# AN ANALYSIS OF FEMINISM IN HOW TO BE SINGLE MOVIE DIRECTED BY CHRISTIAN DITTER

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#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this analysis is to know what the meaning of feminism, each type of feminism, and the benefits of feminism in everyday life. Feminism is womens' movement that demands justice and equal rights with men. Feminism is divided into liberal feminism, postmodern feminism, radical feminism, socialist marxist feminism, and anarchist feminism. Movie How to be Single is perfect for analyzing feminism, as it tells about the lives of women who try to keep themselves. Some scenes in the movie contain feminism. As seen in modern times many women work and fulfill their own lives. After doing some processes of observation from many opinions of experts, journals, books, social media, feminism is a collection of women who want to have the same rights as men. Feminism and its types can be used to protect women from violence that may occur in everyday life. So women have the right and justice for themselves. To be feminism is not dangerous or embarrassing if we look from a positive angle.

## Keywords: Analysis, Feminism, Types of Feminism

## 1. Introduction

In ancient times women are very backward in doing or knowing something because women are always treated as a group whose value is below the male class. Many women in ancient times did not get education therefore women were always looked down upon by men. Women are always placed in the kitchen and enslaved men. Women are also always tortured and used as an ingredient to satisfy the passions of men.

Women are no longer a low class as before because, women are more aware of technology and get the same education with men. Women can now do more of what they want. Even now many women are headed households and earn a living to meet the needs of their families. Here are some examples of changes that women experience around the world.

According to Hannam (2007:2), "Feminism is a cultural as well as a political movement. It changes the way women think and feel and affect how women and men live their lives and interpret and fierce antagonisms that have continued to the present day." In Europe, girls considered as being grade two. But, some personal opinion and public associated with status of women is quite different, but there is evidence strongly that women are considered as inferior creatures that can be teased or considered not rational. In the Europe, women who have been married should not be divorced reason anything. With dark background that makes the women being want to be free from men. The revolution France (1789) gave a huge influence for women, and make the Liberty as the meaning of that women are not the weak In India, one of Asia countries, many women have trouble to participate in the world of politics. Moreover, asked the same with men. Because in India women only assigned be housewives and take care of children at home. But with the movement feminism, now women in India can be vice of committee people as much as 5,2 percent. Which means women can be the equivalent of the man in the political field. There are five kinds of of feminism namely liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Postmodern Feminism and Anarchist Feminism. Fakih (1995:145) said that, Liberal Feminism is on type of feminism born of political thought. And more focus on the changes laws and laws that are considered able to preserve patriarchal system. According to Mustaqim (2008:102), Socialist Marxist feminism is awareness of women would be the position of those who are oppressed, because many women are not aware of and find out if they during this debased by men. According to Fakih (2007:83:86) states that Radical feminism is that there is no difference between the purpose of the personal with the political. So the elements of biology and sex the series of activities that naturally the actual shape of sexual politics. Gender inequality that are not experienced by women is caused by a

problem that is rooted in man own along with ideology patriarchy. The state of the biological men who make them a higher position compared to women. The movement adopts the masculine traits considered women to be parallel with man. in other words the oppression of women occurs due to the system of patriarchy. Gaus and Kukathas (2013:650) stated that Postmodern feminism is privileged to the expansion of political ideas with the intent of being gender less significant for models of citizenship. Golman (1969:78) said, Anarchist feminism is more pressing to women to always say what you want to say, and be individually brave to say his own.

In Indonesia, the movement of feminism make the government to issue the no.23 Thn.2001 about Domestic Violence. And to the constitution 1945 who make all residents of the countries have similar rights in the eyes of my law. It makes women can improve the fate of and he position of them. Like now that many women who worked in office even in factory is usually done by men. Now women is becoming more independent in life they in accordance with what they want.

Feminism is not just happened in real life. But also in a work of called the movie. A movie is by photographing actual scene with a motion picture camera; by photographing drawings or miniature models using traditional animation techniques; by means of CGI and computer animation; or by a combination of some or all of these techniques and other visual effects. The movie containing feminism in the story and got plenty of the award entitled " *HOW TO BE SINGLE*" directed by *Christian Ditter*.

The movie "HOW TO BE SINGLE" is a comedy romance. The movie itself tells of the intricate story of some women who decided not to find a partner or a date. Alice is a person who has long-distance relationship with her boyfriend Josh and is committed to it. Josh soon got a job in New York as a lawyer assistant under the guidance of her colleague, Robin. Though initially she was not interested in various temptations, but eventually she found a man who was able to make her interested, namely Tom. Alice is sister named meg appears to be still single and work as a doctor who has helped thousands of babies born to the world. There is

also another story about Lucy, Lucy work as a person looking for a couple through an online dating site.

#### 2. Reasearh Methods

In this paper, the writer uses descriptive method. The descriptive method is used to describe the data without modification. Method here refers to the type of research question and data analysis that will be applied to the topic being discussed. In related to the research, the writer must understand what are the feminism meant in general and the types of feminism. The first, the writer watches movies or related videos as needed. The second, the writer chooses the topic are best for research. The third, the writer includes minute how there are scenes that explain the topic to research.

For the research, the writer searches for a theory by reading books, journals, or internet related research. And the writer collects the theories that are obtained to compare it with the theories of the other, that the writer can use the theory that is most suitable for research, and so that no error occur.

## 3. Result and Discussion

## 3.1 Summary of the Story

"How to be Single" movie is a movie that tells the story of four single ladies who live in the city of New York with different stories. Beginning with Alice who lived with her boyfriend Josh for 4 years they lived together, but after graduating college Alice wanted to go to New York and work there and disconnect with Josh for the reason he was bored with Josh. In New York Alice lives with her brother named Megi who works as a doctor who has helped more than three thousand babies born into the world. At work Alice meets with Robin's friend of her office who is eager for freedom in doing all the things she wants. In the first day of Alice Is work, Robin takes Alice to a nightclub where Robin teaches Alice how to get acquainted with men. Robin introduces Alice to Tom who daily works as a bartender at the cafe. Alice and Tom spend their night together. After that Alice felt that Tom was a good man and suited her. But after a long time with Tom, Alice felt that Tom was not the man she deserved. Tom also knew Lucy the woman who

always came to the cafe where Tom worked, the reason for Lucy's need of free internet obtained in the cafe. Tom also helps Lucy face Lucy's friends who ask if she has a boyfriend or not. Lucy is confused because Lucy is not dating anyone at all, then Tom comes in and says that Lucy is her boyfriend. Lucy thanked Tom for helping her. After so long not to meet with Josh, finally Alice invites Josh to meet at a cafe. Alice says that Alice wants to come back with Josh, but Josh already has a new lover named Michell. Alice is shocked and disappointed with Josh and makes Alice cry. Alice tells Megi and Robin everything about Josh who hurt her. Robin said if not only Josh man in this world, there are many other men who can be made a boyfriend. But Alice feels that she's been dumped by Josh who has been saying she loves Alice. Alice is confused by what she faces, and it makes Alice and Megi quarrel. Then Alice comes home and apologizes to Megi because Alice is outrageous to Megi. Megi pretended not to hear Alice's apology and made Alice repeat her words. Eventually Alice and Megi laughed together. After that Megi told Alice that Megi wanted to have children but not by marriage. Megi it all makes Alice confused, then Megi explain how to get children though without getting married. After that Megi became pregnant and gave birth to a child named Madeline. When Megi gave birth to Alice called Ken who is the father of Megi is son. At the end of the story Alice and Robin continue to live their lives on their own. While a Lucy already get her partner who love her. So also with Megi who lived his life together with Ken and also their son named Madeline. Although Alice herself, Alice lives her life happily because she thinks she loves herself more than men.

# 3.2 Analysis of Feminism in the Story

The feminism analysis in this story belongs to five types of feminism. There are liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Postmodern Feminism and Anarchist Feminism.

#### 3.2.1 Liberal Feminism

The scene that refers to the Liberal Feminism that is at minute 10:20 - 10:45

#### **SCENE 1**



Figure I Conversation between Alice and Robin on the road New York city

Robin: "Wait, wait? Where are you going?"

Alice: "I am going home."

Robin: What? I never want to hear you say that again. Ugh! Because you are single now. (At minute 10:20 - 10:45)

In this conversation Robin does not allow Alice to come home after work, because Alice told Robin that she is single. So Robin invites Alice to spend the first night after a day of work for fun. Because they are single and no one can ban them. Robin is Alice's friend who is very unconcerned about relationships and does not think to have a serious relationship with men so from that Robin invites Alice to celebrate Alice's first day of work and as a single coming to New York City. What Robin and Alice do is refer to Liberal feminism.

# 3.2.2 Socialist Marxist Feminism

The scene that refers to the Socialist Marxist Feminism is at minute at 03:10 -10:00.

# Scene 2.



Figure II
Conversation Alice and Josh at room in *How to be Single Movie.* 

Alice : you know. It is like a break, I want to go New York.

Josh : "Bullshit!"

Alice : "Josh, I have never been on my own. I went from living with

parents to living in a dorm, to living with you."

Josh : "But we are happy Alice."

Alice : "Are we"?

Josh : "Yeah."

Alice : "Are we are just boring?"

Josh : "I am not boring. I am fucking fun."

Alice : "I say, I am gonna do things all the time. And I never do them."

(At minute 03:10 -

# 04:00)

In this scene Alice tells Josh that she wants to end their relationship and go to New York to work. But Josh tells Alice if he can't live without Alice and he must miss Alice because they've been living together during college. But Josh forbids Alice to leave because Josh is already comfortable with Alice during their Lectures and lives in one house. But Alice feels that they've been together too long and that makes Alice unable to do what Alice wants and gets bored with everything they live with just the two of them, so Alice makes excuses to get away from Josh by working to New York.

#### 3.2.3 Radical Feminism

Radical Feminism in the movie is at minute 13:12 - 13:25, minute 29:56 - 30:25, and minute 37:04 - 37:40.

#### **SCENE 3**



Figure III Tom shows Lucy how to seduce in *How to be Single Movie*.

Tom : "Hey..."

Girl : "Hey..."

Tom : Hey, uh. You know we are only sleeping together for fun.

Girl : "Oh... I care about you, too."

Tom : "Thanks you."

(At minute 13:12 - 13:25)

This scene where Lucy is confused how to get someone who wants to date her. Because Tom shows how to get a person's attention in a very fast time. This scene shows Tom telling a woman that he feels the prestige in forgetting someone and the woman feels pity and trust with what Tom said. Lucy feels that Tom is a great fan of teasing women, including Tom in the Radical feminism that makes women want to fight the actions that are often done by men in women.

#### 3.2.4 Postmodern Feminism

One scene refers to Postmodern Feminism where Robin and Alice go to the club at 13:45 - 14:15.

# **SCENE 4**

Robin and Alice go to a cafe to make the first day Alice comes to New York City and works as her office partner Robin. Here Robin taught Alice how to get along with people we do not know without having to look at who they are and who we are.



Figure IV

Alice and Robin at cafe in

Robin : "No. are you kidding? You have a small window in your home."

Alice : "No. Josh and I did not break up so I could see other people."

Robin : Now I would like to see your tongue in that bartender is

Face.

Alice : "What?"

Robin : "Don't worry, I know him. He is like a palate cleanser."

(At minute 13:43 - 14:15)

The conversation between Alice and Robin proves that women do not look at gender or status, this is because they want to change their position with men. Robin is a woman who does not look at any of her status or gender because Robin really likes freedom and fun and makes Robin stronger in life. Robin belongs to a woman who refers to the Postmodern feminism of all the things she does in her

life. According to Tong (2009:21), "Postmodern feminism claim that women allow it to rewind and the criticize the norms, value, and practices are forced by the man who is dominant against all people especially those who are among the bottom."

#### 3.2.5 Anarchist Feminism

There are two scenes that refer to the Anarchist Feminism scene is in minutes to 02:21 - 02:30. And minute 56:59 - 1:01:10.

#### **SCENE 5**

Early Robin came home from work straight to the club and did not want to sign her house by taxi. Because Robin is bored to go home and do nothing, Robin loves fun and does not like being arranged because Robin feels that hers just hers and no one can manage or harass her if her comes home or does not come home.



Figure V

Robin went on a taxi for party in *How to be Single Movie*.

Driver : "Where is home?"

Robin : I am not going home, no way.

(02:21 - 02:30)

From the two conversation above can be seen that Robin is a person who is very free life without any limitations and Megi really do not like the things said by Ken. Megi says that he does not care about anything even though Ken goes to the gym and meets with the women there. Finally Megi left Ken. Which means women can also do the same with what is commonly done by men, and From the picture above can be seen that Robing do everything it with his own desire without thinking of anything important he was happy and free from all that bothered him.

That includes anarchist feminism which explains that women can do their likes. Said also by theory Leeder, Elaine J in book The Gentle General: Rose Pesotta,

#### 3.2 RESULTS

In this discussion, the writer analyzes five types of feminism. There are liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Postmodern Feminism and Anarchist Feminism. The data get from the conversations in the How to be single movie's scenes. It is between characters in the movie directed by Rupert Sanders. From the data, there are the chosen utterances that Alice has said in the scenes which describe the types of feminism. The feminism data are gotten through Alice's utterances in the conversation in the movie. In this research, writer analysis liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Postmodern Feminism and Anarchist Feminism.

**Liberal feminism** is a view which has a freedom in full and the individual. The flow of these states of freedom and equality rooted in rationality and the separation between the two worlds of private and public. Women should prepare themselves to compete in the world freely and have an equal footing with men. In this category, the writer finds two Liberal feminism from the scenes of the movie. It is proved through Alice and Robin conversation, that describes their free to choose their time together for celebrating relationship without too much concerning. And what Alice does is refer to Liberal feminism. Socialist Marxist Feminism is a reaction to Liberal feminism and rejects biological idea on the basis of gender differentiation, women's issues are always placed within the framework of criticism of capitalism. Socialist Maxis Feminism sees culture as a production arena, an arena where feminists struggle rather than view culture as a whole social life. And fight to abolish a system of ownership. In this category, the writer finds two Socialist Marxist feminism from the scenes of the movie. It is proved through Alice and Josh conversation that Alice says she wants to end her relationship with Josh. It is because she thinks, she has been together too long and that makes her unable to do what she wants. What Alice has decided to ended her relationship with Josh describes Socialist Marxist Feminism.

**Radical Feminism** is a flow that rests on the view that the oppression of women occurs due to patriarchy system. Radical feminism is concerned about, among other things, the body as well as reproductive rights. In this category, the writer finds two Socialist Marxist feminism from the scenes of the movie. It is proved through Lucy and Tom Conversation. In this scene Lucy faces a situation that makes her to do some efforts to get Tom' attention after she knows that Tom is interesting guy.

**Postmodern Feminism** is privileged to the expansion of political ideas with the intent of being gender less significant for models of citizenship. In this category, the writer finds two Postmodern feminism from the scenes of the movie. It is proved through Alice and Robin's conversation that shows that women do not look at gender or status, this is because they want to change their position with men. Everything is not based on status or gender. Robin thinks women can do what men do. So it refers to Postmodern Feminism.

**Anarchist Feminism** is more of a political ideology that aspires to socialist society and considers the state and men as the source of the problem. And believe in the abolition of all forms of authority, hierarchy, and government, believing in individuality as well as collectivity, and sticking to spontaneity as well as organizing. And remove all forms of authority of leadership, government, and even authority itself. Because anarchists and feminism need each other to wipe out all forms of power and control. In this category, the writer finds two Anarchist feminism from the scenes of the movie. It is proved through unlimitation of Robin in her decision and other decision which means women can also do the same with what is commonly done by men, and From the fifth scene can be seen that Robin do everything it with her own desire without thinking of anything important he was happy and free from all that bothered her.

## 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

Feminism is a women's movement that demands the emancipation between equality of rights and justice with men. Feminism is divided into five parts: liberal feminism, socialist marxist feminism, radical feminism, postmodern feminism, and anarchist feminism and anwered the data:

- 1. Feminism was shown in the movie when Alice went to New York City to work and live his life freely with Robin without having to think about relationships with men who made her sick. Every day Alice and Robin are having fun with the world they have without the intervention of men in their lives. Feminism is also seen at 1:39:48 minutes Alice ends her relationship with Josh and decides for herself, as she thinks being a single is not a dangerous thing.
- 2. Feminism in the How to be Single film, namely Liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist feminism, Radical feminism, Postmodern feminism, and Anarchist feminism. Two scenes included in Liberal feminism, three scene about radical feminism, one scenes about postmodern feminism, one scene about socialist Marxist feminism, and two scenes about anarchist feminism.
- 3. moral message about the feminism in the How to be Single movie is that being single is not dangerous or harmful, it depends on how each person takes positive value. Both women are not a group that can be degraded in facing problems. And women are not just to be slaves or homemakers who have to work in the home and take care of the children, because today women can also do what men do in the office and also become leaders in taking care of the household.

## 4.2. Suggestion

Based on research from feminism and feminism types in How to be Single movie, the writer has some suggestions as follows.

For further research, if doing research on feminism and the types of feminism, researchers should explain more about the types of feminism and understand this. Researchers must further understand and understand what feminism is in the broadest sense, Liberal feminism, Socialist Marxist feminism, Radical feminism, Postmodern feminism, and Anarchist feminism researchers have to know about it. The writer hopes that this article can help the next researcher who wants to take the same topic.

For readers, the witer hopes this article can help the reader in understanding what is the meaning of understanding feminism out and understanding of each of the meanings of the type of feminism that has been described by researchers in this paper. And can be used in everyday life.

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