THE ANALYSIS OF FEMALE CHARACTER IN *EDGE OF TOMORROW*

(2014) FILM BASED ON FEMINIST FILM CRITIC

A Thesis
Submitted to Faculty of Adab and Humanities
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Strata One (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This research analyzes the female character in *Edge of Tomorrow*, Rita Vrataski. This research intends to understand how female character is described in the film and how female character is described according to feminist film critic. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. This research also uses theory character and characterization in film and theory feminist film critic. As the result, Rita is described as a female soldier who has characteristics as committed, brave, assertive, strong, muscular, intelligent and skillful soldier. Even though Rita, as the female character who has man’s characteristics, she still needs help from another male character. Rita character in this film is still passive because the one who finishes the mission in the story is the male character, William Cage. This film proves that male domination still exists in story of film. Thus, the female stereotype has been attached in film and it is difficult to change it.

**Keywords:** Female Character, Women in Film, Feminist Film Critic
APPROVAL

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LEGALIZATION

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on November 24th, 2017. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, November 24th, 2017

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DECLARATION

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

Jakarta, November 24th, 2017

Lana Prismanisa
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Women have important role in fundamental function of human life. Only women can be pregnant (Levit 69). The roles of women are not only to childbearing, but also in taking care of their children and women have a duty to organize their household (McHugh 5). Besides having responsibility as mother and as wife, women also presented as a complementary in men’s life. Women as housewives should follow their husband because they are the heads of the family.

In social life the position of men is higher than women. Women’s role is often connected to the private space; they are staying at home and work without paid. While, men exist in the public space; they work as professional and get paid. The difference between women and men is not only seen by their position in social existence, but also by their different physic and characteristic. As explained by Nussbaum women are less well-nurtured than men as women have a weak body, defenseless, and often become the victims of physical ferocity and social abuse (I). The existence of women in life is only becomes the oppressed people and men’s satisfaction.

Based on the condition of women as weak people, they desire to change their situation in human life. In the early eighteenth century, there is a movement about women named Feminism. In general, feminism is women’s Liberation Ideology. This movement is the form of renewal tradition concept and
questioning about inequality of the position of women in social (Barry 143). According to Waugh, “feminism begins with liberalism, when women demand equality with men; the reacting against equality feminism, radical feminists reject patriarchy in favor of separatist matriarchy; finally women come to reject altogether the difference between masculine and feminine as metaphysical” (337). In the other words, this movement is the awareness of women about their identity to destruct the hierarchy that is harmful for women’s position. Moreover feminist has worked hard to advance the level of women in social and politic field.

The women movement above becomes the basic formation of feminist literary criticism, because feminist criticism believes that this movement contains elements of literature. The significant image of women is distributed through literature (Barry 143). The stereotypes in which woman are mentally weak, frequently being the victim of physical violence and identically working only in the house in the human life is also applied in a literary work. Aligned with that idea, from the article entitled The Woman in Modernism, women have been seen and treated more as complements to the men in their lives than as individuals or spiritual entities; women are depicted in literature as feminine, weak, dutiful, and thoughtless (Wrenn).

Moreover, types of story are also stereotypical. There is an argument that the certain genres of story such as epic embody masculine values of heroism, war, and adventure. On the other hand, the mellow drama and musical have sometimes identically with feminine, (Habib 68). In fact, woman in story of film is unpresented. Woman, in any fully human form, have almost completely been left
out of film. This is not surprising, since role of women in literature never showed up (Smith 14). Indeed, the film industry generally treats women’s self-definition as though it hinges on sexual or loving relations with men (Dittmar 6). Almost same in real life, the presence of women in film is also as supplementary of men. The term ‘women’ has obtained its meaning within sexist, or patriarchal, ideology. It has meaning only within that structure. Thus, it is pointless to compare film stereotype of women in film with the reality of women’s lives (Smith, 12). Feminism is a social movement that has had an enormous impact in film theory and criticism.

In this modern era many filmmakers are interesting to make a revolution about women. Smith said in his essay entitled The Image of Women in Film that “I hope by now it is obvious that women must be shown in a much wider variety of roles. Their characterizations must have heroism and human dignity expressed in fields besides homemaking, loving men, and bearing children”(18). Now days, the woman character becomes role model such as hero in film industries: women do not only presented in mellow drama and romantic film, but also in film that categorized as masculine such as adventure and action. There are some action movies that depict woman character as strong and active. Furiosa in Mad Max:Fury Road film (2015), portrayed as an extraordinary female action character(Cowden). Sarah Connor in Terminator 2: Judgment Day is portrayed as woman warrior who protects her son. The great female action character with her arrow, Katniss Everdeen, in The Hunger games film (2012). Another female action heroin also comes from Edge of Tomorrow (2014) film.
Edge of Tomorrow is American sci-fi action film directed by Doug Liman. The movie begins with the attack of alien race on the earth. The military officer is involved into the war with alien race. The officer Cage is the main character of this movie portrayed by Tom Cruise. The film starts from the news about the attack of aliens name Mimic in some areas. This news is also report about a new invention as a tool in the battle named jacket technology. In the news about the jacket technology, there is woman warrior who becomes the icon of the invention. The woman warrior is Rita Vrataski which is portrayed by Emily Blunt. In the news Rita is using the jacket technology and holding a big sword. Rita is female hero who defeats hundreds of Mimic in Verdun, because of that she is called “Angel of Verdun”. Rita is a sergeant and the only woman that appear in this story. She is renowned as humanity's mightiest warrior. She is called as the full metal woman by men warriors. Furthermore, both Rita and Cage get the same experience, they receive the same power –resetting the time–but, Rita loses the power.

Rita is not the main character of this story, but Rita has an important role to help Cage through the combat. She also gives strategy to defeat the combat. There is a part of powerful woman soldier that is considered as a savior and best hope for humanity in this story. Although, the woman character in this story described as strong female character, but the man character still dominate in this story.

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1 The movie adapted from Japanese light novel All You Need is Kill by Hiroshi Sakurazaka
In this occasion, it is interested to analyze how Rita as female character in sci-fi action film is presented. In order to understand the depiction of female character in sci-fi action film feminist film critic is the most suitable one to be used in this research.

B. Focus of the Research

As mentioned in the background of the study, the focus of the research is female character by using feminist film critics. This research focuses on analyzing the character of Rita Vrataski and how is Rita as female character described according to feminist film critic.

C. Research Question

Based the background of research above it would like to propose the statements of problem as follows:

1. How is the female character described in *Edge of Tomorrow* film?
2. How is the female character described according to feminist film critic?

D. Significance of Research

This research would be beneficial to readers in terms of information and knowledge. The readers can have better understand about the *Edge of Tomorrow* movie, particularly the female character. Then, the research is to help those who are interested in analyzing film. The research can be the reference for the study about literature works which using English as an introductory language, especially the Faculty of Adab and Humanities English Language and Literature Department and can be used as reference for further literary research.
E. Objective of Research

The objective of the research is to understand how the female character as a warrior in *Edge of Tomorrow* movie by Dought Liman. Since the focus and the questions of the research is related to female character the objective of this research is how is the female character described as the warrior in Edge of Tomorrow film?

F. Research Methodology

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

1. The Method

This research used qualitative research. Qualitative research, also called “mutualistic inquiry, developed within the social and human sciences, and refers to theories in interpretation (hermeneutics) and human experience (phenomenology)” (Wahyuni 1). According to the quotation, qualitative research is the terms that related to humans knowledge and social life which is associated into the theories that have created. In this research the material being studied is film as text and this research use some theories to support the data.

The method being used is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive research is collecting data then explain the result and the categorizes, arranges, depicts, and describes the data collection (Knupfer and Mcellan 1197). The writer uses two data sources primary data source and secondary data source. The primary source of the data collection is the film *Edge of Tomorrow*. The secondary data
are taken from other sources both printed and e-book which related to primary data and to support the analysis.

2. Technique of Data Analysis

Firstly, the writer will be collected the data through analyzed the narrative elements in this movie. Second, the writer found several sources such book and websites which relate to the research especially about feminist film critic approach. Third, the writer will begin analyze the women character with the characteristic theory.

3. Instrument of Research

The instrument of research is the writer herself by watching the film repeatedly and taking some notes that become the data. In additional, reading the some books and websites to understand, identify, and analyze that related data with feminist approach.

4. The Unit Analysis

The unit analysis of this research is Edge of Tomorrow Film. it is 2015 science fiction action film directed by Dought Liman.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Edge of Tomorrow film is representing about female character as warrior in this film. According to the research question how is the female character described in *Edge of Tomorrow* film? The writer would like to analyze female character Rita Vrataksi. In this chapter, the writer wants to point out of female characteristic through some theories that used for analyzing film Edge of Tomorrow. There have been some researches on the film. So far there is the previous research that has similar corpus but, different topic.

A. Previous Research

Before the writer begins this research, it is necessary to know about the previous research is which similar corpus with this research. Thus far, there have been found one research that analyze *Edge of Tomorrow* Film.

*Analisis Adaptasi Light Novel “All You Need is Kill” ke dalam Film “Edge of Tomorrow”*

This research was written by Moh. Rinov Tri Utomo is a thesis in University of Indonesia publishing in 2014. This thesis explained about “All You Need is Kill” light novel written by Sakurazaka Hiroshi adaptation into “Edge of Tomorrow “movie directed by Doug Liman. In this research the writer compared both works novel and film to see the transformation caused by ecranisation in the aspect of story and character. Ecranisation is theory transformation of literature into film. In this research the writer wanted to see how much the addition and the
reduction that appear in adaptation Novel “All You Need is Kill” into “Edge of Tomorrow” film, then to find the factors that made the changes caused by ecranisation.

In the research finding the writer began with compare the story and plot of Novel “All You Need is Kill” and “Edge of Tomorrow” film. He found that the director Doug Liman used loose approach. Loose approach is how the director takes main idea of the story such as idea, concept, and character. There is also difference between the novel and the film that found by writer. First, the title of the novel and film was different. Second, the setting of the place changed from Japan to America. Third, the ending of the story also difference in light novel used sad ending while “Edge Tomorrow” film used happy ending”.

This research also compared the character both novel and film. Then, character Rita in film and novel almost the same. She described as serious female soldier and doesn’t talk too much. The writer found that the character Rita in novel stronger than character Rita in film because Rita in novel cannot easy killed by the alien while Rita in film as strong female soldier she still often killed by the alien. Both of them also depicted use a heavy weapon such as kidou jacket (jacket technology in film) and big sword. The characteristic Rita in novel was little different with character Rita in film. Rita in novel has characteristic childish while Rita in film has characteristic stubborn and did not has childish characteristic.

The conclusion of this research, the writer found that, the approach that used by the director Doug Liman was loose approach. Then, the data that used in
this research was the story of novel and the dialog in film and the other data such as article.

B. Theoretical Framework

Based on the content has been written in previous chapter, the object of this research is *Edge of Tomorrow* film. Film itself is recognized as unique and powerful art form on a par with painting, sculpture, music, literature and drama. Unlike the novel and poem, film communicates directly, not through the abstract symbols like words on a page, but through concrete images and sounds (Boggs and Deniss 3).

It is known that there are many issues such as art form, an economics, social consciousness, culture creation, technology, etc. that can be risen as the basic formation of film making (Allen and Douglas v). Moreover, most films include lines of dialogue and depict obvious developments of character that explicitly communicate meaning to the viewers. Explicit content is perhaps some sort of moral of the story or socio-political attitude that the filmmaker is expressing directly through the mouths and actions of the characters (Works of Jacobs). In the other side, there are many film critic theories which appear side by side with the film development. One of them is theory feminist film that used in analyzing female character in *Edge of Tomorrow* film.

1. Character and Characterization in Film

Character is the important position in the story which is character is one of the elements of film narrative. The word character refers to the people, animals or object that a story is about. Character has function roles thought the plot and
action. There are two kinds of character, major character and minor character. Major character is a character that plays important role and often appears in the story. This character’s action controls the story forward (Card 69). Then, minor character is the character that only has a little role and occurrence of this character is very rare. The role of the minor character does not have a huge influence in the story.

On the other hand, characterization is name for the methods a writer uses to reveal a character’s values, feelings, identity, and goals (Bacon 1). To expose the characterization in the film, the book entitled *The Art of Watching Film* is written by Joseph Boggs and Deniss Petrie has eight kind of characterization in film. There are characterizations through appearance, Characterization through dialogue Characterization through reaction of other characters, Characterization through external action, Characterization through internal action, Characterization through contrast: Dramatic Foils, Characterization through choice of name. From eight of kind characterization in film, this research would only use seven of them.

**a. Characterization through appearance**

The first impression in watching film is through of the character’s appearance. A major aspect of film characterization is revealed visually and instantaneously through facial features, dress, physical build, behaviors and the way the figure moves which become the important means of establish character (Boggs and Petrie 50). Every detail of the character on the screen gives an influence and can be the data to be analyzed.
b. Characterization through dialogue

Many people said that every word that people said is reflected their personality. Thus, the concept also applies in film which is character film naturally reveals a great deal about themselves by what they say. Boggs and Petrie said that their true thoughts, attitudes, and emotions can be revealed in subtle ways through word choice and through the stress, pitch, and pause patterns of their dialogue (50). They use of grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and particular dialects (if any) reveals a great deal about their characters’ social and economic level, educational background, and mental process (Boggs and Petrie 50).

c. Characterization through external action

Although appearance is an important measure of character’s personality, appearance often misleading (Boggs and Petrie 51). The best reflections of character are person’s action. Real characters are more than mere instrument of the plot, that they do what they do for a purpose out of the motives that consistent their overall personality. There should be a clear relationship between character and his or her actions; the actions should grow naturally out of the character’s personality (Boggs and Petrie 52). Sometimes, the most effective characterization is achieved not by the large actions in the film but by the small, seemingly insignificant ones.

d. Characterization through internal action

Inner action occurs within characters’ minds and emotions and consists of secret, unspoken thoughts, day dreams, aspirations, memories, fears, and
fantasies. People’s hopes, dreams and aspirations can be as important to an understanding of their character as any real achievement, and their fears and insecurities can be more terrible to them than any real catastrophic failure (Boggs and Petrie 62).

There is the most obvious way in which the filmmaker reveals inner reality is by taking us in visual or in auditory into the mind so that we see or hear the things that the character imagines, remember, or thinks about (Boggs and Petrie 62).

e. Characterization through reaction of other characters

In film there is an interaction between the character and other characters. The interaction is form dialogs and action. From the interaction through the dialog we can get more information. The way other character views a person often serves as an excellent means characterizations. Sometimes, a great deal of information about a character is already provided through such means before the character first appears on the screen (Boggs and Petrie 64).

f. Characterization through contrast: Dramatic Foils

The use of foils is one of the most effective techniques of characterization (Boggs and Petrie 64). The intent of foils is contrasting character whose behavior, attitudes, opinions, lifestyle, physical appearance, and so on are the opposite of those of the main character. The effect is similar to that achieved by putting black and white together – the black appears blacker and the white appears (Boggs and Petrie 64).
g. Characterization through choice of name

One of the important methods of characterizations is the use of names possessing appropriate qualities of sound, meaning, or connotation. This technique is known as name typing (Boggs and Petrie). A screenwriter usually thinks out his characters’ name very carefully. Because a great deal of thought goes into the choice of names. Boggs and Petrie provide an example name such as “Dick Tracy” which is obvious and clear (Dick is slang for a detective; Tracy derives from the fact that detectives trace criminals (Boggs and Petrie 54-55).

2. Feminist Film Critic

Understanding the feminist theory is a necessary before analyzing film which focuses of the female character. Feminist film critic is as a theory critic to help analyzing this research. The feminist film critic which has a root from a feminist film debate in late 19th century can be called as a movement which gives a space to feminist to explain how women are represented and positioned in film – they get an active or passive role (McCabe 18). Feminist film critics examined the question of feminine identity and the representation of women in film as the site/sight or object of exchange between men (Hayward 135).

Particularly, according to Knight, feminist film theory is very much political in nature. “It seeks to expose, not to perpetuate, patriarchal practices”. It is about fighting for equal rights for women as a distinct social group, equal to men in every way (39). Because of the women's rights movement, feminists argue that female portrayals in the media should change. King argues, “as women assume authorial control and industrial power, and as audiences demand new
images in old-fashioned genres, the representation of women should continue to change"(2). Meanwhile, cinema is a cultural practice where myths about women and femininity, and men and masculinity, in short, myths about sexual difference are produced, reproduced, and represented (Smelik 8).

The role of woman in film almost always resolves around her physical attraction and the mating games she plays with male characters. Women provide trouble or sexual interludes for male character, or are not all present at all. Even when a woman is central character she generally shown as confused or helpless and in danger or passive or as a purely sexual being. It just seems odd that these few images and others like them are all we see of women almost every film since very few film makers given much thought to their habits of sex-role stereotyping, even a film which has one strong female (Smith15). Film usually gives an active role to man character while female character is given passive role. This situation continuous become convention in the film and repeated on the level of film plot (Fabe 221).

Feminist film criticism wants to change the situation of women in film. Their characterizations must have heroism and human dignity expressed in fields besides homemaking, loving a man, and bearing children. Women must be shown as active, not passive; strong women shouldn't constantly face ridicule and unhappy endings. Women should be shown in adventures which don't revolve around sexual attraction for a man or working with other women without cattiness (Smith 19).
Breaking the text down into smaller units and the analysis which are so detailed until to the hidden textual operation at work in each segment as well as across the whole film text are the ideological analysis which is used by the researcher in analyzing the film. In the feminist film critic, looking for ideological signs and formal contestation in relation to dominant film representations of woman become a focus on the ruptured text (McCabe 18). In the *Fifty Key Concept in Gender Studies*, the ideology can be concluded as the system belief which holds impact and determines most people’s view of social order, but there also oppositional ideologies (such: Marxism, feminism) which seek to change people consciousness, by replacing the dominant version of real condition of existence with their own.

Feminist film critics are using the ideology that has the main goal. In the feminist film critics, looking for ideological signs and formal contestation in relation to dominant film representations of woman become a focus on the ruptured text (McCabe 18). The ideology which is used in feminist film critics, basically have the main goal. It is not only made the feminist intervention possible by giving a language to speak, but also to legitimize the feminist theoretical position to standing within current academic thinking (McCabe 16).
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDING

This chapter focuses on the main female character, Rita Vrataski. This also analyzes how Rita is depicted in this film. In order to understand how she is described in this film, it is necessary to understand Rita Vrataski as the female character in her characteristics and her actions. Then, the writer uses the guide which is written in *The Art of Watching Film, 8th Edition* (49-55) to understand Rita Vrataski as the female character in the film.

A. The Analysis of Character and Characterization of Rita Vrataski

In this film, *Edge of Tomorrow*, Rita Vrataski is not the main character. However, she is the only female character that has an important role in helping the major character, William Cage.

From the picture above, there is a big poster with Rita as the figure in it. Rita is in the poster because she is an international heroin that successfully wins the five-year war. Rita Vrataski is the female soldier who wins the battle in Verdun by defeating hundreds of Mimic (aliens). Therefore, she is called as
"Angel of Verdun". She becomes one of humanity's hopes to win the battle with the Mimic that happened on earth. Moreover, Rita Vrataski is the leader of army soldiers at Heathrow. So that she is called Sergeant Rita. Additionally, there is no information about Rita's personal life both family and friends.

In this film Rita has an important role in helping Cage whom is the major character in this film. Rita has a good skill in combat in which proven by a case where she is able to kill hundreds of Mimic (aliens). She helps Cage because he is the officer of human relation and he has no experience in combat. In this case, Rita trains him and gives him war strategies, so that they both can win the war. Before meeting Cage, Rita receives a power to reset the time. This power is also passed by cage. However, during the combat Rita loses the power and leaves Cage to be the only one who is having the power.

Furthermore, Rita Vrataski's name has a meaning that can be analyzed. It also represents her character in this film. Her first name “Rita” according to urbandictionary.com means “a beautiful, intelligent, sexy and successful person that you cannot help but want to be with all the time”. However, her last name “Vrataski” has no meaning. The meaning of “Rita” points out her characteristic as a beautiful and intelligent woman that always tries to get something by herself.

Furthermore, the portrayal of Rita as the female soldier is explained through her characteristic based on her physical appearance and personality traits and skill as follow.
1. **Physical Appearance**

As the soldier, Rita uses a costume like a soldier in general. She wears soldier uniform like a black jacket with the logo that sticks on the jacket, and long black pant. There is also a big belt on her waist in order to put the gun both sides of her pants (Picture 2). She is also uses a black boot in her feet. When she first meets Cage, she just wears a black tank-top with the training pant (Picture3). Those kinds of outfit are usually worn by Rita when she is practicing.

Moreover, since Rita wins the war, she becomes the icon of one invention called jacket technology. Jacket technology is an invention and becomes the equipment to fight the aliens. The jacket becomes one of the attributes that used by soldiers in battle including Rita. This tool is like jacket that is used on the body (Picture 4). Beside wearing a suit metal, she is also using a metal red vest on her body. The metal red vest is the characteristic of Rita in her battle uniform.
This jacket is basically powered exoskeletons that providing both armor and weapons than enhances the wearer’s mobility. This equipment has several functions to survive and attack. Each side of this tool has the weapons to shoot the enemies. In this case, Rita is very skilled in using this tool to attack the alien.

Based on what Rita wears for the first time, she appears in the film until the end, Rita Vrataski is depicted as a soldier woman with a simple style. She wears the outfit that is comfortable with her because she is always in duty. She always uses the outfit with dark color like black, gray, and brown.

In this film, Rita is depicted as a woman without make up on her face and always with mess hair (Picture 5). There is no women’s accessory in her body
such as a ring, an earring, or necklace, because Rita is never presenting out of her duty as soldier. She does not paying much attention with what she wears.

Rita is described as woman with blue eyes and brown hair. She has a clear face. Along the story, Rita never showed any expression on her face. She always appears with serious face (Picture 06). She has tan skin and little wound on her forehead.

Rita has a muscular body. Rita’s height is almost the same with other male soldiers in this film. Rita also has muscles in her arm. It is seen in one scene when Rita is doing a physical exercise with the outfit which shows her muscles in her arms, and her body which is sturdy (Picture 07). In addition, she is also walks very steadily. She walks with sturdy chest, handful, and sure in movement. The gesture of her body always looks like ready to face a dangerous situation in front of her.

Rita has a strong body. In the battle combat, Rita is very skilled using a heavy armor on her body. It is seen when she fights the aliens wearing the jacket and using big sword. She is able to kill all the aliens with the jacket on her body.
fluently. She also has one special weapon; she always uses a big sword as a weapon to attack the alien (Picture 08).

Rita has strong body that is proven when Cage and she are in the middle of their journey, then they find a farm house and decide to take a rest. Rita finds a helicopter next to the farm house. Then, Rita wants to ride the helicopter. But, something bad happens to Rita. She groans painfully when she checks the condition of the helicopter and tries to hold the helicopter blades. She gets injured around her right shoulder. Furthermore, Cage comes near to Rita and asks her what actually happens as it can be seen on the dialogue above. Rita lies to Cage by saying nothing happens and she is fine anyway. Even though Rita gets injury around her shoulder, she still wants to keep their trip without worrying the wound on her body. It proves that Rita has a very strong body even when she gets injured, she still has energy to continue their trip.
2. Personality Trait

Firstly, Rita as a soldier, Rita is committed soldier. It is seen when she puts her country and her duty as the top of her priority, while she puts herself interest at the last priority. She is willing to sacrifice herself even she would die. Rita’s thought of war is something that must be done in earnest, without fear of death and loss of people who close with her. Rita has a strong desire to win the war. For instance, her commitment in duty as the soldier is proven when she is willing to feel the pain in helping Cage defeating the aliens in order to win the war. She totally prepares to fight without worry. Rita is never afraid about what will happen in the middle of her combat. She prefers focusing on the mission to win the war. She makes her own decision to help Cage without compromising herself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cage</th>
<th>Rita, if you start the engine, you die. This is as far as you do, no matter what I do. This is as far as you ever make it.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>[Run to the helicopter]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>There is a mimic buried 20 yards away it attack when you the engine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>[checked the condition of helicopter] get your weapon and get in the helicopter Cage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>There is more in the field back there only one of us ever makes it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>Get in [entered the helicopter]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>Only thing we have not tried is you walk away, go to the farm house, there is a cellar, food, wait there till I got back, you’ll be safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>I’m a soldier, I volunteered, I am not walking away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>you die here, right here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>[start the helicopter]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(01:07:32-01-08-14)

According to the conversation above, there is a situation where Rita and Cage in the middle of their mission finding the Omega brain of the aliens. Cage
persuades Rita to avoid that situation because they always failed in that situation. Rita still wants to continue the trip, because she believes that a soldier must finish her duty. There is a mini helicopter that Rita wants to drive it. Moreover, Cage warns Rita that she will die if she starts the engine, so he asks her to run away. Nevertheless, Rita ignores what Cage says and still wants to drive the helicopter because she is a soldier who will never escape in the middle of the war. For Rita, a soldier is like a volunteer who will admit what will happen without worries. That is how Rita is depicted as a soldier, she is the committed soldier.

![Image](00:46:14)

As committed soldier, she becomes an assertive person. It is proven in the dialogue above. When Cage still hesitates about the ability he has, Rita resolutely explain him about what he needs to do with his ability. She gives a very
detail explanation, so that Cage can understand and believe her that they can work together to find Omega. Rita insists that Cage take her to the place where the Omega is.

Furthermore, Rita teaches Cage to be engaged in combat. She helps Cage how to use the jacket technology and how to fight the aliens. Cage becomes able to engage the adversaries with increasing skill alongside Rita Vratsaki. As a soldier, she has an assertive action that makes Cage confident in carrying out the mission with her.

As committed soldier Rita is depicted as brave woman who does not have fear in herself. It is shown in some actions where Rita fights the alien. She fights independently without a partner. At the time Cage sees Rita—attacks and handles the aliens by herself— for the first time (Picture 12).

Rita is brave woman. It is shown when Cage and she decide to go to the main building of UDF (United Defense Force) name Whitehall. They go there to obtain a prototype that created by Carter. The prototype has function to connect directly to the Omega, so that they can find where the Omega is. The prototype
has saved in the office of General Brigham, head of UDF (United Defense Force). Cage and Rita try to go to the office of General Brigham stealthily. When they successfully go into the office, Rita is bravely point out the gun to the General Brigham in order that General Brigham does not call his guard and keeps calming down to listen their explanation and intention (Picture 13). It is shown how bravely she is without thinking the risk she would get. From the explanation above, it is proven that Rita is committed soldier who has brave and assertive characteristic.

**Secondly, Rita has strong mentality.** Beside she is depicted to have a strong body, she is also described to have strong mentality. The strong mentality of Rita it is proven when she is able to watch the death frequently.

Even, she perceives the death is something natural in her life. Therefore, she does not easily surrender herself in her duty as a soldier. For Rita, a war is accustomed to see the death, even the death of her beloved people.

Cage: How about Hendricks? You get to know him?  
Rita : How do you know that name?  
Cage: You mention him  
Rita : That is not possible  
Cage: Then how do i know his name?  
Rita: when did I mention him? Under what ucomstane?
Cage: is he why you won’t talk to me
Rita: Do not ever mention his name again
Cage: Why are you….in love with him
Rita: He’s dead, and i watched him die 300 times and i remember every detail, i remember everything so i do not need to talk about it
Cage: I am sorry
Rita: it’s just war

(01:02:58)

According to dialogue and picture fourteen above, it is proven that she has seen the death of Hedrick three hundred times Hedrick who is probably Rita’s boyfriend. It proves that Rita has strong mentality, because usually woman cannot see the death in front of their eyes. When women see the death they will scream and cry.

Rita has strong mentality exists when Rita trains Cage. Once Rita realizes that Cage does not have ability in combat, she trains him and gives him a plan to follow. In practice, every time Cage fails and gets injured, Rita does not hesitate to shoot Cage with the gun to die and come back to repeat the day (Picture 15). Rita must shoot Cage, because if Cage gets an injured and gets treatment he should receive a blood transfusion which is one way to eliminate the ability (reset the time) that Cage received. Rita has no choice therefore she has to point the gun repeatedly to Cage to come a new day. Rita has strong mentality in shooting Cage without hesitate. Moreover, to shoot people with gun need strong mentality to do that, if Rita does not has strong mentality she cannot able to kills and shoot Cage.

Rita is intelligent. Rita is intelligence proven when she knows the information about the alien about the system and the function of the alien. Moreover, she can remember all the instructions and strategies that Cage explain.
When Cage has a vision where the omega, Cage and Rita set up strategy to reach the omega, but almost in every halfway Rita is always killed so that makes Cage has to repeat the day many times.

Along the journey Cage always tells Rita where the enemy will attack her in the day of the battle so that Rita can anticipate the attack. Cage always explains the instruction clearly where the alien will attack her and where she has to go to avoid the attack. Rita always asks Cage to explain more specifically and Rita is very focused in listening the instruction (Picture 16). Furthermore, with the specific explanation Rita is able to remain all the instruction accurately and can be saved in battle combat.

Cage : I’m hit, I’m hit, how bad is it? Is there a lot of blood?
Rita : [Takes the battery] you have a hole in your chest
Cage : Really?
Rita : Yeah, [put the battery in her armor]
Cage : Did you just take my battery?
Rita : [leave Cage]

(01:04:39-01:04:59)
According to dialogue above, Rita is the committed soldier that intelligent in combat. It is shown when the first time Cage save Rita, Cage gets shot in his chest. Rita takes away the battery from his armor suit. The function of the battery is energy for the armor. In that case, Rita takes the battery from Cage’s armor for the backup for her armor. After taking away the battery, she moves on and engages herself fighting with the alien. She is very cleaver in handle the situation in combat. She knows that she needs more ammunition to her metal suit so that she takes Cage’s battery.

3. Skill

**Rita also has many skills.** Besides, she has ability in use a weapon such a gun and sword. She is also has other skills. It is shown when she takes a drive to run away from alien attack. After she and Cage finish the combat in the first wave on the coast of France they continue their journey to find the omega. They have a plant to distract the alien. In this scene, Rita drives a minivan with the armor on her body, Rita can handle the minivan very well in condition the alien attack her while cage sit beside her (Picture 18).

The other ability of Rita is able to fly the mini helicopter. It is shown when their journey stopped on the way to the omega. They are in the farm house to take a rest. In the farm house there is a mini helicopter, but Cage known that if the machine of the helicopter turn on the alien will attack them.
Rita does not care about it, she tries to fly the helicopter without doubt she know how to fly the helicopter (Picture 19).

According to all the explanation above, about the character and characteristic of female character in this film name Rita Vrataski. Rita depicted as soldier who has a simple outfit with the neutral color. She has muscular body and strong body. She described as committed soldier who, brave, and assertive. She has strong mentality. She is also intelligent. She is soldier who skillful that makes she has a good skill in combat.

B. Feminist Film Critic in Film Edge of Tomorrow

As what has been described in chapter two, Feminist film criticism wants to change the situation of women’s position in a film. Besides being described as a wife; a mother who bears children; or a housewife, a woman also should possess the characteristics of heroism and human dignity (Smith 19). Furthermore, the woman character—Rita Vrataski—in this film is not described as a wife or a mother, instead she is depicted as a woman who has a heroism value. She is
portrayed as a soldier who is muscular, strong, brave, committed soldier, intelligent, and skillful.

Feminist also wants to improve the woman’s condition by positioning women become equal to men. According to those all characteristics of Rita Vrataski, the character of Rita is presented having an equal role with the male character named William Cage. The equality can be seen as follows. Firstly, Rita takes the same role as the male character, William Cage. Both Rita and Cage are depicted as heroes who defeat a war with alien race. In this film, Rita plays a role which it actually belongs to men’s position, such as being a soldier. Being a soldier is identified as a part of patriarchal society. Moreover, the role similarity also appears when both Cage and Rita receive the same power. They get an ability to reset the time. However, unlike Cage, Rita has no longer the ability since she loses it when she in Verdun. Furthermore, in a film, women usually take a place at house as the housewife. However, in this film, the female character is presented in field of war. Both female and male character can work as a team. They can be a good battle partners, so that they can win the war.

Secondly, Rita in the film is almost depicted having similar characteristic with male character in this story. Rita’s appearance reflects a man’s characteristic. She has muscular body as she has muscle in both her arms. Pronger said in his essay entitled *The Arena of Masculinity: Sports, Homosexuality, and the Meaning of Sex* that “Muscles have great power; a power consists not only in their ability to move heavy objects but also puissant symbols of man” (48). From the quotation, it is known that muscle is one of the men characteristics. Besides, Rita has very
strong and sturdy body like a man. It is proven when she is not really in trouble in using the equipment for the combat. From this case, it can be seen that the image of male body is displayed in Rita Vrataski character.

Moreover, the man’s characteristic also exists in Rita through her ability in using a weapon, which is usually used by a man, such as gun and sword. Innes in her book said that “Where the appropriation of the phallus performed by past action heroines has been detailed by their use of masculine characteristics and symbolic accoutrements like guns, swords, and muscles” (Innes, 56). In the other words, both gun and sword are the symbol of man’s characteristic. In addition, Rita is also depicted a character who is emotionless, while in a film woman usually plays more emotionally such as crying and getting angry easily.

However, there are still some parts of the film that contradict with the equality role of female character and male character. Firstly, in this film Rita is a passive character. Although she is depicted as a female character who is muscular, strong, committed soldier, and intelligent, Rita is always helped by man who is lack in everything. In other words, the ability of Cage in combat is less than Rita’s. Cage is the one who always protects and saves Rita. In every danger situation, he always immediately rescues her. From the beginning to the end story, Cage always protects Rita in every situation. Furthermore, the fact that Rita is a passive character is proven when Rita loses her power—in which resetting the time—and leaves Cage to be the only one who has the power. Since then, Rita becomes the character that depends on Cage. Thus, it shows how woman is played passively in this film.
Secondly, the stereotype of woman appears in character Rita Vrataski. The stereotype that appears is about sexual-being. This film, *Edge of Tomorrow*, presents a woman character that exists in men circles. She is the only woman soldier who appears along the story. Although, Rita is very glorified as a heroine figure who wins the battle and called as “The Angel of Verdun”, there are some scenes that show how Rita is looked down as an object of sex. It is proven when the first time Cage finds himself awake in Heathrow station. The first thing that he finds is a bus with poster Rita Vratski on it. And, there is a word on that poster, i.e. “Full Metal Bitch” (Picture 20). According to Merriam Webster dictionary the word “Bitch” has a meaning “a lewd or immoral woman, a malicious, spiteful, or overbearing woman–sometimes used as generalized term of abuse”. So it can be concluded that the word “bitch” is an insult to woman because “bitch” usually deals with woman sex worker. In this case, it can be seen how the man character (the man soldier) looks down to woman character sergeant, Rita Vrataski.

![Picture 20 (00:08:55)](image1)

Man : Bloody hell, it’s the full metal b...
Rita : [Hitched the man before he finish his word]

(00:16:24)
The stereotype of Rita also appears when Rita goes out from the Heathrow station to take an aeroplane. There are many men soldiers that assemble around her to watch her (Picture 21). Suddenly, there is a soldier that says “Bloody hell, it’s the full metal b..” with a mocking tone. Before the man finishes his words, Rita directly hitched him. In this case, the man still looks down to woman even though she is a heroine.

Thus, the representation of Rita as an object of sex by the male character in this film is relevant with what Tornham states “Even when a woman is strong character woman cannot escape from sexual being. Film is also cannot separated from the habits of sex-role stereotyping, even a film which has one strong female” (Smith 15). From the explanation above, it is proven that a woman in film cannot be separated from sex-role stereotype although she is the strong character.

In brief, the female action character in this film is depicted as heroic, strong, and brave character. Moreover, the female character is presented being equal to the male character. Nevertheless, the woman’s dependency over man is still reflected. This film confirms that a film is generally still difficult to overrule the story from female stereotype. In other words, a female character remains dependent on the male character, even when she is showed in an action genre and takes an important role in the story.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. CONCLUSIONS

This research is about analyzing female character Rita Vrataski in sci-fi action film *Edge of Tomorrow* (2014). *Edge of Tomorrow* is a film about alien attack on earth which depicts a female soldier Rita Vrataski. Rita Vrataski is not the main character in this film, but she is the only female character that has an important role in helping the major character, William Cage. She is the powerful character. This research aims to understand how Rita as female character described in this sci-fi action film.

Rita is the powerful central female character. Rita depicted as soldier who always wears the simple outfit and the heavy attribute. She has muscular body and strong body. She described as committed warrior: the first priority in her life is winning the war even die for her country. As committed warrior Rita is person that brave, and assertive. She also intelligent: she can helping Cage trough the combat. She is also soldier who good skill in combat.

Moreover, this film tries to present the female character that has equal role and characteristic with the male character. The female character appears in patriarchal society as a leader and takes a man's job. She express in field of war. Moreover, her role does not playing under the man’s oppressed anymore, but both female and male character can work together as the hero. Rita’s characteristic reflects man’s characteristic trough the appearance and skill.
However, the film cannot entirely escape from the stereotypical characteristic of woman. Rita is strong and brave person, but in this film Rita’s life still depend on man. In every danger situation Rita still need Cage to help her. There is also stereotype about woman in this film which is woman still be a sexual-being.

Furthermore, the film wants to show the equality between male and female character, but man still dominate in the story of film which is man takes an active role and woman takes a passive role. This film *Edge of Tomorrow* approves that film is still difficult to aside from female stereotype in spite of the female character is heroin, male character still dominant in this story.

**B. SUGGESTIONS**

*Edge of Tomorrow* is American sci-fi action film directed by Dought Liman describes about female character who has masculinity character. The character masculine appears through the physical appearance and personality traits. The woman is Rita Vrataski. She is not only female character who strong and brave, but also she is character who successfully brings the main character to win the war.

To get the right comprehension of the film or literary work itself, researchers should use the right theory in analyzing film or literary work. *Edge of Tomorrow* film is can be analyzed from many points of view. This film is also talking about time loop. In this chance, the writer uses character and
characterization theory and feminist film critic in analyze female character in this film, Rita Vrataski.

In this occasion, the writer does suggest to everyone to analyze this film to other points of view. This film Edge of Tomorrow can be analyzed uses a theory cinematography and special visual effect.
WORKS CITED


APPENDIX

Edge of Tomorrow (2014) Film directed by Doug Liman, released on 6th June 2014 in United State America