

ABSTRACT

The process of stereotyping regarding social class can be observed in the judgements contained in what people say about individuals from a particular social class, this is often reflected in various media and presented in a romanticised light. This study focuses on the lead role of Vivian Ward in the film *Pretty Woman* (1990), in which she is portrayed as a lower-class individual who enters an upper-class environment. Using Martin and White's Appraisal Theory, particularly the subsystem of judgement, and Stuart Hall's concepts of representation and stereotyping, this study attempts to examine how judgement expressions contribute to the construction of stereotypes and social class representation in the film. Results show that upper-class characters' evaluations of Vivian simplify her identity into fixed and negative traits associated with her class background, reinforcing patterns of otherness, exclusion, and social hierarchy.

Keywords: appraisal theory; judgement; social class; stereotyping

