

**DISEMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN CLINT EASTWOOD'S
CHANGELING MOVIE (2008): A SOCIALIST FEMINIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Changeling is box office 2008 American movie directed by Clint Eastwood and written by J. Michael Straczynski. Based on real life events in 1928 Los Angeles. The film stars Angelina Jolie as a woman who is reunited with her missing son but retrieved. This movie has five major characters and eight minor characters, the major characters are Angelina Jolie as Christine Collins, Jeffrey Donovan as Capt. JJ Jones, John Malkovich as Rev. Gustav Briegleb, Devon Conti as Arthur Hutchins, Jr, Michael Kelly as Detective Lester Ybarra.

Clinton "Clint" Eastwood Jr was born on May 31, 1930 in San Francisco, California, U.S. Before becoming such kind of well-known people, he firstly graduated from Oakland Technical High School in 1949. He began acting during the mid-1950s, with unaccredited appearances in B-films such as *Revenge of the Creature*, *Tarantula*, and *Francis in the Navy* that become him as an American actor, film director, producer and composer.

Changeling, in this movie, Christines lives with only one son, that is Walter in her life. Christine roles as the mother and the leader of her family, she firmly used her time for working in Telephone operator in Los Angles, U.S. On Saturday morning in a working-class suburb, Christine said goodbye to her son, Walter, and left for work. When she was coming back from

working, she caught her son not in the house. From these events, she reported it to the police, but the police neglected her recommendation to seek her son.

Christine Coline always insisted to the police to find her son, one day after, the police come to Christine's house to hear the chronologies and the features of her missing son. They were given a latest Walter's photo. Five months later, a boy is found in Illinois who fits the description. He said he was her son. To fanfare and photos, the LAPD reunite mother and son, but she insists he was not her boy. The cops dismiss her as either a liar or hysterical.

From those cases, the police proposed the bad idea to change the lost son with other son, and he was forced by the police to confess that his self is not the real Walter by saying the Address of the Christins's house. After meeting the wrong Walter with his mother, Christine, the police insisted that she had found her son in front of the media. Knowing those cases, Rev. Gustav Briegleb as pastor helped her to find Christine's son.

Day to day, Christine underwent the strange activity acted by that son, through these cases, Christins sued to the police to seek the real son and rejecting that the boy beside her was not the real Walter. Recognizing the Christine's statement in public that actually that boy was not her son, the police decided that Christine experienced bad temperature, grid, and bad appearance.

As the days and weeks go by, the Collin's case becomes the object of a campaign by Pastor Gustav Briegleb who mocks against the incompetence and corruption of the Los Angeles Police Department. She realizes that the police have returned a stranger to her in an attempt to bring an end to the public

complaints about their handling of her case. Her attempts to get justice bring her into conflict with the LAPD who will go to any length to protect their reputation. When she continues to complain she finds herself arrested and confined to the mental ward or the hospital. Through her perseverance, she eventually learns of her son's fate and exposes the corruption and incompetence of the LAPD in media.

This movie also created the pro and contra from the public response. Based on *Times* on Wednesday in October 22th 2008, *Changeling* was the sensational movie that why it contained all the horribly elements portraying in police-procedural fashion. In addition, this film also shown its purposeful accumulation of depravities, both individual and institutional.

The other media is *Newsweek* newspaper. They argued Jolie in *Changeling* rolled her with admirable restraint and slow-burning ferocity. On the contrary, this movie, *Changeling* does not have the moral nuances of most recent Eastwood movies. Then again, some stories really are about the good people and the bad, and it only concerned in moral outrage. The characters come neatly fit in black or white hats.

The achievement of this movie is able to reach dropped to fifth place at the box office. *Changeling* was released on DVD and video on demand in North America on February 17, 2009 and in the United Kingdom on March 30, 2009. After its first week of release, *Changeling* placed fourth in the DVD sales chart with 281,000 units sold for \$4.6 million by its fourth week of release and also the film had dropped out of the top 10, having earned \$10.1 million.

Changeling received nominations in three Academy Award and eight BAFTA Award categories. In categories best actress in leading the role was reached by Angelina Jolie. In 2008 Costume Designers Guild Awards with nomination Excellence in Costume Design Period Film was won by *Changeling*.

The appearing of the disempowerment of women are viewed as the object of level in the government, police when they want to get the truth from the institution. As she pushes authorities to keep looking, she learns that in Prohibition-era L.A. women do not challenge the system and live to tell their story. Based on the actual incident that rocked California's legal system, *Changeling* tells the shocking tale of a mother's quest to find her son, and those who will not stop until they silence her.

Moreover, she still stands in her aim to against the legal system motivated by the power not injustice. It can be indicated from the utterance delivered by the Chief of Police James E. Davis makes the following announcement:

“We will hold trial on gunmen in the streets of Los Angeles. I want them brought in dead, not alive, and I will reprimand any officer who shows the least bit of mercy on a criminal.” This is immediately followed by a shot of officers executing a line of criminals in the middle of a dark street. An elimination of the competition. For a system this dishonest, a persistent woman like Collins is seen as nothing but a disruption”.

From these cases occurred in the real life, make this film is interesting to be watched. There are some reason why this film is called interesting to be watched, the first reason is this film in truly take place in the real life

especially in Los Angeles, US and also it is scary adapting the film from the true story happened in society.

The second reason is an impressive film, that why, the story of the film remains is difficult to be neglected or the other hand it can be called an unforgettable film. It is shown from the sacrifice of Angelina Jolie as Christine in obtaining the aim, stand straightly to be single parent in her life. The other one, the setting used in the film shows the different views from the watcher..

The third reason is conflicting, the conflict here appeared when her son was missing, and she efforts to insist the police to seek her son. The conflict here hurtles the government from injustice in society. Conflict which was taken place in Christine life, was the hot issue to be seen and criticized. Starting point of the conflict's appearance was her son, Walter found not in house. The conflict rised more in police department condition where the public viewed there were discrimination, intimidation, and injustice system in the society.

The fourth reason is easy to understand, since the film from the beginning until the end mostly told the kidnapped son. Therefore, the message is simply to convey to others. The watcher of this film would feel enjoy and relax in understanding the message delivering by the director. The curiosity of the viewer was also created by the director, that in the ending of film, no one knows that a boy who has escaped from the murder was the real Walter.

Finally, the main goal here is disempowerment of woman to be the issue that carries out into the research. In *Changeling* film shows the

disempowerment of woman was portrayed by the main character, namely Christines. That is why, the writer uses **DISEMPOWERMENT OF WOMAN IN CLINT EASTWOOD'S CHANGELING A SOCIALIST FEMINISM APPROACH** as the title of this research. Besides that, the writer's reason using such that approach as the theory is to analyze the film, because that film mostly deals with the disempowerment of woman happened in Christine's life. She insisted the truth and justice's treatment in handling the problem. The appropriate feminism here is about socialist feminism that focus on getting equal right based on class and reproduction of capitalism in the society namely between men and women.

B. Literature Review

In this research, the writer did not find the research regarding the socialist feminist approach in Changeling film. In the contrary, the writer found two sources that are an essay and an article.

The first is an essay written by Cecilia Rasmussen entitled "Reunited Son", on February 17th 2009 Los Angles, America. She said that film involves not only apparent abduction, but also impersonation, police coercion, false imprisonment, psychiatric abuse, and a court fight that stretched on for more than a decade. Moreover, the changeling film was a story with victims and villains.

Why is it called as a story with victims and villains, because there is a pressure which is pointed to the women. Christine Colline should accept that boy given by the Police Department although he is not the real son.

The second is an article written by Omar_P.L._Moore on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. This article entitled “A long life Search” viewed as jabbing critics to the police department, legal and political underbelly of 1920s Los Angeles. Christine is a single mother to Walter, working as a supervisor at a telephone-operator station. Returning home from a last-minute shift, a day on afternoon she was to take Walter to the movies, but Christine finds Walter gone. Panicked, she calls the police, who promptly delay her missing-persons claim. Her crisis draws the attention of Rev. Gustav Briegleb (John Malkovich), an outspoken critic of police corruption.

Eventually, Walter’s rescue is seen as positive response for a department wheezing with sickness, and Captain J.J. Jones to make it a priority. Unfortunately, Captain J.J Jones as the Missing Son Department convert Christine’s son, Walter with other boy.

C. Problem Statement

The crucial problem of the study is “how disempowerment of woman in the society is portrayed in Christine’s life of “Clint Eastwood’s *Changeling*. This kind of disempowerment is closer with the habit in woman’s life in *Changeling*. It is occurred in Christine’s life in the society as the major character.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on the disempowerment of woman portrayed in Christine Collin as the major character. By adopting the socialist feminist approach by Andersen theory, the writer tries to explore the disempowerment of woman portrayed by Christine Colin.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of the study is to analyze the film “Changeling” by using socialist feminist theory.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer do hope that this research is able to contribute the benefits to others, the benefit of this study as follows:

1. To give theoretical contribution to the larger body of knowledge particulary in understanding the literary study in Clint Eastwood.
2. This study is expected to enlarge the writer knowledge and experience both the literary research feminism perspective and the *Changeling* itself.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Clint Eastwood’s *Changeling*.

2. Type of the Study

In analyzing the film, the writer uses the qualitative method, the data to be performed in descriptively analyzed.

3. Data and Data Source

The writer uses the dialogue and scene as the types of data source supporting by the script of the film to catch a comprehension understanding. However, there are two sources of gaining the data that are primary and secondary data source:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the Film of *Changeling* written directed by Clint Eastwood published in Los Angles, US 2009.

b. Secondary Data Source

Supporting the data such as author biography, an essay, comment, historical information, and other relevant information.

4. Method of Collecting Data

The technique used in collecting data is the research utilize the library research, it can be obtained by some steps as follows:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly
- b. Reading the script of that film
- c. Taking a note of the necessary part in both the primary and secondary data sources
- d. Classifying the data into some categories

5. Technique for Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the researcher employs the descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies the Gender Inequality in police

department that reflected in major character, Christine by using feminism perspective.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make easier to understand. This research is divided into five chapters: Chapter I is introduction. In this chapter the writer divided it into six items, they are: background of the study, previous study, problem of the study, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of feminist theory, which is adopted from Andersen's book. Chapter III is historical background of America at turn of twenty first century. It presents the social aspects, economic aspects, science and technology aspects, religious aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, and women conditions. Chapter IV is research finding. Chapter V is feminist analysis. And chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.