

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This study examines the representation of women's empowerment through the character of Debbie Ocean by analyzing both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Based on intrinsic elements, this study found that the intrinsic elements of *Ocean's 8* work collectively and systematically to shape Debbie's traits as a complex and empowered woman. Through characterization, Debbie is portrayed as a leader who is strategically manipulative, psychologically astute, and emotionally mature, traits that do not emerge in a single moment but are progressively built through a series of carefully crafted scenes. The heist theme provides a context in which Debbie's intelligence and precision are demanded and demonstrated, while the theme of women's empowerment positions her as a deliberate subversion of the masculine mastermind archetype that has long dominated the heist genre. Lou's home serves as a basecamp where the heist plan is secretly devised, reinforcing Debbie's role as the mastermind, while the Met Gala, as one of America's most exclusive and prestigious cultural institutions, serves as the primary arena where Debbie's authority and strategic intelligence are fully realized. The plot traces her journey from a victim of betrayal to a great mastermind, while her external and internal conflicts reveal the full complexity of her humanity, a woman carrying unhealed wounds yet still moving forward.

Based on extrinsic elements, this study found that the

representation of women's empowerment through Debbie Ocean is most powerfully shown through de Beauvoir's concept of transcendence, her active refusal to remain confined to the position of immanence imposed upon her as a woman. This transcendence manifests itself in four dimensions. First, through her redefinition of invisibility as a strategic weapon rather than a sign of weakness. Second, through her assertion of her intellectual authority and her right to define herself through her own expertise and work. Third, through her reclamation of historical and cultural spaces long reserved for men. Last, through her visionary ambition that refuses to be limited even by the boundaries of her own plans. In these four dimensions, Debbie does not empower herself by becoming like a man, she empowers herself by being fully and strategically herself as a woman.

Beyond the two main research questions, this study also found that *Ocean's* 8 bases its narrative on two broader contextual realities. The portrayal of supporting characters such as the cleaning lady, Tammy, and Amita reflects the persistent social conditions of American women as stated by Bailey and Diprete (2016), conditions that provide a broader social context and make Debbie Ocean's empowerment all the more meaningful and relevant. Furthermore, the heist mechanism in the film, specifically the strategic use of an insider and organized group planning, reflects actual patterns found in real-life heist cases in America.

A suggestion for future research might be to analyze more than one female character, such as Lou, Amita, Tammy, Nine Ball, Constance, and Daphne Kluger, whose individual narratives also offer rich potential for feminist analysis. The object of the study could also be expanded by comparing *Ocean's 8* with other heist films whose main characters are also women. Future research could also employ alternative feminist theories beyond de Beauvoir to capture another analysis which have not fully explored in this study.

