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**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WOMEN STEREOTYPES
IN BJÖRN RUNGE'S FILM *THE WIFE* AND GARY ROSS' FILM
*OCEAN'S 8***

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Abstract

. This article aims to compare women stereotypes, in two different films by analyzing the different ways between two different generations facing women stereotypes. Socialist feminist theory by Mary Ellmann that women stereotypes are used in this article by applying several concepts: confinement, compliance, and piety. The writer uses a descriptive qualitative method to explain the data. There are two findings, the first finding is the silent generation applies women stereotypes while generation X does not apply women stereotypes. The second finding is silent generation is influenced by social perspective while generation X does not influence by social perspective.

Keywords: comparative literature, woman stereotype, representation, difference

I. INTRODUCTION

Gender issues that harm women is something that Americans fight for until now. The Global Gender Gap Index (2021) declares that America was ranked 30th out of 156 countries. All the cases of gender issues that harm women can happen because of several reasons. One of them is the stereotypes that strongly attach to women, namely women stereotypes.

Todd D. Nelson (2015, p. 11-12) defines stereotypes as “the traits that come to mind quickly when we think about the groups.” Women’s stereotypes limit women’s movement in society because they are labeled based on those stereotypes. When women accept and believe in those stereotypes, they cannot develop themselves in all life sectors. However, the women who do not believe in those stereotypes will try to deconstruct them.

These two different women’s responses can be seen through two films, *The Wife* and *Ocean’s 8*. There are two different generations of women in these two films. Silent generation in *The Wife* and generation X in *Ocean’s 8*. This article will discuss which women stereotypes are represented by the silent generation women in *The Wife* and how they are

deconstructed by the generation X women in *Ocean’s 8* and how social perspective influence the attitude of the two different generations of women. The writer will use the socialist feminist theory by Marry Ellmann. The writer uses three concepts from the nine concepts, namely confinement, compliancy, and piety and the writer will explain them using a descriptive qualitative method.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this article, the writer uses socialist feminist theory by Marry Ellmann namely women stereotypes. Todd D. Nelson (2015, p. 11-12) says that stereotype is the characteristics of one group that immediately come into mind when one thinks about that group. This means that the characteristics of that group strongly attach to other minds so when society thinks about that group, they will remember those characteristics or it can be said as the identity of that group. Generally, stereotypes direct to the negative identity of one group but some members of that group may not apply or even do not have the identity of the stereotypes that others refer to their group.

2.1 Confinement

Society is destined for men not for

women. To enter society, women must have something that more than what men have. Although women have something more than men, they cannot enter society because society is exclusively for men. Women can only enter the house zone that is destined for them. This is called confinement. Ellmann (1968, p.92) says that confinement is the narrow workspace of women.

2.2 Piety

Women are tied to many rules in their life. These rules come from religion and manners that are applied in the surrounding. These rules are made by man because they are considered creature that is in the first position and wise. Meanwhile, women's role is to accept and obey the rules that are made by men because they believe that men are wise and those rules are the best for them. Even though there are some rules that build inequality but they keep believing in those rules and do not against them. This is called piety. Ellmann (1968, p.93) says that piety is the condition when women receive and do the lie and the desolate things that men form for women.

2.3 Compliancy

Women always use their feeling and show their responses

to others in the form of emotion. Women are confident to show their emotion rather than their thought. This is called compliancy. Ellmann (1968, p.120) says that compliancy is the condition when women are not brave enough to express their thought.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

In this article, the writer sees the data based on the feminist approach. The writer applies the socialist feminism by Mary Ellmann and uses the concept that is women's stereotypes. To collect the data, the writer watches the films, reads the script of the films, and does the library research. The films and their script are the primary data. For the secondary data, the writer uses the book of theory and other book sources to analyze and do this research. The data from the movies is qualitative data and the researcher appreciates those data by showing it in the form of pictures, words, or sentences. After showing the data, the writer will analyze the data, explain the data in detail and apply the appropriate concept to support the explanation. So, descriptive qualitative will be used when the writer reports the data.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Confinement and Compliancy

Sociologically, the highest position in patriarchal culture is held by men. The reason is that men are considered smarter, stronger, wiser, and more rational than women. On the opposite, women in patriarchal culture are only considered as the complement that completes the men. The reason is that women are regarded as weak and irrational creatures that can only complement men.

From a long time ago until 2021, America applied patriarchal culture and it can be seen through the different treatment between women and men as women's opportunity to enter the public area is very small while men's opportunity to enter the public area is very large and women's rights are very limited while men's rights are not limited. As a result, women cannot develop their own abilities and their positions are always under the men.

4.1.1 Silent Generation Women and Generation X Women toward Confinement Stereotype

Generally, boys and girls are equal and they are born with freedom but people differentiate them based on some factors even before they are born, for instance, color and toy. For example, blue baby clothes for boys and pink baby clothes for girls. Toy cars

and balls for boys and dolls and cooking toys for girls are other differentiators that were made by people. Girls cannot play with balls and toy cars because those are for boys and viceversa. This treatment creates a border between boys and girls. For example, girls that are given dolls and cooking toys are expected to be good housewives when they are grown up that are just focused to take care of their husbands and children domestically. Ellmann (1968, p.92) says that confinement is a condition when women's functions are only in domestic functions. Domestic is all things that relate to household life. Taking care of husbands, taking care of children, serving guests, cooking food, cleaning the house, washing clothes, washing dishes, and buying groceries are some examples of household work that women do in their daily life.

Taking care of children is one of the domestic functions carried out by women in the silent generation. This domestic task has also become one of the jobs for women, for example, babysitting. Babysitting is a job that is closely related to women and the term of this job is a babysitter. According to Kidsit (2018, p 8), there are only 2.9% of male babysitters and the rest 97.1% are female babysitters. This shows that babysitting is indeed a domestic task for women and not men and it can be seen through the quotation below:



4.1 Young Joe and young Joan

Young Joe: Would you be interested in babysitting? My wife and I haven't gotten out since Fanny was born.

Young Joan : Sure, I love babies. (2018: 20)

From the quotation above, young Joan is offered to be a babysitter for young Joe's daughter and it shows in the sentence "Would you be interested in babysitting?" This signifies that young Joe believes in young Joan to take care of his daughter. He is sure that young Joan is the right person to do this task and that his daughter will be safe with Joan. Then, the word "Sure" from Joan confirms that babysitting is surely a job for women because this word expresses that Joan does not refuse and she does not hesitate to accept this job offer. She immediately accepts that offer and she reassures young Joe that she will take good care of his children through the sentence "I love babies." This sentence symbolizes that taking care of children is indeed women's nature. They love babies and children no matter if it's their own babies or

someone else's babies. Most women take care of their own children at their home but they also have a job to take care of someone else's child. This proves that women only do their function in the domestic area. They are confined to the domestic area because they do the domestic function at their own house that is in domestic area and they also do their job in the domestic area as well.

On the contrary, the generation X woman that is Tammy breaks the perception that women only have a domestic function and domestic area as their space. She proves that by doing two functions in two areas. She is a mother who takes care of her son in their house and she is also an employee in her company. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.2 Housewife



4.3 Worker

Tammy: (Ball bouncing loudly) Hey, buddy. Can you do me a favor? Can you take that outside? (2018: 28:06)

HRD: Well, you certainly seem qualified.

HRD: Okay, so here is your desk.

Tammy: Thank you (2018: 49:46, 50:34)

From the quotation above Tammy performs her function in two areas, namely the domestic area, and the public area. In the domestic area, Tammy admonishes her

son not to play ball in the house but he can play the ball outside the house and this can be seen through the sentence “Can you take that outside?” Tammy does that because inside their house there are many things that can break and could hurt her son. In the public area, Tammy has a job in one company because she is accepted by the HRD and it can be seen through the sentence “Well, you certainly seem qualified.” She also has her own space and it shows in the sentence “Okay, so here is your desk.” In that company, she is not alone but she works with her colleagues as can be seen in picture 4.1.3. It can be concluded that Tammy does her domestic function which is taking care of her own son and she also has a career in the public area.

4.1.2 Silent Generation Women and Generation X Women toward Compliancy Stereotype

In fact, everyone has the right to share their opinion but women in a patriarchal environment are not brave enough to share their opinion because men are the ones who can share their opinion. Ellmann (1968, p.119-120) says that compliancy is a condition where men are free to express their opinion while women are not

allowed to express their opinion. This is happened because of the assumption that men are smarter than women so women’s opinions are not needed and they choose to be silent. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.4 Joe speaks 4.5 Joan quiet

Joe: Well, my wife doesn’t write, thank God, otherwise I’d have permanent writer’s block. (More laughter. Joan extends her hand and introduces herself) (2016: 39)

From the quotation above, Joan does not have the courage to express her mind to defend herself when her husband said something that is not right about her. It can be seen through Joan’s attitude who just keeps silent and looks down. This proves that the ones who can express their mind are men while women can only be quiet and accept everything.

On the contrary, compliancy stereotype is deconstructed by generation X women. Generation X women are no longer keeping quiet but they are already brave to express what is in their minds to others, especially to men. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.6 Rose speaking French

Cartier exec: That necklace is value at over \$150 million.

Rose: Well, I'm not really a number person.

Cartier exec: It would require its own security team, a new insurance policy

Rose: I'm sure you'll work out all those details.

Cartier exec: (Scoffs) Oh, it's not that simple. I'm afraid the answer is no.

Rose: No?

Cartier exec: No.

Rose: Look, can I be frank? I have always love Cartier. I think historically, this has been the most significant house in the world. But there is whole generation out there who mispronounce your name.

Cartier exec: French can be difficult.

Rose: No, not really. Look, I'm trying to help you and if you don't want my help, I understand but the "Toussaint" isn't doing any good sitting in a vault. When it could be going viral, around

the world. Nestled in the ample bosom of Daphne Kluger.
Amita: Oui. (2018: 35:53-36:15)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Rose is very daring to say her opinion. It shows through the sentence "No, not really." In this sentence, she denies the Cartier executive's opinion that French can be difficult for others. She does not just keep silent but she states that boldly and confidently. Even though she is rejected, she keeps convincing him by offering help and keep saying what is on her mind about Toussaint.

4.2 The Influence of Social Perspective on The Silent Generation Women and Generation X Women

The correlation between the causes and its effects is called causality. Everything that happens in the world must happen because of something, namely a cause, and it is certain that there will be a final result of it, namely an effect. There are two effects that will be formed. The first one is a negative effect and the second one is a positive effect. Likewise, the influence of a social perspective on a generation must have an effect on that generation.

The cause of the negative effect on women's careers in a public area is the social perspective. Society's point of view

is women are more suitable to do domestic tasks in a domestic area rather than have careers in a public area. It is undeniable that social perspective has a big influence on a person's life. A person is usually considering what society will think when he does something. When he does something that different from the perspective of society, will he look very different from the others or will society ostracize him? In the end, the effect is a person will always follow the social perspective of society every time he does something. This is suitable with Ellman's concept, namely piety. Ellmann (1968, p.93) says that piety is a condition where women perform the untruth that is made by men.

In the silent generation in America around 1956, there is a social perspective on women's careers, specifically, women cannot have careers in the public area. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.7 Elaine warn Joan

Elaine: The public can't stomach bold prose from a woman. Their loss. You're talented, I hear.
 Young Joan: (Blushing)
 Oh. Thank you. I love to

write. It's my life.

Elaine: Don't do it.

Young Joan: Excuse me?

Elaine: C'mere. (Elaine pulls Joan over to the stacks) You know where your books will end up? (She points her drink up at a small row of books on a top shelf) Right there. On the alumni shelf. Pick one, any one. Go ahead.

Young Joan: (Slide a book out)

Elaine: Open it up.

Young Joan: (Opens the book and the spine give off a stiff crack)

Elaine: You hear that? That's the sound of a book that's never been opened. Don't ever think you can get their attention.

Young Joan: Whose?

Elaine: The men who write the reviews, who run the publishing houses, who edit the magazines, the one who decide who gets to be taken seriously, who gets to be put up on the pedestal for the rest of their lives. Who gets to be King Shit.

Young Joan: But a writer has to write.

Elaine: A writer has to be red, honey. (2016: 47-48)

From the quotation above, Elaine tells young Joan about the social perspective where man is the only one who can have a career in the public area. It can be seen through the sentence "The public can't stomach bold prose from a woman." The phrase "can't stomach" has the same meaning as the word "refuse". This sentence proves that society accepts men and rejects women. Society accepts men because the public area is indeed the area for men.

“The men who write the reviews, who run the publishing houses, who edit the magazines, the one who decides who gets to be taken seriously” This sentence already proves that men believe that public area belongs to them and then they dominate all the important sectors in this area. Ingeborg van Teeseling (2020, p.5) says that public area is not for the public anymore because men act as if they are the one who has them. Because men own the public area, men’s opinion is very important, especially about who can have a career in this area. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.8 Publishing house

White: I have a novel here by a lady writer. It’s about an American family that spans three generations. It’s great writing, kind of brilliant in parts. But I thought it was a little soft. Hal: Soft?

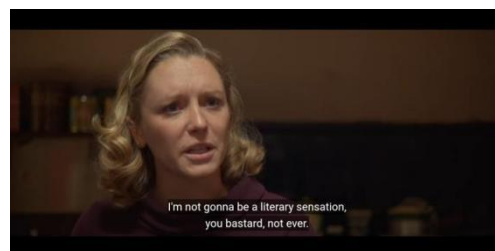
White: It’s from the point of view of this woman. I don’t know, just didn’t grab me. Lovejoy: Is she good-looking?

White: So-so

Hal: How about Jewish writers. Anyone have any smart young Jewish writers? All the big

houses have one. Where the hell is ours? (2016: 49)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the men in the publishing house are discussing by sharing their opinion to choose the story that they will publish. The statement “It’s from the point of view this woman. I don’t know, just didn’t grab me” prove that women will not succeed when they want to have a career because, in the career field, men are the one who holds the power to decide. Just because that novel is written using a woman’s point of view and he does not interest in it, that novel cannot be published and the woman writer who has talent will not become a famous and successful writer because her novel will never be published. Young Joan also works in that publishing house but not as a writer but as a waiter. She does domestic task and does not have a career. This happened because she is aware that the job as a writer is not for her even though she has talent in writing. It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.9 Joan gives up Young Joe: No, you’re the girl with the golden

touch. You'll go on to be a literary sensation while I stay at home grading papers and cooking the pot roast. Young Joan: I'm not gonna be a literary sensation, you bastard, not ever. No one will ever publish my books, and even if they did, no one would read them. (2018: 1:04:22-1:04:37)

From the quotation above, Young Joan accepts the women stereotype that women cannot have a career. She accepts that she cannot be a writer. It shows in her statement "I'm not going to be a literary sensation, you bastard, not ever. No one will ever publish my books, and even if they did no one would read them." This statement proves that young Joan listens to Elaine suggestion and learns from what she saw in the publishing house and then she realizes that she will not become a female writer. Young Joan's decision is also influenced by the characteristic of the silent generation, namely traditionalists.

Otherwise, generation X in post-modern society in America, women also get rejection in the form of mockery by men when they do their job in

the public area. It can be seen through the quotation below:

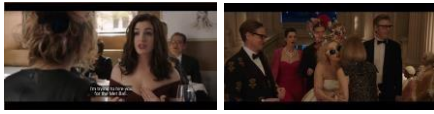


4.10 The lenders

(One model enter) Lenders:
 (They talk to each other and then, the man in the middle shakes his head with disappointed face)
 Debbie: (Inaudible conversation)
 They look a little worried. (2018: 16:45-16:56)

From the quotation above, there is a man who is the lender who gave the loan to Rose and mockery her because of her design. It can be seen through his action "the man in the middle shakes his head with a disappointed face". Shake head is a gesture that shows dislike and disapproval. That man does not like and is disappointed in Rose's design, he is worried that people will not buy Rose's clothes, then the money that he lends to Rose will not return. But Rose as a generation X woman does not care about that, she continues to do what she can and what she wants because one of the characteristics of generation X is individual freedom. Freedom is the best reward for generation X. They are free to choose what the best for them. Eventually, Rose proves that her design ability is recognized by people because there is someone who hires her to design her gown.

It can be seen through the quotation below:



4.11 Rose meets Daphne 4.12 Rose goes to Gala
Daphne: I'm trying to hire you for the Met Ball. (2018:1:50:09)

From the quotation above, there is someone who is going to ask Rose to design and make her gown. It can be seen through Daphne's statement "I'm trying to hire you for the Met Ball." Daphne is a very famous artist who wants to attend a big event that exhibits diamonds and is attended by many very famous artists. This means that Rose's talent in design is approved by a famous person. In that event, she meets many other famous artists and because Daphne wears her design, her name will be known by many people.

V. CONCLUSION

The silent generation deals with women's stereotypes by accepting and living them. They represent women's stereotypes. On the opposite, generation X deals with women's stereotypes by rejecting and doing the opposite. They deconstruct the women stereotypes. This

happened because the silent generation is a traditionalist who is follow the existing systems and rules, while generation X is a non-traditionalist. Then, the silent generation's women deal with the influence from a social perspective by believing it and they follow it. This is influenced by the innate nature of the silent generation itself which always follows things that have existed before without daring to change them. On the contrary, generation X's women deals with the influence from a social perspective by rejecting it and continuing to do what they think is right. It happens because generation X believes in individual freedom.

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