

**GENDER INEQUALITY IN JOHN MADDEN'S
*SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE: FEMINIST APPROACH***



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Shakespeare in Love is a movie directed by John Madden. He is a famous director in U.S. He also has created many movies like *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* before. He has gotten several Academic Awards as the best director because of his great movies. *Shakespeare in Love* firstly is written by Marc Norman. He proposes great story and plot which more concerns the Shakespeare's life. There are also several producers who cooperate for finishing this movie. They are Marshall Herskovitz, Marc Norman, David Parfitt, Harvey Weinstein, Edward Zwick. This movie firstly was released on 12 December 1998 in U.S and was distributed by Universal Picture, Miramax film in U.S. United State is one of the big country which has created a million great movies. One of them is entitled "Shakespeare in Love". It shows Shakespeare's love with Viola acted by Gwyneth Paltrow. The setting of time is around 1593 or sixteenth century in London. The duration of its movie is about 2:03 or 123 minutes. During this time, the viewers are able to understand the story of Shakespeare's love. *Shakespeare in Love* also performs great actors like Joseph Fiennes (William Shakespeare), Gwyneth Paltrow (Viola), Geoffrey Rush (Philip Henslowe), Colin Firth (Lord Wessex), Ben Affleck (Ned Alleyn), Tom Wilkinson (Fennyman), Imelda (nurse). They act in *Shakespeare in Love* purely, as if it really

occurred in Shakespeare's time. This movie is made with the combination of genres between Drama and Romance. *Shakespeare in Love* also concerns the combination between screenplay, stage and acting which are described by Joseph Fiennes in the Elizabethan drama. All of these create this movie to be an amazing performance.

Shakespeare in Love tells more about the competition among two playhouses. They are Philip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush), the businessman with a financial problem, and Richard Burbage, the owner of Curtain Theatre. Both of them fight for getting audiences and the writer. In the first story, there is a play created by William Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes), a playwright and a poet, the title is "*Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*". But Shakespeare loses his ideas and his words. He really needs a muse inspiration to finish his play. The performance of Viola De Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow) changes all. Because Shakespeare has basic instinct, he tries to fulfill his desire. He gets deep relationship to Viola until he finds muse inspiration from her. Shakespeare exchanges from "*Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*" to "*Romeo and Juliette*". Viola wants to act in Shakespeare's play, but she is confined by the role that women can not act. Because of this, she has to disguise to achieve her desire, this is one of her problems. Viola also has to marry Wessex, a man who is not loved by Viola. These are the proofs that women do not have freedom to achieve her desires and her opportunities.

Shakespeare in Love is published firstly in U.S on 12 December 1998 and accepted by the society in 1999 proudly. This movie is considered as a wonderful movie, so it is successful as box office movie. *Shakespeare in Love* is offered to the

England, America, and the other country. It has sales rank about 1,253 in DVD. The descriptions of Shakespeare in Love's DVD are Audio: Dolby Digital 5.1 surrounds sound, DTS 5.1, Disc: Single side, dual layer, Languages: English, Picture: Widescreen (2.35:1/16:9 enhanced, Subtitles: Dutch, English, English captions, Hindi.

This movie invites many pro and contra opinions from community. Most of people believe that this movie is an amazing movie which reflects historical fact of Shakespeare. They say that it portrays the witty, sexy, and deep impression behind the creation of the great love story that has ever been told. A former fan of the Oakland Raiders said that "I watched this film several years ago and again tonight. I liked it quite a bit more the second time around. I guess that I got past the absurdity of this depiction of Shakespeare's life as a young man and approached the film, this time, on its own terms, as a re-imagining of what might have been" ([http://a stolen season- Shakespeare in Love-Epinions.com](http://a%20stolen%20season-%20Shakespeare%20in%20Love-Epinions.com)). Besides that, Jeffrey Wachs also stated that "Among the standout features is a 20-minutes featurette somewhat strangely titled *Shakespeare in Love*, a surprisingly enjoyable look back on Hollywood's fascination with the Bard and the making of the film itself (<http://www.fanstory.com>). Nevertheless, the writers tells that *Shakespeare in Love* also invites many controversies such as this movie is regarded as a movie which imitates the film and novel "[*No Bed for Bacon*](#)", created by [Caryl Brahms](#) and [S J Simon](#) which also describes Shakespeare's love and his inspiration for his play, Lady viola. Besides that, the writer of Shakespeare in Love, Marc Norman, is demanded by Faye

Kellerman in 1999, the author of the book “*The Quality of Mercy*”. Faye Kellerman claims that the story is taken from her book (<http://shakespeare> in love-wikipedia.the free encyclopedia)

Shakespeare in Love cannot be neglected that it is really accepted by the society. Besides that, after publishing, *Shakespeare in Love* wins many Academic Awards in the world movie like (*Golden Globe awards*), (*Academy Award for Best Picture*), (*Academy Award for Best Actress - Gwyneth Paltrow*), (*Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress - Judi Dench*), (*Academy Award for Best Art Direction - Martin Childs & Jill Quertier*), (*Academy Award for Costume Design - Sandy Powell*), (*Academy Award for Original Music Score - Stephen Warbeck*), (*Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay - Marc Norman & Tom Stoppard*), (*BAFTA Award for Best Film*), (*BAFTA Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role - Judi Dench*), etc. All of those are several evidences that *Shakespeare in Love* is one of the greatest movies which is able to hypnotize public either in domestic society or widespread society. It is regarded as the movie which has an interacted power. So it can be placed in the world movie.

Because of its great story, *Shakespeare in Love* has different appeals. There are at least three appeals such as: firstly, this movie more concerns the historical facts of William Shakespeare. It faces Shakespeare’s time and Shakespeare’s life. There are great senses of the story from his theatre and his play. The viewers should believe that in 1593, Shakespeare created play based on his own story and his life. He performed his play appropriate to his actors’ abilities and social parameter. It can be

seen from how Shakespeare reflects Romeo and Juliette based on his love story with Viola and how he adapts to the social surrounding.

Secondly, *Shakespeare in Love* deals with “art reflects life and life reflects art”. Those can be seen from how Shakespeare creates his play in which it reflects his real life, he can explore his idea and his words into a great artistic play, especially in Romeo and Juliette. His play gives an esthetic value wonderfully in the Elizabethan drama. “Life reflects art” can be proven from Shakespeare as a dramatic man and poet man who behaves artistically. He behaves like a poet who always talks with poem language spontaneously, so his overflow feelings create several great poems. The pure author’s life can be changed into big experience and it can be used as an imaginative source which results a masterpiece. The viewers also can understand two famous authors in this movie. They exist in the world poem, they are William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlow. The esthetic value is also given by Shakespeare when he changes the title of his play from “*Romeo and Ethel, The Pirate’s Daughter*” to “*Romeo and Juliette*”, depending on who is his muse inspiration. This movie also portrays sonnet of Shakespeare.

Thirdly, *Shakespeare in Love* describes social background of London in 1593. It situates the Rose Theatre which portrays tavern scenes where the prostitutes are abundant. In London at that time, there are many criminal actions and prostitutes. It can be proven when Philip Henslowe takes out his rent on the Rose Theatre and so on. The name of Rose theatre is also a street euphemism or a prostitute, so most of the bawdiness or adulatory of the movie is pretty well. Therefore, it can be concluded

that *Shakespeare in Love* contains high entertaining and great squeezing in as many scenes of a naked Gwyneth Paltrow as a good taste. The dialogue in *Shakespeare in Love* is clever, poem and witty. The one of good things can not be forgotten that this movie makes Shakespeare human, how about his struggling at his work in his society, especially in the Elizabethan drama.

Shakespeare in Love movie reflects feminist spirit, especially women's inequality, which women cannot act in play, women should follow the role, and women cannot disobey the statement role. There are significant parts which notice to the gender inequality. Firstly, in the Elizabethan Theater, there is a law that women cannot act. Women's characters are played by men, it can be viewed when Viola disguises as Thomas Kent and she acts as Romeo on the stage, Viola wears a mustache and trousers, nobody knows her disguise. Sam is a young man who should be made up like woman, because he acts as Juliette, and Ralph, a man who acts as Nurse on the Shakespeare's play.

Secondly, there are many men who explore women. Men think that women's position just as the fulfiller of men's desire. It can be looked that there are many mistresses and prostitutes.

Thirdly, women cannot choose their own lovers. Woman who has high status should marry man with high status too, even though she does not love him. In the last story, the Queen Elizabeth believes that women are very important in men's career. After Juliette acted by Viola and Romeo acted by Shakespeare, this play becomes a genuine play and a natural play. Therefore, this story gives deep impression that there

is no freedom constructed to enable women to fulfill their desire toward their love and toward their common good in the society.

Gender is different between men and women in the socio-cultural aspect. Men can disguise as women, and women can disguise as men. Probably, those are caused by the confining for women to participate in society. Gender inequality can be seen from women's subordinate, violence, women's boundary, unbalance in burden work and stereotype. Gender inequality can make women lose their opportunity in society. Women have been regarded as behind men. Many women appear to be passive, non-practical, subordinate, because women are repressed, confined and driven crazy by men. Besides that, there are several opinions that women are behind, female deer, as objects, irrational and weak. Those are different from men in which they are strong, achieve and rational. Men also have actions, qualities and high characteristics. Finally, gender differences create many problems for women in social life. Women cannot explore their opportunities, their capabilities and their opinions. Gender differences also create women oppression that is done by men. For reducing these problems, several women attempt to prove that women can do anything like men.

According to those aspects, the researcher would like to explore and analyze gender inequality in John Madden's *Shakespeare in Love* based on the Feminist Perspective, and the title is **GENDER INEQUALITY IN JOHN MADDEN'S SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE: FEMINIST APPROACH.**

C. Literature Review

As so far, the researcher has not found other researchers that research *Shakespeare in Love* directed by John Madden in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

D. Problem Statement

The problem in this research is “How is gender inequality reflected in *Shakespeare in Love* movie directed by John Madden?”

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing women characters and it is focused on gender inequality by applying feminist approach.

F. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural elements in the movie of *Shakespeare In Love*
2. To analyze gender inequality in John Madden’s *Shakespeare In Love* based on feminist approach

G. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical : to give additional information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the study of John Madden’s *Shakespeare in Love*
2. Practical : to get deep understanding in literary field about John Madden’s *Shakespeare in Love* based on Feminist approach.

H. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative as the type of the research. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative because the researcher collects the data then analyzes them and concludes them.

2. Data and Data Source

a. Data

The data in this research are events and dialogue in the movie of *Shakespeare in Love* directed by John Madden.

b. Data Source

1) Primary Data Source

Primary data source is the movie and script of *Shakespeare In Love* directed by John Madden, particularly the dialogues and actions reflecting the Feminist of the story and the character that support the research.

2) Secondary Data

Secondary data sources are any related to the primary data such as information about this movie, website and book about Feminist approach.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

There are six steps in method of data collecting:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly to get deeper understanding
- b. Browsing the internet to get some information related to the object of the study
- c. Reading the book to find out the theory, data and information about the object of the study
- d. Taking notes of important data from both primary and secondary data.
- e. Arranging the data info into several parts according to its classification

4. Technique of Analysis Data

In this paper, the researcher uses descriptive technique in analyzing data. Descriptive technique is to explore some information, state implicitly within both of primary and secondary data source. The writer makes some interpretations of the movie dealing with character of the major characters which the researcher wants to analyze using Feminist Approach.

1. Research Paper

This paper is divided into five chapters as follow:

Chapter I is Introduction, consisting of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, and Benefit of the study and Research Method. Chapter II is Underlying Theory which deals with The Notion of Feminism, Radical Feminism, Basic Concept of Radical Feminism, Structural Elements of the Movie and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social

Historical Background of United Kingdom Society in the Late Twentieth Century. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis that concerns structural analysis of the movie which includes structural elements of the movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, technical elements, point of view and theme. Chapter V is Feminist Analysis. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.