

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

*IRON JAWED ANGEL (2004):*

**A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**



**PUBLICATION ARTICLES**

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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**ACCEPTANCE**

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## ***ABSTRACT***

*The research paper is aimed at analyzing Gender Equality in Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angel's movie. The research analyze how is the struggle to get gender equality reflected in Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angels movie based on a feminist perspective . It occurs because there is some evidence that support equality gender.*

*The objective of this research paper is to analyze the film in terms of its structural element based on a feminist perspective. The researcher employs qualitative research method. In this method, the researcher uses two data resources namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the film of Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angels itself. The secondary data source taken from some reference and material related to the study whether by picking up from books and internet. The method of data collection is library research and the technique of data analysis.*

*The feminist analysis has close relation between products of this film, Iron Jawed Angels, and the social realities of American Society in 1920s. The focus of politic aspect is supporting the gender equality. The right for woman to vote is needed to help women in enjoying their lives.. The writer hopes to understand that man and woman are equal and of course woman needs right to protect her life.*

**Keywords:** parade, woman party, congress, freedom

## **A. Introduction**

### **1. Background of the Study**

People had been born with the right. Some people use their right to enjoy the life but some do not know what to do with the right. The right to choose the way their life depends on the condition where people are limited by other. United States is one of the countries which was concerned with the right in period World War I. American has influenced some people in other countries to bring that way. World War I educates Americans to pursue their dream. In this era, American enters to roaring twenty which lead them to modern era.

Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* tries to portraying the condition of American woman during the World War I. It is interesting with the good dialog within. The movie is written by Jenifer Friedes. It was released in February 15, 2004 in United States. The duration of the movie is about 123 minutes. Garnier uses a woman as a major character, named Alice Paul. Alice is a white American who concerns to the women's right in United States.

The film *Iron Jawed Angels* tells about some American women gathers to force the government to give them the right to vote. The suffragists get many obstacles in the way to achieve the goal. They have to debate and do some lobbying the congress even they have to be jailed for some times. It is the struggle to get equality gender in the modern era. So, this study chooses equality gender as an issue and feminist as the perspective of the study.

Feminist focuses on politics movement that wants to change the existing power, between woman and men in society. Feminism is the organized movement which promotes equality for men and women in Political, Economic and Social spheres. Feminist believes that there is inequality between men and woman in society because positions of woman always become number two in society. Here, Feminist tries to struggle from this conditional and get equal opportunity and right for woman, in order to make her same as men in society.

Feminist studies all aspect of life. This theory assumes that literary work appears related with the aspects of life, such as social, economy, culture, religious, science and technology and politic aspects.

## **2. Literari Review**

The movie, Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* is an interesting literary work. There is no serious study in *Iron Jawed Angels* conducted by university students at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. It is the reason of the writer to analyze this amazing movie, *Iron Jawed Angels*. Here, the writer concerns with the gender issue happened in Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels*. She uses a feminist perspective to analyze the novel.

## **3. Problem Statement**

The main problem that is analyzed in this study is "How is the struggle to get gender equality reflected in Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels*?"

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

The limitation of the study is how gender equality occurred in Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* viewed by feminist. The researcher uses feminist to analyze the movie because this approach is suitable to draw the major condition during the period within the movie.

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

This paper aims to analyze the film in terms of its structural element based on feminist perspective.

## **6. Underlying Theory**

### **a. Structural Element of the Movie**

#### **1) Narrative Element**

##### **a) Character and characterization**

Character is a person who does the dialogue in the scene (Widagdo and Gora, 2004: 24).

##### **b) Setting**

Setting is given to create a story as real and concrete as possible. It is really important to create a real impression at the story for reader will be able to create circumstances as if the story really happens.

c) Plot

Plot is the specific pieces of the story chosen to tell the protagonist's story to the film –going other audience. The basic elements of dramatic structure found in most production are the exposition of beginning, the middle and the end.

d) Point of View

Point of view is the most interesting in the narrative elements. There three definitions of point of view. First, point of view refers to a camera shot taken as if seen through the eyes of a character. Second, point of view refers to the perspective of the story teller. Third, point of view refers to interest, attitudes and belief associated with a character of group's particular perspective.

e) Theme

Theme, according to Widagdo and Gora (2004: 28), is an answer about the basis question of the film that is what a film will talk.

f) Casting

According to Dauglas (1996: 107), casting character requires knowing the qualities of the center character that the most important, the ones that motivates them through the story and the finding the people who understand and convey those qualities.

**2) Technical Elements**

a) *Mise-en Scene*

The term of *mise-en-scene* has some aspects such as: set dressing and props, costume and make up, lighting and figurative expression and movement

b) Cinematography

The filmmaker also controls what we call cinematographic qualities shot, not only what is filmed but also how it is filmed. This consist of control over three features: photographical qualities shot, the framing of shot, and the duration of shot (Brodwell and Thompson, 1990: 157).

c) Sound

Sound can impart to a scene with enormous force. Sound effect can powerfully influence our perception (Douglas and Harnder, 1996: 87).

d) Editing

Editing is easy to notice. It is not only because of the prevalent technique but also because the disjunction space, time and graphics made by editing step to the eye attention (Brodwell and Thompson, 1990: 209).

**b. Notion of Feminist**

Feminism is a politics movement that wants to change the existing power, between woman and men in society. Feminism is the organized movement which promotes equality in Political, Economic and Social spheres. Feminist believes that there is inequality because positions of woman always become number two in society. Here, Feminist tries to struggle from this conditional and get equal opportunity and right for woman, in order to make her same as men in society.

**c. Liberal Feminism**

Liberal Feminism wants the women to get equal opportunity and right in Political, Economic, and Social life. Liberal Feminism seeks equality of right and freedom for women to decide what they want.

Liberal feminist wants equality between men and women in all field of life. There is no differentiation between women and men, because human are created equal by God. The differentiation factor was caused by historical process. It is based on assumption that women's and men's position in society are the result of social factor not natural factor (Andersen, 1983:9).

**d. Major Principle of Liberal Feminism**

The basic concepts of Liberal Feminist are converting women's position, women's role, women's right and women's participation. In women's position it is recognized that women are inferior to men. Feminist believes that women can reach the same degree with men. In women's role, women are identically with house works and their duty is looking after the children. In women right, men and women are equal. Women's right is not only to set them free but also giving the same chance to

express their idea, need and passion. And in women participation, Women's participation means women have right to give aspiration in following discussion for making decision in all public life.

## **B. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

The writer employs the qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the film using sociology approach. The steps to conduct this research are determining the type of study, determining the object of the study, determining the data and data source, determining technique of data collection, and determining technique of data analysis.

### **2. Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study is the film Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels*. It is released in February 5, 2004.

### **3. Type of the Data and Data Source**

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research (1) Primary Data Source, the primary data source is the film Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* itself. (2) Secondary Data Source, the secondary data sources sociology Theory book and other sources.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are: watching frequently the film to get the messages, and better understanding. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information. Making notes of important part in both primary and secondary data sources. Classify the data into some categories.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text to analyze text and content relating to feminism.

## **C. Research Finding and Discussion**

Based on the issue, this study is reflected in feminist approach. The application of feminist analysis is divided into four specific parts namely women's role, women's position,

women's right and women's participation. Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* generally wants to express equality gender reflected in this film.

## 1. Feminist Perspective Analysis

### a. Women's Role

Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* portrays the social condition where women are god creation who has to look after child only. Children, home, house work are a duty of a woman. Woman with million house work is able to manage other thing such as social issues. But women get pressure to give idea to solve social problem. People, actually men, are often doubt about it.

Alice: "A firm old lady with facial hair, Carry Nation swings the axe said that she is suffragist. So now, NAWSA struggle for Maria and child? Woman who cares with family, rock the baby, serve the dinner, serve the nation and society?"

Alice: "Serving."

Inez: "Serving"

Lucy: "Serving"

Alice: "But now, the suffragist is young, independent..."

Inez: "Educated."

Alice: "And very very beautiful. Is that you. Riding horse."

Inez: "cowgirl?"

Lucy: "Warrior."

Alice: "A hero."

(IJA, 2004; 00:17:51)

The Katja Von Garnier's, *Iron Jawed Angels*, shows clearly how the role of women is. People think it is better for girls and women to stay at home. Women are weak and not able to lead and play in politic.

Emily : "I'm worry."

Thomas: "Is that Mrs. Martin told you that I'll be late?"

Emily : "You look so tired."

Thomas: "Amendment for women right begin to be discuss in my congress. Need long time to defeat it."

Emily : "What does he say? Why they don't support it?"

Thomas: "Because we know that you will be busy with children. Rebecca has learnt word today?"

Emily : "Yes. 'Funny'."

(IJA, 2004;00:31:48)

Women in *Iron Jawed Angels* are better to do the house job. If they still have spare time, they can meet other or shopping. The era of 1920s, united states enter to the roaring twenties. It is the period where women flappers are many. They become attractive, smart and care to the social condition.

## b. Women's Position

The film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, shows the activity of American suffragist. They are able to lead an association. Some are in committee congress, leading of association and the donation. Women, in Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels*, are gathered to persuade their goal.

Through the major character, Alice Paul, Katja Von Garnier *Iron Jawed Angels* tries to figure out the suffragist who gives her idea and power to deal the amendment for American women. Alice Paul is an educated woman who leads National Women Party. She applies the militant strategy to lead the Party.

Dorris: "The Michigan suffragists come to take the bus to..."

Alice : "Ask Mrs. Lewis."

Dorris: "Well, Toilet in the upstairs is broken."

Alice : "Ask Mabel."

Dorris: "Can I have dinner with Ben Weissman?"

Alice : (stop walking) "Ask your mother."

Dorris: "I won't make you offended."

Alice : "No."

Dorris: "I told it to Lucy but..."

Alice : (close the door, silent)...

(IJA, 2004; 00:05:34)

Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* contributes in picturing women position. Some positions are equal with men. Women are able to be leader, member of committee congress and other job position. Women are good in managing the idea to help the congress due to government wisdom.

When a women association is held, some will be the leader and some are member. The way the suffragists manage the association shows that women are able to sit in several position of job. Some also show that women have position in congress is not wrong.

## c. Women's Right

People live with the right to protect their life from the dissatisfying work. Government manages the people with the right to help them survive. Right is not a key to freedom but it helps people to walk in good ways. People, men or women, have right to set their social life.

*Iron Jawed Angels* is one of film dealing with emancipation. It creates how the women struggle to get right to vote in election. It is simple goal but some people,

especially men, are doubt because of women's role. NAWSA (National American Women Suffrage Association) is an association to help American women to get what they want. It is the bridge between women and government.

Harriet: "She wants to lobby constitutional."  
Carrie: "She thinks congress will follow her? I think you said she's bright. Paula who?"  
Harriet: "Paul. Alice Paul. She worked in England."  
Carrie: "Don't bring me radical girl, Harriet."  
Harriet: "She's not radical. She is quacker. She comes to meet you and Anna. Be nice."  
(IJA, 2004; 00:01:49)

The women right depends on the way the women suffrage to struggle on lobbying the amendment. The social condition of the roaring twenties helps the suffragist to find the way to get the amendment.

Lucy : "We're political prisoners. We wear our own clothes."  
Matron: "You'll wear what they all wear."  
Lucy : "I want to see the warden."  
Matron: "You want to see him naked"  
(IJA, 2004; 00:17:27)

The film gives explanation about the right to vote for women. A vote is fate. It can help women to gain equal position in political aspect. Women's vote is about the destiny where women help other to solve the problem and give protection in their life. *Iron Jawed Angels* shows the success of suffragist in gaining the amendment. Alice Paul and the fellow suffragists deal the 19th amendment to vote in election.

#### d. Women's Participation

Suffrage is hot issue during the period of roaring twenties. The women participation in Katja Von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels* shows the perseverance of the suffragists. It starts with parade that they will hold to get attention from president and the congress.

Carrie: "Do you have any other idea, Miss Paul?"  
Alice: "A parade. This March. The day President Wilson comes for inauguration. We'll get support and of course there will be media. That's really we need."  
Anna: "Mrs. Blatch told me that you know her in England. The English women gave bad impact."  
Lucy: "It's better than nothing at all."  
Carrie: "Sorry??"  
Alice: "Lucy was studying in Oxford."  
Lucy: "Why? That's right."  
Anna: "If I send you to Washington, I want assure that you don't use radical tactic."  
Alice: "You have it."  
(IJA, 2004; 00:05:21)

In 1912, Alice Paul and her friend (and fellow suffragist) Lucy Burns joined the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Paul used her militant techniques to push for a national amendment for women's suffrage.

Inez : "I can't go to California. You have to find another."

Alice: "None else."

Inez : "Alice, I can't tell you that...(silent). I'm tired."

Alice: "You're going to Europe for Peace then you will give up at the important moment?"

Inez : "Waste my time? You won't say that if you were in French with me."

Alice: "It is not French. It's United States. People want to hear speech of the riding horse. You hear that? They'll do war, and it's your war."

(IJA, 2004; 00:48:01)

The suffragists lobby amendment. However they are refused, they still keep spirit to gain the goal. The media support them in booming the news about the activity of the suffragists.

Emily : "I'm worry."

Thomas: "Is that Mrs. Martin told you that I'll be late?"

Emily : "You look so tired."

Thomas: "Amendment for women right begin to be discuss in my congress. Need long time to defeat it."

Emily : "What does he say? Why they don't support it?"

Thomas: "Because we know that you will be busy with children. Rebecca has learnt word today?"

Emily : "Yes. 'Funny'."

(IJA, 2004;00:31:48)

Alice Paul later applies these militant strategies to her fight for suffrage in America. While in England, Paul is arrested several times, participated in hunger strikes and is force-fed, something she also experiences while imprisoned in the United States.

Alice: "I was put in a straight jacket and taken to the psychopathic ward. I could not see my family or friends, counsel was denied me. I saw no other prisoners and heard nothing of them. I could see no papers. Today I was force fed for the third time, I refused to open my mouth. My left nostril, throat, and muscles of my neck are very sore. I vomit continuously during the process.

(IJA, 2004; 00:44:45)

The women participate in gaining the amendment. Their struggle gives result. Then the 19th amendment released. The congress agrees with the amendment and the president, Woodrow Wilson, gives speech due to 19th amendment

## 2. Equality of Gender

The culture aspect directs American to the different world. The influence of other nation causes the American to decide what they need. With the experience of a young woman, Alice Paul, the women American try to get their right to vote. They need that right

to change their life. Alice Paul has many followers to achieve the goal. It shows the equality gender.

Garnier through her movie *Iron Jawed Angels* shows that unity makes strong. People need other to pursue their same goal. Togetherness is not as simple as talking with other. It needs respect, support, persistent and bravery. When the unity combines it well, the triumph achieved.

#### **D. Conclusion and Pedagogical Implication**

Based on the feminist analysis, it is evident that in this film Katja Von Garnier wants to convey the feminism phenomena in which all aspect support to the equality gender. By using Mandell's theory of feminism, the researcher analyzes the social condition of American in that period. The major characters, Alice Paul and suffragists are the symbol characterized the amazing people. By way of this film, Garnier wants to convey a criticism that people have to unite to other to reach the same goal. It is hard but same mind and idea with good respect raises good personality to reach the goal.

Related to this study above, it is hoped can give pedagogical implication such as:

1. The researcher hopes that this study can be useful for the readers as comparison to the other researcher in widening the knowledge of literary study.
2. The researcher hopes this study can give contribution for the teacher as reference for English teaching learning process especially understanding about novel.

## TESTIMONY

Herewith, assert that there is no work which was submitted to get bachelor degree in any university. In this article as far as the writer concern there is no work or opinion which was written or published by someone else except the written references which are referred to this paper and mentioned in the bibliography.

If only there is any incorrectness proved in the future in my statements above, I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, April 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'K' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

**Kun Alimah**

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