

**GENDER EQUALITY IN LUC BESSON'S *JOAN OF ARC* :
FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Joan of Arc movie is a directed by Luc Besson and written by Luc Besson, Milla Jovovich, Dustin Hoffman and Andrew Birkin. Distributed by Columbia Picture, the producer is Patrice Ledoux. The running time is around 160 minute. The release date of this movie was in October 18, 1999 and the budget of this movie is FRF 390,000,000.

Luc Besson is one of a good directors. He was born in Paris on March 18, 1959. The first film is *L'avant-dernier*, he made his first film in 1980. The next film are *Le Dernier Combat* (1983), *Subway* (1985), *Le Grand Bleu* (1988), *Nikita* (1990), *Atlantis* (1991), *Leon* (1994), *The Fifth Elemen* (1997), *Joan of Arc* (1999), *Angel-A* (2005), *Arthur et les Minimoys* (2006).

Joan of Arc movie tells us about Joan as a little girl, confessing her sins in church. The priest wonders why Joan is so deeply religious and asks if everything is alright at home, with her family and friends. Nothing seems to be wrong with her life, and he just regards her as a girl who is very religious. She skips out of the church, glad to be forgiven by God and Jesus and as she strays from diplomacy over warfare to achieving France's aims and that her services are therefore no longer required. Seeing Joan as becoming a political nuisance, Charles conspires to get rid of Joan by letting her get captured by enemy forces. She is taken prisoner by the pro-English Burgundians at

Compiègne. She briefly meets the Duke of Burgundy who sells her to the English.

When Joan is transferred to Rouen, a French city still under English occupation, a mysterious bearded man in black robes and hood, representing “Conscience”, suddenly appears and begins to question her about her romantic visions and vanishes. Charged with the serious religious crime of heresy stemming from her dubious claim of receiving visions and signs from God, she appears in an ecclesiastical court proceeding that is clearly being forced upon the Christian church by the English occupational government. She refuses to cooperate by not taking an oath and constantly offends the court by doing so. Her defiant behavior causes uproar in the courtroom, and Pierre Cauchon, the bishop of Beauvais, decides that the case should be heard privately. The English tells Cauchon that the church must quickly condemn and execute Joan for heresy because English soldiers are afraid to fight while she remains alive. However, the bishop is worried about wrongfully condemning and executing a Christian girl who may have truly received visions and signs from God.

Joan’s “Conscience” appears in prison and continues to question her visions: wind, clouds, and the dance: nothing. The sword is just a sword could in a field, so he says. He gives many rational explanations as to how a sword could appear in a field, and then show how irrational her idea of God giving her the sword seems. About to be burned for heresy, Joan is tricked into signing a written recantation when the bishop Cauchon tells her she could go

to Mass and that he himself would hear her confession. The “Conscience” tells Joan that she had just signed away God’s existence and that she had abandoned God. The relieved bishop shows the signed written recantation to the English government, and not the church, can turn her into a martyr.

The frustrated English devise another way to have Joan executed by the church instead of by them. English soldiers go into Joan’s cell room, rip her dress and give her men’s clothing to wear. They tell Cauchon that she conjured a spell to make the new clothing appear, which suggests that she is an evil witch who must be burned immediately. Although suspecting that the English may have forced the new clothes on Joan, a disappointed Cauchon nonetheless abandons Joan to her fate and would not even hear her confession. The “Conscience”, however, offers to hear her last confession: her signs were only what she wanted to believe and were not sent by God; she had fought in the name of revenge for her sister’s death; she admits that she had been selfish and cruel. Joan is burned to death in the marketplace of Rouen on May 30, 1431 at only 19 years of age.

Joan of Arc movie got some nominations and a winner in the French Academy of Cinema – 1999. The nominations are Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Editing, Best French Film, Best Music, and Best Production Design. *Joan of Arc* is a winner Best Costumes and Best Sound. According to what one of spectator said that the film is interesting and well acted. However, the script is much disorganised such that the viewer does not feel any connection with the characters. I believe that this is due to a poor story line

which spoils the quality of the acting. Beside that other spectator said that in whole of the movie Milla (Jeanne) kept trying to scream but she ot no voice. Not only her selection as Jeanne is wrong, the other casts are artificial as well. Whenever the story starts to catch some momentum, there you find Jeanne shouting at others to believe that she is messenger of God. War scenes are very short and don't put any effect otherwise. Even the French wont like this Joan of Arc.

I think *Joan of Arc* an interesting movie. There are three aspects that make this movie interesting to study, namely (1) This movie have the patriotism value very strong, so that the *Joan of Arc* movie become a good example for the audience, (2) The Joan of arc movie have a religion value, it showed by the Joan is a obedient in her religion and she always obedient with the religion principal. (3) This movie is interesting because tell us about the struggle of young girl to save her country, and she sacrificed her soul and body. She struggles to get gender equality to save her country. Gender equality is something that always wanted by the human in the world.

Joan of Arc movie focus the struggle for gender equality. That woman has the power to do better than of men. It is seeing in the main character Joan.

Gender is a combination of both masculine and feminine. Without these characteristics, a person has lost some of his/her sense of being. Child rearing is being able to take a child and wonderful human being with both characteristics inside of them. By being supportive, being a role model, and letting them do some soul searching themselves is about the best a parent can

do. (<http://www.echeat.com/essay.php?t=30048>). Here between man and women can be exchanged from their characteristic. In another words, there is a man who has the women characteristic and the other way. But man and women have an equality to get right.

Every one wants to get equality but about gender is neglected. Equality is not a minority concern; it matters to every one of us. At some point in our lives, all of us face barriers that may prevent us fulfilling our potential, or participating fully in society (<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/cehr/index.htm>). Many stereotype that women must be inferior to the man. Women traditionally had been regarded as inferior to men physically and intellectually. (<http://www.answer.com/feminism>). It means that men domination in all field or in superior place and become a measure for the perfect man. Women are regarded as a complement.

To reach the gender equality, a lot of women start to enter man field. Like is Joan in Joan of Arc. She wants to save her country, and she sacrificed her soul and body. She thinks that the women can do better than of men.

Based on explanation above, the researcher uses the feminism approach because Joan wants to show that the women can do better than men. In this study the researcher focuses her study on **GENDER EQUALITY IN LUC BESSON'S *JOAN OF ARC*: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

B. Literary Review

Joan of Arc is one of the most popular movies of Luc Besson, As long as researchers know, there is no research that has been conducted to study *Joan of Arc* movie in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The researcher tries to analyze **THE GENDER EQUALITY IN LUC BESSON'S JOAN OF ARC: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE .**

C. Problem Statement

In this research, the researcher proposes a single problem statement. The problem of the research is “How is the struggle for gender equality reflected in *Joan of Arc* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the researcher limits the focus of an analysis in the gender equality of the major character, Joan of Arc. The analysis of gender equality is based on Feminist Perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of analyzing “The Joan of Arc movie” can be elaborated as follows:

1. to analyze the movie in term of its structural elements, and
2. to analyze the gender equality in Joan of Arc movie using feminist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *Joan of Arc* Movie By Luc Besson.

2. Practical Benefit

To improve the researcher's understanding and competence in applying a Feminism Perspective in Literature.

G. Reserch Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Joan of Arc* movie. This movie is directed by Luc Besson and written by Luc Besson, Milla Jovovich, Dustin Hoffman and Andrew Birkin. Distributed by Columbia Picture. The producer in this movie is Patrice Ledoux.

3. Type of the Data and Source of the Data

The type of the data is in the form of a script movie entitled *Joan of Arc* movie directed by Luc Besson. The researcher divides the data source into two categories: primary data source and secondary data source.

a) Primary data source

The primary data source of the study is Luc Besson movie that is directed by written by Luc Besson, Milla Jovovich, Dustin Hoffman and Andrew Birkin. Distributed by Columbia Picture.

b) Secondary data source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data are as follows:

- 1) Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- 2) Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
- 3) Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- 4) Classifying the data into categories.
- 5) Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The method employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. In which the data are collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the relationship between the movie and the Feminist theory to show how gender equality is reflected in the story.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer makes an organization of this paper in order to make an easy understanding. There are six chapters in this research paper.

Chapter one is introduction it includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of feminism, the basic concept of feminism, structural element and theoretical application. Chapter three it deals with the social background of the twenty first century. Chapter four is the analysis of the movie. It includes narrative and technical element. Chapter five is feminism analysis deal in with the problems in the movie. Chapter six contains conclusion and suggestion.