

ABSTRACT

This study examines the representation of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's fight for gender equality in the film *On the Basis of Sex* (2018) from the perspective of liberal feminism. The research focuses on the film's portrayal of gender discrimination within American legal and social institutions and on Ruth's legal strategies in challenging such discrimination, which reflect the liberal feminist ideas of John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method using both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic analysis focuses on characterization, setting, plot, conflict, dialogue, and cinematography, while the extrinsic analysis applies liberal feminist theory to examine issues of legal equality, systemic reform, and women's rights. The findings reveal that the film portrays gender inequality as a structural problem sustained by discriminatory laws, patriarchal traditions, and institutional barriers in education, employment, and the legal system. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is portrayed as a rational, persistent, and reform-oriented woman who challenges discrimination through constitutional argument, strategic litigation, and legal reform rather than radical resistance. The film also presents an egalitarian domestic relationship through Martin Ginsburg's support for Ruth, reflecting John Stuart Mill's emphasis on legal equality and institutional reform as well as Harriet Taylor Mill's view on equality within personal relationships. Therefore, the film portrays legal advocacy as an important instrument for achieving legal equality, promoting systemic reform, and challenging gender-based discrimination within existing institutions.

Keywords: liberal feminism, gender equality, legal equality, systemic reform, legal advocacy