

## Feminism Representation on Women Leader of Game of Throne Season 6 Serial Television

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### Abstract

*Nowadays, there are many times exploitation toward imaginary of women in the mass media such as sexual exploitation, psychological exploitation, and economy exploitation. Feminism comes to give the consciousness about discrimination and exploitation toward women. One of serial television that is spread out the feminism value is Game of Throne season 6. Feminism concept that is discussed on this study is also related and supported by leadership concepts and mass media. This study used semiotic analysis method, Pierce. The result of this study which analyzed 10 scenes of television serial, Game of Throne season 6 examined that there is the dominant feminism genre such as liberal feminism and also radical feminism which is showed by the women on each scene.*

**Key Words:** Feminism, Leadership, Radical feminism, Liberal Feminism, Semiotic Pierce, game of Throne season 6.

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, there is much exploitation toward women imaginary. Exploitation towards women imaginary is happened on the mass

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media. Sue Thornham (cited on Gamble, 2010, p17) said that either movie or electronic cinema, women is depicted or playing a role as receptionist, secretary, part-time worker, sex object, victim, or slut.

Feminism exists to give awareness against discrimination and exploitation toward women. Wollstonecraft, a feminist, argued that men and women has the same chance and right to be succeed on the selected field as well as can be decide her own faith (cited on Tong, 2009, p.43).

Mass media is a media that is used to share and state a message (Nova, 2009, p.204). Electronic cinema is the one of mass media product that serves serial episodes with the various roles simultaneously. One of electronic cinemas not only has a function as entertain, but also share the feminism value such as Game of Throne season 6 that is started to show a woman as an object.

Game of Throne is a serial television that comes from a fiction novel written by George R.R. martin which entitled A Song of Ice and Fire. Game of Throne is full of war action, bloody scene, violence, sex, and inappropriate relationship between relatives, politics, underage marriage, war between relatives, forced marriage, revenge, and seizure of throne.

The writer is interested to analyze and identify the feminism on season 6 pf serial television game of Throne because there is a change on the plot and howseason 6 depicts a woman, thus season 6 is not only entertaining the audience but also educating and socialization about independent women. Each episode depicts how they rise up from their struggle and grow up to be a strong woman. Because of that, the writer is interested to analyze the appearance and the evolution that is experienced by women toward its relationship and feminism value.

## **THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Previous Studies**

Zaini (2014) analyzed Kita Nikah Yuk serial television with Peirce method. The aim of his study was describing the representation of liberal feminism of this serial television. This serial television showed that there are 5 things such as women are not marginal group, women are not underdog group, women are smart, gender equality, and women are not weak. Besides that, there is a study which is analyzed

a movie, Snow White and The Huntsman used Barthes semiotic method and John Fiske television code. This study examined that Snow White and The Huntsman represented the feminism in deciding a choice, power, and leadership.

### **Semiotic**

Semiotic is a study or method that analyzes code. Code is tools that are used to look for something beyond the world. According to Littlejohn (cited on Sobur, 2016, pp 15-16) code depicted something except itself and meaning is relationship between object or idea and a code. Mainly, Pierce explained that code is the united of the represented object, how it's represented, and how its interpreted (Chandler, 2007, p.29). According to its object, Pierce (cited on Sobur, 2016) divided code into icon, index, and symbol.

### **Leadership**

According to Soekarsono & Putong (2015, p.8), leadership is live that influences another live, power influences the attitude of person to another goals. However, according to Stuart & Morgan (cited on Hambali, 2015, p.94) leader is the expected one who be able to influence, provoke, give information, and decide the individual to achieve the organization goals. Hambali argued (2015, p.95) that a leader is respected and authoritative towards subordinates or followers because of their skills and abilities as well as supported by good behavior.

### **Feminism**

According to Rokhmansyah (2016, p.37) feminism is a women movement that is sued the emancipation or gender equality. Feminism movement is willing to end the domination based on the sex or gender as well as expecting to equal in the rights between man and woman. Feminism has many genres such as stated in the book which is written by Rosemarie Tong (2009) and Alfian Rokhmansyah (2016) is liberal feminism, radical feminism, radical-libertarian feminism, radical-culture feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalysis feminism, multicultural feminism, global, and pascal-colonial, postmodern and third wave, care-focused feminism, and ecofeminism.

### **Feminism in Television**

Gable stated that the director used to depict women as low class or weak-person. Many stereotypes on the movies which can be seen as the perception that is difficult to be changed even many women that are already has a power or main role in the movie industry. Gamble explained that movie has some implied ideologies to be shared to the audiences (Gamble, 2010, p.119)

### **Mass Communication**

Mass communication is information sharing, ideas, and attitude to many people (as usual it is used machine or mass medio such as radio, television, newspaper, magazine, movie, and internet) (Suprpto, 2009, p.17). For basic function of mass communication based on Ruben and Stewart (2017) is controlling, correlation, socialization, and entertaining.

### **Mass Media**

Media is a message in the communication between a person to others. McLuhan (cited on Nova, 2009, p.204) stated that mass media is the extension of the human sense. The types of mass media are print media, electronic media, and chemical media.

### **Television**

Television is a broadcast and picture capture device that is emitted by electromagnetic waves which are mass media devices that can be seen or can be seen remotely by the public. One television product is drama. Fachruddin (2015) classified drama, soap operas, and films into the format of drama fiction programs. In this study, the writer examined Game of Throne season 6 which was included in the soap opera category (series). Game of Throne season 6 has 10 episodes aired on subscription television and can be accessed online (streaming).

### **Research Framework**

From 7 seasons of Game of Throne, the writer only analyzed season 6 in this study. There is 10 episodes in the season 6. Based on 10 episodes, the writer only analyzed 10 scenes used Peirce semiotic (representamen (sign), object, and interpretant), and analyzed the feminism wave that is involved on each scene.

## METHOD OF STUDY

This study about Feminism Representation on Women Leader of Game of Throne Season 6, the writer used qualitative method. Qualitative research is a research that is explained and analyzed the phenomena, chronologies, social activities, trust issues, perception toward something (Hamdi & Bahrudin, 2014, p.9). The writer used to interpretative paradigm with Pierce semiotic approach. Analysis unit on this study is scenes on the serial television of Game of Throne season 6 which has feminism value from the women leaders. The writer analyzed 10 scenes consist of visual, statement, and code in each scene which showed the feminism value. Those scenes were selected by the writer not only based on this study, but also supported by article written by Gonzales (2016) in the popular magazine, harper's Bazaar.

Technique of collecting data that was used by the writer is primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data that is got by the first source, either the result of measurement or observation (Gani & Amalia, 2015, p.20). However, secondary data is data that is not got from the first source, but processed data.

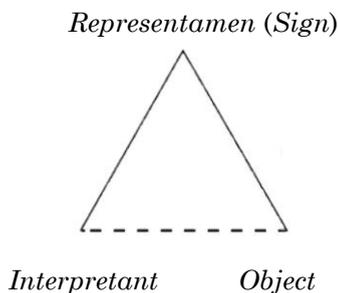


Figure 1. Peirce Semiotic, from Chandler, p.30, 2007

Triangle above is Pierce's step to explain that there is relationship between those three aspects. Line that connected between object and interpretant is disjointed because the relationship between representamen and object can not always be interpreted. Sometimes, the appearance object is disconnected with the representamen or existing codes. The way to use Pierce's triangle is firstly, knowing what the representamen (sign) that exists in the analysis unit. Secondly, the writer determined the object of this study.

Trustworthiness checking techniques used by writer is credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability that are criteria of trustworthiness (Daymon & Holloway, 2008).

This study was conducted for 10 months, since September 2017 till July 2018. The writer used scene capturing and got another data in the STIKOM LSPR Library and some accessed data from the internet.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION



Figure 2. Scene of Ellaria took over the throne in Dorne from Benioff, Weiss, and Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: The statement of “weak men will never rule Dorne again” (symbol).

Object : Ellaria, Prince Doran, blood, floor, and tree.

Interpretant: Ellaria murdered Prince Doran because she thought that Prince Doran is a weak man, so that he did not deserve to be a leader in Dorne.



Figure 3. Scene of Daenerys, Drogon, and Dothraki, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Daenerys who rode Drogon was talking to Dothraki (index dan symbol).

Object : Daenerys, Drogon, horse, and Dothraki.

Interpretant: Daenerys who rode Drogon was showing off the specialty (power) to Dothraki, as well as asked permission to Dothraki to help her taking over the Iron Throne from Lannisters.



**Figure 4.** Scene of Lyanna Mormont denied to listen the suggestion from her counselor, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Hand shaking of Lyanna (simbol dan indeks).

Object: Lyanna Mormont and a man who was her counselor.

Interpretant: Lyanna Mormont denied to listen the suggestion from her counselor.

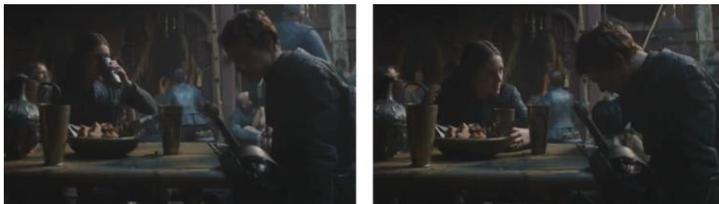


**Figure 5.** Yara flirted with a woman, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Yara was flirting with a woman (index dan simbol)

Object: Yara Greyjoy, a woman who did not wear a cloth.

Interpretant: Yara was homosexual.



**Figure 6.** Yara drank Ale with Theon, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Yara drank Ale (symbol).

Object: Yara Greyjoy, Theon Greyjoy, glass, and bowl/plate of dishes.

Interpretant: Yara dan Theon was in the pub. Yara drank Ale (white wine), then forced Theon to drink also.



**Figure 7. Scene of Sansa wrote a letter to Littlefinger, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.**

Representamen: A letter written to Sansa (index).

Object: Sansa Stark, Jon Snow, and knight.

Interpretant: Sansa told Jon that their knight was not enough. They need more knight to defeat Ramsay Bolton. Because Ramsay Bolton has many troops.



**Figure 8. Scene of Ramsay who was eaten by his dog, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.**

Representamen: Ramsay was eaten by his dog (index), Sansa saw Ramsay was eaten by his dogs (symbol).

Object: The dog, Ramsay Bolton, Sansa Stark, dan prison.

Interpretant: Sansa located Ramsay in his dogs' cage. He did not feed for 7 days. Sansa tended to kill Ramsay after he did something cruel. Then, one of his dogs was smelled to Ramsay's face who was full of blood and ate him.



**Figure 9. Scene of Cersei was being a Queen of the Seven Kingdoms, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.**

Representamen: Cersei sat on the Iron Throne (symbol).

Object: Cersei, Iron Throne, Qyburn, Ser Gregor, the troops, Cersei's clothes.

Interpretant: Cersei sat on the Iron Throne which means that she became a Queen of the Seven Kingdoms. Ser Gregor dan Qyburn is in the right and left Cersei. Then, Cersei was surrounded or guarded by the knights.



**Figure 10.** Scene of Yara Greyjoy used leather armor, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Lyanna spoke on the particular meeting (symbol and index).

Object: Lyanna Mormont, Northerners, Jon Snow, and Sansa Stark.

Interpretant: Lyanna Mormont was talking (argue) in front of Northerners, Jon Snow, and Sansa Stark. Lyanna supported Jon Snow to be King in the North. Finally, all Northerners supported Jon Snow to be King in the North.



**Figure 11.** Scene of Yara Greyjoy wore leather armor, from Benioff, Weiss & Sapochnik, 2016.

Representamen: Yara wore leather armor (symbol and index)

Object: Yara Greyjoy, leather armor, Theon Greyjoy, Ironborns, and ship.

Interpretant: Yara, Theon, and the followers on the ship, ready to sail.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the result of study that used Game of Throne season 6 as an object, it is expected to fulfill the aim of the study that has already determined by using Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic.

Liberal feminism seems too dominant because in this season, women can be a leader for their followers, able to dominate, and switch the position which means that women is leaders and men is slaves. Women are also able to decide and make their own decision without any intervention or suggestion from men. Women have power where they can do anything men do such as murdered people, dominantly speak up in front of the audiences. Not only about that, but also one of the actresses on the serial television has one thing that man did not have it such as 3 dragons that only obeyed their commands.

Besides that, the dominant radical feminism is radical-libertarian, because there is freedom between women that choose to be androgynous, do not wear the appropriate clothes like commonly women wear, lesbian, and show the bigger masculinity value than feminine value. Lesbianism is the first happened in season 6, because in the previous seasons, there was scene that was played by homosexual actors. However, there was no scene that showed women (Queen) is lesbian except this season. There are 2 episodes that showed radical feminism from 10 episodes. However, the rest of episodes showed the liberal feminism. Thus, feminism that is dominated in this study is liberal feminism, because liberal feminism is the beginning feminism which is appeared on the 18<sup>th</sup> century and do not show the attitude changes yet.

Academically, this study can be used in the next study as a basic research of another feminism. The next feminism can analyze the feminism value either on another movie or mass media that showed feminism as the main phenomena as well as analyze the cinematic which is concerned on the editing process, sound, cinematography, and mise-en-scene of the movie.

Feminism value of this study can be suggestion for the women who want to be a leader. This study is expected to evaluate and be the reference for the media industry to minimize the discrimination against women either in mass media or movie as well as lessen the tendency of the occurrence of patriarchal culture within the

community as well as in the work environment through the existing stereotypes.

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