Implementation of Vandana Shiva's Ecofeminism in 'Maleficent' Film on Literature Learning

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Abstract

This study discusses the content of nature and women in the film entitled "Maleficent". This film with categories for all ages is a deconstruction of the animated film "Sleeping Beauty" with the theme of the meekness of a royal princess. In the movie "Sleeping Beauty", Maleficent is shown as an antagonist with a scary face. On the other hand, in the film "Maleficent" Maleficent is shown as a loving, strong, independent, and motherly figure. However, there is an interesting thing behind Maleficent's figure, although it is described as flattering women, it turns out that the depiction of a strong, independent Maleficent is actually a form of oppression against nature and women. The focus of this research is how the representation of nature and women in the film "Maleficent" in Vandana Shiva's ecofeminism perspective. This study uses the results of this study to show that this film represents the exploitation of nature by humans which goes hand in hand with the oppression of women, so that the liberation of nature must be carried out by dismantling the relationship between men (rulers) and women. Because in various traditions that develop in society, women have a closer bond with nature.

Keywords: *Ekofeminism; Women and Nature; Film; Vandana Shiva*

Introduction

The meaning of the word maleficent in English means evil or harm. In this film, Disney depicts a female character as a strong figure who is even able to save her own people or country. Maleficent's character is not only shown as strong and independent woman, in this film, Maleficent's motherly nature is shown to be loving and protective. In addition, Maleficent is also described as very close to nature. In general, actually the movie "Maleficent" is a classic Disney fairy tale commonly known to the public as "Sleeping Beauty" or in Indonesian it is called Sleeping Beauty. Unlike the classic fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty", this film's story is more focused on the story of the evil fairy Maleficent, who cursed Princess Aurora (Sleeping Beauty) to sleep forever.

The interesting thing that can be seen from the Disney film "Maleficent" is the packaging that is different from the classic fairy tale. This film is no longer shown as an animated film, but is shown as a fantasy film. Fantasy films usually contain elements such as magic, myth, magic, and extraordinary. The character of Maleficent in this film is told as an oppressed woman and as a warrior figure who defends the forest in accordance with the ecofeminism concept that has been promoted by one of the characters,

namely Vandana Shiva. Ecofeminism itself is a concept about women who are culturally always associated with nature. Ecofeminism argues that there is a conceptual, symbolic, and linguistic relationship between feminism and ecological issues. Ecological issues here mean that women have unconsciously been "naturalized" and nature has been "feminized". This system emerged, was built upon, and maintained through the colonization of women, foreigners and their lands and nature which was slowly being destroyed. When nature is mined, controlled, and conquered by men. The actions that men do to nature, in other words can also be done to women (Miles & Shiva: 1993), (Tong, 2008: 360).

The film "Maleficent" tells about the tranquility and beauty of nature without human touch because it is guarded by Maleficent. Until one day, there was a king who tried to rule over nature. But in his attempt to master this realm, he also tries to subdue Maleficent who is described as the ruler of nature. This effort to control nature and women is carried out by the king, which is in accordance with the concept of nature which has been "feminized" and women are "naturalized" by humans with masculine characteristics. This study discusses women and nature related to ecofeminism which are identified in three phases, namely the power phase; slump phase; and the resistance phase.

Methods

This research method uses immersive method. The immersive method involves a lot of visual interpretation and semiotic interpretation of the text. Maleficent films are interpreted with visual signs. The visual signs used are in accordance with Pierce's classification which divides signs into icons, indexes, and symbols. The three signs will then be interpreted their meaning. The subject of this study is the film 'Maleficent' with a duration of 97 minutes, by Disney which was released in 2014. This remake of the film 'Sleeping Beauty' presents a breakthrough in the role of Maleficent which is shown from a different perspective. The audience is invited to understand more deeply about Maleficent's life from childhood to adulthood and no longer focus on the character Aurora, whose story is widely known to everyone. In this film, cinematically consisting of thousands of visual images arranged into a story and based on Vandana Shiva's ecophenism theory approach, the plot of the film is interpreted into three phases of Maleficent's personal life, namely (1) the phase of strength and closeness to nature; (2) the downturn of nature and women by male oppression; and (3) the resistance phase. Data analysis techniques in the form of pieces of images and text on the film. The procedure for collecting data is through stages (1) visualization, namely watching the show until it is finished; (2) the immersive stage, namely by understanding deeply by placing yourself as if you were a Maleficent character; and (3) interpreting everything that is felt in the form of a depiction of Maleficent's character after going through the two previous stages.

Discussion

Phase of Strength and Closeness to Nature (Harmony of Nature and Women)

In this phase, it is shown about a little girl who is trying to restore a broken tree branch, using the magic power she has.
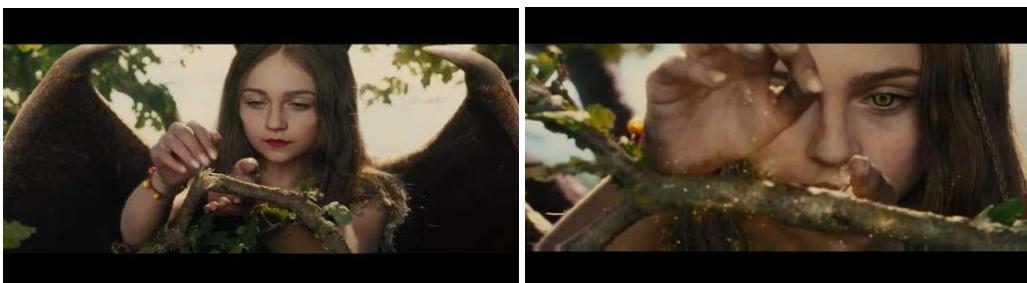
From her characteristics and ability to restore broken tree branches, it can be seen that this girl has repressive actions, namely the power that is used to save nature and its data.

00:01:19.555 --> 00:01:23,471
On a big tree. On the edge of the Moors cliffs….
00:01:23,506 --> 00:01:25,573
There remains a stunning creature.
00:01:29,499 --> 00:01:32,502
But she's no ordinary girl

00:01:32,748 --> 00:01:35,454
She's a fairy.

00:02:03,174 --> 00:02:05,060
Get well again. (Scene holding a tree)

The depiction of Maleficent's characteristics as a fairy with a pair of horns, large wings, and a large human-like body is very different from the characteristics of fairies in general. Usually fairies are described as having a tiny body with small wings like insect wings. The depiction of Maleficent's figure as the strongest fairy can also be seen from the great magic power he has. Not only can it restore damaged trees, Maleficent can also make rain, fly objects, and awaken the forces of nature. From some of the magical powers that Maleficent has, it not only shows that he has strength, but he also has a close relationship with nature. Maleficent is a person who loves, protects, and protects nature. Likewise, nature will rise up and help him, if Maleficent needs help along with the data.

00:03:24,256 --> 00:03:27,963
Para Penjaga Perbatasan menemukan
Manusia Pencuri di Kolam Permata

00:03:24,256 --> 00:03:27,963
The Border Guards found
Thief Man in the Jewel Pool
00:11:26,176 --> 00:11:28,379
Maintain position!

00:11:40,589 --> 00:11:43,191
Those creatures of darkness!
- Creatures of darkness!

00:12:04,597 --> 00:12:06,708
Attack!

The Deteriorating Phase of Nature and Women by Male Oppression

This phase depicts Maleficent's decline against the oppression of men who oppress her to rule over nature. King Henry is the one who rules the kingdom inhabited by humans. The scene also tells that at that time King Henry was leading his troops to attack and seize the Moors. Feeling threatened by the presence of humans who are always trying to seize and exploit his wealth, Maleficent tries to thwart King Henry's war intentions. But King Henry actually replied to Maleficent's words with a mocking tone.

00:10:46,911 --> 00:10:50,729
The King doesn't take orders

00:10:50,829 --> 00:10:53,030
From the winged dwarves.
00:11:04,727 --> 00:11:06,463
Bring me the head!

His words show that King Henry (male) feels he has the highest power, so he is entitled to get everything he wants. The ridicule arises because the opponent is a woman and it is a form of oppression of nature and women.

Another slump phase is described in Maleficent's attitude which melts after hearing Stefan's persuasion.

00:16:14,295 --> 00:16:16,541
They talk about many things

00:16:16,581 --> 00:16:19,384
And time seems to pass quickly.

00:16:19,955 --> 00:16:24,100
And he forgave Stefan,
For his stupidity and ambition.

Without thinking rationally, Maleficent just followed her feelings to forgive her. Until finally Maleficent had to be disappointed again, when his wings were stolen.

The man who stole Maleficent's wings, named Stefan. Stefan had known Maleficent since they were little. Stefan and Maleficent always played together, they even fell in love with each other. However, because Stefan preferred to pursue his ambition as a king, Stefan never returned to visit Maleficent. One day, Stefan hears that King Henry announced the condition that the successor of the kingdom is someone who can kill Maleficent. Hearing this, Stefan immediately returned to the Moors to meet Maleficent. After successfully persuading Maleficent, Stefan gave him an anesthetic so he could fall asleep. While Maleficent was sleeping, Stefan cut Maleficent's wings off using an iron chain. Stefan had known for a long time that Maleficent had a weakness for iron. Therefore, Stefan used iron to take Maleficent's wings. Then it was these wings that Stefan presented to King Henry. In accordance with his promise to make the king whoever succeeded in conquering Maleficent, King Henry finally appointed Stefan to be King and married him to his daughter.

00:23:35,942 --> 00:23:39,249
I present to you
For the first time.

00:23:39,350 --> 00:23:42,053
The Great Sovereign,
King Stefan.

00:24:05,388 --> 00:24:08.060
He did this to me.

00:24:08,124 --> 00:24:10,496
So that he can become King.

Resistance Phase

This phase describes the depiction of Maleficent's evil and vengeful figure to the king so that Maleficent managed to enter the kingdom when Princess Aurora was born and gave a curse.

00:31:37,697 --> 00:31:42,178
Before the sun goes down
On his 16th birthday.

00:31:42,857 --> 00:31:46,739
He will stick his finger
To the spinning machine…

00:31:46,940 --> 00:31:49,752
And fell asleep as if he had died!

00:31:50,292 --> 00:31:54,793
Asleep, where is he
Will never wake up again!

Maleficent's act of resistance is a form of deep disappointment to the king who is none other than Stefan, the man she loves and hates for betraying her. For the sake of ambition to become king, he is willing to oppress nature and women.

The next form of resistance is described as Maleficent's self-defense effort against the attack of the king and his troops who have captured Maleficent with an iron net. The king had long known that iron was Maleficent's weakness. The resistance begins with a dragon attack by his loyal bodyguard and the taking of Maleficent's wings by Princess Aurora which makes Maleficent's strength back so that she can fight to defeat the king.

01:19:11,753 --> 01:19:13,434
Be a Dragon.

01:24:50,296 --> 01:24:51,975
It is over.

01:26:11,384 --> 01:26:14,405
Maleficent breaks down her Wall of Thorns.

The Implementation of Vandana Shiva's Ecofeminism in the Film 'Maleficent' on Literary Learning

Literature has a very fundamental role in character education. Like fire with its heat, like water with its wetness, and like cotton with its cloth. This is because literary works basically talk about various values of life and life that are directly related to the formation of human character. Literature in education plays a role in developing language, developing cognitive, affective, psychomotor, developing personality, and developing social personality. Literature as a learning medium can be used receptively (receptive) and expressive (ability to express) in character education. The receptive use of literary works

as a medium for character education is carried out by (1) selecting teaching materials, and (2) managing the learning process. The expressive implementation of literary works as a medium for character education can be pursued by managing emotions, feelings, enthusiasm, thoughts, ideas, ideas, and views of students into the form of creativity in writing literary works and playing plays, theater or films. Students are guided to actualize themselves in the world of literary works in order to form a strong self-character. Through themes, characters, language, setting, plot; students can learn messages related to aspects of character, character and behavior, polite speech, human interaction, and the intricacies of life that must be passed with strong characters.

In this study, the expressive implementation of Maleficent's character is strongly attached to his gentle, kind, and helpful nature towards the environment, but anger, disappointment, and cruelty are also shown when he is hurt by the king and his lover. The characters displayed are unique characters. He plays the protagonist and antagonist at the same time. If this is understood at a glance, it seems that the character is confusing for students to judge Maleficent's character, but if students have understood the background before watching this film, students will understand that Maleficent is very prominent in her feminine role. Gentle, kind, and helpful character is a female character. A woman tends to be described as gentle in literature. Moreover, Maleficent is depicted as a woman who loves and cares for nature. This is in line with the thought of the feminist figure Vandana Shiva who fought for nature. Vandana Shiva also mentions that if there is damage to nature, it is the women who will be angry. Therefore, Maleficent was very angry and furious when the Moors forest was about to be conquered by the king and Maleficent was disappointed when she was tricked by her ambitious lover to become king by breaking her wings. These two male characters, the king and Stefan for Maleficent have corrupted women and nature so that the anger and wrath shown is considered an acceptable attitude and is still considered a good character. This is what students have to act out after watching. So, the climax is the construction of the character Maleficent from being shown as an antagonist in the film 'Sleeping Beauty' to being unexpectedly the protagonist in the film 'Maleficent'. The implementation of the characterization of Maleficent is her sincerity in protecting nature, protecting nature, and saving nature with the strength she has, standing tall as a woman who is able to rise from adversity and disappointment, with all her might to remain a good Maleficent and protect nature.

Acknowledgements

Conclusion

1. Women are considered as custodians of nature and it is because of women's abilities that the principle of sustainability and sustainability can be realized. The depiction of the harmony of nature and women is highly highlighted in the film, both from the setting and story setting.

2. Men act destructively who threaten natural life and oppress women. The patriarchal capitalist portrayal in Maleficent is met with resistance with the depiction of the death of king Stefan and the return of Maleficent and princess Aurora to the Moors (nature).

3. The moral message that can be taken from the film "Maleficent" is at the end of the film, "In the end, the United Kingdom is not united by heroes or enemies but by Him who was once a hero but also an enemy."

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Sleeping Beauty di Disney+ Hotstar! Diakses pada 16 November 2020 https://www.hotstar.com/id/1260018161.