

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Film as a literary work is a suitable medium for conveying social issues, one of which is about American single parents. The phenomenon of American single parents refers to the growing trend of families headed by single parents without a partner, which is motivated by various factors such as divorce and death. According to Hurlock, the notion of a single parent is a parent who has become a widower or widow, either father or mother, who takes responsibility for caring for children after the death of their partner, divorce, or birth (1999: 118). Nevertheless, lately, in America, cases of death are often the result of personal health and mental health that are less stable. Death is a destiny that can happen to humans, and we cannot set the time. So, the victims of the families left behind will be heavy. In particular, children should receive attention and affection from their parents but inevitably have to be strong and live with one of their mothers or fathers.

The parent's role in raising and educating children is part of the socialization process between children and parents. Therefore, the relationship between children and parents becomes tenuous due to wrong parenting patterns and often occurs in single-parent families.

Hence, other problems arise, including gender issues and equality. According to Irvine, the social construction of masculinity makes men a burden, which causes them to have difficulty expressing their emotions, which encourages men to feel depressed and depressed (2018: 728). Gender Issue and Equality is the right or opportunity for every human being not to be influenced by gender, whether male, female, or trans, impacting children, families, and people of all ages and backgrounds. Gender Issue and Equality is the right or opportunity for every human being not to be influenced by gender, whether male, female, or trans, impacting children, families, and people of all ages and backgrounds. In society, we can see that men with tendencies for feminine gender expression will find it more difficult for their existence to be accepted by society (Coyle: 2016). This is shown in this film as the focus of the main problem through Matthew's character as a man and a single parent, which will be discussed further.

This film depicts the story of the main character with the loss of a family member by using a narrative approach with a light comedy-drama theme. In this thesis, the researcher finds that Matthew and Liz have been in a romantic relationship since high school. They already have a home together and plan to live in Los Angeles. They have everything, such as the perfect marriage, a comfortable home, and a beautiful baby girl. But unfortunately, Liz died suddenly at the age of 30 years old. Due to an unexpected incident, Matthew faces the sadness and responsibilities of

being a newly single father. He survives by pouring out his heart through a small blog he created to let friends and family know about the latest news of Liz's pregnancy, hoping that he can share his life story as a beautiful memory for Matt's little family.

This film is adapted from a book called "Two Kisses for Maddy." A heartwarming and heartbreaking tale punctuated by fond and often hilarious memories. There's no doubt that the film "Fatherhood" has something to offer those audiences who have experienced grief to feel the courage to live again. The film, released in 2021, reaches its climax, where one cannot live without others. This is a memoir about losing a loved one and how to deal with it. one cannot live without others.

1.2 Research Problem

In this thesis, there are the following research problems with this study about which the writer tries to learn more:

1. How is the American Single Parent life depicted in The "Fatherhood" (2021)?
2. How do Gender Issue and Equality influence the main character of "Fatherhood" movie (2021)?

1.3 Scope of the Study

In this research, the writer will analyze the problems for specific results about gender issue and equality in American single parents as depicted in "Fatherhood" (2021), which affects the main characters,

Matthew Logelin and Madeline, both of whom will interpret the plot of this film to gain insight into relationships as an American single-parent family. In the thesis, the writer covers the study of the intrinsic aspects, such as themes, characters, conflicts, settings, and extrinsic aspects, by discussing gender and equality in American single parents. These elements underpin the research spotlight on social researchers. Also, the cinematographic aspects help the writer analyze the scenes in the film.

1.4 Aims of the Study

This thesis entitled, "Gender Issue and Equality in American single parent as Depicted in "Fatherhood" (2021), aims to elaborate on the research problem by answering related questions below:

1. To describe and analyze how the life of single-parent Americans is portrayed in the film "Fatherhood."
2. To analyze how gender issues and equality affect the character of Matthew in "Fatherhood."

Because single parenting is an essential indicator of socioeconomic inequality, this issue about single parenting and children's educational performance at schools is still debated. Thus, our understanding of the extent to which this inequality is present is also present in these two groups of gender issue and equality. Also, research focuses on the family context to understand American single parents caring for their children.

1.5 Previous Studies

This review delves into the theoretical developments related to the theme of Gender Issue and Equality in American Single Parent as depicted in “Fatherhood.” Several journals are relevant to this theme. First, *Change among the Gatekeepers: Men, Masculinities, and Gender Equality in the Global Arena* by author R. W. Connell (2005): 829-859 discusses the doctrine of equality between women and men, which has been widely recognized in international law since the adoption of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1958). A key principle in understanding gender inequalities is the multidimensional structure of relationships between women and men, which is embedded in the modern sociology of gender. This structure operates at every level of human experience, encompassing economic arrangements, culture, the state, interpersonal relationships, and individual emotions (Connell, 2002: 89-99).

The second journal, is titled *'Coached for the Classroom: Parents' Cultural Transmission and Children's Reproduction of Educational Inequalities'* by Jessica McCrory Calarco (2014). This journal research aligns with the same subject as the previous one, namely *'Gender and Equalities in American Single Parenthood'* as portrayed in the 2021 movie *'Fatherhood.'* However, this study takes a different approach. It investigates the practice of transmitting social classes through parents' cultures to their children, who actively shape cultural coaching within

their parents' cultural framework. This approach is based on problem-solving strategies, leading to the emergence of stratified educational advantages for school children. The study sheds light on the varying nature of these processes across social class divisions. Additionally, this research unveils a significant source of class-based inequalities, emphasizing that parents play a crucial role in perpetuating these inequalities.

The third journal centers its research on the theme of “Gender Issue and Equality in American Single Parent as depicted in “Fatherhood” (2021). It relates closely to 'Single Parenthood and Children's Educational Performance: Inequality among Families and Schools,' authored by Marloes de Lange and Jaap Dronkers (2014). This journal delves into the significant impact of emotionality within single parenthood on children and parents, resulting in reduced economic, parental, and social resources within the family unit. Compared to coupled-parent families, children within single-parent families tend to experience more pronounced effects of economic deprivation, a lack of parental support and control, and diminished parental contact (Amato, 2000). This perspective raises questions about whether the observed effects on children could be spurious outcomes associated with single parenthood.

The fourth journal, titled “The Determinants of Parenting: A Process Model” by author Jay Belsky (1984), aligns with the research theme of 'Gender Issue and Equality in American Single Parent as depicted in

“Fatherhood” (2021). This journal similarly addresses the same research area. The determinants explored in this journal are based on the premise that a long-neglected topic, socialization differences in parental functioning, is illuminated through research on the causes of child maltreatment. The study identifies three domains of determinants: the personal psychological resources of parents, child characteristics, and contextual sources of stress and support. The journal offers a process model for understanding competent parental functioning, built upon analyzing these determinants.

The fifth journal's research revolves around the topic of "Gender Issue and Equality in American Single Parent as depicted in "Fatherhood." It is closely connected to the study titled "Widowhood and Race", authored by Felix Elwert and Nicholas A. Christakis (2006). In this journal, the focus is on the effects of widowhood, particularly in relation to the main character Matthew, and how widowhood impacts racially intermarried couples. The study uncovers a notable gender pattern in the effects of race within widowhood. Among racially intermarried men, particularly black men, a basic model considering only the race and age of both spouses yields quantitatively similar estimates for the racial pattern of widowhood effects among men and women. Further analyses, including age interactions (not displayed), did not reveal statistically significant variation in the widowhood effect by age, except for a modest decline among endogenously married white men and women at older ages. This decline did not alter the contrast between widowhood effects experienced

by endogenously married blacks and whites, nor did it affect the similarity of widowhood effects encountered by men and women.

The last journal analyzed the same object research with difficulties as an American single parent depicted in “Fatherhood” movie 2021 and titled Work Role Characteristics, Family Structure Demands, by author Patricia Voydanoff (1988). This journal represented work role characteristics on relationships between family structure and conflict with uses analyses of data from 757 married men and 270 married women interviewed in the 1977 Quality of Employment Survey. The final is finding the amount of scheduling of work time, job demands, and the presence of children indicate the home is related to work/family conflict among men and women.

The differences in the literary works that will be studied dissect from the perspective of the movie based on the main character in the commemorating death event of a mother named Liz who had just passed away after bringing forth a tiny black passed away because of an attack of disease in the form of blood clotting in the lungs. It becomes a small debate for Liz and Matt's family about how the father will raise the children. The most distinctive feature of my research is trying to show how a child grows up without a mother by her side. Also, the attitude of Maddy has a strong character built from her father. It can be influenced and copy children in how to do looks, how to do manners, how to talk, how to think, and how to socialize both the family and school with.

However, at the movie's end, Maddy still needs a mother. Matt is dating a woman named Liz or called Swan, she has same as his wife before. Even though it will be a perfect family, Matt never forgets his true love, Maddy's mother. I will try to give a clear and detailed analysis of the main character of this movie as a primary of this research using the theory from (R.W.Connell, 1998:3) that in Western society, male backgrounds, alternative family forms are accepted and celebrated, especially for those who are in an alternative family form not by their choosing.

1.6 Method of Study

This research draws upon historical events that occurred in American society in the past to arrive at specific conclusions (2009: 48). The thesis employs a two-component research method and approach, which can be defined as follows:

1.6.1 Method of Research

Regarding the method of research, the author uses several data. Firstly, for the primary data, the writer researches the "Fatherhood" movie 2021 several times. Secondly, uses the library research method, including intrinsic elements, character, conflict, setting, cinematic elements, and extrinsic elements concerning the American single parents' style and society obtained in the journals. This library research involves (W. George, 2008:6) identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/expert opinion on a research question is

necessary for every other research method at some point.

1.6.2 Method of Approach

This study employs a narrative approach to collect data by analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of "Fatherhood" (2021). According to Abrams, the narrative approach is a theoretical and methodological framework used in various fields, such as literature and communication. It focuses on how individuals construct and convey stories or narratives to emphasize the power of storytelling in shaping our understanding of ourselves and others.

The preceding quote illustrates the narrative elements, which encompass characters, settings, conflicts, and cinematic elements. These intrinsic components are analyzed using a critical and objective theory that isolates works of art and assesses them as independent entities (1953:186). The analysis also encompasses extrinsic elements, including gender issues and the equality of American single parents, who perpetuate the privileges between women and men. This perspective views single parents within the family through the lens of R. W. Connell's theory (1998: 3). Therefore, the orientation of the objective theory solely considers works of art, regardless of their source, artist, or audience.

1.7 Writing Organization

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter contains the background of the study, research problems, aim of the study, previous studies, research method, and the organization of the writing.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Based on the “Fatherhood” (2021) Movie explains the correlation in society, education in parenting style, and cultural values for the thesis.

CHAPTER III DISCUSSION

It consists of the study research to support the thesis including the structure of the writing with a deal the same component in intrinsic and extrinsic elements causes of theme Gender Issue and Equality as depicted in American single parent in “Fatherhood” (2021). Contains discussion of “Fatherhood” with analyze some component aspects of intrinsic and extrinsic.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

The chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis.