

**STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S POLITICAL RIGHT IN  
KATJA VON GARNIERS'S *IRON JAWED ANGELS*  
(2004): A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Woman suffrage in the United States was achieved gradually, at state and local levels, during the 19th Century and early 20th Century, culminating in 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which provided: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. ([http://wikipedia.org/wiki/women's suffrage in the United State](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/women's_suffrage_in_the_United_State)). Women Suffrage in United State which provokes by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns in National Women's Party. People called them *Iron Jawed Angels*.

*Iron Jawed Angels* is a drama, film directed by Katja Von Garnier, producer by Len Amato, Lydia Dean Pilcher, Robin Forman and Paula Weinstein, cinematography by Robbie Greenberg. *Iron Jawed Angels* was screenplay by Sally Robinson, Eugenia Bostwick Singer, Raymond Singer and Jennifer Friedes. This film released on January 16, 2004 in Sundance films festival and in 15 February, 2004 in the movie by HBO films. The film runs 2 hours. The film takes location in Philadelphia, Washington D.C, Tennessee, New York and USA. The starring by Hillary Swank as Alice Paul, Frances O' Connor as Lucy Burns, Angelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt,

Molly Parker and Emily Leighton, Julia Ormond as Inez Mulholland, Laura Fraser as Doris Steven, Brooke Smith as Mabel Vernon, Vera Farmiga as Ruza Wenclawska, and Patrick Dempsie as Ben Weissman.

*Iron Jawed Angels* movie begins in 1912 Philadelphia, two young suffragist activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns have a meeting with Carrie Chapman Catt of NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association). With their spirits of the two younger activists is in hard contrast to the more conservative to the older women. Alice and Lucy want to press for a constitutional amendment for women to have right to vote, but the older women prefer state by state approach. Alice Paul is permitted to take over in NAWSA in Washington, D.C. committee, provided she and Lucy Burns raise their own funds. They begin with their first in big event that is a parade to promote women's suffrage and recruit a team of volunteers including Alice's friend in college Mabel Vernon, Polish Worker Ruza Wenclawska and social worker Doris Stevens. Alice and Lucy further oppose the Carrie Chapman Catt when they raise funds outside of NAWSA to publish a newspaper calling for women to boycott Wilson in the next election.

In *Iron Jawed Angels* movie when World War I begins, and President Wilson seems headed for victory in the reelection campaign. When Paul and Mrs. Leighton join the picket line, they are attacked by a mob, and subsequently imprisoned themselves. In the women's prison, Paul goes on a

hunger strike. She is then denied an advisor, placed in a straitjacket, and subjected to examination in the psychiatric ward. The doctor tells President Wilson that Alice Paul shows no signs of mania or delusion, and she returns to the prison's general population, where she leads the suffragettes on a hunger strike. The warden begins force feeding them, and a sympathetic guard sneaks to Alice Paul with give her pen and paper.

Carrie Chapman Catt tries to meet President Wilson to repay her years of loyalty by finally supporting the suffrage amendment, but President Wilson refuses. Senator Leighton visits his wife in prison, and is awful by her condition. During their meeting, she slips him Paul's note, describing in detail their mistreatment. Word of the force feeding leaks out, and public opinion shifts in favor of the suffrage, now known as the "iron jawed angels." Carrie Chapman Catt seizes the moment to press President Wilson into supporting the suffrage amendment, and the women are released from prison as he comes out in its favor in a Congressional speech.

In the end of the story by 1920, 35 states have ratified the amendment, but one more state is needed. Tennessee becomes that state when an obstinate legislator casts the deciding vote after receiving a telegram from his mother. On August, 26, 1920, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment becomes law, and 20 million American women win the right to vote.

*Iron Jawed Angels* is not including to box office, because this movie is not rated but *Iron Jawed Angels*. *Iron Jawed Angels* also get some awards like

Winner of the 2004 Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Series, Mini-Series or Television Movie) (Anjelica Huston) from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Responses about *Iron Jawed Angels* from Americans is also very various. Many people like this movie, because this movie gave them inspiring about women struggle to win their suffrage. So many comments about this movie, here they are “I just finished watching this film on HBO. Wow... I was really amazed and inspired. Of course, the story is great - women with wills of steel who ignored societal strictures and fought for their rights”. Comment from Luna in Boston, USA. And also “I found this film to be so powerful as to reduce me to tears. It certainly deserves wide distribution and the pity is that it most likely won't. In the past I have glibly mentioned the getting of the vote as if it was as simple as ordering fries. Clearly the struggle for the vote required extraordinary strength. This film blends a rather modernistic, upbeat directorial style with some modest homage to period detail. I trust that this approach will make the film more easily accessible to younger viewers” said Bill in British Columbia, both of the comments is from IMDb user reviews for *Iron Jawed Angels*.

*Iron Jawed angels* is an interesting movie, there are four reasons to the writer choose this movie to analyze. The first about the character and characterization. *Iron Jawed Angels* is a Historical movie; which is told about the women's hero and historical events in that time. So the director tries to

make the audiences to drowning about the movie with the strong character in major character.

The second point is the casting. The acting in *Iron Jawed Angels* is amazing. Hilary Swank gives an amazing, powerful performance as Alice Paul, the highly educated, brilliant political strategist with a Quaker background and fiery tongue. Frances O'Connor, who holds her ground next to the never given up Alice, plays her cohort, Lucy Burns, equally well. The beautiful and articulate lawyer, Inez Milholland, played by Julia Ormond, delivers one of the most memorable scenes in the movie when she grandly leads the 1913 parade riding a regal white horse, holding herself with pride and dignity, wearing a resplendent white robe and magnificent angel wings suitably used to symbolize justice and liberty.

The third point is mise en scene. Here mise en scene has some aspects, they are set dressing, and props, costumes, make up lighting, and figurative expression and movement. For the set dressing and properties which is used in the *Iron Jawed Angels* they are antique and unique, all properties is old instruments, for example when they found the old building for NWP's new office, from the building, typing machines, phone, cars, lamps. For costumes and make up in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie adapt to the nineteenth, the make up make the actors make alive to the situation and condition in the past time and also helps the characters of the actors presents the external appearance of the movie. Robbie Greenberg thoughtful black and white cinematography helps

evoke the time and place portrayed. Hans Funck's editing makes the movie at lightning speed, so that by the time its 2 hours are over the audiences feel realize how long the audience have been watching.

The fourth point about feminism that is reflected in this movie to especially about struggle women's right in political. *Iron Jawed Angels* was a loyalty, disagreements, violence, and personal sacrifice of a struggle by women to get their right in society. This movie also gives the inspirations to women. *Iron Jawed Angels* is faithfully recreates the historical events that led to the ratification of the Nineteenth Constitutional Amendment.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Iron Jawed Angels* movie by using feminist criticism theory by Donovan, Andersen, Mandel and Tong Rosemary. The writer wants to analyze "STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S POLITICAL RIGHT IN KATJA VON GARNIER'S *IRON JAWED ANGELS* MOVIE (2004): A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE".

## **B. Literature Review**

*Iron Jawed Angels* is an interesting movie; there are many aspect of life that can be analyzed from this movie. But as long as the writer knows, there are no previous studies in the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*, at least among students in region central Java Universities.

But, there are two studies about *Iron Jawed Angels* movie. For the first the writer find an essay which related and discussion about the movie. The first essay entitled "A comparison of the views expressed in the film *Iron*

*Jawed Angels*, directed by Katja von Garnier, with *Martin Luther King*, in 'Three Types of Resistance to Oppression.' ” (2007) written by Junior. In this essay focuses on his views expressed in his paper "Three Types of Resistance to Oppression," in which he preached non violent resistance as a means of fighting oppression and achieving social goals.

For the second is “An analysis of "Others in their Own Land: Second Generation South Asian Canadian Women, Racism and the Persistence of Colonial Discourse" in *Why I'm a Feminist* by Lauren Anderson, and the film *Iron Jawed Angels* by Katja Von Garnier (2007) written by Angela Aujla. In her paper, she focuses on key concepts in these texts and explains how they are significant for contemporary feminism.

Different from that previous study, this research focuses on feminist criticism study about how the women struggle for women’s political right in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Considering the idea that has been explained above, the researcher proposes the single major problem in this study is: How the women struggle for women’s political right reflected in Katja Von Garnier’s *Iron Jawed Angels* movie?



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

The researcher focuses on analyzing the struggle for women's political right in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie, based on feminist approach.

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objective of analyzing of *Iron Jawed Angels* movie can be elaborated as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze women's political right in *Iron jawed Angels* movie based on 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 *Iron Jawed Angels* movie by Katja Von Garnier.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

To improve the researcher's understand and competence in applying feminist perspective in literature.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of Research**

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

### **2. Object of Research**

Object of the research in this case is Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angels movie. In introducing the research, the writer is going to analyze it by using feminist criticism.

### **3. Types of the Data and Source of Data**

#### **a. Types of data**

##### **1) Primary Data**

Primary data is the main data obtained from the pictures and the moviescripts of the movie.

##### **2) Secondary Data**

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticisms, articles and journals related to the movie.

The types of data that taken from the movie are : captures of the movie, the speeches of the characters in the movie and setting of images in the movie

## **b. Sources of data**

### 3) Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angels movie and its manuscript by Jennifer Friedes and Sally Robinson.

### 4) Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual reference as documentation.

## **4. Technique of Data Collection**

In this research, the researcher uses library and digital research. The data are collected by watching the movie and collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is watching the Iron Jawed Angels movie to identify the data and take notes the data. Beside take notes, the researcher also captures the scenes, notes the setting of the scenes. Then it continued by reading the related references to learn more about the data. After that, the data is analyzed by using the relevant theory and references from the articles, journal and digital references from internet which is containing the meaning of each data.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In this research, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies defense mechanism of major and main character in Katja Von Garnier's Iron Jawed Angels movie using feminist criticism.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research consist of six chapter which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method, and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consist of feminist. Chapter III deals with the social background with all of the aspect of the social reality of the American society in the turn of twenty-first century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the movie by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, and theme of the movie and brief discussion. Chapter V is Feminist Analysis dealing with the problems in the movie. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.