

**GENDER EQUALITY IN KATJA VON GARNIER'S *IRON JAWED***

***ANGELS MOVIE (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH***

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## ABSTRACT

**ANIMAS LARAS F.M, A320070324. GENDER EQUALITY IN KATJA VON GARNIER'S *IRON JAWED ANGELS* MOVIE (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH. Research Paper, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. 2012.**

The object of this research is the movie entitled *Iron Jawed Angels* by Katja Von Garnier. The major problem of this study is "how gender equality is reflected in *Iron Jawed Angels* (2004) by Katja Von Garnier" based on a Sociological Approach.

The researcher employs qualitative method; the researcher uses two data sources, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the movie itself while the secondary data source is the other sources related to the analysis such as script, books, journals, articles, and movie review. The method of data collection is library research and the technique of data collection is note taking and scene capturing.

The study comes to the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting of place and time, mise-en- scene, cinematography, editing, and the other technical elements have the unity and successfully relate to one another then finally are formulated into good quality of a movie. Second, based on the Sociological analysis, it is the global issues in early twentieth century about human right especially in women right in political aspect, the women suffrage amendment in twentieth century give an effect for women social life in the turn of the century. There is no gender equal in political aspect, the women get their right to vote and join in government seat.

**Keyword: Gender Equality, *Iron Jawed Angels*, and sociological approach.**

## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background of the Study

Literature is the reflection of social phenomena from social behavior that happen to the society in their social relation. Wellek and Warren (1962:94) state that, "literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation". Swingwood and Laurenson (1972:12) state that literature is a work of art, which expresses of human life and the problem on society, economics and politics with qualities of the relationship among them. Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:12) state," As with sociology, literature too is pre-eminently concerned with man's social world, his adaption to it, and his desire to change it". Literature focuses on relation the social world of man with his family, man, and woman, with politic, with the State and adaption to desire to change it.

*Iron Jawed Angels* is American movie directed by Katja von Garnier. *Iron Jawed Angels* is a drama movie about women sufferage. Two young women activist Paul and Lucy Burn who are to change women condition in the twentieth century. After they finished the study in England, then they returned to America for realizing their aims in struggle for women vote right. Around twentieth century, women in America did not have full of citizen right in the government as men's. So, the women's did not have

election right in general election. This situation has big effect on women life.

Alice Paul and Lucy Burn met with Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw of NAWSA. Alice Paul and Lucy Burn presented their purpose that they wanted to press for a constitutional amendment for women to have the right to vote, but the older women preferred a state by state approach.

Public opinion was against the suffragettes when Burn and friends held the direct protesting in front of White House. They were arrested on the trumped up of “obstructing traffic” even though their picket line was on the sidewalk. Refusing to pay a fine for a crime but they did not commit, the women were imprisoned for sixty days in an Occoquan, Virginia women’s prison.

In the end for this story by 1920, 35 states had ratified the amendment, but one more state was needed. Tennessee became that state when a recalcitrant legislator casted the deciding votes after receiving a telegram from his mother. On August 26, 1920, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment became law, and 20 million American women won the vote right. Finally, the women got same right with a man in the government.

## **2. Literature Review**

In this study, the researcher presents the previous study dealing with the movie entitled *Iron Jawed Angels* by Katja von Garnier. There is one study conducted by Nurchayati, a student in

Muhammadiyah University 2010. Her research entitled “Struggle For Women’s Political Right In Katja Von Garniers’s *Iron Jawed Angels* Movie” focus as on feminist criticism study about how the women struggle for women’s political right. For the second analysis is “Iron Jawed Angels” by Rev. Dr. David C. Fisher in Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims (2008). In this essay, he focused on the political aspect especially the policy of the government to women. He connected the moral value in *Iron Jawed Angels* with religion.

Those studies are useful for the writer as a guide to analyze *Iron Jawed Angels* movie. Although the research’s object is similar with both researchers, there are several differences. The writer plans to develop this research by analyzing the gender equality and using a sociological approach.

### **3. Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problem of the study is how gender equality is reflected in Katja von Garniers’s *Iron Jawed Angels*.

### **4. Limitation of the Study**

To make it easy for the writer to conduct the study, she gives limitation of the problem on the gender equality problem in *Iron Jawed Angels* using a sociology approach.

## **5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

- a. To analyze the structural elements of the movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
- b. To analyze gender equal in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie based on a sociological approach.

## **6. Benefit of the Study**

### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in Katja von Garniers's *Iron Jawed Angels*. It is expected to give useful information about the movie analyzed by the sociology approach.

### **b. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the movie and how to use literary theory in analyzing the movie.

## **7. Research Method**

In this research the writer tries to describe the research method used in this research beginning from type of research, data and source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. So, in conducting the research, the writer will

observe the behavior of gender equal in *Iron Jawed Angels* in order to get the data for the analysis.

a. Type of the Research

The type of research conducted by the writer is in the dominant of descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (1983:3) states that “Qualitative research is a type of research that has descriptive data in the forms of written or oral from observing people or behavior.”

b. Type of the Data and the Data Source

1) Type of the Data

There are two type of data; Text and Image. Text data in this research is movie manuscript, which consists of words, phrases and sentences. Image data in this research is image capturing of an action in the movie which is related to the research.

2) Data Source

In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data; there are primary data, which will be taken from Katja von Garniers’s *Iron Jawed Angel*, and secondary data, which are taken from other sources, related to the primary data, such as author’s biography, books and website related of sociology approach and many other data related this research.

### c. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collection will be in form of library research.

There will be some techniques of data collection as follows:

- 1) Note taking, including the several step:
  - i. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly and carefully.
  - ii. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
  - iii. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
  - iv. Selecting particular parts of the script considered important and relevant for analysis.

### 2) Image-Capturing

### d. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis in this study is using the descriptive analysis by using a sociology approach.

## **B. Sociology of Literature**

Sociology refers to the human beings in society. It concerns on the social relation of human beings in their society. Swingewood and Laurenson (1972:11) state that sociology is essentially the scientific, objective of study man in society, the study of social institutions and of social process. It means that sociology has relationship with social society. This relation can happen on social phenomena or anything

connected to society, including culture, religious, economic, political and artistic life. The statement means that human being in society is objective study of sociology. It exists with all life aspects that cause the interaction of them based on their status in society.

The sociology of literature is a method to analyze the literary work based on sociological perspective to understand social aspect and social phenomenon where a literary work appears. Sociology of literature is the theory which analyzes the relation between authors and their social class, social status and ideology, condition of economics in their profession and the readers. Sociology and literature have close relationship. The sociology of literature is a study of literature based on the sociological perspectives. It comprehends in social phenomena in a certain period that is described by the author in his or her literary work.

### **C. Sociological Analysis**

*Literary work as a mirror to the age.*

This approach deals with the time when the literary works are created. Swingwood and Laurenson (1972:13) state that “literature as the mirror to age. It is indicating that the readers can discuss the social phenomenon which happens to the society in a certain period and certain place through the literary work”. It means that literary work reflects the situation and condition of social life in the society.

## 1. Social Aspect

The social aspect shown in *Iron Jawed Angel* movie was problem relation of gender equality. Gender equality in legal protection and political lead to the assumption that women did not get full citizenship rights. In this movie, the treatment based on social diversity was shown by Alice Paul and Lucy Burn figures as women suffrage. Women demanded their freedom to vote men candidate whom would occupy the White House without distinguishing of gender. The women did not get their full rights.

Gender inequality was shown in the opinion of men that women's brain ability was lower than the male's brain ability. This condition was shown the status of women in lower position.

That the female mind is inferior to the male mind...need not be assumed. There is something about it essentially different...and that this difference is of a kind and degree...that votes for women would constitute a political danger...ought to be plain to everyone. I do not wish to see the day come...when the women in my state shall trail their skirts...in the muck and mire of partisan politics. These flippant girls singing "votes for women"...know not the disasters they invite by this reckless movement. (CD. 1. 00:06:10,837-00:06:41,864).

The women did not get well protection in place where they work and they got low salary. In *Iron Jawed Angel* this condition is explained by 146 women death in fire factory.

In America the diversity of race and ethnicity should be socially and individually problem, because race was important role in the equality of opportunity that exists in many spheres of

American society. *Iron Jawed Angel* movie was reflected of race and ethnicity diversity shown by Ida Wells Barnett from Chicago delegation. She was Afro-Africa women. She met Alice Paul in order that Negro women also had a parade in one team.

Ida Wells :Ida Wells-Barnett, from the Chicago delegation. I'm told you expect Negro women to march in a separate unit, at the back.

Alice Paul :Southern suffrage groups threatened to withdraw—

Ida Wells :Are the ladies afraid we'll march out of step? Call their bluff.

Alice Paul :We can't afford to lose their support... not with the Democrats in office.

Ida Wells :Who's "we"? Women? Or just white women?

Lucy Burn :Now, wait a minute. We have one agenda : suffrage. Add another issue.

Ida Wells :If we don't stand up now...what happens to Negro women when you finally get the vote? They'll keep us out of the polling place any way they can--

Alice Paul :Other colored groups have agreed.

Lucy Burn :Not perfect, but practical.

Ida Wells :Dress up prejudice and call it politics? I expected more from a Quaker. I'll march with my peers or not at all

Alice Paul :I understand.

(CD. 1. 00 : 11 : 24,450 -00 : 12 : 16,331)

According to the situation above, it was shown the diversity of race and ethnic between black race and white race. In this movie, the diversity in religion was shown by Alice Paul figure as figure of Quaker. Ida Well told to Alice Paul that she could not believe with Quaker people. It explained the difference of in religion or believing among people could influence rely to someone . The prejudice was also reflected in *Iron Jawed Angel* movie. It showed Alice Paul figures as England person who is regarded as radical people according to Carri Chapman Catt.

## **2. Economic Aspect**

American people became a large measure of prosperity and better standard of living. As the result, increasing prosperity rose of their obsession with material position and bodily comfort like luxuries houses, jewelry, expensive cars etc. They were consumptive. Most of American people spent their money for pleasure fulfillment, like drunk bourbon and went to night club. *Iron Jawed Angel* had genuinely portrayed this condition and criticized situation through the plot of the movie. Katja von Garnier was reflected the condition at that time by putting the public American people as the center of the movie.

Katja von Garnier as the director tried to reflect economic situation at the time in Ruza figure as factory worker who got salary under the minimum. Ruza figure could reflect women condition as factory worker and immigrant women who were not prosperous.

## **3. Political Aspect**

United State had two rule parties those were Republican and Democrat party. Social reality in political aspect, Katja von Garnier as director explained about the political aspect in American which used Democrat and Republic party selves. It was shown in the election of president in American. The president at the time Woodrow Wilson was from the Democrat party. The

politic issue that developed at the time was women's suffrage. Kajta von Garnier shown this situation by National Women Party (NWP) that form Alice Paul and Lucy Burn. NWP was opposition party that struggle for women suffrage to get vote right.

#### **4. Cultural Aspect**

American culture encompassed traditional, ideals, costumes, beliefs, values, arts and innovations that development both domestically and imported via colonization and immigration. The United States was consist of many people which multicultural value. The United States people was consist of many race, ethnic, nation, and religions.

*Iron Jawed Angel* movie was truly fashion. Women wore tight clothing, corsets, padding and elaborate decoration. Women had the longer skirt, some long and uneven at the bottom. Large hats were popular; the hats usually floppy and were further softened by feathers. Women also carried parasols as essential accessories. Women clothes looked more comfort, lighter, colors were brighter, and styles were looser.

#### **5. Religious Aspect**

The most dominant religion in American society in the turn of the century was protestant, even 85 percent believed in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. In *Iron Jawed Angel* the religious side was not depress. But a little shot showed that their religious was

protestan. Kajta von Garnier was reflected variety of religion by Alice Paul figure who was a Quaker. Quaker itself was a Christian religious group that meet without any formal ceremony and was strongly opposed to violence and war (Oxford: Advanced learner's Dictionary).

## **6. Science and Technology Aspect**

Technologies in America developed since World War I. As far as 1920, radio broadcasting began Americans thrived on technology. Modern American's history changed from decade to the other decade. As a modern country, American science and technology did not develop to new experienced since it was left by Americans.

Newspaper had a good effect for people and important media to get the information at the time. This technology could help them as a strategy. Katja Von Garnier also used other technology. That was movie theater, a place for people to refresh their mind with watching a movie.

## **7. Women Condition at the Time**

The history of suffrage for women in United States got critic from public. Women rights had been an issue in the history of the United States along with the abolition of slavery. In 1866, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association, an organization dedicated to

goal of universal suffrage. A Woman Suffrage Amendments was introduced in the United States Congress with the purpose “The right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”.

The women condition in the turn of century in *Iron Jawed Angels* showed Alice Paul and Lucy Burns want pushed the government to success the constitutional amendment for women vote right. Alice Paul was permitted to join with NAWSA’s Washington, D.C. committee, her provided and Lucy raised to their own funds. It refers to discrimination on the based of gender. In this movie there were discrimination forward women.

That the female mind is inferior to the male mind need not be assumed. There is something about it essentially different and that this difference is of a kind and degree, that votes for women would constitute a political danger ought to be plain to everyone. I do not wish to see the day come when the women in my state shall trail their skirts in the muck and mire of partisan politics. These flippant girls singing “votes for women” (CD 1. 00:06:10-00:06:34)

Maternity, the natural biological role of women had been traditional regarded as their major social role as well. The resulted stereotype saying “a woman’s place is in the home” oppressed by men. From the history of women, they had fewer legal rights and career opportunities than men. Wifery and motherhood were regarded as women most significant professions. In the turn twentieth of century, women in most nation won the vote right and increased their educational and job opportunities. Perhaps most

important, they fight for life and to a large degree accomplished a reevaluation of traditional views of their role in society.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

Through *Iron Jawed Angel* Movie, Katja von Garnier gave emphasize on the American society in the early twentieth on the suffrage movement in American women. In this movie Katja von Garnier focused on women suffrage in political aspect. She told about struggle of women to get vote right in the government like a men.

Katja von Garnier expressed her criticism about the social politic by creating the central character building the plot. Alice Paul and Lucy Burn who were two young activists. They want to change women condition in the twentieth century. On August 26, 1920, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment became law, and 20 million American women won the vote right. The women got same right with a man in the government.

Based on Katja von Garnier perspective, the gender equal in politic aspect especially in vote right of women in government was the main source of the conflict in women condition in that time. In this movie, Katja von Garnier reflected that women protest through National Women Party is opposing party. Finally, the women got same right with a man in the government.

From all aspects that are reflected in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie, there was a firm relation between the movie and the reality of American living. Katja Von Garnier showed that the government was more unrespectable to women. Based on the analysis above, it was evident to state that the structural elements of *Iron Jawed Angel* was matched with the main idea of Katja von Garnier viewed from sociological perspective.

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