SUMMARY OF “FEMINIST FILM CRITICISM ON AMELIA EARHART CHARACTER IN AMELIA FILM”

Arranged By:

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2011
1. INTRODUCTION

‘Gender’ is now one of the busiest, most restless terms in the English language, a word that crops up everywhere, yet whose uses seem to be forever changing, always on the move, producing new and often surprising inflections of meaning.¹ The word ‘gender’ comes from English. In *New World Dictionary*, gender means as the difference between men and women in terms of values and behavior.² *Women's Studies Encyclopedia* explained that gender is a cultural concept that seeks to make the distinction in terms of roles, behavior, mentality, and emotional characteristics between men and women who thrive in people.³

H. T. Wilson in *Sex and Gender* defines gender as a basis for determining the influence of cultural factors and collective life in distinguishing male female. Somewhat in line with the opinions cited by Showalter that define gender distinction is more than just men and women viewed from the social construction culture, but emphasized the analysis of gender as a concept in which we can use it to explain something.⁴

Gender studies more emphasis on aspects of masculinity (masculinity) or femininity (femininity) a person. In contrast the study of sex is more emphasis on anatomical aspects of biology and chemical composition in the male body (maleness) and women (femaleness). The process of growth of children (child)

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became a man (being a man) or become a woman (being a woman), more widely used term in terms of gender from sex. The term sex is generally used to refer to issues of reproduction and sexual activity (love-making activities), the rest used the term gender.\textsuperscript{5}

The concept of feminism implies the purity of woman, delegating man as lesser. Setting up this concept of woman over man negates individuality. Feminism assumes the common subject ‘woman’. With this assumption the binary of woman or man is altered to elevate the woman over the man. By making one subject (woman) pure, a hierarchy is established. The concept of feminism implies the purity of woman, delegating man as lesser. Setting up this concept of woman over man negates individuality. Further, those that don’t fit into a binary of woman/man are labeled others.\textsuperscript{6}

Film \textit{Amelia} is the Mira Nair's latest movie and stars Hillary Swank as the famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. Amelia follows Earhart from 1928 to her disappearance somewhere over the Pacific Ocean during her attempt to be the first pilot to circumnavigate the globe. The search mounted for the lost Amelia and her navigator, Fred Noonan (Christopher Eccleston) was the greatest search ever undertaken.\textsuperscript{7} This film is based on true story about Amelia Earhart.


In this film, the issue of feminist values is exposed through the character of Amelia Earhart as the main character and the patriarchal culture in American’s life that dominant in that era. Amelia’s characters described as brave woman, independent, strong willing and decisive. Those characters are extremely different from other women at that time, when other women are have no courage, dependent and cannot decided anything that they want. Amelia Earhart tries to change the women stereotype, and she tries to make men and women for being equality. For those reasons, Amelia Earhart becomes an inspiring woman in the world. She spends her life time in her mission to fly around the world. At the end of the film, Amelia dies on her flight across the Pacific with Fred Noonan as her navigator, in fulfilling her dream to be able to fly around the world.

Real Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24, 1897. She is a daughter of a railroad attorney. She spent her childhood in various towns, including Atchison and Kansas City, Kansas and Des Moines, Iowa. At the age of 19, Amelia attended Ogontz School near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two years later, after visiting her sister, Muriel, in Toronto, Canada, Amelia felt compelled to leave school. Taking a course in Red Cross First Aid, Amelia enlisting as a nurse's aide at Spadina Military Hospital in Toronto, Canada, tending to wounded soldiers during World War I. The following year, Amelia enrolled as a premedical student at Columbia University in New York. Shortly thereafter, Amelia's parents insisted she moves to California where they were living.
A. Focus of the Research

It is mentioned in the background of the study, this research will focus on raising the issue of feminist values as it is represented through Amelia’s character in the film of *Amelia*. The characters of Amelia are brave, independent, smart, and female worker. This film shows the issue of feminist values that happened in women. This film also shows gender discrimination that happened at that time.

B. Research Questions

1. How is the characteristic of Amelia Earhart presented in the film of *Amelia* through binary opposition between Amelia Earhart and women at that era?
2. How are feminist values presented in the film *Amelia*?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objective of the research are:

a. To give the information about the character of Amelia Earhart that presented in the film of *Amelia* through binary opposition.

b. To give the information about the feminist values in the film of *Amelia*.

D. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes this research can be beneficial for the readers who want to know more about feminist values in the film. The writer also hopes that the readers can expand their knowledge about feminist values.
E. Methodology of the Research

The method of the research involves some important aspects that complete the research:

1. Method of the Research

In this research, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method in order to find out the feminist values of women in *Amelia* film using gender studies.

2. Data Analysis

The writer concerns the data with some events and conflicts occur in *Amelia* film. In this analysis, the writer explains the data in the film of *Amelia* by analyzing the character of *Amelia* by using gender studies.

3. Research Instrument

In the research, the writer uses herself as the main instrument in collecting the qualitative data about the gender feminist values of female characters in the film *Amelia* in some ways, firstly; watching the film many times very carefully so that the writer can understand the story of the film, secondly, identifying and analyzing the feminist values and female characters from film scenes, and finally making notes taken from the dialogue that support the writer analysis.

4. Unit Analysis

The unit analysis in this research is a film directed by Mira Nair, *Amelia*. The film is based on the true story of Amelia Earhart, the first woman pilot in the
world. The film was produced by Fox Searchlight Pictures in 2009, starring Hilary Swank.

5. Time and Place

This research is accomplished on the 8th semester of 2009-2010 academic years at English Letters Department of SyarifHidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Characterization

Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in narrative or dramatic works of art or everyday conversation. Characters may be presented by means of description, through their actions, speech, or thoughts as well as by depiction. Characterization can regard a variety of aspects of a character such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, occupation, marital status, religious beliefs, personality, etc.\textsuperscript{8}

1. Characterization through Dialogue

Characters in a fictional film naturally reveal a great deal about themselves by what they say. But a great deal is also revealed by how they say it. Their true thoughts, attitudes, and emotions can be revealed in subtle ways through word choice and through the stress, pitch, and pause patterns of their

\textsuperscript{8} Larry M. Sutton, Journeys: An Introduction to Literature (Boston: Holbrook Press, Inc. 1971), pp.4-5
speech. Actors' use of grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and particular dialects (if any) reveals a great deal about their characters' social and economic level, educational background, and mental processes. Therefore, we must develop a keen ear, attuned to the faintest and most subtle nuances of meaning revealed through the human voice-listening carefully not only to what is said but also to how it is said.⁹

2. Characterization through Contrast: Dramatic Foils

One of the most effective techniques of characterization is the use of foils—contrasting characters whose behavior, attitudes, opinions, lifestyle, physical appearance, and so on are the opposite of those of the main characters. The effect is similar to that achieved by putting black and white together—the black appears blacker and the white appears whiter. The tallest giant and the tiniest midget might be placed side by side at the carnival sideshow, and the filmmaker sometimes uses characters in much the same way.¹⁰

B. Feminist Film Criticism

1. Feminist film Criticism

Part of project of feminist film criticism is to identify the different kinds of screen representation of women.¹¹ Feminist film critics work to raise our consciousness about the negative images of women in film in order to

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¹⁰ Ibid p.64
denaturalize these images to expose them as cultural constructs, not mirror reflections of the way woman really are.\textsuperscript{12}

Feminism is an area of thought, philosophy and politics that covers a variety of areas within film studies: canon formation, representation of women, representation of gender (more properly sexual) inequalities between women and men, the gendered construction of the viewer and the possibilities for female cinema.\textsuperscript{13}

Contemporary feminism has employed deconstructive strategies in order to destabilize a binary model inscribed in the masculine/feminine dyad. Instead, feminists have provocatively elaborated new frameworks in which to locate the gendered and sexual subject. These theorists have drawn from the \textit{Derridean} model, which argues that \textbf{binary structures} will always privilege one of the binaries over the other: for example, male over female. Rather than trying to reverse this so that the feminine will be privileged over the masculine, as emancipator feminism has striven to do, these feminists have attempted to destabilize the foundational structures on which binarism relies.\textsuperscript{14}

2. Gender Stereotype

Feminism originated from the French word \textit{feminism} in the 19\textsuperscript{th} century, either as a medical term to describe the feminization of a male body, or to describe women with masculine traits. Used it was used in the United states in early part of twentieth century it was only used to refer to one group of women:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{12} Marilyn Fabe, \textit{Closely Watched Film} (University of California Press, 2004), p.227
\item \textsuperscript{13} Andrew M. Butler, \textit{The Pocket Essential Film Studies} (Pocket Essential), p.80
\item \textsuperscript{14} Sarah Gamble, \textit{Routledge Companion to Feminism and Postfeminist}. (Routledge Taylor& Francis Group, 2006). p.46
\end{itemize}
“namely” that group with the uniqueness of women, the mystical experience of motherhood and women special purity.¹⁵ Yet feminism is to make an equal position between men and women.

Stereotype is image or views that mock an object. Stereotype is a fixed commonly notion image of a person or group based on an oversimplification of some observed or imagined trait of behavior or appearance. Stereotypes are as old as human culture itself. They reflect that ideas of groups and hold about others who are different from them. Stereotypes can be either positive or negative. But most stereotypes tend to make us feel superior in some way to the person or group being stereotyped. Stereotypes ignore the uniqueness of individuals by painting all members of a group with the same brush.¹⁶

Men always dominate over women and their privileges due to gender construction place them to superior position of power against women. Those kinds are the relationship pattern, we call as patriarchal manifestation. That is what we call as patriarchal culture.¹⁷

So, gender stereotypes are traits or behaviors a person who is considered as typically categories associated to women and men, which is a quality commonly known and most people who are linked list of general properties identified as a description of women and men. In this descriptions, identified two

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¹⁶http://www.soundvision.com/info/peace/demonization.asp. p.11
¹⁷Mansour Faqih, op.cit, p.13
dimensions, namely the belief that women are interested in the welfare of others, and the belief that men are assertive and controlling.\textsuperscript{18}

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Characterization of Amelia Earhart through the Binary Opposition

The *Amelia* film presents the female character Amelia Earhart as the main character who has several strong characteristics. Those are: brave, decisive and strong willing.

Firstly, Amelia Earhart showed her characterizations as a brave woman. From the beginning of the film, it is shown that Amelia can face all the challenges in her life, where she didn’t want her life imprisoned in safety. She wants to fly freely; she inspired to fly by his father. As it is explained in the quotation below and showed by the picture:

*Amelia*: “*When I saw that little plane, it lifted me above the Kansas prairie. I had to fly. My daddy had the wanderlust. That’s why I like to moving. Flying lets me move in three dimensions. Who wants a life imprisoned in safety?*” (00:03:58)

The words “who wants a life imprisoned in safety?” reflect the women condition at that time. Women live in domestic area, where the domestic area is safe because the domestic area is far from outside world that full of dangers. But it is extremely different from Amelia’s thought that for her a life in domestic area is like life in prison. It means that Amelia is brave and she has a character like men at that time and she likes challenges while women prefer being safe at home.

While Amelia Earhart is presented as a brave woman who wants to fly across the Atlantic, it was so different from women in that era who feel scared to fly. Other woman at that time Dorothy, she thinks that become a pilot is something strange for woman.

*George*: “Hello, Dorothy. Are you going to be the next girls to become pilots?”
*Dorothy*: “What? It feels strange.” (00:23:07)

Another characteristic of Amelia Earhart is independent. She is an independent woman. She becomes the first woman aviator in the world. When George wants to marry her, she says that she is not the marrying kind. She doesn’t want her life depend on man, because she thinks that only she can make a fulfilling life for herself. She doesn’t want to get married because she thinks that married will make her far from her dream to fly around the world.

“Only I can make a fulfilling life for myself”, it means that Amelia Earhart does not want her depend on her husband. Amelia thinks that no one can fulfill her life and only herself who can fulfill it.

Amelia Earhart does not want her life depend on someone. She wants to be free and fly around the world to be an aviator, so that she can fly over the world with no borders and only freedom. The words only freedom that repeatedly says means that the Amelia’s dream is freedom, because she wants to be free.

*Amelia*: “I am on my shining adventure, flying the world, no borders, just horizons, only freedom.” (00:34:51)

The characteristic of Amelia Earhart is extremely different from Eleanor Roosevelt characteristic. She always obeys with her husband rule while Amelia Earhart does not the same. This situation shows in the dialogue bellow, between
Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt. The dialogue shows that Eleanor Roosevelt always obeys what her husband wants. Eleanor Roosevelt is depends on her husband she cannot make her own decision to do what she wants to do.

_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”

_Amelia:_ “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”

_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.”

_Amelia:_ “the wrong Roosevelt got elected.”

_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “I did ask about aviation, but he hasn’t decided on the structure yet. It might be under The Bureau of Commerce.”

_Amelia:_ “I think the structure may be less important than the man chosen to run it.”

_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “I’m sorry, my hearing failing. I missed the words “or woman”?”

_Amelia:_ “this may be one of those rare instances when the most accomplished candidate turns out to be male.” (00:54:11)

Besides brave and independent, Amelia Earhart is described as a woman who has strong willingness. When Amelia was a little girl, in the seventh birthday, her father gave her a globe and she spent hours to spinning the globe and reading the names of faraway places. Since that time she is dreaming to go to those places like wayfarer, a traveler, a vagabond. She wants to be free.

_Amelia:_ “when I was a little girl, for my seventh birthday, my father gave me a globe and I’d spend hours just spinning it slowly, reading the names of all those strange, faraway places. Morocco, Spain, Ethiopia, dreaming that someday I would go to those places, like a wayfarer, a traveler, a vagabond. I want to be free, George. To be vagabond of the air.” (00:32:58)

The words “I’d spend hours” show that Amelia Earhart has strong willing to make her dream come true. She focuses to achieve her dream and wants to make her dream come true.

Moreover, Amelia has strong willing to fly across the Atlantic, even she ever fly across the Atlantic but for her it is not counted because she did it as a
passenger and she wants to fly across the Atlantic by herself. When George tells her that no one has made it solo, fourteen have died trying but it does not make Amelia become scared to do her plan to fly across the Atlantic solo. She believes and sure that she will make it and she knows she will.

*Amelia:* “I want to fly the Atlantic.”  
*George:* “you already have.”  
*Amelia:* “as a passenger it doesn’t count. I want to fly it solo.”  
*George:* “it’s been five years since Lindbergh. No one has made it solo. Fourteen have died trying.”  
*Amelia:* “I’ll make it. I know I will.” (00:41:33)

Amelia Earhart has strong willing character, and one day when Amelia meets with Elinor Smith, a young lady 15 years old, who wants to be a woman pilot like Amelia. She wants to take over Amelia’s position and she becomes the only woman who has strong willing character besides Amelia Earhart at that time.

For women in that era, only men that can decide something, but Amelia breaks the rule and she can decide what she would do. When she becomes a commander she decides to start the flight, even though Bill told that the weather condition is not good enough to start the flight. But Amelia says that it is fine to start the flight and she thinks it is the right time to start the flight.

While women have no excuse to decide what they want and everything is controlled by men but Amelia can decide what she thinks good for her life. She accepts to work as a consultant at the Aeronautics Branch which is lead by Gene Vidal. But then she makes a decision to resign as consultant.

*Eleanor Roosevelt:* “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”  
*Amelia:* “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”  
*Eleanor Roosevelt:* “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.” (00:54:30)
The dialogue above reflects that Eleanor Roosevelt assumes that her husband will forbid her will, even though her husband, Franklin, never forbids her. And the dialogue above shows that the stereotype has internalized and take it granted in women’s life in that era. All decisions are made by men and the women just follow the decisions. It’s so different with Amelia Earhart who can decide anything that she likes.

*Amelia* film shows that Amelia Earhart has different character from women at that time. Amelia and women at that time is like a binary opposition. Amelia’s characterization similar to men’s characterization such as brave, ambitious, decisive and strong willing. Those characterizations are common for men, but Amelia has those characterizations. Women at that time are described as scared, they have no strong willing and they could not make any decision because they live in patriarchal era.

This film tries to stereotype images of women dominant in patriarchal culture by Amelia Earhart’s character. However, Amelia’s character is different. She becomes an inspiring woman in whole world.

### B. Feminist Values in Amelia Film

Feminism means that every that every woman has a right to choose what she is considered good. Feminism was formed to create a society that concern with the woman right to have freedom to choose whatever is good for her, not to be forced to become a housewife. A woman has the basic rights are equal with man rights. Woman right to choose means that every woman has the right to decide everything free from pressure. A decision is not always made by man or someone
else, but also by a woman. For example when a woman wants to get married, she can choose her own man and she can decide when she will get married without any interfere from others or because of norm compulsion.19

The setting of Amelia film is at the late eighteenth century until the beginning nineteenth century when American people are under patriarchal culture. In patriarchal culture women are never regarded to have a choice for directing their life.

This film describes Amelia Earhart as a main character, with some characterizations such as brave, beautiful, ambitious, decisive and strong willing. The setting of the film is when men dominate in every aspect of life, ese to state her will; woman is dependent human being and women never have freedom.

Amelia Earhart thinks that not only men who can work as a pilot. Men and women can do in the same way and that is the reason why Amelia wants to be a pilot. She wants to be free and not depend on others. While women in that era follow and obey their husband but Amelia breaks the stereotype of women in that era.

_Eleanor Roosevelt_: “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”
_Amelia_: “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”
_Eleanor Roosevelt_: “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.”
_Amelia_: “the wrong Roosevelt got elected.”
_Eleanor Roosevelt_: “I did ask about aviation, but he hasn’t decided on the structure yet. It might be under The Bureau of Commerce.”
_Amelia_: “I think the structure may be less important than the man chosen to run it.”

19 Ibid., pp.73-75
**Eleanor Roosevelt:** “I’m sorry, my hearing failing. I missed the words “or woman”?”

**Amelia:** “this may be one of those rare instances when the most accomplished candidate turns out to be male.” (00:54:11)

She dedicates her life as a woman pilot until the rest of her life. Amelia dies when she tries to fly across the Pacific Ocean and her plan was lost contact with Itasca; she leaves Oakland for Honolulu to traverse the waistline of the world.

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan vanished somewhere over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937. The U.S Government mounted the largest rescue mission in history, but no evidence of the Electra was found. The fate of Amelia Earhart has intrigued the world for generations. Amelia dies when she flies across the Pacific Ocean to make her dream come true to go around the world.

4. CONCLUSION

a. Conclusion

A different character’s female story presented in the film of Amelia directed by Mira Nair is about how the character of Amelia Earhart is presented and how does the issue of gender stereotype raised in this film. The life and conflict of Amelia Earhart presented in the film is part of the fact that occur among Amelia Earhart and the patriarchal culture in that era. Such as presented in the film, this story is based on true story of Amelia Earhart’s life, the first woman pilot who across the Atlantic. Because of she is woman who lives in patriarchal culture era; she got certain obstacles that cause into conflict in her life.
The film tells about how the character of Amelia Earhart is presented. Amelia Earhart’s character is extremely different from women in that era. While other women are stay at home and they did nothing, Amelia wants to fly across the Atlantic and she wants to achieve her dream. When other women are have no any courage to make decision in their life but Amelia did it. Amelia Earhart has to work hard to achieve all her dream and her dream.

The second, Amelia Earhart lived in early 1900 where the patriarchal culture is dominant. As a woman, Amelia Earhart shows to men that women can do anything that men do. She has to make sure to others that she can achieve her dream to fly solo across the Atlantic. Amelia Earhart got the problems when many people underestimate her that she can fly across the Atlantic. Many people did not believe when she tells her ambition to fly solo across the Atlantic, because many people died and vanished when they tried across the Atlantic, but it does not make Amelia gives up and down, she believes that she can. Amelia Earhart success organized the competition for women pilot and she becomes an inspiring woman, she tried to invite all the women at that time to be pilot.

Amelia Earhart success to change the women stereotype and she can make the women position being equal with men. Women can decides anything that they want and women have the same position with men.

b. Suggestion

In this thesis, the writer uses the concept of gender stereotype to analyze this film. The writer also analyzes the character of Amelia Earhart as the main character and the condition of the women that create conflict in Amelia’s life. The
character of Amelia Earhart is explicitly shown as having the feminist values issues. Therefore, the conflicts she undergoes can help the film viewers in understanding the story of the film. The writer also suggests the film viewers and other researchers to watch it carefully and repeatedly in order to understand the film. The concept of gender stereotype that the writer used for her analysis is the most suitable to apply in the film analysis. By using the concept of gender stereotype, it can prove the character of Amelia Earhart having compete the feminist values within the people and the patriarchal culture in that era. During analysis, the writer finds out that there are a lot of literatures can be read as references.

The writer also suggests this research able to get any literatures about feminist values and the patriarchal culture especially in America. A literature work that discusses about the problem she undergoes dealing with gender stereotype.

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Wina Nurul Komariyah, Feminist Film Criticism on Amelia Earhart Character in *Amelia* film directed by Mira Nair. A thesis: English Letters Department and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University (UIN) Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta 2011.

This research explains how the feminist values of Amelia Earhart’s character are presented through gender studies in Amelia film. This research applies library research and the compiled data are analyzed through descriptive qualitative analysis method.

To answer the research questions and to make this research complete, the writer finds the indicators of Amelia Earhart characters by analyzing the picture and the dialogue in *Amelia* film.

From the data analysis, the writer found that Amelia’s characters are extremely different from women at that time and she tries to change the stereotype of women. The result of this study is that Amelia’s character in Amelia film has many feminist values.
APPROVEMENT

FEMINIST FILM CRITICISM ON AMELIA EARHART CHARACTER IN

AMELIA FILM

A Thesis

Submitted In The Faculty of Adab and Humanities in Partial Fulfillment Requirements
for Strata One Degree (S1)

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The thesis has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Strata 1.

Jakarta, March 23rd, 2011

Examination Committee

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgment has been made in the text.

Jakarta, March 2011

Wina Nurul Komariyah
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful

First of all the writer would be especially grateful to ALLAH SWT, The lord of the universe, who has created heavens and earth, who has created mankind and all that we perceive. Peace and blessing be upon the prophet Muhammad SAW, his fellows and followers.

Second, the writer would like to express her gratitude to Syahroni, her beloved father and her loving Mom, Isnawati, for the useful advices, the financial support, and thanks for everything. I love you more than you know and this thesis is presented for you, Mom Pa. Thanks to her sister Ardina Dwiyani Inayah, who had supported her in completing this thesis. The writer also wants to dedicate her thanks to her big families, for their kind support and pray.

Next, the writer would like to thank to her advisor Mrs. Inayatul Chusna for the great patient and contribution to finish this thesis, and for all her advices and suggestions that has been given to her. May Allah respond her deeds with thousands kindnesses.

Consequently, the writer also wants to thank to these following people;

1. Dr. Abdul Wahid Hasyim, M.Ag, the Dean of Letters and Humanities Faculty.
2. Drs. Asep Saefuddin, M.Pd, the Head of English Letters Department.
3. Elve Oktafiyani, M.Hum, the Secretary of the English Letters Department.
4. All the lecturers of English Letters Department, who have taught and educated her during her studies at the campus.
5. All the librarians in Main Library of UIN Jakarta, FAH UIN Library, UIN Jakarta American Corner, FIB UI Library, UNJ Main Library, who helped her to get many useful references to finish this thesis.

6. Her very supportive special friend, Moh. Reivendra or Revi, for always being with her in good and bad times since the first time I write this thesis until now. You are one of the reasons she is striving hard for this thesis. Thanks for your support, pray, and love.

7. Her wonderful best friend since she was teenager until now Ditha Amanda Putri “Icha”, for being so kind to her. Thank you for your support and pray. She always enjoy being with you sharing, caring, joking, laughing, and gossiping. She hopes that this friendship will never end.

8. English Letters Students Class of 2006, Kiky, Jay, Indah, Zoya, Adhe, Ayunk, Adhe, Mira, Lazu, Galih, Aryo, Jabar, Dana, Elin, Nisa, Nadia, Ninda, Tirta, Dian, Lya, Nurul Khasanah, Nilam, Ega, Ochie, Deni, Yesika, Nopita, Lulu, Damanhuri, and Adnan Rasyid. It’s always been so nice to have friends like you. May Allah bless and protect you always. Finally, the writer realizes that this paper is far from being perfect. The writer will be very open for any suggestions and critics.

Jakarta, March, 2011

The Writer
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FEMINIST FILM CRITICISM ON AMELIA EARHART CHARACTER IN

AMELIA FILM

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JAKARTA
2011
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AMELIA FILM

A Thesis submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial of the Requirements for
Strata 1 (S1) Degree

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

‘Gender’ is now one of the busiest, most restless terms in the English language, a word that crops up everywhere, yet whose uses seem to be forever changing, always on the move, producing new and often surprising inflections of meaning.\(^1\) The word ‘gender’ comes from English. In *New World Dictionary*, gender means as the difference between men and women in terms of values and behavior.\(^2\) *Women's Studies Encyclopedia* explains that gender is a cultural concept that seeks to make the distinction in terms of roles, behavior, mentality, and emotional characteristics between men and women who thrive in people.\(^3\)

Hilary M. Lips defines gender as the cultural expectations of men and women. This opinion is in line with the opinion of feminist, like Lindsey who considers all provisions concerning public determination of a person as male or female is including the field of gender studies (what a given society defines as masculine or feminine is a component of gender).\(^4\)

H. T. Wilson defines gender as a basis for determining the influence of cultural factors and collective life in distinguishing male female. Somewhat in line with the opinions cited by Showalter that define gender distinction is more than

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just men and women viewed from the social construction culture, but emphasized
the analysis of gender as a concept in which we can use it to explain something.\(^5\)

Gender is generally used to identify differences in men and women in
terms of social culture; the sex is generally used to identify differences in male
and female anatomy in terms of biology. The term sex more concentrated on
biological aspects of a person includes differences in chemical composition and
hormones in the body, the physical anatomy, reproduction, and other biological
characteristics. While gender concentrates more on aspects of social, cultural,
psychological, and biological aspects of non other.\(^6\)

Gender studies more emphasises on aspects of masculinity (masculinity)
or femininity (femininity). In contrast the study of sex emphasises on anatomical
aspects of biology and chemical composition in the male body (maleness) and
women (femaleness). The process of growth of children (child) became a man
(being a man) or become a woman (being a woman), more widely used term in
terms of gender from sex. The term sex is generally used to refer to issues of
reproduction and sexual activity (love-making activities), the rest used the term
gender.\(^7\)

The concept of feminism implies the purity of woman, delegating man as
lesser. Setting up this concept of woman over man negates individuality.
Feminism assumes the common subject ‘woman’. With this assumption the

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\(^6\) Nasaruddin Umar, “Pengertian Gender”. Article accessed on 23 March 2011 from
http://paramadina.wordpress.com/2007/03/16/pengertian-gender/

\(^7\) Michael G. Conner, Psy.D, “Understanding The Difference Between Men And Women”. Article accessed on 23 March 2011 from
http://www.oregoncounseling.org/ArticlesPapers/ Documents/DifferencesMenWomen.htm
binary of woman or man is altered to elevate the woman over the man. By making one subject (woman) pure, a hierarchy is established. The concept of feminism implies the purity of woman, delegating man as lesser. Setting up this concept of woman over man negates individuality. Further, those that don’t fit into a binary of woman/man are labeled others.8

Film *Amelia* is Mira Nair's latest movie and stars Hillary Swank as the famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. Amelia follows Earhart from 1928 to her disappearance somewhere over the Pacific Ocean during her attempt to be the first pilot to circumnavigate the globe. The search mounted for the lost Amelia and her navigator, Fred Noonan (Christopher Eccleston) was the greatest search ever undertaken.9 This film is based on true story about Amelia Earhart.

In this film, the issue of feminist values is exposed through the character of Amelia Earhart as the main character and the patriarchal culture in American’s life that dominant in that era. Amelia’s characters described as brave woman, independent, strong willing and decisive. Those characters are extremely different from other women at that time, when other women have no courage, dependent and cannot decide anything that they want. Amelia Earhart tries to change the women stereotype and she tries to make men and women to be equal. For those reasons, Amelia Earhart becomes an inspiring woman in the world. She spends her life time in her mission to fly around the world. At the end of the film,

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Amelia dies on her flight across the Pacific with Fred Noonan as her navigator, in fulfilling her dream to be able to fly around the world.

Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24, 1897. She is a daughter of a railroad attorney. She spent her childhood in various towns, including Atchison and Kansas City, Kansas and Des Moines, Iowa. At the age of 19, Amelia attended Ogontz School near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two years later, after visiting her sister, Muriel, in Toronto, Canada, Amelia felt compelled to leave the school. Taking a course in Red Cross First Aid, Amelia became a nurse at Spadina Military Hospital in Toronto, Canada, for soldiers during World War I. The following year, Amelia enrolled as a premedical student at Columbia University in New York. Shortly thereafter, Amelia's parents insisted her to moves to California where they were living.

She learnt to fly in California. She took up aviation as a hobby, and took jobs to pay for her flying lessons. In 1922, with the financial help of her sister, Muriel, and her mother, Amy Otis Earhart, she purchased her first airplane, a Kinner Airster.

Following her parent's divorce, Amelia moved back to east where she was employed as a social worker in Denison House, in Boston, Massachusetts. It was there that she was selected to be the first female passenger on a transatlantic flight, in 1928, by her future husband, the publisher, George Palmer Putnam.
She achieved a number of aviation records:\(^{10}\)

- The first woman to fly across the Atlantic in 1928
- The second person to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932
- The first person to solo from Hawaii to California in 1935.

Amelia Earhart endures in the American consciousness as one of the world's most celebrated aviators. Amelia remains a symbol of the power and perseverance of American women, and the adventurous spirit so essential to the American persona.

In the film, Amelia was thrust as America’s sweetheart-the legendary “goddess of light”, known for her bold, larger-than-life charisma. Yet, even with her global fame solidified, her belief in flirting with danger and standing up as her own, outspoken woman never changed. She is an inspiration to people everywhere, from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the man closest to her heart; her husband, promoter and publishing magnate George P. Putnam, and her long time friend and lover, pilot Gene Vidal. In the summer of 1937, Amelia set off most daunting mission yet; a solo flight around the world that she and George both anxiously foresaw as destined, whatever the outcome, to become one of the most talked-about journeys in history.

Amelia Earhart becomes inspiring women that inspire all women in the world. Because her efforts to change the women stereotype and the patriarchal view on women at that time. In that era, women work in domestic field and only

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\(^{10}\) “Amelia Earhart, Pioneering Woman Aviator, Lost on Flight over the Pasific”. Article accessed on 23 March 2011 from http://www.acepilots.com/earhart2.html
the men who can work in outside, but Amelia try to change that stereotype. She works as a pilot which is uncommon job for women at that time. She becomes the first woman pilot in the world.

B. Focus of the Research

It is mentioned in the background of the study, this research will focus on raising the issue of feminist values as it is represented through Amelia’s character in the film of *Amelia*. The characters of Amelia are brave, independent, smart, and female worker. This film shows the issue of feminist values that happened in women. This film also shows gender discrimination that happened at that time.

C. Research Questions

1. How is the characteristic of Amelia Earhart presented in the film of *Amelia* through binary opposition between Amelia Earhart and women at that era?
2. How are feminists values presented in the film *Amelia*?

D. Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objective of the research are:

a. To give the information about the character of Amelia Earhart that presented in the film of *Amelia* through binary opposition.

b. To give the information about the feminist values in the film of *Amelia*.
E. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes this research can be beneficial for the readers who want to know more about feminist values in the film. The writer also hopes that the readers can expand their knowledge about feminist values.

F. Methodology of the Research

The method of the research involves some important aspects that complete the research:

1. Method of the Research

In this research, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method in order to find out the feminist values of women in *Amelia* film using gender studies.

2. Data Analysis

The writer concerns the data with some events and conflicts occur in *Amelia* film. In this analysis, the writer explains the data in the film of *Amelia* by analyzing the character of *Amelia* by using gender studies.

3. Research Instrument

In the research, the writer uses herself as the main instrument in collecting the qualitative data about the gender feminist values of female characters in the film *Amelia* in some ways, firstly; watching the film many times very carefully so that the writer can understand the story of the film, secondly, identifying and analyzing the feminist values and female characters from film scenes, and finally making notes taken from the dialogue that support the writer analysis.
4. **Unit Analysis**

The unit analysis of this research is a film directed by Mira Nair, *Amelia*. The film is based on the true story of Amelia Earhart, the first woman pilot in the world. The film was produced by Fox Searchlight Pictures in 2009.

5. **Time and Place**

This research is accomplished on the 8th semester of 2009-2010 academic years at English Letters Department of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Characterization

Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in narrative or dramatic works of art or everyday conversation. Characters may be presented by means of description, through their actions, speech, or thoughts as well as by depiction. Characterization can also be seen from a variety of aspects of a character such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, occupation, marital status, religious beliefs, personality, etc.\(^\text{11}\)

1. Characterization through Dialogue

Characters in a fictional film naturally reveal a great deal about themselves by what they say. But a great deal is also revealed by how they say it. Their true thoughts, attitudes, and emotions can be revealed in subtle ways through word choice and through the stress, pitch, and pause patterns of their speech. Actors’ use of grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and particular dialects (if any) reveals a great deal about their characters’ social and economic level, educational background, and mental processes. Therefore, we must develop a keen ear, attuned to the faintest and most subtle nuances of meaning revealed through the human voice-listening carefully not only to what is said but also to how it is said.\(^\text{12}\)

\(^{11}\) Larry M. Sutton, Journeys: An Introduction to Literature (Boston: Holbrook Press, Inc. 1971), pp.4-5

\(^{12}\) Joseph M. Boggs & Dennis W. Petrie, The Art of Watching Film (McGraw Hill Companies), p.61
2. Characterization through Contrast: Dramatic Foils

One of the most effective techniques of characterization is the use of foils—contrasting characters whose behavior, attitudes, opinions, lifestyle, physical appearance, and so on are the opposite of those of the main characters. The effect is similar to that achieved by putting black and white together—the black appears blacker and the white appears whiter. The tallest giant and the tiniest midget might be placed side by side at the carnival sideshow, and the filmmaker sometimes uses characters in much the same way.13

B. Feminist Film Criticism

1. Feminist film Criticism

Part of project of feminist film criticism is to identify the different kinds of screen representation of women.14 Feminist film critics work to raise our consciousness about the negative images of women in film in order to denaturalize these images to expose them as cultural constructs, not mirror reflections of the way woman really are.15

The development of feminist film theory and criticism in the United States has been shaped by three major forces, all of which are, like feminist film theory itself, phenomena of the late 1960s and early 1970s: the women's movement, independent filmmaking, and academic film studies. Although the first two movements emphasized a political agenda for feminist film critics, university film

13 Ibid p.64
14 Andrew M. Butler, *The Pocket Essential Film Studies* (Pocket Essential. 2005), p.90
studies stressed a theoretical one—not necessarily apolitical, but certainly not political in the same way. From the outset, the contemporary U.S. women's movement had a distinct cultural focus. Feminist attention to stereotyped images of women dominant in patriarchal culture made cinema—and first and foremost, Hollywood—a likely target for critique. Much of what might be called the first stage of feminist film criticism focused on film images of women and their disparity with women's actual lives. Since many women attracted to film study were part of the first generation of Americans reared on visual culture, their simultaneous recognition of the power of the image and the power of the versions of femininity presented therein came as a major revelation.\footnote{The first and most influential studies of images of women in film are Molly Haskell, From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1974); and Marjorie Rosen, Popcorn Venus: Women, Movies, and the American Dream (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1973).}

The study of film encompasses a wide variety of types, historical periods, national productions, and related topics. Many studies of film concentrate on fictional, full-length feature films, though there are other types such as shorts, non-fictional documentaries, and docu-dramas. Various studies divide the film production into various periods, from the beginnings in 1896, dependent on major developments in film production (silent, sound, color, etc.) or in historical periods (pre-World War I, the Twenties, the Depression, World War II, post-World War II, the 50s and 60s, post-60s, Film Noire, etc.). Most studies in North America concentrate on Hollywood studio production films and some on non-Hollywood feature films. However, other nations or world-regions have developed their own trends and history of film production, whether in France, Germany, Britain, Italy,
Japan, Latin America, India, etc. The study of film relates to a wide range of other topics - literature, stage, art, costumes, aesthetics, ethics, culture, erotica and pornography, television, technical inventions, computers, etc. These, like many aspects of the study of film, have complex relationships and interaction.\textsuperscript{17}

Feminism is an area of thought, philosophy and politics that covers a variety of areas within film studies: canon formation, representation of women, representation of gender (more properly sexual) inequalities between women and men, the gendered construction of the viewer and the possibilities for female cinema.\textsuperscript{18}

Contemporary feminism has employed deconstructive strategies in order to destabilize a binary model inscribed in the masculine/feminine dyad. Instead, feminists have provocatively elaborated new frameworks in which to locate the gendered and sexual subject. These theorists have drawn from the Derridean model, which argues that binary structures will always privilege one of the binaries over the other: for example, male over female. Rather than trying to reverse this so that the feminine will be privileged over the masculine, as emancipator feminism has striven to do, these feminists have attempted to destabilize the foundational structures on which binarism relies.\textsuperscript{19}

The feminine is a social construction just as the masculine is. Feminine qualities are traditionally considered to be passivity, modesty, nurturing and feeling, whereas masculine qualities are activity, exhibitionism, uncaring and

\textsuperscript{18} Andrew M. Butler, The Pocket Essential Film Studies (Pocket Essential), p.80
\textsuperscript{19} Sarah Gamble, Routledge Companion to Feminism and Postfeminist. (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2006) . p.46
thinking. These are characteristics that our society (specifically late twentieth and early twenty-first century western society) assumes that females and males will have. Female can have masculine qualities and males have feminine qualities. The aim of these feminist studies of the media was gender equality.

2. Gender Stereotype

Feminism originated from the French word *feminism* in the 19th century, either as a medical term to describe the feminization of a male body, or to describe women with masculine traits. Used it was used in the United states in early part of twentieth century it was only used to refer to one group of women: “namely” that group with the uniqueness of women, the mystical experience of motherhood and women special purity. Yet feminism is to make an equal position between men and women.

Many people assume that sex and gender is equal, in fact sex and gender are different. As an issue which is much to be discussed in literary work is about gender that revealed an imbalance of gender problem. The gender definition according to Mansour Faqih is identical characteristic for men and women constructed by socio-cultural perception. According to Mansour Faqih, there are some manifestations of gender discrimination.

- Marginalization
- Subordination

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20 Andrew M. Butler, *The Pocket Essential Film Studies* (Pocket Essential), pp.80-81
- Stereotype
- Violence
- Job burden

Gender is defined as a psychological, social, and cultural domain of being male or female. Gender is social constructions and system of meanings with multiple dimensions including gender identity, both personal and social.

As we know that human being is a creature that cannot live without others and need each others. But usually, in society there are different point of views, ideas and attitudes. The differences will show us the characteristics of the people and finally we will know the stereotype of them selves’ whether it is positive or negative. In film there are many issues that can be analyzed.

Stereotype is image or views that mock an object. Stereotype is a fixed commonly notion image of a person or group based on an oversimplification of some observed or imagined trait of behavior or appearance. Stereotypes are as old as human culture itself. They reflect that ideas of groups and hold about others who are different from them. Stereotypes can be either positive or negative. But most stereotypes tend to make us feel superior in some way to the person or group being stereotyped. Stereotypes ignore the uniqueness of individuals by painting all members of a group with the same brush.

Stereotypes exaggerate beliefs and images about groups of people and often based on a lack of information or contact with members of group.

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24 http://www.soundvision.com/info/peace/demonization.asp. p.11
Stereotype is fixed mark upon the category. It means that stereotype is a view that describes something related to attitude and man’s characteristic or groups that have the design of negative because of less information and subjective. According to Baron and Byrne, one term of attitude is prejudice. Prejudice is negative attitude toward group or person.

Men always dominate over women and their privileges due to gender construction that place them to superior position of power against women. These are the relationship pattern that we call as patriarchal manifestation. That is what we call as patriarchal culture.

Patriarchal culture is the biggest and the most important discourse that become central of the gender issues to women. In patriarchal societies, men were held to be superior creatures. They had legal rights lacking to women. Patriarchy is almost known as prior reason that gender discrimination is patriarchal product. Patriarchy is a political system ruled by men in which women have inferior social and political status.

The feminists explain that the whole rules in the society either from economic sector, politic, and religion are in scope of patriarchal culture and it can be understood as men power. It was the beginning of feminist movement to deconstruct patriarchal system.

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27 Mansour Faqih, op.cit, p.13
29 Pusat Studi Wanita: *Pengantar Kajian Gender*, (Jakarta: Pusat Studi Wanita-PSW, 2003), p.60
In addition, gender is the feature that closes to the men and the women. It is made both and cultural factors, so there is the assumption of the social and cultural roles of the men and the women; on the other words, it is a social concept differentiating (in the meaning of choose or separate) the men and the women roles.\textsuperscript{30} The fundamental appeal of these tough female characters for gender studies is that they represent untypical female roles.\textsuperscript{31}

So, gender stereotypes are traits or behaviors of a person who is considered as typically categories associated to women and men, which is a quality commonly known and most people who are linked to the list of general properties identified as a description of women and men. In this descriptions, identified two dimensions, namely the belief that women are interested in the welfare of others, and the belief that men are assertive and controlling.\textsuperscript{32}

In the 1930’s many women were typically seen as the housewives who cooked and cleaned while the husband was at work as the provider. Women however; were not just housewives many had their own jobs much as working in factories. Although women worked hard they never got the right credit. The typical American woman is shown in the world as a housewife. Many advertisements and pictures show the housewives as happy women who stay at home clean and take care the children.

\textsuperscript{30} Trisakti Handayani, Sugarti, i, \textit{Konsep dan Teknik Penelitian Gender.} (Malang: UMM Press, 2002)p p.5-6
\textsuperscript{31} Sherrie A. Innes \textit{New Images of Tough Women in Popular Cinema}, (Palgrave Macmillan). pp.48-49
Data description stereotypes between man and women.\textsuperscript{33}

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<th>Male Stereotypes</th>
<th>Female Stereotypes</th>
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<td>Biology/Physiology</td>
<td>Strong, powerful, never tired, energetic</td>
<td>Weak, frail, dainty, charming</td>
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<td>Stable, never cry, can hold emotions, aggressive, serious, brave, unemotional</td>
<td>Gentle, soft-hearted, cry soon, cannot hold emotion, sensitive, emotional, sentimental, fearful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence/ Cognition</td>
<td>Intelligent, wise, makes decision, clear thinking, logical</td>
<td>Dreamy, less capable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitude</td>
<td>Assertive, courageous, active, adventurous, responsible</td>
<td>Dependent, submissive, superstitious, talkative, curious, irresponsible</td>
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</table>

\textsuperscript{33} Sir Tipu Sultan Muzamil & Saba “Gender Stereotype in Feminist Perspective” (No 011 & 014). Article accessed on 2 Februari 2011 from: http://www.sribd.com_html.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Characterization of Amelia Earhart through the Binary Opposition

The *Amelia* film presents the female character Amelia Earhart as the main character who has several strong characteristics. Those are: brave, decisive and strong willing.

Firstly, Amelia Earhart showed her characterizations as a brave woman. From the beginning of the film, it is shown that Amelia can face all the challenges in her life, where she does not want to live imprisoned in safety. She wants to fly freely; she is inspired to fly by his father. As it is explained in the quotation below and showed by the picture:

*Amelia*: “When I saw that little plane, it lifted me above the Kansas prairie. I had to fly. My daddy had the wanderlust. That’s why I like to moving. Flying lets me move in three dimensions. *Who wants a life imprisoned in safety?*” (00:03:58)

The words “who wants a life imprisoned in safety?” reflect the women condition at that time. Women live in domestic area, where the domestic area is safe because the domestic area is far from outside world that full of dangers. But it is extremely different from Amelia’s thought that for her a life in domestic area is like in prison. It means that Amelia is brave and she has a character like men at that time and she likes challenges while many women prefer to be safe at home.
Another situation which shows that Amelia Earhart is brave is when she is asked by the woman in that era about how Amelia’s feel when she flies over the ocean and Amelia says that she does not feel scared but she enjoys the view from the top. She feels the sky and the sea are the same and she sees beautiful place.

*Woman II:* “How did it feel to fly over the ocean? Were you scared?”

*Amelia:* “When I looked down at the sea, it seemed much like the sky to me. As if the sky and the sea were the same. I felt much as I do when I’m flying upward toward the sun. Transported somehow to a simple, safe, beautiful place, where everything is comprehensible.” (00:26:26)

While Amelia Earhart is presented as a brave woman who wants to fly across the Atlantic, it was so different from the picture of women in that era who feel scared to fly. Other woman at that time Dorothy, thinks that becoming a pilot is something strange for women.

*George:* “Hello, Dorothy. Are you going to be the next girls to become pilots?”

*Dorothy:* “What? It feels strange.” (00:23:07)

Amelia has courageous to fly across the Atlantic that women in that era never did it because they do not have any courageous like Amelia has.
Newscaster: “Amelia Earhart, the only woman to fly across the Atlantic, just can’t keep her feet on the ground. The publisher George Putnam has commissioned her to write a book on her flying adventures.” (00:24:58)

The words “the only woman” show that only Amelia Earhart who has courage to fly across the Atlantic. There is no other woman who has courage like Amelia Earhart.

Another characteristic of Amelia Earhart is independent. She is an independent woman. She becomes the first woman aviator in the world. When George wants to marry her, she says that she is not the marrying kind. She doesn’t want her life depends on man, because she thinks that only herself that can make a fulfilling life for herself. She doesn’t want to get married because she thinks that married will make her far from her dream to fly around the world.

George: “I want you to marry me.”

Amelia: “I don’t want to get married, George. I’m not the marrying kind.”

George: “don’t you see, you and I embarking on a new life?”

Amelia: “Dear George, only I can make a fulfilling life for myself.” (00:32:12)

“Only I can make a fulfilling life for myself”, mean that Amelia Earhart does not want to depend on her husband. Amelia thinks that no one can fulfill her life and only herself who can fulfill it.

In Amelia’s wedding day, when the minister tells her to obey her man, she refuses the word ‘obey’. It reflects that Amelia wants to be independent and she does not want spend her life only to obey the rules from her husband.

Minister: “Amelia, do you promise to love, honor and obey this man…?”
Amelia: “excuse me, sir? May we take that back a bit, please? Love, yes, if we warranted. Honor same thing. Obey, I can’t promise that under any circumstance, but the groom understands that.”

Amelia Earhart does not want her life depend on someone. She wants to be free and fly around the world to be an aviator, so that she can fly over the world with no borders and only freedom. The words ‘only freedom’ that repeatedly said by mean that Amelia’s dream is freedom, because she wants to be free.

Amelia: “I am on my shining adventure, flying the world, no borders, just horizons, only freedom.” (00:34:51)

The characteristic of Amelia Earhart is extremely different from Eleanor Roosevelt characteristic. Eleanor always obeys her husband rules. This situation shows in the dialogue bellow, between Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt. The dialogue shows that Eleanor Roosevelt always obeys what her husband wants. Eleanor Roosevelt depends on her husband and she cannot make her own decision to do what she wants to do.
Eleanor Roosevelt: “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”

Amelia: “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”

Eleanor Roosevelt: “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.”

Amelia: “the wrong Roosevelt got elected.”

Eleanor Roosevelt: “I did ask about aviation, but he hasn’t decided on the structure yet. It might be under The Bureau of Commerce.”

Amelia: “I think the structure may be less important than the man chosen to run it.”

Eleanor Roosevelt: “I’m sorry, my hearing failing. I missed the words “or woman”?”

Amelia: “this may be one of those rare instances when the most accomplished candidate turns out to be male.” (00:54:11)

Besides brave and independent, Amelia Earhart is described as a woman who has strong willingness. When Amelia was a little girl, in the seventh birthday, her father gave her a globe and she spent hours to spinning the globe and reading the names of faraway places. Since that time she is dreaming to go to those places like wayfarer, a traveler, a vagabond. She wants to be free.

Amelia: “when I was a little girl, for my seventh birthday, my father gave me a globe and I’d spend hours just spinning it slowly, reading the names of all those strange, faraway places. Morocco, Spain, Ethiopia, dreaming that someday I would go to those places, like a wayfarer, a traveler, a vagabond. I want to be free, George. To be vagabond of the air.” (00:32:58)

Figure 2 the picture above illustrates that Amelia wants to be free, to be vagabond of the air.
The words “I’d spend hours” show that Amelia Earhart has strong willing to make her dream come true. She focuses to achieve her dream and wants to make her dream come true. Moreover, Amelia has strong willing to fly across the Atlantic, even she ever fly across the Atlantic but for her it is not counted because she did it as a passenger and she wants to fly across the Atlantic by herself. When George tells her that no one has made it solo, fourteen have died trying but it does not make Amelia scared to do her plan to fly across the Atlantic solo. She believes and sure that she will make it and she knows she will.

*Amelia*: “I want to fly the Atlantic.”

*George*: “you already have.”

*Amelia*: “as a passenger it doesn’t count. I want to fly it solo.”

*George*: “it’s been five years since Lindbergh. No one has made it solo. Fourteen have died trying.”

*Amelia*: “I’ll make it. I know I will.” (00:41:33)

Figure 3 the picture above illustrates that Amelia gets the chance to fly solo.
Amelia Earhart has strong willing character. One day when Amelia meets with Elinor Smith, a young lady 15 years old, who wants to be a woman pilot like Amelia. Elinor wants to take over Amelia’s position and she becomes the only woman who has strong willing character besides Amelia Earhart at that time.

*George*: “*what’s your primary ambition?*”
*Elinor*: “*to take Amelia’s place as the number one female pilot.*” (00:29:58)

Women at that time are not ambitious like Amelia. Amelia is described as strong willing woman who wants to reach her dream to be vagabond of the air. People in that era either men or women think that Amelia’s dream is too ambitious.

*Gene*: “*Transcontinental was too ambitious, too many hops, too tough on the ladies...*”

It means that women at that time have no dream like Amelia has. Gene thought that Amelia could not achieve her dream and it reflects patriarchal view on women at that time. Where ambitious, hops and tough belongs to men stereotype and women’s stereotypes are pessimistic, less hops and weak.

The film shows patriarchal society where, women have no excuses to decide what they want, because everything is controlled by men and only men who have authority but Amelia can decide what she wants. The setting of this film is in early 1900, when women are uncommon to express their thoughts. Women are treated as the second class, even though women can participate in public area, they are still inferior.
George: “advance press release. The gentlemen who are running the derby about to announce the race has to end west of The Rockies."
Amelia: “What?”
George: “They are thinking that it would be bad press when you girls start smashing into the Rocky Mountains.”
Amelia: “hey, Gladys! I let the boys in charge know in no uncertain terms, we’re not changing our route! We’ll sail over those mountains like we’re eagles.”
(00:39:36)

From the dialogue above, Amelia Earhart expresses her thought bravely and decides about what she wants to do. She defends her route and ignores the advice to change the route. She resists the patriarchal culture and becomes a decisive.

In that era, only men that can decide something, but Amelia breaks the rule and she can decide what she wants. When she becomes a commander she decides to start the flight, even thought Bill tells her that the weather condition is not good enough to start the flight. But Amelia says that it is fine to start the flight and she thinks it is the right time to start the flight.

Bill: “well, it’s not good enough.”
Amelia: “it’s fine. There’s a tailwind all the way. We’ll off-load to 700 gallons, which gets us off the water and the wind will get us to Ireland.”
Bill: “you’re dumping fuel? You’re serious?
Amelia: “just as serious as you hung-over. Slim, you go now. Get the late weather. We’ll meet you at the plane.” (00:14:01)

While other women have no excuse to decide what they want and everything is controlled by men but Amelia can decide what she thinks good for her life. She accepts to work as a consultant at the Aeronautics Branch which is lead by Gene Vidal. But then she makes a decision to resign from this job.
Amelia: “I’ve decided, I’m resigning as your consultant at the Aeronautics Branch. The public linking of our names do more harm to that image of mine than everything else put together. And you, of all the people should know that whatever I do, I do so that I can fly and I want to fly that beautiful bird as far as it will take me. I’m going to fly around the world, Gene.” (01:07:17)

This film shows that the women at that time cannot decide what they want to do in their life, because only men who can decide something. This situation is showed when Amelia Earhart talks with Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of the president F.D Roosevelt.

Eleanor Roosevelt: “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”
Amelia: “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”
Eleanor Roosevelt: “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.” (00:54:30)

The dialogue above reflects that Eleanor Roosevelt assumes that her husband will forbid her will, even though her husband, Franklin, never forbids her. The dialogue above shows that the male domination in term of opinion and decision in women’s life in that era. All decisions are made by men and the women just follow the decisions. It’s so different with Amelia Earhart who can decide anything that she likes.

Amelia film shows that Amelia Earhart has different character from women at that time. Amelia and women at that time is like a binary opposition. Amelia’s characterization similar to men’s characterization such as brave, ambitious, decisive and strong willing. Those characterizations are common for men, but Amelia has those characterizations. Women at that time are described as
scared, they have no strong willing and they could not make any decision because they live in patriarchal era. Finally, this film tries to show different stereotype images of a woman in patriarchal culture by Amelia Earhart’s character. However, Amelia’s character is different compare to many other women at her time. She becomes an inspiring woman in whole world.

**B. Feminist Values in Amelia Film**

According to Priyo men are always in dominant-superior position, aggressive and vice versa with women which is weaknesses. There are characteristics sticks to man and woman that constructed by socially and culturally. For example, man tends to have an emotional, soft and maternal characteristic; and women who have strong, rational and powerful characteristic. Those changing could happen from time to time and from one place to another. This is what is called the concept of gender.

Gender behavioral differentiate men and women which socially constructed. Differences of gender will not become a problem if there is no inequitable gender. But what happen, difference of gender has born inequitable manner to woman, emerges the movement to defense woman right that is called feminism. Feminism is a response against pressure, subordination, and unfair treatment toward woman. Feminism is an answer to the actual woman problem that exists in a time.

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Feminism means that every woman has a right to choose what she is considered good. Feminism was formed to create a society that concerns with the woman’s right to have freedom to choose whatever is good for her, not to be forced to become a housewife. A woman has the basic rights equal with man rights. Woman right to choose means that every woman has the right to decide everything free from pressure. A decision is not always made by a man or someone else, but also by a woman. For example, when a woman wants to get married, she can choose her own man and she can decide when she will get married without any interfere from others or because of norm compulsion.  

The setting of *Amelia* film is at the late eighteenth century until the beginning of the nineteenth century when American people are under patriarchal culture. In patriarchal culture, women are never regarded to have a choice to state her will; woman is dependent human being and women never have freedom for directing their life. 

This film describes Amelia Earhart as a main character, with some characterizations such as brave, beautiful, ambitious, decisive and strong willing. The setting of the film is when men dominate in every aspect of life, especially where Amelia Earhart involve in.

Amelia Earhart grows up in patriarchal society, which everything is dominated by men and women just follow and obey the men’s rule. For women in that era, to do something that break the rule is not appropriate, but Amelia Earhart

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36 Ibid., pp.73-75
tries to break the stereotype of women in that era, especially in job. She becomes an aviator where the field is dominated by men.

_Amelia_: “My dream has always been to fly across the Atlantic, but the way you want me to do it is far from the way I've envisioned it.” (00:07:50)

Amelia Earhart thinks that not only men who can work as a pilot. Men and women can do in the same way and that is the reason why Amelia wants to be a pilot. She wants to be free and not depend on others. While women in that era follow and obey their husband but Amelia breaks the stereotype of women in that era.

_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “your husband encourages you to fly across the Atlantic. My husband wouldn’t want me to fly and street.”
_Amelia:_ “So, he hasn’t actually forbidden you?”
_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “Franklin doesn’t forbid. He just feels it’s a waste of my valuable time to learn since I can’t afford to buy a plane.”
_Amelia:_ “the wrong Roosevelt got elected.”
_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “I did ask about aviation, but he hasn’t decided on the structure yet. It might be under The Bureau of Commerce.”
_Amelia:_ “I think the structure may be less important than the man chosen to run it.”
_Eleanor Roosevelt:_ “I’m sorry, my hearing failing. I missed the words “or woman”? ”
_Amelia:_ “this may be one of those rare instances when the most accomplished candidate turns out to be male.” (00:54:11)

From the dialogue above, it is showed that women in that era are just stay at home and obey the rules from their men. Men at that era think that women don’t have to fly because it just wastes the time. But Amelia does not agree because she thinks that men forbid women to do what women want.
For the reasons women have stereotyped as weak, less capable and always depend on the man, Amelia Earhart tries to make a new stereotype. Amelia struggles continually to break the patriarchal culture, she has to fight men domination in her life, we can describe Amelia Earhart as an inspiring woman at her time, by her brave to fly across the Atlantic and her strong willing to be free and to fly around the world and her strong willing to fly solo across the Atlantic even many people underestimate her. She never gives up to prove that she can do it. She can decide what she wants to do, while women at that time couldn’t decide what they want and she becomes a decisive one.

Amelia spends her life for her flight by flying around the world, even though she already married with George Putnam. She proves that she can be a good wife and a good pilot. She always wants to be free and her husband always supports her. When Amelia makes an event Women Pilot Racing, she is supported by her husband and she become an inspiring woman, because she was inspire women to be pilot.

Newscaster: “Amelia Earhart organizes a competition for women pilots. Nine cities in nine days. Tragedy strikes and there are crashes along the way. The race continues thousands plan to be on hand to witness those who make it as they approach the finish line.” (00:40:01)
Many women want to join that competition and so did Amelia. For her a victory for any woman flier is a victory for her. Amelia very appreciates with women who join that competition. She forms an organization to promote women in aviation and Amelia inspires 99 women to be women pilots.

*Man:* “how does it feel to finish third?”

*Amelia:* “a victory for any woman flier is a victory for me. (ON PA) I’d like to add my congratulations to Louise Thacten and announce that we have formed an organization to promote women in aviation. 99 women pilots have applied, so we’re calling it the ninety-nines and we’re going to fly forever.” (00:40:57)
She dedicates her life as a woman pilot until the rest of her life. Amelia dies when she tries to fly across the Pacific Ocean and her plan was lost contact with Itasca; she leaves Oakland for Honolulu to traverse the waistline of the world.

Figure 5 the picture above illustrates that Amelia try to change the women stereotype.

When Amelia Earhart fulfills her dream to across the Pacific Ocean and she acts as a pilot and she takes Fred Noonan as her navigator. It reflects that Amelia tries to change the stereotype of women that women belong to second class. But in this case, Amelia changes the stereotype, she makes Fred Noonan as her navigator and the position of the navigator is behind the pilot, Amelia. Amelia Earhart is success to change the stereotype of women at that time, she makes the equality between men and women.

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan vanished somewhere over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937. The U.S Government mounted the largest rescue mission in history, but no evidence of the Electra was found. The fate of Amelia Earhart
has intrigued the world for generations. Amelia dies when she flies across the Pacific Ocean to make her dream come true to go around the world.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

a. Conclusion

A different character’s female story presented in the film of Amelia directed by Mira Nair is about how the character of Amelia Earhart is presented and how does the issue of gender stereotype raised in this film. The life and conflict of Amelia Earhart presented in the film is part of the fact that occur among Amelia Earhart and the patriarchal culture in that era. Such as presented in the film, this story is based on true story of Amelia Earhart’s life, the first woman pilot who across the Atlantic. Because of she is woman who lives in patriarchal culture era; she got certain obstacles that cause into conflict in her life.

The film tells about how the character of Amelia Earhart is presented. Amelia Earhart’s character is extremely different from women in that era. While other women are stay at home and they did nothing, Amelia wants to fly across the Atlantic and she wants to achieve her dream. When other women are have no any courage to make decision in their life but Amelia did it. Amelia Earhart has to work hard to achieve all her dream and her dream.

The second, Amelia Earhart lived in early 1900 where the patriarchal culture is dominant. As a woman, Amelia Earhart shows to men that women can do anything that men do. She has to make sure to others that she can achieve her dream to fly solo across the Atlantic. Amelia Earhart got the problems when many people underestimate her that she can fly across the Atlantic. Many people did not
believe when she tells her ambition to fly solo across the Atlantic, because many people died and vanished when they tried across the Atlantic, but it does not make Amelia give up and down, she believes that she can. Amelia Earhart success organized the competition for women pilot and she becomes an inspiring woman, she tried to invite all the women at that time to be pilot.

Amelia Earhart wants to fly across the Pacific Ocean with Fred Noonan, but when she tells her plan to public, many people think that she cannot do this flight because this is the most dangerous flight. Even many people think that she cannot do this flight; Amelia Earhart still wants to do the flight to across the Pacific Ocean. Amelia tries to change the women stereotype by taking Fred Noonan as her navigator and Amelia Earhart becomes his pilot. So the position of men and women being inverted. And Amelia Earhart success to make the position men and women being equal. Finally, Amelia Earhart success to change the women stereotype and she can make the women position being equal with men. Women can decides anything that they want and women have the same position with men.

b. Suggestion

In this thesis, the writer uses the concept of gender stereotype to analyze this film. The writer also analyzes the character of Amelia Earhart as the main character and the condition of the women that create conflict in Amelia’s life. The character of Amelia Earhart is explicitly shown as having the feminist values issues. The writer also suggests the film viewers and other researchers to watch it carefully and repeatedly in order to understand the film. The concept of gender
stereotype that the writer used for her analysis is the most suitable to apply in the film analysis. By using the concept of gender stereotype, it can show the character of Amelia Earhart having compete the feminist values within the people and the patriarchal culture in that era.
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