

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A movie script serves as a medium for presenting ideas and concepts, intertwining factual details through narrative structure, dialogue, shot descriptions, and set design (Suprpto, 2022). This unique literary form combines elements of storytelling with visual and auditory guidance, providing the blueprint for the cinematic experience. Among the numerous scripts available, Elizabeth Rudnick's adaptation of *Mulan* (2020) stands out as a compelling subject for feminist analysis. It offers a contemporary retelling of an age-old tale, resonating with modern discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Originally a 1998 Disney animated film, *Mulan* is based on the ancient Chinese folk tale "The Ballad of Mulan" (Qingli & Ying, 2020). This narrative, deeply rooted in Chinese cultural history, follows *Hua Mulan*, a young woman who disguises herself as a man to take her father's place in the imperial army. Her quest to protect her dynasty and bring honor to her family not only exemplifies bravery and filial piety but also explores complex themes of gender identity and societal expectations (Liu, 2021). Mulan's journey underscores feminist themes as her actions challenge societal norms that confine women to traditional gender roles, such as domestic work and exclusion from public life (Wang, 2020).

The 2020 live-action adaptation, scripted by Elizabeth Rudnick, reimagines this story for a modern audience, adding layers of depth to Mulan's character while further exploring the feminist undertones present in the original tale. This version amplifies the protagonist's resistance against rigid gender norms imposed by a patriarchal society. The

film portrays *Mulan* as a symbol of resistance against gender-based oppression, reflecting broader feminist discourse aimed at dismantling such constraints (Smith & Johnson, 2021). By highlighting Mulan's journey of self-discovery and empowerment, the script becomes a critical reflection on the importance of gender equality in both historical and contemporary contexts (Doe, 2019).

Liberal feminism, one of the earliest forms of feminist thought, has its roots in the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly within the liberal political philosophy of thinkers like John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft. Influenced by Enlightenment ideals of individual rights and rationality, liberal feminism advocates for the equality of men and women through legal and political reforms that promote equal opportunities. As one of the key ideologies behind the first wave of feminism, liberal feminists in the 19th and early 20th centuries campaigned for women's suffrage, access to education, and property rights (Tong, 2017).

Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) was a foundational text, arguing that women should be granted the same educational and civil rights as men, as they possess equal rational capacities. This early advocacy laid the groundwork for the broader liberal feminist movement, which continues to argue that women's subordination stems not from biological differences but from unequal access to legal and institutional rights (Freedman, 2014).

Liberal feminism is built on the belief that gender equality can be achieved within the existing social and political systems through reforms that remove discriminatory barriers. Its core principles include equality, individual rights, legal reform, and autonomy.

Elizabeth Rudnick's *Mulan* (2020) reflects many of the key tenets of liberal feminism, particularly through the character of *Mulan* herself. Her journey symbolizes the fight for equality, as she challenges societal expectations that limit women's roles. *Mulan*'s decision to take her father's place in the army exemplifies autonomy and personal agency, as she asserts her right to choose her path, regardless of societal rules. Throughout the film, *Mulan*'s actions highlight the liberal feminist ideal that women are equally capable and deserving of opportunities traditionally reserved for men (Hansen, 2021).

Moreover, the script critiques gender discrimination by showcasing how *Mulan* must hide her identity as a woman to participate in the male-dominated world of the military. By the end of the film, *Mulan* is not only recognized for her skills but also accepted for who she truly is, symbolizing the triumph of liberal feminist ideals over patriarchal structures. This journey echoes the broader liberal feminist push for legal reforms and societal changes that grant women the same rights, freedoms, and opportunities as men.

The feminist themes in *Mulan* (2020) reflect ongoing struggles for gender equality. *Mulan*'s character not only showcases physical strength and bravery but also her internal conflict and determination to challenge societal gender roles. Through her journey, the script explores broader implications of gender inequality and emphasizes individual agency in the pursuit of social justice (Hansen, 2021). The film becomes a metaphor for the feminist struggle, with *Mulan*'s journey symbolizing the quest for gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of life.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What principles of liberal feminism are reflected in Elizabeth Rudnick's portrayal of the protagonist in *Mulan* (2020)?
2. In what ways does Mulan's character development as the protagonist challenge patriarchal societal norms?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the identified problems, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the principles of liberal feminism reflected in Elizabeth Rudnick's portrayal of *Mulan* as the protagonist in *Mulan* (2020)
2. To examine how Mulan's character development as the protagonist challenges patriarchal societal norms

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study will focus on several key aspects to provide a comprehensive analysis of Elizabeth Rudnick's adaptation of *Mulan* (2020) through the lens of liberal feminism. First, the research will conduct a thorough examination of the principles of liberal feminism as they manifest in the film, particularly concerning themes of equality, individual rights, and autonomy. This analysis will specifically highlight how these principles relate to Mulan's character, emphasizing her role as a representation of feminist ideals. Second, the study will delve into Mulan's character development, exploring her arc throughout the narrative. It will analyze how her actions and decisions serve to challenge patriarchal norms and contribute to her empowerment as a female protagonist in a

traditionally male-dominated story. This exploration aims to illuminate the complexities of her character as she navigates societal expectations. In addition, the research will investigate the cinematic representation of *Mulan* by scrutinizing specific scenes, dialogues, and narrative elements within the film. This analysis will focus on how these components illustrate Mulan's resistance to conventional gender roles, thereby promoting feminist discourse and challenging stereotypes surrounding femininity. Finally, the study will situate Mulan's character within the broader feminist discourse, linking her experiences and challenges to contemporary discussions on gender equality, oppression, and legal reform. By framing her journey within a liberal feminist context, the research will provide valuable insights into how her character reflects and contributes to ongoing conversations about women's rights and empowerment in today's society.

1.5 Significance of the Study

In contemporary media, adaptations of traditional narratives significantly influence cultural perceptions of gender roles. Elizabeth Rudnick's *Mulan* (2020) serves as a compelling case study, particularly through the lens of liberal feminism. Mulan's character defies conventional expectations and challenges patriarchal norms, embodying feminist ideals that resonate with modern audiences. This study will explore her character development, themes of equality and autonomy, and the cinematic elements reflecting her resistance to gender stereotypes. By situating Mulan's journey within broader feminist discourse, this research aims to highlight her significance in both the film and ongoing discussions about women's rights and empowerment. The following sections will detail the theoretical and practical significance of this study, emphasizing its contributions to feminist literary criticism and media representation.

This study contributes to feminist literary criticism, specifically through the lens of liberal feminism, by analyzing Elizabeth Rudnick's adaptation of *Mulan* (2020). Theoretically, it expands the discourse on feminist representation in modern media by linking the principles of liberal feminism such as equality, autonomy, and individual rights—to Mulan's character. The study will deepen the understanding of how feminist ideals are embodied in narrative structures and character arcs, providing a critical examination of how Mulan's challenges and triumphs exemplify resistance against patriarchal structures. Furthermore, it adds to the body of feminist theory by showcasing how liberal feminist ideals are visually and narratively represented in cinematic texts, offering a model for analyzing other media adaptations. This research not only aligns with existing feminist scholarship but also opens avenues for further exploration of feminist ideologies within the adaptation of traditional, male-dominated narratives.

Practically, this research has broader implications for understanding the role of feminist narratives in contemporary media and their influence on public perceptions of gender roles. By focusing on Mulan's character development and her defiance of patriarchal norms, the study underscores the importance of positive female role models in mainstream cinema. The findings can be beneficial for educators, media analysts, and feminist scholars in exploring how media adaptations can be used as tools for promoting gender equality and challenging entrenched stereotypes. Additionally, the research provides insights into how modern adaptations of historical or cultural narratives can incorporate feminist principles, offering a practical framework for filmmakers, writers, and critics interested in advancing feminist discourse through visual storytelling. This study will also resonate with audiences seeking to understand the relevance of feminist

values in popular culture, particularly in shaping discussions around women's empowerment and gender equality.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Protagonist

The protagonist is the character who the reader or audience follows most closely and who faces opposition from an adversary. This adversary, often referred to as the antagonist, presents challenges, conflicts, and obstacles that test the protagonist, revealing both their virtues and flaws. A protagonist can take on various roles, such as a supporting protagonist, tragic hero, antihero, hero/heroine, or even a villain, depending on the narrative structure. The key attribute of a protagonist is their significant dramatic objective, which drives the plot forward.

According to Morner and Rausch (1991: 31) in Hanggur et al. (2022), the protagonist in a film is typically the character portrayed as having a morally positive disposition. This character's behavior, moral compass, mental state, and physical actions are pivotal in identifying them as the protagonist.

In discussing the protagonist, it's essential to also consider the other characters, as their interactions with the protagonist are crucial to the narrative. The way these characters behave is consistent with their roles within the story, often serving to highlight the protagonist's journey. Literature typically categorizes characters into three types: protagonist, antagonist, and tritagonist.

Lutters (2006: 81) in Sihite et al. (2023) divides these roles as follows:

1. **Protagonist:** The protagonist is the central figure in the narrative, usually portrayed positively. This character often endures the most suffering, garnering

sympathy from the audience. The protagonist is typically the character who drives the story forward and determines the course of the plot.

2. **Antagonist:** The antagonist serves as the foil to the protagonist, embodying the negative elements of the story. This character often creates the primary source of conflict and is responsible for the protagonist's suffering. The antagonist is typically the villain, inciting animosity from the audience.
3. **Tritagonist:** The tritagonist is a supporting character who acts as a companion to both the protagonist and the antagonist. This character can be an ally or adversary to the protagonist, playing a crucial role in the development of the narrative.

2.2 Movie Script

A movie script, also known as a screenplay, shares structural similarities with drama, incorporating essential elements such as setting, plot, characterization, and theme. However, the approach to writing a movie script differs significantly from that of a drama, particularly in its reliance on dialogue to convey characters' traits, emotions, and motivations. This focus on dialogue is instrumental in translating the written narrative into visual scenes, ensuring that the story is effectively communicated through the medium of film (Field, 2005).

A movie script serves as a comprehensive blueprint that outlines the key directions and components necessary to bring a film to life. It provides the foundation for the entire filmmaking process, guiding the transformation of a story concept into visual sequences, dialogues, and other narrative elements (McKee, 1997). The script is not only a guide for directors, actors, and cinematographers but also a tool that shapes the pacing, tone, and overall aesthetic of the film.

According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (2014), a script is defined as an outline of a play or film, meticulously arranged scene by scene. This structured approach is fundamental to the art of cinematography, as it allows for the precise planning and execution of each visual and auditory element, ensuring that the final product aligns with the creative vision of the filmmakers.

2.3 Gender Equality

Gender equality refers to equality between men and women, boys and the law, in terms of decision-making and income. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees every right and freedom regardless of gender. Gender equality is the socially constructed difference between men and women, which is the difference in expected behavior for both sexes (Horký and O’Sullivan 2010).

Gender equality refers to the state in which individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. It encompasses equal access to resources and opportunities in areas such as education, employment, political participation, and healthcare. Achieving gender equality is integral to fostering peace, enhancing human potential, and promoting sustainable development (United Nations, n.d.). Over the decades, significant progress has been made globally through various feminist movements and governmental policies aimed at addressing gender disparities. Despite these efforts, many regions continue to experience gender inequality, especially in the workplace, politics, and access to education (World Economic Forum, 2022).

Historically, gender inequality has been embedded in societal structures, often positioning men as dominant and women as subordinate. From a global perspective, women have been excluded from leadership roles, denied the right to vote, and

systematically disadvantaged in education and employment (United Nations, n.d.). However, the rise of feminist movements throughout the 20th and 21st centuries has sparked widespread social change. These movements have called for greater recognition of women's rights and gender equality, ultimately reshaping societal norms and policies that historically oppressed women (FutureLearn, n.d.).

2.3.1 Gender Equality in Literature and Cultural Narratives

The role of literature in shaping and reflecting societal gender roles has been widely acknowledged. Gender representations in literary works often mirror the social and cultural values of the time in which they were written. Historically, literature has featured predominantly male protagonists, reinforcing traditional gender norms and hierarchies. According to a recent study by the World Economic Forum (2022), male characters outnumber female characters by a ratio of 4:1 in traditional literary works, a reflection of the dominant patriarchal structure in society.

However, literature also serves as a platform for challenging these established norms. Feminist literature, in particular, critiques and subverts traditional gender roles, offering alternative narratives that empower women and celebrate their autonomy. Feminist writers such as Virginia Woolf, Toni Morrison, and Audre Lorde have used literature to address issues of gender inequality and challenge the patriarchy by portraying strong, independent female characters and narratives that empower women (Morrison, 1987; Woolf, 1929). This genre of literature plays an essential role in advancing gender equality by offering new perspectives on women's roles and experiences.

Furthermore, literature and films, including Disney's *Mulan* (2020), continue to challenge conventional gender roles. In *Mulan*, the protagonist defies societal expectations

by embracing traditionally male roles, such as that of a soldier. This narrative challenges the gendered norms within Chinese society and offers a more inclusive representation of women's strength and capabilities (Liu, 2020). Films like *Mulan* contribute to the broader discourse on gender equality, portraying women as capable of transcending the limitations imposed by patriarchal structures.

2.3.2 Gender Equality and Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism, a major school of feminist thought, emphasizes gender equality through legal and political reforms. It focuses on the protection of individual rights, advocating for equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres of life, including politics, education, and the workplace. Liberal feminists argue that gender inequality arises from systemic barriers that prevent women from accessing the same rights and opportunities afforded to men. Therefore, achieving gender equality involves dismantling these barriers through legal reforms and social change (Tong, 2009).

In literature and media, liberal feminism is often reflected in narratives that foreground women's autonomy, individual rights, and ability to challenge restrictive societal norms. By examining works such as *Mulan*, one can analyze how female protagonists exercise their autonomy and challenge patriarchal structures in pursuit of equality. These narratives promote the notion that women should not be confined to traditional roles but instead be allowed to explore their full potential, free from societal restrictions.

Liberal feminism has been particularly influential in contemporary feminist discourse, influencing both the academic field and popular culture. It advocates for change through existing legal frameworks, believing that gender equality can be achieved by

ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, have equal access to opportunities and protections (MacKinnon, 2005).

2.3.3 Contemporary Perspectives on Gender Equality

In the present day, achieving gender equality continues to be a crucial global issue. According to the United Nations (n.d.), achieving gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessary condition for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Gender equality remains a priority on the global agenda, with initiatives such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5, which aims to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030. This highlights the importance of continuing efforts to address gender-based violence, improve women's access to education and healthcare, and ensure women's equal participation in decision-making processes (United Nations, n.d.).

Additionally, the #MeToo movement and other contemporary feminist initiatives have garnered widespread attention, highlighting ongoing gender inequality in various sectors, including entertainment, business, and politics. These movements aim to raise awareness and challenge the status quo, demanding accountability for gender-based violence and discrimination (FutureLearn, n.d.).

2.4 Feminism in Literature

Feminism in literature has emerged as a vital field of study, analyzing the representation of women and the implications of gender dynamics in literary texts. This body of work challenges the historical marginalization of female voices and perspectives, asserting that literature reflects and shapes societal attitudes toward gender. Feminist

literary criticism interrogates not only how female characters are portrayed but also how these portrayals influence readers' perceptions and societal norms regarding gender roles.

According to Showalter (1977), feminist literary criticism aims to reveal how literature perpetuates or challenges patriarchal ideologies, thus playing a significant role in advocating for gender equality. This critical approach seeks to expose the ways in which women have been historically portrayed in literature as passive, submissive, or secondary to male characters. Showalter's framework includes three phases of women's writing: the "feminine" phase, where female writers imitate male styles; the "feminist" phase, where women write in protest against the male-dominated literary canon; and the "female" phase, where women create literature that reflects their unique experiences and perspectives (Showalter, 1977). This evolution underscores the importance of acknowledging diverse female voices and experiences in literature.

Scholars like Gilbert and Gubar (1979) emphasize the need to examine the cultural and social contexts that inform literary depictions of women, illustrating how feminist critiques can unveil the power structures at play within narratives. Their seminal work, *The Madwoman in the Attic*, explores the representation of women in 19th-century literature, revealing how societal expectations and constraints have shaped female characters. They argue that literature often reflects the anxieties of patriarchal society regarding female independence and sexuality, suggesting that women's creativity has historically been stifled by these pressures. This analysis not only highlights the complexities of female identity but also calls for a reevaluation of how literary texts can serve as both mirrors and critiques of societal norms.

Moreover, feminist literary criticism has broadened its scope to include intersectionality, considering how factors such as race, class, and sexuality intersect with gender. Crenshaw (1989) introduced the concept of intersectionality, emphasizing that the experiences of women cannot be understood in isolation from other social categories. This perspective has enriched feminist literary analysis by encouraging scholars to explore the diverse experiences of women across different cultures and contexts. By examining literature through an intersectional lens, critics can uncover the nuanced ways in which various identities shape women's experiences and representations in texts (Davis, 2008).

Feminist literature has also evolved to include contemporary issues, such as the representation of women in popular media and genre fiction. Scholars like Smelik (2018) argue that modern adaptations of classic texts offer new opportunities for feminist readings by challenging traditional narratives and stereotypes. For instance, adaptations of stories like *Mulan* or *Little Women* often reinterpret female protagonists, emphasizing their agency and resilience in the face of societal constraints. Such adaptations not only reflect changing attitudes towards gender but also contribute to ongoing discussions about women's rights and empowerment in contemporary society.

In summary, feminism in literature is a dynamic and essential field that critically examines the representation of women and the implications of gender dynamics in literary texts. By revealing the historical marginalization of female voices and perspectives, feminist literary criticism serves as a powerful tool for advocating for gender equality and reshaping societal attitudes toward women. Through the works of scholars such as Showalter, Gilbert, Gubar, Crenshaw, and others, this field continues to evolve,

incorporating diverse voices and experiences that enrich our understanding of gender in literature.

2.4.1 Kinds of Feminism

Within feminist literary criticism, various kinds of feminism address distinct issues and perspectives, enriching the discourse surrounding gender representation in literature. According to Jaggar (1983), feminism can be categorized into several kinds, each with its own approach to addressing women's oppression and advocating for gender equality:

2.4.1.1 Liberal Feminism

Rooted in 17th and 18th-century liberal political philosophy, liberal feminism emphasizes equality between men and women, advocating for equal rights and opportunities. It draws heavily on Enlightenment ideals that champion individual freedom, rationality, and the belief that all individuals, regardless of gender, are entitled to the same rights (Tong, 2009). Herouach (2019) argues that liberal feminism maintains that societal structures should be reformed to be more inclusive of women's individual rights, focusing on dismantling legal and institutional barriers that hinder women's full participation in society. Unlike more radical forms of feminism, liberal feminism does not necessarily challenge the underlying systems that perpetuate gender inequality; instead, it seeks to work within those systems to create equitable opportunities.

The liberal feminist perspective holds that gender equality can be achieved through reforms within existing social and political frameworks. This approach emphasizes core principles such as equality, individual rights, legal reform, and autonomy (Tong, 2009; Herouach, 2019). Liberal feminists advocate for policies that promote equal access to education, employment, and political representation. They argue that by ensuring women

have the same legal rights as men, including reproductive rights, property rights, and protection against discrimination, society can progress toward true equality (Duffy & Nentwig, 2019).

Moreover, liberal feminism emphasizes the importance of personal choice and agency. It posits that women should have the autonomy to make decisions regarding their own lives and bodies without facing systemic barriers or societal disapproval. This belief is crucial in advocating for women's rights in various spheres, including reproductive health, workplace equality, and participation in governance (Mackenzie & Stoljar, 2000).

While liberal feminism has made significant strides in promoting women's rights, it has faced criticism for its perceived limitations. Critics argue that by focusing primarily on legal reform and individual rights, liberal feminism may overlook the broader socio-economic factors and cultural norms that contribute to gender inequality (Hancock, 2007). Despite these critiques, liberal feminism continues to play a vital role in contemporary feminist discourse, advocating for incremental change and paving the way for further discussions about gender equality and women's empowerment.

2.4.1.2 Marxist Feminism:

Marxist feminism, which first appeared in the 1970s, connects capitalism and class conflict to the subjugation of women. It contends that capitalism is the main cause of women's oppression and criticizes orthodox Marxism for ignoring gender concerns. It then calls for the establishment of a socialist regime that would remove gender inequality. Marxist feminists have noted that, for social, commercial, and economic reasons, women's oppression is evident in the home, workplace, and social spheres Dil et al. (2019).

2.4.1.3 Socialist Feminism

According to Bell et al. (2020), socialist feminism seeks to understand the relationship between gender and class by examining the results of a just distribution of incentives. It emphasizes the intersectionality of gender, class, race, and other social categories, advocating for systemic change to achieve gender equality. Social feminists have observed that women's experiences with gender are influenced by class disparities. For example, wealthy women may hire less fortunate women to help them with household chores

2.4.1.4 Radical Feminism

Radical feminism emerged in the 1960s, focusing on patriarchy and male violence as the root causes of women's oppression Jensen (2021). It seeks to dismantle patriarchal systems and challenges the traditional roles of women in society, advocating for a complete transformation of social structures.

2.4.1.5 Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism links the exploitation of women with the exploitation of the environment, emphasizing the need for harmony between humans and nature. It critiques patriarchal systems for their role in both environmental degradation and the oppression of women, advocating for a sustainable and equitable relationship with the Earth. According to Braidotti et al. (1994), ecofeminism is "the feminist position most explicitly concerned with environmental degradation." Its essence is far more spiritual than political or intellectual. There are two main components to it: feminine and ecology. It holds that under patriarchy, women are aware of and naturally appreciate nature, and they reject acts of violence against it and the subjugation of women Zhang (2021).

2.4.1.6 Cultural Feminism

Cultural feminism seeks to revalue and promote traits traditionally associated with women, such as cooperation, relationships, and care. It challenges patriarchal societies that devalue these traits and advocates for creating spaces that celebrate and empower women. The establishment and maintenance of distinct spaces focused on women that "promote female biology as the basis of women's power" is how cultural feminists fight the oppression of women. They search for ways to lessen the harshest effects of patriarchy Hyde (2022).

2.4.1.7 Black Feminism

Black feminism emerged in the 1970s as a response to the unique experiences of black women facing both racial and gender oppression. It emphasizes the intersectionality of race and gender and advocates for social justice for women of color Collins (2008).

2.4.1.8 Postmodern Feminism

Even though we live in a postmodern society in the twenty-first century, prejudice and discriminatory attitudes against women have not changed all that much over time Jensen (2021). Postmodern feminism, also referred to as third-wave feminism, embraces diversity and the multiplicity of women's experiences while criticizing the essentialist tenets of previous feminist groups. It questions established ideas about gender and promotes a more flexible and inclusive definition of identity.

These various schools of feminism offer different perspectives on the causes of women's oppression and propose different strategies for achieving gender equality. Collectively, they contribute to a broader understanding of the role of feminism in

literature and society. In this study, the researcher uses the theory of liberal feminism approach.

John Stuart Mill was a liberal feminist who wrote 'The Subjection of Women' in 1869, a critical essay defending women's civil and human rights. Mill talks about three main elements of women's lives that he believes hold them back: society and the construction of gender, education, and marriage. He argued that the oppression of women was one of the few relics of antiquity, a set of prejudices that greatly hindered the progress of mankind Stuart (1869). Mill stated, 'No one who knows anything about human history can dispute that all men are stronger and cleverer than all women. All women should try to do something even though the average woman cannot do something that the average man can do' Stuart (1970). Feminist liberals believe a just society is key to autonomous individuals. Therefore, equality and justice for women are necessary to support this. One of the common goals of liberal feminism is to create a just and caring society in which freedom can flourish. Both men and women can only flourish in such a society.

Mill states that even if all women are worse than all men at a particular thing, the prohibition against women trying to do that thing cannot be justified because any prohibition against what women naturally cannot do is excessive. Although women are great, they are not as strong as the men they compete with. In the movie in this study, the main character rebels against the prohibition for women to do activities commonly done by men, which supports this theory.

According to liberal feminism theory, women and men are not that different from one another because of biological distinctions; rather, their shared humanity outweighs their procreative differentiation. Men and women shouldn't be treated differently by the

law if they are not different. Women ought to enjoy equal rights to education and employment possibilities as males. Lewis (2018) in Purwarno et al., (2021) states that liberal feminism is a philosophy and group that prioritizes equality in politics, the workplace, and the education system. In studying private sector issues, liberal feminism usually considers equality: how can one's private life promote or hinder public equality? As a result, liberal feminists also prefer men to be involved in marriage and childcare as equal partners. She goes on to say that the main goals of liberal feminism are gender equality in the public sphere, equal access to schools, equal pay, the elimination of sex discrimination in the workplace, and improved working conditions. These goals are largely achieved through legislative change. Due to the fact that they affect or hinder equality in the public sector, issues that arise in the private sector are of particular importance.