THE POWER OF COUNTRY TOWARDS WOMEN’S LIFE IN RED SPARROW MOVIE

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Abstract. Movie is not only an entertainment, but also as human reference to see the social condition, because movie sometimes describes a satire. Woman issue or discrimination reveals in many media, including movie. Red Sparrow is a movie that talks about an ex ballerina, Dominika Egorova. The researcher focuses on how country’s power forces the woman (Dominika Egorova) and uses woman’s body as a tool of their necessary. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method, this method let researcher analyzes and describes the data. This research takes the data from two sources, they are primary and secondary data. The researcher found that this movie describes how patriarchy exists in country’s power. Dominika’s uncle as representative of country forces her to come in Sparrow School and becomes Russian’s spy. She does not have a choice, she must do all those jobs even she hates to do it. This movie shows that woman is controlled by man as representative of country.

Keywords: Woman, Life, Country, Power.

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INTRODUCTION

Social condition is one of the many sources to make a story. Movie inspires social life, social problem and social movement. Sometimes movies come as a critic, satire or offer solutions. Even though, people say that movie is entertainment or some people believe that movie is independent story or fiction only, but the good movie is inspiring movie which brings human issue and tries to find solution. Here, movies are contained woman cases.

Each new infant is born with relatively few innate traits, yet with vast number potential behaviours, and therefore must be reared in cultural setting so that it can achieve its biological potential (Danesi and Perron, 1999:1). Cultural setting indicates that culture is arranged. Culture is something made by people and done for many years. Kluckhohn in Smith (1976:3) argues that culture is a rule or way of life. People must follow what the rules of culture in society. A society produces some rules about women, one of them is patriarchy. Patriarchy is men’s domination, where women only as a waiter for men. The cultural perceptions about women are kept by people in society.

In many histories, society celebrates different way when a baby boy was born people would be happy, but if a baby girl was born they would not be happy, because they thought that women caused problem in society and women could not do what men do (Mosse, 1993:1). In Arabic culture, when a baby girl was born, it used to be that she would be killed. In Turkana, Kenya (Africa) the people will come to see a new born baby when there is a woman bears a baby. If the
baby is a boy they will celebrate it with a party and slaughter four goats, but when the baby is a girl there is no party and serves only one goat (Mosse, 1993:1). This is the sign that women got discrimination in the beginning of their life. People are not proud when they have a daughter, because people believe that men can help to work and getting money, but women cannot help parents to get money because they are considered as weak.

People make assumptions because women are not as strong as men, so they cannot take same opportunity like men. This opinion influences society and at the same time, women will get difficulties to find a job. Furthermore, women are described as waiter for men, where women’s job is only to follow what men want. Long time ago in Greek, Aristotle in his book Politics says that men are superior and women are inferior (Arivia, 2003:5). Women only stay at house where women’s jobs is only bearing baby and women forbid to discuss about politics.

Based on men’s domination, women stand to get same opportunity as men. While, feminism is a women movement which becomes international movement in 1960s. In the world, women search for equality in all aspects of life because women do not have the same opportunity as men in many aspects. Feminism grew up because of the bad situation for women. All situations in our society do not give good chance for women actions. There are many limitations given by men to women, including rules of society. It is one reason of women movements which makes women use all media to battle for men domination.

Woman political movement moves to be ideology and progressive movement. Feminism is an ideology which against man’s discrimination. Feminists believe that difference between women and men are products of gender identity. Gender identity is about the symbol of the gender, for example, the way of women speaking is a symbol of women where women have different way in speaking with men.

Feminism is women’s voice where women got difficulties in all spheres of human life. Feminism is the way to express the truth of women’s feelings. The form of women characters are very hard to change because the concept of that perception has become public perception. In understanding feminism, men can join together with women to overcome women problems. A man who writes about women is John Stuart Mills. John Stuart Mill’s basic opinion is there is not justice, if a community or gender dominates another one (Arivia, 2003:54). Mill believes if people want to take a liberty, people have to get equality for both men and women. Men and women have to cooperate each other, for example in family. His wife, Harriet Taylor in Rowbotham (1992:68) argues that equality and democracy are the keys of emancipation of women. The rights of men and women are different, so the rights of women are not the right of men.

People who stay in one area have to follow the system or the rule of the area itself. Country has their own rules where every country has different system with other countries, including how to put woman in many positions of citizen. Everybody must loyal and give contribution to the country. It seems like heroes, they give their life for country. Each country also has secret agent or spy who has secret job and under movement. Their movement is hidden action that only certain people know it.

Country takes woman as interesting spy because spy’s targets are men. So, woman is supposed to be good instrument for this position. Country teaches them to use all woman capacity, including sexual activity. The problem is woman does it because of country’s force or country’s power. Here, woman does not have choice to take the other ways or reject it. They must do what country’s want, even they should do sexual relation with people who they do not like.

Red sparrow is movie based on the novel with the same title which is written by Jason Matthews. This movie tells about a woman Dominika Egorova or Jennifer Lawrence
becomes Russian spy after horror accident on her ballet performance show. She is trapped by her uncle, then she must do everything as *Red Sparrow* (secret agent).

The researcher focuses on how country’s power forces the woman (Dominika Egorova) and uses woman’s body as a tool of their necessary. Moreover, country’s power is described in man’s domination.

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**Feminism**

Rosaldo and Lamphere in Woman, *Culture and Society* (1974:2) it seems reasonable to argue that the social world is the creation of both of the male and female. If many people said that woman is a complement of men, the question is “is it naturally?” The problem of women is that they accept being subordinate. Women do not know that the system of society is disadvantage for them. The object of society is potential physics where women are weak who only bearing and keeping children.

In some countries in Asia, government in public sphere had made a rule about women’s job where government controlled the system. Sexual tourism is supported by the government, for example in South Korea (1970) where women were commanded to serve Japanese businessmen (Mosse in Silawati, 1993:94). It happened because the government of South Korea considered that prostitution could help them to get devise. Marcos’ regime in Filipina adduced his opinion that sexuality is economical asset to invite tourist in national development (Mosse in Silawati, 1993:95). Government uses women to get income. In Thailand, when the army of America came to fight communism in Vietnam, they built camp and rest place in the Thailand, where the government of Thailand prepare entertainment place for the army, including women (Mosse, 1993:94). In another case, women are difficult to get good education, health and public facility because the money that they give to the country is used to pay the debt of country (Velasquez in Silawati, 1996:155). This case implicates Burger’ perception, so he writes “we do not need movement”. Today, prostitution is not about the case of morality, but it is about economic and social problem.

Poor women and rich women do not have same job in society, it is because of their social class. People only respect to the rich women or noble women. The people judge that the good women are to be house wife, which only bear the children, serve the husband and keep the house. Moreover, in a culture of the tribe, noble women are forbidden to take a job because they have slave, but the poor (slave) women have to take job for buying food. A job of the women is based on the social class where social class gives different function of the women.

Society itself has strata or status, the strata is classified people into groups. In this case, society consists of lower women class and upper women class or black women and white women. The problem of feminist is not only against men’s domination, but also for the women who has good life and they do not care with the women in bad life.

In society there is political interaction between men and women. The idea that women and politics should not mix is extremely ancient (Mitchell and Oakley, 1987:58). Aristotle in *Arivia* (2003:7) says that society have to keep that rule for controlling country (polis) where the men can concentrate totally in intellectual live and politics.

Kate Millet in *Sexual Politics* (Mills, 1989:16) focuses on the text to support the sexual revolution. Millet in Mills says that the term of politics shall refer to the power-structured, relationship, arrangement, whereby one group persons is controlled by another (1989:18). In that term, Millet describes politics as a system of people to control people. In this case, women are the people who are controlled by men. Sexual politics is potential oppression of one sex to control another one. Men also can be controlled by women.
Tauna in Arivia (2003:25) adds that women cannot definite as a human because they are irrational and do not have complete morality. Furthermore, people believe that women cannot make a decision logically because women use their feeling to see and to decide something. Women do not have a power and a good ration to make good decision. It indicates that women do not have authority to make certain type of decision, but they can influence men to make action and decision (Collier, 1974:94). Men cannot make decision independently because there are some women in men’s side which influenced men to make decision such as family (mother, wife or daughter). Women can give a solution when men get difficulties to decide something.

British anthropologist Edward B. Taylor defines culture is complex whole including knowledge, belief, art, moral, law, custom, and any other capability or habit acquired by human beings as members of society (Danesi and Perron, 1999:3). Culture includes all elements of human life in society. On another hand, William in Smith (1976:2) says that there are three current uses of the term “culture”.

1. To refer to the intellectual, spiritual, and aesthetic development of an individual, group or society.
2. To capture a range of intellectual and artistic activities and their products (film, art, theatre). In this usage culture is more or less synonymous with “the arts”, hence we can speak of a minister for culture.
3. To designate the entire way of life, activities, beliefs, and customs of people, group or society.

Every group of people or community has culture. Culture is identity of people. It can be like the way of speaking, walking, and acting. Identity of culture or cultural identity includes politics and feminism (Hall and Gay, 1996:1).

Culture makes formulation about women where culture makes character and function about women. Both of the sexes have character since the first time they come into the world. Barnhouse in Identitas Wanita (1992:12) says that in identity and culture are concepts of both of the men and women. Identity of men and women are made by culture such as patriarchy. Patriarchy indicates that men are dominant in society to women, because men have power where the power of men is used to dominate women. Disadvantages for women in culture is they accept being subordinate without complaining (Mill in The Subject of Woman (1869). The cultural concept that women are inferior and men are superior must be changed. Cultural construction is the main point of Feminism and Anthropology (1988) by Moore. Feminist anthropology only concerned with cultural construction.

Society does not speak like women, but speak like men because men have power. Feminism comes to open the voice of women, because feminism is all about women’s voices. Women want to take a freedom from men and ‘sameness’. The sameness will deconstruct universal category of women in society and culture. Deconstruction and construction are the way of women to change inequality of cultural perspective. It will change society’s perception about women position.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Denzin & Yvonna (1994), mention that qualitative descriptive research (case studies), this method let researcher analyzes and describes the data. Qualitative method is a method to collect and analyze data. This research takes the data from two sources, they are primary and secondary data. Primary data is taken from Red Sparrow Movie. The researcher watches many times, then write the discrimination to woman by man or country (system). The secondary data is taken from various books, journals, and articles as well.

This research is library research. In collecting the data of this research, the researcher applies some steps: the researcher
watches Red Sparrow many times and takes the note of the data that are related to woman discrimination (feminism) then, providing particular fragments of issues that support research questions. The last step is describing feminism issue based on movie.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this part the researcher begins to present the data based on Red Sparrow movie. The researcher focuses on woman issue/domination of man or country. Then, the researcher explains the data that have been found. These are some parts of man domination or country’s power.

1. Time: 00.15.49
Dominika’s boyfriend get the new one after her injury on the stage. He does not care about Dominika’s condition. A special one should stay with his girl when her girl need him because special relation is about loving each other not only one side (girl). Here, Dominika is trapped in her feeling while her boyfriend does not care about her feeling and gets the new girl when she is exists in his side. It indicates that he does not love Dominika, but only likes her body when Dominika in the good condition. Then, because of this problem she gets a little depression and her bad life is started here.

2. Time: 00.17.40
When her uncle, Ivan Vladimirovich Egorov asks her to do what he wants. When Dominika rejects, he offers a good facility for her mother. Her mother is sick, she needs more treatment. Egorov will take her mother into a good hospital and also he will pay for their new place for live. Egorov as representative of country makes Dominika stands without any options. Actually, country should exist as a helper for its people, not force them. Moreover, Egorov says that Dominika must show her love to the country by doing Egorov’s commands.

3. Time: 00.23.53
The country takes Dominika as a tool for getting what the country wants. They need information from Dmitri Ustinov and they use Dominika to get it. As an ex ballerina, Dominika has good body that man likes, including Dmitri Ustinov. The country knows it, so they put Dominika there. This event will force Dominika to be a real spy (Red Sparrow), she does not have any choice and she can not choose anything. She must do what country wants, her life in country’s power (people who arrange it, and they are men) and it is a symbol of loving (serve) country.

4. Time: 00.31.48
Dominika comes to the Sparrow School, this place is a secret place for the secret agents. All students here should show their best, but this movie more explores about sexual activity. It seems that there is not another way to get information without using sexual activity. Dominika and her friend Anya ask to do sexual relation with the man in front of the class. Furthermore, this part also as a sign that country arranges your life. Then, when her teacher (Matron) says to Dominika “give what he wants”, it means that woman only sexual slave. Woman’s body is put as the object of man’s satisfaction. It only focuses on the man’s satisfaction, not woman’s satisfaction where sex should be for man and woman.

5. Time: 01.17.59
Marta is killed because she cannot keep the secret and do what she should do as a sparrow. It is like what country wants, if the sparrows cannot do their job, they will be killed. Woman life is not based on her desire, but it is controlled by men. The men who designed her life only care about her body as the tool of her job.

6. Time: 02.01.28
Dominika tries to find freedom. When she meets Nate Nash (American spy), she believes that she will be free. Dominika can believe CIA agents, but she is always in the same position where she should be double agent. c loves her, but also takes
Dominika as a tool of his mission to get secret information.
Dominika is really trapped in the circle of men’s ambition, love and power. As a woman, she cannot determine her life. Her feeling and her body are controlled by men.
This movie tells us that woman is not free. Woman is a tool of power and woman’s power is nothing. Woman cannot decide her life. Love, love to the man and love to the country are two main reasons of her powerless.
Dominika is angry to her boyfriend because of her love is betrayed, then it makes Dominika killed her boyfriend and his new girl. Her love to the man becomes a disaster of her life. Moreover, her uncle used the phrase “love country” to force Dominika be a spy. To prove her love, she should do all of the things to get secret information. Her body is used as the object of those commands to catch and get information from her country’s enemy. When she ignores it, her life and her mother’s life will be end.
Furthermore, woman’s feeling and body are explored by man to get what man or country wants. Red Sparrow is a clear description about woman’s condition where her life is controlled by the men who have power.

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation, the researcher concludes that Red Sparrow movie describes that woman is only an object of power, where the power is controlled by man. Man knows about woman, so he can use woman’s weakness to explore her. In this movie woman’s feeling to the man is used as her weakness. First with her boyfriend in ballerina and second is her boyfriend, Nate Nash (the American spy). Her first love is about her desire to the man and the second one is about her safety life where she needs a man/Nate Nash to guarantee her life.

When the woman character/Dominika gets the bad life, her uncle comes to help her. Her uncle knows her condition. Hence, he uses Dominika’s condition to take her in his circle, and it is because of she is a woman.
Woman’s body is a tool of power to get power. Woman’s body is not woman’s her own, her body is used by man and country to reach his/country’s ambition. Woman cannot reject it because man/country uses its power to control woman. This movie reveals that woman’s body is man’s satisfaction.

REFERENCES