

An Analysis of Struggles Against Sexual Slavery in Film Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers : A Feminism Approach

Tri Widya Dannila Sari¹, Maya Kurnia Dewi²
triwidyadani@sari@gmail.com, mayakurnia@unw.ac.id
^{1,2}Universitas Ngudi Waluyo
Email Correspondence : triwidyadani@sari@gmail.com

Abstract. This research contains feminism analysis in the film "*Redeeming Love*." Based on the popular novel by Francine Rivers of the same title, The film "*Redeeming Love*" depicts the life of a woman who has an inner conflict because of her past, she is in a prostitution house and experiences oppression, The film "*Redeeming Love*" has the ability to reflect on the ideology of film audiences against the ideology of feminism and patriarchy and use it to encourage oppressed women to continue to struggle to build a new image of women who are strong and resilient in making decisions in their lives. This study uses a descriptive type of research with qualitative data types. In researching the film "*Redeeming Love*," the author makes an interpretation by dividing the entire plot of the film into several scenes, and then per scene will be analyzed using Feminism theory. With a feminism approach, it is to demonstrate gender equality and to demand equality of women's rights with men's rights, both in the political and economic fields, as well as in socio-cultural movements in general.

Keywords: Redeeming Love Film, Women's Struggle, Feminism Approach

Introduction

Literature is composition that tells a story, dramatizes a situation, expresses emotions, analyzes and advocates ideas (Roberts and Jacobs, 2006:2). Literature is thus summed up as permanent expressions in words (written or spoken), specially arranged in pleasing accepted patterns or forms. Literature expresses thoughts, feelings, ideas or other special aspects of human experiences (Ade and Okunoye, 2008:3).

According to Sugihastuti (2007) A literary work is a medium used by the author to convey his thoughts and experiences. As media, the role of literature as a medium is to connect author's thoughts to the reader. Additionally, literature can reflect the author's view of the issues observed in his environment. The social realities presented through the text to the reader are foregleams of social phenomena that have ever occurred in society and are reproduced by authors in different shapes and ways. Additionally, literature can comfort, enrich the insights and insights of the reader in a unique way, writing them in the narrative form. So messages are relayed to the reader without prompting.

The understanding of film according to Effendi (1986:239) is the product of culture and artistic expression. Movies as mass communication are a combination of technologies such as photography and sound recording, fine art of fine arts and literary theater and architecture and music. A film has a plot that is written or often called a skenario. In popular literary studies, films are literary works. Although their imaginative means are visual, pictures, movies have plots, stories, characters, and other characteristics that resemble a narrative literature, the main means of transmission is visual with moving pictures.

Feminism is a women's movement for emancipation or complete equality between women and men. Mary wallstonecraft, in her book "a addition to the right of woman" implies that feminism is a movement for women's liberation, a movement that loudly voices the improvement of women's position and rejects the distinction of degrees between men and women (Wollstonecraft, 1972). Feminism is a social and philosophical development that fights for women' freedoms in all areas both political, monetary, social, and different regions. Women's activists accept that people are equivalent. Women merit similar freedoms as men in the public arena. Orientation fairness that woman's rights is battling for doesn't actually imply "balance" for people, particularly in actual terms. Female and male bodies have been made with various capacities, so it is difficult to compare between them. However, the balance that has been battled for has to do with the freedoms and jobs of women and men in society.

In society women have the stereotypes of negative. Women are thought to be weak, emotionally, even considered merely as an instrument of sexuality in a relationship. There are still

many practices of sexual slavery in women, where women are simply objectified as sexual adoration for men. Sexual slavery is when a person engages one or more ACTS of sexual violence among the criminal ACTS of coercion of marriage, contraception, rape, sexual exploitation, and prostitution, which are committed in taking away one's freedom and limiting the exercise of space to place one serving the sexual needs of another or himself within a given period of time. Thus sexual slavery can take place in a context of severe human rights abuses.

This has resulted in a movement of feminism which women ask for equality between women and men. There has been a great deal of action to support feminism. One is the United Nations women of the United Nations to work for gender equality and deceive women. Such stereotypes about women also gave birth to the film industry to feminist film. Each scene they made was a method for voicing criticism.

The film *Redeeming Love* tells of women's struggle against sexual slavery with the elements of the story of belief (divinity) and sincerely of love. Angel expects only pain from those around her. Sold into prostitution as a child, Angel survives with hatred towards herself and the men that use her. She meets Michael Hosea, a farmer who believes God wants Angel to be his wife. Dire circumstances force Angel to accept his proposal, but when Michael defies her bitter expectations, her frozen heart begins to thaw. As Angel encounters a love unlike anything she ever experienced, feelings of unworthiness and shame cause her to run from a life she doesn't think she deserves. As Michael sets out to find her, Angel discovers there is no brokenness that love can't heal. The film *Redeeming Love* depends on Rivers' 1991 novel of a similar name, which depended on the Biblical story of Hosea, and is set in the American Old West during the California Gold Rush (Nash Information Services, LLC. February 26, 2022).

Method

The research data in this study is qualitative. Sugiyono (2016 : 9) Qualitative research methods are research methods used to examine the condition of natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument. Saryono (2010) explains that qualitative research is used to research, find, describe, and explain the quality or privilege of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach. The data is then interpreted with books, literature, journals on the internet, and any reference materials related to research. This research uses a feminism approach. In accordance with the qualitative method using descriptive analysis type, research on the origin of the film is being studied.

Findings and Discussion

The researcher discusses feminism analysis. The aim is to find out the relationship between the film *Redeeming Love* and its feminist background. The film is based on the popular novel by Francine Rivers. He managed to write his first novel, entitled "*Redeeming Love*" which was then published by Bantam Books, but was later re-released by Multnomah Publishers in the mid-1990s. This is a novel that represents his declaration of faith in Christ as a result of his new birth. The story is inspired by the Book of Hosea from the Bible, and its central theme is the redeeming love of God towards sinners. This novel tells the story of Sarah (Abigail Cowen), who was sold into a prostitution establishment and endured the hatred of others and herself in California around the 1850s. He even accepts the proposal of a farmer named Michael Hosea (Tom Lewis), where things are challenging and unexpected. After the findings, discuss and analyze the analysis of the data found in the film *Redeeming Love*.

The Analysis of Theme

The themes in this film are romance, divinity, and the struggle of a woman, namely Sarah, the main character in the film.

The Analysis of Setting

Film *Redeeming Love* tells the story of life in the California Gold Rush in 1850. At that time, the city was famous for its prostitution houses and nightclubs. The place was called Pair-A-Dice.

The Analysis of The Main Character

Sarah, who was sold into prostitution when she was eight, endured through hatred and self-loathing. Before being sold into prostitution, Sarah only knew rejection from men. As a child, Sarah was traumatized from childhood, she knew that her father Alex Stanford, had said that Sarah should never have been born and Sarah knew that her father was married and Sarah's mother is her father's lover and the victim of an abusive relationship. Sarah watched her mother grieve and eventually die,

rejected by the man she loved. When Sarah was eighteen and with the name Angel, she believes she knows everything about men and how to give them what they want.

The Analysis of The Struggle of Sarah to Fight Against Sexual Slave

Sarah with her courage and takes the first step against the Duchess to ask for the gold earned from her work in the prostitution house and wants freedom out of the place. This is proof that Sarah wants to fight for the rights of women's freedom.

Sarah's other fight was when she dared to fight a man, she didn't just give up fighting for her right to be free. Sarah tells the man that she will not serve him, even though Sarah's resistance had left her battered.

Sarah is an independent woman. To survive, she works in a restaurant to serve customers. This is Sarah's struggle, which describes the figure of an independent woman and does not depend on anyone, including men.

When Sarah was on stage and watched by many people, Sarah bravely told the truth that all this time Sarah had experienced sexual slavery since childhood and many other little girls were victims. All these crimes are revealed after the struggle that Sarah has been doing all this time with her patience and not giving up easily to fight for women's rights.

Sarah's suffering so far has brought Sarah to better things with her courage and patience. Finally, Sarah was able to be free from the prostitution house and freed other women. Then Sarah returned to the village to meet Michael. Sarah apologized for the suffering that she had given Michael and felt guilty. Michael forgave Sarah and asked Sarah to live with him and should not leave him again. They live happily and have 2 children. Sarah, who previously lived with self-hatred and hatred of others and did not believe in love, men, or even God. Now Sarah can live better and make her past and childhood trauma a valuable lesson in her life.

In this study, especially in this section, it will be explained why the author focuses on the theory of liberal feminism in Sarah's struggle against sexual slavery. Liberal feminism aims for individuals to use their own abilities and the democratic process to help women and men become more equal in the eyes of the law, in society and in the workplace. By organizing women into larger groups that can speak at a higher level, lobbying legislators and raising awareness of issues, liberal feminists use available resources and tools to advocate for change. The researcher identifies various struggles of women and describes the struggles of the main characters to fight against sexual slavery and get women's justice in the film *Redeeming Love*.

The researcher discusses Sarah as the main character in the film *Redeeming Love* and Sarah's struggles against sexual slavery. Sarah is told here as a beautiful young woman whose childhood trauma made her distrustful of love, men, and even God, and left her trapped in a house of prostitution. Because of Sarah's courage to fight sexual slavery that night on stage and watched by many people, Sarah revealed what had really happened. That night, Sarah managed to reveal about sexual slavery that had existed for a long time and managed to free the little girls from the prostitution house. Sarah's struggle to fight sexual slavery, with her courage to speak up to others and prove that women and men should be equal in many ways, shows that there is no oppression for women, who are always considered weak. Sarah's struggles and figures really describe the feminist movement and women's empowerment.

Conclusion

Sarah is completely different from other characters who fight for freedom with her courage and willpower. Sarah never gives up, despite the many obstacles and failures she goes through. Until the time came for Sarah to dare to fulfill her dream and meet a man named Michael, who sincerely loved her and took her away from the prostitution house and married Sarah, but it didn't stop here with the trauma of the past making Sarah always try to leave and leave Michael. With love, Michael finally continues to fight for Sarah and finally arrives at Sarah's being able to accept her past circumstances and believe in love and God.

In this story, there are many moral lessons about the meaning of life and the meaning of persistence in fighting for justice and freedom. The truth must be fought for with courage and not easily given up so that what you want is achieved.

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