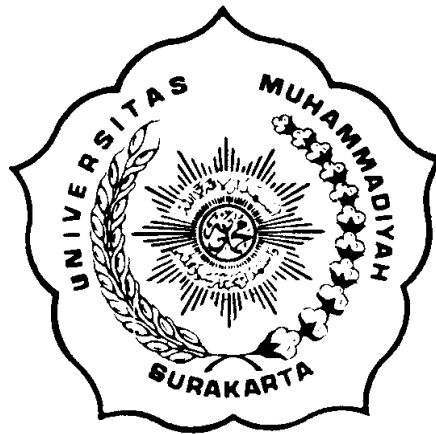


**WOMEN EMANCIPATION IN GURINDER CHADHA'S  
*BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM* MOVIE (2002):  
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**By:**

**WAHYUNING WIDI**

**A 320 060 145**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*Bend It Like Beckham* is movie directed by Gurinder Chadha. In this movie, Gurinder Chadha is not only as a director but also as a producer with Deepak Nayar and as a screenplay with Guljit Bindra and Paul Mayeda Berges. Its title comes from the football player David Beckham and his skill at scoring free kicks by “bending”. It raises issue about a woman in Indian family living in London with different culture. This movie distributed by Helkon SK, Fox Searchlight Pictures. *Bend It Like Beckham* is a 2002 movie which in first release at April 11, 2002 in United Kingdom. The next releases in Australia, July 4, 2002, India, July 12, 2002, Denmark, August 16, 2002. This movie is starring Parminder Nagra as Jess Bhamra, Keira Knightley as Jules, and Jonathan Rhys Meyers as Joe. *Bend It like Beckham* has running time 112 minutes or 1 hour 52 minutes nearby 2 hours. In this movie consist of two languages; English and Hindi. This movie takes setting in London 2001 and made with the combination of genres between Comedy and Drama.

*Bend It Like Beckham* tells much about football women and the conflict in the family. Jess Bhamra (Parminder Nagra) is 18 years old daughter of Punjabi, India immigrant living in London. Jess has dream

becoming a professional football player like her idol David Beckham. She usually plays football in the park with her best friend Tony. Her parents never support her to become a football player; they also prohibit her playing football in the park. They want Jess become a nice Indian girl; good cooker, good dresser, good behavior, and become a good scholar. All of them are not appropriate with Jess Bhamra now.

One day Jules (Keira Knightley), a football player of a local women football team, views Jess and invites her to join in her team. Jess finally joins in that team and keeps on playing secretly despite her parents objections. She goes to Hamburg, Germany for a tournament with her team. She also feels a growing attraction towards Joe (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), the team's coach, which sours her friendship with Jules, who is also infatuated with him.

Finally, Jess' family knows that Jess playing football and joins in a women football team. They become strict and ensure she does not attend matches. A great tournament that will bring her to realize her dream but that day is the wedding of Jess' sister, Pinky. She must stay at home to follow that celebration. Her father feels sad view his daughter depressed, finally he allows her to go and play. She arrives with her team 0-1 down in the final. The team is victorious after Jess scores with a curling free kick past a wall of defenders. From that tournament, Jess and Jules are offered football scholarships to an American university. Her parents finally release her to be a football player and support her to realize dream in America.

*Bend It Like Beckham* invites controversy for society. It invites pro and contra about this movie. Many people interest this movie because

this movie raises the difference dream of a girl. They say that this movie shows woman can have opportunity and achieve like men. Kenneth Turan of the *Los Angeles Times* noted that the movie was really full of easy humor, an impeccable sense of milieu that is the result of knowing the culture intimately enough to poke fun at it while understanding its underlying integrity. Besides that *The Times of India* noted that "Bend It Like Beckham "is really about the bending of rules, social paradigms and lives – all to finally curl that ball, bending it like Beckham, through the goalpost of ambition. The *BBC* gave it 4 out of 5 stars and argued that such Mr. Beckham ought to be proud to have his name on a great movie (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

Nevertheless, *Bend It Like Beckham* invites some contras, one of them is noted by Govindan Nair said “the characters muddle through all kind of misunderstandings, including Jess and her team mate’s parents belief that the two girls are having a lesbian relationship. All of this is done with enough of a light touch that you end up sympathizing with nearly all the characters” (Internet Movie Database 2009).

The review aggregator *Rotten Tomatoes* gave *Bend It Like Beckham* a rating of 85%, based upon 142 reviews (120 fresh and 22 rotten) (Internet Movie Database, 2009). The budget of this movie is £3,507,182 (estimated) and during this movie released it got \$76,583,333 gross revenue, which is the achievement of public for this movie (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

During this movie released, this movie got many nominations and awards. The nominations are nominated of *Golden Globe for Best Movie-*

*Musical or Comedy, Writers Guild of America Award-Best Screenplay, Billie Award-Entertainment-Best movie, and British Academy of Movie and Television Arts-Best Movie. Bend It Like Beckham is the winner of Pyongyang Movie Festival-Music Prize, British Comedy Award-Best comedy movie, International Movie Festival of Marrakech-Special Jury Award, ESPY Awards-Best Sports Movie ESPY Award, GLAAD Media Award-Outstanding Movie-Wide Release, Locarno International Movie Festival-Audience Award-Gurinder Chadha, Sydney Movie Festival-PRIX UIP-Gurinder Chadha, The Comedy Festival-Movie Discovery Jury award-Gurinder Chadha, National Board of Review of Motion Pictures-Special Recognition, and London Movie Critics Circle Awards-British Best Newcomer-Keira Knightley* (Internet Movie Database, 2009). All of the nominations and awards show that this movie is great and as box office movie.

*Bend It Like Beckham* is the success movie and interesting many people. Gurinder Chadha in this movie wants to show about a woman in conflict with their parents. Women emancipation in this movie can be raised by strong desire and work hard. There are three points that make this movie is interesting to be analyzed. Firstly this movie deals with women emancipation. This movie is not like usual comedy movie before. In this movie, drew different side of a woman; a girl that has unusual dream. No many women that have dream to be a football player like rose in this movie. In this era, gender equality easy women in choosing what they want appropriate their talent. Gurinder Chadha skilled in choose the issue of her movie. Soccer women are great phenomena as reflection of

gender equality. *Bend It like Beckham* clearly draws women in football world; football not only played by women in the park but also there is showed the tournament of women football. This movie become motivator for women who like football so that they not only as a viewer but also can be part of that world.

Secondly this movie reflects cultural values of India. *Bend It Like Beckham* describes the condition of Indian family that still handle their culture and custom. India for ages has had a prevailing tradition of the joint family system. It is a system under which even extended members of a family like one's parents, children, the children's spouses and their offspring, live together. Usually the male member is the head in the joint Indian family system that makes all important decisions and rules, whereas other family members abide by it. Although women and men are equal before the law and the trend toward gender equality has been noticeable, women and men still occupy distinct functions in Indian society. Woman's role in the society is often to perform household works. They still lag behind men in terms of income and job status (Kamakshi, 2009)

Thirdly this movie illustrates conflicting cultures. This movie tells about Indian family that living in London, England. They must live in different culture. There is clearly differences custom and culture between India that as east country and England that as West Country. The clear distinction that is seen in this movie is lifestyle. Jess' family still applicant the eastern culture; they disagree with free lifestyle. For women, the norm of eastern culture kept more; dressing well, prepare more the marriage, good cooking, and good behaviour. In addition, western culture, as every

body knows that it has cross culture with eastern culture. They are individual and live with free lifestyle; mostly women do not handle the norm in clothing and behaviour. Women in West Countries easy to get opportunity to realize their dream not like women in India. This crossing culture good reflected in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie so that several researchers take study about the issue of multiculturalism by this movie.

Women emancipation is the achievement of complete economic, social, political and religious equality of women with men, an aspiration whose realization in the course of the twentieth century has been gradual, varied, and incomplete. Women emancipation is the reflection of human right, especially women's right. It is the equal opportunity for women in social, economic, education, politic, and culture. Women are entitled to live in dignity and in freedom from want and from fear. Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. In era of women emancipation, basically women have equal opportunity and equal treatment in society. Several women attempt to prove that women can achieve their goals of life like men. Finally, women are not as the second sex, they can explore their opportunities, their capabilities, and their opinions in the all aspects.

According to those reasons, the researcher would like to explore analyze women emancipation in Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It Like Beckham* movie based on the Feminist Perspective, and the title is **WOMEN EMANCIPATION IN GURINDER CHADHA'S *BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM* MOVIE (2002) : A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

## B. Literature Review

There are two researcher who have conducted the study of *Bend It Like Beckham* movie. The first is Pauline Edhita Laurencia (2007, Petra Christian University) entitled “The Cultural Generation Differences in Gurinder Chadha’s *Bend It Like Beckham*”. The focus of this study is on the different perspectives on lifestyle, education, job, marriage, and the role of women of Jess and her parents. This study uses the literary approach using the theory of conflict and characterization. This study concludes that although there are huge differences and potentials conflict between Jess and her parents, they are able to make succesful compromises.

The second is Surya Yuyun W.I (2008, Airlangga University) entitled “Women’s Reception Toward Multiculturalism Issue in the Media”. This study aims to explore women's construction in facing multiculturalism issue in movie *Bend It Like Beckham*. The result of this study are 1) Women were constructed as doubtfull when experience dilemma in maintaining or against their traditional cultural values, 2) In their social relations, women were constructed in different characters and contexts, 3) Participants of this study state the society is more open in accepting multiculturalism, 4) Participants interpret that the movie represents multiculturalism issue in form of dichotomy between modernity and traditional; masculinity and femininity; protective and democratic.

The differences of this study and two previous studies are in the theme and the perspective. This study focus in women emancipation reflected in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie and uses feminist approach while the first previous study focus on the different perspectives on lifestyle,



education, job, marriage, and the role of women of Jess and her parents and uses the literary approach using the theory of conflict and characterization and the second previous study focus to explore women's construction in facing multiculturalism issue in movie *Bend It Like Beckham*.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the research is “How is women emancipation reflected in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie directed by Gurinder Chadha?”

### **D. Limitation of Study**

The writer focuses on analyzing woman character and it is focused in women emancipation based on feminist approach.

### **E. Objectives of Study**

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Bend It Like Beckham* movie.
2. To analyze women emancipation in Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It like Beckham* based on feminist approach.

### **F. Benefits of Study**

The study of women emancipation reflected in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie has two benefits.

1. Theoretically

This research will improve the study of literature as the modern art especially in *Bend It Like Beckham* and the elements.

## 2. Practically

The results of the study will improve the writer's knowledge of women emancipation as reflected in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie.

## G. Research Method

### 1. Type of the Study

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

### 2. Type of Data and Data Source

#### a. Type of Data

The data of this study are scenes and dialogue in *Bend It Like Beckham* movie by Gurinder Chadha.

#### b. Data Source

- 1) The primary data source is the movie and script of *Bend It Like Beckham* movie directed by Gurinder Chadha which is related to the study.
- 2) The secondary data source is information theory related to term; biography of character.

### 3. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Bend It Like Beckham* movie directed by Gurinder Chadha.

### 4. Method of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is documentation. The writer views the primary data repeatedly to reach more

understanding of source. Next, the writer takes, compares, quotes, and studies others data into some categories and develops them into a good unity.

#### 5. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive, researcher uses feminist approach and draws conclusion.

### **H. Research Organization**

The researcher systematizes this research into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which consist of background, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents Notion of Feminism, Basic Concept of Feminism, and Structural Elements of the Movie and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Background of English Society. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of the movie, which involves the narratives elements, technical elements, and discussion. Chapter V is Feminist Analysis. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.