

**VIOLA'S STRUGGLE TO BE A SOCCER PLAYER IN ANDY  
FICMAN'S *SHE'S THE MAN* MOVIE (2006): A FEMINIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*She's The Man*, one of the movies that were released on March 17, 2006 in the international and on September 28, 2006 in Indonesia. *She's The Man* movie's director is Andy Fickman; screenplay by Ewan Leslie, Jack Leslie, Karen McCullah Lutz, Kristen Smith: suggested by *Twelfth Night* by William Shakspeare; Cinematography by Greg Gardine; Cast by Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum, Laura Ramsy, Jonathan Sadowski, Robert Hoffman, James Snyder, Alex Breckenridge, Jessica Lucas, James Kirk, Emily Parkins, Vinnie Jones, Robert Torti, Julie Hagerty, David Cross, Amanda Crew; U.S Distributor by Dreamworks S.K.G; Category is Comedy – Romance; Music by Nathan Wang; Running length is 1:45; MPAA Classification is PG – 13 (sexual material); Theatrical Aspect ratio is 1.85.1. *She's The Man* movie talks about a woman namely “Amanda Bynes” as Viola Hastings who is high school soccer player of girl soccer team in her school, Cornwall Amanda Bynes is the Strongest, most conventionally “Masculine” character in this film who wants to join boy's soccer team at Illyria (Berardinelli, 2006).

*She's The Man* tells about Viola's struggle to be a soccer player. Viola Hastings (Amanda Bynes) is a high school soccer player of girl soccer team but the team is cut down. After her request to join the boy's team is refused, she finds a way to play for Cornwall's rival, Illyria. Viola's twin brother

Sebastian, whom she resembles physically is supposed to enter Illyria as a new student. However, he plans to visit London secretly to enter contest with his rock band. Sebastian asks Viola to cover for him by telling the school that he is sick and each of their parents (who are divorced) that he is staying with the other, Viola decides to pass herself off as Sebastian and joins the boys soccer team Illyria. She hopes to beat Cornwall team and humiliate her goalie ex-boyfriend Justin (Robert Hoffman). With the help of her friends Paul (Jonathan Sadowski), Kia (Amanda Crew), and Yvonne (Jessica Lucas), Viola becomes “Sebastian” (Internet Movie Database, 2006).

At Illyria, Viola’s roommate is Duke Orsino (Channing Tatum), a good looking striker on the soccer team. Kia and Yvonne agree to help Viola make her alter ego seem popular by pretending to be in love with “Sebastian”. Viola also publicly breaks up with the real Sebastian’s girlfriend, Monique. Duke and his friends are impressed, but Viola soccer skills are still not good enough to make first string. It looks like Viola may not be able to play in the game against Cornwall after all. After spending so much time with him, Viola realizes that she has fallen in love with Duke. However, Duke is only interested in Viola’s lab partner, Olivia (Laura Ramsey). In exchange for Viola’s help in getting Olivia’s attention, Duke agrees to put an extra soccer practice time with her. The practice pays off when Coach Dinklage (Vinnie Jones) promotes Viola to first string. By this time, Olivia has developed a crush on “Sebastian”. Since “Sebastian” is not interested in her, Olivia decides to go out with Duke to make him jealous. Meanwhile, Monique and

her friend Malcolm find out Viola's secret identity. The plot is complicated when the real Sebastian returns from London early. When he arrives at Illyria, Olivia runs up and kisses him. Duke sees this and thinks his roommate has betrayed him. He kicks Viola out of their room (Internet Movie Database, 2006).

On the day of big game, Monique and Malcolm reveal the truth about Viola to Principal Gold. Because Viola has overslept, the real Sebastian winds up on the field playing in what should be his sisters' spot. Principal Gold stops the game but Sebastian proves that he is really a boy yanking off his shorts and exposing his penis. At half time, Viola explains the situation to Sebastian and they switch places again. Duke is still angry with "Sebastian" and refuse to pass the ball to Viola. She tries to explain that she is really a girl and finally she convinces Duke and everyone else by showing them her breast. The coach agrees to let Viola keep playing anyway. Illyria wins the game on a penalty kick when Viola scores a goal by tricking her ex-boy friend Justin. Everyone at Illyria rejoices after the victory, except for Duke who is hurt by Viola's deception. She invites Duke to her debutante ball, where they reconcile. As the movie ends, Viola is seen playing on Illyria's soccer team (Internet Movie Database, 2006).

*She's The Man* invites some controversies for the society. It invites pro and contra about this movie. Based on 108 reviews, *She's The Man* scored a 44% freshness rating on Rotten Tomatoes with 44 reviews counted as "fresh" and 61 reviews counted as "rotten". Besides that, there are many

people who said that this movie gives some new spirit for woman and gives an explanation to the woman. This is because woman always being underestimated by man, the man thinks that woman has no power; they are scared to get scratch. Mark Pfeiffer, a film critic who discusses current cinema on WOCC TV3's "Now Playing" noted that this movie is cleverer than other teen comedy movies.

Nevertheless, *She's The Man* got many contra critics. David Nusair from reel film reviews noted that *She's The Man* Movie is a movie for a kid, he argued that *She's The Man* is impossible because a normal woman would not do that. Some said on Tommato that this movie is noisy and wildly overacted. Jessica Letkeman from Premiere Magazine noted that its kooky hybrid of slapstick gender jokes already had whiskers on them in Shakespeare's day.

In the market sector, this movie is success to gain much gross revenue, it can be seen from the gross revenue that reaches \$57,194,667 worldwide from the budget \$20,000,000 and *She's The Man* got \$10,000,000 in the first weekend and raised its position top the 4<sup>th</sup> in the chart of the week. It cannot be doubted again that *She's The Man* succeeds entering box office.

During this movie released this movie only won one award from the nomination "Movies Choice Breakout (Male) that was given to Channing Tatum and one nominated from nomination "Movies: Choice Liplock" that was given to Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum. The award and nomination are coming from Teen Choice Award.

From the phenomena of Viola life in this movie, there is one of the life problems that becomes the source of literary works which is the struggle of woman to get equal right to be a soccer player because there is still unfair chance of woman to prove if she also has ability like man. *She's The Man* movie has different opinion about woman. In this movie Viola Hastings (Amanda Bynes) fights to get her wish, namely she wants to join in Illyria's soccer team. The central character of this movie is Amanda Bynes; she is high school soccer player of soccer team of her school. After the request to join the boy's team is refused, she finds a way to play for Cornwall's' rival, Illyria. So, she instead decides to pass herself off as Sebastian and join the boy's soccer team at Illyria.

One of the problems which is often faced by every human being especially woman is how to stand up their rights and not allow their male dominated society to define what it means to be a woman. Woman themselves most show their capability, to prove who they are and what role they will play in the society. Most importantly, they must refuse the patriarchal assumption that woman are inferior to men. Therefore according to Anderson in Mandell, (1995:5) he states that every person has equal opportunities and civil rights and they should be allowed to exercise freedom of choice without interfere of public opinion or law.

The researcher chooses this movie to be literary works analysis because there are four reasons that make this movie interesting to watch. First is because this is inspiring movie. The second is interesting and realistic

movie. The third reason is the plot built is attractive. And the fourth reason is Viola's struggle to be a soccer player becomes the main issue of the movie.

The first reason is because the story of this movie can be as an inspiration for woman to fight for their right in their society. *She's The Man* tells a woman who refuses patriarchal culture (soccer), she does it to be one of them (men). When to be a man, she experiences some conflicts, and then finishes sweetly. In another side, Violas is forced to be a woman by her mother by joining manner ship class for woman But Viola fights to be a soccer player constantly with some ways. She wants to show her ability and capability to prove who she is. She fights to get freedom of her choices and determine what she should do without interfere the other side. Viola's struggle also reminds the researcher about R.A Kartini's fighting for equality between men and women in the society. During the imperialism comes to Indonesia, women has no right in education, occupation, career, hobbies, etc, they must stay at home. So, because of Kartini's struggle, slow but sure, woman has equal existence with the men, as Viola who fights to get her right.

The second reason is because this movie is interesting and realistic; it is near with society daily life. Everyone who watches this movie would think that the story tells about them. This movie is familiar to the society. Not many directors can cover the society's problem in a movie as well as Viola's struggle.

The third reason is attractive plot. The conflict from the early moment plays the audience emotion. It makes the movie become not boring to watch.

And the last reason, Viola's struggle to be a soccer player that becomes the main issue of the movie is reflected well. In this movie, Viola Hastings covers gender inequality issue which can be found in the society. This inequality exists as a heritage. The story of the movie tells the existence of gender inequality symbolized by the main character. That is why, the researcher uses feminist approach.

Viola's struggle reflects woman emancipation. Viola gives inspiration for woman in the world to change their self to be a brave one. So she wants to change the stereotype of woman that woman is weak, has no power to do mans' work. And Viola thinks that woman can give many contributions for the world even to do a man's work. Finally, she wants to wake woman up from their sleep that they are not the second sex, they can get the same opportunities with the man, and they can explore their capabilities and their opinion.

According to those reasons, it attracts the researcher to analyze the movie within the feminist perspective frame work into his research paper entitled "VIOLA'S STRUGGLE TO BE A SOCCER PLAYER IN ANDY FICKMAN'S *SHE'S THE MAN* MOVIE (2006): A FEMINIST APPROACH".



## B. Literature Review

The first literature review is about gender reflection in a film. The title is “*Gender Equality in She’s the Man Movie* Directed by Andy Fickman: Feminist Approach, which is conducted by Chandra Maulana (2007), the student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The researcher uses qualitative research. Type of Data and Data Source used by the researcher are the primary data source will be from every data of the *She’s the Man* movie that is directed by Andy Fickman which is related to the study and the secondary data source will be from all referential data; it can be from books, internet, etc.

The second literature review of this research is *She’s the Man: Film Analysis Paper* by Johanna Recalde (2008). In this analysis the researcher tries to analyze Viola’s sacrifice to be a soccer player, she leaves her beautiful life in order to reach her dream. The data of this analysis is *She’s the Man* film while the technique of collecting the data is observing the film. The researcher uses comparing model as the technique of analyzing the data. The researcher compares *She’s the Man* film with two homes film. The result is the researcher finds that Viola’s sacrifice comes because of her great willing and parent lack.

The difference between Chandra’s research and the current research is in problem statement. Chandra’s research concern on gender equality in the *She’s the Man* film using feminism approaches while the current research concerns on Viola’s struggle to be a soccer player.

The difference between the current research and Johanna's analysis paper is in the problem statement. If Johanna's analysis paper concerns on Viola's sacrifice to be a soccer player because of will while the current research concern on Viola's struggles to be a soccer player.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement in this research is "How is Viola's Struggle to be a soccer player being reflected in Andy Fickman's *She's The Man* Movie.

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

The researcher focuses on the analysis of "Viola Hastings" as the major character in *She's the Man Movie*, viewed from the feminist perspective.

### **E. Objective of The Study**

The objectives of the research area as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *She's The Man* movie.
2. To analyze Viola's Struggle to be a soccer player in Andy Fickman's *She's The Man* movie based on the feminist perspective.

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

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
  - b. To give contribution to another literary research especially in the study of the *She's The Man Movie*.
2. Practical benefit
    - a. For getting deeper understanding about feminist issues in the *She's the Man Movie*.
    - b. For finishing the researcher's research paper in English Department.

## **G. Research Method**

### 1. Type of Research

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which results the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

### 2. Type of Data and Data Source

#### 1) Type of Data

The data of this study are scenes and dialogue in Andy Fickman's *She's The Man* movie.

#### 2) Data and Data Source

- a. The primary data source is the movie and script of *She's the Man* Movie directed by Andy Fickman which is related to the study.

- b. The secondary data sources will be from all referential data it can be from books, internet, etc.

### 3. Object of the Study

The object of this research is Andy Fickman's *She's the Man Movie*, consist of 1:45 minutes, produced by DreamWorks, and released date on March 17, 2006.

### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of the data collection in this study takes the following steps to the data analysis:

- a. The researcher watches the movie several times, until the researcher understands an information or data to be analyzed.
- b. The researcher reads some other resources related to the movie.
- c. The researcher gives marks to the particular parts, which are considered important for the analysis.
- d. The researcher takes notes from the important parts both in primary and secondary sources.
- e. The researcher classifies the data into categories and develops them into a good unity.

### 5. Technique of Data Analysis

It is descriptive analysis. In analyzing the subject matters, the researcher analyzes the structural elements of the movie and then analysis the subject of the study by using feminist approach.

## **H. Research Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consist of background of the study, literary review, research problem, research limitation, research objective, research benefit, research methodology, and the last is research organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents the notion of notion of feminism and the major principle of feminism. Chapter III is structural analysis of the movie which involves the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, plot, style, and discussion. Chapter IV is feminist analysis of women's struggles. The last is chapter V which contains conclusion as the result of analysis and suggestion for another research in the future.