

**Yogyakarta Students' Perception of Female Masculinity: A Case Study of Harley Quinn
in the Suicide Squad Movie**



A Thesis

**Submitted to Fulfill the Requirements for Obtaining a Bachelor's Degree
in Communication Studies at the Faculty of Psychology and Socio-Cultural Sciences,
Universitas Islam Indonesia**

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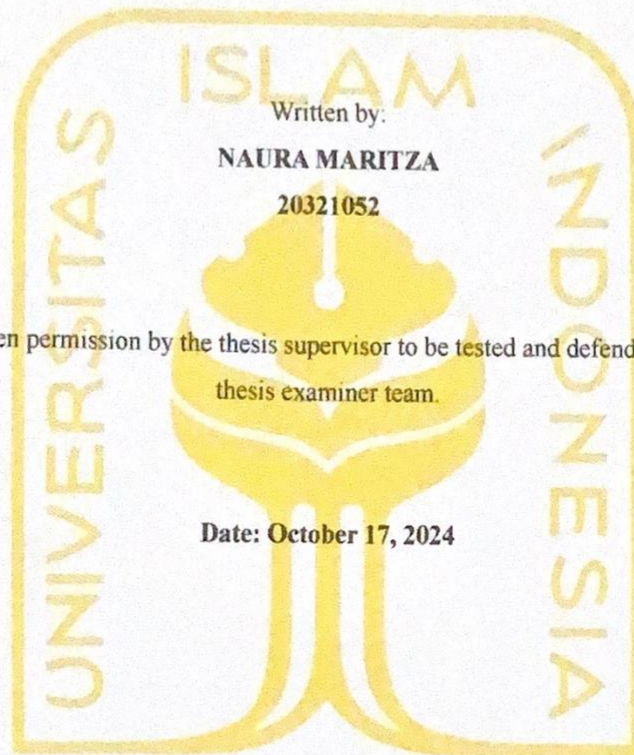
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**COMMUNICATIONS SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM
FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL CULTURAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA
YOGYAKARTA
2024**

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THESIS

**Yogyakarta Students' Perception of Female Masculinity: A Case Study of Harley Quinn
in the Suicide Squad Movie**



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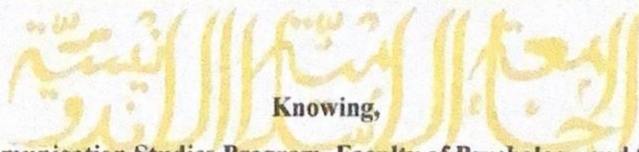
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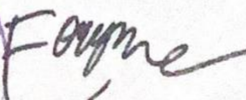
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Through this letter I stated that:

1. During the process of accomplishing this thesis research, the researcher did not perform academic frauds in any kind of form, such as plagiarism, involving others in making the thesis, or any other kind of violations which are contradicting the academic ethics highly upheld by Universitas Islam Indonesia.
2. Therefore, this thesis is a pure form of my scientific work as a student and a researcher, and not involving other people/parties.
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Hence this statement is truly sincere.

Yogyakarta, 29 June 2024

Starting,



Naura Maritza

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MOTTO

“Allah does not burden a person but according to his ability”

- Al-Baqarah 286

“It is not impossible for ordinary people to decide to become extraordinary”

- Elon Musk

FOREWORD

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Praise and thanks to Allah SWT, for all the strength He has given me and health so that I can complete this thesis with a clear mind. Shalawat and salam are always poured out to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, so that the researcher can complete this thesis entitled “Yogyakarta Students' Perception of Female Masculinity in Suicide Squad Movie on Harley Quinn Character” smoothly.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Masduki, S.Ag., M.Si., MA, whose guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping this research. His guidance not only enriched my academic journey, but also inspired me to strive for excellence in all aspects of my research. Without him, I would not have been able to successfully complete this thesis. My gratitude would also go to the people I am about to mention. Without them, I would not have been able to overcome the obstacles that arose in the process of making this thesis.

First, I would like to thank my family. My mother has supported me from the beginning until this thesis was completed. She always asked how my thesis was progressing and did not hesitate to help provide solutions if I found difficulties during my work. Mama always listens to all my complaints and also gives advice. Papa, always supports whatever my decision is, always reminds me of my vision and mission and motivates me when I am tired of working on this thesis. My brother and sister who are always ready to help me if there is something I don't understand. Always video call me to just encourage and joke with me so I don't get too stressed. Buleng, my pet cat, who I know doesn't care about what I'm doing but he has become my place to vent and play. Not to forget my cousin, Ka Yasmien, who has given me her room to stay for a month and together work on the thesis and hear my complaints.

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Seventh, all my IPC 2020 friends who have accompanied me during this lecture and have become my motivation not to stall in working on my thesis.

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Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Yogyakarta, 29 June 2024



Naura Maritza

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ABSTRACT

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In the modern era, access to information has expanded, encouraging openness to various ideas and arguments. Movies, as a major form of mass media, have a strong influence in shaping public opinion. The storyline in a movie is strategically designed to ensure that the message are effectively conveyed to the audience. The moral dimensions and messages contained in movies have a complex impact on the cognitive and affective aspects of the audience. The messages conveyed through movies are often open to multiple interpretations, allowing a variety of interpretations from various perspectives. The movie "Suicide Squad" was chosen as the object of research because the character Harley Quinn represents the concept of female masculinity, making it a compelling subject of study. The purpose of this study is to explore how students perceive the concept of "Female Masculinity" through the character of Harley Quinn. The researcher used purposive sampling method to select relevant students as research participants. In addition, the snowball sampling method will be used to find additional participants who can provide more complete information. Four students will be interviewed to gain more in-depth power. This research wants to understand how the younger generation, especially university students, perceive a strong, brave, and confident female figure like Harley Quinn. Various factors such as background, environment and gender can influence students' perceptions. The results show that both male and female students have fairly similar views on female masculinity. Despite having almost similar views, each student has a different perspective in interpreting the character of Harley Quinn.

Keyword: perception, female masculinity, communication media

ABSTRAK

Di era modern, akses masyarakat terhadap informasi semakin luas, sehingga mendorong keterbukaan terhadap berbagai ide dan argumen. Film, sebagai salah satu media massa yang masif, memiliki pengaruh yang kuat dalam membentuk opini publik. Alur cerita dalam sebuah film dirancang secara strategis untuk memastikan pesan yang ingin disampaikan dapat

terserap dengan baik oleh penonton. Dimensi moral dan pesan yang terkandung dalam film memiliki dampak yang kompleks terhadap aspek kognitif dan afektif penonton. Pesan yang disampaikan melalui film seringkali bersifat multitafsir, sehingga memungkinkan adanya berbagai penafsiran dari berbagai sudut pandang. Film “Suicide Squad” dipilih sebagai objek penelitian karena karakter Harley Quinn merepresentasikan konsep Maskulinitas Perempuan yang menarik untuk diteliti. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana mahasiswa memahami konsep “Female Masculinity” melalui karakter Harley Quinn. Peneliti menggunakan metode purposive sampling untuk memilih mahasiswa yang relevan sebagai partisipan penelitian. Selain itu, metode snowball sampling akan digunakan untuk mencari partisipan tambahan yang dapat memberikan informasi yang lebih lengkap. Empat orang mahasiswa akan diwawancarai untuk mendapatkan informasi yang lebih mendalam. Penelitian ini ingin memahami bagaimana generasi muda, khususnya mahasiswa, memandang sosok perempuan yang kuat, berani, dan percaya diri seperti Harley Quinn. Berbagai faktor seperti latar belakang, lingkungan, dan gender dapat mempengaruhi persepsi mahasiswa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa laki-laki dan perempuan memiliki pandangan yang hampir sama mengenai maskulinitas perempuan. Meskipun memiliki pandangan yang hampir serupa, masing-masing mahasiswa memiliki perspektif yang berbeda dalam memaknai karakter Harley Quinn.

Keyword: persepsi, maskulinitas perempuan, media komunikasi

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

Along with the rapid development of technology, mass media plays a crucial role in supporting this progress. Leslie J. Briggs defines media as physical tools typically used to deliver content. In contrast, the Lexicon of Communication describes mass media as tools for conveying messages directly to a wide audience, such as radio, television, and newspapers. Films emerged as part of mass culture, alongside the development of urban and industrial societies. Movies are also cultural statements that communicate messages from filmmakers to audiences throughout the region or nation, even the world. Therefore, the researcher chose film as a research medium. Film is an attempt to view, select, and construct the views of society that are considered important by the filmmaker. Movies are an important component of mass media for conveying messages (Sobur, 2004).

Film is one of the modern media forms that are widely popular. In addition to entertainment, film serve as mass communication tools, conveying messages through storytelling, narration, and cinematic techniques. As social practices, films have the power to shape concepts, ideas, or notions into public discourse. A movie conveys a message, either implicitly or explicitly, which can have a positive or negative impact on the audience (Puspita and Yarno, 2018). Messages can be categorized as verbal or nonverbal. Verbal messages are those conveyed through words, whether spoken or written, from communicators to recipients (Mulyana, 2011). Nonverbal messages are those conveyed through body gestures, colors, eye gaze, intonation, and facial expressions both intentional and unintentional (Mulyana, 2011).

Cinema encompasses a diverse range of genres. A genre represents a specific categorization of films, defined by a set of distinctive characteristics. Genres exist in fiction and nonfiction films, namely comedy films, action films, cartoon/animation films, musical films, and science fiction films (Vera, 2015).

Action movies, especially those with superhero themes, are interesting movies to watch and listen to. One of the most famous companies producing superhero-themed movies

is Detective Comics Universe, commonly known as DC Universe. Superheroes are often associated with masculine male characters, but the DC Universe seeks to challenge this stereotype by portraying women as main characters with masculine traits.

Masculinity is a concept shaped by the social construction of gender roles for men. In this concept, men are identified with traits such as violence, active, aggressive, logical, ambitious, and enterprise. This construction also leads to boys being burdened with norms, obligations, and familial expectation from birth. This is passed down from generation to the generation so that a man must do what is applicable if he wants to be a real man (Demartoto, 2010).

In many movies, female characters are frequently portrayed as weak and abused. Female characters on television are still often used as tools to attract more viewers by depicting vulnerability. Traditionally, women are associated with traits such as softness, caring, sensitivity, emotionality, bravery, and dependence. In contrast, men are typically associated with strength, bravery, assertiveness, rationality, and aggression.

The action movie *Suicide Squad*, released on August 5, 2016, is a movie that tells the story of a criminal recruited by a secret government agency to carry out a mission to save the world from a dangerous threat. The movie is directed by David Ayer, and the screenplay is written by David Ayer and Justin Marks. The movie stars Hollywood actors and actresses such as Will Smith, Jared Leto, Margot Robbie, Jai Courtney, Cara Delevigne, Ben Affleck, and Viola Davis. The movie is produced by Atlas Entertainment and DC Entertainment.

Suicide Squad tells the story of a secret government organization led by Amanda Waller. This organization recruits' supervillains from around the world who are united in a group called the *Suicide Squad*. One of its members is Harley Quinn, played by Margot Robbie. The team is tasked with completing a dangerous mission related to the safety of the earth's population. In return, they are promised reduced prison sentences.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn is a female character who often performs action scenes in this movie. This demonstrates that Harley Quinn exhibits masculine traits, challenging the stereotype that women should be feminine (Dami, 2018). The researcher

chose the movie Suicide Squad because this movie has female characters who portray masculine traits but look feminine.

Film is an effective medium for communicating messages or ideas to the audience. Messages and ideas in films are conveyed through various elements such as narration, scenes, characters, music, colors and visuals.

Fundamentally, the relationship between movies and communication lies in their ability to convey messages and ideas more powerfully and effectively than verbal or written communication. Movies can incorporate various elements to create an immersive visual and emotional experience for the audience. For example, movies can use characters and narration to convey moral or social messages to the audience.

In the movie Suicide Squad, the character of Harley Quinn conveys the message that women can also be independent and strong. In the movie, Harley Quinn often shows a desire to be independent and strong without relying on others, especially the Joker. This demonstrates that women have the strength and ability to achieve our own goals. Although she sometimes displays a weak and vulnerable side, Harley Quinn also shows the ability to value herself. In some adaptations, she refuses to be sexualized and goes after what she wants without compromising her own dignity. As a victim of Joker's abuse, Harley Quinn illustrates the harmful impact of violence on women. This provides an important moral message that violence against women is unacceptable and should be rejected.

Yogyakarta is known as a city of education and culture, with many universities and a diverse student population. This makes it a rich environment with various perspectives and interpretations, including in understanding social and cultural phenomena such as female masculinity in the media. The reason we chose student informants is that students generally have critical thinking skills and are more open to discussions about gender and representation in the media. They are more likely to be aware of changes in gender representation and have informed opinions about characters like Harley Quinn, making them suitable for research that requires in-depth reflection.

Overall, the moral message of the movie Suicide Squad on Harley Quinn's character is about women's strength, courage, and independence. She shows that women can possess the same abilities as men and have dignity that should be respected.

The selection of this film is because the researcher wants to see the masculinity that exists in the Suicide Squad film in the Harley Quinn character, which is felt to have a picture of masculinity found in today's life. The purpose of this study is to find out how Yogyakarta students' perspectives on female masculinity in the Suicide Squad movie on the Harley Quinn character.

B. RESEARCH QUESTION

1. How do Yogyakarta students perceive female masculinity in Harley Quinn's character?

C. BENEFITS OF RESEARCH

This research provides an understanding of how Yogyakarta university students, as a representation of the younger generation, perceive female masculinity. Understanding these perceptions is crucial to grasp the social norms and values developing among Indonesia's younger generation, particularly regarding gender. This research contributes to the academic understanding of female masculinity, media representation, and gender perception in Indonesia. The findings of this study can be used to enrich academic discourse on gender and media issues in Indonesia.

Readers will gain a better understanding of the concept of female masculinity and how it is interpreted in the context of film and popular culture. This research can also be used to support efforts towards gender equality in society.

D. PREVIOUS STUDIES

The first previous study the researcher review is Dahlia Saraswati's (2020) "Representasi Perempuan Dalam Ketidakadilan Gender Pada Film "Marlina Si Pembunuh Dalam Empat Babak" (Reviewed Through Critical Discourse Analysis). Written by Dahlia Saraswati (2020). This research adopts the theory of gender and gender injustice proposed by Mansour Fakih as its theoretical framework. The method used in this research is critical discourse analysis with qualitative descriptive approach. This research aims to criticize the discourse of feminism in the film using the theory of gender injustice. This research analyses the representation of gender injustice from various aspects, such as dialogue, scenes, or

movements of the players, setting, and properties used. The study concludes that while the film depicts the dominance of men and appears to support feminist ideology, it primarily focuses on women defending themselves from gender injustices such as marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and domestic burdens. This research produces a new understanding of the representation of women in the context of gender injustice in the film "Marlina the Killer in Four Acts" which is different from previous studies that primarily focused on aspects of feminism in the film.

The key difference between this research and the current study is that the current study involves interviews with viewers of *Suicide Squad*, while the previous study focuses solely on a direct film analysis without interviews.

The second research is titled "Representasi Maskulinitas Dalam Film *Captain America: The First Avenger* (Analisis Semiotika Charles Sanders Pierce)" by Ramanda Fitriasyah and Erfina Nurussa'dah (2023). It examines the representation of masculinity in the character Steve Rogers in the film. This study aims to explain the signs of masculinity contained in the character of Steve Rogers by applying the concepts of masculinity proposed by Janet Saltzman Chafetz, namely physical appearance, functional, sexual, emotional, intellectual, interpersonal, and personal characteristics. The research method used is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The object of this research is the signs and meanings of masculinity contained in scenes and dialog involving the character Steve Rogers in the film *Captain America: The First Avenger*. The data in this study were collected through observation, documentation, and text analysis. This research uses Charles Sanders Pierce's semiotic analysis technique with a triadic model, which includes representamen/sign, object, and interpretant. The results show that the character of Steve Rogers fulfills all seven criteria of masculinity proposed by Janet Saltzman Chafetz. This character has a dashing, athletic, and strong physical appearance. He also functions as a useful figure for his family and country. In terms of sexuality, this character shows attraction to the opposite sex and cares for his loved ones. Steve Rogers is also able to control and conceal his emotions, and has the intellectual intelligence to solve problems carefully. In interpersonal relationships, this character possesses the traits of great responsibility and leadership. In addition, he is also shown to have ambitious and unyielding traits as part of his personal character.

The difference between this research and the current study lies in the research focus: this research examines the signs and meanings of masculinity in scenes and dialogue, while the

current study analyzes how people perceive Harley Quinn's character.

The third previous study, titled "Representasi Maskulinitas Dalam Film Birds of Prey" by Niko Salamanda (2022), discusses the representation of women with masculine traits in the film. This study aims to describe the representation of women who have masculine traits in the film "Birds of Prey". This research acknowledges the stereotypical society that still views that women should have feminine traits, while men should have masculine traits, with the media often reinforcing these stereotypes. This research uses a qualitative approach and applies Charles Sanders Peirce's triangle analysis method in analyzing the film. The object of this research is the movie "Birds of Prey", while the subject of this research is the main female character, Harley Quinn, who represents masculine traits both verbally and nonverbally. Harley Quinn is portrayed as a woman who has masculine traits and is involved in various dangerous fighting actions. This research challenges the stereotype that women should possess feminine traits through the portrayal of Harley Quinn in Birds of Prey. The results of this study show that strong, assertive, and unyielding masculine women in the movie "Birds of Prey" can perform masculine actions such as fighting, using firearms, and becoming the main character in an action movie that is generally dominated by male characters. This research provides an understanding that the movie "Birds of Prey" tries to break the stereotypes that still exist in society, namely the view that women can only have feminine traits.

The difference between this research and the current study is that this research uses Charles Sanders Peirce's triadic analysis to examine her masculine traits, while the current study focuses on perceptions of Harley Quinn's masculinity.

E. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Perception

According to Deddy Mulyana in his book "Ilmu Komunikasi: Suatu Pengantar" (2009), perception is the process by which individuals receive, organize, and interpret information from the environment through the senses. Perception is not just receiving information, but also involves an active process in which individuals select, give meaning, and connect new information with existing knowledge and experience.

Mulyana explains that the perception process occurs in three stages:

1. Sensation: this is the initial stage in the perception process where our senses receive

stimuli from the environment. These stimuli can be in the form of light, sound, taste, smell or touch. For example, our eyes receive light from objects around us and transmit this information to the brain via the optic nerve. This process is physiological, where our sense organs (such as eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin) detect physical or chemical stimuli and convert them into neural signals that can be processed by the brain.

2. Attention: this stage involves selecting specific stimuli from the numerous ones received by the senses.
3. Interpretation: at this stage, the brain assigns meaning to the stimuli received and selected during attention stage. This process involves understanding and interpreting the stimuli based on knowledge, previous experience, context and expectations. Interpretation is subjective, as each individual can have a different interpretation of the same stimuli. For example, two people looking at the same painting may have different interpretations based on their personal experiences and preferences. This interpretation process is heavily influenced by cognitive and emotional factors, and the end result is the individual's perception of the stimuli.

Perception plays an important role in communication. The way individuals understand and interpret messages conveyed by others is greatly influenced by their own perceptions. Miscommunication can occur when individuals have different perceptions of a situation or message.

2. Female Masculinity

Female masculinity is a concept that challenges traditional gender stereotypes and goes beyond the masculine feminist dichotomy. It refers to the expression of masculine traits, such as strength, courage and independence, by women. Female masculinity is often associated with traits such as:

1. Assertiveness: masculine women dare to voice their opinions and stand up for themselves
2. Self-confidence: masculine women feel comfortable in their own skin and are not intimidated by others.
3. Competitive: masculine women have a passion to win and achieve their goals
4. Leadership: masculine women often take on leadership roles in various situations

Female masculinity is not only limited to physical appearance, but also includes behaviors, lifestyles, and values. Masculine women can express their identity in different ways, depending on culture, social context and individual identity.

Judith Halberstam, in her book "Female Masculinity" (1998), defines female masculinity as "the way women behave, dress, and think that breaks with traditional feminist norms and adopts characteristics associated with masculinity". This challenges gender stereotypes that limit women to domestic and passive roles, creating space for women to express themselves in broader and more diverse ways.

3. Movie

Film is a visual communication medium that tells a story or conveys a message through moving images, sound, and text. Films can be categorized by genre, such as drama, comedy, action, thriller, and documentary. Films can also be classified by country of origin, production time period, and filmmaking style.

Effendi, in his book "Sosiologi Sastra Indonesia" (1986), defines film as "an audio-visual communication medium to convey a message to a group of people gathered in a certain place". Effendi views film as a medium that has an important role and function in society. According to him, movies can:

1. Reflect reality: movies can depict the social, cultural and political realities of society, helping the audience to better understand the world around them.
2. Conveying values: movies can convey moral, social and cultural values to the audience, helping the audience to shape their character and personality.
3. Provides entertainment: movies can provide entertainment and relaxation for the audience, helping viewers to de-stress and improve their mental well-being.

F. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Type of Method

This study adopts qualitative research with a descriptive analysis approach, analyzing the collected data to draw conclusions. According to John Creswell (2018) qualitative research

is "A systematic process for investigating the experiences, perceptions, beliefs, and actions of people in the context of their lives". This research aims to understand the meaning of the phenomenon under study from the perspective of the participants. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews with subjects possessing relevant information, as well as through document analysis.

2. Respondent Selection Technique

In this study, the researcher used purposive sampling in collecting sources of data. According to Sugiyono (2016: 81), purposive sampling has several advantages, namely:

1. Allows the researcher to obtain a sample that is informative and in line with the research objectives
2. Increased opportunities for rich and in-depth data
3. Allows the researcher to focus on specific groups that may be difficult to reach with other sampling techniques.

a. Objects of Research

The object of this study is how Yogyakarta students' perception of female masculinity in the character of Harley Quinn in the movie *Suicide Squad*.

b. Research Subjects

The researcher chose Yogyakarta university students aged 20-25 as research subjects because those aged 20 years and over are considered adults and understand gender equality and feminism. At this age, individuals experience significant changes in their physical, emotional, and cognitive development. The four informants represent a variety of perceptions from university students in Yogyakarta who have cultural and social backgrounds that can influence their views on masculine female characters in the media.

c. Gender

The researcher chose Two female and two male informants were chosen to get a more balanced perspective on female masculinity, especially in characters like

Harley Quinn. This helps to understand how perceptions of female masculinity differ between genders.

d. **Research Location**

The location of this research will be flexible depending on the availability of the interviewees. If the interviewees prefer to conduct the interview online, platforms such as WhatsApp, Zoom, or Google Meet will be utilized. If an offline interview is preferred, face-to-face meetings will be arranged in Yogyakarta. Yogyakarta was selected as the interview location due to the diverse background of its student population, offering varied perspectives.

3. Data Collection Technique

This study employs a three-step approach for data collection. According to Lincoln & Guba (1985), the data collection process can be completed using interviews, observations, and documentation.

a. **Observation**

Researchers' direct involvement in observation is crucial for gaining a deeper understanding of the situation and behavior of the study project. Observation according to Sugiyono (2017), is a way of collecting data where researchers systematically observe the activities and behaviors of individuals or groups do in their daily lives. Researchers also observed the research subjects by looking at the daily activities of informants through social media platform and also interacting daily directly with informants.

b. **Interview**

Sugiyono (2017) defines interviews as direct conversations between researchers and research subjects, which aim to collect information for research purposes. Moleong (2015) emphasizes that interviews are essential for understanding participants' experiences and perspectives, facilitating the interpretation of their meanings.

c. **Literature Study**

The researcher will collect and interpret all sources, with additional support from secondary instruments such as photographs, notes, and

documents relevant to the research focus (Salim & Syahrums, 2013:124).

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH OBJECT

A. General Overview of Suicide Squad







Picture 1.1 Suicide Squad's Poster
(Source: Wikipedia.com)

Suicide Squad is the third movie in the DC Extended Universe written and directed by David Ayer, based on characters from DC Comics. Released on August 1, 2016, Suicide Squad received positive reviews. The story of Suicide Squad begins when intelligence agent Amanda Waller comes to the US Government. She came up with a special team project to deal with crimes that might arise after Superman's death. The team named Task Force X does not consist of superheroes, but supervillains imprisoned by the government in a dungeon. They are Deadshot (Will Smith), Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), Captain Boomerang (Jai Courtney), El Diablo (Jay Hernandez), Killer Croc (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje), and Slipknot (Adam Beach). These supervillains are planned to be controlled by Waller using a chip. This group will face the task of stopping an evil witch named Enchantress who possesses an archaeologist

named June Moone (Cara Delevigne). June is the lover of a soldier named Rick Flag (Joel Kinnaman), who then leads the team.

Cast of Suicide Squad Film

No.	Photo	Name	Cast Name
1.		Deadshot	Will Smith
2.		Harley Quinn	Margot Robbie
3.		Captain Boomerang	Jai Courtney
4.		Rick Flag	Joel Kinnaman




5.		El Diablo	Jay Hernandez
6.		Killer Croc	Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje
7.		Enchantress	Cara Delevigne

Table 2.1 Suicide Squad Main Cast

Suicide is a team of diverse members, each with unique skills and backgrounds. Among them, there's Deadshot, a sharpshooter whose skills are unquestionable, able to hit targets with incredible accuracy. Then there's Harley Quinn, an ex-psychiatrist who is infatuated with her iconic partner Joker. Captain Boomerang also joins the fray, an expert at throwing boomerangs with mesmerizing precision. Rick Flag, a military leader, takes full responsibility for the supervision and control of this team, ensuring they carry out their mission with the necessary discipline and effectiveness. Meanwhile, El Diablo adds a supernatural element with his ability to control fire, making him an unpredictable threat to the enemy. Last but not least, there's Killer Croc, a mutant with the appearance of a lizard man, whose strength and endurance are incredible. And let's not forget Enchantress, a supernatural being who inhabits June Moone's body, giving the team a deeper magical dimension. With the combination of strength, skill, and madness of each member, the Suicide Squad is a team that cannot be underestimated in the world of superheroes and villains.

The Suicide Squad was given a very dangerous task when they had to rescue a government official who was caught in a horrific attack in the middle of the city. This attack is no ordinary attack, but is carried out by a powerful supernatural entity known as the Enchantress. A challenging mission, especially since the Enchantress managed to take over the body of Dr. June Moone, making her a huge threat. Not only that, but Enchantress also managed to form a powerful alliance with her evil sister, Incubus. Together, these two entities are plotting global destruction in the most horrific way possible, intending to create an invincible army that will rule the world with immense power. This threat is serious, and the Suicide Squad must work together quickly and with incredible courage to stop this evil plan before it's too late.

At first, Suicide Squad feels like a bunch of individuals on a collision course, riddled with internal conflicts and difficulty in adapting to each other. However, as time goes on, they begin to form a strong bond and realize that perhaps only together do they stand a chance of stopping the approaching threat.

The Joker (played by Jared Leto), Harley Quinn's criminal partner, adds complexity to the story with his attempts to free Harley Quinn and disrupt the Suicide Squad's mission. A fierce battle against Enchantress and Incubus in the middle of a ruined city was a tough test for the team. Despite the sacrifices and hardships, the Suicide Squad managed to defeat the supernatural threat. El Diablo, one of the members, played a key role in stopping Enchantress by sacrificing himself.

After the fight, some members of the Suicide Squad returned to prison, while others got their sentences commuted. However, the movie emphasizes that although they are notorious villains, they also have an unexpectedly human side. It is an evocative depiction that even among people who are considered the most evil, there is room for kindness and empathy.

B. Harley Quinn's Character in the Movie

Harleen Quinzel, better known as Harley Quinn, is one of the most interesting and complex characters in Suicide Squad. Played brilliantly by actress Margot Robbie, Harley Quinn transforms into a supervillain full of chaos, dark humor, and compelling sincerity.

Before becoming Harley Quinn, Harleen Quinzel was an idealistic psychiatrist who worked at Arkham Asylum. It was there that she met the Joker, a cruel and manipulative supervillain. The Joker tricks and manipulates Harleen, making her fall in love with him and helping her escape from Arkham. Harleen transforms into Harley Quinn, the Joker's loyal accomplice who will do anything for him.

Harley Quinn is portrayed as a crazy and emotionally unstable individual. She changes moods easily, from cheerful and playful to cruel and brutal in the blink of an eye. The Joker's trauma and manipulation have left deep marks on her, making it difficult for her to escape the clown prince's clutches.

Harley Quinn's relationship with the Joker is one of the most tragic aspects of her character. She is obsessed with the Joker and is willing to do anything to earn his affection, even though the Joker himself often treats her with manipulative harshness. Harley Quinn is trapped in a cycle of emotional abuse, yet she remains steadfast in her belief that the Joker loves her.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn is recruited by Amanda Waller to join a team of supervillains tasked with completing dangerous missions. Harley Quinn brings chaos and dark humor to the team, and she is often a source of surprise and uncertainty. Although she is still tied to the Joker, Harley Quinn begins to show signs of independence and rebellion, demonstrating the potential to break free from the Joker's shadow.

C. Informant Profile

The research that is being conducted requires collaboration with a number of informants to answer the question that the researcher has prepared, namely whether there are differences in views between female and male students in Yogyakarta regarding the concept of female masculinity manifested in the character of Harley Quinn in the movie *Suicide Squad*. This question is important given the complexity of culture and gender identity in society. Before presenting the answers to these questions, the researcher feels it is important to outline the profiles of the informants that have been collected. This profile not only helps in better understanding the social and cultural context of the informants, but also provides more insight into the background of the individuals that may have influenced their views on the topic at hand. This initial step is thus considered very important in ensuring accurate data.

To start the research being conducted, the researcher will take the first step by conducting interviews with four informants who have different backgrounds. To facilitate communication, interviews will be conducted through the Zoom Meeting platform or using Whatsapp Call, with a time that has been adjusted to the informants' schedule. Before starting the interview process, the researcher will check whether the informants have actually watched the Suicide Squad movie or not. If the informant has not watched the movie, the researcher will show the movie so that the informant has sufficient understanding before undergoing the interview session. However, if the informant has watched the movie, the researcher will proceed directly to the interview stage. Profiles and some data from the four informants will be explained as follows:

NAMA	USIA	GENDER	PENDIDIKAN & KARIR	ASAL KOTA	ETNIS
Zaydan	23	Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoring in Law • Staff of ALSA LC UGM • Exchange student Leiden Law School 	Jakarta	Jawa
Rama	22	Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoring in Communication Science • FISHUM UIN staff as creative team • CEO di Movement Of Voices • Social Media Specialist at Financial Services Authority 	Pontianak	Melayu
Syafira	22	Female		Cilegon	Jawa

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoring in Communication Science 		
Rani	21	Female	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoring in Communication Science 	Purwokerto	Jawa

Table 2.2 Informants Profile

In order to obtain more diverse views, the researcher chose two female students and two male students. By doing so, we hope to get different perspectives on masculinity, especially from different gender perspectives. They must be individuals who have watched and truly understood the content of the movie *Suicide Squad*, and have strong critical opinions in expressing their opinions. In addition, the researcher also selected respondents from various backgrounds, including education and career, city origin, and ethnicity of the respondents. As such, the researcher sought to ensure diversity in the sample of respondents, so that the results of the study could reflect the various viewpoints and experiences that exist in society. By incorporating variations in gender and background of the respondents, it is hoped that this research can provide a more comprehensive insight into the topic under study.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS

A. INFORMANTS PROFILE

The researcher used qualitative methods to select informants. The informants were purposively selected based on criteria, including individual Yogyakarta university students aged between 21-22 years old and from different backgrounds who have watched or are willing to watch the movie *Suicide Squad*. The researcher will also talk to 4 people, including 2 women and 2 men. Four people from various backgrounds have been selected during the selection process to be informants. The following are their brief profiles:

1. Zaydan

Zaydan 23 years old. Born on February 3, 2001 in Blitar. He currently lives in Yogyakarta because he is studying. Zaydan is the first of 3 children, and all his siblings are boys so he is quite close to his younger siblings.

Since childhood, Zaydan attended school in Australia before finally moving to Indonesia and continuing his education at the Jakarta Islamic School when he was in grade 3. After graduating from elementary school, he continued his education at the Nurul Fikri Lembang Islamic boarding school until he finished high school. Currently, Zaydan is a Law student in Yogyakarta. Zaydan also participated in a student exchange program to Leiden Law School.

Zaydan has a hobby of playing golf, which he often does in his free time with his friends. He also likes watching movies, especially those with action and drama genres. According to Zaydan, the character of Harley Quinn in *Suicide Squad* is very interesting because she has a different and unique character, with a funny side of madness. According to him, Harley Quinn became one of the highlights of the movie, making the usually serious scenes more exciting and lighthearted.

2. Rama

Rama, 22 years old. Born 22 November 2001 in Pontianak. He currently lives in Yogyakarta to continue his studies in college. From childhood, He was born and raised in Pontianak. He is the last child of 2 siblings. He has a brother who is currently continuing his study in Semarang. He is very close with his niece, nephew, and cousins.

Rama is a graduated student from Yogyakarta, majoring in the Communication Sciences program. He often participates in campus committees such as welcoming students events, concert events, and competition events. Usually he is in the event and public relation division. He also likes to participate in English debate competitions.

Rama likes watching films. Usually, the films he watches are in the sci-fi and romance comedy genres. His favorite films typically bring the themes from the 90's or from the early 20's, such as 500 days of summer and good will hunting. He said that he also likes the film Suicide Squad because it shows brave characters for woman empowerment and deliver strong message about feminism.

3. Syafira

Syafira, 22 years old. Born on January 9, 2002 in Batam. She currently lives in Yogyakarta because she is studying there. Syafira is the first of two children and has one younger brother. From birth to high school, Syafira lived in Batam until finally her family decided to settle in Yogyakarta.

Syafira has a hobby of watching movies, especially romance genre movies. In terms of education, Syafira attended Islamic schools from elementary school to college. Elementary school at Al-Azhar, then junior high school at Nurul Fikri Boarding School, until finally continuing her studies at Yogyakarta majoring in Communication Science.

Syafira also has an interesting view of Harley Quinn's character in Suicide Squad. According to her, Harley Quinn has a distinctive and eccentric appearance as well as a strong,

independent personality and great fighting skills. For Syafira, Harley Quinn's character depicts a brave and independent woman, a strong inspiration in the world of cinema.

4. Rani

Rani, 21 years old. She was born in Balikpapan, June 7, 2002. She lives in Raffles housing estate, Purwokerto. She is the only child in her mother's extended family who was born and raised in Java. He is the last of two children. In 2001, her family moved to Balikpapan and in 2002 she was born and raised in Balikpapan until she was in the 7th grade of junior high school. She lived with her parents and older sister. She attended Al-Irsyad Al-Islamiyah Purwokerto private high school. Now, she is studying at Yogyakarta university majoring in International Communication Studies program.

From playgroup she was always sent to a private Islamic school because her parents thought their Islamic education was lacking so they did not want their children to follow like their parents, which is why she and her older sister always went to a private Islamic school except when her older sister went to a boarding school when she was in secondary school which was not very Islamic. Her family was not religious, but her mother was a pious mother. If her mother sees her hijab is messy, her mother nags her, but her father is the opposite, her father is even okay if she does not wear hijab, because she once asked her father about hijab, if she does not wear hijab it is okay if she does not.

Rani herself loves watching movies. She watches various genres of movies such as dramas, romantic comedies and science fiction. She also has a favorite movie, Lady Bird. According to Rani, the movie directed by Enola Holmes teaches that women can also be tough and brave like men. In her family, she was not taught about feminism because she thinks her family is still conservative about it, so she learned about it herself. She learned about feminism from the internet and social media.

B. PERCEPTION

In this movie, Harley Quinn indirectly gives the impression of feminism. This impression is reflected in Harley's character in Suicide Squad. Harley Quinn is portrayed as a woman who is brave, tough, and able to take care of herself. She no longer relies on the Joker, and shows her ability to fight, plan, and complete missions. Harley Quinn breaks away from her toxic and

manipulative relationship with Joker. She begins to build her own identity and learns to love herself. Harley Quinn forges strong relationships with the other Women in the Suicide Squad, such as Katana and Enchantress. They support each other and work together to achieve common goals. Harley Quinn emerges with a unique and bold style, defying traditional beauty norms that are often associated with weakness and conformity.

Based on interviews involving four people who have been selected, consisting of two women and two men, they stated that brave and independent characters should be owned by women and men based on the question "what do you think about women who have brave and independent characters?" from the respondents' answers, all of them are almost the same, namely that whether they are men or women, they should have brave and independent characters.

“Menurutku, karakter pemberani dan independent seharusnya tidak bergantung kepada gender yaa, laki-laki ataupun perempuan. Tapi kan sering juga Cuma sosok laki-laki yang seringkali dianggap lebih bisa menjadi pemberani atau independen kalo dibandingkan sama perempuan, aku sendiri sih gak begitu setuju yaa sama hal ini, tiap manusia kan memiliki kepribadiannya sendiri, dan hal kayak gini berlaku untuk menjadi pribadi yang berani dan independen, perempuan gak seharusnya terperangkap dalam bayang-bayang stigma laki-laki dan bisa memenuhi jati dirinya sendiri. Apalagi di era sekarang, udah banyak perempuan yang menjadi pemimpin, dan dipandang berani, seperti Najwa Shihab, Alissa Wahid, Gita Savitri, sampe Megawati Soekarnoputri. Di Indonesia pun udah ada kok sosok yang memperjuangkan hak-hak perempuan yang dikenal dengan sosok Kartini.”

“In my opinion, brave and independent characters should not depend on gender, male or female. But often it's just a male figure who is often considered more able to be brave or independent when compared to women, I myself don't really agree with this, every human being has their own personality, and things like this apply to being a brave and independent person, women shouldn't be trapped in the shadow of male stigma and can fulfill their own identity. Especially in the current era, there are many women who are leaders, and are seen as brave, such as Najwa Shihab, Alissa Wahid, Gita Savitri, and Megawati Soekarnoputri. In Indonesia, there is already a figure who fights for women's rights known as Kartini.” (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

“Wah, menurut gue sih, perempuan yang pemberani dan independen itu keren banget! Mereka tuh bikin respect, karena bisa menghadapi tantangan sendiri tanpa harus bergantung terus sama orang lain. Gue rasa, karakter kayak gitu justru bikin perempuan makin kuat dan bisa berdiri di atas kakinya sendiri. Jadi, buat gue, mereka pantas diacungi jempol deh!”

“Well, in my opinion, brave and independent women are really cool! I respect them because they can face their own challenges without having to rely on others. I think that kind of character actually makes women stronger and able to stand on their own feet. So, to me, they deserve a thumbs up!” (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

Based on the results of the interview, they gave their opinions on how Harley Quinn's character first appeared. The researcher asked the informants "After you watched the movie *Suicide Squad*, how did Harley Quinn first appear, how did you respond to the character?" From the informants' answers, some of them thought that Harley Quinn immediately portrayed a brave woman from her gestures and language. Harley Quinn has a distinctive and eccentric appearance.

According to Rama, Harley Quinn has a bold character where it is very dominant, including from gestures and language. Harley Quinn also never shows fear. This can be shown when Harley Quinn is able to defeat the cell guards.

*“Jadi, pertama kali aku liat Harley Quinn, yang aku pikirin tuh dia punya karakter berani yang ditunjukkan sangat dominan ya, dari gestur dan bahasa juga, Harley Quinn ini keliatan gak punya rasa takut gitu. Keberaniannya juga diperkuat ketika Harley Quinn mengalahkan 5 penjaga sel di dalem film *Suicide Squad*.”*

"So, the first time I saw Harley Quinn, what I thought was that she had a brave character that was shown very dominantly, from gestures and language too, Harley Quinn seemed to have no fear. Her courage is also reinforced when Harley Quinn defeats 5 cell guards in the *Suicide Squad* movie." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

“Menurut saya, karakter dari harley quinn mempunyai penampilan yang khas dan nyentrik serta mempunyai kepribadian yang kuat, independen, dan mempunyai kemampuan bertarung yang hebat”

"In my opinion, the character of Harley Quinn has a distinctive and eccentric appearance and has a strong, independent personality, and has great fighting skills."
(Interview with Syafira. 5 March, 2024)

For some people, Harley Quinn can be a highlight in the Suicide Squad movie because she has a character that is very different from the others. Harley Quinn can make a scene that is supposed to be serious become lighter due to her fun personality.

"Yaa, jadi waktu itu pas nonton Suicide Squad, tentunya gue excited buat ngeliat Harley Quinn. Dia tuh punya karakter yang kerasa beda banget ya, dari yang lainnya. Gue suka banget cara dia nunjukin kegilaan yang unik, tapi juga ada sisi lucunya. Jadi, bisa dibilang, Harley Quinn tuh jadi salah satu highlight di film itu buat gue. Gue suka banget gimana dia bikin adegan yang biasanya serius jadi lebih seru dan ringan gitu. Sebenarnya, dia itu karakter yang cukup kompleks, tapi penampilannya di film ini bener-bener bikin gue ketagihan buat ngikutin ceritanya"

"Yeah, so when I watched Suicide Squad, of course I was excited to see Harley Quinn. She has a character that feels really different from the others. I really like the way she shows a unique madness, but also has a funny side. So, you could say, Harley Quinn was one of the highlights of the movie for me. I really like how she makes scenes that are usually serious more fun and lighthearted. Actually, she's a pretty complex character, but her performance in this movie really made me addicted to following the story." (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

Based on the informants' answers, they gave their opinions on what they thought about strong and brave women after seeing Harley Quinn's actions. The researcher asked the informants "After seeing Harley Quinn in action, what do you think about strong and courageous female personalities?" The informants gave their opinions that they felt that strong and courageous women are not only about physicality, but also about their mentality and emotions. For women who show a strong and brave personality, it cannot be underestimated.

"sebenarnya aku agak bingung ya menginterpretasikan karakter dia yang mandiri di tengah-tengah penjahat cowo lainnya. Dia terlihat tetep pede aja gitu dan gak takut sama sekali dengan ancaman yang dia hadapin. Tapi sejujurnya aku kepikiran sih dia

kayak gitu karena emang dia cewe berani atau karena she's not right in the head ya soalnya bener-bener kayak cewe gila."

"I'm actually not confused about interpreting his independent character in the midst of other male villains. She looks confident and not afraid at all of the threats she faces. But honestly, I think she's like that because she's a brave girl or because she's not right in the head, because she really looks like a crazy girl." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

"Gue pikir, setelah ngeliat aksi Harley Quinn di film itu, gue langsung ngerasa kalo perempuan yang kuat dan berani itu nggak Cuma tentang fisik doang, tapi juga tentang mental dan emosi. Gue liat gimana Harley Quinn tuh enggak Cuma berani dalam aksi fisik-fisiknya aja, tapi juga punya ketegasan dan keberanian dalam mneghadapi masalah dan tantangan yang dihadapi. Dan buat gue, itu menunjukkan kalo kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani itu nggak bisa diremehin, mereka bisa dihadapi segala sesuatu dengan kepala dingin dan hati yang berani."

"I think, after seeing Harley Quinn in action in the movie, I immediately felt that a strong and brave woman is not only about physicality, but also about mentality and emotions. I saw how Harley Quinn is not only brave in her physical actions, but also has firmness and courage in dealing with the problems and challenges she faces. And for me, it shows that a strong and brave female personality cannot be underestimated, they can face everything with a cool head and a brave heart." (Interview with Zaydan 6 March, 2024)

Based on the answers from the informants, they gave their opinions about which parts of the Suicide Squad movie made them think about Harley Quinn's female personality. The researcher asked the informants "Which part of the movie made you think about women's personality, especially through the character of Harley Quinn".

"Ada beberapa scene yang menurutku paling menunjukkan keberanian perempuan yaitu, waktu Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya, scene saat dia melompat dari helicopter, scene saat Harley Quinn melawan Enchantress, scene Harley Quinn keluar dari bar"

"There are several scenes that I think show women's courage the most, namely, when Harley Quinn expresses her feelings of love, the scene when she jumps from the

helicopter, the scene when Harley Quinn fights Enchantress, the scene when Harley Quinn gets out of the bar." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

"jujur menurut aku bagian Harley Quinn yang paling berani malah pas bukan lagi berantem bareng Suicide Squad, tapi malah pas dia diminta Joker buat terjun ke cairan gitu, some kind of acid ya? Kelakuan kayak gitu tuh kan gak main-main ya, tapi dia berani buat ngeliatin Joker dia beneran cinta dan loyal."

"Honestly, in my opinion, Harley Quinn's bravest part was not when she was fighting with the Suicide Squad, but when she was asked by Joker to plunge into the liquid, some kind of acid, huh? Behavior like that is no joke, but she dares to look at Joker, she really loves and is loyal." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

Based on the interviews of four people, they gave opinions on whether Harley Quinn could be a positive or negative representation. The researcher asked the informant "Do you think Harley Quinn's character can be a positive or negative representation for women? Why?" From the four informants, they answered that Harley Quinn's character can be a positive and negative representation depending on which side we look at. The positive side that can be taken from Harley Quinn is that nowadays women must have a brave and independent nature and not depend on men, while the negative is that Harley Quinn has an impulsive side and always uses violence to solve problems.

"Ya, menurutku, karakter Harley Quinn itu kayak pisau bermata dua gitu deh. Di satu sisi, dia punya ketangguhan dan keberanian yang menginspirasi banget. Dia nggak takut buat jadi dirinya sendiri, meskipun banyak yang nggak setuju dengan cara dia hidup. Tapi di sisi lain, perilaku dia yang terlalu impulsif dan kadang agak... absurd, bisa jadi bikin orang mikir bahwa perempuan itu harus gila-gilaan buat berhasil. Jadi, ya, mungkin bisa dibilang Harley Quinn punya sisi positif yang menginspirasi tapi juga sisi negatif yang nggak begitu ideal buat dijadikan contoh."

"Yes, in my opinion, the character of Harley Quinn is like a double-edged knife. On one hand, she has a resilience and courage that is really inspiring. She's not afraid to be herself, even though many people don't agree with the way she lives. But on the other hand, her impulsive and sometimes rather... absurd behavior might make people think that women have to be crazy to succeed. So, yeah, I guess you could say Harley Quinn

has an inspiring positive side but also a negative side that's not so ideal." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

“Ya, jadi Harley Quinn itu karakter yang cukup menarik ya. Kalau menurut gua sih, dia bisa jadi representasi positif atau negatif, tergantung dari bagaimana kita melihatnya. Jadi, dilihat dari sisi positifnya, Harley Quinn itu bisa dianggap sebagai karakter yang kuat dan mandiri, dia nggak takut buat berdiri sendiri dan punya kepribadian yang kuat. Tapi di sisi lain, kita juga bisa lihat dia sebagai representasi negatif karena seringkali dia terlibat dalam hal-hal yang nggak bener, kayak kejahatan atau hubungan yang toxic gitu. Jadi, intinya sih, Harley Quinn itu karakter yang kompleks, bisa jadi positif atau negatif tergantung dari perspektif masing-masing orang”

"Yes, in my opinion, the character of Harley Quinn is like a double-edged knife. On one hand, she has a resilience and courage that is really inspiring. She's not afraid to be herself, even though many people don't agree with the way she lives. But on the other hand, her impulsive and sometimes rather... absurd behavior might make people think that women have to be crazy to succeed. So, yeah, I guess you could say Harley Quinn has an inspiring positive side but also a negative side that's not so ideal." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

“ada representatif positif dan negatif, untuk positifnya yaitu ia mempunyai sifat yang sangat berani dan independen. yang menurut saya sangat bagus untuk seorang perempuan. untuk negatifnya yaitu kebanyakan perempuan yang mempunyai sifat yang seperti itu dianggap sebelah mata oleh lelaki. karna dalam filmnya ada salah satu lelaki mengatakan bahwa harley quinn seperti orang gila.”

"there are positive and negative representations, for the positive is that she has a very brave and independent nature. which I think is very good for a woman. for the negative is that most women who have such a nature are underestimated by men. because in the movie there is one man saying that Harley Quinn is like a crazy person." (Interview with Syafira, 5 March, 2024)

Based on the answers from the informants, they have their opinions on how Harley Quinn's physical appearance in the movie Suicide Squad. The researcher asked the informants

"what do you think about Harley Quinn's physical appearance in the film Suicide Squad?" they had almost the same opinion that Harley Quinn had an eccentric and very iconic style.

“Keren sih, dia gak berpenampilan layaknya orang biasa tapi mungkin itu juga pengaruh dari mentalnya dia yang udah damaged karena pacarnya di Joker itu tuh juga kali yaa. Tapi keren dia tampil beda banget dari pas masih jadi psikeater dia terlihat rapih gitu. Sekarang penampilannya berbanding terbalik banget 180 derajat.”

"It's cool, he doesn't look like an ordinary person but maybe that's also the influence of his mentality that has been damaged because his girlfriend in Joker was also times. But it's cool that he looks completely different from when he was still a psikeater, he looked neat. Now his appearance is 180 degrees opposite." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

According to Rama, Harley Quinn has an eccentric style despite her sexualized clothing. However, Harley Quinn's appearance can reflect Harley's expressive and brave character. According to Rama, this shows that women can express themselves through their style of dress without being limited by existing stereotypes.

“Penampilan fisik Harley Quinn dalam film Suicide Squad memiliki kostum yang ikonik dan gaya yang eksentrik. Meskipun terkadang terkesan seksual, dengan ditunjukkannya dialog antar karakter di film yang seringkali menyebut Harley Quinn dengan perkataan “sexy”. Tetapi, penampilannya mencerminkan karakternya yang ekspresif dan berani. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa perempuan seharusnya dapat mengekspresikan dirinya dalam berpakaian dan tidak dibatasi oleh stereotip yang seringkali ada”

"Harley Quinn's physical appearance in Suicide Squad has an iconic costume and eccentric style. Although sometimes it seems sexual, with the dialog between characters in the film often referring to Harley Quinn with the word "sexy". However, her appearance reflects her expressive and bold character. This shows that women should be able to express themselves in dress and not be limited by stereotypes that often exist." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

Based on the informants' answers, they gave their opinions on how they respond to women who are involved in violent or aggressive scenes such as that of Harley Quinn. The

researcher asked the informants "how do you assess Harley Quinn's involvement in violent scenes or aggressive actions, and what is your response to women involved in this kind of situation?"

According to Zaydan, women who are involved in violent or aggressive actions may have certain reasons or backgrounds that make women finally bring out their dark side, namely defending themselves when they are in unwanted situations.

"Gue pikir, keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan-adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif itu emang bikin ngeliat dia dari sisi yang beda. Dia tuh kayak punya sisi gelap gitu, yang kadang bikin kita mikir, 'Wah, perempuan juga bisa loh kayak gini.' Tapi, ngeliat dari sudut pandang yang lebih luas, gue ngerasa setiap orang punya sisi gelapnya sendiri, nggak peduli cowo atau cewe. Jadi, buat gue, perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi semacam itu mungkin punya alasan atau latar belakangnya sendiri yang bikin mereka jadi kayak gitu. Jadi, gue rasa nggak boleh langsung judge tanpa tau lebih dalam tentang mereka."

"I think Harley Quinn's involvement in violent scenes or aggressive actions makes us see her from a different side. It's like she has a dark side, which sometimes makes us think, 'Wow, women can be like this too.' But, looking at it from a broader perspective, I feel like everyone has their own dark side, no matter if they're male or female. So, for me, women who are involved in such situations might have their own reasons or backgrounds that make them like that. So, I don't think we should judge them without knowing more about them." (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

According to Rama, Harley Quinn is violent and aggressive based on her background. Her involvement in the violent scene symbolizes a brave and independent woman. But some people may perceive that a woman engaging in violent acts will affect the perception of women in real life.

"Harley Quinn sebagai karakter memiliki latar belakang yang kompleks, termasuk keterlibatan dalam kejahatan dan hubungan dengan Joker. Keterlibatannya dalam adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif mungkin merupakan bagian dari identitasnya yang telah dibangun dalam narasi film. Keterlibatannya dalam adegan kekerasan atau Tindakan agresif melambangkan keberanian dan kemandirian perempuan sesuai

dengan latar belakang karakter, tetapi beberapa orang mungkin memandangi keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan kekerasan sebagai glorifikasi tindakan agresif, yang dapat memengaruhi persepsi terhadap perempuan dalam kehidupan nyata”

"Harley Quinn as a character has a complex background, including involvement in crime and a relationship with the Joker. Her involvement in violent scenes or aggressive acts may be part of her identity that has been constructed in the film's narrative. Her involvement in violent scenes or aggressive acts symbolizes female courage and independence according to the character's background, but some may view Harley Quinn's involvement in violent scenes as a glorification of aggressive acts, which may affect perceptions of women in real life." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

C. FEMALE MASCULINITY IN SUICIDE SQUAD MOVIE

Feminine masculinity is a spectrum of gender expression that describes masculine traits exhibited by women. It signifies that women are not bound to traditional feminine stereotypes of being meek, submissive and expressive.

Feminine masculinity is another way for women to express themselves and challenge traditional gender stereotypes. It shows that women can be strong, resilient and confident, without losing their feminine side.

The character of Harley Quinn presents a variety of interpretations and opinions. There are those who love her, but there are also those who don't. Regardless, the character of Harley Quinn sparked a discussion of female masculinity. Many people mistakenly think of female masculinity as a rebel who defies the rules. In fact, the essence of female masculinity is to fight for equal rights and opportunities for women. Female masculinity is not about putting men down, but about creating a fair space for human beings.

While the movie may not gamblingly address all aspects of female masculinity, the character of Harley Quinn opens up a space for discussion and encourages the audience to question the gender norms and stereotypes that are still entrenched in society.

Based on the answers from the informants, about how they respond to the romantic concept carried out by Harley Quinn. The researcher asked the informants "After watching the

scene where Harley Quinn expresses her feelings of love, how do you respond to the romantic concept presented through her character?" From the four informants, almost all of them thought that Harley Quinn should not do anything too extreme to show her love for Joker. Of the four informants, almost all of them thought that Harley Quinn should not do something too extreme to show her love for the Joker. Women who do what Harley Quinn does are considered toxic.

"Kayaknya kalau itu menurut gue terlalu toxic deh. Gue tuh ngeliat gimana Harley Quinn sampe rela berbuat segala macam hal yang gak sehat, bahkan berbahaya buat dia sendiri, cuma buat Joker doang. Jadi, meskipun romantisme emang sesuatu yang manis, tapi harusnya nggak sampe bikin kita rela masuk ke dalam hubungan yang toxic kayak gitu, kan"

"I think it's too toxic in my opinion. I saw how Harley Quinn was willing to do all kinds of unhealthy things, even dangerous for herself, just for the Joker. So, even though romance is something sweet, it shouldn't make us willing to enter into a toxic relationship like that, right?" (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

"mixed feelings banget. Gatau apaitu perasaan cinta atau borderline obsessed ke Joker. Karena menurutku Harley Quinn dari awal udah jayuh cinta ke orang yang salah. Maksudnya Joker gitu... emang ada orang normal yang jatuh cinta ke Joker yah. Tapi yaa they said a flock of birds fly together, ternyata Harley Quinn sama gilanya sama Joker, jadi cocok lah mereka. I kinda hate how their relationship makes people romanticize toxic relationship gitu. Dan gatau aja dimataku hubungan mereka tuh lustful aja gak ada cinta-cintanya."

"Very mixed feelings. I don't know if it's love or borderline obsessed with the Joker. Because I think Harley Quinn has been in love with the wrong person from the beginning. I mean the Joker... there are normal people who fall in love with the Joker. But they say a flock of birds fly together, it turns out Harley Quinn is just as crazy as the Joker, so they fit. I kinda hate how their relationship makes people romanticize toxic relationships. And I don't know, in my eyes their relationship is just lustful, there's no love." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

According to Rama and Syafira, what Harley Quinn did also has a positive side. Because women who do what Harley Quinn does can also be considered brave women because currently not all women are brave and easy to express their feelings.

“Menurut saya, harley quinn juga berani untuk menyatakan perasaannya tidak hanya berani untuk bertarung. karena tidak semua perempuan berani dan mudah untuk menyatakan perasaannya. biasanya mereka takut untuk ditolak jadi mereka biasanya hanya memendam perasaannya”

"In my opinion, harley quinn is also brave to express her feelings not only brave to fight. because not all women are brave and easy to express their feelings. usually they are afraid to be rejected so they usually just suppress their feelings" (Interview with Syafira, 5 March, 2024)

“Scene dimana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya menunjukkan kepribadian yang berani, Harley quinn menunjukkannya dengan rela mengikuti tantangan dari joker juga “mati untuk joker” dan “hidup untuk joker”. Selain itu, Harley quinn juga nekat melakukan apapun untuk bisa kembali bertemu dengan joker, hal ini ditunjukkan dengan scene dimana Harley seringkali teringat “flashback” dirinya saat bersama joker”

"The scene where Harley Quinn expresses her feelings of love shows a brave personality, Harley quinn shows it by willingly following the challenge from the joker as well as "dying for the joker" and "living for the joker". In addition, Harley Quinn is also desperate to do anything to get back together with the joker, this is shown in the scene where Harley often remembers her "flashback" when she was with the joker." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

Based on the informants' answers about their impressions when Harley Quinn interacts with other characters based on scenes in the movie Suicide Squad. The researcher asked the informants "after watching the scene where Harley Quinn interacts with other characters, what is your impression of her feminine style and personality?" The informants considered the style and personality quite unique because usually a woman is more likely to use a dress or skirt to appear feminine but Harley Quinn has her own way of appearing feminine but still looks strong and brave when interacting with other characters.

“menurut saya, gaya dari harley quinn merupakan unik. biasanya seorang perempuan memakai dress atau rok agar mereka merasa cantik tetapi harley quinn tidak begitu. ia memakai celana pendek dan jaket boombornya yang warna nyentrik dan berani. selain

itu juga dari segi make up harley quinn mempunyai gaya make up yang sangat nyentrik.”

"In my opinion, the style of harley quinn is unique. usually a woman wears a dress or skirt so that they feel beautiful but harley quinn is not like that. she wears shorts and her boomber jacket which is an eccentric and bold color. besides that, in terms of makeup, harley quinn has a very eccentric makeup style." (Interview with Syafira, 5 March, 2024)

“setelah gue nonton adegan Harley Quinn ngobrol sama karakter lain, gue merasa dia tuh kerasa banget femininnya dengan gaya yang khas. Kayaknya dia punya kepribadian yang kuat tapi tetap bisa tampil feminin dengan segala caranya. Gue suka banget gimana dia bisa jadi cewek yang independen tapi juga tetep charming, gitu loh.”

"After I watched Harley Quinn's scenes talking to other characters, I felt that she was very feminine with a distinctive style. I think she has a strong personality but can still look feminine in every way. I really like how she can be an independent woman but still charming." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

Based on the answers from the informants about whether culture or social background can affect the way they view Harley Quinn as female masculinity. The researcher asked the informants "does the presence of culture or social background affect the way you see Harley Quinn in the context of female masculinity?"

Based on Rama's answer, in Indonesia female masculinity is still considered uncommon. This view is based on patriarchal views that still prioritize the traditional role of women who are supposed to be housewives. However, there are also many people who have kept up with the times regarding female masculinity, as evidenced by the fact that many women today prioritize pursuing professional careers or participating in activities that were previously considered more suitable for men.

“Lahir di Indonesia, seringkali maskulinitas wanita mungkin dianggap sebagai hal yang tidak umum atau bahkan tidak pantas. Pemahaman ini sering kali didasarkan pada pandangan patriarki yang mengutamakan peran tradisional perempuan sebagai ibu dan pengasuh keluarga. Namun, dengan perkembangan zaman dan perubahan sosial, pandangan tentang maskulinitas wanita di Indonesia juga mengalami

perubahan. Banyak perempuan di Indonesia kini mengejar karier profesional, memiliki otoritas, dan berpartisipasi dalam kegiatan yang sebelumnya dianggap sebagai hal yang lebih cocok untuk pria. Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas perempuan memberi pandangan bagi masyarakat yang lebih terbuka dan inklusif sebagai contoh keberanian dan ketangguhan perempuan yang membebaskan diri dari stereotip gender tradisional”

"Born in Indonesia, it is often the case that female masculinity may be perceived as uncommon or even inappropriate. This understanding is often based on patriarchal views that prioritize women's traditional roles as mothers and family caregivers. However, with the times and social changes, the view of female masculinity in Indonesia is also changing. Many women in Indonesia now pursue professional careers, have authority, and participate in activities that were previously thought to be more suitable for men. Harley Quinn in the context of female masculinity provides an outlook for a more open and inclusive society as an example of the courage and resilience of women who break free from traditional gender stereotypes." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

“Iya nih, menurut gue latar belakang sosial orang tuh pasti ngaruh banget sama cara kita liat karakter Harley Quinn. Misalnya, buat gue yang dibesarkan di lingkungan yang agak konservatif, mungkin bakal lebih sulit buat nerima Harley Quinn sebagai contoh maskulinitas perempuan yang empowering. Tapi, ya seiring berjalannya waktu, dan mungkin karena juga eksposur sama media dan budaya yang lebih luas, gue mulai ngerti kalo maskulinitas perempuan bisa beda-beda dan nggak selalu harus sesuai dengan ekspektasi tradisional. Jadi, gue mulai ngeliat Harley Quinn dengan sudut pandang yang terbuka dan nggak terlalu terikat sama stereotype”

"Yes, I think people's social background definitely affects the way we see Harley Quinn's character. For example, for me who grew up in a rather conservative environment, it might be more difficult to accept Harley Quinn as an example of empowering female masculinity. But, over time, and perhaps because of exposure to wider media and culture, I began to understand that female masculinity can vary and doesn't always have to conform to traditional expectations. So, I started to look at Harley Quinn with an open mind and less attached to stereotypes." (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

D. MOVIE

Film as message delivery can be interpreted as a medium that is deliberately created to convey certain ideas, ideas, or values to the audience. This delivery can be done through various elements of the movie. The message conveyed in a movie can be explicit or implicit. Explicit messages are conveyed directly and are easily understood by the audience, while implicit messages are conveyed implicitly and require interpretation from the audience. In conclusion, film is a powerful medium to convey messages to a wide audience. Movies can provide education, entertainment, and invite the audience to reflect on various important issues in life.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, especially the character of Harley Quinn, there is a message that can be taken that femininity does not always have to be weak and passive. Harley Quinn shows that women can be strong, brave, and independent without losing their feminine side. Harley Quinn offers an inspiring message for women to be themselves without gender restrictions.

Based on the informants' answers about whether they think the *Suicide Squad* movie has a strong message towards female masculinity, especially in the character of Harley Quinn. The researcher asked the informants "Do you think this movie has a strong message towards female masculinity?" According to one informant, Rama, in this movie Harley Quinn can be an inspiration for women today to be themselves and not be afraid to show their courage.

"Oh, kalau menurut aku sih, karakter Harley Quinn di film Suicide Squad emang keren banget dan punya pesan yang kuat tentang female masculinity. Harley itu kan nggak seperti cewek pada umumnya yang sering digambarin lemah atau butuh diselamatin. Dia kuat, berani, dan bisa jaga diri sendiri, walaupun punya sisi liar dan kacau. Harley nunjukin kalo perempuan juga bisa punya kekuatan dan keberanian yang sama kayak laki-laki. Dia nggak takut buat ngambil risiko dan melawan siapa pun yang ngehalangin dia. Selain itu, dia juga nggak segan-segan buat nunjukin emosi dan perasaannya, yang bikin dia jadi karakter yang kompleks dan menarik. Jadi, menurut aku, Harley Quinn emang nunjukin sisi female masculinity yang kuat banget. Dia bisa jadi inspirasi buat cewek-cewek lain buat jadi diri sendiri dan nggak takut nunjukin kekuatan mereka."

"Yes, I think people's social background definitely affects the way we see Harley Quinn's character. For example, for me who grew up in a rather conservative environment, it might be more difficult to accept Harley Quinn as an example of empowering female masculinity. But, over time, and perhaps because of exposure to wider media and culture, I began to understand that female masculinity can vary and doesn't always have to conform to traditional expectations. So, I started to look at Harley Quinn with an open mind and less attached to stereotypes." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

"Menurut saya, karakter Harley Quinn di film Suicide Squad memiliki pesan yang cukup kuat terhadap female masculinity. Penggambaran Harley yang berani, mandiri, dan tidak ragu untuk menunjukkan kekuatannya, menantang stereotip gender tradisional tentang feminitas yang lemah dan pasif. Pesan ini dapat menjadi inspirasi bagi para wanita untuk menjadi diri mereka sendiri tanpa batasan gender. Namun, perlu diingat bahwa Harley

Quinn adalah karakter fiksi dan tidak semua wanita ingin menunjukkan maskulinitas. Penting untuk menghargai keberagaman ekspresi gender dan tidak memaksakan satu ideal kecantikan atau perilaku pada semua wanita.”

"In my opinion, Harley Quinn's character in Suicide Squad has a strong message towards female masculinity. Harley's portrayal is brave, independent, and does not hesitate to show her strength, challenging traditional gender stereotypes of weak and passive femininity. This message can be an inspiration for women to be themselves without gender restrictions. However, keep in mind that Harley Quinn is a fictional character and not all women want to show masculinity. It is important to appreciate the diversity of gender expression and not impose one ideal of beauty or behavior on all women." (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

Based on the answers from the informants whether they have watched movies about the role of women in the history of cinema and what is different from the Suicide Squad movie, especially the character of Harley Quinn. The researcher asked the informants "have you ever watched a movie about the role of women in the history of cinema? And if so, how is the character of Harley Quinn different from other female characters in movies?"

“Gue pernah nonton beberapa film tentang peran wanita dalam sejarah perfilman. Salah satu yang paling berkesan buat gue adalah film "Wonder Woman." Dari film itu gue jadi tahu gimana perjuangan perempuan di dunia film, khususnya yang diangkat jadi superhero. Kalau ngomongin Harley Quinn, dia beda banget dari karakter perempuan di film lainnya. Harley Quinn tuh punya sisi gila dan unpredictable yang nggak banyak dimiliki karakter cewek lain. Dia itu nggak cuma cantik, tapi juga brutal dan punya cerita yang kompleks. Hubungannya sama Joker juga nambah lapisan cerita yang bikin karakter dia makin menarik. Sementara itu, kebanyakan karakter perempuan di film lain biasanya digambaran lebih anggun atau heroik kayak Wonder Woman. Mereka sering kali punya sifat-sifat yang lebih idealis dan bertindak sebagai penyelamat. Harley Quinn lebih kayak anti-hero yang nggak bisa diprediksi, lebih bebas, dan sering kali ngelakuin hal-hal yang out of the box. Jadi, karakter dia lebih nyentrik dan punya daya tarik tersendiri.”

I've seen several movies about the role of women in the history of cinema. One of the most memorable for me was the movie "Wonder Woman." From that movie, I learned about the struggles of women in the movie world, especially those who are appointed as superheroes. When it comes to Harley Quinn, she's very different from other female characters in

movies. Harley Quinn has a crazy and unpredictable side that not many other female characters have. She's not only beautiful, but also brutal and has a complex story. Her relationship with the Joker also adds layers of story that make her character more interesting. Meanwhile, most female characters in other movies are usually portrayed more gracefully or heroically like Wonder Woman. They often have more idealistic traits and act as saviors. Harley Quinn is more like an anti-hero who is unpredictable, freer, and often does things out of the box. So, she's more eccentric and has her own charm." (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

"Iya, gue udah nonton banyak film yang nampilin karakter wanita kuat, salah satu yang paling ikonik sih menurut gue Katniss Everdeen dari film The Hunger Games. Salah satu perbedaan dari kedua karakter tersebut mungkin bisa dilihat dari sisi kepribadian dan penampilan mereka yaitu kalau Katniss Dia mahir dalam memanah, berburu, dan bertahan hidup di alam liar. Kekuatannya lebih terfokus pada kelincahan dan kecerdasan. Sedangkan Harley Quinn Dia memiliki kekuatan fisik yang super dan ahli dalam menggunakan senjata dan bahan peledak. Kekuatannya lebih brutal dan eksplosif. Kesimpulannya, both Harley Quinn dan Katniss Everdeen adalah karakter wanita kuat yang ikonik dengan keunikannya masing-masing."

"Yes, I've watched many movies that feature strong female characters, one of the most iconic is Katniss Everdeen from The Hunger Games. One of the differences between the two characters can probably be seen in terms of their personality and appearance, namely that Katniss She is proficient in archery, hunting, and survival in the wild. Her strengths are more focused on agility and intelligence. While Harley Quinn She has super physical strength and is an expert in using weapons and explosives. Her powers are more brutal and explosive. In conclusion, both Harley Quinn and Katniss Everdeen are iconic strong female characters with their own uniqueness." (Interview with Syafira, 5 March, 2024)

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

A. YOGYAKARTA STUDENTS PERCEPTION OF FEMALE MASCULINITY IN HARLEY QUINN CHARACTER

According to Mulyana dalam bukunya “Ilmu Komunikasi Suatu Pengantar” (2010), perception is a cognitive process that involves sensing (sensation) through the human sensory organs (sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste), attention, and interpretation. This perception process is at the core of communication as it allows us to interpret messages conveyed by others.

According to Mulyana (2010), perception is a process in which there are three activities, namely:

a. Sensation

Sensation is the initial stage in the perception process, where individuals receive stimulus through their sensory organs. This stimulus can be in the form of objects, events, people, information, or anything that can be captured by the five human senses. this sensation process is like a wide open window to the world, allowing individuals to feel and understand the reality around them. Information received through the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch becomes raw material for the brain to process and interpret.

At this stage, the audience of the Suicide Squad movie receives stimulus from the audio, visual, and conversational text displayed. The Suicide Squad movie spoils the audience's eyes with stunning visuals. One of the characters that attracts attention is Harley Quinn. Her eccentric appearance, extraordinary fighting skills, and sarcastic dialogue full of humor are the main attraction for the audience and show another side of femininity.

b. Attention

Mulayana explains that attention is the process of focusing attention on a particular stimulus. Or it allows individuals to choose which information is considered important and

which is not. Attention is influenced by various factors, such as needs and interests, the nature of the stimulus, regularity, and trust. Understanding attention is important in building effective communication.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, the character of Harley Quinn managed to attract the audience's attention with various stimuli, ranging from her eccentric appearance, unique and crazy behavior, to her extraordinary fighting skills. Her uniqueness and courage to be different from the norms of traditional femininity show Harley Quinn's female masculinity, namely strength, courage, and independence, which fascinates the audience and opens up a space for discussion about how women can express themselves in different ways. As Rama said “Harley Quinn's physical appearance in *Suicide Squad* has an iconic costume and eccentric style. Although sometimes it seems sexual, with the dialog between characters in the film often referring to Harley Quinn with the word “sexy”. However, her appearance reflects her expressive and bold character. This shows that women should be able to express themselves in dress and not be limited by stereotypes that often exist.” (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024) He explained that Harley Quinn's iconic style of dress can explain her character as an expressive and bold woman.

c. Interpretation

Interpretation is the process of giving meaning to the stimulus that has been perceived, interpretation is not just a copy of reality, but involves an active process in which individuals use their knowledge and experience to give meaning to what they see, hear, feel, smell. Interpretation is influenced by various factors, such as experience, knowledge, values, and culture. understanding interpretation is important in building effective communication.

In *Suicide Squad*, the character of Harley Quinn can be interpreted with various meanings, depending on the factors that influence the audience's interpretation. These diverse interpretations show that female masculinity is not a monolithic concept. It has multiple dimensions and can be interpreted in different ways. As Rama said, Harley Quinn can be a positive and negative representation depending on how the audience perceives her. “Yes, Harley Quinn is quite an interesting character. In my opinion, she can be a positive or negative representation, depending on how we see her. So, from the positive side, Harley Quinn can be seen as a strong and independent character, she's not afraid to stand alone and has a strong

personality. But on the other hand, we can also see her as a negative representation because she is often involved in things that are not right, such as crime or toxic relationships. So, in essence, Harley Quinn is a complex character, who can be positive or negative depending on each person's perspective.” (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

B. Female Masculinity in Suicide Squad Movie on Harley Quinn Character

Harley Quinn is played with gusto by actress Margot Robbie. She comes across as one of the supervillains recruited by Amanda Waller to join the Suicide Squad. Among the villains in Suicide Squad, Harley Quinn stands out as a unique and complex figure. She is not only seductive and feisty, but also brave, tough, and fearless. Harley Quinn does not flinch in the face of danger. She fights vigorously, using various weapons and techniques to defeat her enemies. In the movie Suicide Squad, she demonstrated her skills in hand-to-hand combat, the use of firearms, and even acrobatics. Her bravery and physical strength are on par with the male villains around her, showing that women can also be tough and strong. The character of Harley Quinn presents an interesting representation of female masculinity, looking past traditional gender stereotypes and presenting an image of a strong and independent woman. Therefore, the movie indirectly gives a message of female masculinity.

Female masculinity is about how women express masculine characteristics in their own way. Female masculinity can be expressed in many different ways. There is no one “right” way to express female masculinity. Judith Halberstam in her book “Female Masculinity” (1998) defines female masculinity as “a female way of expressing masculinity that challenges traditional gender norms and shows that women are not bound by feminine roles and behaviors.”

This research reveals that female masculinity is where women fight for equal rights and opportunities for them that female masculinity is not about demeaning men, but about creating a fair space for all genders. In the movie Suicide Squad, the character of female masculinity is depicted in the character of Harley Quinn. Harley Quinn is a complex and interesting character who challenges traditional gender stereotypes and presents a representation of female masculinity in Suicide Squad. Her courage, independence, confidence and uncompromising attitude show that women can be strong, resilient and free to be themselves. According to the

audience, some of the characters in Harley Quinn can be used as role models for women today because she has a character who is brave, independent, and does not depend on men.

Female masculinity is often associated with traits such as:

1. Assertiveness

Behind the notion that women are synonymous with gentleness and elegance, there is an equally powerful hidden force: assertiveness. Assertiveness is not about arrogance or aggressiveness, but about confidence and courage to voice opinions and fight for what is believed. Assertiveness helps women to dare to refuse and voice their rights (Zahir & Saputra, 2024). Assertiveness in women is a strength that should be appreciated and respected. With assertiveness, women can achieve whatever they want.

Assertive women are not afraid to say what they think and feel, even when it is unpopular. They don't let others intimidate or manipulate them. Assertiveness is not about dominating others, but about taking control of their own lives.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn has a decisive nature, she tries to take charge of the action decisively. For example, during the fight scene in the elevator, Harley Quinn stands in front of a group of fierce-faced criminals who approach her and are ready to attack. Without hesitation, Harley attacks even though she knows she is outnumbered and in a dangerous situation. Despite being injured and exhausted, Harley showed no signs of giving up. She continued to fight with determination, defeating the villains one by one. In the end, Harley managed to defeat all the villains in the elevator. This elevator fight scene is one of the best examples of Harley Quinn's assertiveness. In the midst of a dangerous and stressful situation, she did not flinch and fought back with determination. This assertiveness is one of the main attractions of Harley Quinn. One of the respondents, Zaydan, said that "I think, after seeing Harley Quinn in action in the movie, I immediately felt that a strong and brave woman is not only about physicality, but also about mentality and emotions. I saw how Harley Quinn is not only brave in her physical actions, but also has assertiveness and courage in facing the problems and challenges she faces. And for me, it shows that a strong and brave female personality cannot be underestimated, they can face everything with a cool head and a brave heart." (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

2. Self-confidence

A woman's confidence is like a flower blooming in the middle of a garden. It radiates beauty and strength. It attracts attention and inspires. Confidence is not about perfection, but about self-acceptance. A confident woman understands that every individual has their own uniqueness and strengths.

This confidence is not only beneficial to themselves, but also to those around them. Confident women can be inspiring leaders, supportive friends, and loving partners. Women who have support from family and friends tend to have higher self-confidence (Maulana, 2021). They can bring positive change to the world and inspire other women to reach their full potential.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn was introduced as a patient at Akham Asylum. Despite being locked up, she still shows a cheerful and energetic attitude. She is not intimidated by the guards or the dark atmosphere of the asylum. When she was first brought to Belle Reve, she was surrounded by other super villains who were tense and apprehensive. However, Harley did not show any fear. Instead, she joked and laughed as if she were in a playground. Her relaxed confidence left the other villains in awe. Harley Quinn's confidence is one of the aspects that makes her such an interesting and iconic character. She is not afraid to be different and is always ready to have fun, even in dangerous situations. Her confidence inspires many people to dare to be themselves and pursue their dreams, regardless of the obstacles faced. One of the respondents, Rani said “I'm actually a bit confused interpreting his independent character in the midst of other male villains. He looks so confident and not afraid at all of the threats he faces. But honestly, I think she's like that because she's a brave girl or because she's not right in the head because she really looks like a crazy girl.” (Interview with Rani, 22 February, 2024)

3. Competitive

Resilient, courageous and confident women are women who are 'in control' of their own lives, defining themselves as strong women (Hollows, 2010). Women's competitiveness is a trait that drives them to achieve goals and go above and beyond, both in the personal and professional spheres. It is often described as ambitious, determined and unyielding.

Competitive women have a strong drive to excel and are not easily satisfied with mediocre achievements. They are always looking for ways to improve themselves and reach their full potential.

This competitive nature can bring many benefits to women. It can help them to achieve success in their careers, education and other fields. Moreover, it can also help them build confidence and self-esteem.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn often refuses help from others and chooses to solve her own problems. This shows that Harley Quinn has the desire to stand on her own. For example, when Amanda Waller offers Harley the opportunity to join Task Force X, Harley immediately accepts the offer. The reason is not because she wants to help the government, but because she wants to feel freedom and prove that she can get out of Belle Reve on her own terms. Although Harley Quinn often acts selfishly and thinks only of herself, she also shows a positive competitive spirit when working with her members. She wants to be the best and prove that she is the greatest villain among them. Harley Quinn's competitive nature is one of the things that makes her an interesting and entertaining character. She is always full of energy and enthusiasm, and she is never afraid to show what she is capable of. One of the respondents, Zaydan, said "Well, in my opinion, women who are brave and independent are really cool! I respect them because they can face their own challenges without having to rely on others. I think that kind of character actually makes women stronger and able to stand on their own feet. So, to me, they deserve a thumbs up!" (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

4. Leadership

Women are like flower buds blooming in the garden of leadership. They bring a scent of freshness, new perspectives, and unique strengths in leading teams and organizations to success. Their leadership is not just about assertiveness and strength, but also about collaboration, empathy and emotional intelligence.

Women are able to adapt to changes and unexpected situations with ease. They are creative in finding solutions and are always open to trying new approaches. Women's leadership often involves strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build harmonious relationships, which can be an advantage in a leadership context (Agustinus & Raharjo, 2020).

Women have a clear vision of the future and are able to inspire others to achieve it. They set ambitious goals and motivate their teams to work hard and achieve shared targets.

In the movie *Suicide Squad*, Harley Quinn can portray a woman who is capable of leading. For example, when in the midst of the chaos of Midway City that was destroyed by Enchantress' rampage, the *Suicide Squad* was stuck in a decision because Enchantress' power overwhelmed and severely injured them. Amongst the panic and pain, Harley Quinn with anger and determination, she would not let them lose. With a loud, resounding shout, Harley caught their attention. "Hey! Criminals suck! Listen here!" she shouted. Inspired by Harley Quinn's spirit, the *Suicide Squad* rose up with their newfound determination. They unite to use their unique powers to fight the Enchantress. This scene is an important moment in the *Suicide Squad* movie. Here, they see another side of Harley Quinn, a side full of leadership and determination to save her team. One of the respondents, Rama said "In my opinion, brave and independent characters should not depend on gender, male or female. But it's often just a male figure who is often considered more able to be brave or independent when compared to women, I myself don't really agree with this, every human being has their own personality, and something like this applies to being a brave and independent person, women shouldn't be trapped in the shadow of male stigma and can fulfill their own identity. Especially in the current era, there are many women who are leaders, and are seen as brave, such as Najwa Shihab, Alissa Wahid, Gita Savitri, and Megawati Soekarnoputri. In Indonesia, there is already a figure who fights for women's rights known as Kartini." (Interview with Rama, 16 February, 2024)

C. SUICIDE SQUAD AS MEDIA COMMUNICATION

Movies are not just entertainment, but also a powerful medium of communication. It opens the audience's eyes to a vast and diverse world, conveys complex messages, and evokes a range of emotions. Film is a powerful and influential communication medium. It can entertain, inspire, educate and drive change. By understanding how movies work and how they can affect us, we can become more critical and active viewers, and use movies as a measurement tool for learning. As Rama said, "Oh, in my opinion, Harley Quinn's character in *Suicide Squad* is really cool and has a strong message about female masculinity. Harley is not like other girls who are often portrayed as weak or need to be rescued. She's strong, brave, and can take care of herself, despite having a wild and chaotic side. Harley shows that women can have the same strength and courage as men. She's not afraid to take risks and fight anyone who

gets in her way. She also doesn't hesitate to show her emotions and feelings, which makes her a complex and interesting character. So, in my opinion, Harley Quinn really shows a strong female masculinity. She can be an inspiration for other girls to be themselves and not be afraid to show their strength.” (Interview with Rama, February 16, 2024) That this Suicide Squad movie has a message that can be taken especially for women conveyed by the character Harley Quinn.

According to Effendi from his book entitled “Sosiologi Sastra Indonesia” film is a form of literary work that has a strong social and cultural dimension. Films can represent social reality, become a medium for social criticism, and shape cultural identity. Understanding films from the perspective of literary sociology can help us to see films more critically and understand the messages contained. Effendi views film as a medium that has an important role and function in society. According to him, movies can:

a. Reflecting Reality

Film can represent social reality through its various elements, such as story, character, setting, and dialog. Stories can raise social issues that are hotly discussed. The character of Harley Quinn in Suicide Squad can be seen as an example of how films can represent the concept of female masculinity. Harley Quinn's eccentric and colorful appearance, with her skimpy costumes and colorful hair, can be interpreted as a symbol of rebellion against rigid social and gender norms. Harley Quinn's extraordinary fighting skills and brutal style can be interpreted as a symbol of strength and ferocity.

The character of Harley Quinn can be seen as a reflection of the reality of female masculinity in society. Female masculinity refers to women exhibiting traits that are usually associated with men, such as strength, courage, and independence. Although Harley Quinn shows that women don't always have to be weak and passive, and they can show their strength and courage in their own way. The character of Harley Quinn in Suicide Squad shows how movies can be a tool to explore and discuss important social issues.

b. Conveying Values

Films can convey moral messages and values to the audience through their stories, characters, and dialog. Movies can teach about values such as kindness, honesty, courage, love and compassion. Movies can also encourage viewers to reflect on various social and moral issues. In addition, as a communication tool, movies play an important role in 'educating the public' beyond its main task as an entertainer (Ardhana, 2013).

Suicide Squad is one example of a movie that conveys values, especially through the character of Harley Quinn who is portrayed as a figure of Female Masculinity. Although Harley Quinn's character is often interpreted as crazy and unstable, she also has positive values that can be emulated, namely the courage and independence of Harley Quinn to be herself and not afraid to go against social norms. She does not hesitate to show her strength and abilities, even when she is surrounded by men.

c. Provide Entertainment

Movies can provide entertainment to the audience through interesting stories, funny characters, and exciting scenes. Movies can help the audience to relax and forget for a moment the problems in their lives. Movies can also be a means to build togetherness and social interaction between the audience.

Overall, Suicide Squad is an entertaining film with exciting action, fresh humor, and interesting characters. Harley Quinn is an interesting and entertaining character in Suicide Squad. Her eccentric appearance, minimal costumes, and cuteness provide entertainment for the audience. Viewers can enjoy this movie with laughter and joy, but at the same time, they can also reflect on the meaning of female masculinity and the role of women in society.

Suicide Squad has great potential to serve as an effective communication medium. With its rich characters, stories, and settings, the franchise can be utilized to convey ideological messages, highlight social issues, build image and reputation, communicate culture and identity, and develop broader discourse and discussion. The use of Suicide Squad as a communication medium also needs to be balanced with critical understanding and responsibility. Filmmakers, academics, and the public must be able to study and utilize Suicide Squad wisely, so that the messages conveyed can have a positive and beneficial impact on the audience. As said by Zaydan "In my opinion, Harley Quinn's character in Suicide Squad has a

strong message towards female masculinity. Harley's portrayal is brave, independent, and does not hesitate to show her strength, challenging traditional gender stereotypes of weak and passive femininity. This message can be an inspiration for women to be themselves without gender restrictions. However, keep in mind that Harley Quinn is a fictional character and not all women want to show masculinity. It is important to appreciate the diversity of gender expression and not impose one ideal of beauty or behavior on all women.” (Interview with Zaydan, 6 March, 2024)

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

A. CONCLUSION

This research has successfully uncovered Yogyakarta university students' perceptions of female masculinity represented by the character Harley Quinn. Through in-depth analysis of the data obtained, this study found that both female and male students tend to have similar perceptions of female masculinity in the context of this character. Harley Quinn, with her strong, assertive and aggressive characteristics, has managed to transcend conventional gender boundaries and become a symbol for modern and bold female masculinity.

Students' perceptions of Harley Quinn as a representation of female masculinity is influenced by several factors. First, socio-cultural changes that are increasingly open to gender diversity have created space for more inclusive representations in popular media. Second, the popularity of the character Harley Quinn has made her a powerful cultural icon, sparking discussions and debates about gender and identity. Finally, students' personal backgrounds and experiences also shape their perceptions of the character.

This finding indicates a shift in society's view of gender. Masculinity, often identified with traits such as physical strength, dominance, and pent-up emotions, is now increasingly accepted as a broader and more inclusive spectrum. Harley Quinn, as a fictional character, has challenged established gender norms and opened up space for more diverse and complex representations of women.

The existence of a character like Harley Quinn has significant implications for society, especially for the younger generation. This character can inspire women to be more confident in expressing themselves and pursuing their ambitions without being constrained by gender stereotypes. In addition, Harley Quinn can also encourage men to have a more open outlook and appreciate gender diversity.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of media representation in shaping people's perceptions of gender. The character of Harley Quinn, with her bravery and

uniqueness, has facilitated a more open discussion on masculinity and femininity. This research also shows that the younger generation has a more inclusive and open view of gender diversity.

B. RESEARCH LIMITATION

This study has limitations regarding the generalization of findings. By involving only four informants, this study has a relatively small and homogeneous sample. This makes it difficult to draw conclusions that apply generally to the wider population. To gain a more comprehensive understanding, further research involving a larger and more demographically diverse sample and additional factors is needed. This will allow for testing the generalizability of the findings obtained in this study.

C. SUGGESTION

For future research, to enrich the research results and gain a broader perspective, future research can consider or compare using different films as research subjects. By comparing research results from various films, it is hoped that a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of student perceptions of gender construction in the representation of female characters in popular media can be obtained.

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APPENDICES

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do you think about women who have brave and independent characters?
2. After you watched the Suicide Squad movie, the part where Harley Quinn first appeared, how did you respond to the character?
3. After seeing Harley Quinn in action, what do you think about her strong and brave personality?
4. Which part of the movie made you think about female courage, specifically through Harley Quinn Character?
5. After watching the scene where Harley Quinn expresses her feelings of love, how do you respond to the romantic concept presented through her character?
6. After watching the scenes where Harley Quinn interacts with other characters, what is your impression of her feminine style and personality?
7. Do you think the character of Harley Quinn can be a positive or negative representation for women? Why?
8. What do you think about Harley Quinn's physical appearance in the Suicide Squad movie?
9. Does your cultural or social background influence how you see Harley Quinn in the context of female masculinity?
10. How would you rate Harley Quinn's involvement in violent or aggressive scenes, and what is your response to women being involved in these situation?
11. Have you ever seen a movie about the role of women in the history of cinema? And if so, how is Harley Quinn different from other female characters in movies?
12. Do you think this movie has a strong message towards female masculinity?

TRANSCRIPT INTERVIEW

Informant 1

Name : Rani

Age 21

Profession : Student
Date : February 22, 2024
Location : Zoom Meeting

- Naura : “halo Rani, makasih yaa udah nyempetin waktunya buat wawancara nih”
- Rani : “haloo, iyaa santai-santai”
- Naura : “oke, jadi sebelumnya udah nonton kan film Suicide Squad?”
- Rani : “udah, udah pernah nonton waktu pertama keluar. Tapi kemaren-kemaren aku nonton lagi”
- Naura : “ohh berarti aman dong kalo misalnya aku tanya-tanyain lagi seputar Suicide Squad”
- Rani : “aman-aman, masih fresh masih inget banget”
- Naura : “okey, jadi.. menurut kamu tuh gimana sih ada perempuan yang punya karakter pemberani atau independen”
- Rani : “kalo menurut aku sih, industri film masih butuh banyak representasi karakter perempuan yang pemberani dan independen. It gets better time to time, makin banyak film yang main characternya perempuan yang keren-keren. Tapi aku pribadi masih butuh banyak film yang nyeritain tentang cewe kuat dan mandiri karena kesenangan pribadi aja kalo liat karakter gitu.”
- Naura : “iyaa sih ya karena masih jarang ada film yang punya character perempuan kayak gitu.”
- Rani : “iyaa betul.”
- Naura : “nah terus, setelah kamu nonton film Suicide Squad, kan ada tuh bagian di mana Harley Quinn pertama muncul, nah terus gimana sih tanggapan kamu ngeliat karakter dia?”
- Rani : “sejujurnya pas liat Harley Quinn pertama muncul, mikirnya keren sih dia ngapain ya sampe masuk penjara dan penjaranya lumayan ketat, berarti kan perbuatannya lumayan parah yaa. Tapi seiring berjalannya film ternyata dia perempuan bucin pada umumnya tapi moralnya aja udah berubah.”
- Naura : “terus, setelah melihat aksi-aksi Harley Quinn yang dia lakuin, apa sih yang kamu pikirin tentang kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani?”
- Rani : “sebenarnya aku agak bingung ya menginterpretasikan karakter dia yang mandiri di tengah-tengah penjahat cowo lainnya. Dia terlihat tetep pede aja gitu dan gak takut sama sekali dengan ancaman yang dia hadapin. Tapi sejujurnya aku kepikiran sih dia

kayak gitu karena emang dia cewe berani atau karena she's not right in the head ya soalnya bener-bener kayak cewe gila.”

Naura : “terus, bagian mana dari film yang menurut kamu tuh membuat kamu berfikir gitu tentang keberanian perempuan, khususnya melalui karakter Harley Quinn ya.”

Rani : “jujur menurut aku bagian Harley Quinn yang paling berani malah pas bukan lagi berantem bareng Suicide Squad, tapi malah pas dia diminta Joker buat terjun ke cairan gitu, some kind of acid ya? Kelakuan kayak gitu tuh kan gak main-main ya, tapi dia berani buat ngeliatin Joker dia beneran cinta dan loyal.”

Naura : “bucin banget yaa... terus, setelah kamu menyaksikan adegan Harley Quinn di mana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya, seperti yang kamu bilang tadi. Terus gimana sih tanggapan kamu terhadap konsep romantic yang dihadirkan melalui karakter Harley Quinn ini?”

Rani : “mixed feelings banget. Gatau apaitu perasaan cinta atau borderline obsessed ke Joker. Karena menurutku Harley Quinn dari awal udah jayuh cinta ke orang yang salah. Maksudnya Joker gitu... emang ada orang normal yang jatuh cinta ke Joker yah. Tapi yaa they said a flock of birds fly together, ternyata Harley Quinn sama gilanya sama Joker, jadi cocok lah mereka. I kinda hate how their relationship makes people romanticize toxic relationship gitu. Dan gatau aja dimataku hubungan mereka tuh lustful aja gak ada cinta-cintanya.”

Naura : “lebih ke obsessed ya jadinya..”

Rani : “iyaa betul.”

Naura : “terus, setelah kamu nonton adegan dimana Harley Quinn berinteraksi sama karakter lain, apa sih kesan kamu terhadap gaya dan kepribadian femininnya?”

Rani : “setelah gue nonton adegan Harley Quinn ngobrol sama karakter lain, gue merasa dia tuh kerasa banget femininnya dengan gaya yang khas. Kayaknya dia punya kepribadian yang kuat tapi tetap bisa tampil feminin dengan segala caranya. Gue suka banget gimana dia bisa jadi cewek yang independen tapi juga tetep charming, gitu loh.”

Naura : “Terus menurut kamu karakter Harley Quinn ini bisa jadi representasi positif atau negative buat perempuan? Dan kenapa?”

Rani : “Ya, menurutku, karakter Harley Quinn itu kayak pisau bermata dua gitu deh. Di satu sisi, dia punya ketangguhan dan keberanian yang menginspirasi banget. Dia nggak takut buat jadi dirinya sendiri, meskipun banyak yang nggak setuju dengan cara dia hidup. Tapi di sisi lain, perilaku dia yang terlalu impulsif dan kadang agak...

absurd, bisa jadi bikin orang mikir bahwa perempuan itu harus gila-gilaan buat berhasil. Jadi, ya, mungkin bisa dibilang Harley Quinn punya sisi positif yang menginspirasi tapi juga sisi negatif yang nggak begitu ideal buat dijadikan contoh.”

Naura : “Nah ini nih yang paling kayaknya tuh paling iconic dari Harley Quinn yaitu dari penampilan fisiknya. Jadi gimana pendapat kamu terhadap penampilan fisik dari Harley Quinn seperti bajunya, makeupnya?”

Rani : “Keren sih, dia gak berpenampilan layaknya orang biasa tapi mungkin itu juga pengaruh dari mentalnya dia yang udah damaged karena pacarnya di Joker itu tuh juga kali yaa. Tapi keren dia tampil beda banget dari pas masih jadi psikeater dia terlihat rapih gitu. Sekarang penampilannya berbanding terbalik banget 180 derajat.”

Naura : “Terus apakah adanya budaya atau latar belakang social itu mempengaruhi cara kamu ngeliat Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas perempuan.”

Rani : “Menurutku Harley Quinn ini merepresentasikan perempuan yang ada di luar stereotip dan norma-norma yang ada di Indonesia. Di Indonesia kalo misal ada yang berpakaian seperti Harley Quinn, pasti udah diomongin orang. Dengan riasannya yang nyentrik juga pasti dapet kecaman ini itu.”

Naura : “Yang terakhir nih, gimana sih kamu tuh menilai keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan kekerasan gitu atau tindakan agresif yang dia lakukan? Dan apa tanggapan kamu terhadap perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi kayak Harley Quinn?”

Rani : “Menurutku karakter Harley Quinn yang emang gak ragu-ragu dengan kekerasan itu dipengaruhi oleh hubungan dia sama Joker. Sebenarnya aku setuju kalo perempuan tuh harus agresif kalo konteksnya dia lagi terancam atau dalam bahaya. Di sini pun tugas Harley Quinn emang harus mengeliminasi musuh kan, jadi kalo dia gak agresif dan gak pake kekerasan, mungkin Harley Quinn udah mati dari awal.”

Naura : “pernahkah anda menonton film tentang peran wanita dalam sejarah perfilman? Dan jika pernah, apa perbedaan karakter Harley Quinn dengan karakter perempuan difilm lainnya?”

Rani : “Gue pernah nonton beberapa film tentang peran wanita dalam sejarah perfilman. Salah satu yang paling berkesan buat gue adalah film "Wonder Woman." Dari film itu gue jadi tahu gimana perjuangan perempuan di dunia film, khususnya yang diangkat jadi superhero. Kalau ngomongin Harley Quinn, dia beda banget dari karakter perempuan di film lainnya. Harley Quinn tuh punya sisi gila dan unpredictable yang nggak banyak dimiliki karakter cewek lain. Dia itu nggak cuma cantik, tapi juga brutal dan punya cerita yang kompleks. Hubungannya sama Joker juga nambah lapisan cerita

yang bikin karakter dia makin menarik. Sementara itu, kebanyakan karakter perempuan di film lain biasanya digambarin lebih anggun atau heroik kayak Wonder Woman. Mereka sering kali punya sifat-sifat yang lebih idealis dan bertindak sebagai penyelamat. Harley Quinn lebih kayak anti-hero yang nggak bisa diprediksi, lebih bebas, dan sering kali ngelakuin hal-hal yang out of the box. Jadi, karakter dia lebih nyentrik dan punya daya tarik tersendiri.”

Informant 2

Name : Rama

Age : 21

Profession : Student

Date : February 16, 2024

Location : Zoom Meeting

Naura : “Halo Rama, thanks udah luangin waktunya buat wawancara hari ini.”

Rama : “Iyaa, thanks juga udah dipercaya untuk jadi narasumber kamu.”

Naura : “Okay, jadi gimana nih sebelumnya udah nonton kan film Suicide Squad?”

Rama : “Udah dong, aku juga kemarin nonton ulang supaya bisa lebih inget lagi hehehe.”

Naura : “Hahaha, okey berarti langsung aja yaa. Jadi gimana nih tanggapan kamu tentang perempuan yang punya karakter yang pemberani dan independen?”

Rama : “Menurutku, karakter pemberani dan independent seharusnya tidak bergantung kepada gender yaa, laki-laki ataupun perempuan. Tapi kan sering juga Cuma sosok laki-laki yang seringkali dianggap lebih bisa menjadi pemberani atau independen kalo dibandingkan sama perempuan, aku sendiri sih gak begitu setuju yaa sama hal ini, tiap manusia kan memiliki kepribadiannya sendiri, dan hal kayak gini berlaku untuk menjadi pribadi yang berani dan independen, perempuan gak seharusnya terperangkap dalam bayang-bayang stigma laki-laki dan bisa memenuhi jati dirinya sendiri. Apalagi di era sekarang, udah banyak perempuan yang menjadi pemimpin, dan dipandang berani, seperti Najwa Shihab, Alissa Wahid, Gita Savitri, sampe Megawati Soekarnoputri. Di Indonesia pun udah ada kok sosok yang memperjuangkan hak-hak perempuan yang dikenal dengan sosok Kartini.

- Naura : “Wahh.. Suka nih sama jawabannya, lanjut yaa. Nahh kan kamu udah nonton film Suicide Squad, tau dong pastinya yang namanya Harley Quinn? Nah bagian di mana Harley Quinn pertama muncul, apa sih tanggapan kamu terhadap karakter tersebut?”
- Rama : “Jadi, pertama kali aku liat Harley Quinn, yang aku pikirin tuh dia punya karakter berani yang ditunjukkan sangat dominan ya, dari gestur dan bahasa juga, Harley Quinn ini keliatan gak punya rasa takut gitu. Keberaniannya juga diperkuat ketika Harley Quinn mengalahkan 5 penjaga sel di dalam film Suicide Squad.”
- Naura : “Terus, setelah kamu menyaksikan aksi Harley Quinn, apa yang kamu pikirkan tentang kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani?”
- Rama : “Setelah melihat aksi Harley quinn, aku gneliat Harley yang tidak diremehkan, hal ini terlihat dari aksi Harley quinn saat melawan penjahat, menandakan dirinya yang kuat dan berani, Harley quinn juga mendapatkan rasa respect dari teman-temannya, hal ini terlihat Ketika deadshot memilih untuk sengaja melesetkan tembakannya Ketika diperintahkan oleh waller untuk menembak Harley quinn dari helicopter, hal ini didukung juga oleh ucapan captain boomerang yaitu “Good one, mate”.”
- Naura : “Okay, terus, bagian mana dari film tersebut yang ngebuat kamu berpikir tentang keberanian perempuan, khususnya dari karakter Harley Quinn?”
- Rama : “Ada beberapa scene yang menurutku paling menunjukkan keberanian perempuan yaitu, waktu Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya, scene saat dia melompat dari helicopter, scene saat Harley Quinn melawan Enchantress, scene Harley Quinn keluar dari bar”
- Naura : “Terus gimana setelah kamu menyaksikan adegan dimana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya. Gimana tanggapan kamu terhadap konsep romantic yang dihadirkan melalui karakternya?”
- Rama : “Scene dimana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya menunjukkan kepribadian yang berani, Harley quinn menunjukkannya dengan rela mengikuti tantangan dari joker juga “mati untuk joker” dan “hidup untuk joker”. Selain itu, Harley quinn juga nekat melakukan apapun untuk bisa kembali bertemu dengan joker, hal ini ditunjukkan dengan scene dimana Harley seringkali teringat “flashback” dirinya saat bersama joker”
- Naura : “Terus, setelah nonton adegan dimana Harley Quinn berinteraksi dengan karakter lain, seperti apa kesan kamu terhadap gaya dan kepribadian femininnya?”
- Rama : “setelah liat Harley Quinn main bareng karakter lain, aku ngerasa gaya dan kepribadiannya tuh kaya nyeni banget, ya. Kayak, dia tuh punya kombinasi yang unik

antara kekuatan dan keanggunan feminin gitu. Aku suka banget gimana dia bisa jadi playful tapi juga tegas, gitu, jadi bikin karakternya tuh kayak memorable gitu, gak cuma sekedar yang manis-manis aja, tapi punya sisi yang kuat juga.”

Naura : “Terus, apa menurut kamu karakter Harley Quinn bisa jadi representasi positif atau negative buat perempuan? Kenapa?”

Rama : “Ya, jadi Harley Quinn itu karakter yang cukup menarik ya. Kalau menurut gua sih, dia bisa jadi representasi positif atau negatif, tergantung dari bagaimana kita melihatnya. Jadi, dilihat dari sisi positifnya, Harley Quinn itu bisa dianggap sebagai karakter yang kuat dan mandiri, dia nggak takut buat berdiri sendiri dan punya kepribadian yang kuat. Tapi di sisi lain, kita juga bisa lihat dia sebagai representasi negatif karena seringkali dia terlibat dalam hal-hal yang nggak bener, kayak kejahatan atau hubungan yang toxic gitu. Jadi, intinya sih, Harley Quinn itu karakter yang kompleks, bisa jadi positif atau negatif tergantung dari perspektif masing-masing orang”

Naura : “Terus gimana pendapat kamu terkait penampilan fisik Harley Quinn dalam film ini?”

Rama : “Penampilan fisik Harley Quinn dalam film Suicide Squad memiliki kostum yang ikonik dan gaya yang eksentrik. Meskipun terkadang terkesan seksual, dengan ditunjukkannya dialog antar karakter di film yang seringkali menyebut Harley Quinn dengan perkataan “sexy”. Tetapi, penampilannya mencerminkan karakternya yang ekspresif dan berani. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa perempuan seharusnya dapat mengekspresikan dirinya dalam berpakaian dan tidak dibatasi oleh stereotip yang seringkali ada”

Naura : “Apakah adanya budaya atau latar belakang social itu ngaruh gimana cara kamu ngeliat Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas?”

Rama : “Lahir di Indonesia, seringkali maskulinitas wanita mungkin dianggap sebagai hal yang tidak umum atau bahkan tidak pantas. Pemahaman ini sering kali didasarkan pada pandangan patriarki yang mengutamakan peran tradisional perempuan sebagai ibu dan pengasuh keluarga. Namun, dengan perkembangan zaman dan perubahan sosial, pandangan tentang maskulinitas wanita di Indonesia juga mengalami perubahan. Banyak perempuan di Indonesia kini mengejar karier profesional, memiliki otoritas, dan berpartisipasi dalam kegiatan yang sebelumnya dianggap sebagai hal yang lebih cocok untuk pria. Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas perempuan memberi pandangan bagi masyarakat yang lebih terbuka dan inklusif

sebagai contoh keberanian dan ketangguhan perempuan yang membebaskan diri dari stereotip gender tradisional”

Naura : “Okay.. pertanyaan terakhir nih, gimana kamu menilai keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif, dan apa tanggapan kamu terhadap perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi semacam ini?”

Rama : “Harley Quinn sebagai karakter memiliki latar belakang yang kompleks, termasuk keterlibatan dalam kejahatan dan hubungan dengan Joker. Keterlibatannya dalam adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif mungkin merupakan bagian dari identitasnya yang telah dibangun dalam narasi film. Keterlibatannya dalam adegan kekerasan atau Tindakan agresif melambangkan keberanian dan kemandirian perempuan sesuai dengan latar belakang karakter, tetapi beberapa orang mungkin memandang keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan kekerasan sebagai glorifikasi tindakan agresif, yang dapat memengaruhi persepsi terhadap perempuan dalam kehidupan nyata”

Naura : “apa menurut kamu film ini memiliki pesan yang kuat terhadap female masculinity?”

Rama : “Oh, kalau menurut aku sih, karakter Harley Quinn di film *Suicide Squad* emang keren banget dan punya pesan yang kuat tentang female masculinity. Harley itu kan nggak seperti cewek pada umumnya yang sering digambarkan lemah atau butuh diselamatin. Dia kuat, berani, dan bisa jaga diri sendiri, walaupun punya sisi liar dan kacau. Harley nunjukin kalo perempuan juga bisa punya kekuatan dan keberanian yang sama kayak laki-laki. Dia nggak takut buat ngambil risiko dan melawan siapa pun yang ngehalangin dia. Selain itu, dia juga nggak segan-segan buat nunjukin emosi dan perasaannya, yang bikin dia jadi karakter yang kompleks dan menarik. Jadi, menurut aku, Harley Quinn emang nunjukin sisi female masculinity yang kuat banget. Dia bisa jadi inspirasi buat cewek-cewek lain buat jadi diri sendiri dan nggak takut nunjukin kekuatan mereka.

3rd Informant:

Name : Syafira

Age : 22

Profession : Student

Date : March 5, 2024

Location : Whatsapp Call

Naura : “Halo Fira, thank you udah mau nyempetin waktu buat aku wawancara yaa”

Fira : “Halo Naura, iyaa sama-sama”

Naura : “Okeey langsung aja yaa.. Gimana sih tanggapan kamu mengenai perempuan yang punya karakter pemberani dan independen?”

Fira : “menurut saya, perempuan yang mempunyai karakter yang pemberani dan independen merupakan karakter yang seharusnya dimiliki oleh perempuan”

Naura : “Okayy, terus setelah kamu nonton film Suicide Squad, bagian dimana Harley Quinn pertama muncul nih, bagaimana tanggapan kamu terhadap karakter dia?”

Fira : “Menurut saya, karakter dari harley quinn mempunyai penampilan yang khas dan nyentrik serta mempunyai kepribadian yang kuat, independen, dan mempunyai kemampuan bertarung yang hebat”

Naura : “Terus, setelah kamu liat aksi Harley Quinn, apa yang kamu pikirkan tentang kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani?”

Fira : “Menurut saya, kepribadian yang dipunyai oleh harley quinn tidak semua perempuan mempunyai kepribadian tersebut bisa dikatakan harley quinn merupakan perempuan yang unik”

Naura : “Terus bagian mana dari film tersebut yang membuat kamu tuh berpikir tentang keberanian perempuan?”

Fira : ”menurut saya, dengan digambarkannya karakter harley quinn menurut saya sangat ikonik dengan ia dapat bertarung dengan hebat serta tidak pernah takut dengan lawannya. selain itu, di era sekarang harley quinn sangat terkenal. banyak orang yang cosplay harley quinn. sehingga menurut saya karakter harley quinn yang berani ini didambakan oleh banyak perempuan. karena tidak semua perempuan mempunyai sifat yang berani dan ikonik seperti harley quinn layaknya superhero”

Naura : “Setelah menyaksikan adegan dimana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya ke Joker, gimana sih tanggapan kamu terhadap konsep romantic yang dihadirkan melalui karakternya?”

Fira : “Menurut saya, harley quinn juga berani untuk menyatakan perasaannya tidak hanya berani untuk bertarung. karena tidak semua perempuan berani dan mudah untuk menyatakan perasaannya. biasanya mereka takut untuk ditolak jadi mereka biasanya hanya memendam perasaannya”

Naura : “Terus, setelah kamu nonton adegan dimana Harley Quinn berinteraksi dengan karakter lain, seperti apa kesan anda terhadap gaya dan kepribadian femininnya?”

Fira : “menurut saya, gaya dari harley quinn merupakan unik. biasanya seorang perempuan memakai dress atau rok agar mereka merasa cantik tetapi harley quinn tidak begitu. ia memakai celana pendek dan jaket boombarnya yang warna nyentrik dan berani. selain itu juga dari segi make up harley quinn mempunyai gaya make up yang sangat nyentrik.”

Naura : “Lalu apakah menurut kamu karakter Harley Quinn dapat menjadi representasi positif atau negative untuk perempuan? Dan kenapa?”

Fira : “ada representatif positif dan negatif, untuk positifnya yaitu ia mempunyai sifat yang sangat berani dan independen. yang menurut saya sangat bagus untuk seorang perempuan. untuk negatifnya yaitu kebanyakan perempuan yang mempunyai sifat yang seperti itu dianggap sebelah mata oleh lelaki. karna dalam filmnya ada salah satu lelaki mengatakan bahwa harley quinn seperti orang gila.

Naura : “Bagaimana pendapat kamu terkait penampilan fisik Harley Quinn?”

Fira : “menurut saya, penampilannya sangat ikonik dengan jaket boombarnya yang mempunyai 2 warna serta make up yang sangat menonjol.”

Naura : “Terus, apakah adanya budaya atau latar belakang social mempengaruhi cara kamu melihat Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas perempuan?”

Fira : “menurut saya, dengan penampilan harley quinn untuk lingkungan sehari-hari khususnya indonesia bisa dikatakan sangat eye catching. mungkin banyak orang yang menggagap itu penampilan yang berani dan ada juga yang menggagap penampilan tersebut aneh.”

Naura : “Lalu, bagaimana kamu menilai keterlibatan Harley quinn dalam adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif, dan apa tanggapan kamu terhadap perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi semacam ini?”

Fira : “menurut saya sebagai penyuka jika karakter seorang perempuan sedang bertarung merupakan hal yang keren untuk saya. yang paling saya ingat ketika scene harley quinn yang berani duluan untuk maju bertarung dengan lawan yang berada di lift. hal tersebut bisa saya katakan sangat berani untuk seorang perempuan”

Naura : “pernahkah anda menonton film tentang peran wanita dalam sejarah perfilman? Dan jika pernah, apa perbedaan karakter Harley Quinn dengan karakter perempuan difilm lainnya?”

Fira : “Iya, gue udah nonton banyak film yang nampilin karakter wanita kuat, salah satu yang paling ikonik sih menurut gue Katniss Everdeen dari film **The Hunger Games**. Salah satu perbedaan dari kedua karakter tersebut mungkin bisa dilihat dari sisi kepribadian dan penampilan mereka yaitu kalau Katniss Dia mahir dalam memanah, berburu, dan bertahan hidup di alam liar. Kekuatannya lebih terfokus pada kelincuhan dan kecerdasan. Sedangkan Harley Quinn Dia memiliki kekuatan fisik yang super dan ahli dalam menggunakan senjata dan bahan peledak. Kekuatannya lebih brutal dan eksplosif. **Kesimpulannya**, both Harley Quinn dan Katniss Everdeen adalah karakter wanita kuat yang ikonik dengan keunikannya masing-masing.”

3rd Informant:

Name : Zaydan

Age 23

Profession : Student

Date : March 6, 2024

Location : Zoom Meeting

Naura : “Halo Zaydan, apa kabar nih.. Thanks yaa udah luangin waktu untuk gue interview..”

Zaydan : “Halo, baik-baik Alhamdulillah. Yaa Nau, anytime”

Naura : “Okay.. Kita langsung aja yaa.. Sebelumnya udah nonton film Suicide Squad dong?”

Zaydan : “Udah dongg, aman”

Naura : “Okayy.. Jadi gimana sih tanggapan lo mengenai perempuan yang punya karakter yang pemberani dan independen?”

Zaydan : “Wah, menurut gue sih, perempuan yang pemberani dan independen itu keren banget! Mereka tuh bikin respect, karena bisa menghadapi tantangan sendiri tanpa harus bergantung terus sama orang lain. Gue rasa, karakter kayak gitu justru bikin perempuan makin kuat dan bisa berdiri di atas kakinya sendiri. Jadi, buat gue, mereka pantas diacungi jempol deh!”

Naura: “Okayy, lalu setelah lo nonton film Suicide Squad, bagian dimana Harley Quinn pertama muncul, bagaimana tanggapan anda terhadap karakter tersebut?”

Zaydan : “Yaa, jadi waktu itu pas nonton Suicide Squad, tentunya gue excited buat ngeliat Harley Quinn. Dia tuh punya karakter yang kerasa beda banget ya, dari yang lainnya. Gue suka banget cara dia nunjukin kegilaan yang unik, tapi juga ada sisi lucunya. Jadi, bisa dibilang, Harley Quinn tuh jadi salah satu highlight di film itu buat

gue. Gue suka banget gimana dia bikin adegan yang biasanya serius jadi lebih seru dan ringan gitu. Sebenarnya, dia itu karakter yang cukup kompleks, tapi penampilannya di film ini bener-bener bikin gue ketagihan buat ngikutin ceritanya”

Naura : “Terus.. setelah lo ngeliat aksi Harley Quinn, apa yang lo pikirkan tentang kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani?”

Zaydan : “Gue pikir, setelah ngeliat aksi Harley Quinn di film itu, gue langsung ngerasa kalo perempuan yang kuat dan berani itu nggak Cuma tentang fisik doang, tapi juga tentang mental dan emosi. Gue liat gimana Harley Quinn tuh enggak Cuma berani dalam aksi fisik-fisiknya aja, tapi juga punya ketegasan dan keberanian dalam menghadapi masalah dan tantangan yang dihadapi. Dan buat gue, itu menunjukkan kalo kepribadian perempuan yang kuat dan berani itu nggak bisa diremehin, mereka bisa dihadapi segala sesuatu dengan kepala dingin dan hati yang berani.”

Naura : “Dan menurut lo, bagian mana dari film tersebut yang membuat lo berpikir tentang keberanian perempuan dari karakter Harley Quinn?”

Zaydan : “Waktu dia lagi ngadepin Enchantress, musuhnya. Walaupun situasinya berat, dia tetep maju, ngelawan dengan gigih. Itu buat gue ngerasa kagum banget sama keberanian perempuan, termasuk Harley Quinn, yang bisa tampil berani dan kuat di tengah situasi yang sulit”

Naura : “Okay.. Terus setelah lo menyaksikan adegan dimana Harley Quinn mengekspresikan perasaan cintanya, gimana tuh tanggapan lo terhadap konsep romantic yang dihadirkan dari karakter tersebut?”

Zaydan : “Kayaknya kalau itu menurut gue terlalu toxic deh. Gue tuh ngeliat gimana Harley Quinn sampe rela berbuat segala macam hal yang gak sehat, bahkan berbahaya buat dia sendiri, cuma buat Joker doang. Jadi, meskipun romantisme emang sesuatu yang manis, tapi harusnya nggak sampe bikin kita rela masuk ke dalam hubungan yang toxic kayak gitu, kan”

Naura : “Betul, terlalu banyak yang dikorbankan yaa Harley Quinn ini. Terus setelah lo nonton adegan dimana Harley Quinn berinteraksi dengan karakter lain. Gimana kesan lo terhadap faya dan kepribadian femininnya?”

Zaydan : “Kesan gue tentang gaya dan kepribadian femininnya tuh keren sih. Dia punya gaya yang unik, nggak takut beda dari yang lain. Terus, kepribadiannya itu strong banget, tapi tetep punya sisi-sisi yang lucu dan playful, gitu. Jadi, dia tuh kayak gabungan antara keberanian, kekuatan, sama kecerdasan yang nggak terduga. Bikin kesan banget deh, buat gue”

Naura: “Terus apa menurut lo karakter Harley Quinn dapat menjadi representasi positif atau negative buat perempuan? Kenapa?”

Zaydan : “menurut gue sih, karakter Harley Quinn bisa jadi representasi yang kompleks buat perempuan. Ada sisi positifnya, kayak keberanian kegigihannya, dan kebebasan buat ngikutin jalan hidupnya sendiri tanpa terpengaruh sama ekspektasi orang lain. Tapi di sisi lain ada juga negatifnya, seperti ketergantungan sama Joker dan hubungannya yang toxic itu. Jadi, tergantung gimana kita melihatnya, sih. Tapi yang pasti, Harley Quinn bikin kita mikirin betapa perempuan bisa punya lapisan karakter yang kompleks, nggak cuma hitam atau putih aja”

Naura : “Terus gimana sih pendapat kamu tentang penampilan disik Harley Quinn?”

Zaydan : “Gue suka sih sama penampilan fisik Harley Quinn! Gue rasa dia tuh tampilannya keren banget, unik, dan beda dari yang lain. Gue juga suka gimana kostum dan makeup-nya pas banget dengan karakter yang eksentrik dan edgy gitu. Jadi, overall, menurut gue penampilan dia di dalam film itu bener-bener memorable dan iconic banget”

Naura : “Menurut lo nih, adanya budaya atau latar belakang sosial mempengaruhi cara lo ngeliat Harley Quinn dalam konteks maskulinitas perempuan?”

Zaydan : “Iya nih, menurut gue latar belakang sosial orang tuh pasti ngaruh banget sama cara kita liat karakter Harley Quinn. Misalnya, buat gue yang dibesarkan di lingkungan yang agak konservatif, mungkin bakal lebih sulit buat nerima Harley Quinn sebagai contoh maskulinitas perempuan yang empowering. Tapi, ya seiring berjalannya waktu, dan mungkin karena juga eksposur sama media dan budaya yang lebih luas, gue mulai ngerti kalo maskulinitas perempuan bisa beda-beda dan nggak selalu harus sesuai dengan ekspektasi tradisional. Jadi, gue mulai ngeliat Harley Quinn dengan sudut pandang yang terbuka dan nggak terlalu terikat sama stereotype”

Naura : “Okey, terakhir nih. Gimana lo menilai keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif, dan apa tanggapan lo terhadap perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi semacam ini?”

Zaydan : “Gue pikir, keterlibatan Harley Quinn dalam adegan-adegan kekerasan atau tindakan agresif itu emang bikin ngeliat dia dari sisi yang beda. Dia tuh kayak punya sisi gelap gitu, yang kadang bikin kita mikir, ‘Wah, perempuan juga bisa loh kayak gini.’ Tapi, ngeliat dari sudut pandang yang lebih luas, gue ngerasa setiap orang punya sisi gelapnya sendiri, nggak peduli cowo atau cewe. Jadi, buat gue, perempuan yang terlibat dalam situasi semacam itu mungkin punya alasan atau latar belakangnya sendiri

yang bikin mereka jadi kayak gitu. Jadi, gue rasa nggak boleh langsung judge tanpa tau lebih dalam tentang mereka.”

Naura : “apa menurut kamu film ini memiliki pesan yang kuat terhadap female masculinity?”

Zaydan: “Menurut saya, karakter Harley Quinn di film Suicide Squad memiliki pesan yang cukup kuat terhadap female masculinity. Penggambaran Harley yang berani, mandiri, dan tidak ragu untuk menunjukkan kekuatannya, menantang stereotip gender tradisional tentang feminitas yang lemah dan pasif. Pesan ini dapat menjadi inspirasi bagi para wanita untuk **menjadi diri mereka sendiri** tanpa batasan gender. Namun, perlu diingat bahwa Harley Quinn adalah karakter fiksi dan tidak semua wanita ingin menunjukkan maskulinitas. Penting untuk menghargai keberagaman ekspresi gender dan tidak memaksakan satu ideal kecantikan atau perilaku pada semua wanita.”