



Patriarchal Hegemony In Jaffa And Silver's Screenplay *The Mulan 2020*

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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled "Patriarchal Hegemony Of Jaffa And Silver's Screenplay In *Mulan 2020*". This story tells a woman named Mulan who has strong Ci powers, as a woman who lives in a patriarchal environment makes herself have to hide her strength until the emperor issues a decree Mulan decides to replace her father following the decree and disguises herself as a man. This study aimed at analyzing the hegemony of patriarchal culture as depicted in the *Mulan 2020* screenplay written by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver. The researcher used the qualitative method as the study design. In this study, the researcher analyze the hegemony of patriarchal culture in *Mulan 2020* through the concept of Confucianism. Confucianism is one of the philosophies believed and believed by the Chinese community and Confucius is the core of Chinese civilization. This study found that that there are several types of patriarchal cultural hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020*, namely three obediences that are obedient to father, obedient to husband, and four virtues that are woman's ethics, woman's work and woman's appearance. Based on the Movie Script, the analysis proof the patriarchal hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020* cause women to become dominated, discriminated against, and belittled by society.

Keywords:

Hegemony, Patriarchy, Movie Script.

1. Introduction

The Literature is a work of art in the form of writing or oral. Literature uses language as a means of expressing feelings, thoughts, knowledge, and experiences. Literature is a disclosure of artistic and imaginative facts as a form of manifestation of human life or community life which is loaded through language tools that have a positive effect on human life (humanity) (Esten, 1978). Literature can become a bridge that connects writers and readers through their works, one of which is film. Just like other literary works such as (novels, short stories, and dramas), films also have stories, scenes, dialogues, conflicts, characters, characterizations, plots, and settings. However, compared to other literary works, films have advantages that these literary works do not have. As a mass media, the film is audio-visual, that is, films can visualize characters in a story, and can make the audience feel more illusion when watching a moving, colorful, and sound image. The sound of the film can make the audience feel the emotions portrayed by the characters in the film (Bo, 2008). With this ability, films become literary works that are most liked by the public

because, with ideas and creativity, the messages that the author wants to convey can be easily conveyed.

Talking about films, the greatness of the film is never separated from the screenplay or script. A screenplay is an adaptation of a film in written form that contains detailed scenes. The screenplay is not only made for film production but also animation. Talking about the film industry, currently, there are various film industries in the world. In the American film industry itself, Disney is one of the film industries that can sell and distribute its films throughout the world (Chrismanna, 2016). In other words, Disney is one of the most popular and largest animated film production houses in the world.

Disney itself is a company that runs in the entertainment field that was founded in 1923 until now. Whether intentionally or not, Disney Princess uses the depiction of women and gender roles in society as one of its elements (Chrismanna, 2016). The typical Disney princess character was conservative but aimed to represent the cultural anxiety of the time (Hasan, 2016). Although Disney's princesses take advantage of gender roles in society, each of his works always represents the culture, thoughts, and anxieties felt by women through his works. Disney's first work, Snow White with the Seven Dwarfs, was a figure that represented the ideal female form at that time, namely polite and passive, just like the two subsequent works, namely Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty. Seeing the growing feminist movement at that time, Disney re-launched new works that included elements of feminism such as Ariel from *The Little Mermaid* which in this work shows an independent, independent attitude, Belle from *Beauty and The Beast* is brave, Pocahontas shows a critical and independent attitude. In 1998, Disney released a work that was slightly different from the previous work in which the work was more daring and rebellious, namely *Mulan*. *Mulan* did not care how a woman should behave 'good', defied conventional ideas, and became feminine (Sing, 2018). This makes *Mulan* different from the characters that have been made by Disney before, where women can become strong, independent, and fight just like men.

Disney has changed the main female character in the film to be strong, brave and full of intelligence (Hays, 2019). Although *Mulan's* story and characters are different, *Mulan* still gets a good place and response from the community. In 2005, *Mulan* had the opportunity to continue her story in *Mulan II*, seeing the success and popularity of *Mulan* among the public in 2020 Disney released *Mulan* 1998 in a different form, namely a live-action entitled *Mulan* 2020.

Mulan 2020 is a live-action film adapted from the 1998 animated film *Mulan* which first premiered on July 5, 1998, directed by Niki Caro and scriptwriters Amanda Silver and Rick Jaffa. The story of *Mulan* is set during the Wei dynasty (Lu & Liu, 2021). In this film, *Mulan* is described as a girl who is brave, smart, and independent. *Mulan* disguises herself as a man to replace her ailing father to go to war on the king's orders. *Mulan's* story is different from other Disney princesses who are looking for true love, *Mulan* lives to bring honor to her family by disguised as a man. Although this film is a little different from 1998's *Mulan*, the *Mulan* film is still a success and gets a good reception among the public and even won The Action Movie of 2020 at the 2020 People's Choice Award ceremony (Balindra, 2021).

In this study, there are three reasons why it is chosen the film *Mulan 2020* is the object of study. She is not like a Disney Princess who has a polite, elegant, and obedient like Snow White, Cinderella, and Aurora, or like Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* and the brave Pocahontas; *Mulan* is more than that. *Mulan* herself is described as having a brave, stubborn nature and being far from polite. *Mulan* herself raised the issue of raising the issue of gender equality and discrimination against women caused by the patriarchal culture that is closely embedded in people's lives. The patriarchal system is detrimental and constrains women; this film alludes to the nature of a woman, namely that a woman must be polite, graceful, obedient, and not do what men do, like fighting. And if they do not follow the patriarchal system they will get the consequences as stated by Deborah L. Madsen in *Feminist Theory and Literary Practice* says that women are defined as 'other' or they are ignored, rendered invisible, and silent, if they do not follow the patriarchal scheme. Outside the dominant definitions of male-dominated culture woman exist only as insane, inarticulate, or irrelevant. This trait is very contrary to *Mulan's* nature, inversely proportional to *Mulan's* sister (Hua Xiu) who is feminine and polite.

Second, The influence of patriarchal culture is very large in *Mulan's* story, so *Mulan* tries to calm down and learn the sword in secret, but *Mulan's* struggle fails and ruins her matchmaking so that she fails to bring honor and embarrass her family. When, the emperor issued a decree that one man from each family was obliged to join the imperial army to defend the country from the attacks of the Huns, seeing that he decided to take his sick father's place on the battlefield and bring honor to his family by disguised as a man. At the barracks, no one realizes that *Mulan* is a woman, including *Mulan's* leader Commander Tung (Donnie Yen). However, while battling the Huns, *Mulan* pursued several troops alone. Finally, *Mulan* couldn't hide her identity anymore. She was expelled from the army and had to return home.

Although, having been expelled from the army, when he found out that the Huns would attack the *Mulan* empire, the troops immediately returned and informed the plan at first *Mulan* did not believe him but his friends believed and tried to make the Tung commander believe and immediately left the empire. At that time *Mulan* no longer disguised herself as a man but became herself and defeated the Huns and saved the empire and brought honor to her family as a knight as well as a woman. Thus, this film is very interesting to study to see how strong the influence of patriarchal culture is shown in the film so that there is only one way to help and honor women's families, namely marriage; if a woman holds a sword or becomes a soldier, it is considered a disgrace and may even result in death. This proves that the patriarchal culture in the animated film *Mulan* is very strong.

In addition, the reason for choosing *Mulan 2020* as the object of this study is the background of women's oppression and male domination of women in traditional Chinese society caused by patriarchal culture. In addition to being patriarchal, Chinese society is patrilineal (Song, 2021). The suffering of women is also related to the culture or traditions that have developed in Chinese society. One of the very influential teachings was Confucius. In the Confucian hierarchy, women are at the bottom (Richey, 2017). Traditional Chinese women do not have the social or political status that men do. Women were often mistreated, socially separated, and forced to compete for their husband's affection with concubines. Additionally,

women must submit to their fathers, then their husbands, and finally, in the case of widows, their sons in a system known as "three followers" or Sancong (Cartwright, 2017).

There have been many studies that have examined Patriarchal hegemony and study on the film *Mulan*, first is a study conducted by Nurfadila Anita Sari with the title "Female Friendship as a Way to Survive under Chinese Patriarchal Culture in Lisa See's *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*" in 2016. The conclusion of her study that there are three points that lead to The life of women in China in the nineteenth century was not easy, they suffered and were depressed, namely foot binding, arranged marriages and domestic violence. The Chinese patriarchal system has been set up so neatly with the aim to make women always obey and submit to men. Because women are powerless, they just figure out how to survive. Women have difficulty living under Chinese patriarchal culture, Lily and Snow can survive with a bond of female friendship. Female friendship becomes a hope for them to survive in patriarchal culture. Lily and Snow indeed survive in the patriarchal culture but they cannot survive without participating in the perpetuation of patriarchy.

The last, a study was conducted by Irene Andini Wishnu Adyatmasani with the title "The Representation of Liberal Feminism in The Character of Hua Mulan in *Mulan Movie*" in 2021. Then use Murphy's theory about the characteristics and use of Rosemarie Thong's theory of liberal feminism. The conclusion of her study shows that Hua Mulan is a character who is reckless, independent, brave, heroic, and strong in determination. In addition, four points show that Mulan's character represents liberal feminism, that is, women who can do what they want, women who dare to take risks, successfully perform man roles, and women who get recognition.

Meanwhile, in this study, the researcher focuses on patriarchal culture which is represented through the film *Mulan 2020*. In this study, the researcher uses the feminism literary criticism. Maggie Humm' theory of feminism literary criticism is used to analyze patriarchal hegemonic culture and Mulan's resistance against patriarchal culture. Based on the explanation above, illustrates that the research to be carried out is still relevant and useful for research. Therefore, the title of this research is, "Patriarchal Hegemony of Jaffa and Silver's Screenplay *The Mulan 2020*"

2. Methods

This study used qualitative design. A qualitative design used descriptive data such as words, both written and spoken, pictures rather than using numbers. Source of data in this study was taken from the Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver's *Mulan 2020* Movie script which consists of 20 pages. This movie script was obtained from the website: <https://subslikescript.com/movie/Mulan-4566758>. In the collecting data, the researcher used several steps there are downloaded the script *Mulan 2020* written by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, note taking and highlighted. After the data is collected, the next step is data analyzed. The researcher described the data that exhibited through dialogue script of the main character and characterization that appoint with the setting that depicted the patriarchal hegemony in the *Mulan 2020*, and determined the component parts of the patriarchal hegemony in the *Mulan 2020*. Then the researcher analyzed the data of each category, and drawing conclusion.

3. Result

The patriarchal hegemony culture that is found in the *Mulan 2020* movie script written by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, that is:

a. Three Obediences

a. Obedient to the Father

Obedience to the father is a central concept in Confucianism, containing important ideas about how children should care for their parents. Yeh and Bedford (2003). Obedient to the father in *Mulan 2020* can be seen in the following dialogue:

Hua Li : You're a war hero. You've already made many great sacrifices.

Zhou : Are you suggesting... our family not comply with the Imperial edict?

Mulan: But how can you fight...

Zhou : **I am the father. It is my place to bring honor to our family on the battlefield. You are the daughter! Learn your place.**

(EXT: Hua Family House- Morning: 4)

Based on the quotation above, describes Mulan and Mulan's mother trying to persuade her father (Hua Zhou) not to go to war. Mulan's father is a former war soldier and has sacrificed a lot for the Emperor at a young age and one leg is disabled, making Mulan's mother (Hua Li) and Mulan worried about him (Hua Zhou). However, that made Hua Zhou angry, feeling looked down upon. He is the man and the head of the family in his family. This is his duty and responsibility as a man and as his father. Patriarchal culture is a system that prioritizes and looks up to men over women, even though Hua Zhou is died on the battlefield he was willing to do his job.

b. Obedient to the Husband

In Confucian rules, every woman must obey her husband. Obedience to the husband in *Mulan 2020* can be seen in the quotation below.

Zhou : My sword. My armor! It's gone!

Hua Li : Who would do such a thing?

Zhou : The conscription scroll. It was Mulan.

Hua Li : You must stop her. The Northern Invaders will kill her!

Zhou : If I expose her lie, our own people will kill her. Ancestors, honored phoenix... ancestral guardian, I beseech you... watch over my daughter,

Mulan. She has made a terrible mistake. I taught her too late to know her place. I indulged her. She is innocent of the world. Of men. And the evils of war.

And now she's in great danger. Please, honored phoenix... protect her.

(INT: Hua Family House- Morning: 5-6)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Hua's family is panicked because the sword, armour and the conscription scroll of Mulan's father (Hua Zhou) have been lost and brought by Mulan. Hearing that Mulan took the items made Mulan's mother (Hua Li) worry that Mulan would be killed by Northern Invaders and asked her husband (Hua Zhou) to stop Mulan immediately, but Mulan's father try to calm his wife (Hua Li) and said that if he exposes Mulan's lies, then society will kill Mulan. hearing this, Mulan's mother (Hua Li) obeyed and heard what her husband said. Therefore, it can be seen that in the quote above, Mulan's mother (Hua Li) is obedient to her husband and no longer asks her husband to chase Mulan even

though her child is in danger. It can be concluded that the attitude taken by Mulan's mother (Hua Li) is **Obedient to the husband**.

b. Four Virtues

Four virtues in *Mulan 2020* can be seen in quotation below:

The Matchmaker : Quiet. Composed. Graceful. Elegant. Poised. Polite. These are the qualities... we see in a good wife. These are the qualities... we see in Mulan. When a wife serves her husband... ...she must be silent. She must be... invisible. She must be... Is something wrong?

(INT: The Matchmaker House- Morning: 3)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Mulan is meeting with the Matchmaker and is accompanied by her sister and mother. When carrying out matchmaking events, what the matchmaker sees is ethics, calm, elegance, and courtesy. It can be seen that the quality standard used by the matchmaker in finding a mate is based on the four virtues concept, namely "**woman's ethics and woman's work**".

In a patriarchal culture, women are always limited and bound by rules and perceptions that require them to be beautiful, elegant, calm, polite and so on:

Ling : We were matched 28 days ago. Her name is Li Li. Her skin is white as milk. Her fingers like the tender white roots of a green onion.

Criquet : Ling is a romantic!

Ling : Her eyes are like morning dewdrops...

Yao : I like my women buxom. With strong, wide hips.

Criquet : I like kissing women with cherry red lips.

Pao : I don't care what she looks like.

Mulan : - I agree.

Pao : - I care what she cooks like.

Yoson An : Tell us, Hua Jun. What's your ideal woman?

Mulan : My ideal woman is courageous.

Pao : - A courageous woman?

Mulan : - Yes.

Mulan : And she has a sense of humor.

Mulan : - She's also smart.

Pao : - Smart?

Criquet : Well, what does she look like?

Mulan : That's not the point.

Pao : Courageous, funny, smart.

Yoson An : Hua Jun's not describing a woman... ...

Yao : he's describing me.

Yoson An : That's not you, Yao. That's definitely not you.

(INT: Camp the Fifth of Battalion- Morning: 6-7)

The quote above represents woman's appearance, where women are described as the Yin, symbolized by the moon standing for all things dark, secret, hidden, cold, weak, and passive; and the Yang, literally meaning "the sun" and figuratively referring to the male, standing for all things bright, open, overt, warm, strong and active. Therefore it can be concluded that the above quotation represents **Woman's Appearance**.

4. Discussion

Based on the findings above, it is expected to be able to answer the objective of study, which is to elaborate the patriarchal hegemony cultures portrayed in the movie *Mulan 2020*. In "The *Mulan 2020*" screenplay, the concept of patriarchal hegemony, as described by Jirong (2006), is highly relevant. This concept refers to the belief that women are considered inferior and subordinate to men in family life and various aspects of society. The movie portrays how patriarchal culture influences *Mulan's* life and choices.

Through direct characterization, we see *Mulan's* traits, like determination, bravery, love for her family, and the desire to bring honor to them. However, patriarchal family dynamics are evident, with *Mulan's* father holding authority and societal limitations imposed on her as a woman. The expectation for *Mulan* to suppress her strength and talents highlights the influence of patriarchal culture on her actions and choices.

Mulan's decision to take on traditionally male roles, such as becoming a warrior, challenges the prevailing gender norms, leading to surprise and disbelief from other characters. This emphasizes the constraints imposed by patriarchal expectations. Indirect characterization through *Mulan's* actions, like chasing a chicken with determination or stealing the conscription scroll out of love and obedience to her family, reveals her brave and devoted nature.

Throughout the story, *Mulan's* character is shaped by the patriarchal culture surrounding her. Despite facing internal conflicts, struggling to conform to societal expectations, and suppressing her true self, she eventually defies these norms to embrace her identity and protect her family and kingdom. The movie highlights themes of gender equality, self-discovery, and the importance of remaining true to oneself despite societal expectations.

The settings in the story play a crucial role in highlighting the influence of patriarchal hegemony on gender roles, societal expectations, and individual choices. *Mulan's* journey serves as a powerful example of challenging these norms, breaking free from societal constraints, and embracing one's true self. Her resilience and transformation inspire women to challenge societal norms and discover their strength.

This study only focuses on patriarchal hegemony portrayed in the movie *Mulan 2020* based on Confucianism. Confucianism is a philosophy and belief system from ancient China which laid the foundation for much of Chinese culture. In traditional Chinese society, the position of women under the domination of many of Confucius' views and teachings is the essence of Chinese civilization, including his views about women. Without realizing it, the teachings of Confucianism have dominated Chinese society and created a patriarchal culture. In patriarchal societies men yield more authority than women in political and social relationships; thus, Confucius contributed to the subordination of women, because he emphasized the importance of understanding one's place in relationships and not questioning nor attempting to alter it. Confucius isolated women from the field of government and identified that women were unable to handle community affairs and handle important affairs or positions.

During the time of Confucius, women were expected to tend to duties at home. Concept of Confucianism placed conservative rules on women with "Three Obediences" and four virtues. Three Obediences are three following precepts, i.e. women should be obedient to father before marriage, to husband after marriage and to son after the death of husband. While the four virtues include: woman's ethics, woman's words, woman's appearances. Based on the findings, there are three obediences and four virtues concepts of Confucianism found in *Mulan 2020*, namely obedient to the father, obedient to the husband after marriage, woman's ethics and woman's appearance.

There are several studies related to this study for example is study conducted by Suhadi, entitled "The Portrait of Women Resistance Towards patriarchy system in the movie Dilemma Ijab Kabul" in 2018. This study found that The power of female resistance towards the patriarchy system which is done by the women in this documentary film have comparable proportionate to the amount phenomenon of early marriages, divorce and remarried. Divorce and remarried in the film "Dilema Ijab Kabul" is a form of women resistance from the forced marriages by the patriarchy system. Thus the higher the hegemonic patriarchy system towards the women, the elevating struggle of women towards the patriarchy system.

Second, the study conducted by Nurfadila Anita Sari with the title "Female Friendship as a Way to Survive Under Chinese Patriarchal Culture in Lisa See's Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" in 2016. This study found that there were 3 causes of problems that made the lives of Chinese women in the 19th century miserable, namely footbinding, arranged marriage, and domestic violence. However, due to the strong dominance of patriarchal culture, women become helpless and they only look for ways to survive under the domination of patriarchal culture. Even so, Lily and Snow Flower were able to survive, but they could not survive without participating in passing on this culture to their children. Therefore, the researcher believes that the patriarchal cultural has a large role and influence in people's lives and in family life.

Unknowingly, patriarchal cultural hegemony has controlled people's way of thinking about gender and differentiated it, made rules based on gender, marginalized the women's movement and determined one's life based on gender. Patriarchal culture is a social system that prioritizes men and subordinates women. The researchers found the presence of patriarchal culture in *Mulan 2020* has a big influence, with this system making a man superior to women, men have a big role either as the head of the family or as decision makers and women must obey the decisions that have been made either to father, husband or child.

It proves that women are looked down upon as someone who cannot make or make decisions even for themselves, if there is a woman who crosses her limits, such as opposing her parents, not being polite, weak, gentle or stronger than a man. men, the woman will receive punishment and even be exiled because she is considered a witch. Patriarchal culture in *Mulan 2020* is part of the culture of society, without realizing that patriarchal culture becomes a benchmark for rules, and people's perspectives so that the power and influence possessed by the patriarchal hegemony in *Mulan 2020* is big and strong. Based on the movie script, the analysis proves that patriarchal culture in *Mulan 2020* has a strong influence, where there are several types of patriarchal hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020*,

namely three obediences that are obedient to father, obedient to husband, and four virtues that are woman's ethics, woman's work and woman's appearance

In summary, "The Mulan 2020" screenplay effectively portrays the relevance of patriarchal hegemony in Mulan's life, emphasizing the struggles and challenges she faces in breaking free from societal expectations to embrace her true self as a strong warrior. The movie sends a powerful message of empowerment, encouraging individuals to challenge patriarchal norms and embrace their identities

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion above, the researcher provides conclusions related to the research question. From the findings, the patriarchal hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020* has great power and influence that governs people's lives whereas women do not have the freedom to make decisions for themselves. Without realizing it, society has been dominated by patriarchal culture, and this is seen as a common thing. Patriarchal hegemony can be seen in how society perceives and differentiates between men and women. Women are seen as weak and do housework, while men are seen as strong and dominated by the role of the father over their family or the role of men over women, every decision is made by parents, a child must obey and may not oppose the decisions that have been made. made by the head of the family, opposing the decision is considered a form of disrespect to parents.

The implications of patriarchal hegemony cause women become dominated, discriminated against, and belittled by society. The suffering of these women is related to the culture or traditions that have developed in Chinese society, as well as to the beliefs that live and are adhered to in a society that has long roots, namely Confucianism. Confucius was China's first self-conscious teacher and thinker to address political and social order. Through this, he has the strength and power to dominate society through his teachings. It can be seen in *Mulan*, where patriarchal culture does not allow girls to have strong *Ci*, only boys can have strong *Ci*, if that happens then society will alienate these women. As a result, *Mulan* had to cover up and hide her power. Therefore, it can be seen that the patriarchal hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020* has great power and influence that can influence people's ways of thinking, perspectives, rules and life. In short, there are two types of patriarchal hegemony based on the Confucianism that can be found in the *Mulan 2020* Script. There are two types of patriarchal hegemony depicted in *Mulan 2020*, namely three obediences that are obedient to father, obedient to husband, and four virtues that are woman's ethics, woman's work and woman's appearance

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