

**WOMAN IMAGE COMPARISON IN
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (2012)
BY RUPERT SANDERS AND IN
SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
(1937) BY WALT DISNEY**

Latifah Dwi Ariyani

the Lecturer of English Literature Study Program
Universitas Sains Al-Qur'an – Wonosobo
Email: latifah@unsiq.ac.id
Phone: +62 852 374 145

Abstract

The purposes of this research are to compare the woman image in the film of *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* and *Snow White and The Huntsman*. This research is a qualitative research. The researcher applies feminism theory. The main sources of data in this research are *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* released by Walt Disney produced in 1937 and *Snow White and The Huntsman* film released by Universal Pictures in 2012. The main data source is the screenplay and script of this movie. In collecting data, the researcher uses some steps, among others are watching and reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. In analyzing data, the researcher uses the steps such as displaying, explaining and interpreting. The

Latifah Dwi Ariyani

95

result of the study the comparison of woman image reflected in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is beautiful image, she is adored because she is beautiful. Snow White is powerless. She cannot fight and save herself. Snow White also has to serve to get help. She is good in doing housework, such as cooking, washing, etc. She serves the dwarfs to get help. The image of Snow White in the second movie is different. She becomes a strong, brave and powerful woman. Snow White has power to become a leader and influencer. The way how Snow White gets help is change. It transforms from serving to get help become paying to get help. The transformation of woman image is also shown from many scenes that show that women are equal with men.

Keywords: *women image, feminism*

A. Introduction

Nowadays, women prove that they can be equal with the men. They can do what the men do, independent, emancipated, outspoken, and feminist. They can express their own idea and they can also resolve what they want to do. On the other hand, they struggle for the other women to get their rights as a human. Even though there are many opinions that the women must serve the men, they good in household (cooking, sweeping, iron and so on). They do not have to exist in social as long as they can do household and serve the men better. The women also do what the men want, even though they do not want it.

Women have freedom of their life. the image of women changes from the powerless to be powerful women. They prove that they can be equal with the men. They work in many sectors of life as good as the men do. The women can be leader or hero for their society to get their rights as a human. So, they get what

the men get. In education, career, social, etc. They also can be equal with the men. The women struggle to oppose the difference between men and women, to oppose the women as an object the men. This movement is called feminist. Kate Millet (1970)

In this era, there are many literary works, movies, or songs talking about the women struggle of to get their right as a human, etc. This research tells the readers how the women image in the past and new insight of women image through the characters of Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and in *Snow White and the Huntsman*.

B. Literature Review

a. Gender

Gender is defined as a sociocultural construction that distinguishes both masculine and feminine characteristics. The term gender is put forward by social scientists with a view to explaining the differences between women and men who have innate character (creation of God) and cultural formation (social construction). Gender is the different roles, functions, and responsibilities between men and women that are the result of social construction and can change according to the times. Anne Fausto-Sterling (2000: 3).

b. Women in Patriarchal System

In patrilineal society, it is known that patriarchy forms the rule that human have control to manage all social rules in society. This system is shaped by the power of male domination in controlling sexuality, reproduction and production for women. This control is also reinforced by some ideological agencies, such as family, religion, education, literature, culture, and law. As a result, women are trapped in a patriarchal

system that limits or deprives them of equal rights in society. In other words, the patriarchal system plays an important role to control all social institutions (Lerner, 1987: 127).

According to Miles (2006) the historical family structure with male domination can be understood as based on the woman's ability to bear children rather than on e.g. man's aggression or physical strength. The uniquely feminine ability made her valuable but at the same time made her dependent and most valued only in this specific household. The husband and his household became in practice her employer. Changing employers would be very costly if not impossible.

c. Feminism

Feminism is a phenomenon in the society. In discussing feminism, people will talk about women. Feminism is, indeed, identical with women, especially in their struggle to gain the equality with men. The term feminism can also be used to describe a political, cultural, political, or economic movement that is aimed at establishing equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism involves political, cultural and sociological theories, as well as philosophies concerned with issues of gender difference. It is also a movement that campaigns for women's rights and interests. (Tutle, 1989)

C. Method of Investigation

This research applies qualitative research that explains the women image based on the theory in the review of literature. In qualitative research of literature should consistent with the methodological assumption so that it does not direct the questions asked by researcher. A qualitative research conducts a reasearch related to the problems and the problems are explored. (Creswell, 2013)

This study uses descriptive research; apply the way to describe the the analysis of women image reflected in *Snow White and the Huntsman* by Rupert Sanders and in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The procedures of collecting data are reading and watching, identifying the script, classifying and selecting. The procedures of analyzing data are displaying, explaining and interpreting. The researcher applies library research.

D. Findings and Discussion

The comparison of the movies “*Snow White and the Huntsman*” and “*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*” clearly explained how women image changes from the patriarchy era to the modern era. In the patriarchy era, women do not have power to be equal with the men. A woman also cannot do what she wants to do. She is always placed as a server of man and does not have power to struggle her rights. But in modern, a woman has power to struggle her right, able to be a leader for society. In society she has a place of her voice aspirations in which a woman can do what the man do and there are no differences between woman and man. They have same opportunity to get their dreams.

Women Image Reflected in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Snow White and the Huntsman*

a. Feminine Versus Masculine Image

In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, there are some scenes on the movie that show that Snow White is a beautiful. The image that Snow White is beautiful is shown clearly from the beginning of the movie until the end. It is shown from the way how Snow White dresses up. Snow White always wears a gown that shows she is a feminine girl and beautiful. The main

character (Snow White) is beautiful. The Mirror even describes her beauty as the main character. The physical figure of Snow White. The word “pretty” in the dialog shows clearly that Snow White is beautiful woman. The mirror even calls that Snow White is like an angel. Angel is a word that used in a simile or comparison to refer to a person’s outstanding beauty, qualities or abilities. So, the utterance that says that Snow White is like an angel means Snow White has an extra ordinary beauty.

It is same as the image of Snow White and the seven Dwarfs, the image of snow White in the movie *Snow White and the Huntsman* is both beautiful and masculine. Snow White as the main character in the movie is beautiful. “she was adored throughout the kingdom, as much for her defiant spirit as for her beauty,” is an utterance that declares the beauty of Snow White. It is narrated in the scene when the king meets the queen in the wood in the middle of the road after war. The beauty of the woman even able to heal the king’s broken heart. Furthermore, the beauty of the woman is a power. Beauty can control and delude men. The beauty even brings a big effect to society. Snow White fights a huntman and has masculine appearance. Snow White saves a hurt bird. Snow white mother said that Snow White has outer and inner beauty. It means the meaning of beauty is not only about the physical beauty but also the beauty of heart and behavior.

b. Powerless Versus Powerful Image

In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the main character called Snow White seems to be a weak woman who needs men to protect her. In man’s insight a woman is always like a child that powerless and has no bravery without a man. There

are some scenes that prove the image. The Prince tried to know Snow White, after he heard Snow White sang a song. Snow White hides away from him. That proves that in front of men she has no confidence. She is afraid if something wrong which is going to happen on her. Furthermore, the way Snow White hides and runs shows that she is weak and powerless. She is even afraid to a man who does nothing. She is afraid to face men. The way she hides also reflects that a woman is inferior toward a man. The Queen orders the Guard to kill Snow White, but the Guard cannot do that. Thus, the Guard tells Snow White to run away to the wood. The Guard asks Snow White to run away and Snow White obeys him. It shows that Snow White is a powerless woman who cannot fight and protect herself. Hence, the Guard asks the Snow White to escape.

After Snow White runs away to the wood and she cannot find place to sleep at night. She talks to the birds in the wood. It proves that as a woman she is powerless, because she cannot protect herself. So she needs to find safe place to protect her. The women have a weak heart and becomes tricked easily. She cannot let something bad happen. The word said by Queen, "And because you've been so good to poor old granny, I'll share a secret with you." It means that Snow white cannot just quite when she sees an old granny in a trouble. Thus, she helps her without thinking twice that it can be the cruel Queen. The utterance shows that Snow White is easily tricked. Furthermore, because Snow White is easily tricked, it emphasizes that Snow White is weak and powerless.

It is different from the first movie that has been analyzed that shows the image of women is powerless. In the movie of *Snow White and the Huntsman*, the image of women is powerful. It can be seen in the dialog between Snow White and Finn. The word “seize her” said by Finn means the woman should be arrested. It shows that the woman is dangerous and cannot be handled. It represents that a woman is powerful and brave. It is shown from the utterance “stop her, seize her,” said by Finn as he tried to kill Snow White but she successfully can run away from the prison.

Furthermore, Snow White also is not fear of a man. The sentence said by Finn, “and not of me?”, it tells that Finn (a man) wants to know Snow White to be fear to him or not. However, Snow White distinctly said, “No,” that means she is not afraid of Finn. It shows that she is not fear of a man (Finn) to fight.

The Queen could control men in speech and actions. The woman is described as a powerful, she even able to order men. The utterance, “you will do this for me huntsman,” shows that the Queen gives order to the huntsman. The Queen says explicit order to man. The words are not polite but compulsive. When the huntsman refuses it, she makes him to be kneed for her. The Queen has a power to make someone to do everything she wants. The utterance, “I can,” shows that the Queen wants to make sure the Huntsman obey her word and make the Huntsman believe of the Queen’s word. It means that as a woman and has a power she can do everything to make the man be bent down of her. Furthermore, the Huntsman (a man) says it is impossible to make her wife alive but the Queen (a woman) says she can do it. It also tells that a woman

is powerful and able to do something that a man cannot do. It shows a woman is equal and superior than a man.

The utterance said by Snow White, "I'm valuable," shows that she is smart and critical. She is confident on herself. She even shows the domination toward men. That utterance also shows that Snow White is powerful. Furthermore, it depicts that a woman can order the men to save her, because she is valuable. The word "valuable" means that a woman can control a man with her speech and something that makes him interested.

The powerful image of a woman can also be seen as the huntsman wants to make Snow White to be like a man. It is shown when he cuts her gown. He teaches Snow white how to use knife and fighting if the enemy comes. The huntsman orders Snow White to fight her fear when in the dark forest. It is not easy to change an image of feminine woman. Even, they must place themselves in a position that they dislike to do. In the movie Snow White is forced to be a brave woman and changes her attitude to make her equal with the men.

The dwarfs believe that Snow White is a healer to them. The dwarfs believe that the Snow White heals their sickness. It is proved from the utterance, "This is she doing," means that they believe that Snow White is a healer for every ailment. They also believe that she is the light to guide them from the darkness, because she has a power. Snow White as a new hope for her society and she has a power to fight against the Queen. The men (dwarfs and huntsman) believe that Snow White can struggle back her crown from the Ravenna as a cruel queen and heal the land. There

is no one except Snow White, it is proved from this utterance, “she is the one,” means that the only hope is Snow White, and they choose Snow White as a leader. The men (dwarfs) believe that Snow White can be a good leader to attack the cruel Queen. So, they decided to follow Snow White even though she never asks them to follow her. The utterance, “so, we follow you. In life and in death,” means that they are really honest to choose Snow White as a leader. They are also willing death to save Snow White. It is proved that as a woman Snow White has a powerful and brave image.

Snow White as an influencer for her society. She influences all of the people to join with her to attack the Queen. She shows her bravery and power in front of her society. She does not show her fear when she said, “I kill her,” means that without being doubt inside her heart. She flames her spirit and transfers it to influence the society. So, without any doubt, all of people accept and follow Snow White as their leader. Snow White has to be optimistic and loyal as a leader. The utterance said by Snow White, “I gave them my word,” means that she swears to her society to keep them in life or death. So, she does not turn back and runs away.

Snow White really fights like a man. She uses sword bravely, and attacks the enemy with her power. She has a job as men’s job. She is struggling to get her crown back and proves to her society that she can contribute to make her land free from the queen. Snow White wins her war with the Queen. She proves that she properly becomes a queen for her land. It also proves that a woman can stand equally to the men. A woman can be a queen for her land. Women can break the opinion that women are weak and only good in the household. Snow White

in the “*Snow White and The Huntsman*” reflects a woman who can stand equal with the man in politics and social.

c. Serving Men Versus Being Served by Men

In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Snow White came in the dwarf’s house. Her instinct came out when she saw the house so dirty. The utterance said by Snow white, “I know, we’ll clean the house,” tells that her instinct to make the house clean. So, she orders her animal friends to help her do house work. Snow White believes that if women who can do house work they will be accepted by their society. It emphasizes the image of women who should serve first to get men’s service. Snow White should serve the dwarfs first to get their help. The utterance said by Snow White, “I’ll keep house for you. I’ll wash and sew and sweep and cook and,” means that doing house work is a basic skill for all women. So, she tells the dwarfs that she will do house work if they let her stay. Snow White offers herself to serve men (Dwarfs). The word said by Doc, “Cook? Can you make dapple pumpkins?”, the statement reflects that women’s work such as, cooking, washing, sweeping are domestic works. It reflects another image that women should be able make tasty food to make men happy.

It is different to the first movie, *Snow white and the Huntsman* represents a woman image that a woman shall serve to get service. It is contra to the first movie. In the movie, Women do not serve to get service but they will pay to get service. It shows that a woman is dominant one. The Queen as powerful women, needs man’s help. Different from “*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*” she does not offer to serve but she offers her power to make a

man do what she wants. The utterance, “you know my powers,” means that as a Queen who needs the Huntsman’s help, she has to make the Huntsman believe with her word that she has a power to bring his wife alive.

It is shown in the movie that a woman is able to do something that men cannot do. It shows the superiority of women and the equality of women toward men. Furthermore, the utterance, “You will be rewarded, handsomely,” proves that a woman gets service by paying. The image of a woman who pays to get service. The utterance, “A hundred, Help me!” it means that Snow White can pay the Huntsman a lot of gold as long as he can help her to protect her from the Queen. Thus, it emphasizes that a woman can give benefit to society or men. The Dwarfs find Snow White and the Huntsman hanging up in the tree. Snow White asks the Dwarfs to save them. The Dwarfs refuse it, but they agree after Snow White offers them a lot of gold. The utterance “You’ll find your weight in gold if you cut us down now!”, means a woman is able to give something valuable.

E. Conclusion

It can be concluded that the women image reflected in both movies are different. The woman in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is powerless, weak, having no ability to fight against the cruel queen. They even cannot struggle and survive themselves. The woman even seems to be helped by men in all the ways such as being helped by huntsman to escape to the dark forest, being help by the dwarfs and being kissed by the Prince to throw away the Queen’s magic spell. In the movie of *Snow White and Hunstman*, the images of a

woman are strong, optimistic, masculine in fighting the Queen, and having spirit of leadership.

Acknowledgement

The writer would like to thank to the editorial board of Jurnal Dialektika Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Peradaban.

Bibliography

- Creswell, John W. 2014. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Approaches*. Los Angeles: Sage Publication, Inc.
- Miles, Carrie A. 2006. *The Redemption of Love: Rescuing Marriage and Sexuality from The Economics of Fallen World*. Brazos: Grand Rapids.
- Millet, Kate. 1970. *Sexual Politics*. New York: Doubleday.
- Sterling, Anne Fausto. 2000. *Sexing The Body: Gender Politics and The Construction of Sexuality*. United State of America: Basic Book.
- Tutle, Lisa. 1989. *Encyclopedia of Feminism*. New York: Facts on File Publication.
- Wolfreys, J., Robbins, R., & Womack, K. 2006. *Key Concepts in Literary Theory*. Edinburg: Edinburg University Press.