

Psychological Struggles and Support For Gender Equality in The Film “ Redeeming Love”

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis masing-masing permasalahan mental dan feminisme dalam film rilisan tahun 2022 berjudul “Redeeming Love.” Peneliti memilih topik film “Penebusan Cinta” sebagai sumber analisis utama karena peneliti melihat sesuatu yang menarik yang dapat dijadikan pengetahuan dan pembelajaran hidup melalui film ini. Film ini ditulis oleh Francine Rivers, yang terinspirasi oleh kisah alkitabiah nabi Hosea dan istrinya, Gomer, yang merupakan kisah kuat tentang cinta dan ketekunan yang tiada henti. cinta yang diuji ketika hubungan pasangan muda berbenturan dengan kenyataan pahit Demam Emas California tahun 1850. Ini adalah kisah yang mengubah hidup tentang kekuatan cinta tanpa syarat dan kelelahan. Peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kuantitatif dalam penelitian ini. Sumber data yang diambil dalam film ini adalah tokoh utama film yaitu Angel. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan teknik catat. Peneliti memilih film "Redeeming Love" yang disutradarai oleh D.J. Caruso, kemudian mengumpulkan referensi sastra terkait pendekatan psikologi dan feminisme. Hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian ini mengetahui berbagai gangguan psikologis yang dialami Angel seperti Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Trust Issues, dan Feminism yaitu pembelaan Angel terhadap perempuan lain yaitu Gender Equality.

Kata kunci: *Gangguan Stres Pasca Trauma, Isu Trus, Feminisme, Kesetaraan Gender*

Abstract

This study analyzes each of the issues of mental issues and feminism in the film released in 2022, titled "Redeeming Love." The researcher chose the topic of the film "Redeeming Love" as the main source of analysis because the researcher saw something interesting that could be used as knowledge and life learning through this film. The film was written by Francine Rivers, who was inspired by the biblical story of the prophet Hosea and his wife, Gomer, which is a powerful story of relentless love and perseverance. love that is put to the test when a young couple's relationship clashes with the harsh reality of the California Gold Rush of 1850. This is a life-changing story about the power of

unconditional love and exhaustion. Researchers used quantitative research methods in this study. The source of the data taken in this film is the main character of the film, Angel. Data was collected using note-taking techniques. Researchers selected the film "Redeeming Love," directed by D.J. Caruso, then collected literary references related to psychological approaches and feminism. The results obtained from this study determine various psychological disorders experienced by Angel, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Trust Issues, and Feminism, namely Angel's defense of other women, namely Gender Equality.

Keywords : *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Trust Issue, Feminism, Gender Equality*

PENDAHULUAN

Literary terms like literature (English), literature (French), literature (German), and literatuur (Dutch) have their roots in Western (European) languages. Everything is derived from the Latin word *litteratura*, which was formed by translating the Greek word *grammatica*. Both the terms "*litteratura*" and "*gramma*" are derived from the Latin words "*littera*" and "*gramma*," which both mean "letters" or "writing." Literature of artistic worth is referred to as *belles-lettres* in French. While the Dutch word *bellettrie* is used to allude to the meaning of *belles-lettres*, the term *belles-lettres* is also used in English as a borrowing word.

Many definitions of literature do not alter the meaning of literature itself because different experts have differing perspectives on it depending on the time, place, and social context. It is believed that literature is a medium for concept expression. Gyasi (2008:1) defines it broadly as "anything that is written," whereas Rees defines it more narrowly as "writing which expresses and communicates thought, feelings and attitudes towards life"

According to Ade and Okunoye (2008:3) "literature is imaginative, literature expresses thoughts and feelings, literature deals with life experiences, literature uses words in a powerful, effective and yet captivating manner literature promotes recreation and revelation of hidden facts". This includes works of a primarily artistic nature as well as works whose aesthetic qualities are only secondary. Community activities that define themselves are carried out based on these works, when their members come to read them (or concretize them).

Besides that, another expert, namely Greil Marcus and Werner Sollor in Arthur, 2009, p. 89, says, "Literature means not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed, what is invented in whatever form." It implies that everyone understands literature because they can relate to what other people are saying in any kind of performance.

And according to Pickering, James H., and Hoeper, Jeffrey D. (1981, 01:307), "literature is a unique human activity, born from the eternal human desire to understand,

express, and ultimately share experiences." Based on the insights gathered from literature experts, the author concludes that literature is a work of language that is used to define the meaning of nature and life through captivating, artistic, and aesthetic words, ultimately allowing the sharing of experiences.

Literature has four types, namely: drama, poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. From several types above, researchers here will examine literary works, dramas, or films. Through Law No. 8/1992, a film is "a work of creation and art that is a visual-listening mass communication medium made based on cinematography recorded on celluloid tape, videotape, video disc, and/or entitled to the results of other technological discoveries in all shapes, types, and sizes through chemical processes, electronic processes, or other processes, with or without sound that can be displayed with a mechanical projection system and so on." So, film is an entertainment medium that combines storyline, moving images, and sound in one artistic frame.

In this research, researchers will examine the literary work entitled *Redeeming Love*. The screenplay for *Redeeming Love* was co-written by D.J. Caruso and Francine Rivers. The movie was released in 2022 as an American Christian Western romance picture. The movie is set in the American Old West during the California Gold Rush and is based on Rivers' 1991 book of the same name, which itself was based on the biblical account of Hosea. Logan Marshall-Green, Tom Lewis, and Abigail Cowen are the main actors.

Researchers researched this film because it discusses psychological conflict. This conflict is very important in everyday life because it will affect the future we face. This film also teaches us how we can face a problem and how to solve it. This film is worth watching for adults who are in a relationship with their partner and have the same problems, such as trauma, both internal and external. Researchers conducted this research to prove the importance of being patient in dealing with partners and the importance of God's intervention in whatever we face in life, as was done by Michael Hosea with Angel. The author is also interested in how the main character in the film, Angel, solves problems and how he saves the women and children from slavery.

Based on research conducted by researchers, there are many things and factors that cause people to experience psychological conflict. However, researchers believe that everything that happens can be cured through support from those around you and your own will and effort.

The article also discusses feminism, which is equally significant as the prior topic because it affects a lot of people, especially women. Furthermore, this film also discusses the figure of Michael, who always hopes for help from God, believing that God will always be there and that God will give him hope. God's help definitely exists; that's what we have to believe. In this film, researchers also note that Michael always asks for help from God, and with the belief he holds, God grants Michael's request, namely that

Angel return to Michael. In this film, we also learn that no partner is perfect in any way, including wealth, face, work, and whatever.

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Filming took place in Cape Town, South Africa, and the movie was co-produced by Pinnacle Peak Pictures, Mission Pictures International, and Nthibah Pictures. On January 21, 2022, Universal Pictures released it in theaters. Critics gave it largely unfavorable reviews, but viewers gave it higher marks. The GMA Dove Award for Inspirational Film/Series of the Year received a nomination for Redeeming Love.

This film lasts 2:11:51 and discusses helping and supporting oppressed women to continue fighting to build a new image of a strong and resilient woman and tells about psychological conflict so that she can accept herself again. Because of his trauma and dark life, Angel feels low and cannot give proper love to Michael Hosea. Because of this, he repeatedly ran away from Michael Hosea and tried to return to his dark life. However, Michael Hosea, with his patience and trust in God, never gave up on saving Angel and taking her back. Michael Hosea's love and obedience to God melted Angel's heart and made him feel better.

In this research, researchers raised the theories of psychological and feminist theory. Literature and psychology cannot be separated. Writing about people and their responses, experiences, worldviews, conflicts, fears, and reconciliations, both personal and societal issues, and using a variety of ideas, strategies, and techniques closely related to psychology and literature. The study of mental phenomena and their environment is known as psychology. Researchers chose this theory because of the psychological conflict experienced by the main exhibitor of the film "Redeming Love," namely Angel. So the researcher will explain some of the psychological conflict experienced by Angel.

Researchers found several psychological conflicts in the film "Redeeming Love", one of which is PTSD. James W. Kalat (in Salomon, Milkulincer, & Filum 1998) said in the journal Mary Swarahapsari that people with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) often experience nightmares of outbursts of anger, unhappiness, and guilt. A brief reminder of the tragic experience triggers flashbacks that border on panic. Minor problems seem too stressful, even years after the event. This is different from the opinion of James W. Kalat (in McFarlane, 1997), who states that most people who experience traumatic events do not develop PTSD. Most suffer for a few weeks and then begin to recover. From this, researchers can conclude that people with PTSD often have nightmares, feel unhappy, and always feel guilty, which triggers PTSD to recur, but it is also possible that people with PTSD can recover by themselves.

The researcher also explained about trust issues. Trust issues are a problem of difficulty in trusting other people because of bad experiences they have gone through before. A person struggling with trust issues may have unfavorable opinions about things and consider ideas that limit their trust in others. Trust issues can be influenced by various factors, such as being betrayed, bad experiences in the past, and parenting patterns.

Next is feminism. Researchers will explain a little about feminism. According to the journal Tri Widya Dannila Sari dan Maya Kurnia Dewi dari Universitas Ngudi Waluyo, feminism is a social and philosophical development that fights for women's freedoms in all areas, both political, monetary, social, and different regions. Women's activists accept that people are equivalent. Women merit similar freedoms as men in the public arena. Feminism is the struggle of women to gain freedom and equality like men, without any degrading views on women.

In feminist theory, this includes gender equality. According to Sasongko (2009), there are several theoretical schools that explain gender equality and justice, namely: nurture theory, nature theory, and the balance of these two theories, known as equilibrium theory.

According to nurture theory, the differences between women and men are the result of socio-cultural construction, resulting in different roles and tasks. These differences mean that women are always left behind and neglected in their roles and contributions in family, community, national, and state life. Social construction places women and men in class differences.

According to nature theory, differences between men and women are natural, so they must be accepted. These biological differences provide indications and implications that the two sexes have different roles and tasks.

And last, the theory of balance (equilibrium), which emphasizes the concept of partnership and harmony in the relationship between women and men. This view does not create conflict between women and men because both must work together in partnership and harmony in the lives of the family, community, nation, and state.

From the several definitions above, researchers can conclude that gender equality is the equal provision of rights and opportunities to women and men and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The concept of gender equality refers to full equality between women and men in fulfilling political, economic, social, cultural, and political rights so that no one can usurp the rights of women and men.

According to Woman and Gender Studies, feminism is an interdisciplinary approach to issues of equality and equity based on gender, gender expression, gender identity, sex, and sexuality as understood through social theories and political activism. Historically, feminism has evolved from the critical examination of inequality between the

sexes to a more nuanced focus on the social and performative constructions of gender and sexuality.

Based on the research background, the researcher formulated two basic questions about the following problems, namely: (1) What psychological conflict does Angel experience in the film *Redeeming Love*? (2) How does Angel promote gender equality in the film *Redeeming Love*? This research analysis was carried out by clarifying the mental disorder experienced and how it saved women and underage children from slavery in the film *Redeeming Love*.

METODE

The research here will look at the psychological conflict faced by the main character, Angel, and how she was able to free women and children from slavery. Researchers will use qualitative methods that relate to literature. Bogdan & Biklen (1992: 21) argue that qualitative research is a measure of research that produces descriptive data in writing or speech, as well as the behavior of the observed person. The study aims to gain a general understanding of social reality from the participant's point of view. According to Moloeng (2007:6), qualitative research is research aimed at understanding the phenomena of what the subject is experiencing in a comprehensive manner by means of description in words and language, in the specific context experienced, as well as using various scientific methods. So it can be concluded that the qualitative method is the research that results in generating data by means of description in the form of words, writing, and the behavior of the observed person.

Data collection involves gathering information from relevant sources to address research problems. Researchers usually conduct a literature review, which is an organized examination of existing literature on the topic. This involves collecting data from secondary sources like books, journals, or reports, as well as extracting dialogue from a film script.

Data analysis is the process of evaluating data to obtain information and conclusions about the problem being studied. The technique used to analyze this research data is interpretation using theoretical methods. Theoretical methods use ideas and abstract principles related to a particular subject.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

After completing the analysis, researchers found several pieces of evidence regarding Angel's character involving driving factors such as sexual harassment, psychological trauma, trust issues, gender equality, and women's liberation in the film *Redeeming Love* 2022. Complete information regarding the character data is presented in dialogue excerpts from *Redeeming Love* and other actors in the film.

1. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The researchers will prove that the PTSD experienced by Angel has a big impact on Angel's future life because this trauma is very lasting and always plays in the brain of someone who suffers from it. This trauma can occur due to external factors; for example, a victim may see another person being tortured in front of their eyes or directly experience it themselves.

Researchers found evidence in conversations that Angel was being tortured by a subordinate of the Duches, and this was the trigger that Angel could suffer from PTSD. Evidence of this conversation is in Angel's room.

(Minutes 46:06 to 47:05)

Duches' subordinate: "You'll be more obedient than a street dog when I'm done with you." (the man pulls Angel until he falls on the floor) "You can't even imagine how much I will enjoy this" (Angel laughs when the man wants to take off his trousers)

Duches' Subordinate: "What's so funny?"

Angel: "You, you are just one of the Duchess's lap dogs. He rang the bell and you came running. He has you. You are no different from us, you are just one of the sons of the Duchess."

Duchess: "I will kill you! Angel: "Do it! (Duches' subordinates immediately hit Angel's head and face until he was black and blue)

2. Trust Issues

In the film Redeeming Love, there is the trust issue trauma experienced by Angel. This also greatly influences the future that someone who suffers from this trauma will face. With this trauma, a person will find it difficult to trust other people, whether it be those closest to them or people they have just met in the future. Researchers will prove that Angel suffers from trust issues in his life through conversations or images in the film.

The first evidence that proves Angel suffered from this trauma was when Angel first met Michael. When Michael entered Angel's room, Angel was not wearing clothes because any man who entered his room would only want Angel's body. Angel didn't believe it. Michael wouldn't touch him, and Angel didn't believe Michael would save him from this situation.

Evidence of the conversation between these two actors will be explained by the researcher below:

(Minutes 22:15 to 23:53)

Angel: "It's open. What do you want, sir? It doesn't matter if you are married. It doesn't matter if your Christian mother doesn't agree. No guilt here, okay? Happy, so no shame. What do you want?"

Michael: "You" Angel: "I'm all yours. Come closer let me wash you. I won't hurt you, I promise."

Michael: "That's not necessary, ma'am."

Angel: "Mom? Am I like your mother?"

Michael: "No ma'am, miss. That's not the case. Actually, I didn't come here for that. I just came to talk to you."

Angel: "you want to talk. there is a nice bartender downstairs, he loves to talk."

3. Gender Equality

Researchers will also discuss gender equality in the film Redeeming Love. Angel also mobilizes or defends women and children from slavery in the film Redeeming Love; this also greatly influences the bright future of people who get justice. Researchers will prove the gender equality carried out by angels in this film through actor conversations.

Researchers found evidence when Angel pretended to work as a dancer in a bar, after which Angel uncovered the truth that Duke committed slavery against children and women.

(Minutes 1:53:17 to 1:56:00)

Angel: "The duke has a crush on children. Now he's got two locked in there. He tortures us until we do everything to survive. I was 8 years old when he bought me. When I was 17, I ran away, but he found me and forced me to be here."

Duke: "lies, these are all just lies. This woman insulted and lied. Lie."

Angel: "you are the father of lies."

Here, Angel was pulled back by the Duke and tortured, but Angel was helped by someone, and Angel ran to save the children and women who were locked up by the Duke. Meanwhile, Duke was captured by the residents and hanged to death by the residents there.

SIMPULAN

After conducting research on the novel Redeeming Love, researchers concluded that the main character, Angel, experienced psychological or inner conflicts that interfered with his mental health. Disturbed mental health for everyone has many causes, namely from the inside and from the outside. And all those who are deep have various ways to deal with it.

This research also discusses the purpose behind gender equality, which aims to free women from sexual slavery so that no more children are treated unfairly. In conclusion, this study provides in-depth insights into important themes raised in the film Redeeming Love, including mental health, namely how a person treats PTSD and the

negative impact of trust issues. This film also teaches us to dare to take action to get justice, namely gender equality. Thus, this research makes a valuable contribution. According to Sasongko (2009), there are several theoretical schools that explain gender equality and justice, namely: nurture theory, nature theory, and the balance of these two theories, known as equilibrium theory.

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