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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## **An Analysis of Liberal Feminism of the Main Character in *Brave* Film**

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**ABSTRACT**

Liberal feminism has become a trending topic in articles and journals and has also been appointed as a theme in several novels and films. Some cases of liberal feminism were depicted by the main character in the film *Brave*, Merida. In *Brave*, the main character was talking about woman's liberation or the woman's movement, which fought for the right to get her freedom. This research aimed to find the types of liberal feminism and the characteristics of liberal feminism in the utterances and gestures of the main character in the film. From the gestures and utterances of Merida, the writer analyzed liberal feminism by using the descriptive qualitative method. Techniques of data collection were done by watching the film, selecting and noting down the data from the gestures and utterances which were related to the types of liberal feminism portrayed by the main character in the film *Brave*. The result of the study found 22 data on the liberal feminism of the main character in the film *Brave*. From the 22 data, there were 19 data that included individualist feminism, and three data were libertarian feminism. From those types, the writer also found the characteristics of liberal feminism; there was equal education, the right to vote, the mature and find women's identity, and equal liberty (the freedom of speech and press). The study found the dominant characteristic was the right to vote, which means the main character in the film *Brave* mostly showed how she fought for her freedom to choose.

**KEYWORDS**

Feminism, Liberal feminism, Character film brave

**ARTICLE INFORMATION**

**ACCEPTED:** 24 December 2022

**PUBLISHED:** 01 January 2023

**DOI:** 10.32996/ijllt.2023.6.1.5

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**1. Introduction**

The origin of feminism could be traced to France when in 1837, Charles Fourier, a French philosopher, coined the word, and by 1910, feminism had appeared in most of the countries in Europe and in the U.S., although feminist movements were triggered by different causes and were aimed at different goals in many of these countries. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary (1828), feminism is the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes and includes organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests. Beginning in the nineteenth century, the first wave of feminism was focused on equal political rights for women, particularly the right to vote.

Tong & Botts (2018) stated that there are four types of feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, and liberal feminism. In this study, the writer focused on studying liberal feminism. According to Tong (Puspitasari, 2017) in *Feminist Thought* book, liberal feminism is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything that they want. From the liberal feminism perspective, "liberalism suggests all human beings, either man or woman, is created in the equal position, harmonious, and having the same potency and rationally" (Fakhrian & Islamiyati, 2017).

Liberal feminism has become a trending topic in articles and journals and has also been appointed as a theme in several novels and films. Some cases of liberal feminism were depicted by the main character in the film *Brave*, Merida. Some cases of liberal feminism were depicted by the main character in the film *Brave*, Merida. In *Brave*, the main character was talking about woman's

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liberation or the woman's movement, which fought for the right to get her freedom. The research of this article is about what types and characteristics of liberal feminism were depicted by the main character in the film Brave.

Some researchers have also done similar topics of research. Some researchers have also done similar topics of research. Aminatus Z. V. Y (2015) did a research entitled 'The Analysis of Feminism on the Main Character in "Changeling Film Directed by Clint Eastwood". In that study, the writer focused on analyzing the main character by using the theory of feminism and the kind of feminism. Another research, Inni Mustaufiroh (2017), entitled "The Analysis of Feminism Depicted by The main character in the film Brave. That study focused on finding out how the main character portrayed feminism in the film. The writer focused on the concept of feminism in general. The last research (Puspitasari, 2017), entitled "Liberal Feminism Values of The main character in Suffragette (2015) Film". Puspitasari focused on analyzing the liberal feminism value of the main character in the film. Those three previous studies were different from this research because this research focused on analyzing the types and the characteristics of liberal feminism depicted by the main character in the film Brave.

**2. Literature Review**

**a. Feminism**

Feminism is a movement to build and assert equality in the field of political, economic, and social, and the same opportunities for women. Feminist come from the word 'femme', which means 'woman'. Feminist movements appear especially that provide concepts and theories related to the analysis of women. The intention of feminism is to show how the valuation of the social condition is, where a woman takes their life, opens the opportunity to reconstruct their world and offers them the prospect of freedom for the future. According to (Kadwa & Alshenqeeti, 2020), Gender inequality is equality between men and women in receiving rights as social beings who can participate in political, social, economic, cultural, educational, and established activities. All this means that there are no limits for women in their role in society.

In general, feminism can be divided into some categories, that are liberal feminism, Radical Feminism, Marxist- socialist Feminism, Psychoanalytic Feminist, Care Focused Feminist, Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial Feminism, Eco-Feminist, and Postmodern Feminist (Tong & Botts, 2018).

**b. Liberal Feminism**

Liberal feminism is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything that they want (Tong & Botts, 2018). It means women can express themselves by doing anything that they want to do since women are equal to men. Women do not have limits to doing something; they are free to express themselves through their choices. Liberal feminism is an individualistic form of feminism theory, which primarily focuses on women's ability to show and maintain their equality through their own actions and choices. This movement aims to fight for equal rights, politics, law, education, freedom, and social-cultural (Setiawan, 2017).

**3. Methodology**

This research used a descriptive qualitative approach. The technique chosen here is through analytical techniques that open insights into the field of psycholinguistics. The data source used in this study is the film of Brave by Brenda Chapman, released in 2012. The data of this study was taken from the gestures and utterances of the main character and belong to the liberal feminism in the film Brave. Data collection is done by watching, and selecting gestures and utterances which were related to the types of liberal feminism portrayed by the main character in the film Brave. The next process is noting down the data that belong to liberal feminism in the film Brave by Brenda Chapman and, after that giving a code for each datum.

**4. Results and Discussion**

Table 4.1: Types and characteristics of liberal feminism in the film Brave

No.	Types		Libertarian
	Characteristics	Individualist Feminism	Feminism
1.	The equal education	001, 013	018

2.	The right to vote	003, 004, 005, 007, 009, 010, 020 011, 012, 015, 016, 017, 019, 020
3.	The mature and find women's identity	002, 021 022
4.	The equal liberty (the freedom of speech and press)	008, 014

- **Individualist Feminism**

Individualist feminism believes in the personal responsibility of a woman's choices. In Brave movie, Merida, as the main character, shows this type of liberal feminism. It was depicted through her utterances and gestures. The characteristics of individualist feminism that showed by Merida or the equal education, the right to vote, the mature and find women's identity and equal liberty (freedom of speech and press). It can be seen in datums 001, 013, 003, 004, 005, 007, 009, 010, 011, 012, 015, 016, 017, 019, 020, 002, 021, 008, 014.

Datum : 013/B/00: 00:26:29-



The picture happened when Merida felt dissatisfied with the suitors' skills in archery; finally, Merida took her bow, ripped her tigh dress and showed her great skill in archery. Even though her mother forbade her, she still did archery, and again she broke the rules as a princess. From the picture and the explanation above, the datum is included in individualist feminism because Merida's character showed her personal interest by breaking the rules with still doing archery, although the tradition in the era forbid all princesses to use a weapon and just stay calm on their throne. The character of Merida absolutely did not show if she was a princess. She always broke the rules and did not follow all the traditions in the kingdom.

On the other hand, the writer also found the characteristics of liberal feminism, which was equal education. The equal education occurred when Merida showed her skill in archery to the suitors. The action in the picture above showed the character of Merida, that always interrupted her mother's decisions and broke the rules of a princess. The datum belongs to equal education because Merida's character showed how Merida wanted her equal education like men with her doing archery.

Datum: 003/B/ 00:06:50-00:07:00

*Merida: "But every once in a while, there is a day when I don't have to be a princess. No lessons, no expectations. A day when anything can happen. A day I can change my fate".*

The utterance happened when Merida was in the Castle; she woke up and took her bow. Then, she rode her horse, leaving the castle into Forest. She forgot her mother's desire to be a good princess; She wanted to enjoy her life. The utterance "A day I can change my fate" showed individualist feminism. Individualist feminism occurred when Merida wished someday she could do something which a princess should not do. She could do anything that she wanted and disobeyed the rules and tradition as a

princess. The utterance above was included in individualist feminism because it only showed Merida's personal interest, which absolutely did not show their appearance as a princess.

The characteristic of liberal feminism in the datum was the equal right to vote. The characteristics occurred when Merida did everything out of the rules in the kingdom and felt that she had the right to vote. The character Merida in the datum showed if she wanted her equal right to vote by breaking the tradition and changing her fate.

Datum: 019/B/ 01:06:39-01:07:26

*Merida: Yours was an alliance forged in bravery and friendship, and it lives to this day. I've been selfish. I tore a great rift in our kingdom. There's no one to blame but me. And I know now that I need to amend my mistake and mend our bond. And so, there is the matter of my betrothal. I decided to do what was right and break tradition.*

Merida tried to stop Fergus and the lords, that were fighting again. She walked into the middle of the room and told them the story of the ancient kingdom and the selfish prince. Merida didn't change her mind about arranged marriage even though her mother turned into a bear. Merida was confident to say if she would decide to do what was right and break tradition because her mother led her to say what she wanted.

The utterance "I decided to do what's right, and break tradition" shows that Merida wanted to get her freedom, and it means she had broken the rules as a princess. The explanation of this datum included individualist feminism because in that situation, Merida only showed the personal interest in refusing to be arranged married with the sons of the lords. The writer also found the characteristics of feminism in this datum, that is, the right to vote. The character of Merida in this datum was included in the right to vote because she kept her equal right by saying to the lords that she chose to break the tradition. It showed Merida's reaction while she tried to express her decision to all visitors.

- ***Libertarian Feminism***

Libertarian feminism focuses more on decreasing the amount of regulation by the government in order to eliminate any gender or class hierarchies present. It can be seen in datums 018, 020, and 022.

Datum: 020/B/ 01:08:11-01:17:00

*Merida: The queen and I put the decision to you, my lords. Might our young people decide for themselves who they will love?*  
The utterance happened when Merida and Elinor sneaked back into the castle and as they peaked into the Great Hall. They see that Fergus and the lords are fighting again, Merida tries to stop them and walks into the middle of the room, and she tells them the story of the ancient kingdom and the selfish prince. Then, Merida told the lords if they should give their young people the freedom to choose who they would love. The utterance "The queen and I put the decision to you, my lords. Might our young people decide for themselves who they will love?" showed that Merida was obviously opposed to engaging with one of the suitors who had been chosen by her mother. She did not change her mind about arranged marriage even though her mother turned into a bear. In the utterance, Merida said to the lords if they should might their daughter decide for themselves to choose who would be their loves. Merida explained that the lords' daughters had the right to choose everything that they wanted. The explanation above showed that the utterance included libertarian feminism because Merida's utterance in the datum showed her personal interest and told if every person had the right to choose their decision.

The writer also found the characteristics of liberal feminism in the datum; it included the right to vote because Merida kept her equal right by trying to explain the right to vote to every people in the kingdom. Merida told the people that every people had the right to get the freedom to follow their heart, find love on their time and write their own story.

Datum: 022/B/ 01:24:15-01:28:01



*Merida: Some say fate is beyond our command, but I know better. Our destiny is within us. You just have to be brave enough to see it.*

The utterance happened when Merida rode the horse off through the forest with Elinor, making their bond stronger. Merida succeeded in releasing her mother from the curse by herself. She also succeeded in cancelling her engagement and make fix her relationship with her mother. While riding the horse, Merida said if we want to know our fate, we have to be brave to see it. The utterance "Some say fate is beyond our command, but I know better. Our destiny is within us. You just have to be brave enough to see it" showed that she strongly supported freedom. From the explanation of the film, the picture and the utterance, the datum included libertarian feminism because it was not only about Merida's personal interest but also showed how Merida made the other people realise to be brave and see it as their destiny to get their freedom.

The characteristics in the datum included the mature and find women's identity because the utterance showed how Merida got her identity by having her brave to see her destiny.

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, the writer analyzed the types of liberal feminism using the theory of Alvarez (2018), which divides liberal feminism into two types; individualist feminism and libertarian feminism. The writer also found the characteristics of liberal feminism, which include equal education, the right to vote, maturity and to find women's identity, and equal liberty (the freedom of speech and press).

The result of this analysis found twenty-two data from the utterance and gestures of the main character in the film Brave. Of the 22 data, there were 19 data which included individualist feminism, and three data were libertarian feminism. The writer found the dominant type of liberal feminism in the film Brave was individualist feminism. Then, the characteristics found in individualist feminism were two data on equal education, 13 data on the right to vote, two data on the mature and find women's identity and two data on equal liberty (the freedom of speech and press). The characteristics found in libertarian feminism were data on equal education, data on the right to vote and data on the mature and find women's identity. From those types of characteristics, the right to vote was the dominant data found in the film Brave than other characteristics. The story in the Brave was included in the Medieval period because the women in the era did not get the freedom to vote decision and only followed the rules of a woman.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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