

Resistance to Sexual Harassment by Cassandra in *Promising Young Woman* (2020)

Hari Tata Oktatiara

English Literature Study Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Surabaya

haritata.20011@mhs.unesa.ac.id

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi perlawanan terhadap pelecehan seksual berdasarkan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Steve Pile dan Michael Keith yang dilakukan oleh Cassandra atau Cassie sebagai pemeran utama dalam film *Promising Young Woman* (2020) karya Emerald Fennell dan juga dampak yang terjadi dalam kehidupan pribadinya setelah dia menjadi seorang korban pelecehan seksual oleh laki-laki. Analisis ini menunjukkan bagaimana usaha pemeran utama dalam melawan pelecehan seksual terhadap pelaku yang melecehkan dirinya serta temannya di masa dulu sehingga harus mengakhiri hidupnya, serta menggambarkan sosok perempuan yang kuat untuk dirinya sendiri dalam meraih keadilan untuk sesama perempuan korban pelecehan seksual yang sangat satu jalur dengan feminisme gelombang ketiga yang memperjuangkan keadilan bagi para perempuan korban pelecehan seksual.

Kata kunci: Perlawanan, Pelecehan seksual, Femisme gelombang ketiga.

Abstract

This research explores the resistance to sexual harassment based on the theory proposed by Steve Pile and Michael Keith carried out by Cassandra or Cassie as the main character in Emerald Fennell's *Promising Young Woman* (2020) and also the impact that occurred in her personal life after she became a victim of sexual harassment by men. This analysis shows how the main character's efforts to fight sexual harassment against the perpetrator who harassed her and her friend in the past so that she had to end her life, as well as depicting a strong female figure for herself in achieving justice for fellow female victims of sexual harassment which is very much in line with third wave feminism which fights for justice for female victims of sexual harassment.

Keywords: Resistance, Sexual harassment, Third wave feminism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Unbeknownst to us, sexual harassment happens frequently in our daily lives. Typically, the victim is a woman in a lower social class than the perpetrator since, in the event of a sanction or punishment, the offender can more easily escape punishment. Not just in day-to-day existence. In light of the fact that sexual harassment is becoming more commonplace in the film industry, directors may find this to be a useful concept. Similar to Emerald Fennell's *Promising*

Young Woman (2020), which centers its narrative on sexual harassment.

Essentially, the film centers on Carey Mulligan's character, Cassie Thomas, a medical student who left college early to pursue legal action against those responsible for her companion Nina's demise. This is consistent with the idea of third-wave feminism, in which women struggle against sexual harassment caused by male behavior that affects both them and other women. In addition to fighting against rape and gang rape, unjust maternity leave regulations, and

sexual violence and harassment in the workplace, it advocates reproductive rights (Mohajan, 2022). As a result of Nina's sexual harassment at the hands of a male friend who was also Cassie's college classmate, she ultimately chose suicide because she was unable to handle the weight of her feelings. Cassie was therefore resolved to exact revenge on everyone connected to the crime, using whatever means necessary. In this movie, not only does Nina face sexual harassment, but Cassie, the lead character, also goes through it and wants to exact revenge.

Sexual harassment is a series of acts/actions that are sexual in nature, coercive, and unwanted by the recipient of the harassment, and have disturbing consequences for the recipient (Kania, 2016). Sexual harassment can also occur anywhere and to anyone, not only women, but even men can become victims (Saputri et al., 2024). Based on research conducted in several countries, areas deemed 'safe' by the broader community, like workplaces, colleges, residence halls, and schools, are where sexual harassment primarily occurs. The culprits are not distant from individuals known to the casualty such as companions, colleagues, teachers/lecturers, and bosses. Most sexual harassment can happen to anyone, both women and men (Alfiana & MH, 2019).

The sexual harassment scenes in this movie are primarily focused on sexual exploitation, which is when men abuse their authority over women in order to demonstrate to the general public that men are stronger than women. Lowering women's status by treating them merely as sexual objects and disregarding their inherent dignity. Because men only care about sating their sexual cravings, the sexual harassment Cassie Thomas endured is an example of power imbalance and a kind of sex slavery. Additionally, Cassie's life is affected by this in that she becomes traumatized, resentful of the past, loses emotional control, and is unable to fulfill her actual life ambitions. Because sexual harassment has such a profound effect on the victim, everyone should be concerned about it.

Cassandra or Cassie's resistance in this film is in line with Steve Pile and Michael Keith's concept of resistance. Where they theorize that resistance is fighting back in defense of freedom, democracy, and humanity (Steve & Keith, 1997). Cassandra showed

she was capable of retaliating against the sexual harassment she and her friend experienced by making a concerted effort to give up her schooling, her desire of becoming a doctor, her love life, and her ability to interact with others. However, she will undoubtedly be affected by all of that as a victim of sexual harassment. (Fairchild & Rudman, 2008) outlined the effects of sexual harassment, including the potential for victims to experience trauma, fear, discomfort, anxiety, embarrassment, intimidation, or self-blame. Furthermore, a more real effect is that victims experience body humiliation or overestimate their physical attributes due to their anxiety and unease about becoming victims of sexual harassment.

There are several studies that discuss the film *Promising Young Woman* by Emerald Fennell, including a study written by (Kurnia et al., 2023) entitled Representasi Pelecehan Seksual Pada Film *Promising Young Woman* (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes). In this study, sexual assault is examined through the lens of Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis, which employs the denotation, connotation, and myth phases of model significance. The study's findings demonstrate that sexual representation occurs in movies, as seen by the multiple instances of sexual violence that are shown through dialogue (Kurnia et al., 2023).

Meanwhile in the study that was written by (Syarifa et al., 2023) entitled Deciphering Cassandra as a Radical Feminist in *Promising Young Woman* (2020) which analyzes the main female character in the film using qualitative methods to prove the radical feminism that exists in the main character. This shows that Cassandra's character and actions in the film are consistent with many of the principles of radical feminism, such as resistance to sexism, patriarchy, and the objectification of women for sexual gain. As a result, the film establishes Cassandra's eligibility to be called a radical feminist in its entirety (Syarifa et al., 2023).

Otherwise the study from (Igot et al., 2022) entitled Rape Culture in the Society: An Analysis of *Promising Young Woman* which identifies rape culture that occurs in society using the film *Promising Young Woman*. This research is analyzed using feminist criticism and formalist philosophy. Not to mention proving that this film portrays rape culture. The

narrative also includes sexual objectification, victim blaming, slut-shaming, denial, invasions of privacy, playing the innocent, victim shaming, and assuming the perpetrator is innocent (Igot et al., 2022).

2. METHOD

This study employs a feminist approach to literature, concentrating on dialogue and monologue from the 2020 film *Promising Young Woman* (2020) that highlight the bravery of Cassandra or Cassie. The purpose of this analysis is to comprehend and investigate Cassandra's experience as a victim of sexual harassment, as well as the effects that her victim status has on her life. Research on sexual harassment is now focused on demonstrating the bravery of women and how their lives altered as a result of choosing to speak out against sexual harassment. The research methodology includes dialogue as a source of information about victim experiences and resistance to sexual harassment. After that, a detailed analysis is conducted to address the analysis's goals.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher provides a thorough analysis of victims' reactions to sexual harassment resistance in Emerald Fennell's *Promising Young Woman* (2020) in this part. This study focuses solely on Cassandra as the primary character, excluding any mention of other characters in the film, in order to examine Cassandra's bravery in fending off sexual harassment despite being a woman and the effects it has on her.

3.1 Cassandra's Resistance to Sexual Harassment

Cassie came up with a strategy or plan to combat the sexual harassment she had experienced as well as to exact revenge on the group of people responsible for the violence and harassment she and her friend Nina had to endure. Some of the tactics Cassie used included emotional resistance to all the men who tried to woo her, trapping the harassers into spending the night in a hotel with strangers, disparaging their reputations, careers, and jobs, and even attempting to kill the main harasser in the film.

a) Psychological and Emotional Resistance

Attacking the emotions and psychology of sexual harassers is a typical way of resistance to make them pay for what they do. Cassie started her activity when

she entered a pub and pretended to be intoxicated in order to be brought back to a man's home or apartment. In actuality, Cassie is already aware of what will occur if she visits a man's home, but she has the opportunity to defend herself now. When a woman senses a guy's sexual drive reaching its zenith, she will act accordingly, demonizing and even fighting the male. An example of a sequence that Cassie performed in the film illustrates this.

*in her room Cassie opened a small book
which turned out to contain many men who
had abused her.*

*And she wrote down Jez's name that morning.
Cassie
"Jez"*

(timecode 00:09:27-00:09:31)

Cassie is clutching her notebook and jotting down a summary at 00:09:27. It proved to be a list of males she had purposefully made fun of and embarrassed when they expressed interest in fucking Cassie. She used this tactic to exact revenge on guys who, in her opinion, just wanted to have sex with women in a lighthearted manner. Cassie behaved inebriated on purpose to make it simpler for her to trick men. Because in general, inebriated people are simpler to mislead and behave anyway they choose without being forced to do so. In addition, inebriated people don't recall anything, which is fortunate for the males because it absolves them of responsibility for what occurs after.

Furthermore, because drunkenness is an unconscious state, the police will not look into drunkenness-related crimes very closely. This is exactly what Cassie did: she would set up a trap, seeming inebriated, to get men to go on dates and stay the night. However, as soon as the men went too far, Cassie would snap and make fun of them by making them feel less confident. She had previously listed a large number of victims in the book she had. Cassie used it as a means of remembering how cruel males could be to women.

b) Reciprocal Relationship Resistance

Here, "reciprocal resistance" refers to Cassie responding to the harasser in kind for any words, actions, or characteristics that are humiliating to the victims of sexual harassment. Madison was the first

person Cassie targeted in return for her resistance. When Cassie and Nina were in college, Madison McPhee was their friend. However, because to her obsession with having friends in positions of authority, she chose to ignore Cassie and Nina and became friends with Alexander Monroe and his group instead. Their relationship eventually fell apart as a result of Cassie and Nina's incompatibility with Madison, and they haven't spoken to each other since. Cassie was enraged and unwilling to interact with Madison because of her conceited attitude and self-centeredness.

MADISON

"I don't make the rules, okay? If you get drunk, something will happen! You don't get drunk every night and then expect others to be on your side when you have sex with someone you don't want!"

(timecode 00:38:48-00:38:52)

In Cassie's endeavor to combat Madison. She made a conscious effort to get in touch with her former acquaintance once more and extended an invitation for a meal. In order to make it easier to take Madison to a hotel with a man she didn't know, Cassie attempted to start the action by giving her a lot of alcohol. This was Cassie's scheme to exact revenge on Madison for disparaging victims of sexual harassment who were harassed while intoxicated. Cassie purposefully broached the subject of her friend's sexual assault during their meeting. Unexpectedly, Madison stated that everything happens when a person is intoxicated. She also stated that it is not uncommon for men and women to wake up in the same bed, and that it may even be the victim of sexual harassment's wish.

"Room 25."

TONY

"Are you sure about this?"

CASSANDRA

(Chilling)

"I'm sure."

(timecode 00:40:28-00:40:35)

That was a chat Cassie had in a restaurant not long after she had left Madison, unconscious from her excessive alcohol consumption. They spoke about Cassie's directive to drive Madison to a hotel where she had reserved room number 25 in advance. The man was given the hotel room key by Cassie, who also

instructed him on who to deliver to the room. Cassie used this as her means of retaliation against Madison for her remarks on her friend and even the unsuspecting victims of sexual abuse that exist today. It's not that they are inebriated and assume that all these terrible things can occur with the permission and volition of the victims; rather, it's precisely when inebriated that the offenders are able to act without consequence and outside the reach of the law.

CASSANDRA

"Her friends were all watching and laughing. Some of them may have even joined in."

DEAN WALKER

"I understand that it must be very difficult. But if Nina was drinking, if she can't remember completely, it's very complicated."

(timecode 00:45:44-00:45:57)

Cassie went to Dean Walker, a lecturer at her university, after going to Madison and exacting her revenge. Cassie went to see her since Nina's complaint about being harassed was handled by this Dean; nevertheless, the lawsuit Nina filed over Alexander Monroe was deemed unjustified and to be an isolated event. Cassie was even more enraged by the fact that she could not recall Nina's name. The only reason Alexander Monroe came to her mind was that, just a few days prior, he had recently graduated from a London institution and shared his experiences there. Dean Walker went so far as to claim that because Nina lacked substantial evidence and was intoxicated when the incident occurred, she was only making it up and didn't completely recall what had happened.

Cassie inquired about the sexual harassment case involving Alexander Monroe, a student at the same college, and one of the other students during their chat with Dean. Cassie became even more confused after hearing Dean Walker's answer. She was upset at what had transpired and Dean's lack of concern for her friend's case; Dean appeared to be indifferent and thought nothing of it. However, Cassie had reportedly planned to trap her daughter by pretending that she was in a room with a man who gave Dean a lot of anxiety and worry before meeting with Dean Walker.

The two aforementioned occurrences represent Cassie's battle against sexual harassers who attempt to denigrate victims of sexual harassment and seek solace in laws that shield offenders who commit crimes while

intoxicated and unconscious. According to Madison, when someone is intoxicated, anything can happen, including having sex with strangers. Subsequently, Cassie sent Madison to a hotel room with an unfamiliar man as payback. Dean said that because Nina was intoxicated and there was insufficient proof, he was unable to defend her from the sexual attack. Cassie set up Dean's daughter with an unknown man in retaliation, knowing that if something happened to her, the police would be powerless to protect her due to intoxication.

c) Social Sanctions

Cassie's final tactic of resistance is to denigrate Ryan Cooper and Jordan Green in public by disparaging their employment, reputations, and careers. The attorney who helped Alexander Monroe prevail in the trial against Nina was Jordan Green. However, Jordan's statements were false and did not reflect the circumstances that led Alexander to win the case at that particular moment. Even though he had to create false claims, Jordan claimed that it was rather common in the legal industry and that the purpose of it was to increase his potential earnings in the event that he prevailed.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

"You have to help me. I can't sleep. I can't sleep. I haven't slept in... He gripped her hand. She backed away. "

JORDAN (CONT'D)

"You're real, aren't you? I didn't really lose my mind?"

CASSANDRA

"I'm real."

JORDAN

"I'll never forgive myself. I hope you know that. I will never forgive myself for any of it. "

(timecode 00:57:51-00:59:06)

When Cassie arrived to his residence, he was in a highly chaotic state. Jordan acknowledged that he was troubled by guilt and couldn't sleep. He could recall the entire episode and Nina's name with clarity. Jordan also tried to apologize and promised to make amends if given the chance. Cassie was shocked to see that there were still individuals who knew Nina's name and acknowledged her errors, and this prevented Cassie from taking revenge on Jordan Green. Well, if

Jordan hadn't said sorry at that moment. Cassie intends to send out people to generate unfavorable reports about Jordan in order to ruin his career.

Ryan Cooper was the second individual to face social repercussions for his actions toward the victim of sexual harassment. When Cassie was a college student, Ryan was a friend. Ryan and Cassie had not seen one other for a long time when Cassie happened to work at a coffee shop. Ryan is a hospital pediatrician who is well-liked by many young patients for being a kind and compassionate physician. Actually, Cassie felt loved and would pursue a more serious connection with Ryan, which contributed to her forgetting her retaliation. However, the truth is that Ryan was also a part of the group that harassed Cassie's best friend and embarrassed Nina. Ryan didn't even apologize for what he had done to Cassie or Nina when asked whether he regretted what he had done, instead stating that he was a child and didn't realize what he was doing.

Cassie vowed to fight Jordan Green in the same way that she had fought Ryan. The distinction was that Cassie refrained from taking revenge since Jordan acknowledged his past transgressions. Cassie quickly punished Ryan socially by distributing the tape of him being on the show at the time of the sexual harassment of Nina, in contrast to Ryan who refused to apologize or explain his actions.

CASSANDRA

"Do you think they'll fire you here? You're working with kids so... they have to be careful. Things have changed so much since we were at school, haven't they?"

RYAN

"Think about it. Please. Please. Please."

CASSANDRA

"I can't begin to tell you how much I've thought about it."

(timecode 01:20:23-01:20:34)

It appeared from their chat in Ryan's study that Cassie was curious to know why and how Ryan had done certain things in the past. However, Ryan did not apologize and appeared to be feeling innocent. Then Cassie threatened to share this footage with others if Ryan didn't tell her where Al Monroe's party was being hosted. Cassie was aware that Ryan's physician

reputation would be in jeopardy if this video became viral. The film's conclusion, unknowingly, represents Cassie's defiance of Ryan. Cassie's surprise plan for Ryan was so great that he was taken aback when he received a prearranged message from Cassie during Alexander Monroe's wedding. The message said that if Ryan thought the relationship was finished, he was mistaken and that more was to come. However, it came out that Cassie had emailed Jordan Green a recording of Ryan during the Nina harassment incident before heading to Alexander's bachelorette party, asking him to report the evidence to the police. Naturally, this would backfire on Ryan because the video would ruin his reputation as a doctor who was known to be incredibly happy and caring.

d) Killing the Perpetrator

Cassie's last act of defiance was to assassinate Alexander Monroe, the primary offender who had sexually assaulted her companion and traumatized Cassie by being among men. This individual held the key to Cassie's ire and dissatisfaction as, while being the primary offender in this case, he continued to live a posh and tranquil existence and to hang around outside with careless abandon. He had a bikini model he liked, and they were getting married. However, the soon-to-be groom typically throws a bachelorette party before to the wedding, and it just so happens that Cassie uses this occasion as a means of exacting revenge and combating sexual harassment. Thanks to Ryan's information, Cassie was able to show up at the bachelorette party dressed as a nurse. As soon as Cassie got to the event's cottage house in the midst of a forest, she provided Alexander Monroe's friends a lot of alcoholic drinks to keep them from realizing what she was going to do with him.

Following that, Cassie led Alexander to the attic where she questioned him about Nina. To Cassie's surprise, Alexander claimed he was a youngster and didn't know anything; he just did what he liked without considering the consequences of his actions. Alexander never felt bad about what he had done. Though it appeared that Nina enjoyed it as well, Alexander Monroe believed that everything happened in his head and not in Nina's as a victim. Nina also believed that it was at a party and that everyone was intoxicated. After hearing Alexander's statement,

Cassie attempted to kill him with a lethal injection, but that plan was thwarted when Alexander's handcuffs came off and he was able to fight Cassie. Alexander then smothered Cassie with a pillow, causing her to lose consciousness and ultimately pass away in his care.

CASSANDRA

"Don't worry. I've sterilized everything. I'm really going to be a great doctor."

AL MONROE

"You're crazy."

CASSANDRA

"You know what? I honestly don't think I'm crazy."

(timecode 01:33:20-01:33:28)

Al Monroe and Cassie were having a talk in a cabin while Al Monroe was hosting his bachelor party. Actually, Cassie has been planning her retaliation from home, where she plans to try poisoning Al Monroe, the man she had previously chained to the bed. When Cassie heard Al Monroe admit that the previous incident was an error and that he had no intention of apologizing, she became extremely enraged and made a concerted effort to inject the poison.

After hearing Alexander's statement, Cassie attempted to kill him with a lethal injection, but that plan was thwarted when Alexander's handcuffs came off and he was able to fight Cassie. Alexander then smothered Cassie with a pillow, causing her to lose consciousness and ultimately pass away in his care. Cassie's attempt at murdering Al Monroe was unsuccessful because of Al Monroe's superior strength to Cassie's frail and small frame.

In fact, not all of the opposition we put up to get what we desire will ultimately succeed in our own endeavors. The final scene of this film depicts Alexander Monroe's trial before the law. It became out that the reason for the arrest of Al Monroe by a number of police officers during his wife's wedding was due to the admission and report of Jordan Green, the attorney who acknowledged his own culpability and sentenced Alexander Monroe to prison for his actions.

3.2 Casandra's Impact of Sexual Harassment

Both the harasser and the victim will undoubtedly be affected in cases of sexual harassment,

although it is widely acknowledged that the victim will have the most effects—either positive ones, such as increased courage or negative ones, such as social stigma. Similar to Emerald Fennell's *Promising Young Woman*, the film's protagonist is impacted by the sexual abuse she endured.

a) Become More Courageous

The protagonist of *Promising Young Woman* is portrayed by Emerald Fennell in a very balanced way. Because she is frequently mistreated by men, Cassandra's bravery comes naturally to her. Some of the dialogue below reflects some of the bravery Cassie shown in battling the sexual harassment she endured:

PAUL (CONT'D)

"You know. They put themselves in danger, girls like that. If she's not careful, someone will take advantage and she'll be the one crying tomorrow morning."

(timecode 00:02:32-00:02:38)

Paul, Jez, and Jim had this discussion while they were in a bar and noticed Cassie sitting by herself, appearing inebriated and barely awake. When they saw Cassie, they felt she was quite bold for going to a pub by herself. Given the potential consequences of going to a pub alone at night, this is extremely unusual behavior for a woman to undertake. As we can see, Cassie was the target of harsh criticism from Paul and his companions, who even called her attractive.

Cassie showed bravery by going to a pub by herself, and it wasn't only to unwind after a demanding day at the coffee shop. However, the reason for her actions was her fervent need to impart a lesson to guys who frequently harass women. Perceiving that it frequently occurred in bars, Cassie pretended to be inebriated in order to facilitate the perpetrator's approach. She thought she was stronger and braver than males who were simply interested in their sex, therefore she overcame her concerns.

CASSANDRA

"Don't worry. I've sterilized everything. I'm really going to be a great doctor."

AL MONROE

"You're crazy."

CASSANDRA

"You know what? I honestly don't think I'm crazy."

(timecode 01:33:20-01:33:28)

Cassie's second act of bravery came when she was certain that, with the assistance of college authorities and legal counsel, she would exact revenge on her buddy who had been the target of sexual harassment at the university by a group of pals. The incident where Cassie bravely showed up by herself to a cottage where Alexander Monroe—a prominent figure in the medical community and on campus—was hosting his bachelor celebration. Monroe is the primary perpetrator of sexual harassment. Emotions flowing high, Cassie lashed back without hesitation and intended to murder Monroe.

Cassie wasn't scared to confront other harassers, even though they were all highly powerful and had a significant influence, in addition to Al Monroe. Cassie's bold actions and displays were all organic reactions that developed within her. She is incredibly brave and unbeatable because of the effects of being a victim of sexual harassment and her desire to shield other women who experience it.

b) Social Stigma

Cassie's encounter with the social stigma came next. Beginning with his parents' predicament, who were frequently made fun of for discussing their kids. Cassie is 40 years old and highly prepared for marriage, but she is not married and has no man to carry on a relationship, so she stays at her parents' house. This occurred when Cassie's parents gave her a birthday present at the family dinner table.

SUSAN

"Don't joke about that! You know how weird that is? You still live at home working at that stupid coffee shop? Out all hours of the night doing God only knows what. No boyfriend. No friends."

CASSANDRA

"Mom! You should have saved all this for my birthday card!"

STANLEY

"Let the boy celebrate the way he wants to."

SUSAN

"Celebrate! Is this a celebration?"

"My friends are all asking about you and I don't know what to tell them. All their kids are getting

married, having kids. I don't know what's going on..."

(timecode 00:22:07-00:22:38)

The thing Cassie got was a birthday present from her parents. Cassie was shocked to learn that her birthday present was a large suitcase, which she knew was an explicit expression of their parents' desire for her to leave their home and live an independent life with friends and a partner while adhering to cultural norms. Cassie received a large package with a pink ribbon on it while at the dinner table, which her parents then claimed was a birthday present for Cassie. Western parents who let their 17-year-old children leave the house, along with Cassie, who is already elderly and eager to marry married.

It is very evident from their chat that Cassie's mother is upset and disappointed in her daughter for continuing to live at home, not having a boyfriend or friends, and even working at a coffee shop—a career that does not align with her aspirations. When Cassie's mother's acquaintances inquired about her daughter, she was unsure of how to respond. Cassie is not happy about continuing her life since she is still troubled by the memories of her mistreated friend and she doesn't trust males who are only interested in abusing women's bodies for fun.

c) Death

Cassie's death was the subsequent consequence of her sexual harassment. Cassie was present in the cabin during Alexander Monroe and his friends' bachelor celebration prior to their wedding. Cassie came to the event with the purpose of punishing Alexander for causing his buddy to die as a result of sexual harassment; nevertheless, because of her resistance when Cassie was going to inject poison, Alexander Monroe also had to kill Cassie.

JOE

"Don't panic! Come on. Anastasia will never know. Okay? What happens on tour, stays on tour."

AL MONROE

"She's dead, Joe."

(timecode 01:38:06-01:38:20)

Joe, a friend of Alexander's, was horrified to see a woman who was dying from exhaustion inside a cabin. Actually, this scene only depicts Alexander's opposition to having Cassie inject herself with poison;

it doesn't depict the sexual harassment Cassie endured as a result of Alexander's actions. But the true motivation behind Cassie's attendance to Alexander's gathering is evident—her desire for vengeance for Alexander's role in her friend's murder. Since Cassie was unable to take physical action to stop the sexual harassment she endured until her death, it is impossible to say if her resistance was successful in this instance. Nevertheless, the offenders received the appropriate punishment for the harm they caused to the victims of sexual harassment. Similar to Alexander Monroe, who had previously avoided punishment but was ultimately taken into custody by the authorities.

These are a few of the effects that men's sexual harassment of Cassie caused. The majority of it is caused by internal pain, a lack of will to live, and a willingness to put their own and their parents' happiness aside. The death of Cassie's friend Nina was the cruelest aspect of her ordeal as a victim of sexual harassment in this movie.

4. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study is to analyze how Cassandra or Cassie as the main character in this film who became a victim of sexual harassment committed by men. As well as what impacts occurred in her life after she became a victim of sexual harassment and was committed to fighting sexual harassment regardless of who the opponent was, even though it was in a higher class and degree than herself. The resistance effort carried out by Cassandra or Cassie begins when she continues to write the names of men who have harassed her in a small book that she keeps under her mattress, the intention of her acting this way is so that she still remembers the name of the man who is evil to her and becomes a focus so as not to relate to men who are only concerned with sexual desire without any seriousness.

Her next resistance is to make a revenge plan in accordance with what the perpetrator has said and done in the past. As happened to Madison and also Walker who got punished for spending the night with a man he didn't know because of the influence of alcohol. Ryan and Jordan are also not free from the target of resistance and revenge carried out by Cassandra or Cassie. He attempted to destroy their jobs and the reputation they had built because he had

made the mistake in the past of helping a sexual harasser, causing his victimized friend to die of depression and suicide. But because Jordan firmly admitted his mistake, he did not become Cassie's target. The most extreme resistance carried out by Cassandra was to kill Alexander Monroe, someone who had harassed her friend to the point of suicide. Cassie came to his party and launched an action to kill Alexander Monroe. In all the resistance that Cassandra or Cassie has done, we cannot forget that Cassandra is also a victim of sexual harassment. Where if you become a victim, you will definitely get an effect or impact that occurs in your personal life, starting from a good impact or even a very bad one. In this film, we can analyze what impacts occur when Cassie becomes a victim of sexual harassment. The first is that she becomes more courageous by coming alone to a nightclub crowded with men with the aim of trapping them. Besides that, there is a worse impact that is more influential on her life, namely the social stigma she experiences. Cassie was actually a woman who was ready to get married, but because of her desire to court bad men she forgot all her dreams and her life. So when women her age were already married, living a good life and having children, she still continued to live with her parents and work in a coffee shop, which made her parents fed up. The biggest impact that occurred in Cassandra's life was when she had to die killed by a sexual harasser for trying to resist. So in this movie sexual harassment is not completely victorious, until the end of the main character's life she is still haunted by the fear of the sexual harassment that happened to her.

Suggestion

In future research, *Promising Young Woman* is very likely to be analyzed using a deeper feminism theory because considering the magnitude of Cassandra or Cassie's sacrifice in fighting for victims of sexual harassment as fellow women. As well as what forms of harassment exist in the movie can be reviewed more deeply using relevant theories and concepts, because if we look at the struggle carried out by the main character who is very big, of course the forms of harassment she receives are also very serious. In this movie, it is actually very clearly illustrated what forms of sexual harassment ranging from physical,

verbal, non-verbal, visual, and even psychological. The next suggestion can be analyzed about the stereotypes of women contained in this film, because of the social stigma that is the impact of other stereotypes that will certainly appear if studied more deeply. So that researchers hope that this can be used as a reference and also an analytical idea when making the *Promising Young Woman* film as a topic in a study that will be analyzed.

5. REFERENCES

- Alfiana, A., & MH, M. (2019). HAK KEPERDATAAN CALON JEMAAH HAJI DALAM PENYELENGGARAAN IBADAH HAJI KHUSUS (Studi di PT. An-Nur Maarif Cab. Bone). *AL-SYAKHSHIYYAH Jurnal Hukum Keluarga Islam Dan Kemanusiaan*, 1(2), 143–165. <https://doi.org/10.35673/as-hki.v1i2.484>
- Fairchild, K., & Rudman, L. A. (2008). Everyday stranger harassment and women's objectification. *Social Justice Research*, 21(3), 338–357. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11211-008-0073-0>
- Igot, J. J. G., Gee, Z., Lariosa, L. C., Lim, Y. T., & Diones, L. L. (2022). *Rape Culture in the Society: An Analysis of Promising Young Woman*. 1(12), 15–26.
- Kania, D. (2016). Hak Asasi Perempuan dalam Peraturan Perundang-Undangan Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Konstitusi*, 12(4), 716. <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1243>
- Kurnia, J., Mulia, R. L., & Nadya, R. (2023). Representasi Pelecehan Seksual Pada Film *Promising Young Woman* (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes). *IKRA-ITH HUMANIORA: Jurnal Sosial Dan Humaniora*, 7(3), 269–278. <https://doi.org/10.37817/ikraith-humaniora.v7i3.3409>
- Mohajan, H. K. (2022). Four Waves of Feminism: A Blessing for Global Humanity. *Studies in Social Science & Humanities*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.56397/sssh.2022.09.01>
- Saputri, R., Harliana, E., & Syihabuddin. (2024). Perbuatan Kekerasan/Pelecehan Seksual Terhadap Perempuan. *KEADILAN: Jurnal Penelitian Hukum Dan Peradilan*, 2(1), 53–62. <https://doi.org/10.62565/keadilan.v2i1.39>
- Steve, P., & Keith, M. (1997). *Geographies of Resistance*. Routledge, 32(4), 881–900. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0038038598300280>
- Syarifa, A. R., Trisnawati, R. K., & Agustina, M. M.

F. (2023). Deciphering Cassandra as a Radical Feminist in Promising Young Woman (2020). *Acuity: Journal of English Language Pedagogy, Literature and Culture*, 8(2), 352–

369.

<https://jurnal.unai.edu/index.php/acuity/article/view/2827>