ABSTRACT


In this research, the writer analyzed Erin Brockovich movie which is written by Susannah Grant and directed by Steven Soederbergh. This research is relates to the feminism in which focuses on the liberal feminism concept. The writer used qualitative method. Erin Brockovich describes a single mother of three children who success to help the citizen that becomes a victim of PG&E and get $.400 million as a change of lost.

In this movie, the figure of super mother and success women is very clearly in Erin Brockovich character. She can be equal both take care of her children and success in career. Her spirit that needs a good in job can change her live from unemployed to be success in job too. At the end of this movie, Erin not only success in her career but also in her relationship.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank to Allah, the Lord of the universe and the thereafter. I am sure that all I have is from Him. Peace and blessing be upon our prophet Muhammad SAW and all of his friends and followers.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my family: my mother (Hj. Sayamah), my father (H. Muhayar), thank you so much for their financial support, prayers, hope, love, and all the contribution I need to finish my study in this university and I also want to thank to my sisters (Ani and Yati), and also my brothers (Uci, Maul, Doni, Rizal) who support me in doing my paper.

I cannot fail to mention my advisor Mr. Supardi for his great patient and contributions in finishing this paper. I thank for all his advices that have been given to me, and may God bless him and his family.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Woman is an adult female person (as opposed to a man). In the society, men and women have their own positions; however, women positions often get oppression from men. They often think that women do not have the same freedom like men. For example, women do not have freedom of educational right, political right, economical right, etc. Most of them think that women’s job is only to take care of their children and husband at home. From that oppression women think that they need the same right like men who can work in public because of that women make a declaration of women emancipation. Kinds of women emancipation, for example, their liberation from religion, legal, economic, and sexual oppression, their access to higher education, and their escape from narrow gender roles that is not easily achieved.

On the other hand, even if nowadays women have a profession and do not stay at home all the time, it does not mean that they cannot take care of their children. Erin Brockovich film represents about Erin who very loves her children and always take care of her children even though she works in the lawsuit office.

Julia Roberts in this legal drama based on the true story, is a woman who helps winning the largest settlement ever pays in a direct-action lawsuit. Erin Brockovich is a 2000 movie which dramatized the story of Erin Brockovich’s first fight against the American West Coast Energy Giant Pacific Gas and Electric

Company known as PG&E. Erin Brockovich film, starring Julia Roberts is a reflection of the struggle of a woman as a single parent. Erin Brockovich is the main character of a single parent who has three children. The character of Erin Brockovich itself is a hard worker. She is not only a hard worker woman in her office but she also never stops to take care of her children at home.

Her career begins when she meets with Mr. Ed Masry who is a director in a lawyer office. At that time, she gets an accident. When she is back from finding a job there is a Jaguar that hits her car. In that accident her neck is hurt so she must use something to help her neck. As a victim in that accident, Erin wants to bring that problem to the court so that she decides to meet with Mr. Ed Masry to help her in this problem. But in the court, Erin loses because most of them think that Erin is in a depression condition when the accident happens. It happens because Erin tells that she is a single parents with 3 children, she does not have insurance and has a $17,000 in debt.

After she fails to win that case she gets a loss because she must pay Mr. Ed Masry as her lawyer. She tries to find a job in order to gets money for her children but it is so difficult to find a job. So she decides to find a job in Mr. Ed Masry office. She gets that job as the compensation for the loss. When Mr. Ed Masry gives her job as a file clerk in his office, she runs across some files on a Pro-Bono case involving real estate and medical records against Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The character of Erin is a beautiful woman that has a boyfriend (George) who lives beside her home and always takes care of her children when she works. Even though Erin works in the lawsuit office but she still needs

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love from her children and her boy friend. The conflict begins when George asks her to choose between her career and him. But she cannot resign from that office because it is the first time she gets esteem from other employees but she cannot leave him too. So George decides to leave her with her career. Until one day, George comes back to live together with Erin and her children. He agrees that Erin keeps working at the lawsuit office.

Some characteristics of Erin such as independent, ambitious, hard worker, motherhood, and smart are the characteristics that the writer interests to analyze by using liberal feminism approach.

B. Focus of the Study.

This research will focus on the main character Erin Brockovich, as the main character by using liberal feminism concept.

C. Research Questions.

Based on the background of the study and the focus of the study above, the writer would like to propose the statements of the problem as:

1. What are the characteristics of Erin Brockovich in that movie?
2. How do characteristics of Erin Brockovich film represent the feminism ideas?

D. Significance of the Study.
The writer hopes that this literary research can give some significant information about feminism approach for other students, so that it will be more variant especially in liberal feminism concept.

E. Research Methodology.

The methodologies of this research are including some aspects of the research such as:

1. Objective of the Study.

1. The purpose of this research is to know about the characteristics of Erin Brockovich.

2. To know how liberal feminism idea described in Erin Brockovich character.

2. The Method.

The writer tries to get an answer of the question that depicts in the research questions. The writer uses the qualitative research method.

3. Technique of Data Analysis.

The writer uses the descriptive analytical technique to analyze some kind of the characteristics of Erin Brockovich character that has related to liberal feminism ideas. In this analysis, the writer explains the data such as the dialogues and pictures of this movie and then analyze them based on the liberal feminism theory.
4. **The instrument.**

The instrument of this research is the writer by watching Erin Brockovich movie and then she maps some of the characteristics of Erin Brockovich and analyze by using liberal feminism theory.

5. **The unit of analysis.**

The unit of analysis in this research is Erin Brockovich movie (2000) which is written by Susannah Grant, directed by Steven Soedebergh, and published in 2000, and other references that have correlation with the object as secondary data.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. CHARACTER AND CHARACTERIZATION

a. Character

Character is someone who acts, appears, or is referred to as playing a part in a literary work. A character also can be defined as a person represented in drama, story, play, etc. In literature, a character is a personage in a novel, short story, drama, or person.

a. Major or main character

Major or main characters are those we see more of over a longer period of time; we learn more about them, and we think of them as more complex and therefore frequently more realistic than the minor characters.

b. Minor character

Minor characters are the figures that fill out the story.

c. Flat character

A flat character is a simple, one dimensional character. A flat character sometimes known as a type character is usually lightly sketched without much detail. The character is underdeveloped and can be summarized in just a sentence or two.

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7 Paul Hunter, Alison Booth and Kelly J, *loc. cit.* p. 102
d. Round character.

Round character is a well developed multi-sided and complex personality, a fully realized individual.

e. Static character.

A static character is a character whose does not change in personality, nature, or attitude, he or she is the same sort of person from the beginning of the story until the very end.

f. Dynamic character.

A dynamic character is one who undergoes at least one permanent, important change in some aspect of their personality, nature or attitude.

g. Protagonist character

Protagonist character is the central character in the story, one who is faced with conflict. Protagonist character also defined as the chief character or hero of the piece of fiction or drama is usually three dimensional. An older and more neutral term than hero for the leading character, a term that does not imply either the presence or the absence of outstanding virtue (and that has the added advantage of referring equally to male and female character is protagonist).

h. Antagonist character.

Antagonist character is any character or force in the story that presents or causes conflict for the protagonist. The antagonist character often becomes the consuming interest of the play, and the action seems

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9 ibid
designed to illustrate or clarify, or develop that character or sometimes to make him or her complex, unfathomable, mysterious being.

b. Characterization.

A characterization is the creation of fictitious character in other words; it is the means by which the writer brings a character to life.\textsuperscript{10} A characterization in a literature is the presentation of the attitudes and behavior of imaginary persons in order to make them credible to the author’s audience. A good deal of characterization, the art, craft, and method of presentation or creation of fictional personages involves similar process.

B. Feminism

Feminism is a diverse competing and often opposing collection of social theories, political movements, and moral philosophies, largely motivated by or concerning the experiences of women, especially in terms of their social, political, and economical inequalities.\textsuperscript{11} Feminism is a discourse that involves various movements, theories, and philosophies which are concerned with the issue of gender difference, advocate equality for women, and campaign for women's rights and interests.\textsuperscript{12} Feminism also means a movement and a set of beliefs that problematize gender inequality. Feminists provide frameworks within which to define problems, their causes, vision for change, and the

\textsuperscript{10} ibid


\textsuperscript{12} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism retrieved October 12 2008
strategies and solutions toward transformation. Feminists believe that women have been subordinated through men’s greater power, variously expressed in different arenas. They value women’s live and concerns, and work to improve women’s status.\textsuperscript{13} The word of “feminism” itself organized from the French word \textit{feminisme} in the nineteenth century, either as a medical term to describe the feminization of a male body, or to describe women with masculine traits.\textsuperscript{14} Marisa Rueda said that feminism is about the opposition toward division of labor in the world that decides that only men that have a power in public domain such as in job, sport, war, government but women only as a worker without wage at home who shoulder the entire family life loads.\textsuperscript{15}

Besides Marisa Rueda there is Asmaeny Aziz who thinks that feminism as an approach to see women position in the public space, culture, and economy therefore feminism become a new manner to approach women’s position that equal to men.\textsuperscript{16} Feminism can be discussed both as an ideology and as a social movement. As ideology feminism is an affirmation of women’s equivalent value as persons with men and a rejection of sexist ideologies that interfrriorize women. As a movement feminism is an organized effort to transform the cultural and social systems that perpetuate women’s subjugation to men.

\textsuperscript{13} Marjorie L. Devault. \textit{Liberating Method, Feminism and Social Research}. (Philadelphia 1999). p. 27

\textsuperscript{14} Jane Pilcher, Imelda Whelehan. \textit{Fifty Key concepts in Gender Studies}. (London 2004). p. 48

\textsuperscript{15} Marisa Rueda, Marta Rodriguez, Susan Alice Watkins, \textit{Feminisme untuk Pemula}, (Yogyakarta 2007), p. 3

Many kind of feminist exist. To clarify differences among several, the writer examine three versions that women commonly give a voice to worldwide: liberal feminism, socialist feminism, and radical feminism.

a. **Liberal Feminism.**

Liberal feminism was born amid ferment in Europe over individual right in a limited state with lines clearly between private lives and public actions, including market activity. Public-private line drawn differently throughout the world and in various world religions, spread with the extension of the modern state during the colonial era. Liberal feminists, male and female alike, sought legal changes to educated women, to enfranchise them with political rights and to create equal entitlements and playing fields on which to compete for opportunities and resources.\(^{17}\)

Liberal feminism is that strand of women-centered ideas and practices focusing on achieving equal right between female and male citizens as well as equal opportunities and outcomes for similarly situated females and males while deemphasizing the cognitive and psychological differences between female and male. Liberal feminist thus have no fundamental quarrel with well established liberal notions. Their dissatisfaction lies with the gender biases in the social arrangements of those societies that are supposed to function as liberal feminists have been the main proponents of such notions as equal pay for equal work, equal standards for admission to postsecondary education, equal funding of females and males athletics in schools, and equality of

\(^{17}\) Kathleen Staudt. *Policy Politics and Gender*, (women gaining ground 1998), p. 22
opportunities for job, promotions, and benefits, including pensions and other retirement perquisites.\textsuperscript{18}

Liberal feminists generally work for reform within existing political and economical systems, rather than for revolution or transformations. Men have monopolized decision-making positions in the past and present existing political systems. Those states have privileged men as actors in and benefit of state patronage. Indeed, an archaist and libertarian feminist (the latter advocating an extreme form of liberal feminism) are highly suspicious of the state, so much so that they identify the state as the source of women’s subordination to men.\textsuperscript{19}

Liberal feminism draws on the diversity of liberal thought dominant in Western society since the enlightenment, and affirms that women’s subordinate social position can be addressed by existing political processes under democracy. Liberal feminist does not expect the boundaries existence in the society because as long as the boundaries in the society exist, woman will always be victim “rhetoric” restriction. Shattering the social boundary, either the tradition or everything that does not open the equality space among men, finance, domination, and women; they are the enemies that should be tackled, is in order to make a woman space to articulate the importance, right and everything relating to their needs.

\textsuperscript{18} George Ritzer (ed), \textit{Encyclopedia of Social Theory} 1 (Sage Publications, inc, USA 2005), p. 447

\textsuperscript{19} ibid p. 22
Capital exploitation, women laborer who does not get proper wages in factory and women obedience towards men command in household is form protest of liberal feminist. They consider that woman’s dependence economically to her husband is a factor that will bring the oppression and injustice up them.

For liberals the key battle is access to education: following Marry Wollstonecraft, it is argued that if men and women are educated equally, then it follows that they will get equal access to society.\(^{20}\) Liberal feminism has famous feminists such as Marry Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, and also Betty Friedan.

b. **Socialist Feminism**

Socialist feminism is a branch of feminism that focuses upon both the public and private sphere of a woman’s life and argues that liberation can only achieved by working to end both the economic and cultural sources of women’s oppression. Socialist feminism is a dualist theory that broadens Marxist feminism’s argument for the role of capitalism in the oppression of women and radical feminism’s theory of the role of gender and the patriarchy. Socialist feminism confronts the common roots of sexism, racism, and classism; the determination of a life of oppression or privilege based on accidents of birth or circumstance. Socialist feminist give priority to economic factors. Women’s economic dependency on men gives them little leverage in social contexts, from household to national and international. Women’s work,
unpaid and paid, is generally undervalued, deriving benefits to employers, husbands, and government, which relegates responsibility for child rearing and volunteerism onto women’s shoulders. Socialist feminists work to integrate women in the labor force to support their collective organization in struggles to gain more value for their labor, and to acquire political voice for public policies that would redistribute wealth and opportunity.²¹

Socialist feminist claimed that impossible for everyone especially for women to achieve the true freedom from within society that based on class, the wealth of society which produced by unauthorized people will end in a little people that have an authority. Social feminism is an inclusive way of creating social change. We value synthesis and corporation rather than conflict and competition.

c. **Radical Feminism**

Radical feminism forms a catchall category that refers to several kinds of feminists. Suharto said in the feminist profetik book that feminist radical born from activity and policies analysis hits civil rights and social change movement in the year 1950 and 1960 with woman movement bright in the year 1960-1970.²²

Radical feminism states that the defining features of women’s oppression is the societies exist and capitalist hierarchy. The movement

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²¹ Kathleen Staudt (1998), *loc. cit.* p. 25

believes that only the eradication of our patriarchy society will give women true equality.\(^\text{23}\)

The radical identifies that the only way to rid society of patriarchy is to attack the causes of the problems and also to address the fundamental components of society that support them. The radical feminist ideology is, “A male based authority and power structure and that it is possible for oppression and equality, and that as long as the system and its values are in place, and society will not able to be reformed in any significant way”.\(^\text{24}\) The feminist identified other oppression that is apparent in a patriarchal is also based on gender identity, race, and social class, perceived attractiveness, sexual orientation and ability.

The radical theory of patriarchy recognizes the key element is a relationship of dominance and exploits others for their own benefit. The use of this oppression is a social system that includes other methods that are incorporated to suppress women and no dominate men.

Radical feminism is usually associated in the popular consciousness with separatism and man-hating. Radical feminists, particularly in the USA, emerged largely from new left and civil right political groupings. Their politics was broadly radical left, but they become hugely disenchanted with the male-dominated power play witnessed in left-wing radical groupings and formed the women’s liberation movement in order to allow space for the consideration of women’s oppression outside of the confines of male-oriented


\(^{24}\) ibid
knowledge and politics. Their conviction that a woman-centered politics could only be devised in a woman-only space led to policy separatism at least at the level of policy-making and meetings. This politics of radicalism, while drawing political lessons from the new left and civil rights movement, wanted a political formation freed from the taint of maleness and therefore espoused leaderless, grouping, job-sharing and structure—well beyond the parameters of contemporary democracy.25

C. Mise en Scene

In the original French, mise en scene (pronounced “meez-ahn-sen”) means “staging an action” and it was first applied to the practice of directing plays.26 The mise en scene is determined during pre-production and production and involves the work of many people. The production designer’s careful planning contributes greatly to the coherence of the mise en scene.

a. Costume and make-up

On the screen as in real life, the clothes people wear reveal much about them. Clothes indicate social, economic, and occupational status and express individual personality. In motion pictures, as in theater costumes are also used symbolically, shaping unconscious audience attitudes toward the wearer. A character is conspicuous if he wears black when everyone else wearing white. On the costume can be so unusual that it makes the character

25 Jane Pilcher, Imelda Whelehan. loc. cit, p. 50

26 David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, Film Art, an introduction, fourth edition, (University of Wisconsin), p. 145
stand out in the scene. The Costume has specific functions in the total film, and the range of possibilities is huge. On the other hand, costumes may be quite stylized, calling attention to their purely graphic qualities. For many actors, the process of internalizing the character to be played really begins when they see themselves in costume. All these points about costume apply equally to a closely related area of mise-en-scene, the actor make-up.

Makeup was originally necessary because actor’s faces would not register well on early film stocks. And up to the present, it has been used in various ways to enhance the appearance of actors on the screen. Makeup and hairstyle establish time period, reveal character traits, and signal changes in characters. Makeup was used in early cinema simply to make actor’s face visible. But improvements in film stock and lighting mean that makeup is now used to enhance or minimize an actor’s prominent features or to simulate youth or advanced age.27

Makeup can alter an actor’s appearance so that he or she more closely resembles a historical figure, thus enhancing a film’s claim to historical accuracy. In such contexts, make up, like costume, becomes important in creating character traits or motivating plot action.

27 Maria Pramaggiore, Tom Wallis, *Film: A critical introduction*, (Laurence King Publish, UK 2005), p. 74
Makeup decisions also help to create the desired look. Makeup can enhance the natural look of an actor or transform an actor into a different version himself or herself or into a totally different person.\(^\text{28}\)

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Character and characteristics of Erin Brockovich.

1. Character of Erin Brockovich

Character is someone who acts, appears, or is referred to as playing a part in a literary work. In a movie character is an important element that can make the story different from novel. In this drama movie, Julia Roberts plays as Erin Brockovich, the main character.

In this movie, Erin Brockovich is a main or major character because this movie itself tells about her life since she still does not have a job until she works in a lawsuit office. Erin Brockovich character is round because there is a change in her life. In the beginning of this movie she is the middle class woman that has no job, but it is changed after she works in Mr. Ed Masery lawsuit office as a file clerk. Round character is a character that is fully developed as a complex, three-dimensional person. She works hard to investigate the Pro bono and PG&E case.

It can be seen in the dialogue below:

Erin: I was pulling out real show and out of nowhere, his Jaguar comes racing around the corner like a bat out of hell. They took some bone from my hip and put it in my neck. I don’t have insurance, so I’m about $17,000 in debt right now. I couldn’t take pain killers because they made me too groggy to take care of my kids. Mathew’s eight and Katie’s six, and Beth’s just nine months. I just want to be a good mom,

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29 Paul Hunter, Alison Booth and Kelly J, the Norton introduction to literature. (W. W Norton and Company, Inc 2002.), p. 102
a nice person, a decent citizen. I just want to take good care of my kids, you know?

From the quotation above, Erin describes about her condition in the court of the car accident. In the picture (1a) see enclosed in appendices, Erin explains about her condition that she has in debt $17,000 and does not has insurance in front of other people in the court. Everyone cannot believe it especially when she tells that she gets twice divorces. They think that when the accident happens, Erin is in depression condition. Based on Erin explanation, the court thinks that she is in depression and makes decision if she is a guilty and she gets fail. In that court, she looks so unhealthy she uses the pain killers in her neck. It can show that she gets hurt in her neck. At that time, Erin uses a white dress with red flower motive. There is another dialogue that can support about the condition of Erin when she is in a poor condition, see below:

Erin: You told me I had a good shot. I had no shot!
Mr. Ed Masry: Let’s and settle down here
Erin: Fuck “Settle down”! I’ve got $74 in the bank. I can afford to settle down.
Mr. Ed Masry: I’m sorry
Erin: Do they teach lawyer to apologize? Because you suck it.

Erin is also in poor condition when she gets fired. It can be seen from the dialogue below:

George: It’s a simple thing, Erin. All we have to do is call an exterminator. Everybody gets them.
Erin: I can’t call an exterminator. I can’t afford one. I can’t even afford my phone. I got fired.
From the dialogue above, we can see that Erin is in poor condition because she does not have money even for pay an exterminator to destroy the insect in her home. She looks very sad when she gets fired after she backs from investigates the real estate case. As a single parent, she is very confused with her children life after she gets fired. It is mean that she cannot give money for them. And then the dialogue that can show Erin has changed in her life is after work in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office and success to investigate the citizens who are being the victims in that problem. She gets a new car from Mr. Ed Masry see below:

**Men**: Erin Brockovich?
**Erin**: yeah
**Men**: Package from Masry & vititoe
**Erin**: Thank you
**Erin**: What in here?
**Beth**: Baby
**Erin**: There's no baby in here. What is it?
**Beth**: Dolly
**Erin**: It's a dolly? It's...Look. “Look” is right. Do you see that?
**Beth**: I want that
**Erin**: I want that too. It's our lucky day.

See picture (1b) enclosed in appendices. In that picture Erin is beside her old car, after she tries to find a job. Her Hyundai car looks so old. That old car is very important for her to get job. But after she works in the lawsuit office she gets surprise from her boss. See the picture (1c) enclosed in appendices. In that picture we can see Erin’s new car that she gets from Mr. Ed Masry as a present of her hard work in investigating the Pro-Bono real estate case. The beautiful red car in front of Erin’s house is very different with Erin’s old car. She gets her new car when she is holding her daughter Beth. Someone comes to her house and brings a map. He tells that this map comes from Mr. Ed Masry Company. And
when she opens the map, she looks very surprised when she finds a key of red car inside the map. She looks so happy to get a gift from Mr. Ed Masry. Since that time, Erin gets a raise in her financial. When she works in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office in the first time, she does not get the benefit and now she has a new car.

Before she gets fired from Mr. Ed Masry, she investigates the victim of PG&E case and has some important data. Erin tells it to her boss and promises him to give it in condition he has to hire her again and to raise her salary, benefits including dental. It is supported by the dialogue below:

**Mr. Ed Masry:** That document you found at the water board…the one that says about the bad chromium…you didn’t happen to make a copy, did you?
**Erin:** Of course I did.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** Could I have a look at it?
**Erin:** I want a raise and benefits, including dental.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** Erin, this isn’t the way I do business.
**Erin:** What way is that?
**Mr. Ed Masry:** Extortion.
**Erin:** Oh.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** Okay, a five percent raise. We’ll talk about benefits later.
**Erin:** Ten. There are lots of other places. I could get work.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** Ten percent raise and benefits. But that’s it. I’m drawing a line.

From the quotation above, we can see that Erin successes to get a benefit, and rises from her boss in her office. Since that time, Erin financial is increased and becomes higher than before. A character is round when there is a change in her traits or inner characteristics.

2. Characteristics of Erin Brockovich
a. Motherhood

Erin Brockovich is a single mother of three children who has divorced twice. As a single mother she does not only becomes a mother but she must becomes a father too. She must work to get money for their lives because she does not have a husband that will give money for her. It can be seen in the situation when Erin asks for understanding from her son (Mathew) because she cannot always be there for all the time.

Erin: Hey...How was school?
Mathew: Fine
Erin: Did you do your homework?
Mathew: Yeah...
Erin: Any problems. I know you're upset, but...the way this job is things come up at the last minute; real important things that I got a deal with.
Mathew: Fine.
Erin: Please don't be mad at me. I'm doing this for us. I know it's hard for you to understand, but...don’t you want mommy to be a good at her job? Hmm? It’s not like I miss dinner all the time. We all ate together last night.
Mathew: You were reading the whole time. Okay.

From the quotation above, we can see that Erin needs a support from her children to work. She realizes if she is busy, she cannot always be there for her children. So she hopes that her children can understand it more.

Actually the reason why she works so hard is only to give the happiness for her children’s life. She does like her parents ever do with her in the past.

b. Hard worker
From the beginning of this film, Erin Brockovich is described when she tries to find a job in a hospital, but she does not get that job. After that Erin tries to find a job from the advertisement on the newspaper. Erin as a woman who has debt of $17000 and three children cannot only stay at home to take care of her children. She must work to get money for her children. She never stops to find a job even though she has ever been rejected by some company. She decides to apply for a job in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office. So when she gets job in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office as a file clerk she always works hard. She works hard to investigate about the Pro-Bono real estate case. She will do everything to help the citizen that becomes the victims in that case. Even she must go to some places to get some data that will help her to investigation. See enclosed in appendices picture (2a).

In that picture, we can see Erin tries hard to get a sample of water that contains the hexavalent chromium. That chromium makes the citizen suffers from some disease such as cancer, tumor, etc.

Another fact that can show Erin is a hard working woman, when she gets ill but she still comes to the office. She always tries to do best for the citizen that becomes the victims in that case. Until she never think about her condition. It will be supported by the dialogue below:

Rosalind: Hey, Erin. I thought you were taking a sick day.
Erin: So I did. What’s going on in there?
Rosalind: A meeting about the PG&E thing
Erin: Are you sure?
Rosalind: Yes.
From the dialogue above between Erin and Rosalind it is very clear that at the time when Erin comes to the office, she is in ill condition. But she never minds it. For her the problem of the citizen is more important than herself.

c. Good Mother

Another characteristic of Erin Brockovich is a good mother. Even though Erin Brockovich is always busy since she works in the lawsuit office especially when she is interested in investigating the Pro-Bono real estate case, she never forgets to love and give attention to her children. As soon as she gets back from the office, she will meet her children that she entrusts in the neighbor’s house. She always tries to be a good mother for her children. It can be seen when Erin is in the court when she gets a car accident:

Erin: I was pulling out real show and out of nowhere, his jaguar comes racing around the corner like a bat out of hell. They took some bone from my hip and put it in my neck. I don’t have insurance, so I’m about $17,000 in debt right now. I couldn’t take pain killers because they made me too groggy to take care of my kids. Matthew’s eight and Katie’s six and Beth just nine months. I just want to be a good mom, a nice person, a decent citizen. I just want to take good care of my kids, you know?

Based on the dialogue above, we can see that Erin very loves her children. She only wants to be a good mother for her children. And if we see on the pictures, it shows that Erin always smiles when she talks about her children. See enclosed in appendices picture (3a)

Another fact that can show Erin as a good mother for her children is when she loses in the court and she does not have much money. At that time, Erin picks up her children to go to a fast food restaurant. She tells her children to order some
foods but she only orders a cup of coffee. When her children ask her why she doesn’t eat, she lies and tells them that she has already eaten with her lawyer. But after her children sleep at night she eats a snack in the kitchen. See enclosed in appendices picture (3b). And it is supported by the dialogue below:

Erin: you kids go head and order  
Mathew: Okay I’m gonna have a cheeseburger deluxe with a coke.  
Waitress: Okay  
Katie: Mommy, can’t I have a cheeseburger deluxe with no cheese and no bread?  
Erin: Did you get that?  
Waitress: Yes  
Erin: And she will have a cup of chicken broth and few crackers, please.  
Waitress: And for you?  
Erin: Just cup of coffee.  
Waitress: Okay  
Mathew: Mommy, you’re not eating?  
Erin: Well, my lawyer took me out to fancy lunch to celebrate, and I’m still stuffed. How about that?

Erin looks very love her children when George leaves her for a long time. When George still life with her, George will always keeps her children at home. But when George leaves her, it makes her has to bring her children everywhere she goes even when she goes to work. It can be seen in the picture (3c). In that picture Erin looks so patient when she must bring her children to the office.

According to the Rosemarie Putnam Tong that said that a woman should not forget about love and her obligation to take care the children for job and vice versa. Erin Brockovich can show that even though she must work in the lawsuit office but she never stops to love her children and get love from a man. Erin will always kiss her children before them sleep. We can see how Erin gets very angry when she hears a noise that comes from the new neighbor’s house that life besides
her house will disturb her children sleep. She does not want if the noise will make her children awake. See in the picture (3d) enclosed in appendices.

d. Beautiful women.

Erin Brockovich character played by Julia Roberts is a beautiful woman that ever becomes Miss Wichita before she works in the lawsuit office. The characteristic of Erin Brockovich is as a woman who has a long curly hair, beautiful eyes and also has a proportional body. See picture (4a) enclosed in appendices.

In that picture, Erin is in her works place she looks very beautiful with her dress whose color is cream. She wears an ear stud like the other people.

It can be seen in the dialogue below:

Erin: It doesn’t matter. It doesn’t make one fucking bit of difference. I mean...God, I was Miss Wichita for Christ’s sake. Did I tell you that? You are living next door to real live fucking beauty queen. I still have my tiara. And I thought it meant I was gonna do something important with my life that it meant I was someone.

Another dialogue that can show if she is a beautiful is:

Mr. Ed Masery: As I was saying, I decided that the figure you proposed was inappropriate. So I increased it. Do they teach beauty queens how to apologize? Because you suck it.

From the quotations above, we can see that Erin is a beautiful woman who ever becomes Miss Wichita in her life. Everyone in this movie agree that she is a beautiful woman. It can be seen from Mr. Ed Masry statement when Erin gets money for the winning the real estate case, he tells that Erin is as beauty queen.
Another characteristic of Erin Brockovich is smart. It can be seen from her explanation. She tells Mr. Ed Masry that she wants to work in his office. It is described in dialogue below:

Mr. Ed Masry: I’m sorry about that. I really am, but we have a full staff right now...
Erin: Bullshit! If you had a full staff, this office would return a client’s damn phone call. I’m smart. I’m hard working and I’ll do anything, and I’m not leaving here without a job. Don’t make me beg. If it doesn’t work out, fire me. Don’t make me beg.

From the quotation above, Erin tries to convince him that he can trust her because she is smart. That is why he must give her a job. See picture (5a) enclosed in appendices.

Another proof that shows her intelligence is when she can investigate the Pro Bono real estate case just by herself without any instruction before. When Mr. Ed Masry wants to explain about the way to investigate that problem, he asks her if she understands about that problem first and Erin tells that she understands how to investigate that problem. Erin is also smart because when Mr. Masry comes to her home and ask her to give some important data which is related to the Pro-bono real estate case that she gets, she asks him to employ her again and give some benefits, ten percent salary increase. It can be seen in the dialogue below:

Mr. Masry: The document you found at the water board…the one that says about the bad chromium...you didn’t happen to make a copy, did you?
Erin: Of course I did
Mr. Masry: Could I have look at it?
Erin: I want a raise and benefits, including dental
Mr. Masry: Erin, this isn’t the way I do business
Erin: What way is that?
Mr. Masry: Extortion
Erin: Oh
Mr. Masry: Okay, a five percent raise. We’ll talk about the benefits later
Erin: Ten. There are lots of other places I could get work
Mr. Masry: Ten percent raise and benefits. But that’s it. I’m drawing the line

f. Sexy Women

As a women who ever becomes Miss Wichita in her life, Erin always uses a dress that shows some part of her body that makes her looks so sexy. It can be seen when she works in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office. She always wears a sexy dress that makes men who see her will be tempted but for women it makes them feel so uncomfortable. Until one day When Mr. Ed Masry gives a Pro-Bono real estate case file for Erin, he asks her to rethink about her wardrobe but Erin refuses it because she thinks that she looks nice with the dress that she wears. And it is based on the dialogue below:

Mr. Ed Masry: Oh...look, now, you may want...now that you are working here, you may want to...uh, rethink your wardrobe a little.
Erin: Why is that?
Mr. Ed Masry: Well, I think some of the girls are a little uncomfortable, because of what you wear.
Erin: is that so? Well, it just so happened, I think I look nice and as long as I have one as instead of two. I’ll wear what I like if that’s all right with you. You might want to rethink those ties.

As we know that on the screen as in real life, the clothes people wear reveal much about them. Clothes indicate social, economic, and occupational status and express individual personality.30

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Erin Brockovich character in this movie is described as a woman who always wears a sexy dress in every situation even when she works. See picture (6a) enclosed in appendices. In that picture Erin wears a transparent dress with leopard skin motive and mini skirt. Erin looks sexier than Anna. From that picture what Erin’s wear is very different with Anna (other staff in that office). In that picture Anna wearing a formal costume to work with wearing a casual white dress but what Erin’s wearing looks very contrast with Anna when she wearing a sexy dress and also mini skirt. See picture (6b) enclosed in appendices. And when Erin wears a cream dress with no sleeve, she looks so beautiful and sexy with that dress. Erin also wears a dress with different color likes other character. In this movie, most of characters who work in the Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office always wear dress with soft color such as white, cream, and black. But the color of costume that Erin wears is different from others. The color of Erin’s dress is more varieties than other such as blue, cream, and chocolate with leopard print skin motive, pink and also red. The costume with different color that Erin wears also makes her looks stand out in this movie. Besides the color of Erin costume, Erin also wears an ear stud and also necklace with “E” symbol to the initial of her name.

g. Independent

Independent is the quality of someone which is not dependent on or controlled by other persons or things; not relying on others; no need to work for a
As a woman who has divorced twice and has three children, Erin Brockovich becomes a woman who does not depend on man anymore or what it is called independent, especially in financial. Even though in the middle of this movie Erin Brockovich has George as a man whom she loves, keeps becoming an independent woman that gets some money by her.

It is supported by the dialogue between Erin and George below:

**George:** If you got a problem with me taking care of your kids, just say so.
**Erin:** I didn’t say that.
**George:** Because I can get a job…and you can leave the kids with the chicken fat lady again, okay? Erin, I know what these kids can sleep through. I probably know better than you.

George very worries about Erin, so he wants Erin to quit from that job but Erin does not want to leave her job but she refuses it.

On the first part of this movie, Erin Brockovich characterized as an unemployed women. She does everything to get a job such as reads advertisements on the newspaper. She wants to make her children happy. The spirit that she gets from her children makes her becomes an independent woman especially after she gets a job in the lawsuit office.

Erin’s independent character is also shown when she decides to investigate the Pro-Bono real estate and PG & E case. She investigates that case by herself interviewing the victims and collects some data that has a correlation with that problem. It can show that Erin Brockovich is an independent woman.

Erin’s independent is also shown when she decides to keep on working after she lives together with George. She cannot leave her job when George asks

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her to stay at home and take care of her children and let him to works to get money for their lives. It can be seen in the picture (7a) when George wants to give her an ear stud. He really loves her very much so he wants her to stay at home. George forces her to quit from that job, but Erin rejects it. George gives a choice to Erin to choose between him and that job. It can be seen in the dialogue below:

George: I saw them in a mall one day, I said “Damn…those would look good on the beautiful ears”. So I bought them and I said “Next time Erin does something nice or says something nice…I’ll surprise her with them” you know how long ago that was? Six month ago.
Erin: I’m sorry
George: So that I’m thinking is…Erin, either you gotta find a different guy…I mean…there may be many men out there who don’t mind being maid…and getting nothing in return, but I sure ain’t one of them.
Erin: I can’t leave my job, George.
George: Yes you can. You can just quit. People do it all the time.
Erin: How can you ask me to do that? This job… for the first time in my life. I got people respecting me. Up in Hankley, I walk into a room and everybody shuts up to hear if I got something to say. I never had that before, ever. Please don’t ask me to give it up.
George: What about your kids are giving up?
Erin: I’m doing more for my kids now than I did living with my parents. One day they’ll understand that.
George: What about me?
Erin: What about you? You think either one of the men who gave me those children, asked me what I wanted before he walked away? All I’ve ever bend my life around what men decided they need. Well, not now. I’m sorry, I won’t do it
George: Well, Erin I’m not them. So… what more do I have to do to prove that to you?
Erin: Stay
George: What for? Huh? You got a raise, you can afford day care. You don’t need me.

From the dialogue above between Erin and George it can be seen that George does not want to be like that. As a man he just stays at home to take care of her kids but Erin must work at the office. So he forces her to quit from that job and let him works. But Erin cannot leave her job and George decides to leave her
with her children even though Erin asks him to stay. Until one day George comes back again and supports her to work by taking care of her kids when she works. See Picture (7b).

h. Ambitious

Erin will do everything to find and to make freedom and happiness. Her spirit makes her works harder to have a better life. At the first, her struggle appears when she tries to find a job. She will look for any kinds of job without hopeless. She tries to find a job by reading advertisements on the newspaper.

Erin: *I'm calling about the job ad in the paper. Yes I'm calling about the job advertisement. Great personality, good voice, I don't have any actual sales experience. I don't really have a resume but I can... no I don't have any computer skills, but... oh, well I thought it was the local store. Okay thanks anyway.*

From the quotation above, we can see how Erin makes a great effort to get a job even though she is always being rejected. It can be described in the picture (8a). In that picture Erin reads some newspapers and she holds a red pen on her hand to mark the advertisement on the paper. She is never getting tired to call some companies on the newspaper to find a job even though she never gets that job. It shows that Erin is not passive and pessimist but she is always optimist in finding a job.

Her ambitious character is also shown when she has to find a job in Mr. Ed Masry lawsuit office. She tries to find a job in that office because she ever becomes a client of Mr. Ed Masry in car accident case. In the picture (8b) is
described how Mr. Ed Masry looks very surprised when he sees Erin works in his office. Then he asks Erin about what she is doing in his office.

*Mr. Ed Masry*: Erin, how's it going?

*Erin*: You never called me back I left message.

*Mr. Ed Masry*: You did? Well, I didn’t know that. Donald seems to think you that...

*Erin*: There are two things that aggravate me, Mr. Ed Masry, being ignored and being lied too.

*Mr. Ed Masry*: I never lied

*Erin*: you told me things would be fine. They are not. I trusted you.

*Mr. Ed Masry*: I’m sorry about that. I am...

*Erin*: I don’t need pity. I need a paycheck. I’ve looked but when you’ve spent the past six years raising babies, it’s real hard to convince someone to give you a job that pay worth damn. Are you getting every word of this, honey? Or I’m talking too fast for you?

*Mr. Ed Masry*: I’m sorry about that. I really am, but we have a full staff right now.

*Erin*: Bullshit! If you had a full staff, this office would return a client’s damn phone call. I’m smart, I’m hard working, and I’ll do anything and I’m not leaving here without a job. Don’t make me beg. If it doesn’t work out, fire me. Don’t make me beg.

*Mr. Ed Masry*: No benefits

Based on the picture (8b) see enclosed in appendices, we can see that Erin forces Mr. Ed to hire her to work in his office. She talks loudly to Mr. Ed Masry until the other staffs look at them. She is very happy because finally she gets that job even though she does not get benefits.

**B. Liberal feminist concept on Erin Brockovich characters.**

After watching *Erin Brockovich* movie which is written by Susannah Grant and directed by Steven Soederberg, the writer tries to analyze this movie through some characteristics that have a correlation to liberal feminism ideas. The position of Erin is as a single mother of three children and she works in the lawsuit office. She can prove that she can be equal as other people. She can
balance her position as a mother at home and also an employee at lawsuit office. She can be a good mother even though she must work in the office. Based on the Rosemarie Putnam Tong book which tells about liberal feminism according to Betty Friedan’s thought that feminist in 1980 should stop to try “do all” and “being all”. She confirms that the correct bargainer for syndrome of “super women” is not ignores love because of a job and vice versa. Betty Friedan said that woman who chooses between job and love, frequently narrated the contrition on the decision.

Erin’s characteristic which still has loves and tries to be a good mother even though at that time she is busy with her work can describe about feminist liberal especially in twentieth century. It can be shown in the dialogue below:

**Waitress:** And for you?
**Erin:** Just cup of coffee.
**Waitress:** Okay
**Mathew:** Mommy, you’re not eating?
**Erin:** Well, my lawyer took me out to fancy lunch to celebrate, and I’m still stuffed. How about that?

The dialogue above happens, when Erin is still unemployment and she does not have much money. So when she eats in the restaurant with her children she lets her children to order any kind of food that they want and she only order a cup of coffee. She lies to her children if she has stuffed after celebrating her win. But in fact, Erin does not win in that accident case and she does not have money. Erin always shows her love to her children in every kiss that she gives for her children before they sleep. She also tries to give happiness for her children by working hardly to get much money.
As a single mother she must discover the strength of her personality by working hard to change their life especially in financial. She can change her life to be better since she works so hardly to investigate the Pro Bono real estate case.

An ambitious character in Erin Brockovich character especially about job, can be described that she is a liberal feminist. Erin tries so hard to find a job by reading advertisements on the newspaper. She never stops to find a job even though she is always being rejected. And she tries to find a job in Mr. Ed Masry’s lawsuit office. She tries to make him trust her that she is a hard worker. It can be seen in the dialogue below:

**Mr. Ed Masry:** Erin, how’s it going?
**Erin:** You never called me back I left message.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** You did? Well, I didn’t know that. Donald seems to think you that…
**Erin:** There are two things that aggravate me, Mr. Ed Masry, being ignored and being lied too.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** I never lied
**Erin:** you told me things would be fine. They are not. I trusted you.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** I’m sorry about that. I’m…
**Erin:** I don’t need pity. I need a paycheck. I’ve looked but when you’ve spent the past six years raising babies, it’s real hard to convince someone to give you a job that pay worth damn. Are you getting every word of this, honey? Or I’m talking too fast for you?
**Mr. Ed Masry:** I’m sorry about that. I really am, but we have a full staff right now.
**Erin:** Bullshit! If you had a full staff, this office would return a client’s damn phone call. I’m smart, I’m hard working, and I’ll do anything and I’m not leaving here without a job. Don’t make me beg. If it doesn’t work out, fire me. Don’t make me beg.
**Mr. Ed Masry:** No benefits

Erin Brockovich character is an independent woman. She will do everything to make a better position in career. She wants to get increases in career so she works hard to get it. She begins her career as a file clerk in that
office until she becomes someone who is very famous in that office because of her successfulness in investigating the Pro Bono real estate case and everyone respect her. She does not want to leave her career just to stay at home like other women do in the past. Liberal feminist thought that woman who depend their economically on their husband is one of factors that will make the repression appears and systematic injustice. So when George asks her to make a decision to choose between her career and George, she chooses her career and asks him to stay and live together with her even though he makes a decision to leave her with her career. George leaves her because he thinks that he is only a useless man for her who only stays at home to take care of her children even though then he comes back again to take care of her children when she works. It can be described in the dialogue below:

**George**: I saw them in a mall one day, I said “Damn…those would look good on the beautiful ears”. So I bought them and I said “Next time Erin does something nice or says something nice…I’ll surprise her with them” you know how long ago that was? Six month ago.

**Erin**: I’m sorry

**George**: So that I’m thinking is…Erin, either you gotta find a different guy…I mean…there may be many men out there who don’t mind being maid…and getting nothing in return, but I sure ain’t one of them.

**Erin**: I can’t leave my job, George.

**George**: Yes you can. You can just quit. People do it all the time.

**Erin**: How can you ask me to do that? This job… for the first time in my life, I walk into a room and everybody shuts up to hear if I got something to say. I never had that before, ever. Please don’t ask me to give it up.

**George**: What about your kids are giving up?

**Erin**: I’m doing more for my kids now than I did living with my parents. One day they’ll understand that.

**George**: What about me?

**Erin**: What about you? You think either one of the men who gave me those children, asked me what I wanted before he walked away? All I’ve

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ever bend my life around what men decided they need. Well, not now. I’m sorry, I won’t do it.

George: Well, Erin I’m not them. So… what more do I have to do to prove that to you?

Erin: Stay

George: What for? Huh? You got a raise, you can afford day care. You don’t need me.

Erin represents the liberal feminism concept when she asks Mr. Masry to give her a raise and benefits when he asks the important data that she gets about the real estate case. Equal pay right triggered by Betty Friedan in the year 1963 successes in making woman can enjoy work condition better and get equal salary as man for the same job. Erin in this movie also needs the equal salary increase and benefits that she does not get when she works in the first time. It can be seen in the dialogue below:

Mr. Masry: The document you found at the water board…the one that says about the bad chromium…you didn’t happen to make a copy, did you?

Erin: Of course I did

Mr. Masry: Could I have look at it?

Erin: I want a raise and benefits, including dental

Mr. Masry: Erin, this isn’t the way I do business

Erin: What way is that?

Mr. Masry: Extortion

Erin: Oh

Mr. Masry: Okay, a five percent raise. We’ll talk about the benefits later

Erin: Ten. There are lots of other places I could get work

Mr. Masry: Ten percent raise and benefits. But that’s it. I’m drawing the line

All the characterizations of Erin such as motherhood, good mother, independent, sexy, smart, are the characteristics of the liberal feminist submitted for all the women in the world. So women are able to have the same position as men, to stand up in their own feet and to proud of her self.
Therefore, from the analysis of Erin Brockovich character in *Erin Brockovich* movie, the writer can see that Erin as a main character in this movie reflected the liberal feminist ideas in undergoing her life without feeling tired or even desperate.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After analyzing Erin Brockovich movie, the writer concludes that the characteristics of Erin Brockovich who has courage to make a decision by choose her job than George even though at least he comes back again. The success of Erin in fighting against her boyfriend, success in job and win 400 million as change of lost in the end of Erin Brockovich movie. It can be said as her successful to get free from the patriarchal system and represent of liberal feminism concept.

In this thesis, Therefore from the analysis, the writer can see that Erin is woman who much loves her children. She will do everything to make her children happy. Erin’s character also as someone who still needs love from her children and her boyfriend even though she must work that appropriate with Betty Friedan’s thought as liberal feminist in the twentieth century in the Rosemarie Putnam Tong book that a woman should not ignore to get love and to take care the children for job and the contrary.

Even though in the middle of this movie Erin has someone who really loves her (George) but she still works and lets George with her children at home. What Erin’s doing can describe that she is an independent women. Asmaeny Azis said in her book Feminisme Profetik that liberal feminist thought women who is dependent her economical to her husband is one of the factor that makes...
repression appearance and systematic injustice that they gets. Erin is a woman who cannot dependent her economical to her boyfriend.

Erin’s character who does not like the role in the office that every staff must wear a dress like others is occurred with liberal feminist concept in Asmaeny Azis book that does not expect the boundaries existence in the society, because during the boundaries in that society, woman will always be the restriction rhetoric victim.

She is a smart woman when she successes to investigate the Pro-Bono real estate case and she uses her successful to get some important data to get the increase salary, benefits, and also dental. Liberal feminist thought that capital exploitation, woman laborer who doesn’t get proper wage in the factory is kind of liberal feminist protest. Erin’s character can represent liberal feminist’s idea that needs the same payment for every work that she do.

From those explanations of strong female character consciousness of Erin, the writer analyzes that it has made Erin as a liberal feminist character who lived in the unlucky condition and she tried to change it by working hard. It seemed that Erin has feminist liberal perspective; therefore, her ambitious character and hard worker can change her life to be better and her struggles to against what she thought that was no right and contradicts with her mind and principles.

B. Suggestion
Watching movie it is very fun but when the researcher wants to analyze the movie they must watch carefully. Because when they analyze movie it is different from novel. The researcher can analyze movie with relate the extrinsic theory such as cultural studies, feminism and etc. Analyzing a movie must based on facts within. They have to observe more seriously, in order to catch it as good as possible.

The writer suggests that those who are interested in doing the same research particularly concerning about feminism to read more various references about the concept of feminism in order to get more wide knowledge and deep analysis. The writer also suggests for other students who wants to analyze the character of the movie by using feminism theory they must analyze the characteristics of the main character that can represent feminism ideas and compare with other character of the movie that can support the main character.
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She brought a small town to its feet and a huge company to its knees.

Julia Roberts is Erin Brockovich
Based on a true story.
[Dialogue]
[Erin]
Hey, Erin, I thought you were taking a sick day.

[Erin]
Nothing much.

[Aaron]
You're not getting better.

[Erin]
I'm just going to take care of some personal things.
Matthew: It's just happened. I think I'll call Marla.

Jennifer: What are they doing making all that goddamn noise?

Jennifer: Simple enough.

Jennifer: Okay. Here's your desk.
Erin, either you go find a different job or a different guy.

I can't leave my job, George.

I'm calling about the ad in the paper.

And I'm not leaving here without a job.