



The Singer's Struggles to Fight for the Gender Equality in Lea Salonga's Reflection Song

Caesaria Omega Putri Pesik ¹

pesikcaesaria16@gmail.com

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language,
Universitas Pertiwi

Siti Isminarni

siti.isminarni@gmail.com

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language,
Universitas Pertiwi

Nirwan

nirwan@pertiwi.ac.id

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language,
Universitas Pertiwi

Juherni, Z., Mujani, S., and Susiyati. (2024). The Singer's Struggles to Fight for the Gender Equality in Lea Salonga's Reflection Songs. *Journal of English Language and literature*, 9(1), 103-112. doi: 10.37110/jell.v9i1.212

Received: 10-01-2023

Accepted: 15-01-2024

Published: 02-03-2024

Abstract: This study explores the issues of feminism and gender stereotype in reflection song by Lea Salonga, and aiming to elaborate the singer's life journey regarding the issues of feminism and gender stereotype as depicted in the lyrics of the song. The method used in this study is a qualitative method based on the lyrics of the song Reflection by Lea Salonga as the main data source. To analyze this song, the researcher applies feminism and sociological approaches. The results of this study concluded that the speaker in the song lyric experienced a process of searching for identity while fighting for the ideal that women also have the right to stand equal to men and bear equal responsibilities without needing to feel weaker. It is hoped that this study could serve as a new reference regarding the issue of feminism and gender stereotypes in literary works

Keywords: *Feminism, Gender, Stereotype, Sociology, Lea Salonga*

INTRODUCTION

One of the issues that is often raised in the theme of literary works is about the human rights. Human rights is one of the global issues that attracted special attention. All individuals have the right to certain freedoms and protections under the law, regardless of their circumstances, gender, nationality, race, language, religion, or other status. In "Human Rights through Literature" (2016), Hezam proposed that the term "human rights" refers to fundamental freedoms and rights like equality before the law, the right to life and liberty, and the freedom of speech and opinion.

This is regarded to be unalienable fundamental rights, "inherent in all human beings," regardless of country, geography, language, religion, ethnic origin, or any other status, "to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being (Hezam, 2016). Gender equality is one of the fundamental human rights between men and women. "All human beings are born with the same dignity and rights" (The United Nation General Assembly announced on December 10, 1948). Besides that, women also have the rights to equality, to dignity, information, and bodily

¹ Corresponding author

integrity as well as respect for private life without discrimination from men.

Some kinds of discrimination that happens against women and have become social problems in life are: gender role or gender gap, racism, male domination, gender stereotypes, power abuse, violence or crime, stratification, and social injustice toward women. It caused a decrease in women's power.

According to Andermahr, Lovell, and Wolkowitz, in the book "A Glossary of Feminist Theory" (1997), the idea of feminism is typically corresponding to women's equality and their right to occupy the same opportunity as men. This is simultaneously short and comprehensive. Though there are overarching difficulties that take into account the discipline's particular epistemological, ontological, and methodological assumptions, there are numerous perspectives on feminism with different theoretical foundations. Men and women should be treated equally in society, politics, and the economy is the central idea of all other connected feminism theories (Andermahr, Lovell, and Wolkowitz, 1997). Another name for this concept is the struggle for women's independence or rights. Men and women ought to be treated equally in all spheres of life, including the political, social, and economic ones, according to feminist theory.

Some places around the world have made it extremely difficult for women to achieve their rights for many years. For example, in China and Pakistan, there are so many challenges to winning human rights. Moreover, women's rights are human rights. It is to stand for women's equality to live equally and free from discrimination, no matter what their identity or sexuality.

Women in China have been exposed to feminist culture. Cultural feminism focuses on women's social position between men and women in order to get better understanding in society. According to Mujiaying Xu in "The Development of Feminism in China" (2022), the history of Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism during the Song and Ming Dynasties can be traced back to patriarchal awareness in Chinese society. It is insufficient to base the exploration of a truly appropriate course for China's gender equality development just on the radical communist patriarchal

ideology. Hence, the prehistoric matriarchal clan on the edge of history - a far away society with the rudiment of feminism - will become the major target of our discussion and balancing (Xu, 2022).

Numerous issues that feminism faced during its development can be traced back to earlier issues through historical analysis. In order to address today's problems more effectively and prevent them from continuing to the next stage of social civilization, it is not sufficient to simply analyze the current state of affairs; rather, one must also trace the history by delving into the deeper substance of the issue (Xu, 2022).

Based on the explanation above, the writer chose a song for her research. The focus study is contained in the lyrics of the song. Song lyrics are a kind of literary work that is written to represent a person's mood or a condition that is happening in society. The lyrics of the song are a personal expression of what the creator has seen, learned, or experienced. The words or languages that are used in song lyrics are easy to understand.

Truthfully, the song "Reflection" is based on the poem "The Ballad of Mulan," which depicts Mulan as a legendary folk heroine of the dynasties era in Chinese history from the 4th to the 6th century AD. This "Reflection" song is the main soundtrack from the "Mulan" Disney Movie, which tells the epic tale of China's legendary warrior story, based on a true story. The "Reflection" song contains the meaning of the realization of gender inequality that many Chinese think everything must be a chance for a man, especially when fighting for the country. Based on China's tradition, it is impossible for women to become warriors for the nation.

The elements of a song lyrics and a poem have similarities. The poem typically has brevity, melody, and emotional strength. On the other hand, the song lyrics are well-known for their ease of recall, which relates to the song's significant emotional expressions.

The purpose of this study is to get to know the struggle of the singer after being forced to a certain standard which she does not find fit to herself. In this case, it has a correlation with social expectations or norms. It will be studied more deeply about gender equality and male domination because in "Reflection" the song



clearly describes that the singer is about to realize gender equality and freedom of feminist and social life, and that women do not have limitations in doing something equal to men.

By the time, the singer realizes that she has the right to live up to her expectations and be the best version of herself without thinking much about what other people are saying about her. Furthermore, the singer has a desire to support gender equality and the women's movement so men and women can have and enjoy the same rights within the balance.

In order to support this research by providing alternate opinions and references related to this study, the writer has reviewed several previous studies for additional viewpoints and references. Faiq Nurul Aulia in "Isu Feminisme dan Kesetaraan Gender dalam Film Mulan" (2021) studied the issues of feminism and gender equality are represented in the film "Mulan". The results showed that the meaning of feminism and gender equality is found through four categories of action, namely the opportunity to do work in the public sphere, the opportunity for women to become leaders, freedom of speech, freedom to achieve desires based on their abilities.

Ikha Bagus Sembada in "Gender Inequality Issues Depicted in Mulan Movie" (2021) studied one of the issues about gender equality which is the different position between men and women, by utilizing Mulan movie as the object of study. The writer concluded two results in this study which are the portrayal of the gender discrimination that the main character encounters in both normal life situations and in combat, and the main character exemplifies two traits in the fight against gender equality: bravery and responsibility.

Putu Ayu Diah Damayanti, Putu Lirishati Soethama, and I Nyoman Udayana in "An Analysis of Taylor Swift's Song Lyric The Man using Feminist Literary Criticism Theory" studied the societal significance of The Man, a song by Taylor Swift, and the role of women in it. For instance, the way women are viewed in society, how they stand in relation to men, and the discrimination they face on a daily basis. The study reveals that this song has a lot of feminism in it. Taylor Swift wants to highlight her concerns about discrimination and gender equality throughout this song.

Feminism

The writer will utilize Judith Butler's gender and feminism theory from her 1990 book "Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity" to serve as a framework for this research. Gender, according to Butler (1990), is a continuous, repeating process resulting in a concept of gender performativity. Gender performativity offers another viewpoint on building a gender binary. Gender performativity is the opposite behavior that challenges gender norms. People are free to present themselves as they truly are without following to the gender stereotypes that are socially acceptable. Due to societal expectations, the biological sex may not always match the real gender. Butler (1990) believes that another aspect of performativity is repetition of actions.

Social interactions might also contain gender preconceptions. Women are more likely to take on several responsibilities in the house, for instance, but men are more likely to develop in their employment. Women are expected to take care of household chores, monitor children's education, and manage household finances at home. They have less opportunities than males do to progress to higher positions, despite the fact that some of them work for corporations.

According to Eisenclas (2002), gender roles have been defined as the common social ideas that apply to people based on their socially identified sex. As a result, they are strongly tied to gender stereotypes. Gender roles are founded on the many demands that people, groups, and society place on them. These expectations are based on their gender, as well as on societal norms and gender-related beliefs. The combination of a person's surroundings and gender roles results in gender roles, which give people hints about which behaviors are appropriate for which gender. The definition of appropriate gender roles depends on how society views gender differences.

Feminism and Sociology

Feminist theory is a significant subfield of sociology that, in connection to sociology or social issues, adjusts its presumptions, analytical lens, and thematic focus from the

male viewpoint and experience toward that of women. Feminist theory illuminates societal issues, problems, and trends that would otherwise be unnoticed or misunderstood by the traditionally preponderant male perspective in social theory.

Many people mistakenly think that feminist thought primarily focuses on girls and women and that its fundamental purpose is to advance the idea that women are superior to males. Ashley Crossman in her article entitled "Feminist Theory in Sociology" (2020) proposed that feminist theory has actually always been about examining society from a perspective that sheds light on the factors that contribute to oppression, inequality, and injustice while also encouraging the quest of justice and equality. In spite of this, much feminist theory has focused on the interactions and experiences of women and girls within society to ensure that the experiences and perspectives of the other half of humanity are not overlooked in how we perceive and comprehend social forces, relations, and issues.

Furthermore, according to Crossman (2020), some feminist theory offers an analytical framework for comprehending how women differ from males in how they are situated in and perceive social situations. For instance, cultural feminists consider the various ideals connected with womanhood and femininity as a factor in explaining why men and women have distinct social experiences. Other feminist theorists contend that gender disparities, such as the sexual division of labor in the home, are best explained by the various roles that are given to men and women inside institutions. Feminists who are existential or phenomenological concentrate on the ways in which women have been excluded or labeled as "other" in patriarchal society. Some feminist theorists are particularly interested in how socialization shapes masculinity and how this influences how females develop their femininity (Crossman, 2020).

Feminist views that emphasize gender inequality acknowledge that men and women experience and participate in social settings differently and unequally. Crossman (2020) stated that liberal feminists contend that moral reasoning and agency are capacities shared by men and women, but that patriarchy, particularly the gendered division of work, has

historically prevented women from expressing and exercising this reasoning. These forces push women into the home's private realm and prevent them from fully participating in society. Liberal feminists emphasize that women experience gender inequality in heterosexual marriages and that being married has no positive effects on women

METHOD

This study tries to evaluate about the feature of feminism and gender roles in song lyric Reflection by Lea Salonga, and how the singer communicates her feminist ideals in the struggle against gender-based issue in the society. The author will employ a qualitative approach in order to carry out the investigation. The author uses a qualitative description approach to describe, clarify, and analyze the issues brought up. The author employed a qualitative research methodology for this study.

Here, each data set to be researched will be discussed as part of a qualitative study using Lea Salonga's "Reflection" song lyric as the main source of data. Then, in order to produce the most comprehensive data processing findings, a qualitative technique was used. Qualitative research relates to the meanings, conceptions, meanings, traits, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of objects, according to Bruce L. Berg in his book "Qualitative Research Method For The Social Sciences" (2001).

Furthermore, according to Basrowi & Suwandi (2008), qualitative research allows researchers to better understand their subjects and feel what they go through on a daily basis. In qualitative research, the researcher is actively engaged in the context, with the setting and natural phenomenon under study. Because they occur in various circumstances, every phenomenon is distinct from others. The goal of this qualitative study is to provide an in-depth account of the conditions in a natural context (natural setting) that actually occurred in the context of the subject of study in order to better understand the state of the context.

In this research, the writer used several data sources, both primary data sources and secondary data sources. As a primary data source or also acting as an object of research are the entire lyrics of Lea Salonga's song entitled Reflection which was released in 1998. As a

secondary data source, the writer took references from the story in the film which were adapted to the context in the song lyrics to support the data existing primers as analysis material. Several other secondary data sources are also references from previous research that raised the same topic, and related articles that review the story of Mulan both from the perspective of song lyrics and from the film.

Data analysis is a systematic process of searching for and organizing notes, transcripts or other materials that the writer uses to improve understanding of the material and enable the writer to present what has been found. Before carrying out the analysis, the writer first collects data to find out which one is closer to the research objectives. Next, the writer classifies the data according to the research objectives and analyzes it. After collecting the required data based on the problem formulation, the data will be analyzed by utilizing qualitative method and applying feminism theory as the foundation to direct the research so as not to get off track from the objective.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Burden Felt by the Singer

The singer is based on the main character in the original story of Mulan which is adapted into the song. The singer is an adventurous and dynamic young woman in the plot, but because of her actions, she is failing her mother. The mother of the singer dreams of finding daughter a decent husband someday. She is compelled to meet the matchmaker and uphold her family's honor as she matures.

The singer and her mother will meet a well-known matchmaker one day to find a suitable husband.

As in the original story, the singer is a Disney princess. She is distinct from other princesses due to her courage as a young woman. However, being a Chinese girl at the time, she was expected to marry, but because of her masculinity, she failed miserably and embarrassed her family. The singer is unfortunately not a pretty chick. She is not concerned with how women ought to behave. She can't be as feminine as a female should be because she is a reckless girl. Along the way the

singer often meet other women who preach her about how to be a good Chinese woman

The singer should have special standards if she wants to start a happy family because she is a lady. The key takeaway from this situation is that a perfect lady should have good taste, be calm and obedient, work quickly, be of good breeding, and have a small waist. A ideal home life can be attained using these factors. In the lyric below, the singer is depicting how the society is demanding her to be, based on her gender:

*Look at me
I will never pass for a perfect bride Or a
perfect daughter
Can it be
I'm not meant to play this part?
(Salonga, 1998)*

The singer realized that she could not live up to the expectations and demands placed upon her. Her family, who wanted her to be a figure that was in line with what they wanted, turned out to be the opposite of the singer's true self, who deeply felt that she wanted to be a woman who was gentle, obedient, and more dominant in household responsibilities. As a motherly figure. The singer in herself feels that all the stereotypes of a feminine that are imposed on her are things that are not her true identity. Therefore in the lyrics the singer says:

*Look at me
I will never pass for a perfect bride Or a
perfect daughter
(Salonga, 1998).*

The society of the time, where a woman had to marry in order to bring respect to her family, is very vividly depicted in Lea Salonga's song Reflection, which is adapted from the narrative of Mulan. The characteristics of a good wife include calm, collected, graceful, elegant, ready, and polite. Mulan, on the other hand, has a tomboyish attitude and a girl who defies convention, is brave, and has a warrior spirit. A different personality which is actually her true self that she has always be hiding inside, as the singer depicts in the lyric below:

*Somehow I cannot hide Who I am, though
I've tried
When will my reflection show Who I am
Inside?
(Salonga, 1998).*

Mulan, who was born with the power of Chi, which is typically only possessed by men and is issued and used by men, comes from a family that places a high importance on culture. Mulan, who actively expresses Chi, thus encounters criticism from her family who follow ancestral traditions and think this is improper for a lady to do. It is clear from the discussion of Chi that cultural teachings do not appear to accord women the same rights and opportunities as males, particularly when it comes to working.

In order to defend his nation against the Hun empire, the emperor of the time decreed that a man from a family had to enlist in the Chinese Imperial Army. In contrast, Mulan's family only has her own father as the only male family member. Mulan decided to take the place of her sickly father, who had fled the house and taken his father's armor and weapons. Mulan sets off for the imperial metropolis dressed as Hua Jun, a young lad. Mulan participates in training every day prior to the start of the battle because she is under pressure to uphold the honor of her family.

As a daughter, the singer has a dual duty to serve her father and to prepare herself to be a suitable bride; if she is successful in attracting suitors, she will bring honor to her family. As a man, serving the country through war is the best option; as a woman, who is physically weaker than men, nursing and bearing are the best options. The social culture in China at that time happened to set a particular gender stereotype for each man and woman where a man by bearing arms, a woman by bearing a son. She does not live up to the expectation that she will become the ideal wife. She fails to become a good woman in the future and disappoints her family, which is then also expressed in the lyrics:

*Now I see
That if I were truly to be myself
I would break my family's heart*

(Salonga, 1998)

The singer is the family's oldest daughter. The patriarchal system of Chinese culture places the man in charge of the family. Women, on the other hand, are the ones who are responsible for the family. The singer, though, is unusual. She aspires to assume parental duties by taking her father's place in the

military. She demonstrates her incredible bravery by taking over her father's role. Even she is aware that she is not permitted to act in that manner, and to be taking that path of life it will risk her disappointing her family.

The moment the singer had the courage to step forward to replace her father's role to join the troops that were going to war was the first moment where she started trying to have the courage to reveal her true self. The true self that is not suitable with social stereotypes that determine her to be a figure who is obedient, gentle and takes care of household affairs, as the gender stereotype that applies and is imposed on her. It can be seen on the lyric below:

*Somehow I cannot hide Who I am, though
I've tried
When will my reflection show Who I am
Inside?
(Salonga, 1998)*

The metaphor of reflection that doesn't describe the singer's true self, in fact, is a figure she doesn't recognize, a picture of the singer who is trapped in a dilemma with himself. Her reflection is a figure of herself that follows family and social expectations that demand her to be a good woman in accordance with the prevailing gender stereotypes, while her true self is her identity who wants to be a strong, brave, and more dominant person with a warrior spirit rather than being a gentle woman.

As the singer represents the main character in the original story of Mulan, she has long wanted to show her true self in front of her family and stop living in the shadow of a gentle woman who is not her true self. The moment where she sees her reflection that reveals a figure she doesn't recognize is a turning point for her to be more courageous to show her true self and break the expectations and social stereotypes that are imposed on her. The singer continues to look for a more perfect moment to take steps that can bring her to the point where she can no longer pretend, and be free to be her true self. Take a look at the lyric below:

*How I pray
That a time will come, I can free myself
From their expectations
(Salonga, 1998).*

The moment the singer was waiting for seemed to have arrived when there was a

request for her father to join the military to fight in the war. She knows her father's condition is no longer fit for that responsibility. Moreover, due to her true self that is unconventional and different from the common stereotype of how a woman should be, she wants to step forward for her father's position and go to war herself. She aspires to assume parental duties by taking her father's place in the military. She demonstrates her incredible bravery by taking on her father's role. Even she is aware that she is not permitted to carry out that duty because doing so would bring shame to the family and would be improper for a woman to do a man's responsibility.

This moment also become a strong encouragement for the singer to get out of all the expectations placed on her, and be herself. There is a feeling of not having the heart to see her father who has to be asked to join the military and go to war, even though her father's condition is not possible and would only be a big risk which would actually bring sadness to her family. This feeling of not having the heart become a big motivation for the singer to have the courage to express her true desires and offer herself to replace her father's position to fight in the war. The singer knows that this choice also risks the image of her family and her own image which is out of the corridor of the woman she should be, but letting her father go to war is also something she cannot accept.

*Somehow I cannot hide
Who I am, though I've tried*
(Salonga, 1998).

The dilemmatic situation that occurred eventually became the point where the singer could no longer hide what she really wanted to show about her true self to her family. The effort she has made so far to hide everything and try to become a woman according to what she is expected to be, turns out she can't do it forever. In the end, the moment that required she to no longer hide everything arrived and what happened was a real dilemma for her and her family. The singer is a representation of female empowerment, which is frequently used in media because it generates favorable publicity and serves to audience sensitivities. However, when the dominant system is able to incorporate it and adapt to social changes, it

may lead to a construction of reality within the confines of dominant ideologies.

2. The Singer's Fight for Gender Equality

In the original story, the main character which the singer represent is whining over not being able to enlist and fight in the battle. Her exclusion from participating in combat as a woman is utterly unfair. She then bravely decided to do something risky and goes into her father's room in the middle of the night, steals his armor, sword, and horse, and then decides to join the others in the army camp with the intention to fake herself as a man.

*Must I pretend that I'm Someone else for all
time? When will my reflection show Who I
am Inside?*
(Salonga, 1998)

In the lyric above, the singer is questioning about her secret she has been keeping all the time, and when will it all be revealed, her true self. The moment when she dared to replace her father's position to go to war was the starting point of how she tried to show her true self and to fight for gender equality which had so far restricted her as a woman who was expected to only be gentle and submissive to the limited taking care of household.

In order to take her father's place at the military camp, Mulan, the main character which the singer represents, risks her life. Running from her house, Mulan steals the armor, sword, and horse. She has the chance to show that women and men are equal in every way during this conflict. Mulan first experiences anxiety over her decision. The explanation is that it is against the law for women to enlist in the military. Mulan might be murdered if someone finds out she is a woman. The argument is that Mulan demonstrates her capacity for bravery by committing to both stopping her father from joining the war and taking his place. She not only enlists in the army but also undergoes a fake physical transformation and fake herself as a man.

*They want a docile lamb
No one knows who I am*
(Salonga, 1998).

The lyric above shows that the singer, or Mulan in the original story, knows that the society wants her to be an obedient and gentle

woman, as she describes as "docile lamb". However, she didn't want to be like that, because of that she ventured to go to the battlefield, doing what should be a man's responsibility, even though she had to change her appearance and fake herself to be a man. The lyric "No one knows who I am" means that apart from meaning that she has been hiding her true identity all this time, it can also be interpreted in her action that dares to go to war disguised as a man, and no one there knows her real identity is a woman.

The singer's depiction of the character of Mulan is a realistic representation of a young lady who rejects conventional gender roles. Due to the way the singer challenges gender norms, she may be seen as a feminist figure. She is not actively rebelling against traditional notions of gender or marriage; rather, she is a different kind of woman than what her society expects. By accepting both a feminine and a masculine identity, she challenges gender norms. She defies notions of femininity in the opening moments of the movie. She is persistent, loud, and socially uncomfortable. She is anything but a nice, proper bride as her family gets ready to find her a husband. When she fails exams to get ready for battle, it is clear that she also suffers with a masculine identity.

How I pray

That a time will come, I can free myself

From their expectations

(Salonga, 1998).

The singer has anticipated the day her true self, who is different from the expectations placed on her to be a woman who is gentle, obedient, and only focuses on taking care of household duties, getting married, and being a good person, can finally come out. a good daughter to the family and newlywed. This demonstrates that Mulan is aware that she cannot be the ideal porcelain doll that society expects her to be. It is simply not going to happen, so she starts to doubt herself. What is she if she is not the ideal daughter or bride? What is she meant to be?

The singer is an embodiment of Mulan, which is a unique figure that marks the beginning of a new era for Disney princesses. Disney princesses frequently represent gender norms and values. For instance, Snow White is submissive, lauded for her beauty, and never crosses these lines. The prince still pursues after

Cinderella despite the fact that she is an independent woman who ventures out into the world for her own advancement. When compared to earlier princesses, Mulan's decision to join the military and become a soldier seems incredibly masculine. She is forced to leave her comfort zone by this event, which helps her develop as a person. The troops do not notice Mulan as much as the others do.

On that day

I'll discover someday to be myself And to make my family proud

(Salonga, 1998).

In the lyric above, it is depicted that eventually the singer is free to behave anyway she pleases as long as the other troops give their permission in this wartime situation, which removes all preconceptions for how women should behave. She employs her intellect to get beyond challenges, using the weights to help her ascend the pole rather than dragging her down. Her capacity for problem-solving is put to the test by these situations. She is unable to showcase her femininity because society expects women to be submissive. But in this situation, gendered expectations are unable to hinder her, allowing her to get past challenges, win others over, and boost her self-worth.

CONCLUSION

The singer is based on the main character from the original Mulan story. In the story, the singer is a bold and vibrant young lady, yet she is failing her mother as a result of her activities. The singer's mother hopes to one day find her daughter a respectable marriage. As she becomes older, she feels obligated to meet the matchmaker and preserve her family's honor. One day, the singer and her mother will go to see a renowned matchmaker in order to locate a good match. She doesn't give a damn about what women should do. She is a reckless girl, thus she can't be as feminine as a female should be.

The way the singer portrayed Mulan is a true-to-life portrayal of a young woman who defies traditional gender norms. The singer can be viewed as a feminist because of the way she defies gender stereotypes. She is a different kind of woman than what her culture expects, not actively rebelling against traditional ideas of gender or marriage. She defies gender stereotypes by embracing both a masculine and feminine identity. In the first scenes of the film,



she challenges stereotypes about femininity. She is obstinate, chatty, and awkward among people. Her family is preparing to find her a husband, but she is anything but a prim and conventional bride.

All expectations about how women should behave are eliminated when the singer is shown to be free to act anyway she pleases, violating gender stereotypes as long as the other warriors grant their consent in this time of war. She uses her intelligence to overcome obstacles; instead of the weights pulling her down, they assist her in climbing the pole. These circumstances stress her ability to solve problems. Because women are expected to be submissive by society, she is unable to express her femininity. Gender norms, however, are unable to stop her in this circumstance, enabling her to overcome obstacles, win people over, and increase her sense of value.

REFERENCES

- Aulia, F. N. "Isu Feminisme dan Kesetaraan Gender dalam Film Mulan." *Isu Feminisme dan Kesetaraan Gender Dalam Film Mulan*, 2021.
- Berg, B. L. *Qualitative Research Method For The Social Sciences*. A Pearson Education Company, 2001.
- Butler, J. "Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity." 1990.
- Crossman, A. "Feminist Theory in Sociology." Thought.Co, 2020.
- David Z. and Salonga, L. "Reflection." *Mulan: An Original Walt Disney Records Soundtrack*, 1998.
- Eisenchlas, S. "Gender Roles and Expectations." *Sage Journals*, 2013: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244013506446>.
- Hezam, A. M. M. "Human Rights through Literature." *Faculty of Science and Arts, Taibah University*, 2016.
- United Nations. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." 1948.
- Putu Ayu Diah Damayanti, Putu Lirishati Soethama, I. N. U. "An Analysis of Taylor Swift's Song Lyric The Man using Feminist Literary Criticism Theory." *Langua: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Language Education*, 2023.
- Sembada, I.B. "Gender Inequality Issues Depicted in Mulan Movie." *Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang*, 2021.
- Andermahr, S., Lovell, T., Wolkowitz, C. A *Glossary Of Feminist Theory*. St. Martin's Press, 1997.
- Suwandi, B. "Memahami Penelitian Kualitatif." Jakarta, 2008.
- Xu, M. "The Development of Feminism in China." *Atlantis Press*, 2022.

Caesaria Omega Putri Pesik, Siti Isminarni & Nirwan

The Singer's Struggles to Fight for the Gender Equality in Lea Salonga's Reflection Songs .