

**AN ANALYSIS OF FEMINISM DEPICTED IN *SHE'S THE MAN* FILM BY
ANDY FICKMAN**

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Abstract

This study took *She's The Man* film as the study object because it shows how did one of the unfair condition happen. Aims of this study are to find out characterizations of *Viola Hastings* in *She's The Man* film and to analyze how is *Viola Hastings'* characterizations reflected feminism. Some theories that was applied in this study were characterization and feminism theories. To reach the aims, the writer used descriptive qualitative as the method. For the primary data the writer took script of *She's The Man* film directed by Andy Fickman. The result of this study are the descriptions of physical appearance of the main character, personality of the main character and social relationship of the main character. Then, the writer analyzed how her characterizations reflected feminism. Characterizations of Viola were hated sexist and tomboy because tomboy indicated Viola was a girl who strong and brave. It is different from the most people thought about girls whom weak and spoiled. She hated sexist so much, it means she did not like if there is people underestimate girls. Viola proved that gender did not influence anything and she could win her game, beating Cornwall boys team because of her hard training.

Keywords: Characterization, Feminism, *Viola Hastings*, *She's The Man* film

Literature, like all art, is one of the essential things that make human being human. Because as human being we are given particular ability to think and analyze all the phenomenons around us. Beside that we are also given the ability to express our emotions either like happy, sad, love and etc. Consciously or not, every person has been involved in literature. By using their minds, they express and communicate their feelings and film as one of literary work has intrinsic and extrinsic elements which made it more interesting. Intrinsic elements included theme, character, plot, setting and point of view. Extrinsic elements included background, history, social conditions and biography of the author.

Not only, those elements that appeared in film but also some issues which is related to the real life. In this discussion connecting characters as one of important element in film with feminism issue. According to Hannam (2007) "Feminism is a set of ideas that recognize in an explicit way that woman are subordinate to men and seek to address imbalances of power between the sexes". Furthermore, Tandon (2008:2) said that "Feminism includes women acting, speaking and writing on women's issues and rights, identifying social injustice in the status quo and bringing their unique perspective to bear on issues". It means feminism told about women's movement in every sectors where did the unfair condition that put women as the victim like social, politic, economy and education.

Here, as the object of this study a film directed by Andy Fickman and the story by Erwin Leslie titled *She's The Man* film told about unfair condition for women and how Viola as main character tried to solve that problem. She wanted to prove that women or girls also can do boys thing. The way that was used by Viola is very funny, amusing and very easy to understand even this film was inspired by Twelfth night, William Shakespeare. It made this film to be box office.

Based on the story above, it can be said that *She's The Man* film tried to show up how feminism issue happened and as a woman, Viola tried to make woman position to be equal with man. It made the writer eager to analyze how *Viola Hastings* as the main character reflected feminism in her thoughts, speeches, and acts.

Statement of The Problems

Based on the background above, the writer found some problems as follow:

- 1.2.1 What are characterizations of *Viola Hastings* in *She's The Man* film?
- 1.2.2 How does *Viola Hastings*' characterizations reflect feminism?

Review of Related Literature

There are some theories about literature, one of them comes from Eagleton, he stated that literature is not about fictional or imaginative writing, but it is defined because it uses language in peculiar ways (1996:12). It means literature not only the used of language in written. Based on that theory, film also can be defined as one of literary work because it used language to express human feeling and thought. According to Klarer film is hastily classified as a dramatic genre. If film is dealt with from a formalist structuralist point of view, however, its affinity to the novel often overshadows its links to the play. Typical elements of the novel— varied narrative techniques, experimental structuring of the plot, foreshadowing and flashback, the change of setting and time structure —are commonly used in film (2005:57). In harmony with Klarer, Santas said though film ia s unique medium derived from photography, its narrative form invites examination from a literary point of view (2002:21). Besides, film is similar with novel as literary work, if novel can be repeatedly, filmcan be repeatedly viewed.

Character and Characterization

Character is some people who presented in stage but still involved in the plot. It is one of important element in drama or film. Referring to how important that character for the plot can be one of indicators to divide major and minor character. According to Hooker (2002) in her article titled *Elements of Fiction*. She said that a major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. But for the character whose function is partly to illuminate the major characters called minor character (www.unm.edu accessed on March, 9th 2014).

Between minor and major character have their own personality and the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character in the story called characterization. Like what Potter said that the concept of characterization is used to describe the nature of the character (1967:3). Then, to reveal the characterization, there are two methods that was used by the author There were direct and indirect characterization method. According to Turner in direct methods, the authors tells the reader what the character is like. Indirect methods develops the character through what he says, does, thinks and feels. Besides, it can be seen through what other characters in the story say and feel about him (1998 : 17). In the other words, direct characterization method is a method to describe the character directly. It is a method to describe the character indirectly. It means the author explain the character personality through his or her speech, action and another character thoughts.

Feminism

In traditional gender roles women's position is secondary to men. Eventhough as a human between men and women have equal rights but it did not change anything, for some people women are still second-citizen in society. It happened not only in social areas, but also in education, economical, and political areas. It made some women fight to make their rights to be equal with men. This is called feminism. In Hooks' view (2000:1), "Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression". It means feminism is mainly focused on women's issues, because feminism seeks gender equality. So, it made feminists also advocates for workplace rights, including maternity leave, and against forms of discrimination against women.

Liberal Feminism

Many labels that attributed to the feminism also made wider explanation about what is feminist do to achieve their goals, because every label had different causes and goals depending on historical moment, culture and country. One of feminism's labels is liberal feminism. Throughout its history the liberal feminist movement has been and continues to be focused on eliminating female subordination. Its long history is a testament to how well it has been able to adapt and change to the many issues confronting women.

There are so many acts that liberal feminist did to against women discrimination, for them this discrimination is unfair. Like what is Tong (2009:2) stated in her book:

“As liberal feminists see women should have as much chance to succeed in the public realm as men do. Gender justice, insist liberal feminists, requires us, first, to make the rules of the game fair and, second, to make certain that none of the runners in the race for society's goods and services is systematically disadvantaged.”

Based on that opinion we can conclude that liberal feminism had one important goal. That is sex equality or gender justice and talked about sex equality, there are so many issues confronting women, and those happen not only in one sector, but in some sectors, like social, political, educational and economical.

Research Method

The writer used “descriptive qualitative” method to analyze the data of this study. Here, descriptive means the writer analyzed the data of this study by describing the data in details. This study is also qualitative because the data is not in the forms of numbers (or numeric) but that is in the forms of words, phrases, or utterances or sentences. According to Hennink, Hutter, and Bailey “Qualitative research is an approach that allows you to examine people's experiences in detail, by using a specific set of research methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation, content analysis, visual methods, and life histories or biographies. (2011:8-9)” In harmony with that opinion, Merriam stated “Qualitative inquiry, which focuses on meaning in context, requires a data collection instrument that is sensitive to underlying meaning when gathering and interpreting data. (2009:2)” So, it can be said that the descriptive qualitative is suitable method for this study.

Source of Data

The data is taken and selected from a film titled *She's The Man* directed by Andy Fickman. Afterwards, the primary data of this study will be in the form of film script that has taken from www.veryabc.cn accessed on February, 5th 2014. The data of the study focuses on analyzing Viola Hastings as the main character.

Data Analysis Technique

Data from this study analyses, sorts, categorizes and processes based on theoretical framework. There are some steps that were used by the writer for analyzing the data in this study. Those steps are : watching and comprehending the plot story of *She's The Man* film and the script of this film too. Selecting materials or sources which are related with the statement of problems, determining the main characters' characterization and also finding the main characters' characterizations by using theory of character and characterization, find out how those characterizations reflected feminism and the last, making the conclusion based on the data analysis.

Analysis

Character and Characterization

Character of The Major Character : Viola Hastings

Major character is the character which had important act in the story. Based on that explanation, the writer decided that the main character of *She's The Man* film is Viola Hastings. Because she is the center of the story in this film and discussed from the beginning until the end of the story and she is the only character who acted almost in all scenes of this film. It was proved by in the middle, she played two characters as Viola Hastings itself and Viola Hastings who passing off her brother at Illyria School.

Viola Hastings is a girl who is tomboy and had hobby playing soccer. She has a twin brother named Sebastian Hastings. Sometimes she looks like as same as his twin brother and it made some people including her mom and Sebastian's girl friend (Monique) got confuse. She lives alternate between her mom and dad because her parents got divorce. It made Viola meets Sebastian and her dad rarely.

From the story, the writer concluded that Viola came from upper class society. Because it was easy for her twin brother, Sebastian for transfer from one school to another school. Not only that, to make Viola behaved more girly her mom joined her in bureaucratic school. She was student of Cornwall high school, in this school she joined at girls soccer team. She had many friends, she also had a boy friend Justin who was a captain of Cornwall boys soccer team. Not only student of Cornwall High School, Viola Hastings was also student of Ilyria High School when she was passing off her twin brother.

Characterization of Viola Hastings

Here, the writer will discuss the main character's characterization based on those methods. Then, the direct and the indirect method will appear through the explanations about the physical appearance, personality, and social relationship of the main character. It means those explanations related to Viola Hastings as the main character in this film and some minor character who have social relationship directly with the main character.

a. Physical Appearance of the Main Character

The main character of *She's The Man* film was a girl named Viola Hastings. In this film, her age did not mention directly. But we can guest her age from her school, she was a student of senior high school. She might be about sixteen or seventeen years old. Viola had long brown hair. She had blue-grey eyes that appear very blue in some shots, and grey in others. Not only that, Viola also had a charming smile plus with pink lips which looked like very natural only with lip-gloss on and made her looks very beautiful. She had proportional body with skin pale. She dresses in very tomboyish clothes, like a cap, hoodie and sneakers. She was also like to wear denim shorts, t-shirt and sweater.

In Cornwall girl team, she always uses t-shirt and shorts when she wants to training. She also tied her long hair. But when Viola was pretending to be Sebastian, Viola was wearing a long sleeved white shirt underneath her uniform. She also used short wig like man hairstyle to hide her long hair. Even she was very like tomboyish clothes, in some occasions like at the Junior League Fair and debutante ball, Viola is dressing in girly clothes.

b. Personality of the Main Character

Viola is a tomboy girl who was energetic, smart and funny. She loved to play soccer. She is self-reliant. For example, when her coach in Cornwall high school cut her team, she came to her coach and try to prove that her team was as good as boy team because she really believed in girl-power and hated sexist. It can be seen in the following quotation:

Cornwall coach : Hi, girls. I heard the bad news. (2:14)

Viola : "Bad"? It's a disaster. (2:15)

Kia : Now college scouts won't even get to see us play. (2:16)

*Cornwall coach : I know. If there's anything I can do, just say the word.
(2:17)*

Viola : Matter of fact, there is. We wanna try out for the boys team. (2:18)

Cornwall coach : Anything besides that. (2:19)

Viola : Coach, come on! You know that we're good enough. (2:20)

Cornwall coach : I don't know that that's a thing that I know. (2:21)

Beside that, she is also brave and very smart making the best use of opportunity to realize her dream. Viola is someone who was not easy to give up. When she had pretension, she would make it happen like she wanted. Even she was tomboy and like soccer. She was like the other girl who was falling in love with her roommate, Duke and became Justin's girl friend. She was also like girl stuff and sometimes need her girl time. Not only that, she was not afraid to get into fights and tussles.

c. Social Relationship of the Main Character

Here, some minor characters of *She's The Man* film and their social relationship with main character Viola Hastings :

1. Justin

Justin thought that girl, especially Viola could not do soccer as good as boy and if Viola wanted to beat boys, she would get hurt. He also thought that Viola was ridiculous because she wanted to beat the boys team.

2. Sebastian Hastings

Between Viola and Sebastian had different characteristics. Sebastian was bad at sport and was not as attractive as Viola. For him, Viola had a good skill in soccer but soccer for girls liked a useless thing.

3. Monique

She said that Viola's appearance was very resemble with her twin brother. She also underestimated Viola because she thought that Viola's manner was bad and did not like most girls in usual.

4. Duke

He believed that Viola was as good as boy in soccer and she was suitable to join the game beat the Cornwall team, because he saw how hard Viola did her training.

5. Olivia

She thought Viola was different from the other boys and romantic when Viola passed off her twin brother. Viola knew how to treat a girl.

Feminism Reflected In Viola Hastings' Characterizations

The main character of this film was Viola Hastings. She was a girl who loved soccer. In society's thought soccer was a sport that was played by boys or men. When there was a girl whom was played soccer, people will think that she will not do as good as men did, even she will do it better. But for Viola Hastings, women were equal with men and she tried hard to prove it.

The first characterization of Viola Hastings which reflected feminism was tomboy. She really liked soccer and often dresses in very tomboyish clothes. If many girls and women wants to look beautiful by wearing girly clothes or using make up she chose to ignore it and used clothes that made her feel comfortable and easy to move. In liberal feminism side, everyone has a right to be her or himself. Boys must not be masculine and girls must not be feminine. Because that rule made men or women could not evolve their selves to be unique characters.

As a girl Viola Hastings did not hate girly things but she preferred to choose clothes which made her feel comfortable. It was suitable with liberal feminism theory from Tong (2009:12) liberals agree that in the private area like family or domestic society, between men and women are same, both of them need places where we can, shed our public personae and be our “real” selves.

Another characterization of Viola which reflected feminism was she hated a person who underestimate girl power and skill, just because a reason which was relevant with the situation. It can be seen in this following quotation of Cornwall coach’s said:

Cornwall coach : All right, all right! You're all excellent players. But girls aren't as fast as boys. (2:34)

Boys players : Right. (2:35)

Viola : What? (2:36)

Cornwall coach : Or as strong. Or as athletic. This is not me talking. It's a scientific fact. Girls can't beat boys. It's as simple as that. (2:38)

That quotation taken from conversation between Viola and Cornwall’s coach. It happened when she asked the chance to beat boys team and proved that her team could do as good as boys team. She did it because her team have cut from the game to represent her school against Ilyria high school. Here, there was unfair condition, even Cornwall coach said that Viola’s team was excellent, he still cut Viola’s team. Because he believed that girls were not as strong and athletic as boys. It means girls can not beat boys and if girls beat boys, they would not win.

If seen on the opinion from Tong (2009:2) as liberal feminists see women should have as much chance to succeed in the public realm as men do. What Cornwall did was unfair, he did not give Viola a chance to prove her skill just because girl was not as strong as boys. Not only that, by cutting Viola’s team to join the game, it means he prevented the other girls in that team from their successful in the soccer.

Viola did everything to prove her skill in soccer. She did hard training to join with first strings and to make herself proper with that position. All of what she did was success to attract Ilyria coach’s attention and improve her skill in soccer. Then, her coach gave Viola a chance to play in the first strings. So, she could beat Cornwall soccer team and proved to her ex-coach and Justin that she could beat down their team. The statement above can be proved in the following quotation:

Illyria Coach : Hastings! (13:6)

Viola : Yeah, coach? (13:7)

Illyria Coach : You're first string for the Cornwall game. (13:8)

Viola : Really? (13:9)

Illyria Coach : No. I was joking, you idiot. (13:10)

Here, as a woman or girl, Viola did not expect a praise or compliment for all what she can do in soccer. But she only wanted a chance to prove that girl has the same position with boy and girl also has same right to be success even in the boy’s field. What does Viola want can be seen in this following quotation :

Viola : This isn't how I wanted it to happen, and I didn't want to hurt you. But I just wanted to prove that I was good enough. All I'm asking for is a chance. Duke ?(17:177)

It was not easy to make Viola joined in the team. However, all she has done, shows the characterization of Viola was very conscientious in doing anything. She was also smart in utilizing the one and only chance to show that between men and women could be equal to get the same rights and freedom as a participant in this game.

Then, Viola made it happen, she succeeded to make a goal. She also bore down Cornwall team. As a captain of Cornwall team who underestimated Viola’s skill did not believe that he has gone down by girl. He denied the reality and made unlogical reason to cover his embarrassed. It can be seen in this following quotation :

Justin: It's not fair! It's not fair! That was a lucky shot!
I never wanna see you again! You suck! (17:209)

Eventhough Viola succeeded to prove her skill, but she did not need everyone to confess it. For her, the important thing was everyone saw that girls could do a boy thing as good as boys and between boys and girls were same. The differentiate between man and woman is how hard their efforts to make themselves to be great in their choices. Like what was done by Viola Hastings, she tried hard to prove that she also could be successful in soccer and stayed focus to chase her dream. The writer concluded what Viola's did and her characterizations were reflected feminism especially liberal feminism.

Conclusion

The writer found that Viola Hastings was a girl might be about sixteen or seventeen years old. She was beautiful with her long brown hair, blue-grey eyes and proportional body. Viola was tomboy, like to dressing in very tomboyish clothes and like soccer so much. She was really believed in girl-power and hated sexist. For social relationship of the main character, the writer took some minor characters that had relationship with the main character directly. Those are Justin who was Viola's ex-boyfriend, Duke who was Viola's roommate in Illyria, Sebastian who was her twin brother, Olivia who was her classmate and Monique who was her friend in Junior Stanford League.

In the second questions, the writer explained how Viola's characterization reflected feminism. Viola's characterizations which hated sexist and tomboy reflected feminism because tomboy indicated that she was a girl who strong and brave. It is different from the most people thought about girls whom weak and spoiled. She hated sexist so much, it means she did not like if there is people that underestimate girls. She hated people whom thought girls cannot do boys things. Viola decided to prove that girls can do soccer as good as boys, she passed off her twin brother. So, she can beat and brake down Cornwall team.

Besides, Viola never gave up realizing her dream and she did everything for it. It was proved by some events which made Viola get closer and closer to reach her aim. The first event was when her coach gave Viola a chance to play in the first strings. The second event was when Duke still permitted Viola to play in his team. It does not matter Viola was girl or boy, for him the important thing was Viola had a good skill and could make his team win the game. The last event was when her mom who did not like Viola played a soccer and her twin brother, Sebastian, admitted Viola's skill and agreed if Viola still plays a soccer. The important thing in this film is between girls and boys have same chance to be successful and no one can omit or block it. Viola proved that gender did not influence anything and because of her hard training, she won her game, beating Cornwall boys team.

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