

## REPRESENTATION OF THE LIFE OF PATRIARCHY IN THE FILM YUNI ( CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS)

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Received: 2022-07-15 ; Revised: 2022-10-06; Accepted: 2023-06-08

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### **Abstract**

*Film is one of the audio-visual media that can represent the message conveyed by the director about the film's story so that it is easily understood by the audience. The study in this study focuses on examining the message of patriarchy and gender discrimination experienced by women in the film Yuni. Yuni's film is one of Kamila Andini's films that tells the patriarchal dilemma experienced by women, especially in rural areas. This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method, which is analyzed by critical discourse. Critical discourse analysis becomes a strategy with the model proposed by Sara Mills, which is seen from the scenarios of the actors' scenes. The results of the study indicate that there are two concepts of critical discourse analysis, namely from the position of the object subject and the position of the reader or audience. This study finds how women are represented in films, especially the problems of patriarchy and gender discrimination experienced by young women who are told about the character Yuni and her friends.*

**Keywords:** Film; Gender; Patriarchy

## INTRODUCTION

Film has become an audio-visual-based communication medium that is often enjoyed by people from various walks of life and social classes. According to Sobur (2016) mentioned that the power and ability of films can reach many social segments, thus making films have the potential to influence the audience. Films always have an impact on the audience, both positive and negative impacts. The message contained in the film is able to influence and even change and shape the character of the audience (Simanjuntak et al., 2021).

Film can also be a medium for representing a message that the maker wants to convey. Representation is an important part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between group members in a culture. In essence, all films are social and cultural documents that help communicate the era when the film was made (Silvanari, 2021). Films have various types based on their shape, where each scene contained in depicts the side of the incident with a message that the maker wants to talk about.

Yuni's film is one of the films produced by Kamila Andini that highlights the form of patriarchal culture and is closely related to gender inequality in the lives of teenagers in Serang Banten. In Yuni's film, she describes the phenomenon of the rise of early marriage and pregnancy out of wedlock among her friends. Yuni prioritized her education and rejected three male proposals. This makes the neighbors think that his decision will bring disaster, because according to them marriage is an effort to avoid adultery, and women do not need to get higher education because their job is to serve their husbands (Pratiwi & Syafiq, 2022).

Researchers chose this film as research material because this film conveys a message

in the form of representation of women, especially teenagers who are trapped in patriarchal culture in their social environment. In addition, this film also clearly describes the patriarchal practices and gender discrimination experienced by young girls who want to achieve higher education (Purwanti & Suana, 2020).

Researchers want to understand more deeply how women, especially the character Yuni and her friends are represented in the film and describe the forms of patriarchy and social discrimination depicted in the film. The critical discourse analysis of Sara Mills' model which uses a feminist approach is in accordance with the problems raised in this film. Mills in Kristina mentions that often women are socially constructed as marginalized in the text and are always in the wrong position (Putra & Alias, 2018).

The analysis was carried out using three levels of analysis proposed by Mills, namely at the word level, sentence phrase level and discourse level (Hutasuhut & Rangkuti, 2022). The word level analysis looks at the choice of words that can lead to a certain interpretation. This level of analysis looks at sexism in language and its meaning. Then at the sentence phrase level analysis, the researcher looks at how gender is positioned as a subject or object and how the selection of idioms or metaphors in the news. This level of analysis includes naming, harassment of women, mercy/dwarfism and smoothing of taboos (Hussain & Jabeen, 2019).

To analyze this problem, the researcher uses the concept of critical discourse analysis proposed by Sara Mills. The problem analysis model proposed by Sara Mills has two concepts in its analysis. The first concept is seen from the position of the Subjects that are displayed in a text.

Then the second concept is the position of the reader or audience.

Based on this description, the researcher tries to explain the representation of patriarchal messages and gender discrimination in women in Yuni's film using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis with a feminist approach. It is hoped that the public will be more aware of the patriarchal practices and gender discrimination that occur and the need for gender justice in social life.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The film "Yuni" by director Kamila Andini which will be aired in December 2021, which raises the issue of women's struggles to gain rights and freedom for themselves. Tells the story of Yuni, a girl who is still in high school, she dreams of continuing her education to college. Unfortunately, Yuni's family hopes for the girl to get married soon when some guys come to propose to her. This makes Yuni frustrated, especially when she becomes the talk of the neighborhood for refusing these proposals, because in the neighborhood where Yuni lives, local people still believe in myths, if she refuses proposals more than twice, she will become a virgin old.

Through Yuni's character and several other characters as reinforcement of the storyline, we can clearly see that there is still discrimination against women who are still closely attached to society and show that patriarchal culture is closely related to the social environment. Yuni's character represents women who are trying to fight the culture that restrains women. Yuni fights for her rights and justice as a woman. This film contains a lot of messages and the struggle of women to be able to get rights and justice that have been deprived of women or what is commonly called feminism (Giswandhani, 2022).

The position of the subject-object in Yuni's film scene depicts a woman whose existence and life choices are determined by others and not by her own will. The following depicts the position of the subjects in Yuni's film.

### 1. The Meaning of Purple is Identical to The Widow



**Figure 1** The Purple Color Visualization in Yuni's Film

Source: Scenes from Yuni's Film

Yuni is told as a high school teenager who is very obsessed with the color purple. All of Yuni's items and accessories, from clothes, motorbikes, helmets, bags, books, beds, sandals, shoelaces, to hair ties are all purple. Yuni's favorite symbolism for the color purple, in Indonesia is synonymous with widows, with her rejection of marriage proposals which are considered to make her even more distant from her soul mate.

Historically, purple was a color that symbolized the women's movement and was used to commemorate National Women's Day. So, purple is used to voice the justice and dignity of a woman, whenever and wherever they are (Roy, 2021).

### 2. Gender Injustice on the Myths Experienced by Women



**Figure 2** Scene Visualization of Yuni being proposed

Source: Scenes from Yuni's Film

Yuni is a beautiful woman, so many men are interested in marrying her even though she has not graduated from school. Yuni's first proposal was proposed by a man she didn't know, so she turned it down. Due to the rejection of the application, he became the subject of discussion in the village. The second application came, where Yuni was proposed by a man who already had a wife, to make Yuni his second wife. "*Awat loh, Yun. Wong wadon nek nolak lamaran angel jodohe*", which implies that if a girl refuses an application, it will be difficult for her to marry. The myth of refusing an application twice makes women faced with gender injustice because of the stigma that they will never marry forever (Annashofi, 2022). Not only that, it is believed that women who refuse proposals will experience punishment (*karma*) and hard luck.

The next gender injustice stigma experienced by Yuni was when the school required a virginity test for women. Another thing is the myth of virginity status that is attached to the scene when Yuni is proposed to be a form of verbal sexual violence experienced by women. Yuni's school background wants to hold a virginity test for female students. In fact, this virginity test is a form of discrimination against women;

<https://journal.isi-padangpanjang.ac.id/index.php/Ekspresi>  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.26887/ekspresi.v25i1.2622>  
P-ISSN: 1412-1662, E-ISSN: 2580-2208 |

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Women are required to meet biased standards of virginity, while men are not required to take a virginity test.

The phenomenon of virginity testing can be found in Indonesia. For example, it is used as one of the requirements to enter the selection of certain professions. This shows that there are misconceptions about a woman's virginity and non-virginity in society. This misconception about virginity is the result of the construction of society resulting from patriarchal culture (Pratama, 2019).

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### 3. Women Can't Choose Higher Education



**Figure 3** Visualization of Yuni and Teacher Talking About Higher Education

Source: Scenes from Yuni's Film

In Yuni's film, the social facts that bind women are reflected in the conversations between Yuni and her neighbors. "*Ngenteni apa maning sih Yun? Arep apa? Wong wadon sekolah duwur-duwur wong ngko ya ujung-ujunge neng dapur, sumur lan kasur. Yun, Yun*", which implies that a woman cannot pursue higher education because in the end she will become a housewife. The sentence is a fragment of film dialogue which is the reality of Indonesian society looking at women. This, which is repeated and becomes the norm in society, can have an impact on women's decision-making.

Basically Yuni doesn't want to rush into marriage, she wants to continue her education. Yuni, in the end, had the courage to refuse these proposals. Yuni's actions show the courage of women in making decisions about their lives. Yuni describes the figure of a woman who dares to reject the public's trust which dwarfs women's ideals (Hidayah et al., 2022). Even so, in today's reality, not all women are as brave as Yuni. There are still many women who are unable to refuse things they don't like. Just as there is still forced matchmaking in society.

Many women finally decide to get married when they graduate from high school. Whereas women should have the same opportunity to get a higher education (Mulyadi, 2016). This phenomenon is often found in rural communities that are still conservative. However, it is possible that people who live in urban areas still have conservative thoughts about women. Indirectly, gender inequality due to integrated patriarchal values that are conveyed subtly (Seybold, 2021).

#### 4. Women's Double Burden

Another social fact depicted in the film is about life after marriage. That is when women are again in a big pit of confusion; Women have to live in the house of their birth mother or mother-in-law. Illustrated in the dialogue of Yuni and her friends, “*Ya apan tinggal neng umahe bojoku ya karo mertuane kudu bantu rewangi keluarga besare*”, which implies that the role of women is only limited to being a servant to husbands and housewives. This reality illustrates that women after entering the world of marriage will have additional burdens. The burden is a heavy burden to take care of the husband's extended family.

This increasingly makes women not have the opportunity to explore themselves and only take care of household matters. The dialogue illustrates that women will always be under the power of men. The shackles of

patriarchal cultural practices in the form of women who are under the power of men, this is a private patriarchal system (domestic patriarchy) because it emphasizes work in the household as a stereotype of women (Shalini & Alamelu, 2022). Implicitly this system instituted male government and privileges and demanded the subordination of women.

In addition to placing the actors in the text in the position of the object and subject, the critical analysis of Sarah Mills model also shows how the position of the writer and reader in a text. The position of the writer and the position of the reader are two things that are interrelated and influence each other. Mills argues that the text is the result of negotiations between the writer and the reader. The reader here is not only a connoisseur, but also decides how he will appear in the text (Lestari & Suprpto, 2020).

In Yuni's film, the female character who is told has a strong character and dares to face the situation despite being faced with various patriarchal cultures. Women are faced with various forms of patriarchy and gender discrimination in their life stories. The audience feels the problems experienced by the characters in the film. The audience is placed in the perspective of the characters, and feels carried away by feeling sad and compassionate towards the characters in the film (Jones & Dawkins, 2018). So that the audience will put themselves as the characters in the film. The film depicts several characters of Yuni's friends where the position of women is described as weak and helpless.

#### CONSLUSION

Yuni's film depicts messages of patriarchy and gender discrimination against women, especially teenagers in rural areas. According to the researcher, the director in the film succeeded in presenting the reality faced by young women in rural areas by presenting a fairly strong patriarchal problem. In critical discourse analysis, Sara Mills' model

explains that the position of the object is how the position of social actors, the position of ideas or events is placed in the text.

In movies through this point of view, women as the object of the story, are described as experiencing various forms of patriarchy and gender discrimination. The position of the writer and the position of the reader are two things that are interrelated and influence each other, where the audience feels the problems experienced by the characters in the film. In addition, the audience views that women are depicted as trapped in various problems of poverty, double burdens, and the existence of a patriarchal culture.

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