

# FEMALE OPPRESSION TOWARD FEMALE CHARACTERS IN *MARS NEED MOM* MOVIE

**Azizatur Rahma, Surya Sili, Erna Wati**  
English Department, Faculty of Cultural Science  
Mulawarman University  
email: liariaziza@gmail.com

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## Abstract

In this study the researcher analyzed the oppression from female character toward other female characters. The researcher only discussed two female characters, Milo's mother and Gribble's mother who gained the oppression from Supervisor as another female character because the researcher wanted to prove that oppression could also happen from female to female (same sex). There are two objectives of the study in this research, to show the forms of oppression which occur toward female characters in *Mars Need Mom* movie and to analyze how the female characters, experience the oppression that are shaped by another female character in *Mars Need Mom* movie. The five faces of oppression is a theory that is explained by Irish Marion Young. The theory is related toward the form of oppression which usually occur in the society. This form of oppression somehow called as injustice action that adhere toward people or group because of several reasons, such as class, race and gender. The five faces of oppression are marginalization, exploitation, powerlessness, cultural imperialism and violence. The result of this study are, Milo's mother got three faces oppression from Supervisor, those three oppression are marginalization, powerlessness and violence. Whereas Gribble's mother got four faces oppression. The four faces of oppression are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, and violence. And the process of oppression that was gained by two mothers firstly which was done by Supervisor (female) was, Supervisor observed them, abducted them and extracted them using solar extraction machine. The different process from both of them is Martians succeed to extract Gribble's mother, whereas Milo's mother, the extraction is failed because Milo was successful in saving his mother. Based on those analysis, the researcher concludes that the oppression toward women can be done by women. Therefore, the researcher believes that the oppression toward women is not always caused by gender assumption that male is superior rather than women, but the oppression can be happened due to the power which is had by the perpetrators (men and women) of oppression.

**Key words:** female, oppression, feminism, gender roles.

## A. INTRODUCTION

The concept of inequality between men and women in the society has developed. The problem that has been discussed is not only about the right in the politics sector, but also about other issues such as domination and violence that are experienced by women. The violence that happens repeatedly toward women such as hitting even to the measure that led to the death, has discussed intensively in feminism studies. This action links toward the sense of oppression explained by Young,

“... sense oppression refers to the vast and deep injustices some groups suffer as a consequence of often unconscious assumptions and reactions of well-meaning people in ordinary interactions, media and cultural stereotypes, and structural features of bureaucratic hierarchies and market mechanisms—in short the normal processes of everyday life” (5).

The statement above explains that the oppression is an injustice action, practiced by people or group toward other people. The action of oppression which is governed by people or group makes other people suffered, even if they do it unconsciously. The meaning of suffer here is not only when people die but also when people unconsciously put other people in unfortunate place which harm them.

The depiction of oppression which places people in unfortunate condition is depicted in literary work as well. Literary work as a reflection of human life has described the oppression in novel, poem, and play. Film as a new kind of play is never left behind to show it. The oppression toward woman is usually taken as the theme in several films. One of the film that shows the oppression toward woman is *Mars Need Mom*. *Mars Need Mom* is an animated movie which was released in 2011. It was directed by Simon Wells which tells about Milo's mother who is abducted and almost killed by Martian (Mars Human) in Mars.

The researcher chose this movie to be analyzed, because there are several acts and scenes likely indicated the oppression toward women through the script, action, and scene in the movie. Secondly, in this movie, the oppression toward women is governed by women, whereas in other movies, the oppression toward women is usually governed by men.

The gender oppression usually appears where there is a dominant and submissive perspective on gender roles between male and female in the society. In the feminist discussion, the domination of male toward woman always becomes the spotlight. Feminist argues that men have monopolized the crucial position which harm the women, Tyson in his book *Critical Theory Today*, explains this idea:

“Feminists have observed, to justify and maintain the male monopoly of positions of economic, political, and social power, in other words, to keep women powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic, political, and social power” (86).

Tyson states that the men have monopolized the condition, where they have more domination toward women. He explains that male's domination creates discrimination toward female. Female are ordered to be powerless by establishing them become uneducated, so that they will not capable to be placed in social power. In the other word, women are alienated from crucial position, and are only placed in the domestic area for sweeping, or caring the children (85). This circumstance lead the women depend their selves toward other people, whether it is her family or her closer friends. In several cases or common cases, women depend on the person they married to which are their husband or well known as 'men'. The powerless females itself easily directed to become the object of oppression.

Similar with Tyson, Johnson states that when a woman finds her way into such positions, people tend to be struck by the exception to the rule and wonder how she will measure up against a man in the same position (5). It shows that women are also oppressed by society's perception about their capability against men's capability. Society underestimates women's capability due to women's stereotypes, they depict them as weak, sensitive, and emotional creatures. These stereotypes are wrong impression for

women in order to gain a place in public position. Even the challenge against women gaining position is not only apposing by the men, but also from their own sex which is women.

Both of Tyson and Johnson case are the examples of feminism problem, even if the perpetrators are different. The perpetrator of Tyson's case is men whereas in Johnson's case the perpetrator is society. Based on those explanations, the researcher interest to see another side of oppression toward woman in literary work as a reflection of human's enigma. After seeing the different perpetrators of oppression toward women which explained by Tyson and Johnson and still included to what feminism is, so that the writer would like to discuss this feminism study from different perpetrator, which is the oppression toward women, therefore, in this study the researcher analyzed the oppression of women which is governed by women in a movie *Mars Need Mom*.

Based on the background above, the aims of this study are: (1) to show the forms of oppression which occurred toward female characters in *Mars Need Mom* movie; and (2) to analyze how the female characters, experienced the oppression that were shaped by another female character in *Mars Need Mom* movie.

## **B. THE OPPRESSION TERMINOLOGY**

Young states that oppression has different term and context. In traditional term, oppression relates to the tyranny action which governed by a ruling group, whereas in politic field the term of oppression relates toward the stake holder of it. For the example, communist believes that capitalism is a cause of oppression toward labor; meanwhile the capitalist believes that communism is a form of oppression where the right of society is taken by a dictator (5).

According to Johnson oppression is a system of social inequality one group is positioned to dominate and benefit the exploitation and subordination of another (24). Johnson states that the oppression happens when there is a position prospers one group to exploit and subordinate other people or group. The position can be created because of the amount of power that owned by the group.

The oppression issues also discussed by Chernin, but she specifies it to the oppression toward women, Chernin says that women mostly oppressed by the concept of "the tyranny of slenderness" and that is a particular oppression in post-1960s, as post-feminist phenomenon (Quinby and Diamond 87). In this case women indirectly oppressed to be slim as a standard of beauty concept in the society. They usually do everything toward their body such as doing plastic surgery in order to fulfill the standard of beauty, as society constitutes the concept. Even, they control their weight body through vomiting, diuretics, and laxatives. The tyranny of slenderness in the society forces women to oppress themselves to be slim.

Similar with Chernin, according to Langan women are denied from their rights and they are oppressed through stereotypes which are often reinforced by social workers (8). Langan states, the oppression toward women usually happen because of their stereotype in the society, such as nurturing, soft, and weak, these stereotypes which lead women to be oppressed. Unconsciously, these stereotypes keep women in domestic area in order to manage the subordinate thing and hindered to their rights to express themselves to be what they want. The Society perspective of what women supposed to be, makes them cannot explore their capability except in domestic area.

Beauvoir also states that the oppression toward woman usually happens because they are possessed by custom, a tradition, sometimes religion doctrine or culture (12).

Custom, a tradition, sometimes religion doctrine or culture considered as legalization of oppression toward women. For the example, In Africa there is a tradition called breast ironing. Africa girls' breasts are ironed in order to protect them from raping. Their breasts are vandalized using various objects, including stones, coconut shells, ladles, spatulas, hammers, which are placed those objects on a fire, then pounded or rigorously massaged on the breast of adolescent girls. The aim of the practice is to flatten or lessen the visibility of a young girl's breasts, thereby making her less desirable to potential male predators. Based on the reason of tradition and the protection toward women, women's breasts are legitimate to be ironed, although it is harm their health (King 1).

In short, the oppression toward women are the actions from individual or group that place women in the position of marginalization, exploitation, powerlessness, cultural imperialism and violence because of their stereotype as women.

### C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Milo's mother got three faces oppression from Supervisor, those three oppression are marginalization, powerlessness and violence. Whereas Gribble's mother got four faces oppression. The four faces of oppression are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, and violence.

After analyzing the process of oppression that was gained by two mothers, the researcher concludes that the process of oppression which is firstly done by Supervisor (female) are, Supervisor observes them, abducts them and extracted them using solar extraction machine. The different process from both of them is Martians succeed to extract Gribble's mother, whereas Milo's mother, the extraction was failed because Milo was successful in saving her mother.

Based on those analysis, the researcher concludes that the oppression toward women can be done by women. Therefore, the researcher believes that the oppression toward women is not always caused by gender assumption that male is superior rather than women, but the oppression can be happened due to the power which is had by the prepetators (men and women) of oppression.

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