SUPERWOMAN REFLECTED IN DAVID FINCHER’S
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO MOVIE (2011):
AN AMAZON FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO MOVIE (2011):
AN AMAZON FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to show Lisbeth’s superwoman act in The Girl with the
Dragon Tattoo movie by using amazon feminism perspective. It is done by
establishing two objectives: the first is analyzing the movie based on its structural
elements and the second is analyzing the movie based on the amazon feminism
perspective. This research is descriptive qualitative research. Type of data of the
study is text and image taken from two data sources: primary and secondary. The
primary data source is The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo movie directed by David
Fincher released in 2011. While the secondary data sources are other materials
taken from books, journals, and internet related to the study. Both data are collected
through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The study comes to
the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it
shows that the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view,
theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related to each other
and form a unity. Second, based on the amazon feminism analysis, it is reflected in
the major character in physical equality, female power, and heroism that a woman
can act as a superwoman in her life.

Keywords: Superwoman, Amazon Feminism Perspective.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Superwoman is a term used to describe a woman who performs all the duties typically associated with several different full time roles, such as wage earner, graduate student, mother, and wife. In the fiction world, superwoman also means that a woman with more than human powers.

*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie, directed by David Fincher, is an interesting movie to view. There are the reasons that make the movie interesting to view; the first reason is the movie has a good cinematography, either from setting picture, visual effect, sound editing, or another aspect supporting this movie. The second reason is the movie has a good plot. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is a thriller movie and the plot makes the audiences always guessing about what would happen next. The movie also has a plot twist. The third reason is the movie has a good critics. Many movie critics acclaimed David Fincher’s work on this film. Fincher can manage to build on the original film without copying it, reinventing it or ignoring it. The last reason is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie gives an education about women. The main character of this movie is an independent woman with a high intelligence but often ignored because of her dark lifestyle. She proved that society should not judge people by their outer appearances.

The researcher uses amazon feminism theory as an approach to analyze *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie because the main character reflected the power of woman which is a good phenomenon to analyze using amazon feminism perspective.
2. Problem Statement

“How is superwoman reflected in David Fincher’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie (2011)?”

3. Limitation of the Study

The researcher is going to analyze Lisbeth Salander’s character in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie directed by David Fincher by using amazon feminism perspective.

4. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to analyze superwoman reflected in David Fincher’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie (2011) based on the structural elements of the movie and amazon feminism perspective.

5. Literature Review

There is no previous study in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie, at least in universities in Central Java. So, that the researcher cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie. The researcher analyzes “Superwoman Reflected in David Fincher’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* Movie (2011): An Amazon Feminism Perspective”.

6. Underlying Theory

a. Amazon Feminism Perspective

Amazon feminism is concerned about physical equality and is opposed to gender role stereotypes and discrimination against women based on assumptions that
women are supposed to be, look or behave as if they were passive, weak, and physically helpless (Tandon, 2007:64).

1) Physical Equality

Both men and women, while biologically and anatomically different, enter the world with the genetic inheritance of a mother and a father and from that respect human nature is androgynous, neutral, and equal (Wallace, 1999:140).

2) Female Power

Female power or women power is the term that used to describe women who openly display their power, knowledge, and skill, receiving public recognition and honor, but also women who manage to wield power in societies that try to limit it or decree female submission (Tandon, 2007:30).

3) Heroism

According to Gramstad (1999:6) a new fusion of female power and female sexuality is needed, it is a new vision of the female hero.

b. Structural Elements of the Movie

The structural elements of the movie can be divided into two namely narrative elements and technical elements. Those elements are very necessary in the movie and closely related each other.
1) Narrative Elements of the Movie

a) Character and Characterization

Characters are imaginary personages in a fictional story. They are often based in part on real people. But some characters such as the characters in most action movies are entirely imaginary (Phillips, 2005:23).

b) Setting

According to Kennedy (1993:38), there are two kinds of setting; setting of place and setting of time.

c) Casting

Casting in a movie is a process in choosing an actor or an actress that will play the character of the movie. It is important because from this step, the character will be played well (Phillips, 2005:30).

d) Plot

The basic elements of dramatic structure found in most production are the beginning, the middle, and the end (Douglass and Harnden, 1996:48).

e) Point of View

Point of view is the perspective through which readers will experience the story. From the inception of the story idea, the writer makes story-telling choices (Wood, 2009:76).
f) Theme

According to A Handbook to Literature, a theme is “the central or dominating idea in a literary work”. Harmon (2011:443) defines theme as the “underlying idea of work”.

2) Technical Elements of the Movie

a) Mise-en-Scene

*Mise-en-scene* consists of setting, lighting, costume and make-up, and figurative expression and movement.

b) Cinematography

Cinematography consists of three features: photographic qualities of the shot, framing of the shot, and duration of the shot.

c) Sound

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990:244) the advantage of sound in film production is it engages another sense mode: our visual attention can be accompanied by an aural intention.

d) Editing

Editing in film production is the task of selection and joining camera takes. It may be thought as the coordination of one shot with the next (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:207). Continuity editing can be developed into some parts: axis of action or the 180° line, establishing shot, a reverse shot, reestablishing shot, match on action, and cross cutting.
B. Research Method

In doing this research, the researcher uses type of descriptive qualitative for her research on David Fincher’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie (2011). The data of the study are image and text in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie by David Fincher. The data sources are the movie and manuscript of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie (2011) and book and journal related to the topic. The object of this study is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie directed by David Fincher and was premiered by Columbia Pictures in 2011. It is analyzed by using amazon feminism perspective. The technique of analyzing data used in this study is descriptive analysis. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. The researcher uses note-taking and image-capturing as the method of collecting data in this research.

C. Research Finding

1. Structural Elements Analysis of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* Movie

   a. Narrative Elements

      1) Character and Characterization

      Major character in this movie is Lisbeth Salander. *Physically*, she has white skin, deep eyes, dark and short hair, strong jaws and she is about 23 years old. She always wear dark clothes, especially black clothes. *Socially*, she is different from everybody else. She is classified as “out of the box” in the society because she has gothic lifestyle. She rarely socialize with
other people because she is not comfortable with attention from them.

*Mentally*, she has many problems with anger management.

Mikael: How come a 23 years old can be a ward of the state?
Lisbeth: I’m mentally incompetent and can’t manage daily life.
Mikael: Since when have they said that?
Lisbeth: Since I was twelve.
Mikael: Something happened when you were twelve?
I’m sorry, that’s none of my business.
Lisbeth: I tried to kill my father. I burned him alive. Got about 80 percent of him.
( Scene 13160-1324, 02:09:58-02:10:42 )

Minor characters in this movie are Mikael Blomkvist and Martin Vanger

a) Mikael Blomkvist

*Physically*, he has white skin, grey hair, strong face, and he is about 42 years old. *Socially*, he is a father of her daughter, Nilla. He has divorced with her wife and currently having an affair with Erika Berger, editor-in-chief of *Millenium* magazine. *Morally*, he is devoted to exposing the corruptions and malfeasances of government, attracting infamy for his tendency to “go too far”. He is a hard worker and has a good investigative instinct.
Gunnar: You are an author?
Mikael: Well, I’m doing a biography on Herr Vanger.
Gunnar: I saw you on television.
Mikael: That’s unfortunate.
Gunnar: Bit of trouble, I guess. No jail time, though.
Mikael: That’s good.
Gunnar: Cost you a lot of money, though, yeah?

(Scene 320-325, 00:29:11-00:29:34)

b) Martin Vanger

Physically, he is a tall and strong man, he is around 54 years old and has blonde hair. Socially, he is the current CEO of the Vanger Corporation. He is Harriet’s brother. He is a warm and friendly person. Morally, he is actually troubled since teenager, but no one knows. When he was 12, he saw his father raped and tried to kill Harriet. Martin brags about having killed women for decades, but denies killing Harriet.

Martin: So what would you like to know?
Mikael: Everything.
Martin: You’re the journalist, ask me questions.
Mikael: What do you do with your girls?
Martin: That’s a good question.

Well, before – I do what we’re doing. Sit down. Relax, have a drink.
I like that part a lot – having a chat when you both know that one of you is going to die. After – I simply get rid of them. Far out to the sea.
Unlike my father. Leaving them scattered all over the place like trophies. That’s not smart if you ask me.
But he was a garish and loud man. He got what he deserved.
(Scene 1257-1268, 02:01:35-02:02:17)

2) Setting

a) Setting of Place

Many actions in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie are taking place in Stockholm and other places, such as at Lisbeth’s apartment and Hedestad.

b) Setting of Time

*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie has a lot of scenes taken during the winter situation, on the daylight, and on the evening.
3) Casting

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo movie is casted by Eli Bush, Berna Levin, Scott Rudin, and David Fincher as the director of this movie who find the character for his movie as close as possible and suitable to the characters so that the characters in this movie are characterized well.

4) Plot

a) The Beginning

The beginning story of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo movie is when Mikael receives a call on his cell from Frode, it seems a client is interested in meeting with him. Mikael complains that it is Christmas and thinks it has to do with the Wennersstrom case. But, Frode says no and says the client is Henrik Vanger and does not want to wait. He accepts to go meet with Vanger.

b) The Middle

There are some climaxes in the story. At least there are two complications in this movie. The first complication happens when Lisbeth calls her guardian and says she needs more money. He invites her to his home and asks her to come in. He begins making advances on her again and says that if she declines he will claim she broke into her home and began exhibiting violent tendencies.

The second complication happens when Mikael was caught by Martin at Martin’s house in Hedestad. Martin then asks him what he
was doing over at Harald’s place, and Mikael tells him of all that he has found and he thinks Harriet found out about it and that is why she was murdered.

c) The End

In *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie there is one resolution that happens, after Martin was killed and police begins to investigate the Vanger family, Mikael goes back to his house and finds Lisbeth has gone. However he finds a print out of an e-mail sent to her by Plague, her hacker friend that says there are two people named Anita Vanger, one who died in London and one who lives in London since 1966.

5) Point of View

The point of view of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie that was directed by David Fincher is non-participant or the third person not narrator, it means that the author does not introduce or involve himself as the character of the story.

6) Theme

The theme in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie focuses on “violence against women and how women are striking back to justify their rights using their power, ability, and equality”.

b. Technical Elements of the Movie

1) Mise-en-Scene

   a) Setting

   The setting can be combined with the set of properties and dressing in this movie. The pictures below are the archive room where Lisbeth is looking for any informations about Vanger family and their connection to the serial killer and Mikael’s house where Mikael gathers with his friend and family.

   ![Archive Room](image1)
   ![Mikael’s House](image2)

   b) Costumes and Make-up

   The costume shows Lisbeth in her gothic style with all black outfits and mohawk hairstyle. Her make-up is also inspired by gothic make-up with bold eyeliner, piercings, bleached eyebrows and pale skin.

   ![Lisbeth in Costume](image3)
   ![Make-up](image4)
c) Lighting

Although this film tends to use a lot of dark settings, but the lighting contributes to give this film the more dramatic effect. The lighting during daylight settings also looks natural without any engineering.

![Image of lighting example]

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d) Figure Expression and Movement

This movie uses all movement and figure expression. The movement and figure expression of this movie, such as: angry, cry, happy, sad, confuse, sick, and health.

![Image of figure expression example]

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2) Cinematography

There are three kinds of angle, which are straight angle, high angle, and low angle.

![Image of cinematography example]
3) Sound

The music played in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie is an ambient soundtrack by Trent Reznor (from Nine Inch Nails) and Atticus Ross.

4) Editing

The situation shows in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie (2001) when Lisbeth is hired by Mikael as his assistant to help him to find out about the missing of Harriet Vanger. They team up together to solve the mystery of Harriet who has been missing for 40 years.

2. Amazon Feminism Analysis

   a. Physical Equality

   Physical equality can be showed through her profession and her style. In this film, Lisbeth’s professions as a hacker and fact researcher are usually done by a man. While becoming a fact researcher and hacker need hard challenge, but Lisbeth can do it well.

   b. Female Power

   Woman usually looks weak and brittle easy. Woman can not do heavy job like a man because woman seems to be soft individual in saying word and action. In this movie, shows that Lisbeth has a power and ability to do what
man is usually do. It can be seen when Lisbateteh is on undercover and hijacking Wennerstrom’s bank account.

c. Heroism

Woman tends to look as a weak creature and can not do anything when something bad happens to her, or her relatives. Lisbeth is not kind of woman like that. She can fight back, moreover, she can protect Mikael from Martin’s action at the gas room. She chases Martin who tortures Mikael with motorcycle and almost shoot him on the bridge.

D. Conclusion

The results of the analysis shows from the major character, Lisbeth Salander, in The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo movie (2011) reflected by David Fincher. This study conducted by researcher that the major characters in The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011) has been inferred from several aspects and approaches used by researcher, especially she uses one of the branch of feminist approach which is amazon feminism to analyze major character, Lisbeth Salander. Then the researcher raises the issue that how woman can be a superwoman in terms of perform well in her multiple roles. In this movie the researcher analyzes superwoman act by Lisbeth Salander as a major character.

Then based on amazon feminism in this movie, the problem occurs when Lisbeth has different lifestyle than everybody else. Although she feels comfortable with her choice, but society does not. Lisbeth’s lifestyle as a goth with androgynous look, makes her ambiguous. Sometimes, she ca be dressed as a man, with head-to-toe
black outfit, boots, and mohawk hair. She has principle that women have physical equality as men, including choice of style.

E. Suggestion

The play of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* movie reflected by David Fincher is very interesting to watch and study. The researcher, therefore, suggests the other researcher to make deeper research about the play from other approaches. For example, by analyzing the struggle of Lisbeth Salander to be accepted by society. The other researchers can use a sociological approach.

The researcher realizes that this study is not perfect yet because of her limited knowledge in literature. The researcher hopes that the reader can take the lesson from this play and uses this study to compare this research with anthers in order to widen the readers’ knowledge to the development of literary study.
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