

LIBERAL FEMINIST VALUES THROUGH MALEFICENT'S PERSONALITY TRAITS IN *MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL* FILM

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research were to find liberal feminist values and to discover Maleficent's personality traits in the film Maleficent: Mistress of Evil. This research employed Tong's liberal feminist theory to find liberal feminist values and used McCrae & Costa's theory to discover Maleficent's personality traits. The data were analyzed using a qualitative method. The data were taken from the film Maleficent: Mistress of Evil. This research discovered that Maleficent, as the main character, demonstrated that women deserved to be acknowledged as rational women and deserve to get the same civic liberties, formal education, economic possibilities, and other privileges as men. The result of this research showed that from the big five personalities, Maleficent has four personalities, namely agreeableness, neuroticism, openness to experience, and the last is extraversion.

Keywords : Liberal Feminist Value, Maleficent, Personality, Film.

INTRODUCTION

Literature feminists arose as a kind of protest against the development of feminism over the world. Women have fought for a brighter future. The way societies treat women differs from how they treat males. In the past, women were unfairly treated by the public; they were not allowed to study at school. They were unable to vote in political elections, never had the same opportunities as males, and were denied the right to make their own decisions in life.

According to Tong (2009) in the book *Feminist Thought*, it is not the objective of liberal feminism to do things that men can do. It all comes down to doing what women want to do. Liberal feminism stresses the freedom that women may get; it means that women ought to be regarded as rational and to have the same rights as men, including civil liberty, formal education, economic opportunity, and physically demanding jobs. Women

have the freedom to choose how they want to express themselves.

We can find a liberal feminist in the role of a character in a film. The film is one of literary works, besides novels, poems, and plays. The film is an ever-evolving art form that requires creative and active people to keep it moving forward (Rabiger, 1989: p.4). This research uses a film with the title *Maleficent: Mistress of evil* as the source of data because the film contains encouragement and empowerment for women. It emphasizes that women are also strong and deserve to get the same recognition as a man without overpowering men. We can see that liberal feminism in the film is reflected in the personality traits of the main character, Maleficent. Therefore, the personality traits of Maleficent are also analyzed. This research focuses on finding the liberal feminist values and Maleficent's personality traits in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film because no researcher has conducted this topic before.

Some related research had been conducted, for instance, research entitled *liberal Feminism as Reflected in The Main Character of Joy Movie* by Raquel Villy Permata Eidelweis (2018) from Diponegoro University, Semarang. This research aimed to analyze liberal feminism in *Joy* movies. The research used library research to collect the data to support the discussion of this research. The writer analyzed intrinsic and extrinsic aspects to show the liberal feminist value that reflects the main character. The intrinsic aspects that were analyzed were narrative elements that contained some aspects, such as theme, character, setting, conflict, and cinematography aspects. Then in the extrinsic aspects, the writer used Mill's and Tong's concepts of Liberal Feminist. The result of this research proved that based on the theory that the writer used, the main character of this movie reflected the value of liberal feminism.

Another research about liberal feminism is a research conducted by Aenun Nahdiyati (2019) entitled *An Analysis on Liberal Feminism Values of The Main Character in The Film "Miss Potter"* from Islamic State University Syarif Hiadayatullah Jakarta. The research concerned the way the writer explored the concepts of liberal feminism to express her idea through the film which appeared in the film *Miss Potter*. The research used theory from Rosemarie Tong in her book entitled 'Feminist Thought'. This research used a qualitative method to analyze the relationship between the main character and the liberal feminist values which appeared in the main character of the film. The result showed that the characteristic of the main character reflected liberal values. The main character applies androgyny in her life as liberal feminism suggests. The difference between those researches from this research is those

researches do not aim to find the character's personality in analyzing liberal feminism. While this research focuses on analyzing liberal feminist values and finding out the personality traits of Maleficent as the main character. A liberal feminist believes that gender differences are never founded on biology and that women and men aren't that different; their shared humanity succeeds over their procreative differences. Women and men should not be treated differently under the law if they are the same. Women should have the same rights and opportunities as males in the terms of education and employment. Liberal feminism emphasizes the freedom that women can get, it means that women deserved to be recognized as fully rational and deserved to have the same rights as men such as civic liberty, formal education, economic opportunities, and work that require physical strength. (Tong,2009)

From the explanation above, it concludes that liberal feminism means that women deserve to be recognized as rational and deserve to have the same right as men in civic liberty, formal education, economic opportunities, and work that require physical strength, and also the society must provide women with the same chances that men have. In finding the liberal feminist values in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film, we can find them through the personality traits of the main character, Maleficent. There is the personality of a big five in describing human personality. According to McCrae & Costa in Cervone & Pervin, (2012), there are several terms used to classify personality traits namely: 1) **Extraversion**. This dimension is an estimate of the quantity and intensity of interpersonal interactions, the level or level of activity, the need for stimulation, and the ability to be happy. Subfactors in extraversion are divided

into 2 characteristics, they are interpersonal and temperamental. Warmth, Gregariousness, and Assertiveness are included in interpersonal characteristics, while activity level, excitement seeking, and positive emotion are included in temperamental characteristics; 2) **Agreeableness.** This dimension describes the quality of a person's interpersonal orientation on an ongoing basis from feelings of emotion to feelings of resistance in thoughts, feelings, and actions. The agreeableness dimension consists of subdimensions or facets: trust, straightforwardness, altruism, compliance, modesty, and tendermindedness; 3) **Conscientiousness.** Describe the behavior of the task and the direction of the goal, assess the ability of individuals in the organization, both regarding perseverance and motivation, and socially require impulse control. The dimension of conscientiousness consists of subdimensions or facets: competence, order, dutifulness, achievement striving for self-discipline, and deliberation; 4) **Neuroticism.** This dimension is an adjustment to emotional instability. This dimension consists of individual tendencies, whether easily stressed or psychologically depressed, having ideas that are not realistic, excessive desire or drive, and failure to provide appropriate responses. The dimensions of neuroticism consist of subdimensions or facets: anxiety, anger, depression, self-consciousness, impulsiveness, and vulnerability; and 5) **Openness to Experience.** This dimension describes the breadth, depth, and mental complexity of individuals and life experiences. The dimensions of openness to experience consist of subdimensions or facets: fantasy, aesthetics, actions, feelings, ideas, and values.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used qualitative methods to solve the problems by collecting data, classifying, and analyzing the liberal feminist values through Maleficent's personality traits in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film through the dialogues, actions, and reactions of others.

The source of data is *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film released in 2019, directed by Joachim Ronning, and produced by Joe Roth, Angelina Jolie, and Duncan Henderson. The data of this research are dialogues, actions, and reactions from others taken from *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film. The duration of this film is about 120 minutes.

In collecting the data, there are some steps to be employed. The first step is to watch *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* film to know the plot. Next, pay attention to every dialogue, action, and reaction from others. Then, write down the dialogues of the characters, actions, reactions from others, and the minutes of the film, as the data. After that, classify the data of liberal feminist values and personality traits based on the theory. After collecting the data, represent the data in the form of dialogues and sentences. Then analyze the data of liberal feminist values based on Tong's theory, and analyze Maleficent's personality traits based on McCrae's theory. Furthermore, make conclusions by giving the result of the research and make suggestions for future researchers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Liberal feminist values in this research showed that women have the same rights as men in civic liberty, formal education, economic opportunities, and work that require physical strength. The researchers also found four personality traits of Maleficent, namely Agreeableness,

Neuroticism, Openness to Experience, and Extraversion. The followings are the analysis of the data. The data are analyzed based on dialogues, actions, and reactions from others.

Maleficent: "I could protect them"

Connal: "How? By wagging war against the human?"

Maleficent: "I've been at war with them my whole life."

Connal: "Those children should be soaring above the trees and rivers, but they are raised in exile,"

(Minutes: 49:06 – 49:12)

Maleficent had told Connal that she could protect the children of Fey even though she had to fight with humans because she was against humans her whole life. Thus, Connal wants to make peace with humans. Therefore Maleficent said, "it will never happen." She never agrees to make peace with humans. When Maleficent saw the children of Fey soaring, she looked so excited, that she smiled looking at them. By smiling, we can see her kindness and Maleficent looked like an easily touched person. Kindness and being easily touched is the characteristic of tender-mindedness which is the subdimension of **agreeableness** personality. Her kindness supports her to become a leader. Maleficent didn't mind waging war against humans. She will become a leader who saves those children and other Feys. Maleficent demonstrates why liberal feminist values had to be considered because women have the same rights as men. A woman can be a leader.

Connal: "The Moors is our last true nature on earth and you yet named a human as queen a daughter you cared for"

Maleficent: "I have no daughter, she has chosen her side"

(Minutes: 55:36 – 55:47)

Maleficent showed an expression of disappointment because Aurora trusted Queen Ingrith more than herself. Aurora believed that Maleficent had cursed the King. Although Maleficent said that she had not cursed the King. Therefore Maleficent said to Connal that she had no daughter. Maleficent felt disappointed in the existence of Aurora when she had a dinner invitation from the Ulstead Kingdom, Aurora didn't believe her. Maleficent felt disappointed and angry because Aurora, her daughter, didn't believe in her. It showed that Maleficent is anxious and angry. She could be easily angry, resentful, rejecting, and difficult to forgive and get along well with others. This subdimension-anxiety and anger- are included in **neuroticism** personality.

Aurora: "I'm sorry I doubted you but this isn't you there's another way, I know who you are I know you."

Maleficent: "You do not"

Aurora: "Yes, I do. You're my mother"

(Minutes:1:33:48 – 1:34:08)

Aurora tried to stop Maleficent who tried to kill Queen Ingrid. Aurora explained that there was another way to solve this problem because she knew Maleficent so well but still clearly showed Maleficent's disappointment towards Aurora that Aurora didn't believe her because there was a misunderstanding between Aurora and Maleficent before. But then Aurora realized that she was wrong, then she apologized and trust Maleficent. Looking at this situation, Queen Ingrid attacked Aurora, but Maleficent protected her from the attack. The dialogues showed that Aurora apologized to Maleficent because she hadn't trusted Maleficent, and she had told Maleficent that there was another way to solve the problem. It meant that when people looked at Maleficent as a

bad person, Aurora trusted Maleficent was a good person. Therefore, it showed that Maleficent is trusted by others. It can say that Maleficent had a trust subdimension personality of **Agreeableness** personality traits. From Maleficent's personality, the liberal feminist values that appeared were supporting and helping other women to stand together, support each other, and trust one another.

Maleficent: "I missed you"

Diaval: "You just bump your head down"

Maleficent: "Yes I did"

(Minutes: 01:40:11)

At that time, Diaval was checking Maleficent after her head bump to the ground. After Maleficent saw Diaval, Maleficent said, "I missed you" to Diaval. Maleficent said to Diaval, "I missed you," after they were not meeting each other for a few days. Her feeling is sincere to Diaval. It showed that Maleficent was warm. We can conclude that the personality of Maleficent is included in **Extraversion** personality traits since warmth is one of the extraversion subdimension.

Action

Action: Maleficent comes to the moor (Minutes : 02:34).

In this action, the farmers from Ulstead came to the moors at night to steal some fairies and then sold them to the Ulstead Kingdom. When they were taking the fairies in the tree, the fairies tried to escape, and the farmers tried to chase and catch them. Two men were waiting for the farmers who caught the fairies then Maleficent came and used her power to punish the farmer. Maleficent was approaching the farmers who were stealing on the moors. She used her power to punish the humans. She also warned the humans not to steal from the moors. Maleficent had a responsibility to

protect the moors and the fairies, so it can be said that Maleficent had an assertiveness subdimension personality of **Extraversion** personality traits. From her personality as the one who had responsibility for protecting the moors and fairies, she conducted exemplifies a liberal feminist value that women have the same ability to protect themselves and their realm as men. She showed the equality of men and women in obtaining equal opportunity to lead without regard to gender.

Action: Maleficent is coming to the kingdom

(Minutes: 24:25)

This part is when Maleficent entered the Ulstead Kingdom for a dinner invitation. When Maleficent entered the Ulstead Kingdom, she had a glared expression that it can be concluded that she imagined the past when she fought with humans in the castle. This showed that Maleficent had a fantasy personality. Fantasy is the subdimension personality of Openness to Experience personality traits.

Action: Maleficent is waving her wings (Minutes: 32:20)

In this part, the Ulstead Kingdom invited Maleficent and Aurora for dinner, then Queen Ingrith talked about the past of a baby who was cursed to sleep and never woke up. Then Queen Ingrith talked about Aurora and how she got a real family, and Queen Ingrid declared Aurora as her daughter. The context showed that Maleficent had a **neuroticism** personality formed by two emotional conditions. The conditions were anxiety and anger. When Queen Ingrid declared that Aurora was her daughter, Maleficent waved her wings. She showed her personality with a high sense of hostility and tendencies to be angry, resentful, rejecting, and hard to forgive. Those personalities were included in neuroticism personality traits.

Actions: Maleficent used her power for protecting her and Connal

(Minutes: 01:04:05)

In this part, Maleficent returned to the Moors because she had an unpleasant feeling. At the time she was arriving, she saw a thousand tombs that she had planted before were all disappeared. Humans had stolen the tombs. Maleficent and Connal thought the soldiers had gone, but it turned out, that the soldiers were still in the moors, and then they attacked Maleficent with iron bullets. They attacked Maleficent quietly. Connal saved her from the attack. Connal got shot and fell to the ground. When the soldiers still attacked them, Maleficent used her strength to protect herself and Connal by making a shield. So that they were safe. The soldiers couldn't shoot them. Connal tried to protect Maleficent from the attack, but he failed. Maleficent had protected Connal and herself from the soldiers. Maleficent used her power against the soldiers and gave a warning that Maleficent was still alive. That is the reason why she always protected the moors. Her responsibility to protect the moors showed her personality which is called assertiveness. Assertiveness is the subdimension personality of extraversion personality traits. Maleficent's action is one of the liberal feminist values that she had proven that she was able to protect her kingdom. She was as strong as a man. She showed the equality between men and women to get the same opportunities without seeing the feminine side as a weak person.

Actions: Maleficent flies and smiles

(Minutes: 1:50:26)

Maleficent felt relieved that the problems were solved and she could come back to life without fear, and she proved that she could protect the children of Fey. This action showed

Maleficent could prove that she could reconcile the Feys with humans. The Feys could live without fear, and they didn't have to hide from humans anymore. The action showed the kindness of Maleficent showed that she had a tender-mindedness subdimension of personality which included into **Agreeableness** personality trait. From Maleficent's kind personality, it can be seen that the liberal feminist value emphasized the freedom that women could get. Women deserved to have the same rights as men in freedom.

Reaction from others

Reaction: General said that Prince Philip called the creatures from moors are "Moor folk".

(Minutes: 13:20).

In this part, Prince Philip was talking with the General on his way back to the Ulstead Kingdom, they talked about the creatures that lived in the moor, and Prince Philip called the creatures moor folks, but the General said that the creatures that live in the moors are monsters. It showed the reaction of the General that Maleficent had an emotional condition, high tense hostility called anger. According to the General, Maleficent's anger was so scary that the same as a monster. It can be seen from his words when he said that all creatures who lived on the moors, including Maleficent, were monsters. It meant that the General had an opinion that Maleficent is a cruel creature that was the same as a monster. Maleficent's anger is included in **neuroticism** personality traits. The General was stereotyping the women that the women could not reach their goals because they were not masculine and physically strong as men. Maleficent keeps going and ignoring all these men's perspectives because people have the right to choose life for what they want without any

interventions from others. This is one of the liberal feminist values. Women can have the right to freedom, and get the same right as men, for instance, civic liberty.

Reactions: According to Borra, Maleficent has the power to fight humans

(Minutes: 44:12)

Borra, one of the dark Fey, suggested other Feys make war with humans, but Connal opposed it because they couldn't win against humans. The Feys almost extinct because of that they were hiding far away from humans, they lived in an exile that they called a nest. They knew that humans had a thing from iron (bullet) that could kill them. However, Borra still convinced other Feys that they could win against humans because they had Maleficent who had power that other Feys didn't have. According to Borra, Maleficent can be a leader against humans. The reaction from Borra showed that Maleficent could become a leader. This personality is called assertiveness which is a subdimension personality of **Extraversion** personality traits. The liberal feminist value in this part is a woman can have the same opportunity as a man to become a leader.

Reactions: If only Connal could see you

(Minutes: 01:44:00)

In this part, Maleficent proved that she could make the Feys and the humans reconcile. Then Borra told her that if Connal was alive, Connal would be proud of her. Borra's remark "if only Connal could see you" indicated that Connal was proud of Maleficent for doing good things to bring the Feys and the humans together in harmony. The reaction from Borra and other Feys proved that Maleficent could be trusted. Therefore, Maleficent had a straightforwardness subdimension personality of **Agreeableness** personality traits that she was trusted by

others. Borra's replies exemplified liberal feminist values that a male could encourage and assist a woman in continuing to stand and fight for her goals.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the film, the researchers found that Maleficent as the main character proved that women deserved to have the same rights as men such as civic liberty, formal education, economic opportunities, and work that require physical strength. The researchers also found that Maleficent has four personalities of the big five personality traits, namely tender-mindedness as a subdimension of Agreeableness personality traits; anxiety and anger as a subdimension of Neuroticism personality traits; trust as a subdimension of Agreeableness; warmth as a subdimension of Extraversion; assertiveness as subdimension of Extraversion; straightforwardness as subdimension of Agreeableness, and fantasy as subdimension of Openness to Experience.

The researchers hope that this research will not only be useful for the readers but also for other researchers who want to analyze the personality traits and liberal feminism values. The researchers suggest other researchers use other literary works besides film such as song lyrics, poetry, novel, etc, and use other theories about feminism.

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