THE REPRESENTATION OF MOTHERHOOD THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER IN BAD MOMS FILM

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

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ABSTRACT

Desi Rapidah Sukma, *Representation of Motherhood Through the Main Character in Bad Moms Film*. A thesis: English Language and Literature, Faculty of Adab Humanities, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, 2017.

This thesis aims to know representation of motherhood through the main character in *Bad Moms* (2016) film using concept of representation by Stuart Hall. This research is using qualitative method and descriptive analysis technique to analyze the representation of motherhood through the main character after analyzing and describing the representation of the main character. Based on the research finding, the writer concludes that *Bad Moms* film represents a mother in different way. Through the main character of this film, it shows another side of mother that imperfect and can does mistakes. Amy Mitchell, the main character of this film represents a working woman that succeed to educates and taking care her children. Besides that, this research finds the ideology that wants to show in this film that is an ideal mother is not whom a full-time mother, and not all the working mother is a bad mother. Through Amy Mitchell as a main character who played two figures as a mother and working woman, it shows that she is not a full time mother but she can be a good mother for her children. Likewise, a working mother cannot be as perfect as a full-time mother in taking care of her children because surely there is some times wasted. However, it does not make a working mother loses her natures as a mother.

**Keywords:** Representation, Ideology, Motherhood, Representation of Motherhood.
APPROVEMENT

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on December 8th 2017. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for Bachelor Degree.

Jakarta, December 8th 2017.

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DECLARATION

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

Jakarta, December 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2017

Desi Rapidah Sukarta
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Jakarta, December 2017

The Writer
# TABLE OF CONTENT

ABSTRACT ................................................................................................................................. i

APPROVEMENT ........................................................................................................................ ii

LEGALIZATION ........................................................................................................................... ii

DECLARATION ............................................................................................................................ iv

ACKNOWLEDGMENT .................................................................................................................. v

TABLE OF CONTENT ............................................................................................................... viii

CHAPTER I ................................................................................................................................. 1

A. Background of the Study ........................................................................................................ 1

B. Focus of the Study .................................................................................................................... 5

C. Research Questions .................................................................................................................. 5

D. The Objective of the Research ................................................................................................. 6

E. Significance of the Research ................................................................................................... 6

F. Research Methodology ............................................................................................................ 6

   1. Method of the Research ....................................................................................................... 6

   2. Technique of the Data Analysis .......................................................................................... 7

   3. Instrument of the Research ................................................................................................. 7

   4. Unit of the Data Analysis .................................................................................................... 8

   5. Time and Place of the Research ........................................................................................ 8

CHAPTER II ................................................................................................................................. 9

A. Previous Research ................................................................................................................... 9

B. The Concept of Representation ............................................................................................... 12

C. Ideology .................................................................................................................................. 15

D. The Concept of Motherhood .................................................................................................... 18

E. Motherhood Ideology ............................................................................................................... 23

CHAPTER III ............................................................................................................................... 25

A. Representation of Mother in *Bad Moms* Film ...................................................................... 25

   1. Independent Mother ............................................................................................................. 27

   2. Imperfect Mother ................................................................................................................ 29
3. Natural Mother........................................................................................................... 34
   B. Ideology of Motherhood in Bad Moms Film......................................................... 37

CHAPTER IV ..................................................................................................................... 48
   A. Conclusion .............................................................................................................. 48
   B. Suggestion ............................................................................................................. 50

WORKS CITED ............................................................................................................... 51

APPENDIX ....................................................................................................................... 53
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

If we talk about family, then we talk about power. Power in families is understood as access to resources (tangible or intangible) that allows certain family members to define the reality of others, have their needs met, and experience more resources (Lee 379). Family is a main source to get warmness and the strongest relation between human to human. Family is the social unit where most people are raised, learn systems of belief, experience love, perhaps abuse and neglect, and generally grow to be part of communities and society (Lee 379). Americans use words “family” that content by a father, a mother, and their children. A mother is an important figure for the children, a mother is the first school to children where they get knowledge about many things from their mother, including about attitude and behavior, how their children should be and how they can have good manners. Research shows that, in general, interactions with mothers tend to be more frequent, more directive, focus more on teaching interpersonal behaviors, and simultaneously more contentious an intimate. The traditional marriage constant assumes the husband will be the head of household with responsibilities to provide a family wage and the wife will take primary responsibility for the home and the raising of children and integrate her personal identity with that of her husband (Lee 381).
Women are expected to be mothers, and mothers are expected to take primary responsibility for the nurturing of children (Lee 385). Working mothers not only have to leave their children, more than that, they also get the stresses of what in many cases equals two full time jobs. It is not easy for many mothers that also as a working woman to leave her family and then she has her job of taking care of the family she had to leave during the day. Some women consider that they must struggle to balance their domestic and professional roles. Many believe that women cannot manage to balance these roles something that will affect negatively their roles in their families because of the emotional strain.

Nowadays, there are so many women that hold double roles as a mother and working woman. Based on those realities, many mothers cannot play their double roles that cause they failed in taking care and educate their children even failed to maintain their marriage with their husband. There are some researches which take motherhood as their thesis’s issue, for instance a thesis titled *Women’s Role as a Mother and Working Woman as Seen in Main Character in the Film I Don’t Know How She Does it* written by Zulfah Nurhanni Zulaimyta. In her research, she analyzes the main character which have double role as a mother and working woman. Zulfah’s thesis takes motherhood as the issue where the main character Kate Reddy in that film cannot play her role as well. Different with this research, Zulfah’s thesis by using Concept of Women Stereotype and Characterization theory to analyze her research, and in the end of the story the main character cannot play her role well as a mother (Zulaimyta 1-4). *Bad Moms* film is one of examples from many films about
motherhood. The film was directed and written by John Lucas and Scott Moore with the main character of this film named Amy Mitchell described as a good mom and works in coffee company at the same time. She does the same thing continually every day, prepares healthy breakfast for her children, helps their homework, drives them to their school, and works as sales rep with many pressure. Until she arrived in time when she felt tired for all of it and decided to become a bad mom. She did it until she realized that her decision was wrong. This film describes Amy’s struggle to follow the rules about being a perfect mother.

After all the struggles, Amy decides to break the rules and she feels tired to being a perfect mom. She does not prepare her children’s healthy breakfast and meals anymore and change to junk foods. She also does not put any attention to her children’s homework and let them to do it themselves. Moreover, she dresses up messy to the office and often absent from her work. Besides all of confusion, she also has to expel her husband from her house because she knows her husband did masturbate online with other woman more than ten months lately. She lives his day as a bad mother for several times until she heard that her daughter slandered by Amy’s rival in PTA election. Jane was accused to have narcotics found in her locker. As a mother, Amy really knows that her daughter is not that kind of children. She never consumed narcotics and does not even know about it. Because of the tragedy, Amy defends her daughter and tried to convince everyone that the narcotics are not Jane’s. Her instincts as a mother suddenly appears and Amy determined to clean her daughter’s name. After her journey as a bad moms for some times, she finally realizes
that her decision was wrong. Nobody is perfect in this world, and so a mother. In the end of this film, Amy realizes that her children need her as their role model and she becomes a good mom as good as in the beginning of this story, even better. Amy’s approach has led to positive changes and she has gotten her job back with much better compensation, and continues to see Jessie, a handsome widower she bonded with some weeks earlier.

The main character in this film represents how a woman can be a mother and working woman. This film shows the struggle of Amy Mitchell to do anything which makes everything works as it should be. Amy Mitchell tries to be the best parent beside the best mom since she has to play double character because her unresponsible husband cannot be a good father and husband. Amy finally realizes that her two children need her to be a role model in their life and become a better mom for her children with her newest status as single parent mother and has a better relation also after her divorce with her husband. Leonore Davidoff states “Definitions of good (and therefore ‘bad’) mothering function to regulate women through health and welfare practices, which are also recycled as popular common-sense knowledge” (Davidoff 95).

The writer analyzes Amy Mitchell as the main character by using concept of representation to see the ways of Amy Mitchell to fulfill her role as a mother and working woman. Besides of that, the writer also uses ideology theory to find the ideology of motherhood in this film. The writer is interested to analyze the representation of Amy Mitchell as a mother and working woman because the
character is unique. Amy shows the real life and the real struggle of mother where somehow they try so hard to be perfect for her children. This film represents role of mother as a human that sometimes do mistakes and not perfect. Where we often find that usually a mother describe as an angel without flaw, but this film tries to show that if you are a mother, it is okay to be imperfect. This film also shows another side of a mother that sometimes they also feel tired and get boredom with her life.

Based on the explanation above, the writer argues that it is necessary to analyze representation motherhood in Bad Moms film by using concept of representation by Stuart Hall and ideology of motherhood because it is considered as a proper method to analyze the representation of motherhood through Amy Mitchell in Bad Moms film.

B. Focus of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing Amy Mitchell as the main character of the film that represents as mother and working woman using concept of representation by Stuart Hall.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background and the focus of the study above, the problem that appears in this research is: How does Amy Mitchell represent a mother in Bad Moms film?
D. The Objective of the Research

The purpose of the research is to answer the research question that is to know about the representation of motherhood in *Bad Moms* film through Amy Mitchell as the main character of this film.

E. Significance of the Research

The significance of the research is to explore the representation of mother which is implied in the *Bad Moms* film. The writer hopes that this literary research can give some significant information about motherhood and the representation of a mother in this film and helps any readers to get broader knowledge about motherhood.

F. Research Methodology

1. Method of the Research

Methodology of research can be separated in two ways. They are qualitative research and quantitative research. In qualitative research, the verification process is not using numbers, that method focuses on how the concept being examine deeply between the comprehension to interaction meanwhile quantitative research using statistic data and number model. Qualitative research has five main aspects; (1) natural setting as a main source and the main instrument is a researcher itself; (2) focus on process, not the result; (3) data analysis inductively; (4) qualitative research is a descriptive research; (5) meaning is the essential elements (Semi 28-32).
In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative to analyze the data. Because the writer will describe the main character through her appearance, characteristics, and her habit in detail and this research is literary research so this uses qualitative method. In doing this research, first the writer watches the film several times, after that the writer makes some notes about important parts of the film, then the writer starts to analyze by looking for the evidences to support her arguments, and relates it to concept of representation.

2. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative as the technique of analysis. In doing this research, firstly the writer watches Bad Moms film carefully and continuously in order to understand the content of the film. Then, the writer collects the data in this film by analyzing the main character as seen from the dialogues and appearances of this film, explains and describes the main character in detail and defines how Amy Mitchell represents her character as mother and working women in this film based on concept of representation by Stuart Hall.

3. Instrument of the Research

The instrument of this research is the writer herself by watching the Bad Moms film, reading the script, describing, analyzing, and searching other information that are useful for this research.
4. **Unit of the Data Analysis**

   The unit of this research is film entitled *Bad Moms*, directed and written by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore. This film released in July 2016 in USA. To support the evidences of the research, the writer also uses *Bad Moms* script.

5. **Time and Place of the Research**

   The writer completes the research in the State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, the library of English Letters Department, the main library of State Islamic University. The writer starts doing this research in 2017.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter provides some of previous researches related to the research, theories, and concept of motherhood. The theories used in this research are representation, ideology, and concept of motherhood. The theories are used to reveal the representation of motherhood in Bad Moms film.

A. Previous Research

The writer found some previous researchs which related to the research. A research with the same corpus has not been found. There is no research which used Bad Moms film as corpus, however, the writer found some researches that used the same theories and concept with this research in literary research.

The first previous research is research entitled Representation of Deficient Motherhood in English Novels of the Eighteenth Century: Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Frances Burney, and Ann Radcliffe written by Susan Patricia Tym McGarr. This thesis was published in Griffith University Australia on May 2008. This thesis focus on analyzing the representation of deficient mother in eighteenth century based on five novels written by five major writers; Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Frances Burney, and Ann Radcliffe. The novels are Moll Flanders (1722), Roxana (1724), Clarissa (1747-9), Evelina (1778), and The Italian (1797). Susan used feminism, pathriarchy, and literary history in her thesis. She analyzed the deficient of motherhood in those five novels by using those theories. From this
previous research, the writer finds more reference about representation of motherhood, especially about deficient motherhood that can implied in this research. This previous research shows the ideal mother in nineteenth century, as it is written in Susan’s research: The idealizing of motherhood and what historian Amanda Vickery has called, “the sheer glamour of the images of tender motherhood” that appeared in conduct manuals, art, and other forms of popular writing contributed to the appropriation of these ideals as the fundamental set of standards against which all mothers were measured (McGarr 9).

Another previous research about motherhood is a dissertation written by Anna C. Korteweg, MA entitled Ideologies of Class, Motherhood, and Work: The Subject of the Working Mother Viewed Through the Lens of Welfare Reform, published on May 2002 by University of California, Berkeley. In her dissertation, Anna analysis how welfare caseworkers negotiate this ideology in their attempts to transform welfare-reliant from perceived stay-at-home mothers into working mothers. She concludes that construct a particular ideal of the working mother that is not based on the ideology of intense mothering. This previous research gives more information about the ideology of intensive mothering. This research defines how the ideal working mother and intensive mother should be. Ann states the ideal worker was feminine in her cheerful attitude and willingness to be exploited. She also states that women to become role models for their children through paid employment were highlighted (Korteweg 29).
Another previous research is found in journal entitled *The Representation of Motherhood in Post-Socialist Chinese Cinema* written by Huili Hao on 2009. The purpose of this research is to explore what others mother role can be found in Chinese cinema from 1990 onwards besides the mainstream the representation of motherhood that carries both the national modernization and the women’s traditional merits. In this research, Hauli use three paradigms of the representation of motherhood in Chinese films since 1990s. According to the research, Huili concludes that since 1980s socio-economic and politic changes in China have been dramatic and rapid, and they affect directly on both the discourse of motherhood and the representation of motherhood in representational system. This research investigates three paradigms of the representation of motherhood in Chinese films since 1990s. And the writer finds the representation of motherhood who explains explicitly in this research, it shows the writer how representation of motherhood in Chinese that depicted through film in 1990s and about traditional paradigm of motherhood.

From those previous researches above, it helps the writer to find more references about motherhood, motherhood ideology, and representation. It also helps the writer to make a comparison and image of representation of motherhood and motherhood ideology in 1990s era is different with representation of motherhood and motherhood ideology in modern era in *Bad Moms* film.
B. The Concept of Representation

Representation is one of theories in cultural studies. Representation began with early literary theory in the ideas of Aristotle and Plato, and has involved into a significant component of language, Saussurian and Communication study (McLaughin). Representation is thus an act of symbolism that mirrors an independent object world (Barker 177).

If we talk about representation, related to the arts, we usually think about the visual arts and pictorial representation. It is always connected with culture. It can be connected each other because between culture and language have correlation, where culture is about shared meaning and language as a privileged medium to produced or exchanged meaning. Language is able to construct meaning because it operates as a representational system. When we represent something, we paraphrase it, translate it, summarize it, and expand on it-in a nutshell, we interpret it (Sperber 34).

Representation uses signs and symbols to represent the concepts, ideas, and feelings to other people and language become one of media to deliver it. In other words, it is the production of the meaning of the concepts in minds through language. Representation is a process which links three elements; ‘things’, concepts, and signs that produced of meaning in language (Hall 1). In his book, Stuart Hall defines: Representation means by using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people, besides, representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of culture (Hall 15).
It becomes bond between concepts and language which allows us to refer to either the ‘real’ world of objects, people or events, or indeed for imaginary worlds of fictional objects, people and events. Hall states that there are two processes of representation, they are called two symbols of representation. First, there is the ‘system’ by which all sorts of object, people, and events are related with a set of concepts or mental representation which we carry around in our heads. Without them, we could not interpret the world significantly at all (Hall 17). Second is language, it is the second system of representation engaged in general process of constructing meaning. The concept must be interpreted into a common language, in order to correlate the concepts and ideas with certain written words, spoken sound or visual images (Hall 18).

Hall claimed that there are three approaches in representation theory. They are the reflective, the intentional, and the constructionist approaches. In reflective approach, meaning is thought to lie in the object, person, idea, or event in the real world. The function of language is to reflect the true meaning as it already exists in the world. Meanwhile in intentional approach, the author or speaker forces his or her unique meaning on the world through language. This is the opposite case from the reflective approach. However, this approach is also imperfect because we cannot be the private or source of the meaning in language. It caused us not to be able to state ourselves in whole private language. The third approach is constructionist. Constructionist means constructing by using representational systems, concepts, and signs. In this approach, we do not need to know where the things and people exist, we
just need to make conceptual systems in order to make the world meaningfully to
other (Hall 13-25). In this research, the writer uses the third approach in analyzing the
representation of the main character.

As Hall states that constructionist is not the material world which conveys
meaning; it is the language system or whatever system we are using to represent our
concepts (Hall 25). Based on Hall arguments, this approach is social actors who use
the conceptual systems of their culture and the linguistic, constructionist comes to
make the world meaningful and to communicate about that world meaningfully to
others. Hall gives an example for this approach is a traffic lights which have different
colors; red, green, and yellow. In this example, red does not mean ‘stop’ in nature,
any more than green means ‘go’. In other settings, Red may stand for, symbolize or
represent ‘blood’ or ‘danger’ or ‘communism’; and green may represent ‘Ireland’ or
‘The Countryside’ or ‘environmentalism’. Even these meanings can change. In the
‘language of electric plugs’ red used to mean ‘the connection with the positive
charge’ but this was arbitrarily and without explanation changed to Brown. Red and
green work in the language of traffic lights because ‘stop’ and ‘go’ are the meanings
which have been assigned to them in our culture by the code or conventions
governing this language, and this code is widely known and almost universally
obeyed in our culture and cultures like ours. This example shows that a language of
colors consists of more than just individual words for different points on the color
spectrum. It also depends on how they function in relation to one another.
Constructionists express the idea by saying that all signs are ‘arbitrary’. It means that
there is no natural relationship between the sign and its meaning or concept. Such as the example of traffic lights since red only means ‘stop’ because that is how the code works, in principle any color would do including green. It is the code that fixes the meaning, not the color itself. It means that signs themselves cannot fix meaning. Instead, meaning depends on the relation between a sign and a concept which is fixed by a code. Meaning, the constructionists would say is relational (Hall 25-27). Hall also adds, in representation, constructionist argue, we use signs, organized into languages of different kinds, to communicate meaningfully with others (Hall 28).

In short, representation is a process to produce a meaning by language, and to represent something, we can use any media such as language, sign, and images. And in this research, the writer uses the constructionist approach because it is more suitable to construct the meaning of the data for the analysis.

C. Ideology

Ideology has always been a key of analytical tool in cultural studies. John Storey say ideology reputed as a crucial concept in the study of popular culture. He also cited from Graeme Turner that ideology is the most important conceptual of cultural studies. An understanding of ideology is often complicated that are caused by many analysis of the concept that are used interchangeably with culture itself. Furthermore, Tony Thwaites said that ideology is the process of representing material social relationship, and of attempting to reconcile them in discourse (Thwaites 155).
Those facts made ideology to have many competing meanings. Because of those facts, John Storey explains five of the many ways of understanding ideology.

First, ideology can refer by a particular group of people to a systematic body of ideas articulated. For example, we could speak “professional ideology” to inform the ideas about the practices of particular professional group. To be more specific, we could also speak of the ideology of Labour Party. It would be referring to a group of political, economic, and social ideas which inform the aim and activities of the Party (Storey 2).

A second definition suggests a certain masking, distortion, or concealment (Storey 3). In this part, ideology is used to indicate how some texts and practices give distorted images of reality. They create what sometimes is called as ‘false consciousness’. This definition focuses on the interests of the powerful against the interests of the powerless. Through this definition, we might speak of capitalist ideology. It focuses on by the way in which ideology conceals the reality of domination from those in power, and the way in which ideology conceals the reality of subordination from those who are powerless. This definition obtains the circumstances production of texts and practices from certain assumptions. It is argued that power relations of the economic base of society are the superstructural ‘reflection’ or ‘expressions’. We can also use ideology in general sense outside those of class to refer to power relation. For example, feminists speak of the power of patriarchal ideology, and how it works to conceal, mask and distort gender relation in society (Storey 3).
A third definition of ideology uses the term to refer to ‘ideological forms’. This usage purpose is to put attention to the way in which texts always present a particular image of the world. It depends on notion of society as conflictual rather than concensual, structure around inequality, exploitation and oppression. In this conflict, texts take important task to take sides, consciously or unconsciously (Storey 4).

The fourth definition connects with the early work of Roland Barthes, a French cultural theories, he states that ideology functions chiefly at the level of connotations, the minor often unconscious meanings that texts are practices carry, or can be made to carry. For instance, a Conservative Party political transmitted in 1990 finished with word ‘socialism’. Furthermore, it aims to place socialism in binary relationship in which it connotated as unfreedom (Storey 4).

The fifth definition developed by Louis Althusser, a French Marxist philosopher. It is one of that very influential in the 1970s and the early 1980s. A key contention of Althusser’s is to see ideology as a material practice, not as simply as a body of ideas. The meaning is that this ideology meets in everyday life but not as simply as the certain of the ideas of everyday life itself. Ideology works to reproduce the social conditions and economic relations of capitalism to continue (Storey 4-5).

From those definitions above, we can clearly look at the different ways between defining of cultural and ideology. The main differences between cultural and ideology carry a political dimension to the shared topography (Storey 3-5). And from the explanation above, the writer uses the definition by Graeme Turner where
ideology is the process of representing when texts always present a particular image of the world, to analyze the ideology related to motherhood implied in the *Bad Moms* film.

**D. The Concept of Motherhood**

Kath Woodward states that motherhood is subject to strongly contested and often highly idealized representations. Motherhood is recognizable and identifiable through the discursive and symbolic regimes which produce meanings about the experience, and through which we make sense of our identities.” (Woodward 19). Image of ‘the good mother’ appears as prevalent as ever since feminist critique of dominant representations of mothers and motherhood. Those images persist in public policy, the media, popular culture and workplaces, and saturate everyday practices and interaction (Huppatz 1). As Porter and Kelso have argued that representation of motherhood and the accompanying expectations of mothers, are in constant flux adapt to changing socio-cultural context (J xii).

There are two concerns about good mother. The first concern with the social location of the good mother, constructing and defining who good mothers are. Here, the good mother has been drawn out based on the class, race, sexuality and economic status of the ideal “type” of mother. Second concern has been an elaboration of the way good mother discourses shape the activities of mothering, constructing and defining what mothers do. Goodwin has argued a good mother is a happy mother; an
unhappy mother is a failed mother. It in the matter of good mother discourses constructing and defining how mothers feel (Huppatz 5-6).

Goodwin also states that feminist theorist have been concern with disrupting dominant understanding of mothers, motherhood and mothering for at least three decades (Glenn 1194; Rich 1976; Ruddick 1989; Spigel and Baraister 2009; Porter and Kelso 2006) in (Huppatz 3). Most research in communication literature applies double bind to women. The impact of double binds on mother may be chiefly influential that in cultural context, motherhood roles and ideologies are passionately contested. According to Kuiken and Hill, quoted by Johnston and Swanson, there are four criteria of double binds, they are:

(a) a receiver motivated to discern a message to enact appropriate behavior; (b) a message promoting two mutually exclusive self-presentation, or a self-presentation combined with a metamessage that disqualifies the advocated self-presentation; (c) implicit content in one or both parts of the incompatible message, making it difficult for the receiver to address the contradiction; and (d) a receiver who is unwilling or unable to avoid the double bind. (Johnston and Swanson 244).

Quoted by Johnston and Swanson they claim that the good mother is constructed as selfless, interdependent with children, naturally endowed for nurturing, and successful in the domestic sphere. The good professional is constructed as promoting self, demonstrating independence, lacking in natural mothering qualities, and fulfilling her potential in the public sphere (Johnston and Swanson 245).

According to Weingarten in Johnston and Swanson work, he claim that mothers forsake an identity outside the mother role that they are good, self-sacrificing mothers but implicitly condemned for being powerless women. On the other hand, mother
who seek an independent public-sphere identity are powerful women but implicitly condemned for being bad and selfish mothers (Johnston and Swanson 245).

Johnston and Swanson quoted that Kaplan’s psychoanalytic feminist analysis of mothers in 1980s popular culture found that the representation of mothers continue patriarchal norms by separating female sexuality, work, and motherhood into distinct spheres. He also says that female sexuality and work were still constructed as threats to the construction of the ideal mother (Johnston and Swanson 246).

Johnston and Swanson note that based on research by Ruddick (1983) and Rich (1976), they identify the existence of discursively constructed myths and contradictions of motherhood. Then it also surveyed by using qualitative narrative research (Hays, 1996; Maushat, 1999; McMahon, 1995; William, 2000) and critical research (Ruddick, 1989; Thurer, 1995; Trebilcot, 1981) that conclude four maternal contradictions, they are selfish/selfless, mother-child independence/dependence, success/failure, and natural/unnatural (Johnston and Swanson 245).

1. **Selfish/selfless double bind message** tells mothers who abandon their identities as good mother as the mother role but implicitly they feel as powerless woman. On the contrary, for mother who look for independence public-sphere implicitly fated they bad mothers (Johnston and Swanson 245).

2. **Mother-child independence/dependence double bind message** blames stay at home mother trapped in their children’s live and employed mother for put at risk affection (Johnston and Swanson 245).
3. Success/failure double bind message emphasizes that employed mothers would be success in public sphere but failure in domestic sphere, conversely stay at home mother would be success in domestic sphere but failure in public sphere. Success/failure double binds are depiction of mother’s competence in public sphere and domestic sphere (Johnston and Swanson 245).

4. Natural/unnatural maternal double binds upholds that women are natural mother while men are unable to do that, however women still need men to take care of their babies (Johnston and Swanson 245).

Research indicates that mothers construct different mothering ideologies according to employment or at-home status. In their research, Johnston and Swanson conclude that there are four contradictions of reflecting maternal: (a) Mothers are selfish/selfless; (b) mothers should foster independence/dependence in children; (c) mothers fail/succeed in public/private spheres; and (d) mothers are natural mothers/in need of expert help (Johnston and Swanson 245-248).

Theresa explains that motherhood related to the dominant ideology of family, which is institutionalized in marriage and family arrangements practices and laws, social policy and programs, and the capitalist economy. Moreover, it also as caregivers, or violators of caregiving and as pivotal figures in the maintenance of family life. Unavoidably, motherhood ideology deeply exploring into the lives of individuals and family processes and it shapes women’s identities and activities. Theresa also says that the image of good mother is heterosexual, married, and monogamous. The good mother is also the women who are white and native born,
economically self-sufficient that mostly it depends on their husband’s income and she is not employed (Arendell 3).

Based on Theresa, Hays says that good mothers can be traditional mothers, engaged in full-time motherhood and homemaking, or can be “supermoms” employed and able to mother with the attentiveness and involvement comparable to that of full-time mothers. Although she is young and well educated, she still feels about ambivalence about maternal employment. In US, employed mothers have to balance the competing demands of paid work and parenting largely in their own (Arendell 6).

Theresa also explains that mothers often involve with social processes for such things as children’s behavior, mental and physical health, school performance, character, and development outcomes responsibility, it is called mother blame. Mother blame supposed that mothers are impaired and insufficient in their childrearing and that their influence is determinative and damaging. Because of that, mother is regarded as the fantasy of the perfect mother and the supposition of maternal omnipotence. Theresa says that although women are responsible for their child behaviors and outcomes, they are not assumed on their child raising commitment and activities (Arendell 2-8).

Based on their research, Erickson and Aird conclude that there are three issues identified seem to have outstanding with mothers. First, mothers place a high priority on reducing family violence and promoting healthy marriage. Second, mothers want more attention paid to the matter of financial security for mothers.
Third, mothers are saying loud and clear that they want to spend more time and on and on personal and family relationships (Aird 43).

Based on the explanation above, the writer uses concept of motherhood from Theresa Arendell where the good mother is defined traditionally who a full-time mother and not assumed on their child raising obligation and activities.

**E. Motherhood Ideology**

As mentioned by Johnston and Swanson that motherhood is not biologically determined or socially ascribed. In their book, they state that motherhood is a social and a historical construction. They quoted from Coontz that a family contain with a wage earner father and a stay at home mother is a cultural deviation. They claim that culture has ability to form how a good mother should be, what behaviors and attitudes that appropriate with mother. In other words, culture formed an image about how to be a good mother (Johnston and Swanson 21).

Jayne Buxton documented how stereotypical characterization of a mother who can manage her household and children and her business at the same time or whom she called as the Superwomen are ruted against the Earth Mother, a traditional woman who feed her children with organic foods and everpresent happy smile and all of her time spend with her children. Johnston and Swanson also state that culture defines and rewards “good mothers” and it sanctions “bad mothers” (Johnston and Swanson 21).
There are clearly racial and class biases in the social construction between good and bad mothers. The conventional motherhood ideology upholds that mother should not work outside the home, economically advantaged mothers continue to hire working class women. Thus, the construction of motherhood may have little correspondence to the lived social realities of mothers in the form of dominant ideologies (Johnston and Swanson 22).

We live in an era of contested motherhood ideologies. However culturally and historically aberrant and individually restrictive the dominant motherhood ideology of the last century may have been, motherhood expectations were clearly defined. The traditional motherhood ideology defined a “good mother” as a full-time, at-home, White, middle class, and entirely fulfilled through domestic aspirations. Scholars have challenged the patriarchal assumptions of the traditional motherhood ideology as restricting mother’s identities and selfhood, perpetuating the economic dependence of mothers, and excluding mothers who are adolescents, older, single, lesbian, or Women of Colour (p.509) (Johnston and Swanson 22).
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

In this chapter, the writer answers the following question in chapter I by analyzing how representation of mother through the main character (Amy Mitchell) in *Bad Moms* Film. These are the following information about the film.

*Bad Moms* is a film that exposes a mother as the main character named Amy Mitchell. In this film, Amy Mitchell is described as a mother and a working woman all at once. This film was directed and written by John Lucas and Scott Moore that first released in July 2016 in United States with length duration in 90 minutes by STX Entertainment and TANG Media Production. *Bad Moms* shows how a mother feels unhappy and bored and in this analysis, Amy Mitchell as the main character does not fulfill the ideal concept of motherhood such as mentioned in Chapter II that a good mother should be at home and not work outside the home and a mother always needs a man in take care their children. Amy Mitchell proves that she can be a good mother without those ideal types of a good mother.

A. Representation of Mother in *Bad Moms* Film

Amy Mitchell is a mother with two children, Dylan (son) and Jane (daughter). She has two roles: as a mother and a working woman. She lives with her husband and two children as a little family in Westbury. Amy marries her husband at 20 and consequently, she does not get the 20s euphoria as young girl at her ages. Ideal family usually describes the formation of a father, a mother, and children. Amy’s family is
described as an ideal family but she has to work as a working woman to fulfill their family necessity because of her husband is a jobless. Her husband, as a head of family does not play his role well. He spends more time at home but neither doing something productive nor help Amy in taking care of his children. Relationship between Amy and her husband became worse since Amy catches by surprise her husband does online masturbation with other woman for about ten months and he forcefully declares to Amy that he is into the woman. As the result, Amy expels him from her house. Since that day, Amy takes care of her children by herself and lives only with them in her house. As a working woman, she works in Coffee Company for almost six years in good position and has to spend most of her time to her job. On the other side, she wakes up early morning every day to prepare her family breakfast and drives her children to their school and also their course place. She does these all before go to work.

*Bad Moms* film was directed and written by John Lucas and Scott Moore, that represents a mother in loving their children that sometimes imperfect and do mistakes. This film tries to show the imperfect side of a mother who played by Amy Mitchell, in this case the imperfect sides of her such as she is a single mother, her husband is cheating her with other woman, and her job condition is not stable. Through this research, the writer tries to describe representation of mother in *Bad Moms* film, as follows:
1. Independent Mother

Amy Mitchell as a main character of mother in *Bad Moms* film represents as an independent mother. In the beginning of this film, it is described how Amy Mitchell does all the things by herself. She sustains financial of her family as a working woman because her husband is a jobless. She works in Coffee Company with good position for about six years. The evidence that Amy Mitchell is an independent mother appears in this film that she is a wife, a mother, and a working woman and she does it all at once. She has her own income from her job in Coffee Company and does not depend her life by her husband.

![Picture 1](image_url)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Dialogue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gwendolyn</td>
<td>Hey Amy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Oh Hey! How are you guys?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwendolyn</td>
<td>I don’t know how you do it, leaving your kids and going to work every day. You’re so strong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Oh, thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Stacy</td>
<td>Don’t you just miss them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>I do, but I also need like, money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Stacy</td>
<td>I had job once but I didn’t love it so I quit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(00:02:39-00:02:58)
From the picture and the dialogues above, we can see that Amy is an independent woman. Based on picture above, it shows a company where Amy works in. This film told that Amy works in a hip coffee company and she is chaired a good position and Amy is the one and only senior employee in her office. As many working women described, Amy is a hard worker that it is shown by how Amy does her job professionally. Based on the dialogues above, it is also shown the independent side of Amy Mitchell as a mother where she drives her children to school by herself before she goes to work, and it makes other student’s parents in the school amaze her. Amy does all the things by herself without help from her husband, and it is shows that Amy represents an independent mother and woman.

In other scene, Amy buys her family’s necessity by herself and brings it home after she finishes her work.

Picture 2 (00:02:07)

Based on the picture above, Amy buys her household necessity in super market by herself. She buys her household necessity at night after she finished her job at her office before go to home. This film describes Amy as an independent woman because
she does most of her activity whether as a working woman and a mother by herself. She also has good position in her career and can fulfill her family’s necessity by her own money.

Based on the evidences above, the writer concludes that Amy Mitchell is an independent woman. It is proven by Amy’s profession in a famous coffee company in good position and it makes her able to fulfill her family’s necessity by herself. She also usually does all the things by herself such as drives her children to school and prepares their meals.

2. Imperfect Mother

*Bad Moms* film describes how a mother could make mistakes where many people consider that a mother has to have a perfect character and never make any mistakes. This film shows another side from mother that actually most of mother feels as their role as a mother and so does Amy Mitchell. Sometimes she makes mistakes in protecting her children. She often picks up their children late that it caused her daughter, Jane, comes late to her soccer course. She also comes late to student’s parents meeting in her children school because she has to finish her work at her job as a professional working woman.
Mean Stacy: Jesus Christ stop saying that like it’s a good thing.
Amy: Okay well, I’m late for work, so...
Mean Stacy: You’re always late
Amy: I know, it’s basically the only thing I’m good at these days! Bye!

From the pictures and the dialogues above, we can see that sometimes Amy Mitchell is imperfect. She often drives her children to their school late, comes to meeting with her office colleague late, even she comes late when she picks up her daughter to soccer course. It shows that mothers are not free from mistakes, they are sometimes do wrong because they are just humans.
At picture 3 and 4, this film shows Amy comes late to few appointments. As seen in picture 3, Amy comes late to attend her daughter project meeting and it causes Jane becomes shameful. In picture 4, Amy missed her meeting in her office and it made her boss get angry. In picture 5 and 6, Amy comes late to pick up her children and brings Jane to her first soccer course, it made Jane got angry and Amy had to apologize to Jane’s coach.

Besides of Amy Mitchell, there are two characters as mother in this film who feel the same thing with Amy Mitchell. Those two characters act as Amy’s new friends, they are a widow-mother Carla and a full time-mother Kiki. This film describes, when Amy, Carla, and Kiki have dinner together, they share their feeling that sometimes they feel bad as a mother, they feel that they are not good enough for their children, and those feels make them frustated.

Amy : My son failed Study Hall. The school said no one has ever done that before.
Kiki : Clare killed our neighboor’s ferret and we all pretended it was an accident but it wasn’t.
Carla : I don’t like my kid.
Kiki : One time I left Bernard at the mall on purpose.

From the dialogues above, we can see another side of a mother which is described by Amy, Carla, and Kiki. Those unsatisfied feelings make they do not feel good for their children. Those dialogues are another example that a mother sometimes makes mistakes. Those dialogues far from Theresa Arendell’s describing about “good mother” that she stated in Chapter II.
The imperfect side also appears when Amy felt tired to follow ideal standards of ‘the good mother’. She wants to break the “good mother” rules and become a mother as she wants to be. In this film, also show another characters, Carla Darkin and Kiki as Amy’s new friends who feel the same boredom with Amy. They agree to not adhere to the rules about good mother. After they accidentally meet in a club, Amy started the mutiny in the morning that she usually prepares breakfast and healthy meal to her children, she lets her children prepare the breakfast by themselves instead of making it for them.

Amy : Yup. To be a great dad, all you gotta do is show up to a couple of your kid’s soccer games. That’s it. But if my daughter doesn’t play cello and speak Portuguese and volunteer at the homeless shelter she built by hand from the fucking tree farm she’s growing in our backyard, I’m a bad mom.  
Kiki : Seriously, in this day and age, it’s impossible to be a good mom.  
Amy : So screw it.  
Kiki : Oh my Gosh this is so exciting!  
Carla : If this is gonna involve a lot of drinking, I’m in.  
(00:19:15-00:19:30)

Carla : ...You know what I hate? There are so many rules now!
Kiki: Don’t punish your kids!
Amy: Don’t say no to your kids!
Carla: Go to your kid’s baseball games! Tell your kid you love him every single day! Don’t sleep with the janitor at your kid’s school! What is this Russia?!
Amy: Those aren’t...all... terrible rules.

(00:18:58-00:19:17)

From the picture and the dialogues above, it shows how Amy frustrated and feels like she is a bad mother for her children because she cannot take care and educate them perfectly. She feels that too many rules to become a good mother or even ‘perfect mother’ in society standard, however, not all mother is capable of following those rules. In fact, being a mother is not easy, there are so many problems and indictment that sometimes they cannot be done well. It can be concluded, in this film, Amy, and her friends, Carla and Kiki represent an imperfect mother which mostly felt by other mother too. The problem is sometimes mothers are too scared to accept the reality that they are imperfect. Sometimes, it is also difficult to share their unhappy feeling as a mother to others.

Based on the evidences above, it can be concluded that being a perfect mother is impossible. Through Amy Mitchell, this film shows how a mother make mistakes, feels frustrated and bored, and other unhappy feelings that indicate the imperfect side of a mother. *Bad Moms* shows another side of mother and out of the society perception about ‘good mother’.
3. Natural Mother

Although Amy Mitchell has double roles as a mother and a working woman, however, she still has a maternal side. A mother, no matter what the problem is, she always does her best for her children, even if she has to sacrifice herself for it, she always will. Bobel says “The natural mothers profess to operate in a realm virtually untouched by social influence. Their ideas, supposedly rooted in nature and fostered by their waxing self-confidence, are not the products of culture, but the products of nature” (Bobel 86). And the natural mother in Bad Moms through Amy Mitchell can be proven by her habitual as a mother who always prepares her children’s healthy breakfast and meals. She always ensures that the foods are healthy and MSG free.

Amy: Okay, here are your lunches: organic Turkey nclub for Jane and gluten free peanut butter and jelly with salt yam chips for Dylan.

Dylan: What are yam chips?

Amy: I don’t know, the school sent an email saying that yams are more sustainable than potatoes but to be totally honest I don’t know what to get in trouble with the crazy food moms. Oh, and Dylan, here’s what I made for your American History project.

(00:02:17-00:02:28)

From the dialogues above, it shows that Amy as a mother never forgets to prepare healthy foods for her children, and she always does her best for them although her day is full of work. Amy’s natural motherhood also shows in scene when Amy and her family in their house, after a full work day and even when she is so tired, she always serves her family healthy foods dinner that made by her. She also gives attention to her children about their education in school.
Amy : So Dylan, how’d you do on your science quiz today?
Dylan : I got a D.
Amy : Oh. Wow. Do you need extra help? Or maybe another tutor?
Dylan : Nah, I’m good.

Although Amy mostly spends her time to handle her work in her office, she always tries to give attention to her children just like other full-time mother, and prepares dinner for her family. In the middle of dinner, Amy tries to show her attention by asking her children one by one about their school life, about their scores in every subject. When she knows that her son got D in his school, she offers him to have an extra course. It shows that as a mother, she always tries to give them attention and do her best for her children, even though she cannot give her full time for her children.

Another Amy’s natural motherhood also appears when she defends her daughter, Jane, from accusation that Jane have a marijuana cigarette in her drawer. As a mother, she really knows that her daughter is impossible to do that, Amy believes that her daughter is a good girl and clean from any forbidden drugs. For the sake of
her daughter, she challenges Gwendolyn, a Chief of PTA in Amy’s children school in a new PTA election, because she knows that it is a slander from her to Jane to decrease Amy’s popularization as PTA President candidate.

Amy: How dare you bench my daughter!
Gwendolyn: Oh hello, Amy. How are you?
Amy: You had no right to do that!
Gwendolyn: Actually I did. Soccer is a PTA sponsored activity, and I’m the president of the PTA, so....
Amy: Okay...well...you know. Not for long.
Gwendolyn: Oh dear, what does that mean?
Amy: it means I’m gonna run against you for PTA president!
Gwendolyn: You can’t be serious.....

From the dialogues above, we can see that as a mother, Amy does anything for her children although it seems impossible because Gwendolyn’s power in the school is huge. Moreover, she had been PTA president for six years. In spite of those facts, Amy still resolves to win the election for the sake of Jane, her daughter.

Another Amy’s natural motherhood also appears when in some scenes, Amy seems express her love to her children with say I love you to Dylan and Jane in every occasion. It might seems like a simple thing, but this shows Amy’s love for her children that sometimes this simple thing is hard to do for some mothers to their children.

Amy: Okay. I love you guys so much.
Jane: not so loud, mom, Jesus!
Amy: I LOVE YOU BOTH SO MUCH I LOVE MY BABIES!
(00:02:31-00:02:34)

Amy: Sweetie, no matter what the future brings, I love you, and your dad loves you, and you will be okay. I promise.
Jane: How do you know that?
Amy: Because I’m your mom and I know you better than anyone in the world.

(00:34:28-00:34:40)

From the dialogues above, we can see that in every occasion with her children, Amy always expressing her love for them by saying I love you. It becomes a habitual between Amy and her children although sometimes Dylan and Jane admit it because they feel like a baby. It shows that one of Amy’s natural motherhood appears from her habit that always says I love you and kiss, hug them habitually.

From the evidences above, it can be concluded that every mother have their own way in expressing their love for their children. It is proven by how Amy gives attention for her children, expressing her love to her children by saying “I love you” out loud although her children refuse to hear that. This film also tries to show that although a mother sometimes feels tired or gets bored, her children always becomes her priority.

B. Ideology of Motherhood in Bad Moms Film

Representation is a process to produce a meaning and exchange between members of culture such as language, signs, and images which to represent something (Hall 1). In other words, representation can be meant as an alternation process of concept of ideologies which are implicit form to a real form. The traditional motherhood ideology defined a “good mother” as a full-time, at-home, white, middle class, and entirely fulfilled through domestic aspirations. But Bad Moms show another ideology that opposite with that traditional ideology.
Based on the theory, that *Bad Moms* represents motherhood which the ideas and images about it are showed by the main character Amy Mitchell and some supporting characters in this film. Through Amy Mitchell, it distinctly shows that she is an independent mother who loves her children so much besides her imperfect side as a mother. Through Amy Mitchell as main character and some supporting characters in this film, *Bad Moms* portrays different role of mother.

*Bad Moms* tries to show ideology of motherhood which a mother in this film describe not as perfect as other ideology of motherhood which is mentioned in Chapter II. This film shows the other side from mothers who are imperfect and sometimes make mistakes, besides their literal role as a mother that always do their best and willing to do everything for their children. Through the main character in this film, Amy Mitchell represents the imperfect mothers.

Many other characters in *Bad Moms* film also described as an imperfect mothers. They often face the things that make them feel tired and not good enough for their children. But it never reduce their love for their children. This film shows an ideology of motherhood where culture formed an ideology of a good mother is a full-time mother, they considered that a full-time mother can take care of their children intensively, and bonding between child and mother can proven well because of most of mother’s time is spend to be with their children. An ideal family described contains with formation of father who works, a full-time mother, and their children. However, *Bad Moms* presents an ideology of motherhood through Amy Mitchell as a main character, who is a mother and a working woman at the same time. In the
middle of her busy activities as a working woman, Amy can fulfill her role as a mother well. Ideology of motherhood also presented by other supporting mother characters in this film. Such as Carla, a widow-mother of a son who never attend to support her son’s baseball competition; and Kiki, a full-time mother of four children which always seems frustated with her role. Those characters represents a mother in their own way that is far from ideology and society standard about good mother. In the end of the film, they can find their own happiness in take care of their children. This film tries to show that every mother has their own struggle in take care of their children. However, besides of that struggle, a mother is a mother, the first person who will get hurt when their children hurted, a person that willing to do everything for their children and fight for their happiness.

Amy : I’m trying so hard to get her to chill out and take life leas seriously, and sometimes I feel like I’m doing an okay job, but then like two seconds later I feel like I’m failing miserably. I just wish I knew how I was doing, you know?

Kiki : Yeah, the most frustating part of being a mom is you have no idea if you’re doing a good job or not until your kids are fully grown.

Carla : Yeah, and then it’s too late. They’re either cool or they’re meth head serial killers.

Amy : The worst part is Jane is exactly like me, she wants everything to be perfect and of course all that does is drive you completely insane. Luckily Dylan turned out like his dad and he’s lazy as shit.

(00:51:49-00:51:59)

From the dialogues above, we can see that through Amy Mitchell, Bad Moms film tries to show a mother as literally as a mother, she can feel tired, she can get bored, she complains many things, but besides of that, she is just a mother who really loves her children even more than herself.
Through Amy Mitchell, this film also shows that although she is a working woman, she still can take care of her children well, even her son Dylan which in the beginning of the story described as a spoiled boy and never does something by himself, Amy proves in this film that she is a working mother that can educate her children same as like other full-time mother.

Dylan : Cooking is hard.
Amy : I know, right?
Dylan : Hey, so where’s my science project?
Amy : Oh, I didn’t do it.
Dylan : What?! But it’s due today!
Amy : Yeah, from now on you’re actually gonna have to do your own homework.
Dylan : WHAT?! That’s so unfair!
Amy : Oh boy
Dylan : I’m a slow learner, remember?! I need help!
Amy : You’re not a slow learner, sweetie, you’re just really entitled. Do you know what entitled means?
Dylan : No! Because I’m a slow learner!
Amy : It means mommy and daddy have been spoiling you and now you think the world owes you something, but it doesn’t. And if you don’t learn how to work hard now, you’re gonna grow up to be just another entitled white dude who thinks he’s awesome for no reason and you’ll start a ska band and it’ll be so terrible and you’ll be mean to girl and you’ll grow an ironic mustache to look interesting but you won’t actually be interesting and I really don’t want to be responsible for putting that kind of poison into the world, so just do your homework, okay?

(00:52:28-00:53:32)

From the dialogues above, we can see how Amy tries to educate her son to be more independent. She feels that all this time, she and her husband are too spoiling her children until they cannot do anything by themselves, even about a little thing such as do homework. As a mother, Amy really knows that her measure is wrong and she tries to make a new habit to her children for the sake of them.
Another ideology that appears in this film is there is no a perfect mother. Like as human that impossible to be perfect, so does a mother. In society, mother describes as a perfect person who never do something wrong in anything. She takes care of her children well, a full-time mother who always be there for her children. But in this film, through Amy Mitchell as the main character, Bad Moms tries to show how a mother can make mistakes and show another side of mother that many other mother might feel the same about perception of being ‘a good mother’. In the end of this film, Amy and her children live their brand new life as a mother and children that better than before. They look more enjoying her life and the important point that Amy Mitchell succeed to change her children, Jane and Dyan become a better person. Amy’s son, Dylan, is not a spoiled boy anymore, he does his homework by himself, thing that never he did before because he judges himself as a slow learner. More than that, he cooks his breakfast every morning before he and his sister go to school. Amy, as a working mother, not a full time mother, succeeds to make them more independent than before.
Jane: Hey mom.
Amy: Hey sweetie...
Jane: I’m sorry I got so crazy about the soccer thing. That was so uncool.
Amy: Oh it’s okay.
Jane: No, it’s not. I’ve really been trying to chill out about stuff and it’s just soccer, right? Screw soccer! Use your hands like everyone else!
Amy: I got you back on the soccer team.
Jane: you did?! Oh my God I love soccer, soccer is my life, thank you!
Amy: you’re welcome, baby. I’m always going to fight for you, you know? Youre my little girl.

The dialogues above are conversation between Amy and Jane. Jane realizes that she is so selfish especially to her mother. She apologizes to Amy because she blames Amy for many things particularly when she is removed from soccer team and Jane thought that it is caused by her mother. The dialogues above show Amy as a mother who will always forgive her children and willing to do anything and she succeeds to bring back Jane to her soccer team because she deserves it.

Amy: Oh no what are you doing?!
Dylan: Making frittata’s! You want one?!
Amy: You made frittata’s?!
Dylan: Yeah! You said you weren’t gonna cook for us anymore so I had to teach myself. Try a bite, it’s got basil and hint of tarragon.
Amy: It’s so light!
Dylan: I know, right?! I love cooking! And it’s like the harder I work at it, the better I get, which just makes me want to do it more! It’s remarkable!
Amy: I have literally spent ten years of my life trying to teach you that.
Dylan: All right, let go, I’ve gotta go finish my homework.

From the dialogues above, we can see Amy’s son Dylan becomes more independent than before when he does his homework by himself and cooks for...
breakfast too and served it for Amy and his sister. Based on Dylan’s change, it proved that Amy succeeds to educate her son to be more independent since she realized that she was too spoiling him until her son cannot do anything by himself. The dialogues show how Amy as a working woman still gives her attention to her children and it proved that it works on them.

Amy : Have a great day, guys. I love you both so much.

From the dialogues above, it shows how Amy succeeds to change her children’s behavior in a better way. In the beginning of the film, Dylan and Jane are uncomfortable every time Amy says out loud that she loves her children so much. But in the end of this film, Amy Mitchell as a working woman succeeds to build a better relation with her children and it is proven by simple thing such as saying and expressing her feeling to them.

This film wants to show the ideology of motherhood that not all full time mother is a good mother, and not all working mother is a bad mother. Through Amy Mitchell, her character as a working mother but still can fulfill her obligation to take care of her children. More than that, in the end of this film Amy proves that she can build a better relation with her children, it is show that a good mother is not only about a full time mother, this film shows a good mother is a mother who can educate and take care her children well although their ability or their time is limited but a
good mother is the woman who always gives her affection and her best for her children.

This film also shows the ideology of motherhood through supporting character named Gwendolyn James. Her character represents an image of perfect mother that this time expected by societies. She describes an image of perfect mother and a PTA president in Amy’s children school. Her perfect side describes by her image as a mother from two beautiful daughters and she has wealth and also harmonious family. In the end of this film, she admitted that she is not as perfect as people think. She holds so many problem in her life and being a PTA President is the only thing that she can be proud of.

Gwendolyn : What, did you come to gloat?
Amy : No. I just wanted to see if you were okay.
Gwendolyn : Yeah I’m fine everything’s fine...
Amy : Okay, well, if you want to—
Gwendolyn : It’s just that the PTA was the one good thing left in my life and now it’s gone too.
Amy : Oh come on, your life is awesome! You have like three boats!
Gwendolyn : Oh God my life is so not awesome. Both of my parents are dying of cancer and my husband is being investigated by the FBI for embezzling 300 million dollars from Iceland – spoiler alert, he did it – and my secret son who nobody knows about is living on the street again and I’m basically the only thing holding my family together but it’s cool everything’s cool I’m sure we’ll be fine...

(01:24:55-01:26:10)

From the dialogues above, it shows that there is no perfect mother, even Gwendolyn, a President PTA that seems have everything in financial and ideal family, the fact that she is an imperfect mother, she has many problems same like
other mothers. This film wants to show the ideology of motherhood that there is no perfect mother, all of mother might did mistakes, being wrong and it is okay. It also shows that not all the full time mother is a good mother and a working mother is a bad mother, it is only about how mother can educate and give attention for children well.

This film also shows their ideology through Amy Mitchell when she gives her speech in PTA President election night.

Amy: I know after the other day a lot of you think I’m pretty bad mom...And you know what? You’re right.

Kiki: Why did we make her do this?!

Carla: I don’t know I think we made a huge mistake!

Amy: Sometimes I’m too strict with my kids, sometimes I’m too nice, and sometimes I’m just a crazy bitch who doesn’t make any sense... What works on my daughter almost never works on my son, and whenever I think I might actually be figuring my kids out, they grow older and I’m back to square one. The truth is, when it comes to being a mom... I have no fucking clue what I’m doing. But you know? I don’t think anyone does. I think we’re all bad moms. And you know why? Because being a mom today is fucking impossible. So can we all just stop pretending like we’ve go it all figured out and maybe stop judging each other all the time...?

Kiki: She’s doing great!

Carla: I know I never doubted her.

Amy: I’m running for PTA president because I want our school to be a place where you don’t have to be perfect. A place where you can be yourself and make mistakes and where you’re judged by how hard you’re trying not by what you bring to the fucking bake sale. I want our school to be a place where it’s okay to be a bad mom.

Mom: My kids haven’t had a bath in three weeks!

Amy: Yea! We all do that sometimes.

Hippy Mom: I confiscated my daughter’s pot and then I smoked
Amy: Good for you! Pot is awesome!
Tiger Mom: I drove over my son’s violin because I couldn’t go to another fucking recital I just couldn’t!
Business Mom: I let my seven years old watch Mad Max: Fury Road!
Jewish Mom: When my kids are really bad I tell them they caused the holocaust!
Drunk Mom: I drink Margarita’s for breakfast!
Frumpy Mom: I slept with my son’s math tutor!
Stay at Home Mom: I secretly got my tubes tied because I don’t want anymore kids!
Strange Mom: I think I hit someone on my way here!
Amy: Okay well you get the point! If you’re a perfect mom who’s got this whole parenting thing down cold, please vote for Gwendolyn. But if you’re a bad mom like me and you have no fucking clue what you’re doing and you just want your school to stop making you feel worse than you already feel about yourself, please vote for me!

(01:20:23-01:23:06)

The dialogues above show problems from mothers that many mother experienced about it. This film wants to open our eyes that there are so many problems about being a mother. And it is not as stright that a full time mother is a good mother and the working mother is a bad mother. Literally, most of mothers want the best for their children, and they always try so hard to make their child happy. This film also wants to show mothers from different backgrounds but have the same feelings and experiences in taking care of their children who make them imperfect as a mother and it proven that it is a normal condition. Those mistakes and an unhappy feeling are experienced by other mothers.
In the end, it can be concluded that *Bad Moms* film would like to say that there is no exact definition of a perfect mom. It also shows us that not all the full time mother is a good mother and not the working woman is a bad mother. Every mother has different way in parenting. However, the feeling that they want to share are the same, they always do her best for their children’s happiness.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

*Bad Moms* film is a western drama comedy film which depicts figures of mothers that Amy Mitchell as a main character in this film represents a mother. In this research, the writer analyzes the representation of motherhood in *Bad Moms* film through the main character, beside of that, the writer also analyzes some supporting characters as a supporting data to help the writer to analyze the representation of motherhood in this film. To answer the research question in this thesis, the writer uses theory of representation by Stuart Hall and concept of motherhood. Different with most of film, which mothers represented as a perfect person, *Bad Moms* tries to show another side from mother that in this film a mother is described as a human, sometimes she feels tired and does mistakes.

After analyzing the film, the writer finds some interesting things about how the film represents a mother. In the term of analyzed the representation of motherhood through Amy Mitchell, the writer uses the constructionist approach. This approach is used by the writer to analyze the research because it is able to writer to constructs the meaning of the data by the writer’s own analysis and ideas. Based on the research, the writer finds that Amy Mitchell, a main character in this film represents a mother as another human being which is so contrast with society’s perception that usually mother described as an angel where they always look perfect
to their children. Through Amy Mitchell as a main character in *Bad Moms* film, it represents a mother which sometimes imperfect. The writer finds the representation of motherhood through Amy Mitchell which although sometimes a mother feels tired of her role, a mother is still a mother, that she will do anything for her children, even if she must to sacrifice herself.

As for motherhood ideology, the writer finds that the motherhood ideology appears in this film is an ideal mother and not a full time mother, and not all the working mother is a bad mother. Johnston and Swanson quoted from Keller that the traditional mother is white, educated, married, middle-class, and does not work outside the home (Johnston and Swanson 23). But *Bad Moms* brings a new representation of motherhood trough Amy Mitchell as the main character. She is not a full time mother and work outside the home, her domestic sphere is unsuccessful because she was divorced with her husband that makes Amy being a single mother for her two children. Through Amy Mitchell who plays two roles as a mother and working woman, it shows that she is not a full time mother but she can be a good mother for her children. This film also shows the opposite of the traditional motherhood ideology into motherhood ideology in this era through the main character, Amy Mitchell.

In conclusion, this film represents a mother in different way. It was not same as common media represented a mother. Moreover, this film shows different kind of mother that is not is a full time mother and not perfect one. The ideal mother is not judged whether she is a household woman or a working woman, however from how
she educates her children through flaws and limitations. Likewise, a working mother cannot be as perfect as a full-time mother in taking care of her children because surely there is some times wasted. However, it does not make a working mother loses her natures as a mother.

B. Suggestion

As many literary works until now which existed such as novel, drama, film, poetry, and so on that can be analyzed by many theories in literature works. For those instances, the writer suggests for the next researchers in English Letters Department to be wiser in choosing which one of the literary works and make sure that between the work and the theories are related each other so that the next researcher can produce a better thesis from the previous research.

And if the next researchers want to analyze Bad Moms film as a source data, make sure to find other issues from this film so that research about this film can be richer, or the next researcher can develop this analyzes by using other theories for instance psychoanalysis. The writer hopes this research become useful for the readers.
WORKS CITED


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APPENDIX

A. Cover of *Bad Moms* Film