



Feminism of the Main Character, Daisy Miller, in the “Daisy Miller” Novel by Henry James

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the character and feminism of the main character in this novel that is Daisy Miller. This novel entitled "Daisy Miller" is written by Henry James in 1878. This novel is interesting to analyze because it is about the woman's power to go against the culture or rules for women especially the American girl who goes against the Europeans' rules. The objectives of this study are (1) To describe the character of Daisy Miller as the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel; and (2) to express the feminism of Daisy Miller as the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel. In this study, the researcher uses Rosemarie Tong's theory, in which the author categorizes feminism into four types: liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist feminism, and social feminism. In this study, the researcher used qualitative research and the descriptive method to analyze and describe the data. The findings of this study show that (1) Daisy Miller possesses characteristics such as bravery, intelligence, a sharp tongue, and independence; and (2) Daisy Miller demonstrates feminism through several actions, such as her opposition to European society, her preference for following her heart over following the rules of society, which treat women differently than men; and she is an extraordinary and powerful woman who can still be herself without adhering to strict rules for women in society. The dominant feminism in this novel is radical feminism (radical cultural feminism).

Keywords: Character, Daisy Miller, Feminism

Introduction

According to Ifianti & Rahman (2020), literature is now being used as a vehicle for expressing what one considers to be a beautiful play of words, including the connotative meanings or figurative language presented in literary works. According to Cuddon in Desmawati (2020), literature is a trendy term that generally refers to works in the major genres of epic, play, lyrics, novel, and short story. A novel, defined as a created prose tale of significant depth and complexity that creatively engages with human existence, generally entails a connected series of events, including a group of people in a specified place (Desmawati, 2020). One of James' romantic novels, *Daisy Miller*, a story written in 1878, has become one of his most popular for almost a century. It is about a young American woman who travels to Europe to learn about different cultures, while she portrays innocent American people. Societies were surprised by her actions, as she disobeyed the rules that everyone was supposed to follow. Here, the researcher wants to analyze the characterization and feminism of Daisy Miller in this novel because of the interesting characters of Daisy Miller and the feminism in which Daisy Miller does the actions that do not follow the rules of European society. According to Barnet in Patmarinata & Ernawati (2016), a character is a fictional person who appears in a literary text, including a novel, poem, or drama. However, characterization is the process of characterizing a

character's physical and mental characteristics (Djasi in Patmarinata & Ernawati, 2016). In Allen in Santi and Rahmi (2019), feminists are forced to acknowledge the difference between men and women and make the argument that women have a right to justice based on their strikingly female characteristics. According to Rosemarie Tong (2009), there are several kinds of feminism, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist feminism, and socialist feminism.

There are several previous studies, the first is an article by Desmawati (2020). The result of this research is the novel Little Women. Feminism is expressed in the characters' battle for existence, in their placement of their lives in the world of men (patriarchy), in their contentment with themselves, doing what they feel at ease doing for them, and in their protest form of not being the target of men's violence. The second article is by Nur (2017), which focuses on the feminist characters in Kate Chopin's "The Awakening." The result of this research is Edna Pontellier, a feminist character who appears in Kate Chopin's novel The Awakening. Her conversation, actions of defying patriarchy and features that allow users to be against women, an attempt to fulfill self-rights, self-needs, and her inner idea of freedom and self-autonomy led to her being labeled a feminist. The third is an article by Latifah (2019), which focuses on the character and feminism of the main character in "The Color Purple," a novel by Alice Walker. The result of this study is that there are two components to the results and discussions. The first is the investigation and study of Celie's personality traits, and the second section contains research and analysis on feminism topics including the family, sexual abuse, spouse or wife abuse, race / ethnicity, consciousness raising, and freedom. Thus, the researcher is interested in analyzing the character and feminism of the main character in this novel (Daisy Miller) because it is a classic novel by Henry James that has an interesting character and feminist actions of the main character, which tells us about the young woman who does not want to follow the rules where there is gender inequality between woman and man.

This research will assist readers to understand that somebody's freedom is not determined by their gender or religious beliefs and that everyone is born equal and free. So, because of that, the researcher is really interested in analyzing the characters and feminism in this novel through the research question: (1) what is the character of Daisy Miller as the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel? (2) What is the feminism of Daisy Miller, the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel?

Research Methodology

The qualitative research method was used in this study. In this research, the researcher is used library research because the researcher gathered the data for the research that attempted to acquire data from written source materials that will be relevant for the research. This research focused on a descriptive approach to data analysis. Its objective was to define Daisy Miller's character and portrayal of feminism in the main character. So, the researcher is used a feminist perspective to address the feminism depicted in Daisy Miller's character in Daisy Miller's novel.

If the data source is made up of both primary and secondary data, Anderson in Roth (2013) says so. The Daisy Miller novel served as the primary source of information for this study, but

Secondary sources include books, an English dictionary, encyclopedias, the internet, and research-related materials. In this research, the researcher has used document analysis.

According to Ary et al. (2010), qualitative researchers might also employ written papers to learn more about the topic they are researching. The following procedures for collecting data, namely (1) reading the novel in order to obtain a better knowledge of the plot, (2) making notes to get a clear picture of Daisy Miller, the subject of the investigation, (3) using selected sources to identify critical analysis, (4) choosing and collecting data that is relevant to the issues, (5) lastly, analyzing and conducting the acquired data, and providing a conclusion based on the findings.

According to Creswell (2014), the research procedure includes the following steps that are (1) Identifying a research problem. The researcher read various articles that is related to the study, classic novels, including Daisy Miller's novel for this study. (2) Reviewing the literature. The researcher chose the literature to be included in the study and summaries it in writing. (3) Specifying a purpose for research. The researcher's goal in this study is to discover the character and feminism in Daisy Miller as main character in "Daisy Miller" novel. (4) Collecting the data. The researcher is used "Daisy Miller" novel as the primary data. (5) Evaluating and analyzing the data. Before studying and interpreting the data, the researcher reviewed it. Its goal is to ensure that all of the data is accurate and complete, enabling the researcher to assess and interpret the results. The researcher next uses the appropriate approach to evaluate and interpret the data. (6) Making a report. The researcher wrote the report in order to simplify the information. The researcher then included a diagram or table that relates to the outcome.

The descriptive technique is utilized in this study to examine the qualitative data using the procedures for data analysis. (1) Identifying Daisy Miller, the story's main character. Daisy Miller's character was discovered by the researcher based on character as viewed by others, past life, speech, reactions, thoughts, and direct comment. The researcher then identified Daisy Miller's character types. (2) Analyzing the feminism shown by Daisy Miller, the main character. Following the discovery of the primary character, Daisy Miller, the researcher attempted to discover feminism in Daisy Miller's character. (3) Reaching a decision the final stage is to draw conclusions based on the information provided.

Findings and Discussion,

Findings

According to Barnet in Patmarinata & Ernawati (2016), a character is a fictional person who appears in a literary text, including a novel, poem, or drama. However, characterization is the process of characterizing a character's physical and mental characteristics (Djasi in Patmarinata & Ernawati, 2016). Characterization is a figure or person's character that is shown in a narrative work that the readers understand as having a moral quality as well as a certain propensity from conversations and their actions (Nurgiyantoro, in Patmarinata & Ernawati, 2016). Diverse sorts of characters play different functions in the narrative process (Karen Bernardo, 2015). This could generally detect all or

some of the kinds, including static, dynamic, flat, round, antagonist, and protagonist, with a small amount of study.

Allen in Santi and Rahmi (2019), feminists are forced to acknowledge the difference between men and women and make the argument in which women have a right to justice based on their strikingly female characteristics, thereby establishing a new model of female "nature" which ultimately has become so coercive and restricting that such a new generation of feminists concerns it all in the pursuing equality. According to Ritzer in Suaidi et al (2016), feminism is a critical social theory that considers the social setting, political, economic, and historical contexts in which injustice exists. Therefore, feminism is about the gender-equal between man and woman in politics, education, culture, and so on. According to Rosemarie Tong (2009), there are several kinds of feminism, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, marxist feminism, and socialist feminism.

The Character of Daisy Miller in the "Daisy Miller" Novel

a. Independent

Data 1.1

—I'm going to Pincio,' said Daisy, smiling. _Alone, my dear—at this our?‘ Mrs. Walker asked. The afternoon was drawing to a close—it was the hour for throng of carriages and of contemplative pedestrians.

—I don't think it's safe, my dear,' said Mrs. Walker.

—Neither do I,' subjoined Mrs. Miller. _You'll get the fever, as sure you live. Remember what Dr. Davis told you!‘

—Give her some medicine before she goes,' said Rudolph. The company had risen to its feet; Daisy, still showing her pretty teeth, bent over and kissed her hostess. _Mrs. Walker, you are too perfect,' she said.

—I'm not going alone; I'm going to meet a friend. —your friend won't keep you from getting the fever,' Mrs. Miller observed' (page 33).

Data 1.2

—Daisy's mother looked at him and instant askance, and then walked forward in silence. Then— I guess she had better go alone,' she said, simply. Winterbourne observed to himself that this was a very different type of maternity from the vigilant matrons who massed themselves in the fore-front of social intercourse in the dark old city at the other end of the lake. But his meditations were interrupted by hearing his name very distinctly pronounced by Mrs. Miller's unprotected daughter'. (Page 21)

b. Bravery

Data 2.1

—Mother-r," interposed Randolph, with his rough ends to his words, "I tell you you've got to go. Eugenio'll raise—something!" "I'm not afraid of Eugenio," said Daisy with a toss of her head. "Look here, Mrs. Walker," she went on, "you know I'm coming to your party." (Page 47)

Data 2.2

—Miss Daisy Miller stopped and stood looking at him. Her prettiness was still visible in the darkness; she was opening and closing her enormous fan. "She doesn't want to know me!" she said suddenly. "Why don't you say so? You needn't be afraid. I'm not afraid!" And she gave a little laugh'. (page.27)

Data 2.3

—"Come into my carriage, and I will tell you." Daisy turned her quickened glance again from one of the gentlemen beside her to the other. Mr. Giovanelli was bowing to and fro, rubbing down his gloves and laughing very agreeably; Winterbourne thought it a most unpleasant scene. "I don't think I want to know what you mean," said Daisy presently. "I don't think I should like it." (Page 56).

c. Sharp-tongue

Data 3.1

"I am not sorry we can't dance," Winterbourne answered; "I don't dance." "Of course you don't dance; you're too stiff," said Miss Daisy.⁴ (page. 63)

Data 3.2

"He should not have talked about it at all," said Winterbourne;
"He would never have proposed to a young lady of this country to walk about the streets with him."
"About the streets?" cried Daisy with her pretty stare?
"Where, then, would he have proposed to her to walk? The Pincio is not the streets, either; and I, thank goodness, am not a young lady of this country. The young ladies of this country have a dreadfully poky time of it, so far as I can learn; I don't see why I should change my habits for them."⁵ (Page 63-64).

Data 3.3

"You're a very nice girl; but I wish you would flirt with me, and me only," said Winterbourne.
"Ah! thank you—thank you very much; you are the last man I should think of flirting with. As I have had the pleasure of informing you, you are too stiff."
"You say that too often," said Winterbourne. Daisy gave a delighted laugh. "If I could have the sweet hope of making you angry, I should say it again."
"Don't do that; when I am angry I'm stiffer than ever. But if you won't flirt with me, do cease, at least, to flirt with your friend at the piano; they don't understand that sort of thing here."⁶ (page. 64)

d. Smart**Data 4.1**

"Do I mean to speak to him? Why, you don't suppose I mean to communicate by sign?"⁷ (p. 33)

Data 4.2

"they don't understand that sort of thing here...not in young married women.⁸ Daisy simply replayed, "I thought they understood nothing else!"⁹ and went on to say, "It seems to me more proper in young unmarried than in old married ones.¹⁰" (p. 45).

Therefore, the characters of Daisy Miller are brave, independent, sharp-tongued, and smart. Daisy Miller's characters indicate that if there is feminism action (cultural radical feminism) in the story, she has characteristics such as bravery, independence, and a sharp tongue.

Discussion

The analysis is derived from the findings of the research that is about the character and feminism of Daisy Miller in the "Daisy Miller" novel.

1. The Character of Daisy Miller in the "Daisy Miller" Novel

The researcher begins by analyzing Daisy Miller, the primary character in the story "Daisy Miller." Daisy Miller plays a significant role in the plot of the "Daisy Miller" novel because her bravery, intelligence, independence, sharp tongue, and feminist perspective set her apart from other young ladies in her society in that country.

2. Daisy Miller is an independent

Daisy is independent because Daisy's talk with her companions creates the idea that her mother let her do anything she pleased since she understood her daughter, Daisy Miller, would be used to being self-sufficient. It creates the sense that she was an independent young woman:

"I'm going to Pincio,¹¹ said Daisy, smiling. "Alone, my dear-at this our?¹² Mrs. Walker asked. The afternoon was drawing to a close—it was the hour for throng of carriages and of contemplative pedestrians.
"I don't think it's safe, my dear,¹³ said Mrs. Walker.

—Neither do I,‘ subjoined Mrs. Miller. —You‘ll get the fever, as sure you live. Remember what Dr. Davis told you!‘

—Give her some medicine before she goes,‘ said Randolph. The company had risen to its feet; Daisy, still showing her pretty teeth, bent over and kissed her hostess. —Mrs. Walker, you are too perfect,‘ she said.

—I‘m not going alone; I‘m going to meet a friend.‘

—Your friend won‘t keep you from getting the fever,‘ Mrs. Miller observed‘ (page 33). (**Data 1.1**).

Besides that, in this statement below, it refers to whether Daisy Miller is independent because Daisy Miller's mother thought she was capable of taking care of herself. When she wished to visit a castle in Vevay, she asked Daisy Miller to go there alone instead of accompanying by Winterbourne.

—Daisy‘s mother looked at him and instant askance, and then walked forward in silence. Then- I guess she had better go alone,‘ she said, simply. Winterbourne observed to himself that this was a very different type of maternity from the vigilant matrons who massed themselves in the fore-front of social intercourse in the dark old city at the other end of the lake. But his meditations were interrupted by hearing his name very distinctly pronounced by Mrs. Miller‘s unprotected daughter. (Page 21). (**Data 1.2**).

b. Daisy Miller is bravery

Through statement below, it indicates if Daisy Miller is bravery lady because she is not afraid of Eugenio even though Randolph has to warn her about her decision:

—Mother-r,“ interposed Randolph, with his rough ends to his words, "I tell you you've got to go. Eugenio'll raise—something!"

"I'm not afraid of Eugenio," said Daisy with a toss of her head. "Look here, Mrs. Walker," she went on, "you know I'm coming to your party."“ (page 47). (**Data 2.1**).

In addition, the conversation below, it indicates if Daisy Miller is bravery lady because she is not afraid of Winterbourne‘s aunt who does not like her:

—Miss Daisy Miller stopped and stood looking at him. Her prettiness was still visible in the darkness; she was opening and closing her enormous fan. "She doesn't want to know me!" she said suddenly. "Why don't you say so? You needn't be afraid. I'm not afraid!" And she gave a little laugh. (page.27). (**Data 2.2**).

c. Daisy Miller has sharp tongue

The conversation below, it indicates if Daisy Miller has sharp-tongue because she says if Winterbourne is so stiff rather than comfort him who cannot dance:

—"I am not sorry we can't dance," Winterbourne answered; "I don't dance." "Of course you don't dance; you're too stiff," said Miss Daisy.‘ (page. 63). (**Data 3.1**).

Besides that, the conversation below, it indicates if Daisy Miller has sharp-tongue because she if the young lady in here are having a terrible time and she cannot want to change her habit just for the people in this country:

—"He should not have talked about it at all," said Winterbourne;

—"He would never have proposed to a young lady of this country to walk about the streets with him."

—"About the streets?" cried Daisy with her pretty stare?

—"Where, then, would he have proposed to her to walk? The Pincio is not the streets, either; and I, thank goodness, am not a young lady of this country. The young ladies of this country have a dreadfully poky time of it, so far as I can learn; I don't see why I should change my habits for them."“ (Page 63-64).). (**Data 3.2**).

d. Daisy Miller is smart

The sentence below is the proof if Daisy Miller is smart because instead of answer the question with the answer —yes|| or —no||, she choose to give the other question:

Do I mean to speak to him? Why, you don't suppose I mean to communicate by sign?' (p. 33). (**Data 4.1**).

The other proof if Daisy Miller is smart that from the sentences below when Daisy Miller gives respond for Winterbourne who gives her a critics about if Daisy Miller must now flirt with Giovanelli:

they don't understand that sort of thing here...not in young married women.' Daisy simply replayed, I thought they understood nothing else! and went on to say, It seems to me more proper in young unmarried than in old married ones.' (p. 45). (**Data 4.2**).

2. Feminism in the Character of Daisy Miller as Main Character in —Daisy Miller| Novel

The researcher examines the form of feminism portrayed in Daisy Miller's character in the novel "Daisy Miller" in this section. In response to the second research problem, the researcher examines how the female character in the novel "Daisy Miller" develops her feminism. The background of this story is in eighteenth century where foundation of the society is social status, property, and money. In this novel, Daisy Miller comes to the Europe which one of the country that treats between man and woman inequality. For the example, the woman cannot talk too much, the woman cannot make friends with men, the woman cannot walk or go out from home until night, the woman cannot treat their maid such like a friend, and so on. Henry James chose to write his novel as in atmosphere of that era, wherein feminisms started growing against patriarchal system and female's subordination to male, since female at the time did suffer from of the rigidity of culture or society, that also happened to come to obstruct their destination of becoming independent and just not submissive, or even being forced to conform the precepts of all such environment.

Feminism appears in the novel when Daisy Miller is independent because Daisy's talk with her companions creates the idea that her mother let her do anything she pleased since she understood her daughter, Daisy Miller, would be used to being self-sufficient. It creates the sense that she was an independent young woman (**Data 1.1**). Besides that, Daisy Miller is independent because Daisy Miller's mother thought she was capable of taking care of herself. When she wished to visit a castle in Vevay, she requested Daisy Miller to go there alone instead of accompanying her by Winterbourne (**Data 1.2**). Another proof of feminism in Daisy Miller's character is bravery because she is not afraid of Eugenio even though Randolph has to warn her about her decision (**Data 2.1**). In addition, Daisy Miller is a brave lady because she is not afraid of Winterbourne's aunt who does not like her (**Data 2.2**). In addition, Daisy Miller has a feminist character because she has sharp tongue which in that era, the woman cannot talk too much and must obey because they are subordinate. It is supported by several pieces of evidence such as Daisy Miller has sharp-tongue because she says if Winterbourne is so stiff rather than comfort him who cannot dance (**Data 3.1**). Besides that, Daisy Miller has sharp-

Tongue because she if the young lady in here are having a terrible time and she cannot want to change her habit just for the people in this country (**Data 3.2**).

So, Daisy Miller, a character in James' Daisy Miller, depicts feminism's difficulties, where a woman pushes the boundaries in order to preserve human rights, both women and men, of being equal. Daisy has the bravery to choose independence and rebellion above dependence and obedience as a character. Her refusal to submit to society's standards and her will to fight for her freedom set her apart from the other women in Europe at the time. She manages to demonstrate that the disparities in women's and men's perceptions are because of historical imprinting and socially constructed rather than psychological differences. Daisy's attributes as a free woman, the idealized image of radical feminism (cultural radical feminism), may be shown in her acts of becoming independent, having sharp tongue, and being disobedient or bravery which is against the culture or society in Europe.

Conclusion and Suggestion

The character of Daisy Miller, as the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel, is an independent woman with bravery, a sharp tongue, and a smart mind. Feminism in Daisy Miller's character as the main character in the "Daisy Miller" novel can be shown when Daisy Miller is an independent, brave, and sharp-tongued person who breaks the rules of society or culture in Europe. This kind of feminism is radical feminism, especially cultural radical feminism, because Daisy Miller is against the culture or society.

The research of this novel would provide an opportunity for future researchers to do additional research. This will broaden the scope of future research, particularly in the field of feminism. It is anticipated that the reader would find it useful in furthering their understanding of characters in literary works as well as feminism. The research of literature could be utilized to facilitate learning, particularly in the area of reading. This character study will mainly serve as a valuable resource for teachers of reading, particularly literature.

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