AN ANALYSIS ON LIBERAL FEMINISM VALUES OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE FILM “MISS POTTER”

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Letters Scholar

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ABSTRACT


The study concerns on the way the writer explores the concepts of liberal feminism to express her idea through the film which appears in the film Miss Potter. The writer uses the qualitative descriptive analysis as the method to analyze the relationship between the main character and the liberal feminism values which are appeared in the main character of the film. The data are obtained from the books of feminism and the internet which are related with liberal feminism.

In this analysis, the writer finds out the final result shows the characteristics of the main character which reflects the liberal feminism values. The main character applies androgyny in her life like liberal feminists suggest. Miss Potter, who decides to be unmarried at the first story, finally she determines to marry with a man she loves but her mother does not bless her. Mother is supposed to go along her to release from the tie of patriarchal culture but Mother oppresses Miss Potter. At a time when most young women of her class aimed only to make a good marriage, Beatrix becomes an iconic figure, swimming quietly, but with great fortitude, against the tide. She shows to the world that she can do a great thing to take part in the public sphere. She creates a series of children’s story that are beloved very much by people.
APPROVEMENT

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A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Strata One Degree

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LEGALIZATION

The thesis entitled “An Analysis on Liberal Feminism Values of the Main Character in the Film Miss Potter” has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on March, 16 2009. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Letters Scholar.

Jakarta, March 16, 2009

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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 acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, March 16, 2009

Aenun Nahdiyati
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The writer
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Based on its quality, we can divide culture into two parts; that is high culture and mass culture. People usually call high culture as an exclusive masterpiece or a magnum opus, such as the works of Shakespeare, the paintings of Van Gogh, and so on. Whereas the second part is regarded as lower quality culture because it is created in mass production and considered inferior just from the first time of creating. People call it as popular culture or mass culture, such as, popular novel, advertisement, magazine, newspaper, comics, cartoon, film, etc.

About film, there is a difference between film art and art film. Film art is an art of, mechanism, or technical factors in film production relate to cinematographic element (that would be discussed in the following chapter). Besides, art film is film which contains aesthetic elements. The spectators often see films which have banal ideas\(^1\) and surface meaning but also there are many films bearing on significant message which have to be intensive in exploring it. The messages which are brought by a film are frequently related to the social phenomenon based on the setting time.

Related to the momentum of France revolution in 1789; the ideas about omitting injustices in the society begin to the surface. The ideas include the critics to omit the

\(^1\) Banal idea refers to something that is very ordinary and containing nothing which is interesting or important.
distinction of class, race, gender, etc. Approach to the 19th century, feminism turns into the movement, which gets a lot of attention from white women in Europe. Feminists criticize women’s chore in the domestic sphere as irrational, emotional, and tyranny so women can take a part in the public sphere. The criticisms of the tyranny are sporadically arisen. Regardless of these changes, throughout the nineteenth century, the majority of married women remained at home.

Women of the mid-19th century had no such choices. Most lived in a state little better than slavery. They had to obey men, because in most cases men held all the resources and women had no independent means of subsistence. Girls received less education than boys, were barred from universities, and could obtain only low-paid jobs. Women's sole purpose was to marry and reproduce. Most women had little choice but to marry and upon doing so everything they owned, inherited and earned automatically belonged to their husband. Under exclusively man-made laws women have been reduced to the most abject condition of legal slavery in which it is possible for human beings to be held.

The film Miss Potter is a film with the setting time at the late nineties and shows the world from the point of view of the minority. The minority refers to women who look at the world in the whole perspective and endeavor to liberate women from the patriarchal culture impression. In its narration, Miss Potter shows women – the majority – sweep aside women – the minority – and also illustrates the difference point of view of society toward the

majority and the minority. *Miss Potter* is directed by Chris Noonan. Chris Noonan, born November 14, 1952, is a Sydney-based Australian filmmaker best known for the pioneering live-action film *Babe*, for which he received Academy Award nominations as both director and writer. Actually he does not direct many films yet, but among the three films he has achieved great success and positive reviews. His documentary film *Stepping Out* won UNESCO prize in 1980.³ The film *Babe* was nominated for several Oscars and won for best visual effects.⁴ And also *Babe* won for best new director movie from New York Film Critics Circle award.⁵

The film *Miss Potter* is biopic⁶ film that brings important meanings and contains social messages for the spectators. *Miss Potter* tells the life of the main character named Beatrix Potter,⁷ starred by Renée Zellweger. *Miss Potter* tells the story of Beatrix Potter’s love for her publisher, Norman Warne, and her striving towards an independent life at a time when women expected to be as wife and having a good marriage. *Miss Potter* tells the story of a woman whose life was a fascinating mix of professional achievement; a woman who struggle against the confine.

Beatrix Potter is the only daughter of Potter family. As a daughter in an esteemed family at the setting time of the end of last 19th until the early of 20th century, Beatrix Potter is demanded to behave such alike women in general. Woman appearance must be seen to

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⁶ Biopic is a film or movie about the life of particular person.
⁷ Beatrix Potter is a children’s author who lived in the early of 20th century. Her works is like Peter Rabbit, The Two Bad Mice, etc. Nowadays, it still becomes favorite tale for children in over the world.
be wonderful and women have just a little space for their activities. By the time, the activities of women in general are limited to the unproductive domestic sphere’s job. The activities of women in general can be seen in the character of mother who represents stereotype of women of the time in this movie. The movie shows the activities of mother such as knitting, attending tea parties, and supervising servants to keep the households. In a frame of the movie, mother is protecting her body from sunbeams while the servant is treating her children. Ray of sunlight is woman’s enemy because it can damage the beauty of woman. Essentially, the main duty of mother of higher-class family at that time is taking care of appearance and treating their beautiful body.

Contrary with the situation above, Beatrix Potter becomes different to women of the time. Although there is no particular education for Beatrix Potter, she grows to be a character that is smart, brave, and very critical. Since she was a child, she is talented in writing and drawing. Opposing with women in general, she prefers drawing to attending tea parties. Encouraging by her works, she intends to publish her books. Traipsing from publisher to publisher is her daily routine activity in the first part of the story. As the time is gone, she finally finds a publishing company that is willing to publish her book. She attains quite spectacular income from selling the books. But her successful can not make Mother feels impressed to her only daughter. On the contrary, Mother gives rather negative response toward the success. Mother wishes that Beatrix spends her life as the way Mother does because Mother is an ideal woman figure by the time. Here, it can be seen that Mother becomes an agent of patriarchal culture that restricts woman’s freedom.

Beatrix Potter who has decided to be unmarried at the first story, changes her way of life by deciding to marry with her publisher, Mr. Norman Warne. At the first time, she
thinks that marriage will restrict her life like what happened toward her mother. As the time is changing, she falls in love with Norman Warne and vice versa. They finally commit to marry each other. Unfortunately, her parents disagree with the planning because it is going to be an insult for Potter’s family. The occupation to be a tradesman is a lower level career than Potter’s family. So, the tension is going to the surface. Mother and father entirely cannot agree with their daughter’s planning. After talking from heart to heart with her, her parents finally agree to the planning. The blessing of her parents makes Norman Warne becomes very happy. Unfortunately, the agreement causes him attacked a harmful cough. The cough ore damaging and finally kills Norman Warne.

A deeply sorrow because of her engage’s death causes her very collapse but not for such a long time. Her best friend, Amelia Warne, advises her to become tough and reminds her to rearrange her life. She determines moving from London to Lake District. This turning point of the setting of place gives enlightenment to Baetrix Potter and symbolize that she can achieve a freedom in her life. In that village, she does anything that is impossible to be done in London. The freedom provides Beatrix Potter to become open minded. And also in that village, she meets with her old friends, Willie Heelis. After recognizing each other, they finally decide to marry.

It will be quite interesting to scrutinize various efforts by the main character for deconstructing social paradigm – particularly her parents – through the characterizations of hers. The film package is done well and played by Renée Zellweger who is always attractive in her films; make Miss Potter enthusiastic to be discussed. This is the reason
why the writer intends to examine feminism values which is reflected through the characterizations of the main character in her attempt to achieve qualitative life of hers.

B. Focus of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the research would be concentrated in exploring what the characterizations of the main character in the film Miss Potter are and how the film Miss Potter depicts the feminism values through the main character does. This focus is aimed to make the research becomes guided and simplifies the discussing.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study and the focus of the study above, the writer would like to specify the main problems into the questions below:

1. How are the characterizations of the main character as described by the director in the film Miss Potter?

2. What are the liberal feminism values of the main character depicted in the film Miss Potter?

D. The Objectives of the Study

Hopefully this research would be useful for those who want to learn about feminism. Besides, the research could give accurate and precise information about the characterizations of the main character, which reflects basic feminism values in the film
Miss Potter. The evidence will be strengthened by cinematographic elements that are showed by the director.

E. The Significance of the Study

Through this research, the writer hopes the result may be used for:

1. To see the characterization of the main character in the film Miss Potter.

2. To explore the liberal feminism values of the main character that is depicted in the film Miss Potter.

F. Research Methodology

The research methodology includes some aspects of research such as method of research, technique of data analysis, instrument of research, and unit of analysis.

1. Method of Research

Based on research questions and the significance of the study above, the writer applies descriptive qualitative method, which is analyzing the relation among words or sentences that produces particular meaning. Descriptive research means the type of research that provides lengthy description without any treatment to the object of the study.8

2. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer will explain the data qualitatively. The writer uses Liberal Feminism approach based on critical study and sharp analysis to the qualitative data. Qualitative

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8 Ronny Kountur, Metode Penelitian untuk Penulisan Skripsi dan Tesis (Jakarta: PPM, 2005), p. 105
research is a research that relies on the verbal data and another nonnumeric data as the basic of analysis and the problem solving.\(^9\) First, the writer watches the film carefully for several times. This is aimed to learn the contents of film intensively so it can prevent misunderstanding in the analyzing. Then, the writer gives annotations about the film. Finally, the writer relates it to the feminism theory.

3. Instrument of Research

The instrument is the tool or the way that is used to obtain the data or information that is needed in a research.\(^10\) Observation is the instrument that is used to obtain the verbal data; which involves the researcher with the object of the research.\(^11\) If collecting data is done through observation or interview, so the instrument is the observer or the interviewer.\(^12\) So, it can be concluded that the writer is the instrument of this research. She has been watching the film *Miss Potter* carefully. Then the writer marks the characterizations of the main character to find out the evidences of feminism values in the film.

4. Unit of Analysis

The unit analysis in this research is the Film *Miss Potter*; directed by Chris Noonan; released on 2006.

\(^10\) Ibid, p. 28
\(^11\) Ibid, p. 29
\(^12\) Ronny Kountur (2005), *op.cit*, p. 151
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Firstly, it must be known what the meaning of film is. According to Oxford learner’s Dictionary, film is a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, shown on television or at the cinema or movie theater. Film is another alternative of media for narrating a story. The story refers to a fabricated story which is created based on either imagination or reality. It needs to be underlined both film and literary work have the same characteristic that is fiction.

Thus it could be concluded that film has the same intrinsic elements with literary work. So the theory of intrinsic elements of literary work becomes very relevant to be implicated in film. This chapter will explain intrinsic elements of film especially character and characterization because the feminism values – that will be analyzed based on the research question – is depicted through these elements.

It has to be understood that either film or literary work contains fabricated story which brings messages, criticisms, or new aspiration toward a particular set of social values. The possibility of noticing symptomatic meanings reminds us that all meaning, whether referential, explicit, or implicit, is a social phenomenon. Filmmaker is frequently inspired from issue by the time its produced. Logically, it cannot be released between text and context of setting of time on the story.

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A. Character and Characterization

According to the book *Literature for Composition*, Character is a person created for a work of fiction.\(^{15}\) Whereas characterization or personality in fiction is defined as by what the characters do, by what they say, by what other say about them, and by the setting in which they move.\(^{16}\) According to the book *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* by Robert DiYanni says, characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal character.\(^{17}\) Those characterizations are drawn by the author for developing narrative considering the authors’ ideology, like what the story is going to be.

Then DiYanni supposes that there are six major methods of revealing character in fiction:

1. Narrative summary without judgment.
2. Narrative description with implied or explicit judgment.
3. Surface details of dress and physical appearance.
5. Characters’ speech – what they say (and how they say it).
6. Characters’ consciousness – what they think and feel.\(^{18}\)

The first and the second method tend to be used in written fictional work. Meanwhile, the third until the sixth technique tend to be used in film because film is the language of picture rather than word. So in analyzing film is needed a watching every framing in the film closely. In written fictional work, sometimes the author gives the explanation about the meaning of what kind or color of clothes the character wears; what accent of figure’s language is; or the way of life of the figure chooses.

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\(^{16}\) Ibid, p. 746


\(^{18}\) Ibid, p. 56.
The filmmaker may be revealing characterization through the character itself or reaction of other characters. The characterization can be depicted through the appearance; through dialogue; through external action; through internal action; or even through choice of name. Sometimes we could also refer to the reaction of other figures to determine characterization.

A director usually controls various figures so they are able to play it best. The success of an actor in playing figure might be affected by directing of director or skill in acting of the actor. Because most film actors project certain qualities of character the minute they appear on the screen, characterization in film has a great deal to do with casting.\(^{19}\)

In film, there is a terminology of star system. This terminology refers to a stereotype characterization that is frequently played by an actor or actress. A senior actor or actress usually plays figures that have similar personality besides they have strong power to decide what figures are going to be revealed. For example, we will not find Nicholas Cage in comedy film; he also has an authority of revealing a figure to be like what he wants because he has strong image in every film he starred.

**B. Mise-en-Scene**

The term mise-en-scene (pronounced “meez ahn sen”) originated in the theater and literally means staging a scene through the artful arrangement of actors, scenery, lighting and props – everything that the audience sees.\(^{20}\) In the theater, it is managed by stage

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manager, but in film, it is managed by a production designer, working in collaboration with the film director. But the most responsible person of controlling mise-en-scene is the director. However, mise-en-scene includes setting, lighting, make up and costume, and the behavior of the figures.

A contradiction appears about mise-en-scene among scholars. Some scholars argue that Mise-en-scene must seem to be realistic so the story in film is looked like naturalistic setting, lighting, make up and costume and also the movement of the figures. For theorists like Siegfried Kracauer, Andre Bazin, and V. F. Perkins, cinema’s power lies in its ability to present a recognizable reality. The theorists argue that film involves representation values from reality. In this case, filmmaker has to be careful of selection and choice.

However, the other scholars argue that film is just fabricated stories, imaginative fictional work. The illustration which is fairly abstract is needed for alerting the viewers that film is something unreal and supporting the narrative of the story. For an instance, the box office film of Harry Potter that is looked to be queer with our reality. However, the peculiarity is needed exactly for supporting the narrative of the story. The things like magician stick or another thing which is related to magic must be showed because the background is magical world that is just imaginative.

However, it is better to examine the function of mise-en-scene than to debate each other between the concept of realistic or unrealistic. Staging in production phase exactly have passed a long selection. Anything in the frame of film has been organized so it brings a concentrate message. What should be thought more is analyzing the function of mise-en-scene itself, how it works out in the relationship between narrative and the meaning inside.

a). Setting

Setting refers to the place where the film’s action unfolds. It means a set of surroundings or the place at which something happens. The setting also includes the time when it happens. Filmmaker may construct the setting in many ways. One way is to select an existing place or construct the setting to stage the action; it may be indoor or outdoor.

The primary functions of setting are to establish time and place, to introduce ideas and themes, and to create mood. So setting can be used as a model to analyze time and place, ideas and themes. The film *Bobby* can be compared with *The Queen*; a narrative idea of Bobby is based on the American culture, but *The Queen* is based on British culture. Those narratives will illustrate significant differences between mise-en-scene and the narrative of film.

b). Lighting

Lighting is one important element in film that is capable to conduct eyes to the most important object in a frame. Lighter and darker areas within the frame help create the overall composition of each shot and thus guide our attention to certain objects and actions. Lighting furthers the audience’s understanding of characters, underscores particular actions, develops themes, and establish mood.

c). Makeup and Costume

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22 Maria Pramaggiore and Tom Wallis (2005), *op.cit.* p. 60.
23 Ibid, p. 62.
Costumes provide information about time and place, but, more importantly, they express social milieu and personal style. Makeup and hairstyles establish time period, reveal character traits, and signal changes in characters. Both costumes and makeup are often coordinated with setting. By integrating with setting, costumes and makeup may function to support the film’s narrative and thematic patterns.

In the film *Harry Potter*, costumes that are worn by characters help the spectators defining characterization of each figure. There are obvious differences between Snape – who has mysterious characterization – and professor Dumbledore – who are wise – looked from their appearance. Each trait is reflected in the combination of their costume and makeup that seems appropriate. Snape looks mysterious from his makeup, and Dumbledore who seems very wise through his makeup.

d). The Behavior of the Figures

An actor’s performance consists of visual elements (appearance, gestures, facial expressions) and sound (voice, effects). The director should direct every move of figures or every movement changing of every figure on the stage. The acting of every figure has to seem like realistic. So the viewers may respond to them in some way. The viewers may admire them for their heroic deeds and their nobility or have sympathy for them for their failures. If the reaction to them is negative, the viewers may detest them for their greed, their cruelty, and their selfishness.

C. Feminism

1. The Definition of feminism

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26 *Ibid*, p. 72
27 *Ibid*, p. 74
Polarization between man and woman has been established since both creatures are created in this world. At the first time, both of them are created for fulfilling each other, they are Adam and Eve. There are some factors which psychologically and sociologically shape the thought pattern that men are central but women are outer. The first factor is, for arranging religious system, God has delegated some messengers who are men in the whole. The second factor is the myth that Eve is created from the bone of Adam. The third is that Eve is regarded as a person who has a weak faith so she is tempted by the fruit of life, the act that actually God prohibits. By the reason of biological weaknesses, in the development of civilization woman is always placed in the inferior creature or the second sex.

It must be distinguished between sex and gender. Sex is the characteristics which distinguish the male from the female. However, the way to be masculine and feminine is combination among the basic blocks of biologics and the biologic interpretation with the culture. According to the tradition, a daughter will imitate her mother’s feminine characteristics, and a son will duplicate his father’s masculine characteristics. Gender is a terminology in culture to impose division between the sexes. Whereas sex refers to the biological, anatomical differences between male and female. Gender refers to the emotional and psychological attributes which is given by culture coincide with physical maleness or femaleness.

In the next development of civilization, women realize their rights as a human being. They oppose the relations between men – as a group – and women –as another group

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– and fight all hegemony, law, and rules that form women as inferior, subordinate, and second sex.\textsuperscript{31} First, their attempts fail because they have just a little bit mass. Then those activists who are care of women organize a big mass so little by little women’s voice receiving acknowledgement. Some names like Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, etc appear in United Stated and some names like Mary Wollstonecraft – the book of hers becomes the way of life of feminism of the next generation – Barbara Leigh Smith, Josephine Butler, Emmeline Pankhurst, etc appear in Britain.

Feminism is both an ideology and a reform movement seeking to improve the status of women.\textsuperscript{32} Feminists share a belief that women have been, and continue to be, oppressed because of their sex.\textsuperscript{33} That subordination originated from some series of limits as custom, and law in which circumscribe women to take part in and succeed in the public sphere. And the purpose of feminism generally is equality and gender interrelation.\textsuperscript{34} The concept tries to refuse the superiority of men which is formed by patriarchal culture so that women who are subordinated to receive an equal position with men.

Women movement in Europe and North America is divided into two waves, begun at 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} century and begun at 1960s. The second wave is the more complex movement which many feminists has used difference approaches and divided into some big categories. These categories include liberal feminism, Marxist-socialist feminism, radical

\textsuperscript{32} Nancy Cott, \textit{The Grounding of Modern Feminism} (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987), p. 57  
\textsuperscript{33} Harold L. Smith, \textit{British Feminism in the Twentieth Century} (Southampton: The Camelot Press Ltd), p. 1  
\textsuperscript{34} Nyoman Kutha Ratna, \textit{Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra} (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2006), p. 184
feminism, postmodern feminism, etc. But the research will tend to focus on liberal feminism.

2. Liberal Feminism

This kind of feminism is based on the liberalism. Liberalism suggests all human being either men or women is created in the equal position, harmonious, and having the same potency of rationality. Women must be independent to struggle so that they are equal with men. Liberal feminism frequently criticizes the family institution which place women in the domestic area, so emotional aspect of women is bigger than the rational aspect.

Rosmarie Putnam Tong quotes Wendell opinion in “A (Qualified) Defende of Liberal Feminism” saying the general purpose of liberal feminism is to create society which is equitable and careful of the freedom for the self development so that women and men can improve them selves.35 But their general pursuit is dynamic; depended on the symptom of the time.

At the heart of the matter, the concept of liberal feminism suggests the reformism and liberal thinking. Liberal feminists tend to think in the paradigm which is more moderate and not revolutionary. They are consolidated with the spirit of reformism that intends to reform the system which is elitism, capitalist, competitive and individual but do not try to substitute remain system.

In the 18\textsuperscript{th} century, liberal feminism is emphasizing to the education\textsuperscript{36} The magnate of the time is Mary Wollstonecraft. Her opinion is that both man and woman have the same quality of logical reasoning. The form of nurture is more determinate in shaping character of a person than the form of nature. If the society gives education toward women like the way society give toward men, so the logical quality of women can be parallelized with men. Educated woman will become the main contributor toward the prosperity of society. Woman will construct her family – especially her children – in the more proper way than pull socks her appearance up.

In the 19\textsuperscript{th} century, liberal feminism is struggling for women to the chance of civil service and economic field\textsuperscript{37} The magnates of the time are John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor. Both Mill and Taylor assert the usual way to optimize happiness is by letting everyone pursuit their happiness as long as they do not be dishonest to each other. Connected to Wollstonecraft’s; they state that to achieve justice toward gender, the society must provide politic rights and economic chance toward women, and also the education like men get. At the same time, liberal feminism movements begin to be popped out as the real attempt of women struggle.

In the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, liberal feminism offers the alternative for women to be equal with men. Betty Freidan offers an elegant advice for women to combine between good values of masculine – such as rational, wisdom, courage – and good values of feminine – such as affection, gentleness, patience – so women can complete a personhood. In this condition, women will be improving herself to provide a good contribution for society.

\textsuperscript{36} Ibid, p. 18  
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid, p.22.
Even though liberal, this group refuses the whole similarities between man and woman. In a certain case which is related to the biological factor, this group considers some distinction. So that, it does not need to whole transformation, liberal feminism demands to involve women in some fields, like social, law, politic, etc. Biological factor like menstruation does not prevented toward those roles.

Liberal feminism struggles to release women from an oppressive gender role. A role which is used as a social justification for making women inferior and also does not give a chance in education, economic, or the other systems but they do not intend to make women the same as men. Liberal feminism gives a concept which considers the fact that woman is the person who is pregnant and gives birth. These biologic factors utterly become a negative impact for women to take in the public sphere.

Liberal feminism argues the statement explicitly that there is the gender injustice which is constructed by both social and culture. The clear critics are frequently stated toward patriarchal institution like a family which does not provide self improvement freedom for both wife and daughters. However, it does not mean that women separate their life with men. Liberal feminism prefers heterosexual to lesbian or autoeroticism.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDING

The previous chapter has explicated about the theoretical framework which is going to be used to analyze in this chapter. This chapter will provide the research finding of the examination. In this case, it is needed to be confirmed that theoretical framework is only a tool but not the main purpose. As a tool, so the most important thing is how to make the best use of the tool, then the meaning of literary work can be optimally understood.  

A. Data Description

1. Characterization of Beatrix Potter as the main character

After doing a deeply examination, the writer finally finds some characterizations of the main character which reflect the qualities to be a personhood. Those qualities make the main character extremely different from the stereotype of women at the time. Miss Potter is a smart woman whose thought is very brilliant. It is very reasonable if then she becomes an inspiration for every woman in the whole world. Those characteristics are such as progressive, analytical person, independent, and decisive.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Minute</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><em>Miss Potter: Did you hear my heart? It was a kettle drum, you see? We cannot stay home all our lives. We must present ourselves to the</em></td>
<td>00:06:37</td>
<td>Progressive</td>
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</tbody>
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39 Beatrix Potter is the main character in film *Miss Potter*. In this analysis, the name of Beatrix refers to the child of Beatrix Potter, whereas the name of Miss Potter refers to the grown up Beatrix Potter. This thing is caused there are severe flashbacks which depict her childhood.
world. And we must look upon it as an adventure.

• **Amelia Warne**: Well, all the other unmarried daughter in our circle, and believe me, there are many they sit around all day, gossiping and accountably bursting into tears. But you have done. You’ve written a book. I warn you, I am preparing to like you very much.

The picture above illustrates that Miss Potter is involving herself in the printing process of her book.

2. • **Miss Potter**: Your brother’s letter makes two proposals, which I find quite unacceptable. First, they'd like the drawings to be in color. I’m adamant they be in black and white.

[…]

**Miss Potter**: Well of course I would prefer color, but color will make the book cost far more than little rabbits can afford. I’m adamant. This brings us to your brother’s second point. They wish to reduce the number of drawings by nearly a third, totally unacceptable.
<p>| | |</p>
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| **Mother:** of course you shall marry. All girls marry. I did. Your grandmother did. Even Fiona will one day.  
  **Miss Potter:** Well, I shan’t marry, so it doesn’t matter.  
  [...]  
  **Miss Potter:** My art and my animals. I won’t need more love than that.  
  **Miss Potter:** I know that father. I didn’t want to be a silly woman marrying a man simply because he was acceptable, or rich enough to take care of me, but does that mean that I’m never to be loved? Father? | 00:18:28 |
|   |   |
| 3. **Miss Potter:** Just before my twentieth birthday mother came to my room and announce that Lionel Stokely was to marry Gwendolyn Alcott and they were to live at Stokely Court, which Lionel had just inherited from the earl. And I knew right then that she would bring me no more suitors and that I would never marry. And that shocked me but I felt relieved. And that shocked me, so I went into the garden and filled an entire notebook with sketches.  
  **Miss Potter:** it is not a choice, Father.  
  **Father:** Beatrix, if I could undo anything.  
  **Miss Potter:** There is nothing to undo. This has nothing to do with you or mother. I must do with me. | 00:31:23 Independent |
|   |   |
|   | 01:11:50 |
4. • **Amelia Warne:** I've been torturing myself. I should never have encouraged you with Norman. I would have saved you all this terrible grief.

   **Miss Potter:** I loved him.

   **Amelia Warne:** I loved him too but he’s gone.

   **Miss Potter:** I must leave this house. I will leave this house.

   - The picture above shows that Miss Potter is taking part in an auction. In the auction, Miss Potter determines a decision quickly and precisely.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>01:10:14</td>
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<tr>
<td>01:21:16</td>
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2. **Liberal Feminism Values in Beatrix Potter**

   The following table gives some information about the liberal feminism values in Miss Potter. Those characteristics contrast sharply with her mother’s characteristics. Miss Potter who is unmarried in the early story then she decides to marry with her publisher. The decision clarify that the characteristics of Miss Potter tends to the liberal feminism than feminism.
<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Minute</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Miss Potter</strong>: <em>Mother, the only thing true at my age is that at my age everyday matters. Very well, mother, father, I accept your terms, Norman and I may decide to wait in any case but make plans. There will be a wedding in this house by October.</em></td>
<td>00:53:55</td>
<td>Taking part in the public sphere</td>
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<td>The capture above shows the differentiation between the activities of two generation, Mother and Miss Potter.</td>
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| 2.  | **Mrs. Warne**: *Please excuse me; it was delightful meeting you, Miss Potter.*<br>[
...
] **Mrs. Warne**: Do stay longer, and teach Millie how to behave. | 00:24:52 | Gentle and classy             |
| 3.  | **Miss Potter**: *Your brother’s letter makes two proposals, which I find quite unacceptable. First, they’d like the drawings to be in color. I’m adamant they be in black and white.*<br>[
...
] **Miss Potter**: Well of course I would prefer color, but color will make the book cost far more than little rabbits can afford. I’m adamant. This brings us to your | 00:12:22 | Rational (combining between her good feminine values and her good masculine values refers to becoming androgyny) |
brother’s second point. They wish to reduce the number of drawings by nearly a third, totally unacceptable.

| 4 | Miss Potter: It’s not an insult! It’s the truth! Our lives are pretension and social aspiration. Sir this and lady that! Norman Warne is a gentleman of comfortable means, and not one beneath us, and I intend to marry him. | 00:49:19 | Commits to marry with man |

B. Analysis

1. The Characterization of Beatrix Potter

According to Boggs, the characterizations in film can be analyzed from some factors, such as by appearance, through dialogue, through external action, through reactions of other characters, by contrast, etc.\textsuperscript{40} Those factors are interrelated with mise-en-scene. Filmmaker will consider about the wardrobe of the characters based on each characteristic. And also, the spectators can appraise what type of person the character is through the

\textsuperscript{40} Joseph M Boggs, The Art of Watching Film (California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1991), pp. 53-56.
behavior of figure. So it can be concluded that between characterization and mise-en-scene is like chain stitch; correlated each other. So, for analyzing the characterizations of a figure in film mise-en-scene may become consideration.

1. Progressive

Miss Potter is a woman whose thought is very gorgeous. She has a progressive thought. Her paradigm is more moderate than the other in general, so it makes her very different at the time. It is proved by the following dialogue when finally she finds a company publisher that has the kindness to publish and to sell off her book.

Miss Potter: There’s something delicious about writing the first words of a story. You can never quite tell where they’ll take you. Mine took me here.
London 1902
Looking back, the city and I never much liked each other. An unmarried woman, after all, was expected to behave in very particular way which did not include traipsing from publisher to publisher with a gaggle of friends.

[...] Miss Potter: Did you hear my heart? It was a kettle drum, you see? We cannot stay home all our lives. We must present ourselves to the world. And we must look upon it as an adventure.

At the figure 22, it can be seen an awfully different between Miss Potter and her Mother. At that frame, Mother is knitting – the activity which most of women do it in the Victorian era – whereas Miss Potter is bringing her portfolio and preparing herself to meet her publisher, Norman Warne. It can be concluded that Miss Potter is a dynamic woman who actively runs in the public sphere, but Mother’s world is in the domestic sphere.

It also can be compared between figures that depict Mother who strengthens feminine traditional values – in the patriarchal culture – such as, figure 22, figure 36, and figure 37 and figures that show Miss Potter who takes part in the public sphere. She is
printing out of her book, such like figure 10, figure 22, figure 30, figure 31, figure 32, and figure 33.

The figure 30, figure 31, figure 32 and figure 33 show that Miss Potter is able to become different from the stereotype. She is willingly to go down direct to the printing house. There is no another woman in this area – which is actually intended only for men – except Miss Potter’s assistant, Miss Wiggin. A decision to be unmarried is great thing for a woman; furthermore she shows to the society that she creates her works to be presented to the world.

Amelia Warne: well, Norman tells me that you’re unmarried as am I, and that you’re not unhappy about it. And I cannot tell you how much that pleases me.

Mrs. Warne: why cannot you talk about the weather like other girls?

Amelia Warne: well, all the other unmarried daughter in our circle, and believe me, there are many they sit around all day, gossiping and unaccountably bursting into tears. But you have done. You’ve written a book. I warn you, I am preparing to like you very much.

According to the habit, women in Victorian era always gossip about nothing. What they do everyday is just gossiping something really insignificant. Instead of doing useless Miss Potter spends and makes the best use of her time by drawing animal characters and writing stories. Figure 44 can represent what activities she does to use up her leisure time. And the background of figure 13 is where she carries out those activities.

Miss Potter is very smart since she was a child. When she is eight years old, her parents tell her the description of a good woman. Both Father and Mother inform that if she has grown up, she will be a mother likes her mother does. Figure 17 is evidence that a wife must serve every detail of her husband’s needs. The frame illustrates that Mother is helping to hook Father’s tie because Father can do it by his self.
Furthermore, figure 14 demonstrates the anger expression of Beatrix Potter toward Mother’s speech about how to become a good wife; she is looking at Mother gloweringly. It signs that she does not agree with Mother’s speech but she does not encourage yet uttering her disagreement. Her mother says – all at once to be agreed on by her father – a good wife keeps her house stay clean, watches over her appearance, pays attention to her family so that it becomes perfect. The figure 15 shows mother has just realized that there is something wrong with the cloth ribbon which Beatrix wears. After realizing it, she commands the servant to replace the cloth and does not replace it by her self.

2. Critical Person

Critical person refers to those who always involve fair; careful judgment about the good and bad qualities of something. Those persons always consider thoroughly and objectively everything comes to her or him. This characteristic entirely does not reflect the personality of woman in Victorian period because a good woman always listens to and assists her husband. Women are not lectured to make their mind works optimally.

**Miss Potter** : Perhaps we should discuss our business Mr. Warne.
**Mr. Warne** : I put your drawing aside with the greatest reluctant.
**Miss Potter** : your brother’s letter makes two proposals, which I find quite unacceptable. First, they’d like the drawings to be in color. I’m adamant they be in black and white.
**Mr. Warne** : But Peter Rabbit’s blue jacket and the red radishes, surely you would like your enchanting drawing reproduced as they are?
**Miss Potter** : Well of course I would prefer color, but color will make the book cost far more than little rabbits can afford. I’m adamant. This brings us to your brother’s second point. They wish to reduce the number of drawings by nearly a third, totally unacceptable.

The dialogue above is a business negotiation between Miss Potter and her publisher, Mr. Norman Warne. The dialogue can be a negation that woman is a creature that has a
lower thought and bad logical reasoning. Biologically, women are exactly different from men, but in the other aspects woman could be on a par with man. Figure 23 and figure 24 are frames that show Miss Potter is doing negotiation with authority with her publishing company which is represented by Norman Warne. Of course, after she builds some considerations to the proposal letter of publishing her book which has been sent before.

Miss Potter is actually a critical person since she was a child. When she was ten, she opposed her mother’s statement. It was happened when Potter’s family spent summer holiday on Lake District. Lake District is a beautiful district where fashionable families frequently spent summer holiday there. One day, Beatrix and Bertram ran after a rabbit in a garden there. The pursuit made them forgetting them selves. Finally, Beatrix was fallen into mire then made her body full of mud. Mother was very shocked when she realized that Beatrix was in dirty. Mother commended that woman should not become dirty but woman were supposed to keep her beauty.

_Mother_: really Beatrix, what young man is ever going to marry with a faceful of mud?
_Miss Potter_: well, I shan’t marry, so it doesn’t matter.
_Mother_: of course you shall marry. All girls marry. I did. Your grandmother did. Even Fiona will one day.
_Miss Potter_: well, I shan’t marry. I shall draw.
_Mother_: oh, those silly drawings. Then who will love you?
_Miss Potter_: my art and my animals. I won’t need more love than that.
_Father_: perhaps not 11, but let’s see if you still feel the same way at 18. I draw Mama when we first met and she married me. And Fiona, doesn’t mud wash off? Bertram, come along.

From the dialogue, it can be seen a statement of a child which is honest, brave, and critical. It is an extraordinary thing for a child to state the opinion even just to think about. Actually in the series of sequences of the film, there is no sequence which depicts educational activity for Miss Potter. However, Miss Potter is depicted as a woman who is
very critical especially to her life and generally to the whole women. Beatrix thinks that if she predominantly spends her time to draw, she will be much respected at least by her works.

**Father**: your mother wants what is best for you, as do I. Beatrix an impulsive and inappropriate marriage is something that you would ultimately reject.

**Miss Potter**: you can allow me to marry and leave, with Bertram moved away, who would take care of you?

**Father**: you surely don’t think we would deny your happiness just simply because we needed a nursemaid? That is a knife in my heart.

**Miss Potter**: well, then what is it father, because I cannot understand.

**Father**: you cannot make us the villains, Beatrix. Your mother trotted out countless suitors all of them acceptable. You rejected every one of them.

**Miss Potter**: I know that father. I didn’t want to be a silly woman marrying a man simply because he was acceptable, or rich enough to take care of me, but does that mean that I’m never to be loved? Father?

From the dialogue, Miss Potter always analyzes every condition which happens to her in order to get anything better. By the time, woman really does not have power for her own life. Paradoxically, Miss Potter can be an iconic woman when women in patriarchal culture have no chance to consider their orientation. In general, woman will say “yes” to everything her parents want but Miss Potter can do a critical thinking then have no fear to say “no”.

3. **Independent**

In the patriarchal family, a woman does not have a freedom to determine what she wants to choose. Women are entitled to a will of their own, for they must obey their parents
in childhood, their husbands when they marry and their children when they grow up.\footnote{John J Macionis, \textit{Sociology}, (New Jersey: Prentice Hall), p.378} Father’s authority to his daughter and husband’s authority to his wife are very powerful. The whole laws about legacy, marriage, and divorce align to men and the rules to neutralize those authorities are almost nothing.

From the illustration above, it can be assumed that woman who is under patriarchal culture does not have authority to determine anything in her life. A daughter must be obedient to her father’s will. And a wife must wait on hands and feet to her husband but Miss Potter is different woman. She shows that she can be an independent woman who is able to determine her way.

According to the custom, an esteemed family will bring an acceptable suitor for the daughter. Generally, the considerations to be acceptable are inheritance and wealth. As a daughter in the patriarchal culture, Miss Potter also gets her turn to be brought some suitors. By the time, a daughter will accept the engagement but Miss Potter takes something different, an amazing decision. She strictly refuses all of those suitors. She has her own reason that she wants to spend the rest of her life with the man who loves her and she loves.

\textit{Mother}: oh that book! I can hardly wait till it’s finished and forgotten. I don’t understand you, Beatrix. Your father and I have introduced you to so many suitable young men, of your class, young men of fortune, and impeccably good family.

\textit{Miss Potter}: oh certainly, like the charming fellow, Lionel Stokely.

\textit{Miss Potter}: oh, and I do regret terribly that I didn’t accept Harry Haddon-Bell.

She is very independent to decide her life. She always takes her own decision and does not be influenced by both Mother and Father. Her broad mindedness is proved again when she is discussing with Millie about marriage. Miss Potter shows that she is able to
make a decision in accord with her paradigm. She states her choice to be unmarried just before her 20th birthday. Of course, it is a big problem for Mother but finally she undergoes her decision.

_Millie_ : when you decide you wouldn’t marry?
_Miss Potter_ : just before my twentieth birthday mother came to my room and announce that Lionel Stokely was to marry Gwendolyn Alcott and they were to live at Stokely Court, which Lionel had just inherited from the earl. And I knew right then that she would bring me no more suitors and that I would never marry. And that shocked me but I felt relieved. And that shocked me, so I went into the garden and filled an entire notebook with sketches.

After deciding to be unmarried, she then spends all over her day by filling an entire notebook with sketches. She begins fulfilling her notebook with her imaginative images. She not only draws because she likes but also she begins drawing seriously to improve her talent. The first scene of the film depicts a woman who is preparing herself to do an autodidactic painting. Her gesture is seemed to be hesitant but it also describes her seriousness to practice painting.

For fulfilling her self actualization needs, she looks for a publisher company which intends to print out her book. Finally at a time when she is 32 years old, she offers her book to F Warne Company. And her first book is finally published through the company. The publishing that is actually only to deceive both she and Norman Warne – the man who is responsible to the project – achieves a good response from the people. Underlying the reaction, they finally determine to produce the following books.

As the time is gone, Norman Warne who has decided to be unmarried falls in love with Miss Potter. In one Christmas Eve, he engages Miss Potter to marry and to spend her life together him. An intensive meeting when the publishing process actually raises the
affection in Miss Potter. After convincing her feeling, she talks about engaging with her best friend, Millie. Millie feels happy to hear that and supports her to marry Norman.

The decision raises a tension between Miss Potter and her parents. Her parents consider that Norman Warne is not proper to be married with Miss Potter because his social class is beneath the family of Potter. Then Miss Potter describes her mindset that everyone is as same as another. According to her, nobody can be higher than another. All human beings have the same position and have to appreciate each other. Furthermore, she keeps her decision to marry Norman although the tension is going to be bad.

\[\text{Father} \quad : \quad \text{if you will not accept our advice in this decision, then we will impose that advice.}\]
\[\text{Mother} \quad : \quad \text{respect our knowledge and the worth of our opinions, Beatrix.}\]
\[\text{Miss Potter} \quad : \quad \text{I said that I’ll do it and I will.}\]
\[\text{Mother} \quad : \quad \text{Norman Warne is a tradesman, Beatrix. No Potter can marry into trade, and that’s final.}\]
\[\text{Miss Potter} \quad : \quad \text{and what are we? Father’s money comes from grand father’s printing works in Lancashire. A trade, mother. And if Grandfather hadn’t run for parliament, we’d still be living in the shadow of his factories. Your legacy comes from Grandfather Leech’s cotton trade. When did we become so high and mighty? We’re parvenus, mother. Social climbers.}\]
\[\text{Mother} \quad : \quad \text{Your father and I, we will not allow this marriage for your own good, and there is no reason to become insulting!}\]
\[\text{Miss Potter} \quad : \quad \text{It’s not an insult! It’s the truth! Our lives are pretension and social aspiration. Sir this and lady that! Norman Warne is a gentleman of comfortable means, and not one beneath us, and I intend to marry him.}\]

Miss Potter is a woman who never lets anyone oppresses her whether physically or psychologically. She always wants to be free to state her opinion or to determine her way. The decision she takes always depends on what the best thing for her future. The most
extreme decision she takes when she determines to leave her home in London and lives in the Hill Top Farm in Lake District. She takes the decision because of the death of Norman Warne, the man whom she loves and loves her, so she thinks that she needs to take mind off the sadness.

**Mother** : what I don’t understand Beatrix, is how you’re going to pay for this farm.

**Miss Potter** : I’m a writer Mother, people buy my work.

**Father** : our daughter is famous Helen. You’re the only person who doesn’t know it. What I don’t understand is why you find it necessary to leave your home.

**Miss Potter** : it is not a choice, Father.

**Father** : Beatrix, if I could undo anything…

**Miss Potter** : there is nothing to undo. This has nothing to do with you or mother. I must make my own way.

**Father** : so you must. So you must.

Finally Miss Potter leaves her parents’s house in London then lives at Hill Top farm in Lake District. In the farm, she spends her time in entirely different way. She carries out many activities which never be done before; the new activities which is interesting and satisfying her. She willingly takes a pigswill bucket away, plants, feeds hogs in the pigsty, and makes a social intercourse with her farm workers who come from the lower class. However, the thing that has to be stressed is, Miss Potter is not a city slicker and consider that they are beneath her position. Miss Potter is an egalitarian; she always thinks about the equality among human beings.

### 4. Decisive

Decisive is a capability to determine something quickly and with confident. In the patriarchal culture, an authority to settle on something is not for woman. Miss Potter also shows that woman does not need to think too much but woman can decide quickly and
effectively. She proves that not only man who can improve their logical reasoning but woman also can do it.

Her decision to marry with Norman Warne is regarded as an insulting for Potter’s family. The social status Norman Warne as a tradesman makes him becomes a man from lower class. Mother thinks that Potter is an upper class family so Potter should receive a son in law who are acceptable with the family tree and wealth as some factors to be considered. Miss Potter then opposes the argument and explains that Potter’s properties come from a trade of printing work. A social status is not a matter. Figure 47 is a frame which shows a tension between Beatrix and her mother.

| **Mother** | : Norman Warne is a tradesman, Beatrix. No Potter can marry into trade, and that’s final. |
| **Miss Potter** | : and what are we? Father’s money comes from grandfather’s printing in Lancashire. A trade, Mother. And if grandfather hadn’t run for parliament, we’d still be living in the shadows of his factories. Your legacies come from Grandfather Leech’s cotton trade. When did we become so high and mighty? We’re parvenus, Mother. Social climbers. |
| **Mother** | : Your father and I, we will not allow this marriage for your own good, and there is no reason to become insulting! |
| **Miss Potter** | : it’s not an insult. It’s the truth. Our lives are pretension and social aspiration. Sir this and lady that. Norman Warne is a gentleman of comfortable means, and not one beneath us, and I intend to marry him. |

After the tension, finally they make a negotiation for the interest of the family. As usual, Miss Potter and her parents will spend the summer in Lake District for three months but nobody may know about the engage includes the family of Norman Warne. If the ardor is still being there after the summer, so they can marry by the blessing of her parents. Unfortunately, the agreement makes Norman Warne becoming extremely joyful then
causes him attacked a harmful cough. The cough becomes more damaging and finally kills Norman Warne.

In this film, the dark lighting effect just happens in two scenes; when she just comes back from Warne family for knowing that he has passed away and the first night of her moving to Lake District. This effect is meant to describe her sorrow because of the death. The effect is supported with melancholic music arrangement. Miss Potter who usually wears her dress neatly but now her appearance is very messy and untidy. Her rubicund face is going to be pale as surrender. From her figure of movement, the spectators can see that she is in the sorrowful.

A few days later, Millie arrives to see Miss Potter and share her morality support for Miss Potter. At the first time Millie looks at her, Millie feels very empathy to her. Millie suggests her to undergo her life and come up from the sorrow. Norman Warne who is very important for both Millie and Miss Potter has passed away but life must go on. Then Miss Potter immediately decides to leave the house in London and spend her spare time with many important things.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textit{Millie} & : we’ve got to get out of here. Come on. Come on. Let’s get you washed and dressed and out of this room. Go and find something to wear. \\
\textit{Miss Potter} & : I can’t Millie. I can’t. \\
\textit{Millie} & : I’ve been torturing myself. I should never encourage you with Norman. I’d have saved you all this terrible grief. \\
\textit{Miss Potter} & : I loved him. \\
\textit{Millie} & : I loved him too. But he’s gone. \\
\textit{Miss Potter} & : I must leave this house. \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

The changing in setting from London to the village marks a turning point in the narrative when Miss Potter commits to changing her life by staying in the Hill Top farm. Mise-en-scene is also going to be changed. The former setting of place is mostly inside the
house in London and always bounded by the strong and hefty wall as in the 51 and the later setting of place significantly changes to be natural scenery, evergreen trees, and outstretched blue sky.

Figure 51 illustrates the frontage of Potter’s house in London. The wall is impressed as steadfast as rock which locks everything inside the house. Her activity is limited to the room where she paints when she is living in London. An outdoor lighting or sunlight gives natural, feel free, and realist impression. But an indoor lighting gives the more exclusive impression.

Make up and costume which is attributed to Miss Potter is slightly adjusted. However, the costume she wears is going to be different. Miss Potter, who always wears a good and neat cloth as an upper class, begins wearing common costume which is usually dressed in by farm worker woman. Her make up is still seemed natural as the former since her cheeks are glow naturally when she is living in London. She is still looked beautiful even though her costume is not as good as before.

Her capability to determine something quickly can also be seen when she is taking part in an auction of a prime development land. It is her first auction. On the way she goes to the auction, she asks Mr. Heelis some tricks to make a good auction. In the auction, Miss Potter competes with a man who intends to exploit it becoming housing development. At the good time, Miss Potter offers a right price for the farm. And actually she has just made a precise decision, she finally wins the auction. So it can be another proof that Miss Potter decide quickly and accurately. Capture 54 is a frame when Miss Potter is taking part in the auction.
2. Liberal Feminism Values in Beatrix Potter

The liberal feminism values of the main character in the film such as taking part in the public sphere, committing marry with man, and becoming androgyny will be explained in the following analysis.

1. Taking Part in the Public Sphere

The setting time of Miss Potter is at Victorian era, precisely at the late nineteenth century until the early twentieth century. By the time, almost of the European families are under the strict influence of patriarchal culture. Woman is never regarded having a voice to state her will; woman is dependent human being. A daughter must obey her father; after she is going to be mature and decides to marry, she is supposed to follow her husband. So it can be concluded that woman never has freedom for directing her life.

It will be any connection in relating between the symptom and the image of Miss Potter as depicted by the director. In other word, it can be said that both of them are correlated. From the setting time, Miss Potter lives at the late nineteenth century until the early twentieth century. At that time, politics and social condition of England is flaring up. The issue that sporadically spread out is the equality of human being. The women who have been considering becoming the second sex begin to criticize the paradigm. A number of feminists get on together for struggling women’s rights which has been ignored.
The proliferation of popular literature and the expansion of communications through the press and other means could not have helped and do not enlighten the awareness of women to the opportunities opening up for their gender. Their lives, however, were tied to house and children, endlessly unacknowledged work, little opportunity for outside contact or variety of experience, and little relief from everyday triviality.

At the time, people look down to woman who commits to be unmarried. People consider an unmarried woman cannot do more than attend tea parties and smile at dull conversations. Good women at that time are those who bow to the parents. And the good wives are those who are able to run the household well. They must handle the whole aspects of family life but it does not mean that they do it by them selves. Middle to upper class family usually has some servants to carry out the housekeeping. Those women must take care of her body in order to keep her physic stays good looking. They are supposed not to be under the sun since it will damage the flawless white of their skin. From the figure 25, 29, 36, and 37 can be clearly seen that Mother only roles as a home trappings. In this case, Mother presents a housewife of middle to upper class. The role as a mother who cherishes her children is replaced by nursemaid and also the housework is done by their servants.

Furthermore, people consider an unmarried woman with contempt. It is proved when Harold Warne stresses the word “miss” when he calls Miss Potter at the early part of the film. By the time, the way of life to be unmarried is something taboo since the quality of good woman is supposed to be married then build the household well.

**Harold Warne**: that won’t be necessary unfortunately, Miss Potter. It is “Miss” potter, is it not? Yes of course, silly of me, unfortunately the market of children’s book...
Miss Potter: yes of course, I completely understand. It was silly of me with no experience with this...

Fruing Warne: F warne and company would like to publish your little book, Miss Potter. But best not to get overly hopeful. I know publishing your book will not sell a great number of copies, but I think we can turn a small profit.

In England at the nineteenth century, there is a myth that women do not suit working outside to earn money. At a time when most young women of her class aimed only to make a good marriage, Miss Potter becomes an iconic figure, swimming quietly, but with great fortitude, against the tide. She creates a series of books and characters that are beloved very much by people. She shows to the world that she can present her life by creating her works.

Even though Miss Potter lives in patriarchal culture, Father always solves every problem very wisely. He frequently compromises with his daughter in order to make everyone happy in the family. He almost never forces his willing to his only daughter, Beatrix Potter. The tyrant of Miss Potter is actually a woman, Mother. The story of this film views a contradiction between a conservative thought of old generation which is represented by Mother and a progressive thought of young woman which is represented by Miss Potter. The progressive thought concerns any possibilities to make a breakthrough in this life.

The contradiction in the family can be seen in the dialogue below. It happens when Miss Potter determines to marry with her publisher. The relationship is prohibited by both Mother and Father. When they are compromising, Father does not insist his willing and acts very wise. It is seemed from the diction, body languages, and the way he speaks. However, Mother oppresses her daughter by asserting her what she is supposed to be in her age.
Father: now Beatrix, if you care for this man as much as this you say do, then in a few months the ardour will still be there. If your mother, and I are correct, and this emotion cools with the time, then we will have protected you against humiliation and unhappiness.

Miss Potter: it will not cool.

Mother: Beatrix, listen to me. A woman at your age must consider very carefully...

Miss Potter: mother, the only thing true at my age is that at my age everyday matters. Very well, mother, father, I accept your terms, Norman and I may decide to wait in any case but make plans. There will be a wedding in this house by October.

At the time, Miss Potter is an iconic woman who is capable to think progressive, dynamic, and egalitarian. Miss Potter has a critical thinking that all human beings are created in equality when England aristocracy appears a great effect to the paradigm of society. Social status and occupation field do not automatically determine one position in the society. The thought is very adverse to Mother that a fashionable family does not suit to make social intercourse with the lower class.

Mother is supposed to become her partner in order to release them from the fetters of patriarchal culture so the family life which esteems each other can be established. In fact, Mother oppresses Miss Potter in the family. Mother always considers that a good grown up women are those who can run a household, plan parties, keep a social calendar and keep her cheeks always glows. The achievements of Miss Potter whose books have been grown fond of the people do not change her assessment toward her daughter. On the contrary, Father is depicted as a man who is wise and very kind. The way of thinking of him is more moderate than people in general. Father is also depicted as a figure that loves his daughter very much and appreciates what her daughter has been chosen.

However, Mother and Father give different treatment between their daughter and son. In one scene, Father is giving presents for Beatrix and Bertram. Father behaves very
friendly and sociable toward Bertram when Father gives a present for him. However, when Father gives a present to Beatrix, Father behaves very elegant so Beatrix is looked like well mannered as a good grown up woman. The difference can be obviously seen in the figure 18 and figure 19. Figure 26 also depicts the difference attitude between Bertram and Beatrix. As a son, Bertram is doing sport activity but Beatrix prefers drawing sketches.

Mrs. Warne: I feel a bit chill, Norman. Can you take me inside?
Norman Warne: of course.
Mrs. Warne: please excuse me; it was delightful meeting you, Miss Potter.
Miss Potter: and you.
Mrs. Warne: do stay longer, and teach Millie how to behave.
Millie: I think that means she likes you.

The difference of nurturing affects to the behavior of her in the social intercourse. Her gentleness and classy make people impressed to her virtuous. Miss Potter always wears clean and neat costumes. Normally, her hair style is always looked beautiful. Miss Potter is also soft spoken and chooses a proper diction but the nurturing does not affect to her mindset. She proves that domestic sphere is not the whole world of woman. She succeeds as an author whose books immediately get a good response from the early time of selling. The income of the selling becomes quite regular; she becomes very wealthy woman because of her own works. Then she purchases vast swathes of the Lake District that she left to the National Trust to be preserved.

According to A Vindication of the Right of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft in the Encyclopedia of Feminism argues that equality of right and opportunities should be extended women in all areas of life. In other words, women should have opportunities in all sectors for example in politics, economy, and also social life. Feminists, especially

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liberal feminists frequently criticize family institution which symbolizes patriarchal culture but they prefer living with marriage. In the film, the characteristics of Miss Potter are reflected liberal feminism values very much. Miss Potter shows that could be a pioneer for women to come up from the tyranny of family.

2. Committing to Marry with Man

At the beginning of the story, Miss Potter is traipsing from publisher to publisher which wants to publish her story book. It is evidence that Miss Potter is not the stereotype of general women in Victorian era. Figure 23, 30, and 33 illustrate that she can be equal with men. Those figures depict Miss Potter can enter the public sphere such as business negotiation, editing the content of her book, and at the process of printing out.

Liberal feminism states that there is gender injustice which is constructed by both social and culture. The feminists criticize family as a patriarchal institution but it does not mean that women must separate their life with men. Firstly, Miss Potter determines to be unmarried. She thinks that life is a pretension and social aspiration. She wants to present her life to the world by creating her works. A marriage will limit her space and time. As the time passes, she falls in love with Norman Warne and finally decides to marry him.

Firstly, her parents do not agree with the marriage plan but after doing negotiation, her parents agree with the marriage. Unfortunately, the film narrates that Norman Warne passes away because of harmful cough. The death of her fiancé makes her stress but she quickly determines to go out of her home then lives at the farm in Lake District which has been bought before. Then in Lake District, she begins her new life.

The changing in setting from London to Lake District marks a turning point in the narrative when Miss Potter commits her life by becoming the owner of farm land. In this
chance, she proves again that woman can take part in the public sphere. When she is living in London, Mother always instructs her to keep clean as in the figure 27. Her parents regret Beatrix’s condition which full of mud but Beatrix feels that is no problem. However, after the moving Miss Potter can do anything she wants. She carries out some heavy activities so she becomes sweaty under the sunlight.

The changing implicitly means that her mind is limited when she is in her house. The sturdiness wall of the house restricts her daily activities, social intercourse, and thinking. Whereas in the Lake District she is free to be anything. The colors of nature dominate the frame and no more walls which are bounded the movement. Sky, lake, range of hills, and evergreen trees give a nuance of changing to become more bright and relieved. The lighting utilizes the sunlight. The selection suits her psychological condition which comes up little by little from sorrow since her fiancé passes away. The selection also means the celebration her freedom from the family rules and the custom. Miss Potter can look at the world in broader firmament as if an animal release from its cage. She feels relief to do anything without any limitation. Her daily activities now tend to be at outside space, for example feeding the livestock, planting, gardening, and handling the farm by her self.

3. Becoming Androgyny

According to the liberal feminism of twentieth century, woman is supposed to make some variations between good masculine values and good feminine values. Woman can lead her life up to the better quality by the variation. Thousands years before feminists recommend the idea, Miss Potter has practiced it well. Miss Potter succeeds to apply androgyny carefully. She combines both the feminine values and the masculine values so she is impressed as a woman who is beautiful, classy, but she can take a decision firmly.
The good masculine values such as independent, confident, firm, rational thought, decisive, etc. are reflected in the characteristic of Miss Potter. However, in her characterization also reflects the good feminine values such as gentleness, kind hearted, even tempered, etc. By combining those values, Miss Potter can achieve a better quality of her life. The combination also gives the right resolution for Miss Potter toward the needs fulfillment of both public and domestic sphere. She fairly considers domestic sphere as something which can be handled quickly and efficiently. And she considers public sphere as a part of her life but not her whole life.

The qualities of her characteristics show the perfect arrangement between the good values of feminine and the good values of masculine. At the previous analysis there are 4 characteristics of hers such as progressive, independent, decisive, and critical person. These characteristics can be hardly found in the stereotype of women of the time. Her polite behavior impresses many people in her surrounding. Moreover, her logical thinking encourages her to be success in the public sphere. Miss Potter shows that she can advance social values, leadership style, and institutional structure which enable her to achieve self fulfillment not only in the public sphere but also in the domestic sphere.

According to Save M Dagun in his book *Maskulin dan Feminin* describes the differentiations of both characteristic. Those differentiations can be learnt in the table below:\(^{43}\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Have no freedom</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>Unemotional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Indecisive</td>
<td>Decisive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Unconfident</td>
<td>Confident</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^{43}\) Save M Dagun, *Maskulin dan Feminin* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 1992), p.4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illogical thinking</th>
<th>Logical thinking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Talkative</td>
<td>Reticent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Polite</td>
<td>Rude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Like literature and fiction</td>
<td>Do not like literature and fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Etc…</td>
<td>Etc…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table, there are obvious differentiations between the good values of feminine and the good values of masculine. Miss Potter has the good values of masculine such as point 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Miss Potter also has the good values of feminine such as polite and like literature and fiction. The arrangement draws that Miss Potter succeeds applying androgyny. Finally, the style of androgyny gives a chance widely so she can achieve her needs in the public sphere and in the domestic sphere.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

In every narrative text for example film, novel, lyric, etc the author will describe his or her ideology how the society or even the world is supposed to be. The author creates a new world – an imaginative world – which suits his or her ideology. Thus a filmmaker will portray the world which suits his or her concept. The concept that he takes is his ideology about ideal world.

In the film Miss Potter, Chris Noonan wants to convince the spectators about the feminism values that have to be respected. Those values lecture to everyone that all human beings belong to the equal position. Miss Potter also depicts liberalism messages that criticize to the gender role, ageism, and classis. However, ageism and classis become only motifs of the story. Those issues are arisen to convince the spectators that everybody is born to be equal in position and rights. Those things are godsend that have to be understood and appreciated by everyone.

Miss Potter tells the magical story of Beatrix Potter’s love for her publisher, Norman Warne, and her striving towards an independent life at a time when her expected place in society was as a wife. Miss Potter is a biopic film that gives positive motivations for the spectators. Beatrix Potter is an inspirative woman whose thought is very laudable. It is reflected from the characterization of Miss Potter as the main character. Renée Zellweger
has played successively as the main character. Her fascinating acting works well in interesting the viewers and makes this biopic film to be different with the other.

Miss Potter is trapped in a society that does not understand her. Her parents are convinced the life of wealth and privilege they provide her with is more than adequate. They continuously discourage her from any intellectual activities and persuade her to take care of the household instead. Thankfully, Miss Potter still finds time to improve herself with her writings and illustration. Encouraged by her works, Miss Potter approaches publishing company which intends to publish her book. Finally, she finds Norman Warne who is immediately thrilled by her work. Soon, her first book is a popular item and Miss Potter is able to wriggle free of her oppressive family, much to their disapproval.

An intensive meeting between Miss Potter and Norman Warne gradually arises love and affection between them then finally they plan to marry. Unfortunately, the marriage gets disapproval from her parents. After negotiating it, finally her parents bless the marriage. The cheerfulness causes him attacked a harmful cough. The cough is going worse and finally kills him. The death of her fiancé shocks and makes very sorrow. Finally Miss Potter determines to move in a farm in Lake District which has been bought before.

The moving constructs significant changing in the mise-en-scene of the film. Almost every scene in the former setting of place is happened inside her house. The frame depicts as if everything is limited to the sturdiness of the wall. The wall symbolizes the fetter which jails her freedom to think and to express her paradigm. And the later setting of place is dominated by the color of nature such as unlimited blue sky, evergreen trees, and
widely outspread lake. Those backgrounds give effect which releases her from the limitation. It also signify the tie which has oppressed her is going to be collapse.

B. Suggestions

*Miss Potter* implies many prudential messages for the viewers. Through Miss Potter, the viewers understand that the core of woman’s humanity can be obtained through love, affectionate, and home. Women and men may improve social values, leadership style, and institutional structure that enable the two genders to achieve the accomplishment, either in the public sphere or in the domestic sphere.

In analyzing film or literary work, researchers should use the right theory or approach in order to have the right comprehension of the film or the literary work itself. In this occasion, the writer uses the liberal feminism theory in analyzing film *Miss Potter*, but it is possible for the other researchers to use another theory or approach in analyzing this film. The other researchers who want to analyze this film can also use some aspects in film that are not used by the writer, such as editing and sound to get a broader comprehension of the film.
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The Cover of DVD Film MISS POTTER
Film Captures of *Miss Potter* Movie
Pada suatu kota, dua pengantin
suami yang baik, Lucinda dan Jane.

Kebiasaan mereka setiap minggu
membawa barang ke kantornya.

Hatinya, meski mau gembira
lambatlah dengan waktu.

Tapi semakin banyak hari
membuat mereka lebih.

Dengan tangan mereka berdua,
Anda, pergi membalas ligalig.

Peter, yang sangat menekan
langkah menuju kita.

Belum, (dengan menangis)
in maslah sejata...

Tapi di tempat tersebut
begitu kehidupan.