

Gender Empowerment in *Black Widow* (2021)

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Abstrak

Pemberdayaan gender menjadi salah satu cara untuk menghadapi isu gender di era diskriminasi dan patriarki dalam kehidupan berbasis gender. Gerakan pemberdayaan gender merupakan gerakan global yang mengedepankan hak-hak perempuan dengan melakukan berbagai terobosan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk merepresentasikan pemberdayaan gender, dampak pemberdayaan gender dan kontribusinya dalam mengurangi diskriminasi dalam kehidupan sosial sehingga kesetaraan gender yang menjadi tujuan utama pemberdayaan gender dapat tercapai. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan feminis dalam menganalisis *Black Widow* (2021) sebagai data yang mengarah pada karya sastra yang merepresentasikan permasalahan keseharian perempuan. Pandangan feminis tidak membatasi dirinya untuk menganalisis nilai estetika karya, melainkan mempertimbangkan signifikansi hubungan antara konteks sosial dan budaya. Penulis berkesimpulan bahwa penelitian ini membantu mengubah representasi budaya perempuan yang selalu memandang rendah perempuan dalam film di film-film masa depan dan kehidupan nyata, bahwa perempuan bisa melakukan apapun layaknya laki-laki dengan pemberdayaan gender.

Kata Kunci: Diskriminasi, Eksploitasi, Pemberdayaan Gender

Abstract

Gender empowerment has become one of the ways to deal with gender issues in the era of discrimination and patriarchy in gender-based life. The gender empowerment movement is a global movement that promotes women's rights by making various breakthroughs. This study aims at how gender empowerment is represented, the impact of gender empowerment and its contribution to reducing discrimination in social life so that gender equality which is the main goal of gender empowerment, can be achieved. In this study, researchers used a feminist approach in analyzing the film *Black Widow* (2021) as data, leading to literary works representing women's daily problems. The feminist view does not limit itself to analyzing the work's aesthetic value but instead considers the significance of the relationship between social and cultural contexts. The author concludes that this research helps change cultural representations of women who always look down on women in films in future films and real life, that women can do anything just like men with gender empowerment.

Keywords: Discrimination, Exploitation, Gender Empowerment

1. INTRODUCTION

Women face discrimination due to actions and effects separation of responsibilities and unequal wages (Shorrocks, 2016). Egalitarian women are considered equal; they are considered weak creatures who cannot hold a significant role or responsibility, so they are pushed out. As a result, the pattern of society stigmatized women are weak creatures. Based on the results of the study (Shorrocks, 2016), the journal also stated that based on the indicator "Male Priority" indicates that men are more likely to be given a job than women, while based on the indicator "Child Suffers" reveals that the mother is working, causing the child to suffer. The last one, based on the indicator "Housewife", states that a housewife only works outside with a large salary.

The concept of gender, as it is often used in various contexts, became a common expression in the early 1970s. The word gender falls within the analytical category of drawing demarcation lines between biological sex differences. This is used to inform behaviour, and competence shows apparent differences between men and women in behaviour and values, which are then defined as 'masculine' or 'feminine'. 'Masculine', shows apparent differences between men and women in terms of behaviour and values (Pilcher & Whelehan, 2004). The concept of gender when entering a performance shows free to play. In contrast, the results of research when establishing gender concepts are the results of individuals who have the potential to have a 'gender issue', thus challenging the way discourses in discourses construct and reinforce meanings and 'certain institutions' like 'compulsory heterosexuality'. In studies on the gender characterization of culture carried out by institutions and organizations of Western Contemporary society, gender-based education and training, paid work, domestic work and care, love and sexuality, and technology related to a person's gender (Pilcher & Whelehan, 2004). Describes how power relations are shaped by differences between men and women at work and how profit and loss, exploitation and control, actions and emotions, and meanings and identities are shaped.

The difference between male and female power has become a common problem that occurs in social life. Differences between male and female power in violence against women are observed in all segments of society regardless of differences in class, ethnicity, geography and culture (Uygun, 2020). violence against women increased during war and conflict, and women are the most significant targets of violence and victims. This led to universal international legal regulations, which provided general rules about

women's rights that protect human dignity. Regulations made by international law seek to protect women's rights in terms of gender empowerment (Oxaal & Baden, 1997).

Research conducted by (Singh, 2018) As a result of working with organizations involved in rural development in three northern Indian states, the researcher applied an observational approach to women's empowerment to observe the social norms that apply to elected female and male members of Panchayati Raj. Although the government intends to give women the necessary power and positions, this has not been achieved. However, this approach immediately ran into solid social barriers and ran the risk of antagonizing men. Because they will face a male-dominated society and also an organizational structure that is not strong enough, institutions repeatedly face criticism of a culture that places women under men is robust (Singh, 2018).

Based on data collection reports by WHO (2021), globally, 1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical violence both sexually and non-sexually with intimate partners and non-partners, where most of the violence comes from intimate partners. Worldwide, almost a third (27%) of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced violence from their partners. Additionally, Newsday reported that many groups of men, even those not older, are always aggressive toward women in urban and rural areas, where they often restrain women, make obscene remarks, and even use violence against them. In Nigeria, female journalists face violence in performing their journalistic duties, according to the International Press Institute (IPI, 2021). Some media companies do not want to hire women because they believe women are incompetent.

Women who work as journalists in married companies face the consequences of their marital status and the challenges faced in companies. Journalistic women in a company are considered not professional in carrying out their duties because, at home, they have to take care of the family, so not many women who become pregnant while working are asked to resign or be fired Women throughout human civilization have always been in a dark position in their social life. Even discrimination has become a common problem in our environment. Equality, position, degree, and rights of women were limited given to women. In the *Black Widow* (2021) film, produced by Disney, the plot and conflict that is built lead to a focus on the oppression of men against women. This film takes place in 1995 and features Natasha Romanoff as the main character and her sister, Yelena Belova, who are taken from Ohio by

their surrogate parents, Alexei Shostakov, a Russian Captain America referred to as the Red Guardian and an agent and scientist Melina Vostokoff.

By making women the main characters, Disney actively represents Natasha. A previous study (Adyatmasani, 2021) stated that the presence of feminist films provides a new perspective on the role of women that is different from usual. Research conducted by (Gong & Tian, 2021) also states that a feminist who dares to show his existence to other men around him will realize how essential women are. In detail, women everywhere are always ostracized, starting from their most minor environment since their female gender is limited in acting, such as playing; girls don't play physical games such as running, martial arts, climbing etc. Women should play house, cook, play dolls and play soft games that do not use physical strength. Entering adolescence, a woman is taught to be obedient to her parents, who adhere to and uphold the teachings of cultural customs. Adolescent girls who will later enter adulthood begin to be trained to be obedient women, good at cooking and doing housework until they are obedient to their future husbands. Since ancient times, the culture of rules held by society has always cornered women, degrading their position of women and limiting their movements for themselves, their families, the surrounding community and the government.

The keywords in gender empowerment are "participation" and "utilization" (Cornwall & Brock, 2005), which have positive and persuasive interpretations in the promising transformational development literature. Training policies that lead both men and women to quality productivity development create empowering long-term investments in literacy and numeracy (Kabeer, 1997) will. Gender empowerment without discrimination will increase women's productivity and divert them from traditional 'women' activities whose scope is always degraded. Data sources from a review of scientific literature and microfinance grayscale on gender empowerment shows a lack of male involvement, and an uncritical assessment of social dynamics makes it difficult to increase male awareness -men and reduce their antagonistic position towards female clients (Yeboah et al., 2015).

In any part of the country, the problem of answering gender issues is through empowerment. Empowerment cannot be separated from the gender condition held by a man, especially a woman. The issue of gender inequality against gender is the existence of discriminatory actions against women in terms of access to power over sources of life, awards, opportunities, roles, status and rights. Where in

empowerment, the ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality, namely equal conditions for men or women in order to obtain equal opportunities in living their lives as human beings who have the same universal rights. Dealing with gender problems caused by inequality and injustice between women and men in infrastructure development certainly requires intervention/special treatment to improve the implementation and favour of gender equality and justice.

Gender discrimination and stereotyping continue to prevail in the film industry, despite being a well-known issue. It is commonly believed that women continue to be regarded as a subordinate segment of society, with their status akin to that of bondage. Throughout film history, male characters have been consistently depicted as superior beings capable of achieving anything. In contrast, female characters have been portrayed as submissive, vulnerable, and often viewed with suspicion, even when they are the victims. Even though some women possess qualities similar to men, the portrayal of women in the film remains limited and stereotypical. Women can achieve anything, surpassing gender-based limitations when provided with equal opportunities and freedom from discrimination.

Gender empowerment, enables women to pursue their aspirations and showcase their abilities confidently. This study examines a Marvel film that features female superheroes combating injustice and gender discrimination; This statement challenges the traditional belief that women are inadequate to men and lack the ability to resist mistreatment and can not do anything.

The film serves as an example of gender empowerment and highlights the capacity of women to overcome societal expectations of weakness and subservience. This research aims to demonstrate how the conflicts faced by women discriminate against women and how women's empowerment is represented, as well as to show what factors contribute to gender empowerment and how gender empowerment forms the main character in the film *Black Widow* (2021).

2. METHODE

In this study, researcher used a feminist approach method. Where the development of feminist methodology is an approach used by feminist scholars in connecting social science with literary analysis (Margaret et al., 2005). This study uses in-depth analysis techniques in analyzing literary works: constant comparison analysis, analysis of keywords in context, narrative analysis, classical content analysis,

domain analysis, semiotics, and manifest content analysis (Margaret et al., 2005). Apart from that, according to (Wigginton, 2019), this methodology is designed to study the social conditions of women in a sexist, 'malestream', and patriarchal society. (Wigginton, 2019) stated that in a feminist approach to analyzing four categories of data sources, including discussion of narratives, observations, pictures/photos/videos, and documents, an objective reality or truth awaits

The primary data used in this study is based on the first woman in Avengers Natasha Romanoff, who played the main lead in the film *Black Widow* (2021), which premiered at events around the world on June 29, 2021, and was released in the United States on June 9. July, simultaneously in theatres and Disney + Hotstar with Premiere Access. Meanwhile, it will be shown in Indonesian cinemas on September 16, 2021. *The Black Widow* (2021) film has a runtime of 2 hours and 14 minutes.

This study uses a feminist approach in displaying data from films with variables entered when data collection is explicative, such as how, why, or responses in one sentence that contradict other sentences. The data analysis described is events such as culture, ethics, morals, religion, opinion, and feelings carried out by data analysis at the beginning of data collection. The data collection used in this study is to take screenshots of each scene. With research in the form of multimodal text, each film scene uses words -words, sentences, and narratives that help researchers analyze the film and provide critical understanding. This research will be focused on visual, linguistic, gestural, and touch features. As a result, the data collected will be analyzed with the chosen theory. This process is needed to validate the information and critical understanding from the film *Black Widow* (2021) so that misunderstandings do not occur during the study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Where this research aims to answer the research questions from the research as follows: 1. How is gender empowerment represented in the film *Black Widow* (2021)? 2. What factors contribute to gender empowerment in the film *Black Widow* (2021)?. Based on the statement, the objective of this study is formulated as follows: 1. To reveal how gender empowerment conflict is represented in the film *Black Widow* (2021). 2. To show What factors contribute to gender empowerment in the film *Black Widow* (2021).

Throughout this study, researcher try to explain the meaning of gender empowerment for women and

explore how society misunderstands and misuses representations of women's empowerment by society in films. Then this study is intended for readers so that it can become an effort to prevent and deal with all forms of violence and violations of women's rights because the topic of gender empowerment itself is not discussed massively in academic forums. This study communicates how gender empowerment should be implemented by society so that women are no longer victims in the context of specific political or social conflicts to help the reader eliminate confusion about the topic. Empowerment gives individuals full control over their bodies and their lives and the right to participate in social, religious and public activities so that they can live freedom, self- aggrandizement, respect and dignity.

In a research journal by Sibielski, (2019), is stated among 21st- century American girls and women who are the target issue. It is commonly believed that women continue to be regarded as a subordinate segment of society, with their status akin to that of bondage. Throughout film history, male characters have been consistently depicted as superior beings capable of achieving anything. In contrast, female characters have been portrayed as submissive, vulnerable, and often viewed with suspicion, even when they are the victims. Even though some women possess qualities similar to men, the portrayal of women in the film remains limited and stereotypical. Women can achieve anything, surpassing gender-based limitations when provided with equal opportunities and freedom from discrimination.

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The keywords in gender empowerment are "participation" and "utilization" (Cornwall & Brock, 2005), which have positive and persuasive interpretations in the promising transformational development literature. Training policies that lead both men and women to quality productivity development (Kabeer, 1997) will create empowering long-term investments in literacy and numeracy. Gender empowerment without discrimination will increase women's productivity and divert them from traditional 'women' activities whose scope is always degraded. Research (Yeboah et al., 2015) uses a research methodology, data sources from a review of scientific literature and microfinance grayscale on gender empowerment shows a lack of male

involvement, and an uncritical assessment of social dynamics makes it difficult to increase male awareness -men and reduce their antagonistic position towards female clients (Yeboah et al., 2015). Based on research journals (Mandal, 2013) states that there are 5 types of empowerment:

1. "Social empowerment" gives women the power to improve their social standing. Social empowerment overcomes social prejudice. Social empowerment is based on social work, community development, and human rights. Where the points of women's empowerment and gender equality are: "acquiring health-related knowledge," "desire to improve quality of life and social class," and "improvement of social skills and decision-making capacity," most of which are related to higher education and social contact (Khadivzadeh et al., 2014).
2. "Education empowerment" determines economic and political standing. Empowerment can only be achieved by educating girls. Women require education about their rights and responsibilities. Education boosts self-esteem and independence. It encourages optimism, social, political, intellectual, cultural, spiritual awareness, and anti-bigotry (Mandal, 2013).
3. "Economic empowerment" aids financial management, decision-making, and action. "Wage employment develops economic power" (Elliott, 2008, p. 86). Work helps women and girls become "bread winners" and provides household economic independence. Economic empowerment "gives women more control over resources.
4. "Political empowerment", the involvement of political participation and discussion at all levels of government facilitates the inclusion of women's voices. With political engagement, women will seek to increase their efficacy and fight against patriarchal ideas that decentralize power and authority to disadvantaged individuals (Mandal, 2013).
5. "Psychological empowerment" is a management method or decision that increases one's inner motivation (Knezovic & Musrati, 2018) through the development of self-efficacy or self-determination of one's existence as a human being. Psychological empowerment helps women break patriarchal taboos and social duties and modify their stigmatised subjectivity. The involvement of

political participation and discussion at all levels of government facilitates the inclusion of women's voices.

The presentation of the results will be followed by an analysis and discussion based the criteria under the data collection techniques that the previous research has determined. The data collection approach in this study is to capture screenshots of each scene. Each film scene contains the important words, sentences, and narration that help researcher study and interpret the film.

3.1. Gender Empowerment in *Black Widow* (2021)

Social gender empowerment changes small-scale social structures and institutions for larger groups of women so they may control resources and tackle long-term poverty problems (Kroecker, 1995). Small-scale women's groups can impact their surroundings, policy processes, and resource distribution through coalition activities and social empowerment types (Kroecker, 1995). Social empowerment aligns women's participation in civil society with a larger public space, which indirectly aligns feminist concepts (Sibielski, 2019) in resisting patriarchal power agents. Social empowerment combats social discrimination. Social work in community development promotes human rights and empowers people in the broadest sense (Khadi Zadeh et al., 2014). Social kinds tie feminism to popular discourse, according to gender empowerment research (Sibielski, 2019). The data below depicts *Black Widow* (2021)'s social and psychological empowerment :

3.1.1. Social Empowerment in the film *Black Widow* (2021)



Figure 1. (00:11:38,365 --> 00:11:40,284)



Figure 2. (00:34:34,074 --> 00:34:37,077)

Figure 1., in minute 00:11:38,365 --> 00:11:40,284, Natasha said, "Don't touch her!" when soldiers touched Yelena in Cuba. The use of imperative or prohibition sentences is used by Natasha is she orders someone not to do anything. Commands usually begin with an imperative verb, and we can see the use of the verb from the word "don't...." which is an auxiliary verb of the prohibition type. Natasha bravely grabs a soldier's gun and points it at the soldiers around her so as not to disturb Yelena, or she will shoot her. Seeing this, General Dreykov asked

Alexei what the name of his adopted daughter was because she had a brave and tough personality.

In Figure 2., Natasha said, "Killing Dreykov was the ultimate step towards defection to S.H.I.E.L.D. This dialogue shows that killing Dreykov and destroying the Red Room is the final step to defecting to S.H.I.E.L.D. It shows how a woman can pull off a big stunt and represents a new industry development that has endured. Examining Figure 1., and Figure 2., the demonstration of the type of social empowerment exhibited by Natasha's courage when she is around a military group that bothers her and her sister and treats them brutally is the representation of the type of social empowerment shown. Then in Figure 2., the feeling that Yelena asks Natasha for help is a form that she needs someone else. The actions taken by Yelena and Natasha, who want to work together, show empowerment in which they accumulate themselves and use social relations to become resources that can be invested to make a profit. The advantage that Natasha and Yelena are trying to achieve is a common goal: rescue the Black Widow agents still in the Red Room, controlled by mind control gas.

Start when one Black Widow agent who create the mind control synthetic give Yelena the antidote and Yelena give it to Natasha. She stole the antidote from Dreykov. Black Widow agent, Yelena and Natasha showcases other women who can fight like men in sports and martial arts besides just being meek, obedient, dependent on men as the popular culture has traditionally portrayed women. Women are increasingly underrepresented in popular culture, especially in heroic or positive positions (González-velázquez et al., 2020). Natasha and Yelena socially diminish bad results, low self-esteem, and unfavorable judgemental conceptions that women are always labeled with. They displays a woman who can act demands skill. In Natasha expresses her "desire to improve the quality of life and social class" by saving Red Room agents. The demonstration of the type of social empowerment exhibited by Natasha's courage and Yelena are trying to achieve is a common goal: rescue the Black Widow agents still in the Red Room, controlled by mind-control synthetic gas.

3.1.2. Psychological Empowerment in the film *Black Widow* (2021)

Psychological empowerment boosts one's inner motivation by raising awareness among all genders (Knezovic & Musrati, 2018). According to Spreitzer (1996), psychological empowerment is measured by four reflection items: seeing herself doing a meaningful job (meaningful), self-creating the ability

to do a job (competence), having a belief in significant anatomy towards herself (self-determination), and thinking about her impact on the environment (impact). Loaded items build empowerment.

Psychological empowerment motivates intrinsically and actively. Empowerment psychology is active, unlike passive intrinsic motivation. Psychological empowerment is an individual's experiential motivation based on knowledge about herself or her everyday work function (Kang et al., 2017). Allowing bias to occur unchecked during a confrontation can harm the candidate for confrontation (Cox & Devine, 2019). Empowerment-based confrontation is necessary to combat prejudice over time. By incorporating egalitarian values and registering individuals as their agents of change and can extend the influence of confrontation beyond the original.

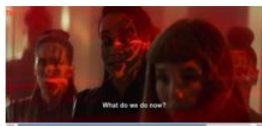


Figure 3. (01:48:19,455 -> 01:48:22,415)
One of the agents: "What do we do now?"



Figure 4. (01:48:27,132 -> 01:48:28,717)
Natasha: "You get to make your own choice now."

Figure 3., and Figure 4., are the final data from the representation of psychological empowerment types. When the Black Widow agents are freed from the synthetic chemical that controls their thoughts, they realize what they have done all this time is wrong because they have been controlled to become assassins, carry out Dreykov's mission and obey only Dreykov. In Figure 3., one of the Black Widow agents asks, have a meaning that after they have a shows psychological empowerment contain meaning, competence, and self-determination boost intrinsic task motivation (Spreitzer, 1996). The agents after being released from mind control synthesis gas ask that kind of question show how they want they existence have a meaning for themselves. The black widow agents better mindset comes from Natasha and Yelena's pleasant action.

According to Figure 3., and Figure 4., they can now do anything after being released from the mind control gas and the Red Room's annihilation. Natasha, Yelena and Melina finally represented that what they did at the last minute could free themselves and other exploited women because of a patriarchal culture that consistently demeans women. The last data in psychological empowerment represent gender empowerment by covering the four items of psychological empowerment which is measured by four reflection items; doing a job

whether it is meaningful for herself (meaningful), self-creation having the ability to do a job (competence), having a belief in anatomy that is significant to himself (self-determination) and the last is thinking about her influence on the environment in which she was (impact) according to (Spreitzer, 1996).

3.1. Factors Contribute to Gender Empowerment in *Black Widow* (2021)

Gender identity is a person's self-definition as a man or a woman, which is complicated by their biological makeup and socially labeled behaviors. Due to the widespread belief that men and women are vastly different, women are less protected from discrimination, which leads to exploitation, physical and verbal abuse, exclusion, and cornering in many settings and professions. Customs and practices are still strong. The neighborhood's sociocultural norms scare women and limit their opportunities in many areas of that society. Women must fight for empowerment to end gender inequality and oppression. *Black Widow* (2021) started gender empowerment with these factors:

3.2.1. Prejudice Gender in *Black Widow* (2021)

Allowing bias to occur unchecked during a confrontation can harm the candidate for confrontation (Cox & Devine, 2019). Empowerment-based confrontation is necessary to combat prejudice over time. By incorporating egalitarian values and registering individuals as their agents of change, we can extend the influence of confrontation beyond the original context and empower individuals to pass on what they've learned to maintain their value process.



Figure 5. (01:02:22,075 -> 01:02:23,535)
Alexei: Is it your time of the month?



Figure 6. (01:02:23,702 -> 01:02:27,122)
Yelena: I don't get my period dipshit. I don't have a uterus.

In Figure 5., Alexei asked Natasha and Yelena, because neither of them were friendly. Alexei's interpretation of the sentence is inconsistent with its actual meaning. The sentence asks whether or not she was experiencing her monthly period at the time because Alexei thought Yelena was sensitive at the time. Women are frequently the target of bias, and being a member of a target group is frequently viewed as complaining and excessively sensitive (Cox &

Devine, 2019). On the other hand, members of non-target groups are viewed as credible. Then, in Figure 6., Yelena sentence has meaning how cruel she was thereted when in Red Room. She and others Black Widow Agents were treated inhumanely, and when they ignore the one who has been treat them badly, they were said to be sensitive women.

Figure 6., prejudice against them as was formed. As former Black Widow agents, Natasha and Yelena, the victims at Red Room, must be sick to interact with Alexei again. Yelena and Natasha were once black widow agents who had no rights at that time, and their bodies were used for exploitation. Because their uterus and ovaries were forcibly removed, the ladies in Red Room could not have periods. Forcefully removing each Black Widow agent's reproductive organs is the incorrect way to empower women, as Red Room does this on purpose to exploit women and prevent them from experiencing menstruation's sensitivity and anguish and from becoming pregnant.

3.2.2. Stereotype Gender in *Black Widow* (2021)

Gender stereotypes that apply in society directly form patterns of appropriate behavior for men and women based on culture, which refers generally to the image of members of that category (Grau & Zotos, 2016). Streotype gender seem to have become a paradox for women in living their lives in society. Prejudice against women has become increasingly commonplace in society. Gender stereotypes have been in the historical context of viewing the sexes for a long time in more traditional roles. women are categorized broadly by reflecting a lower impression compared to their potential and abilities. The broad concept category that reflects impressions and beliefs about men and women in general on gender stereotypes gives a bad image for women that it demeans and deprives basic human rights.



Figure 7. (01:02:22,075 --> 01:02:23,335)

One of the agents: General Dreykov we have a deserter.



Figure 8. (00:23:31,127 --> 00:23:40,254)

Agents: Are you okay?
Natasha: I'm actually better on my own

Figure 7., the data show how manipulative of mind contal synthesis. One of the agent have a same mindset to give a belief that woman should be obey the orders of men. It also shows how General Dreykov dissatisfaction and anger towards Yelena. He considers women to be subordinate to men and give that belief to the agents who is unconsciously in

her mind. Natasha wants to prove that she is not what society has labelled her by empowering. Gender stereotypes that apply in society directly form patterns of appropriate behaviour for men and women based on culture and culture which refer generally to the image of members of that category (Grau & Zotos, 2016).

Then in Figure 8., can be seen from that scene, where on of the man who also is Natasha friend has belief that because of she is alone, he thinks that Natasha are not in good situations. Natasha firmly telling to her friend that she is even better when she is alone than when she is with the Avengers in Figure 8., Concerning what is represented in Figure 7., and Figure 8., Natasha experienced a split with her friend who was in the Avengers during the film Captain America: Civil War. This scene connects with all of Natasha's activities when she was in the previous Avengers film. What we can see from here is also when Natasha's friend doubts if she can go and whether she can successfully carry out the mission on her own while running from police teaching and Ross' accusations. This scene displays a bias against women where men always view women as weak, which started long ago and is following the essence of culture in society.

3.2.3. Marginalization Gender in *Black Widow* (2021)

From the *Black Widow* (2021) the can be seen that there is a marginalisation of Natasha and other women. Marginalisation has become a culture that is widely used in Europe and was first used in France. Women are excluded by being blocked from rights, opportunities, and resources normally available to members of different groups. Various forms of discrimination are evident in the social domain for individuals in their daily lives. Women are the main target of gender marginalisation (Hoan et al., 2016). Women are considered weaker than men. Marginalisation creates a system of exclusion in a narrow social environment by marginalising certain groups of women. Exclusion and limitations in various fields make women experience discrimination in education and social discrimination because of their minority position and stereotyped image of their gender and ethnicity (Hoan et al., 2016).



Figure 9. (00:17:08,403 --> 00:17:11,615)

Ross: Romanoff is in violation of the Sokovia Accord



Figure 10. (01:02:22,075 --> 01:02:23,535)

Dreykov: this girls were trash

In *Figure 9.*, the dialogue is about Ross try to arrest Natasha. Ross is trying to blame Natasha as the murder of king of Wakanda because she is considered a woman who can do somethings not like women usually that have been conceptualized by society. Natasha was expert at martial arts and have courage, just like any other male member of the Avengers. Then in *Figure 10.*, the word "...these..." refers to the woman shown on the red monitor screen. In Dreykov's opinion, girls are like an object and creatures that can be controlled and throw just like a thrash when they are not inluded in the classification; weak and no longer needed as he wants. In *Figure 9.*, and *Figure 10.*, it can be seen that there is a marginalisation of Natasha and other women.

3.2.4. Subordination Gender in *Black Widow* (2021)

As one of the forms of gender inequality, subordination causes differential treatment of a gender to emerge. Gender inequality is associated with biological characteristics occurring in women because women are feminine; this makes women considered gentle and motherly individuals, while men are considered firm and rigid individuals, and women often fall prey to gender subordination (Adjei, 2015). Even though gender is entirely sourced from society's views, it has nothing to do with physical or biological characteristics. However, gender differences stem from society's social and cultural habits, which are taught from generation to generation, so people think this is a role that must be carried out.

In *Figure 25.*, Yelena only one becomes an agent due to the tightness and quality of the agents and who did not make it will be killed. Then in *Figure 26.*, Yelena dialogue shows how women who can be thrown away because there will always be women who can be used and deceived. Dreykov used to killed the rest who is not survives during the training because of mindset of subordination, he can just throw away the women he did not need. Subordination is an assessment that assumes that one gender is lower than the other. Subordination has the meaning of being subordinated to gender, which means that the role, function, and position of women are under those of men, so that the inferior position of women is lower. This is what makes Natasha, Yelena, and the other *Black Widow* agents feel like objects that can be used, chosen, and thrown away at any time.



Figure 11. (00:48:09,139 --> 00:48:11,642)

Yelena: Maybe one in 20 survives the training becomes a widow.



Figure 12. (00:48:21,527 --> 00:48:24,488)

Yelena: Because there is always more

CONCLUSION

In *Black Widow* (2021), the data that shows gender empowerment is represented in Chapter III. Women who form relationships or linkages between ideas and other women are believed to be able to develop skills and levels of independence and better status and gain tangible and intangible benefits (Ferguson et al., 2011). Concluding the data analysis, it can be seen how Natasha, the main character in the film, represents herself as a feminist by fighting for gender empowerment as a woman who is always discriminated against and lives in a very thick patriarchal culture. Natasha started from her small as a girl and was arranged to do what had been determined by others, so when she grew into a woman, she was transformed into an assassin skilled in martial arts and shooting. As a woman, the label attached to girls is those who obey their parents and men, are weak and cannot do anything without the help of men. This research shows that gender labelling and stereotypes in films that always prioritize men, marginalize women, and consider women to be weak and can't do anything is a negative and wrong stigma. This research proves that labelling women as unable to do anything is incorrect, as many women can do anything just like men.

This research provides an empirical contribution by representing gender empowerment, the impact of gender empowerment and its contribution to reducing discrimination in social life so that gender equality which is the main goal of gender empowerment, can be achieved. With uses a feminist approach to linking science and social issues with literary analysis (Margaret et al., 2005), in this study, which makes gender empowerment a way to deal with gender issues in an era of discrimination and patriarchy in gender-based life. The findings of this journal conceptually highlight the potential of using gender empowerment to help promote women's rights by making various breakthroughs. The author concludes that this research helps change the cultural representation of women who always look down on women in films in future and real-life films, that women can do anything like men with gender empowerment.

In the conclusions, it is hoped this research in

the future can assist the audience in forming a rationale for the reality that a "worldview" that is formed based on gender and gender roles is not like the label held by society in general that men dominate this world and can do anything while women are beings who cannot do what men do. *Black Widow* (2021) helps convey the message that gender equality can be achieved when patriarchal culture is eradicated and women are given the opportunity to participate in various fields of life, including defence and resilience, education, the economy, the world of work, and within the family and society. Within the framework of the primary objection of gender empowerment, gender equality can be attained by eradicating the culture of discrimination and ending physical and sexual violence against women. In reality, gender empowerment is a process of raising awareness and enhancing women's capacities for greater participation in order to produce a transformation of equality.

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