



***ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER USING FEMINISM  
APPROACH IN FILM “ENOLA HOLMES 2”***

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***Abstract***

*Feminism is a movement that struggles for every individual woman to get rights in the political, economic, and social spheres. This research aims to determine the elements of feminism in the film Enola Holmes 2. The research method uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data analysis steps are watching the film, identifying and categorizing the dialog or science, analyzing, and then drawing a conclusion. The results of this research are: there are 3 types of feminism in the film, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, and Marxist-socialist feminism. By understanding feminism in film, we learn about the importance of diverse and authentic representation.*

***Keywords:*** Enola Holmes 2, Film, Feminism, Literature

**INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a work of written art that has high artistic value and contains aesthetic or artistic elements that are different from other literary works such as newspapers, telephone books and scientific writings. Sholihah (2021) said that literature is a human form of personal expression that uses language tools to create tangible images that induce enchantment through experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passion, and belief. According to Gusti Ayu et al., (2022), literature is typically defined as exceptionally well-written works of poetry and prose. It is a part of human existence that distinguishes culture and is enjoyable, understandable, and useful. There are several Genres of Literature such as Poetry, Fiction, and Drama.

A film, sometimes referred to as a movie or motion picture, is a sequence of still pictures on film projected onto a screen using light in rapid succession. A film is a collection of sound and moving images that tell a story. According to Jons & Nafisah



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### *Analysis of the main...*

(2019), film, or cinema, fundamentally meaning moving images - images of time, location, sound, and story, has experienced immense success since its first appearance in Europe and America in the late half of the nineteenth century. Films are divided into three types, namely documentaries, fiction films, and experimental films. The film also has various themes such as feminism, the power of love, the search for identity, patriotism and others. A film is a series of moving images, usually shown in theaters or television, and often tells a story. The story of a film is made in such a way that the number of film enthusiasts increases from time to time. The very massive increase in film enthusiasts has made many producers and directors who have created various film genres for film lovers around the world. In this regard, according to Sormin et al., (2022), films in general are a picture of the reality of the society in which they are made. Based on this statement, films are considered a representation of phenomena that occur in the community. One of these phenomena is feminism. Therefore, many directors raise the theme of feminism representation for their artworks.

Feminism itself derived from the word "femina," which means "woman". Feminism is an understanding that emerges when women demand it have the same rights as men. According to Yusrina (2022) Feminism also explains that woman has the value to contribute in society. Women have the right to equal opportunities and equality regardless of gender differences. Women can express their aspirations, ideas, and knowledge with the same rights without being looked down upon. Feminism itself was formed because of the inequality between genders which made the scope of women limited, so they could not do what they wanted and were always considered incompetent just because they were women. Women face numerous challenges, including economic stagnation, underdevelopment in rural areas, inadequate education, transportation, and communication systems, violence against women and girls, ineffective legal systems, rural-urban migration, brain drain, and cultural and religious practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation that perpetuate patriarchal control (Sebola, 2022). Therefore, many are aware and vocal about the same equal rights for women, one of which is through films with the theme of feminism. Feminism is an understanding that opposes the existence of inequality between men and women.

Feminism means a group that demands gender equality for women. Meanwhile, what is meant by gender equality is the belief that everyone should be treated equally and not discriminated against because of their gender identity or gender (Nurul Khairani et al., 2022). Other meanings of feminism are a phrase that refers to unfairness against women in having equal opportunity in a culture that tends to be ruled by men, also known as patriarchy. Figures or perpetrators of feminism are called feminists. The feminist philosophy holds that women should not be treated as inferior to men and should be treated equally (Bajwa et al., 2022). Feminists continue to aggressively battle for women's rights, including the right to hold political office, vote, work, earn fair salaries, own property, close the gender pay gap, obtain an education, have equal rights in marriage, take pregnancy leave, and enter into any business contract. The important struggle carried out by the feminist movement is to empower all women to realize their full property rights (Suhadi et al., 2023). The feminist movement emphasizes women's access to respectable labor, education, and political rights. In other side, according to Lubis (2019), feminism is a concept that opposes cultural and governmental policies that disadvantage women. Feminism is divided into several types, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, and Marxist and socialist feminism.

Liberal feminism is a movement that frees every individual woman to get rights in the political, economic, and social spheres. Providing the view that every individual woman has the right to equal and equal opportunities. Liberal feminism is a school that shows freedom and equality for every individual woman to have the ability to act and think rationally. This flow provides awareness that every individual female group that is able to contribute and compete, they are not an oppressed group. It can be seen from this theory that the hope of liberal feminism is that women are able to use all the opportunities available to create encouragement for other women to take part and be active in education, economy, social and other fields. According to Sihotang & Pasaribu (2020), the emphasis of liberal feminism is on women's freedom. This ideology fights for women to receive education, social care, decent work, just like any other (Adeline Pastika Muham et al., 2024).

Radical feminism is a movement that focuses on the basics of the great inequality experienced by women, this school focuses on the inequality of sexuality experienced by women. Men consider having complete control over women and look

down on a woman. In this situation, there is also a lot of belief that the problems that occur to women can be ended, if women have carried out liberation resistance in society (Rahman et al., 2021). Radical feminism emerged to fight against the existence of a patriarchal system in society. Patriarchy itself is defined as a system that places men as holders of economic and political power in the family and society and has the power to control women, namely their bodies, careers, and sexuality. According to Widya & Asnani (2020), Patriarchy is a gender system in which men have the power to govern and dominate women, while women are subservient to masculine authority. Oknadia et. al., (2022) state that biological differences between men and women make people differentiate their treatment of each race, which until now is still carried in society and makes it commonplace. In other side, according to Arfani et al., (2023) radical feminism emphasizes male aggression and coercion, including rape, sexual harassment, child sexual assault, and domestic violence, as well as abuse of women, children, and vulnerable men within patriarchy.

Marxist & socialist feminism is a movement that focuses on women's right to freedom from patriarchy that is usually seen as normal for men. This school exists because women want to free themselves from oppression. Many structural barriers to women's participation, gender discrimination in education, and socialization keep women isolated from science, according to (Maulid, 2022). Therefore, most Marxists are women workers who want to get their rights in the scope of work and social, so that women can develop in the world of work and education, not just stay at home and get differences. Socialism itself has the meaning of liberation of women's rights in the social and domestic environment, namely men must also do housework to help their wives and complement each other without any differences. Because every woman has the right to be happy with her partner and get equal treatment. Essentially, women will bear children, therefore if they receive equal social and educational opportunities, they may raise their children to be intellectual and well-mannered.

One of the films that represents feminism is the *Enola Holmes 2* film directed by Harry Badbeer and released in 2022. The film not only describes the struggle of Enola Holmes, who wants to become a successful investigator like her brother Sherlock Holmes, but it is complemented with an original plot produced by taking inspiration from the real-life strike of the match girl in 1888. The film *Enola Holmes 2* carries a

message about women's struggle and equality. The character Enola, played by Millie Bobby Brown, wants to prove her pies as a female detective. Although Enola was often underestimated and clients who resigned when they found out that Enola was a female detective, because in that year 1888 detective work was only for men. The film also tells how there are acts of inequality felt by women and girl workers in matchmaking factories who are forced to work for an extended period of time and get a reduction in salary if they make mistakes and are negligent in their duties, such as not carrying out orders correctly, coming beyond the set time, Rebelled. They also get an indecent life. Such as slum houses, lack of nutrition from the food they eat, and fatigue due to forced labor, even in the film, it is shown that they often inhale phosphorus smoke in making matches that can harm their body health to the point of death.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative research is One technique that uses qualitative data and is described descriptively. According to Strauss & Corbin (in Marlina & Fachruddin, 2020), the qualitative research is refers to research about persons' live, behavior, stories, but also organizational functioning, social movement or interactional relationship. In other side, Heryana & Putra (2023) state that descriptive qualitative method is a type of qualitative research that explores the characteristics of a phenomenon, rather than explaining the underlying causes or mechanisms. The descriptive qualitative approach was utilized by the researchers to collect, categorize, analyze, and interpret data (Emzir, 2009).

This study focuses on the elements of feminism in the film *Enola Holmes 2*. Data collection in this journal conducted with analysis of the conversation about feminism issues, scenes, and dialogue in film *Enola Holmes 2*. The method of data analysis consists of three parts: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drafting and verification. The strategy for collecting data is as follows: 1) watching the movie to collect data to address the problem statement while reading the movie's transcript. 2) identifying and categorizing the data in the form of narration and dialogs in the movie that have feminist issues. 3) looking for additional data. This task is completed by going over reading materials that are relevant to the topic under discussion and by comparing

## *Analysis of the main...*

data and information sources using documents from earlier studies. 4) analysing and relate the classified data to the theoretical framework, 5) drawing conclusion.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

There are many scenes that show conversations about how rudely they treated a woman. They constantly say bad things about women and act as if women can not get a chance to show themselves. The conversations in the film are important because through the dialogue used by the actors, messages can be conveyed to the audience. Following are several scenes that show elements of feminism in the film *Enola Holmes 2*:

### **Liberal Feminism**

#### Data 1:

Context/situation: the scene where Enola introduces herself at the opening of the film.

Supporting dialogue:

Enola Holmes: *My name is Enola Holmes. You may remember me. After solving my first case, I started a business. A detective agency. I was going to join the pantheon of great Victorian detectives. Detective Field...Mackenzie Macintosh, Sir Alfred Hornblower, And the infamous Reginald Swain. And best of all, I would be joining my brother I would be his equal. A detective in my own right, worthy of the Holmes name"*

(Minute: 01.13 – 01.56)

Enola, begins a monologue while attempting to flee from the police. Enola's words in the opening of the film describe the struggle of a young woman to gain recognition and equality in society. Enola introduces herself by stating that she has started a detective agency after successfully solving her first case in the first series of films. He described his passion for joining a great team of detectives dominated by men including his brother Sherlock Holmes. In Enola's monologue which mentions the names of famous detectives who are all male, Enola shows how the profession as a detective at that time was very masculine. But Enola confidently showed that he deserves to be in the same position as them. This scene shows a type of liberal feminism that focuses on equal rights and opportunities between women and men. Liberal feminism strives for equal recognition and opportunities for women to excel according

to their abilities, while removing discriminatory social barriers. Enola emphasized that through effort and expertise, women are able and must be recognized as equal to men in all aspects of life, including in the professional world. A successful *Enola Holmes* experience that involved solving the Tewkesbury case and exposing the detective agent is described in the opening scene of *Enola Holmes 2*, in which the female protagonist

Data 2:

Context/situation: Where Enola tries to find his client in the beginning of his career as a detective.

Supporting Dialogue:

Client : *"Am I addressing the secretary? You're how old? Stone the Cros, You're Young"*

Enola : *"My age is an advantage, I can go to places other can't, explore what others won't, and I can fight, i know jujitsu."*

Client : *"But you're girl"*

Enola : *"Yes, I am. Um..."*

Client : *"What experience have you had?"*

Enola : *"The Tewkesbury case?"*

Client : *"Sherlock Holmes, wasn't it?"*

Enola : *"I assure you it was mine"*

Client : *"Good man, that Tewkesbury. Brave lad. Tell me... Exceptional"*

(Minute: 02.10 - 02.51)

The scene shows how Enola tries to prove herself worthy of being a detective, a profession that has only been done by men, including her older brother, Sherlock. Enola's attitude and actions illustrate the struggle against gender inequality that limits women in the public sphere. In this incident, Enola fought for equal rights and opportunities for women in the field of work by showing that abilities and competencies should not be assessed based on gender but based on their respective abilities and efforts. This scene represents the liberal principles of feminism, a school of feminism that focuses on the struggle for equality between men and women, especially in the context of education, work, and politics. Liberal feminism emphasizes on eliminating gender-based discrimination and opening up equal opportunities for everyone. In this narrative, Enola attempts to seek equal respect for herself as a capable woman in a

### *Analysis of the main...*

male-dominated sector. With her bravery in taking on the role of a detective, she embodies the fight for women's equal rights to live their lives without restriction.

#### Data 3:

Context/situation: The scene where Enola is at the dance to investigate the disappearance of Sarah Chapman and the scene where Enola first talks to Miss Mira Troy.

Supporting Dialogue:

Miss Mira Troy: "*Without power, we women must rely on our wits for our fortune, because our chances are short.*" (Minute: 54.21 – 54.26)

In the scene, Enola is at a dance party to investigate the case of Sarah Chapman's disappearance. The dance party became a social arena that depicted the class order and gender roles at that time. At the dance party, Enola met Miss Mira Troy again and talked. In the middle of the conversation, Miss Mira Troy gave a message to Enola. The message is related to the harsh reality faced by women in that era. Miss Mira Troy said that without power, a woman would not be able to achieve success. The power referred to by Miss Mira Troy refers not only to wealth but also to the ability to control their own destiny and make decisions. Mira Troy also explained that women must rely on their intelligence and intellect to succeed in achieving their success in the midst of male-dominated conditions. This scene very clearly depicts a situation where women are considered very weak and do not have enough opportunities to achieve their dreams. This scene is included in liberal feminism, which is a type of feminism that focuses on equal rights and opportunities for women in society. Liberal feminism focuses on the importance of women's access to education, work, and political power and encourages the elimination of social barriers that disenfranchise women. In the scene above, Enola and Mira reflect the struggle in their limitations, using their intelligence and courage as a tool to overcome the oppression that occurs against them.

#### Data 4

Context/situation: the scene where Miss Mira Troy is revealed as the mastermind behind everything.

Supporting Dialogue:

Lord McIntyre: *How dare you take advantage of your position!"*

Mira Troy: *"I take advantage? What were my advantage? Treated like a common servant when I have twice the mind of yours. Why shouldn't I have a share of your ill-begotten riches, and punish you at the same time? Where is my place in this... Society? I am a woman i cannot join clubs, I cannot own shares, I cannot advance my self as they can, so... I found my own way."*

(Minute: 1.50.04 – 1.51.03)

The injustice committed by Lord McIntyre against Miss Mira Troy, became the main reason for Miss Mira Troy to take action to repay the treatment she received. As secretary, Miss Mira Troy's position should provide an opportunity for her to be respected and recognized for all her abilities and contributions. But in reality Lord McIntyre treated her like an ordinary servant, without giving her the due credit for his ability to act as secretary. This injustice is further deepened by the fact that she as a woman does not have equal opportunities in society. Miss Troy felt left out by a system that only benefited men, such as access to exclusive club clubs, stock ownership, and also the opportunity to have a higher career. This scene can be included in the liberal type of feminism, a school that focuses on women's equality of rights in various aspects of life including politics, economics and public space. Liberal feminism fights for the elimination of discrimination against women so that women can have the same role in education, work, and in the field of social politics. Miss Troy's actions illustrate the liberal principles of feminism because she demands recognition of herself as a female individual who deserves to be respected and treated on an equal footing with men. By fighting against the injustice she received, she did not fight for her own rights but also portrayed the spirit of women to fight against the social structures that hinder them in achieving their potential.

### **Radical Feminism**

#### Data 5:

Context/situation: A scene where Enola is investigating the disappearance of Sarah Chapman, asking the owner of the nightlife where Sarah works.

Supporting dialogue:

### *Analysis of the main...*

Owner: *"I'd have given her the boot if she weren't so good, but she did attract the men*

*with big pockets." They all think there's hope. That love is coming their way. But it never is. Blokes like that, they want cheap, but they marry dear."*

(Minute: 8:44 - 8:49)

This scene illustrates how women are often treated as sexual objects for men, without any respect for their personality, abilities, and values as individuals. The scene shows that women are only considered in terms of their physical attractiveness. This illustrates an inequality where women are not worthy of being loved sincerely but are only used as objects of sexuality. This treatment means that men do not care about women's rights, feelings or honor. This scene depicts radical feminism, a school of feminism that focuses on the abolition of the patriarchal system that is considered the main reason for the oppression of women. Radical feminism opposes the existence of a patriarchal system that limits women in various aspects of life. In this context, women are considered objects of sexuality as a form of symbiotic violence that strengthens men's control over women's bodies and identities. This scene highlights how women are only used as sexual objects, depicting a radical feminist critique of the power of men and women.

### Data 6

Context/situation: A scene where Enola is accused of being a suspect in Mae's death, and sent to prison as a punishment.

Supporting Dialogue:

Grail : "Where is she?"

Enola : "I don't know."

Grail : "Then you're for the noose. Some detective you were. Should have stuck to  
needlework."

(Minute: 1.07.00 – 1.07.18)

The scene above occurs when Enola is thrown into prison for her alleged involvement in Mae's death. Enola's imprisonment was an obstacle in his investigation

into Sarah Chapman's disappearance. In prison, he is interrogated by Grail, one of the antagonists in the film. In the conversation between Enola and Grail, Grail blatantly belittles Enola who is a detective, a profession that at that time was not appropriate for a woman. He said that Enola would rather spend his time sewing than being a detective. Grail's statement clearly shows a narrow view of women. Grail's statement also reflected the patriarchal system that dominated at the time. Women are considered to have no ability to carry out professions that require intelligence, logic, and courage that are very attached to men. Professions such as detectives are considered to be only allowed by men while women are expected to carry out domestic roles such as sewing and taking care of the household. This scene is included in the radical feminism because it focuses on the patriarchal structures that occur and how they limit women by defining their roles based on gender. Radical feminism focuses on how men dominate in societies that create inequality. Grail's statement that Enola "better just sew" is a form of disregard for women's abilities. This illustrates the patriarchal system's efforts to maintain male power by degrading women.

#### Data 7

Context/situation: The scene where Mira Troy tries to give advice to Lord McItyre

Supporting Dialogue:

Mira Troy : *"Sir, do you have any suspicions as to who this perpetrator might*

*be?"*

Lord McItyre : *"Would I be asking you if I did?"*

Mira Troy : *"But, sir, perhaps if we were to consider whether this theft is connected."*

Mira Troy : *"I have ideas."*

Lord McItyre : *"Did i ask for your advice? Or did i simply tell you to get it done."*

(Minute: 14.59-15.12)

This dialog makes it clear that there is a radical feminism that Miss Mira Troy got as a woman, there is an act of injustice against Miss Mira Troy who tries to give an opinion is often considered a joke and immediately diverted violently by Lord Mcityre.

### *Analysis of the main...*

Lord Mcityre's actions against Miss Mira Troy show the existence of gender inequality. By diverting the conversation while Miss Mira Troy was giving her opinion, Lord Mcityre created a circumstance that reproached a woman in the presence of other colleagues. Lord Mcityre seems to want to show that women do not deserve to be given the opportunity and only men are worthy of leading. This phenomenon is what raises the radical feminism, the radical feminism so that women are able to give their opinions or opinions freely without being underestimated by men or any party. And do not get patriarchal treatment from men because actually humans have the same rights in this world, men and women.

### **Marxist and socialist feminism**

#### Data 8:

Context/situation: a scene where Enola disguises herself as a worker at a lighter factory to investigate the disappearance of Sarah Chapman

Supporting dialogue:

Mr. Crouch : *"That is a penny off your wages."*

Bessie : *"She's just learning the way, Mr. Crouch."*

Mr. Crouch : *"She better learn quicker, or it's a penny off yours too. Anyone*

*else*

*want a Money Dock? How about you, eh? No, didn't think so.*

*Right, back to work."*

(Minute: 11.58 – 12.19)

In this dialog, Enola Holmes disguises herself as a matchmaker factory worker to help Betsy find her sister, of course it is not an easy thing to enter the matchmaker factory as a worker, Enola gets a series of health tests whether there is a typhoid virus or not. After being able to enter and start working, Enola was surprised by the condition of the match factory which smelled very phosphor, Enola also started working with Betsy's help by starting to arrange a match rod but there was an incident where Enola accidentally dropped the matchstick, the head of the factory section immediately approached Enola's desk and said that he would cut Enola's salary which he hadn't even gotten yet. The head of the factory section immediately deducted one cent from Enola's salary because his trivial accident made Enola have to bear the loss. This scene shows

the emphasis on Enola as a worker who accidentally drops a match that he is stacking, the head of the factory immediately threatens to cut off a penny from Enola's income. This scene explains the existence of marxists and social feminism, because one mistake made by Enola made her have to bear a salary cut that she has not even received. This happened because of the social difference between the head of the factory and the enola who became workers, the head of the factory looked down on the enola and could give punishment as he pleased. The inequality of position between the head of the factory and enola makes there is social inequality experienced by enola.

Data 9:

Context/situation: scene where Enola is at a dance party and Enola is arrested on charges of Mae's murder.

Supporting dialogue:

Lestrade Inspector : *"Enola Holmes, you're under arrest. Try to escape, and we will make this difficult. Let's make it quiet and spare the fine people any embarrassment."*

Tewkesbury : *"Sir, whatever this is about, I'm sure..."*

Lestrade Inspector : *"Murder, sir."*

Tewkesbury : *"It's about murder."*

Lestrade Inspector : *"Tewkesbury, it's all right."*

(Minute: 1.04.01 – 1.04.15)

The dialog where Enola is dancing with William, and William asks Enola to wait in another room to give a statement about his hilang Sarah Chapman. But what Enola found out was her arrest by the police, Enola was arrested for the case of her friend Sarah Chapman who was killed, namely Mae. Even though at that time Enola went to the scene because of Sarah Chapman's advice but instead found her friend Sarah Chapman who had died. Enola has tried to explain that he is not a murderer but wants to help. Enola's brother, Sharelock Holmes, immediately came to the police station and explained the truth he found at the scene that there was violence experienced by Sarah Chapman's friend when he was killed. But the police still denied and still felt that Enola was only a prostitute because of the female enola so they easily sentenced Enola. This

### *Analysis of the main...*

scene shows the existence of marxists and social feminists who show that Enola as a woman cannot give testimony and explanation that she did not commit murder. The police and some higher-ups believe that Enola was the one who killed the girl, and they didn't even listen to Enola's explanation and ignored the truth. They immediately decided that Enola was the one who killed the girl, Sarah Chapman. This social injustice is what makes the existence of Marxists and social feminism so that women are able to give their opinions and explain what they are not doing. In order for men to listen to women's opinions, Marxists and social feminism exist to elevate women in the eyes of society.

#### Data 10:

Context/situation: the scene where Sarah Chapman boldly reveals the truth made by the top brass of the matchmaking factory to the workers there.

Supporting Dialogue:

Sarah : *"A few weeks ago, mae izley, wiliam lyon, and I set out to prove something. To prove that this factory was killing people, and they knew it,*  
*but they decided that profit mattered more than we did."*

Sarah : *"It ain't typhus that's killing us. It's the phosphorus."*

Bessie : *"What we work everyday."*

Sarah : *"These were our friends, our sisters and our children. Well, it stops now. It's time for us to use the only thing we have. Ourselves. It's time for us to refuse to work. It's time to tell 'em it's."*

(Minute: 1.53.51-1.54.51)

In this scene, it shows that women are able to rebel and get their rights, there is Sarah Chapman who helps the workers to strengthen their belief in rebellion and get the right to freedom and fair pay for the matchmakers. As these marxists and socialist feminists play an important role in this scene, it shows that women can have a great impact. They may think that women workers will not dare to rebel under the influence of the violence of male leaders who are silent about them, but great women like Enola Holmes and Sarah Chapman put their image as leaders for oppressed women, they are brave and confident that they can free the matchstick women workers from the misery

they have been experiencing. Without fear that the male leaders would arrest them, Sarah Chapman remained steadfast and carried out her mission of freeing the female workers.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the finding above, in film *Enola Holmes 2*, there are 3 types of feminism in the film, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, and marxist-socialist feminism. In this film tells the story of the feminist movement to demand justice for women, including in the field of work. It is explained that the view of feminism has been embedded in the characters in it, especially the female characters in the film. The main female figures, namely Enola Holmes, Sarah Chapman, and also Miss Mira Troy succeeded in voicing the injustice that occurs to women, starting from how women cannot have a free career, get a lot of oppression because of their identity as women, and many other inequalities that limit women. This film proves that women have the same opportunities and treatment as men. In addition to its interesting story, this film can be used as a reference in real life, especially for women to dare to express themselves without fear. By understanding feminism in film, we learn about the importance of diverse and authentic representation.

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