis by watching the movie repeatedly to get the understanding about this movie.

b. Library Research

There are some procedures in library research, they are:

- 1) Watching the movie repeatedly and understanding about this movie.
- 2) Finding out the important data and identifying the relevant elements.
- 3) Taking notes.
- 4) Arranging data into several parts based on its classification.
- 5) Developing data to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The data are analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis and analyzing the structural elements of the movie.

H. Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction which contains background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II deals with review of underlying theory that is psychoanalytic theory. Chapter III is structural analysis, in this chapter the researcher explains the structural element of the study and discussion. Chapter

IV is data analysis, which deals with the major character's problems based on psychoanalytic theory. Finally, Chapter V is conclusion of the analysis and some suggestions.