# THE NEGOTIATION OF THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE IN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST SCRIPT



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# THE NEGOTIATION OF THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE IN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST SCRIPT

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In Disney Princess fairy tales, women always portray women as passive, resigned, and just waiting for men's help. However, this Beauty and the Beast script comes differently from the previous royal fairy tale films. This manuscript tells of an educated woman among the villagers who still adhere to Feminine Mystique (traditional thinking that considers women as objects). This research is qualitative research. His research topic is the manuscript Beauty and the Beast by Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos. The primary data in this study are expressions in dialogue, phrases, clauses and sentences, and paragraphs related to Feminine Mystique and the way the main female characters negotiate these thoughts in the script. The results of the analysis show that there are two important points. First, Feminine Mystique which is applied by villagers. Second, Belle's way of negotiating Feminine Mystique's thoughts in her own way. There are 2 forms of Feminine Mystique in this text, namely the neglect of women by villagers and there is a prohibition on access to education for women. In terms of negotiation, the main female character takes actions that can be divided into two, namely becoming an independent woman and being able to save other people's lives.

Keywords: Feminine Mystique, Negotiations, Women, Gender Equality

#### **ABSTRAK**

Dalam film dongeng Disney Princess selalu menggambarkan perempuan sebagai sosok yang pasif, pasrah dan hanya menunggu pertolongan laki-laki. Namun dalam naskah Beauty and the Beast kali ini hadir secara berbeda dari film dongeng kerajaan sebelumnya. Naskah ini menceritakan perempuan yang berpendidikan ditengah-tengah penduduk desa yang masih menganut Feminine Mystique (Pemikiran tradisional yang menganggap perempuan sebagai objek) Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Topik penelitiannya adalah naskah Beauty and the Beast karya Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos. Data primer dalam penelitian ini adalah ungkapan dalam dialog, frasa, klausa dan kalimat dan paragraf yang berkaitan dengan Feminine Mystique dan cara karakter utama perempuan menegosiasi pemikiran tersebut dalam naskah. Hasil analisis menunjukkan terdapat dua poin penting. Pertama, Feminine Mystique yang diterapkan oleh penduduk desa. Kedua, cara Belle menegosiasi pemikiran Feminine Mystique dengan caranya sendiri. Terdapat 2 bentuk Feminine Mystique dalam naskah ini yaitu pengabaian

perempuan oleh penduduk desa dan terdapat larangan akses pendidikan untuk kaum perempuan. Untuk dalam hal menegosiasi, karakter utama perempuan melakukan tindakan yang dapat dibagi menjadi dua yaitu menjadi perempuan yang mandiri dan bisa menyelamatkan hidup orang lain.

Kata kunci: Feminine Mystique, Negosiasi, Perempuan, Persamaan Gender

#### INTRODUCTION

Some people say women are considered inferior human being compared to men as stated by Carol Smart (Smart, 1977). The cause of women's inferiority has led to debate, especially among the feminists. The example of inferiority is as stated by Catherine MacKinnon, she builds up her theory of gender as a theory of sexuality. Roughly: the social significance of (gender) is made by a sexual generalization of women whereby women are seen and treated as objects for fulfilling men's desire (MacKinnon, 1989).

Masculinity is characterized as sexual strength, gentility as sexual submissiveness: genders are made through the eroticization of predominance and submissiveness. The man/woman difference and the predominance and submission dynamic characterize one another. This is the social significance of sex (Cornell & MacKinnon, 1991). In this way, gender difference according to MacKinnon does not involve having a specific mental direction or personal conduct standard; rather, it is an element of sexuality that is hierarchal in man-centric social orders.

On the other side, there are feminists wrote their opinion to gain the same right with men. First, (Wollstonecraft, 1759), she has been powerful in her works A Vindication of the Rights of Woman remarked on society's perspective on the lady and urged ladies to utilize their voices in setting on choices separate from choices recently made for them.

Second, Elizabeth Candy Stanton (Stanton, 2010), an American Activist, she was instrumental in organizing the Seneca Falls, New York. Not exclusively was the suffragist development critical to Stanton, she additionally was associated with ladies' parental guardianship rights, separate from laws, conception prevention, work, and salary rights, among others. The feminists wrote their opinion about women's inferiority to express that women have the same right to gain equity with man. That's why there is a social movement called Feminism.

Feminism is about all genders that have the same rights and opportunities. It is talking about respecting women's diverse knowledge, identity, strength, and trying to empower all women to realize their full rights. This social movement helps women to gain gender equity with man. This social movement influences literary work, because in literature, the enthusiasm of women to get the same role received

various responses from authors. There are many authors write about women's struggles in her life, looks like suffering and controlled by men in a system of patriarchal.

This is significant theory to analyze women's character throughout history and the struggle of women to get their rights. Thus, the use of feminist theory to analyze the character Beauty and The Beast Script, which is a depiction of changing role of women, can make it researcher to analyze the character of a woman who experiences a change in social roles.

The latest version of Beauty and The Beast (2017) and the main character called Belle was originally write in form of novel that described for 18th century French women (Villeneuve, 1740). This novel tells about a girl who lived in a little village and has a passion for books, smart and she makes her own decision, which is not something that could saw in French Literature or French Society at the time.

Compared to her Disney predecessors, Belle was a revelation. She was not a sleep for 75 percent of a story compare to Aurora in" Sleeping Beauty" (Perrault, 1959). She does more than dress up for a ball shown by Ella in Cinderella Movie (O'Brien, 1996) and accidentally threaten other women with her beauty looks like Snow White (Grimm, 1937), and she doesn't need to woo a man when she physically loses her voice by Ariel in The Little Mermaid movie (O'Brien, 1996). Belle has passion learn new things and reading books and does not want to be married to a masculine figure that portrays her as an authoritative Disney Princess.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

# 1. Feminine Mystique

Feminine mystique is a concept of women that value women as fulfilling men desire and have to do domestic life. In her book, The Feminine Mystique (Friedan, 1963) of Betty Friedan explains many things, which include Mystique of women in 18-20 century era. A very thick mystique in that era was that women must obey the rules made by men, raise children, be good mothers, and be perfect women to be wives.

Those problems and myths that make women feel bored and want to improve themselves. They want to position themselves as equals to men. Therefore, Betty Friedan wants to destroy all the myths and become a useful woman and can develop herself to achieve what she dreams of in life.

# 2. Escaping the Traditional Roles

This subchapter tells us about women dignity according to men, such as how to dress and looks beautiful in every time, how to be perfect wives and always get big attention from her husband and how to raise a child into a successful person.

This problem had already happened in the 18th century in which the environment considered women to be merely the satisfaction of men and taking care of the household. In subchapter The Crisis in Women Identity by Betty Friedan (Friedan, 1963) she encourages women to improve and reach what they want to be in life.

## 3. Woman in Political Sphere

When society asks women about the future, women must answer by listening to their own inner voice what they want in life. Women must find their identities in a changing world. According to Betty Friedan in subchapter A New Life Plan for Women (Friedan, 1963).

Because many women are trapped in their own minds without knowing what their desires and dreams will be. Thus, making women just stay at home without developing themselves. Then in this subchapter encourages women to listen to their inner voice to do something outside the home and achieve what they dream of.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative method. The definition of qualitative research that collects and analyzes non-numerical data such as video, text, and audio to understand a concept and experience according to Glesne (Glesne, 2016). This research can be used to gather deep insights about a problem or new ideas for research, starting from choosing the most dominant specific data. The researcher finds out about the character and characterization, plot and setting. The researcher finds out about the stereotype of Belle's perception.

#### **ANALYSIS**

This chapter talks about the analysis that deals with those problems in the research. There are two points in this analysis; mystique and negotiation. This research will analyze the mystique of women in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century era and how the main female character negotiates the mystique for further comprehensive analysis in *Beauty and the Beast* Script. First, explains the thick mystique in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that women have no career and have to face domestic life. Last, this part will explain how the main female character negotiates the mystique in a changing world.

# 1. The Feminine Mystique Reflected in Beauty and the Beast Script

In the United States, women's roles in 18th century have complicated jobs to women in marriage, doing domestic life without freedom is a must. It tells about women's roles in a marriage that they doing the same activities in daily. Such as, clean the house, shopped for groceries, made the beds, eat sandwiches full of peanut butter with her children, and lay down beside her husband at night. Cooking and baby care activities are very time-consuming for women, they work on domestic life every day, thus limiting women from having careers.

In Beauty and the Beast Script, there is a little village in the hidden heart of France, live villagers considered woman as fulfilling men desire and control housewives. The villagers still have primitive minds and still adhere to the traditional mystique, so it is difficult for this village to develop and progress in a changing world. There are two points that will be discussed to answer the problems.

# a. Neglecting Women by Society

This part will discuss about villagers in the 18th century that considered women as fulfilling man desire and control the housewives, different from the main female character of this movie. Based on this research, it was found that Belle is a beautiful girl, a gorgeous and smart woman in a poor village. But she has a big dream in life that usual women cannot reach it because of the traditional mystique.

(1) (In the morning Belle, she takes a deep breath of morning air and gazes toward the church which peeks above the village rooftops to say bonjour to the villagers and walk with a book in his hand (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991))

JEAN : "Good morning, Belle!" (Jean scratches his head, trying to remember something he searches his cart which is loaded with pottery)

BELLE: "Good morning, Monsieur Jean. Have you lost something again?"

JEAN : "I believe I have. Problem is, I can't remember what. Well. I'm sure it will come to me.

(as she leaves him)

JEAN : "Where are you off to?

BELLE : "To return this book to Pere Robert. It's about two lovers in fair Verona.

JEAN : "Sounds boring." (ignoring her) (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991)

From the situation above tells about Belle in the morning walk into the village and met Monsieur Jean who lost something in his life. Suddenly, he asked Belle where the place Belle wants to visit, and Belle answered "To return this book to Pere Robert. It's about two lovers in fair Verona" (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991) her interest in reading books made Monsieur Jean ignoring her, women who like to read are boring women by Monsieur Jean's view by saying "Sounds boring". According to Monsieur Jean, a woman reading a book is a strange thing and not their territory. Moreover, the books that are read by Belle about romance are getting boring and very time-consuming. Monsieur Jean justified that Belle was an unusual woman because of her pleasure reading in reading, so Monsieur Jean said "sounds boring" to Belle who was returning the book to Pere Robert.

Jean thinks that Belle a boring woman does not make Belle angry, Belle smiles at Jean and walks away. It means that Belle actually sad and disappointed but she still accepts what Monsieur Jean told her. She represents a woman who is very polite and graceful despite being ridiculed and scorned. It means a lot that in the 18th century most people ignore the literature and read books, so that they stuck in daily activities like Monsieur Jean. He lost something in his life but he does not know what it is, in everyday like the one before. By developing his mind, he can self-introspection and know what he looks for in his life. But this village full of little people and little mind, so it is hard to achieve in a mystique people who do the same activities every day.

# 2. Forbidden Education

Education is important thing to all genders, race, tribe, and country. But in the 18th century, only man can take education and free to be what they want. Women are prohibited from accessing education because women are only associated with domestic life. Therefore, women are only considered the lower class by men.

In that time education for women is hard to achieve, they have to study one more than institutions to achieve a serious purpose or "high career". Institutions really determine the achievement of women, without institutions women will be considered only complementary and become housewives. Women must have an open mind and broad knowledge to free them from the patriarchal system, a wider scale is needed to achieve something and free women's mystique thinking. Like in the Beauty and the Beast movie, where education is only for boys. While for the girls they have been trained to help their mothers in household matters.

(5) (Belle passes School Boys as they march into the school house. Their heads turn in unison.

School Boys : "Look there she goes that girl is strange, no question"

(The Nasty Headmaster ushers them in impatiently)

Nasty Headmaster: "Dazed and distracted, can't you tell?"

(Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991)

This quotation means there is scene boys, who lined up in front of school. "school boys" means that those who are allowed to access education is boys, and there is no right to education for women. This includes gender supremacy where the boys get special right to access education. On the other side, the school boys see Belle walk in a crowd with a book in her hand and said "Look there she goes that girl is strange, no question" (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991). By saying that the boys considered Belle is a strange creature because she deserves that and demean women who access education. The Headmaster called Belle she is dazed and distracted by her behavior and likes to read even though reading is only intended by men.

# 2. Belle as the Main Female Character Negotiates the Mystique in Beauty and the Beast Script

Negotiation is a way to escape from the feminine mystique, if a woman can open up their mind for themselves it means she wants a change in her life with her doing. Although it is hard to achieve and recognition from the man side, if it successfully it would be a biggest movement in women life to choose what they dream in life.

When women stuck in a house by doing domestic life without achieving her freedom it would be frightening to her in the future. Women in marriage do not have a choice to take the education, association and organization outside, for the rest of her life will be a housewife without education she receives. If women never faced it, it would be a big trouble in the future and women will be disappointed.

Different with this object, Beauty and The Beast represent a girl who tries to negotiate themselves in a remote village and very thick traditional mystique. She is a beautiful, smart, humble and kind is representing perfect woman to marriage. But she is trapped in a quiet and small village with little people, and she is considered as a crazy, odd, funny girl and not perfect woman to be wife anymore.

## a. Being Independent Woman

In the eighties, women who only graduated from high school and got married were the characteristic of women who were not safe and easy to buy and sell according to Betty Friedan in the Feminine Mystique book (Friedan, 1963). In short, women with low education levels will be easily deceived and suggested new things that make them curious, therefore they are easily traded with patriarchal trickery.

For example, she was forced to marry at young age and was lured with property and high throne without consequences and guaranteed to live comfortably until old age, in reality they are enslaved and locked up in the house to look after their children who are very annoying and have to obey the rules of men for as long as she lives. In Beauty and The Beast script, there is a female character to negotiate the mystique in a little village hidden heart of France. She has independent choice to negotiate mystical thing applied by the villagers. So, what Belle did become a criticism and hatred in the patriarchal system.

(8) Gaston : "Good morning, Belle! Wonderful book you have

there?"

Belle : "You've read it?"

Gaston : "Well, not that one. But you know. Books."

(Hands her the flowers)

Gaston: "For your dinner table. Shall I join you this

evening?"

Belle : "Sorry, not tonight"

Gaston : "Busy?"
Belle : "No"

(A mortified smile and Belle is off) (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991)

This scene tells about Belle met with Gaston and asked what book she had read, but when Belle asked to Gaston have read it or not, he answered "Well, not that one. But you know. Books" (Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991) which mean he hasn't read. For Gaston who incidentally he is a man not interested in education and reading books. So, it can be concluded that Belle is more knowledgeable than Gaston. Indirectly, Belle has negotiated feminine mystique with Gaston. What Gaston said to Belle means Books is not important thing to read and learn, what he thinks only war, woman and dignity. That's why he looking for a girl who beautiful but have to obey all his rules.

## b. Being Life Saver

This subchapter describes the role of woman who becomes a hero to her father. Basically, women are considered weak physically and attitudes, therefore in the 18th century there were no heroes named women. The word of 'hero' means that he must be male, smart, strong, and tough to face the enemy. But in this part, it is not a man who becomes smart, strong, and tough but a woman named Belle.

Hero characters that are very strong and dexterous are not categorized as women who have soft, weak, and feminine traits so that in the 18th century there was rarely a heroine character who represented the same courage that Belle did. What Belle did was breakthrough feminine mystique at the time.

(13) (The Beast roars. Belle spins quickly, swinging her club to strike, but the figure jumps onto staircase. Belle searches the shadows. The voice circles her. Belle points a stick of wood at the Beast)

Belle : "Who's there? Who are you?"

The beast : "Who are you?"

Belle : "I've come for my father"
The Beast : "Your father is a thief"

Belle : "Liar!"

(Chbosky, Stephen and Spiliotopuolos, 1991)

This scene tells about Belle find her Papa in a jail of big castle, where her Papa locked up for stealing a rose for Belle. She is getting miserable because her Papa in a bad condition looks pale, his hands were cold and coughing. Suddenly, the Beast came with a roar so loud that it made Belle surprised. Based on the dialogue, it can be seen that Belle is not afraid to face enemies that she has never ever seen.

She shouted outright and told Beast to show himself. Belle does not even hesitate to take a wooden stick to hit the Beast if necessary. The dialogue which is supported by the wooden stick emphasizes the courageous character of Belle. Belle courage's becomes the benchmark that women can also be heroes for anyone. Seeing Belle's courage in facing the Beast became an appreciation of women in that century so that Belle's action becomes an important role in this chapter.

#### **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing Belle of Beauty and the Beast Movie Script from a feminist point of view, several conclusions can be drawn.

- 1. The traditional mystique thinking that exists in the village has been applied by all groups, both boys and girls to adults. Not only men, women in the village still cling to this mystique thought. The women's traditional roles that are applied in this movie script are very thick, some characters believe in and practice this belief. The belief in question is to number the position of women in the movie script. If according to Simone de Beauvoir, women are categorized as The Second Sex and this phenomenon can be seen in this movie script. In the chapter of the depiction of women's roles, 2 phenomena were found, namely Neglecting Women by Society and Forbidden Education originating from the patriarchal system. The findings from Neglecting Women by Society and Forbidden Education conclude that the operation of a patriarchal system that degrades women's dignity is not only done by men but is supported by what women say. Patriarchy also holds control in strategic sectors such as education, family, and friendly relations. Holding that control, making Belle trapped in the patriarchal system.
- 2. In the chapter Independent Woman, Belle negotiates with the patriarchal system. By way of Independent Woman Belle accustomed herself by giving space to do something that she wanted. Belle's attempts to get a little out dependence on men have been substantiated by the findings already described. What Belle did not change the patriarchal system but gave her a little room so that her basic rights as a woman or human could be fulfilled. The way to actualize herself in the chapter of Being a Life Safer, Belle has an existence as human being amidst the strong patriarchal system in the movie script. Belle's courage in saving her father has proven that women can do men's jobs too. Therefore, in this chapter it strengthens Belle to negotiate the patriarchal system in the village.

#### **SUGGESTION**

After completing this research, the authors hope this research can be useful for prospective researches as well as readers of this study. The scope of this research is analyzed about traditional mystique and how to negotiate the mystique in villagers thought. Therefore, the researcher suggests that next researches be able to carry out research with the same theory but with a different figure. Because there are several figures that can be analyzed. For example, Gaston with its patriarchal thought system.

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