

GENDER EQUALITY IN MOANA (2016) MOVIE: AN ECOFEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul "GENDER EQUALITY IN MOANA (2016) MOVIE: AN ECOFEMINIST PERSPECTIVE". Penelitian ini menggunakan perspektif ekofeminis untuk menganalisis bagaimana kesetaraan gender digambarkan dalam Moana (2016). Film Walt Disney tahun 2016 Moana dipengaruhi oleh budaya Polinesia. Laut telah memilih Moana, putri dari seorang kepala desa Polinesia yang mandiri, untuk mengembalikan peninggalan dari Te Fiti dan menyelamatkan rakyatnya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana kesetaraan gender tergambar dalam film Moana (2016) dan memaparkan tanda-tanda kesetaraan gender dalam film tersebut.

Kata Kunci: artikel, kesetaraan gender; wanita; ekofeminisme; putri Disney Disney.

Abstract

This study is entitled "GENDER EQUALITY IN MOANA (2016) MOVIE: AN ECOFEMINIST PERSPECTIVE". This study uses an ecofeminist perspective to analyse how gender equality is portrayed in Moana (2016). Walt Disney's 2016 film Moana was influenced by Polynesian culture. The sea has selected Moana, the self-reliant daughter of a Polynesian village chief, to restore Te Fiti's ethereal relic and rescue her people. This study aims to analyse how gender equality is illustrated in Moana (2016) and present the markers of gender equality in the movie.

Keywords: gender equality; women; ecofeminism; Disney princess; Disney.

1. INTRODUCTION

Feminism is the belief that men and women ought to live equally on all fronts. Despite having its origins primarily in the West, feminism is a worldwide movement that is reflected in the numerous organizations working to advance the rights and interests of women. For the most of Western history, women were restricted to the home, while men were expected to engage in public life. In mediaeval Europe, women were not allowed to own land, attend schools, or engage in public life. At the beginning of the 20th century, women in France were still expected to cover their heads when they went out in public, and a husband could still lawfully sell his wife in some parts of Germany. As late as the early 20th century, women were still not allowed to vote or occupy electoral office in most of Europe and the United States (where several states and territories had granted women's suffrage long before the federal government did). Whether it was their father, brother, husband, legal representative, or even son, women were not permitted to conduct business without a male representative. Married women could not exercise parental authority over their own children unless they had their husband's approval. In addition, women had little or no access to education and were

barred from the majority of occupations. These prohibitions on women remain in effect in many parts of the world.

Children in particular are familiar with Disney animated films. During Disney classical era, women are portrayed as obedient and naive, accepting all of the treatment given to him, gorgeous faces, slim bodies with a very slim waist, white complexion, wearing beautiful dresses, conquering the domestic sphere, and all of his issues being resolved after marriage. Women ought to be adept at taking care of their homes and neighbours, being sufficiently beautiful, meeting a charming prince will make her life better.

Based on the difficulties encountered in the movie and a number of empirical analyses that view Moana from an ecofeminism perspective, Moana portrays the state of feminist. The destruction of the environment and the world due to human activity is shown in the movie. This is in line with Warren's claim that patriarchy thinking has impacted nature and women, as stated in Tong (2009). The demi-god Maui, a male character in the Disney movie Moana, used human life as a resource to satisfy his own desires. Because Maui's activities harmed nature and ecological sources, they had an impact on the entire Moana universe and might be considered an act of oppress.

Based on multiple studies that examined the 2016 Disney film Moana, feminist ideals, gender representations, and educational principles are all present in Moana (Cahya, 2019; Kongwattana, 2018; Rebollo, 2019). The study's findings indicate that Moana has a different representation of women than the previous Disney princess films. With her independence, intelligence, boldness, fearlessness, and loving character, Moana succeeded in winning back Te Fiti's heart. Additionally, Moana's portrayal in the film differs from that of Disney's earlier films featuring its Disney princesses. Unlike the previous Disney princesses who wore dresses and came from loving families, Moana is presented as the daughter of the chief wearing traditional garb who achieved her goal through effort.

Based on the background above, the following questions are the research questions in this study. (1) What are the indicators of gender equality in Moana movie? (2) How is gender equality illustrated in Moana movie? (3) Why was gender equality addressed in Moana movie?

2. METHOD

In this study, the researcher does qualitative descriptive research. The researcher seeks to describe how gender equality is portrayed in the film Moana. The researcher acquired data by witnessing and evaluating the phenomenon of gender equality in the film. This research's material object is the Disney film Moana. Moana is a 2016 American animated musical fantasy adventure film produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. The data types used for this study are images and text.

The data resources could be gathered from a relevant research item. The data sources for this study are classified as primary and secondary data. The primary data is from the film *Moana* (2016), while the secondary data comes from scholarly journals, essays, websites, and other literary sources that support this research.

In this research, four factors need to be taken into consideration. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research with an ecofeminist lens to write this study. Here's how this qualitative study is being carried out: (a) identifying the study's object (b) identifying the source of the data (c) selecting the data collecting technique (d) identifying the data analysis methods. *Moana* (2016) film is the subject of the investigation. After seeing the movie *Moana*, the author will gather information by examining the scenes that pertain to gender equality. The researcher gathered information by watching and evaluating the phenomena of gender equality in the movie.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 RESULTS

Findings will be presented based on the order of objectives of the study, which are: (1) to identify the indicators of gender equality in *Moana* (2016). (2) to show how gender equality illustrated in *Moana* movie. (3) to give explanation about why gender equality was addressed in *Moana* movie. These objectives generally include demonstrating the signs of gender equality in *Moana* (2016), explaining how gender equality is portrayed in this film, and providing an explanation for the inclusion of gender equality in the film. The researcher split each goal into multiple points in order to achieve those goals.

The first goal is to show the indicators of gender equality in *Moana* (2016). In *Moana* (2016), the main character is portrayed as a strong, independent, and determined young woman. She defies traditional gender roles by aspiring to be a way-finder and a leader, roles that typically reserved for men in her community.



Picture 1 Chief Tui (Moana's father) takes Moana to the place of Chiefs



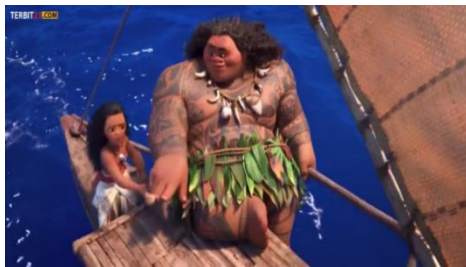
Picture 2 Moana's grandmother convinces Moana

The first goal is to show the indicators of gender equality in *Moana* (2016). Gender equality is defined as a societal condition in which women and men have equal rights and a balance of power, position, opportunities, and rewards (Rolleri, 2012). In general, gender equality can be defined as

follows: 1) equal access to and use of resources for men and women; 2) equal participation in relationships, the home, the community, and political arenas; and 3) safety or absence of violence.

In Picture 1, Moana's father shows her the sacred place of their tribe named a place of chiefs. A place of chief is a pale of stones that the chiefs put as a sign of readiness to be a chief. Chief Tui tells Moana about her responsibility of being the next chief and convince her to quit her dream to sail. In this case, as Moana be chosen to lead her people, her gender is not presented as a barrier to her leadership. The narrative doesn't question her abilities based on her gender, emphasizing equality in leadership roles.

In Picture 2 shows a scene that showed Moana's grandma persuading her daughter to travel to Maui in order to return Te Fiti's heart and save her people. Initially, Moana appears hesitant about her grandmother's plan since she is unable to part from her, but her grandmother promises to support Moana during her entire journey to locate Maui and repair Te Fiti's heart. This shown a positive female relationship especially between Moana and her grandmother. Moana's grandmother always supports Moana and her dreams even if it's against her father.



Picture 3 Maui teaches Moana how to sail



Picture 4 Moana hugs Maui

The second goal of this research is to explain about how gender equality illustrated in this movie. In Moana (2016), it is implied that Moana is a capable and self-reliant leader. Her ability to lead her people is unaffected by her gender. As the chief's daughter, she challenges social norms and demonstrates that leadership abilities are not gender specific.

In Moana (2016), it is implied that Moana is a capable and self-reliant leader. Her ability to lead her people is unaffected by her gender. As the chief's daughter, she challenges social norms and demonstrates that leadership abilities are not gender specific. Gender Equality also shown with shared responsibility between Moana and Maui in Picture 3. After saving Maui from Tamatoa, Maui is willing to help Moana restores the heart. But before going to Te Ka, Maui teaches Moana how to be a way-finder. Moana's alliance with the demigod Maui serves as an example of cross-gender cooperation. Together, they leverage their distinct abilities to accomplish a shared objective. The idea that some jobs or responsibilities are really gender-specific is called into question by this dynamic.

In contrast to other Disney princess tales, Moana (2016) lacks a romance plotline. Moana's voyage is centered on her responsibility to her people, personal development, and self-discovery. This departure from the conventional princess story serves to further emphasize the notion that a woman's value is not exclusively determined by her love connections. In Picture 4, Moana hugs Maui tightly because she's thankful to Maui for the help and lesson that he gives for Moana to reach his goal.



Picture 5 Moana finally puts her shell as her stone on the pile of chief's stone

The third goal of this research is to give explanation about why gender equality was addressed in Moana (2016) movie. Compared with any other Disney movie, Moana (2016) is the one which shows female leadership in the movie.

The movie emphasizes Moana's leadership abilities as she assumes responsibility for rescuing her tribe. This representation highlights that women may be strong, competent leaders and refutes the idea that leadership positions are only appropriate for men. Cultural context is the other reason why gender equality is addressed in Moana (2016). As we all know, on most of the culture in the world, men are always become the chief and leader of its people. Based on Picture 5, Moana finally puts her shell as her stone on the pile of chief's stone. She finally accepts her fate to be a responsible chief for her tribe, but she also develops her village, bringing back the signature of her village which is voyaging.

3.2 DISCUSSION

Based on an ecofeminist perspective, Disney has made a big change after they released Moana (2016). There is a justification for the view of gender in Disney movies that have Disney's main female characters. Referring to its development, as if the new stereotypes offered by Disney in viewing women. Stereotypes are formulated into four stages by Richard Dyer, namely ordering processes, a short cut, referring to the world, and expressing 'our' values and beliefs (Dyer in Marris & Thornham 1999).

From the result, researcher finds several signs of Gender Equality in Moana (2016). Based on the

culture of Motunui, both men and women have their own responsibility, and they rarely do something the opposite way. As we see from Moana, her father only wants her to be the future chief of Motunui and not someone who sails across the sea. But since Te Ka starts to damage her island,

4. CLOSING

Based on the analysis of the findings, there are several conclusions from this study. After analysing the data in depth, it turns out that Moana movie highlighted gender stereotypes prevalent on the island. Moana, the main character experienced a phenomena of gender equality which make Moana must hold her dream to become her true self. But in order to save her island from destruction, Moana had to do a masculine activity such as sailing across to save her island as a chief would do. Ecofeminism shown is the movie by the connotation of women and nature. The movie Moana shows the spectator that nature has two sides depending on how humans treat it. Humans are unaware of the reality that as humans, we cannot exploit nature and must defend it. Humans take advantage of nature to the greatest extent feasible. However, when nature attempts to recuperate, humans provide nothing in exchange. One of the film's main messages is to connect women to Mother Earth and explain how nature is like a mother who nurtures all life. Mistreating nature implies a lack of appreciation for our mother. For example, when Te Fiti becomes upset, she morphs into Te Ka. Furthermore, the ocean is perilous for those who do not know how to sail. The enormous hermit crab, a natural predator, tries to eat Maui. This implies that when people learn how to treat nature, they may coexist peacefully. In the end, they escape the crab without being killed, Te Ka is resurrected as the goddess via the oneness of women's spirituality, and the villagers become navigators once more after realizing the true nature of the sea. The goal of this movie is to raise awareness of both the environmental catastrophe and feminist issues. Examining the film from an ecofeminist angle reveals that its goal is to instil in its viewers new ideas about coexisting with nature.

Considering the conclusion that have been formed above, researcher separated the suggestion into two different aspects, the study aspect and the other one is social aspect. For future research, researcher suggested that future research might research from different perspectives and research the topic more widely. While for the social aspect, researcher motivated to gain more information and educate society about the awareness of gender equality. As women, they could have same positions and opportunities as men could do in society and deserve their own freedom.

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