

## **A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE MOVIE *KARTINI* ABOUT FEMINISM DIRECTED BY HANUNG BRAMANTYO**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Kartini is an Indonesian emancipation and feminism figure. One of the movies we talk about is *Kartini* directed by Hanung Bramantyo and Dian Sastro as *Kartini*, is one of the most popular movies in Indonesia. It is a movie of the era of the "Kartini" which is based on a film of the same title. The goal of this study is to find the quality of an object analyzed in a form of description using the data gained. The qualitative descriptive method is used for this research. The main purpose of this research is want to using movie as a media can be used as a tool to describe in detail what happened at that time to people in the future. Emotion and feelings also played parts that supported the situation in the movie. Media's role is important so that people can see how big *Kartini*'s struggles to fight the rights for women in education. In the hopes that this movie can be remembered in woman's minds, so that woman nowadays can fight and enthusiast in pursuing education. According to data analysis shows that *Kartiani* is real Indonesian figure. There are some *Kartini*'s struggles which gave much impact to women until now. It inspires woman to not giving up in achieving their education and also get the same right to speak up. As a woman, it is truly an obligation to obey their husband, but their husband should respect their wife's opinion as well.

**Keywords:** *Film, Kartini, Feminism*

### **ABSTRAK**

*Kartini adalah tokoh emansipasi dan feminisme Indonesia. Salah satu film yang kita bicarakan adalah *Kartini* yang disutradarai oleh Hanung Bramantyo dan Dian Sastro sebagai *Kartini*, merupakan salah satu film terpopuler di Indonesia. Merupakan film era "Kartini" yang diangkat dari film berjudul sama dengan tokoh yang dibahas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kualitas suatu objek yang dianalisis dalam bentuk deskripsi dengan menggunakan data yang diperoleh. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan untuk penelitian ini. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah ingin menggunakan film sebagai media yang dapat digunakan sebagai alat untuk menggambarkan secara rinci apa yang terjadi pada saat itu kepada masyarakat di masa yang akan datang. Emosi dan perasaan juga berperan yang mendukung situasi dalam film. Peran media penting agar masyarakat bisa melihat betapa besar perjuangan *Kartini* dalam memperjuangkan hak perempuan di bidang pendidikan. Harapannya film ini dapat terus diingat oleh kaum perempuan, sehingga perempuan masa kini bisa berjuang dan semangat dalam menempuh pendidikan. Berdasarkan analisis data menunjukkan bahwa *Kartiani* adalah sosok Indonesia sesungguhnya. Ada beberapa perjuangan *Kartini* yang memberikan dampak besar bagi perempuan hingga saat ini. Hal ini menginspirasi perempuan untuk tidak putus asa dalam meraih pendidikan dan juga mendapatkan hak yang sama untuk bersuara. Sebagai seorang wanita, memang wajib untuk menaati suami, namun suami juga harus menghargai pendapat istri.*

**Kata Kunci :** *Film, Kartini, Feminisme*

## INTRODUCTION

Movies are interconnected with people's customs due to human entertainment needs. Not only for entertainment, but movies also have its own messages that can leave such impression on someone's mind. According to (Novianti, Musa, & Darmawan, 2022), movie is one of the most everyone's preferences since it contains audiovisual. As a result, the audiences will amuse in one package story, such as entertainment, music, humor, and more. Movies could be interpreted as a recreation of a slice of human life projection in the real society. This representation could be pictured as a support, refusal, critics, or even neutral. Therefore, movie also reflect life that conducted to impartial reality.

Movie contributes the message that the scriptwriter wants to convey to the audiences. One of the movies we talk about is *Kartini* directed by Hanung Bramantyo and Dian Sastro as *Kartini*. Social Reality in the movie *Kartini* appears as a sign that portrayed in a form of text, containing real actions and life as a noble lady long time ago. Moreover, *Kartini's* movie opens a gender issue which depicted woman as a weak individual both physics, mental and other substandard opinion regarding woman.

As a children who was born in a noble family, *Kartini* genetically born as female. Yet she was brave to resist Javanese tradition in her family to gain education as gender equality. *Kartini* desired to change woman rights which they also had a chance to get a proper education and freewill to express their opinion as well as men had. At that time, women were lower than men in status. This description can be seen when R.A. Soelastri--*Kartini's* sister forced to get married to a man from her parents' choice. It didn't based on the same mutual feelings which can portray a woman at that time was lower than a man. They should accept if their husband will have another marriage without their permission as a wife later. Inspired by *Kartini's* spirit who wants to fight for woman freewill and justice, then feminism started to arise.

According to Novianti et al., (2022) opinion states that feminism is a thought which sees women and men have the same rights in politic, social, sexuality, intellectual, and economic in order to give the same justice for women. While according to (Darma, 2013:140)'s book states that feminism is a women movement who refuses to be marginalized and humiliated.

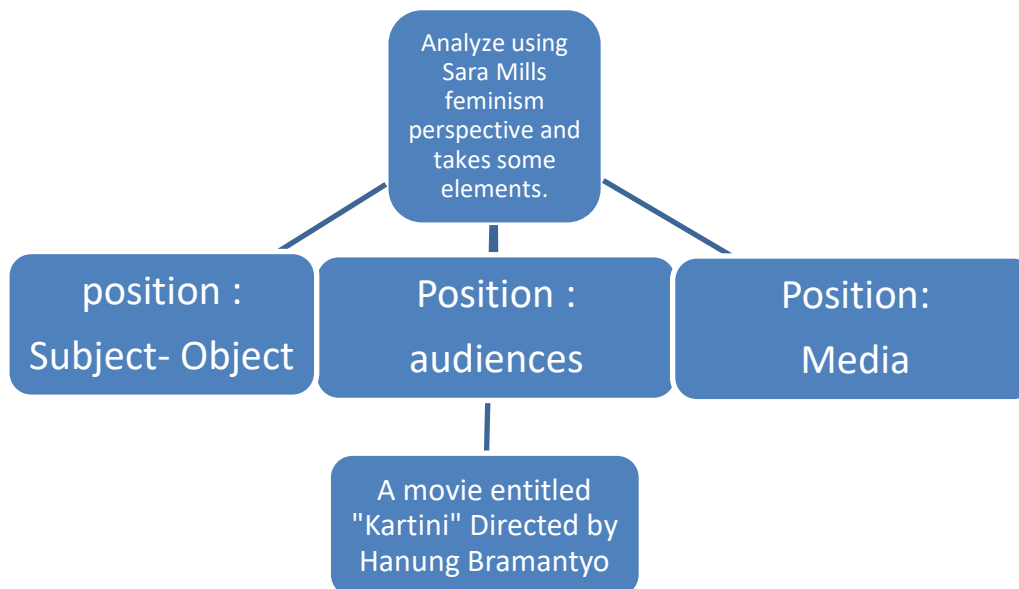
Another description we can see in the movie is about emancipation. As stated by (Mustikawati, 2015) the word "emancipation" itself has meaning freedom away from domination. However, if the meaning of *Kartini* emancipation is taken from the recent context, it will shift the meaning. Women emancipation is regarding as women struggles to get the same

chance as men has. Another perspective from (Darma, 2013:140) states that women emancipation correlated closely to human rights. In contemporary science is well-known as gender equality.

In conclusion, feminism is a movement from a group of women who refuse to be marginalized and humiliated in social, economic, and politic aspects. However, emancipation is correlated closely to equality gender between men and women. *Kartini* by Hanung Bramantyo opens audiences' minds to know how her struggles to banish humility toward women at that period, so these days women can continue what *Kartini*'s fought for it based on the challenge they face. Hence, the scriptwriter reviews *Kartini*'s story and creates *Kartini* as a role model for giving inspiration and motivation to all women and young generation nowadays. Owing to *Kartini*'s ability long time ago who can resolve what challenges and feelings regarding differences that she felt. In a hope, she can be an example to women nowadays.

Sara Mills' point of view uses a presentation as the important elements for analysis tools. These want to show how one of the parties, group, individual, ideas or events are seen by some discourse, then affect the meaning when it is received by the readers. Mills perceives how position from many social factors, ideas, or events are put in discourse (Eriyanto, 2005: 200) (Darma, 2013).

Sara Mills analysis includes: (1) Subject position and object in the storytelling. Thus, the events can be seen from the actions and characters motivation. This analysis shows the ideology roles in the movie. The ideology can decide someone to be the subject or object. Subject and object position in the discourse can set the story in the movie from feminism side. (2) Audience position based on Sara Mills must be considered in text production making. Where in this research shows how the readers (audience) based on culture value is represented in how the text is produced. (3) Media position, media's role is not only to be the facilitator from the information, but also reality construction, complete with the point of view, build the role in the events turns to be more valuable (Eriyanto, 2005: 203) in (Darma, 2013).



Picture 1. Analysis Research Draft 1

In line with the research analysis diagram picture, taken from a movie entitled “Kartini” directed by Hanung Bramantyo in 2017. This movie was categorized the top 10 famous movie in Indonesia. The first week of the premiere has been watched by 323.686 audiences. The researcher tried to focus on the development of its characters using Sara Mills’ theory, due to Mills has written various topics about feminism.

The previous researcher ever done talking about feminism entitled “Women’s role in Digital Era: An Analysis of Feminism by Sara Mills” (Sobari, Teti; Khamilawati, 2021). This analysis’ aim is to know how women portrayed and actor’s position in the text. The research result found that a career woman can arise new problems since they will spend their time outside the house most of the time. In fact, their role as a mother is vital in a family as well. However, feminism point of view stated that women’s role also includes to men’s role.

On the one hand from feminism, women role has been equated to the men role who can work outside, and digital technology which more advanced. On the other hand, it might intimidate the housewives. However, that concept depends on how each individual think, and addressing the situation wisely.

Another previous research entitled “Analysis Critical Discourse by Sara Mills toward Woman Stereotype as Housewives in the movie *Rumput Tetangga*” (Novianti et al., 2022). The focus on this journal is to describe status and women’s role who choose to be a housewife through female characters’ analysis in the movie *Rumput Tetangga* using the audiences’ perception. Surprisingly, the result from this analysis was found that groups who labeled inadequate to housewife is the women itself. This can show that the suspect of gender’s humiliation is not happened between different gender, but then it happens by the same gender. As for this research purpose that can be differentiate with the previous research is (a) want to prove that Kartini is a figure who fight for women emancipation and (b) Kartini is Feminism Indonesian figure, in the movie “Kartini” released in 2017.

## **METHOD**

Analysis method that used for this research is using qualitative descriptive method. According to (Sidiq, Choiri, & Mujahidin, 2019) descriptive method is data that is gained and written in the report and analysis. Therefore, qualitative research is research to find the quality. In conclusion, qualitative descriptive research is research that reported the quality of an object analyzed in a form of description based on the data gained. As a result, all data in this research is described using Sara Mills description analysis. In the book (Darma, 2013) Mills more focus on female figure in the text (especially in literature) and how the actors positioned themselves in the text. In general, there are two things to be considered in Sara Mills analysis. First, how the actor in the story positioned themselves in the storyline. Who is the person positioning as interpreter in the text to define the events and consequence Second, how the readers positioned in the text. The text in this research is defined because of negotiation between the writer and the readers.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Result**

The actors and the character values in the movie are:

#### 1. Kartini

Kartini was told as a noble Javanese princess and was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1879. Her father was a “Patih” (in English refers to Monarch Ruler) who got appointed as Jepara’s Regent. Her

mother was a common housewife and not from noble family. Her biological mother became a maid after her father remarried with a noble woman.

Kartini was a cheerful and smart girl; with these traits she became the one who fight for woman equality. Those proof can be seen in a clip when Kartini's article cannot be sent to Mrs. Ovink-Soer yet she did not give up finding another solution to send a go amiss sign, and then asked Mrs Ovink-Soer to help her. Surprisingly, her way was successful. Her concern toward women was incredible even she was from a noble descendant she never closed herself to talk and find herself how women's situation from her outside home.

## 2. Roekmini

She was Kartini's half-sister yet still in the same vision with Kartini to fight for woman's equality. Also, took part helping Kartini carried out activities that was beneficial to woman's growth.

## 3. Kardinah

Kardinah is a character who took part in realizing Kartini's dreams to build school for woman. She supported Kartini's ideas in fighting woman's equality. Kartini as Kardinah's sister refused her arranged marriage, and it was her first. Kardinah ever wanted to end her life because she did not want to get married without feelings and her willingness toward her prospective partner. Even though her husband was from a noble family. The saddest part was she should accept if she became the second spouse.

## 4. Ngarsirah

Ngarsirah was a mother who consent to be separated with her children as a proof of her husband (because she was not from a noble family and her husband remarried to a noble woman) and to all children she born. Ngarsinah has a big hope that her children can go to school, and their social status was higher than her. From her situation, it strengthened Kartini to fight more her dreams.

## 5. Raden Sosroningrat

Raden Sosroningrat was a Jepara's regent, who was wise and authoritative. He was a father figure who loved Kartini so much, he was willing to accompany Kartini when she had to meet some craftsmen in Jepara and ordered them to carve as her requested. Raden Sosroningrat was also accompanied Kartini to attend invitation from "Londo-Londo" or else the Dutch. He was also supported Kartini to propose scholarship in Netherland.

Table 1. Analysis

Scenes		Subject–Object Position	Audiences	
			Feminism	Emancipation
1	Kartini was not successful to deliver her article to Mrs. Ovink-Soer's house.	Kartini's older brother did not want his sister to actively writing because woman was not suitable to the activity. He thought Kartini's writing was wild in term of words chosen. However, Kartini did not give up and she tried to find way so that her article can be delivered. She wanted to independently write her thoughts.	Kartini never gave up to fight expressing her thoughts in text, even though she was not appropriate to actively writing because she was a woman.	The writing content is mostly about women and their wishes in education chances.
2	Kartini asked the craftsman to carve Jepara's style.	Kartini wanted to show Jepara heritage at Netherland's exhibition. She opened business path for Jepara's craftsman whom mostly a husband or a father, the head of a family and helped their economic situation.	Even though she is a woman, Kartini could give instruction to the craftsman which were mostly men, to do the carve project according to what she designed.	Kartini is a woman who used her ideas to help economic situation for male workers.
3	Kartini interacted directly to women outside her residence.	Kartini tried to find out how women around her lived. Surprisingly she got a conclusion that women only lived for marriage, even becoming the	Kartini did not want women to be discredited, and wanted all women can speak; and stand up for their opinion. Therefore, Kartini taught	Kartini wanted women got their rights in terms of education. Education is a way to change women life so that they can be as equal as men.



Scenes		Subject–Object Position	Audiences	
			Feminism	Emancipation
		second wife. Starting from that point, she believed education can break the stereotype.	them read and write at her home.	
4	Kartini and her siblings cooked together in the kitchen.	As being narrated that her mother advised Kartini to be able to cook so that later her husband loved to stay at home. Yet Kartini disagreed, because for her a husband was a person who should support whatever she dreamt of from the start, a person who had the same mutual feelings, not only about home cooking.	According to Kartini, cooking it was not only a woman duty to make husband stayed. She hoped that it was between two persons, husband and wife who have the same mutual feelings that fight for their relationship, not only valued by how well they cooked.	If women should be able to cook well at home, it means as a husband, they should help the wife too. If a wife fight for their household's matters, and so the husband does. He cannot only just remarry, besides not having the wife's approval. Those are what Kartini's dream of.
5	Kartini gave some requirements when she will be asked for getting married	Kartini gave four requirements, one of them is, she did not want to cleanse her husband foot.	The reason of her requirements was because she did not want to be treated domineering by her husband. So that she rejected a symbolic activity such as cleansing husband's foot.	Everything about the rights to express the thoughts should be respected in the household. It is responsibility between two people, the wife and the husband. Not only the husband gave the authority, and the wife should obey but also the woman has the rights to speak up too.



## Discussion

According to the media through movie, this is a proof of what reality looks like years ago. In conclusion, the table above contains information that shows how Kartini disliked most of the men attitude toward woman around her including herself. With many proofs about women in Netherlands, she was firm that there was something wrong about men's attitude in her circumstances.

In her next move, Kartini took an action to get woman rights so that women can be as equal as men. Even though the challenge was not that easy, because her action was opposed by her own family, one of them was her brother, and even her stepmother. Kartini ever being imprisoned in her room to avoid her taking any further action regarding woman emancipation. Her family intended to match her with a man too.

Using movie as a media can be used as a tool to describe in detail what happened at that time to people in the future. Emotion and feelings also played parts that supported the situation in the movie. Media's role is important so that people can see how big Kartini's struggles to fight the rights for women in education. In the hopes that this movie can be remembered in woman's minds, so that woman nowadays can fight and enthusiast in pursuing education.

According to data analysis shows that Kartini is a real Indonesian emancipation and feminism figure. It can be seen from how she stood up for woman rights by writing about woman life and some letters to be equal with man one day. Moreover, she helped some men who worked as a craftsman in Jepara to be well-known abroad. So, they can improve their income as the head of family. Her choice was impactful that made Jepara's sculpture well known until now.

Kartini was a noble princess who let herself to go out and observe how woman's life from lower social status than her. She was humble and sincere to share her knowledge by teaching them how to read. She wanted all woman can open their minds by reading books or even newspaper. Kartini did not want woman only can cook and later will get married. She wanted woman should have self-values and can have their own opinion based on the truth.

The last action from Kartini which been told in the movie was incredible. She was so brave to oppose Javanese tradition in her family. Kartini asked not to cleanse her husband's feet when she got married later. The reason behind her wishes was she did not want to be discriminate by her husband later. It is because in Javanese tradition, cleansing feet is a

symbolic from a wife to her husband that she is willing to serve forever (Wahyuti, S. & Rumad, 2019).

## CONCLUSION

Through movie projection, women should be able realize the difference treatment between woman nowadays and woman back then. Even though there is still stereotype towards housewives and career woman. Kartini's struggles to fight for women rights, one of them is to get a chance having a job, but in the end, it creates another negative perspective too.

According to the data above, there are some Kartini's struggles which gave much impact to women until now. Without being realize, Kartini is the first educational and household warrior figure in Indonesia. In conclusion, Kartini is an emancipation and feminism figure in Indonesia. Every form of her struggles can be felt by women nowadays. It inspires woman to not giving up in achieving their education and also get the same right to speak up. As a woman, it is truly an obligation to obey their husband, but their husband should respect their wife's opinion as well.

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