



Teenager's Resistance to Patriarchy in School: A Feminist Movement Representation on *Moxie* Film

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Abstract

Purpose

This research aimed to reveal the representation of patriarchy in school and teenager's feminist movement on Moxie film.

Method

This qualitative research study employed a qualitative content analysis as the design of the research. The data from the film were selected, collected and analyzed using representation theory by Stuart Hall and feminism approach.

Results/findings

The result showed that Moxie represented patriarchy in school by portraying female objectification, repressive school regulation against female, patriarchy in student's reading material, male's achievement glorification, and supporting attitude towards patriarchal practices. Since the female students experienced various disadvantages, the film also represented their feminist movement through the publication of anonymous feminist magazine, the action of females speak up in public, embracing lesbian identities, the action of visual protest symbolism and act of solidarity, the activism on social media, and the action of school vandalism.

Conclusion

The female teenager in Rockport High School resisted patriarchy in school by representing different feminist movements based on their personal experience and understanding of patriarchal practices and feminism.

Keywords

Feminist Movement, Patriarchy in School, Representation, Resistance

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Abstrak

Tujuan

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui representasi patriarki di sekolah dan gerakan feminisme remaja dalam film *Moxie*.

Metode

Penelitian kualitatif ini menggunakan desain penelitian analisis isi di mana data dari film dipilah, dikumpulkan, dan dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori representasi dari Stuart Hall dan pendekatan feminis.

Hasil/temuan

Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa *Moxie* merepresentasikan patriarki di sekolah dengan menggambarkan objektifikasi perempuan, peraturan sekolah yang represif terhadap perempuan, kurikulum sekolah yang patriarki, pengagungan prestasi laki-laki, dan sikap yang mendukung praktik patriarki. Karena murid perempuan banyak mengalami ketidakadilan, film ini juga merepresentasikan gerakan feminis mereka melalui penerbitan majalah feminis anonim, aksi perempuan yang berbicara di depan umum, keputusan untuk menjadi lesbian, aksi protes visual simbolisme & aksi solidaritas, aktivisme di media sosial, dan aksi vandalisme sekolah.

Kesimpulan

Remaja perempuan di *Rockport High School* melakukan perlawanan terhadap patriarki di sekolah dengan merepresentasikan gerakan feminis yang berbeda berdasarkan pengalaman pribadi dan pemahaman mereka tentang praktik patriarki dan feminisme.

Kata kunci

Gerakan Feminis, Patriarki di Sekolah, Perlawanan, Representasi

المخلص

الهدف

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحديد تمثيل السلطة الأبوية في المدارس والحركة النسوية الشبابية في فيلم *موكسي*.

الطريقة

يستخدم هذا البحث البحث النوعي وتحليل المحتوى النوعي كطرق بحث. وتم فرز البيانات من الفيلم وجمعها وتحليلها باستخدام نظرية التمثيل لستيوارت هول والمنهج النسوي.

النتائج

يوضح هذا البحث أن *موكسي* تمثل النظام الأبوي في المدارس من خلال تصوير تشييء المرأة، واللوائح المدرسية القمعية تجاه المرأة، والمناهج المدرسية الأبوية، وتمجيد إنجازات الذكور، والمواقف التي تدعم الممارسات الأبوية. نظرًا لأن الطالبات يعانين من الظلم، فإن هذا الفيلم يمثل أيضًا حركتهن النسوية من خلال نشر مجلة نسوية مجهولة المصدر، وتصرفات المرأة في التحدث أمام الجمهور، وقرار أن تصبح مثلية، والاحتجاجات المرئية للرمزية وأعمال التضامن، والنشاط على وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي، وأعمال تخريب مدرسية.

الخلاصة

إن تحارب الفتيات المراهقات في مدرسة *روكبورت* الثانوية النظام الأبوي في المدرسة من خلال تمثيل الحركات النسوية المختلفة بناءً على تجاربهن الشخصية وفهمهن لممارسات النظام الأبوي والنسوية.

الكلمات الرئيسية

الحركة النسوية، البطريكية في المدارس، المقاومة، التمثيل

INTRODUCTION

People's behavior in society usually shows their tendency in adhering particular ideology, such as patriarchy. Patriarchal ideology is unconsciously constructed by knowledge given by the society like school and home. Studies from 1960s - 2003 shows that school textbooks provided gender bias and stereotypes, where men are portrayed with the more powerful roles and more excellent occupation than women (Mustapha & Mills, 2015, p. 13). Therefore, those phenomena have formed our community into patriarchal society, which Bressler (2007) describes as social system where men are treated and considered as the main creature in social structures, while women are viewed as a weak and helpless creature.

In respond to those norms and structures which are adhered in patriarchal order, women have been showing their resistance collectively through feminist movement (Swank & Fahs, 2017, p. 1). Feminist movement has effectively achieved major turnaround on society and social norms, including freedom for women to acquire equal education, opportunity to work for occupation and profession which previously restricted to men only, and allows them to enter public domain as well (Epstein, 2008, p. 2).

The same phenomenon occurs in literary works like film or movie as well. Women are no longer portrayed as helpless creatures who are submissive and obedient in patriarchal order, but they are now portrayed with stronger and braver images. Shutherland & Feltey (2017) conducted a survey on respondents and websites to collect the list of 'feminist film' around 1970 - 2012. It resulted that 444 feminist films were created in the film industry, including documentaries, television film, series, and film, and 134 of them were from film. Most feminist film often depict feminist character as an adult woman who represent and embrace the value of feminism in university, workplace, or household background.

Despite the massive development of gender equality and feminist portrayal in the film industry, in 2021, an American film entitled *Moxie* raises the issue of teenage girls' struggles to achieve gender equality in a high school. This film indicates that the power of patriarchal culture still exists in developed country these days, particularly in school circumstances, even though we are in the era where gender equality awareness has been spread and voiced both digitally and manually.

There is research which has investigated *Moxie* film, it entitled *Wacana Penolakan Pelecehan Seksual dalam Film Moxie* by Chairunnisa in 2021. This study analyzed the discourse of the sexual harassment refusal in *Moxie* film by using Sara Mills' discourse analysis, in order to see how women were represented in the text from the position of subject-object and writer-reader. The result of the study showed that the refusal towards sexual harassment was shown by the way female students were brave to speak out that men may not touch their body without consent, brave to speak out against any harassment, and braved to take action in solidarity against sexism by using tank tops to break gender discrimination in schools (Chairunnisa, 2021).

Moreover, another previous research discussed women's resistance towards oppression that depicted in film. It entitled "*See what she becomes: Black Women's Resistance in Hidden Figures*" which was conducted by Thompson in 2020. This research aimed to reveal how black women resisted the double oppression of white supremacy and patriarchy in *Hidden Figures* (2016) film. It found out that this film represented black women's resistance through the ability to lead from behind, navigate the politics of invisibility and hyper visibility seamlessly, and make a way where there appears to be none (Thompson, 2020).

Lastly, research which employed Stuart Hall's representation theory was considered a suitable reference of this research. It entitled *The Representation of African Cultural Identity in Black Panther Film by Ryan Coogler (The Application of Stuart Hall's Theory)* by Sere et al. in 2020. This study investigated how African cultural identity was represented in the film *Black Panther* (2018) and found out that the film presented the representation

of African civilization through a symbol of Vibranium, cultural ritual, and traditional costume, and the representation of African images through the characters (Sere, et al., 2020).

The writers argue that it is important to analyze *Moxie* since it provides a rare portrayal of feminist movement which was done by teenage girls in a high school, while the portrayal of feminist movements in other feminist films were often done by young or adult woman in workplace, university, or household, so that it must be a different kind of movement and expression. Moreover, this film indicates that the patriarchy in developed country school still exists, even though we are now already live in the middle of gender equality development era. Thus, it will be examined by using Stuart Hall's representation theory, in order to reveal how *Moxie* represented patriarchy in school and teenager's resistance through feminist movement.

METHOD

This research employed qualitative approach applying a qualitative content analysis as the design in conducting this research. Unit of analysis of this research is *Moxie* film, which was released by Paper Kite Production on March 3, 2021. The data of this research involves verbal data, including dialogues, statements, actions, responses, decisions, voices, facial expressions, and gestures in the film. The research made uses of the researchers themselves as the main instrument to collect and analyze the data. In collecting the data, the researchers played the *Moxie* film through Netflix, watched it cautiously and repeatedly, identified and sorted several actions, dialogues, responses, etc. which related to the representation of patriarchy and feminist movement in the film, and wrote all the chosen data. Then, the data was analyzed by using the theory of representation by Stuart Hall.

Patriarchy and feminism concepts, along with representation theory, were also used in this research. Walby (1989) explicates patriarchy as a system within social structures and practice where women are oppressed, dominated, and exploited by men (p. 214). Then, women's movement or what we called feminism/feminist movement aroused because people are aware of women inequality and discrimination which have done by patriarchal culture. It has been going from the first-wave feminism (mid-nineteenth century) until the fourth-wave feminism (nowadays) (Munro, 2013, p. 22-23; Tong & Botts, 2018, p. 21).

To reveal how such concepts were portrayed in a literary work like film, representation theory was needed to investigate how sign and symbol in language were used to reveal particular concept/idea and produce meaning in our society. Hall stated that there are three approaches to be employed in understanding how meaning can be represented through language. They are: reflective approach, intentional approach, and constructionist or constructive approach (Hall, 1997, p. 24). One of them, a constructionist approach, views that an entity or objects do not have meaning, but we construct it. Meanings are constructed by using representational system, through concept and signs (Hall, 1997, p. 25).

Therefore, in this research, constructionist is the approach which will be employed, since *Moxie* (2021) film, as a cultural practice, have constructed the meaning of patriarchy and feminist movement concepts through the *signs* (images, sounds, words, video) which presented in the film.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section explored and investigated how *Moxie* (2021) film represented patriarchy in school and feminist movement through the scenes, dialogues, actions, decisions, etc. which presented in the film. The characters who got involved in this analysis are Mitchell Wilson, Jay, Lucy, Vivian, Kiera, Kaitlynn, Amaya, Claudia, Emma, Mrs. Shelly (The Principal), and one unknown male character. It examined how their actions and dialogues in the film represented and constructed meaning of patriarchy in school and feminist movement.

Representation of Patriarchy in School in *Moxie*

The writers found that there were five major incidents which predominated the representation of patriarchal in school in this film, they were female objectification, repressive school regulation against female, patriarchal school curriculum, male's achievement glorification, and supporting attitude towards patriarchal practices.

Female Objectification

Objectification of female bodies is a cultural practice which originally designed to generate, support, and symbolize patriarchy (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997, p. 177). Therefore, the practice of female objectification in a society can be the indication of patriarchal society. An incident can be categorized as sexual objectification if a female's body, body parts, or sexual functions are distinguished from her state as a person, they are seen only as an instrument, and their body/sexual functions are considered able to represent them as a whole (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997, p. 175).

Moxie (2021) was identified as portraying female objectification to represent patriarchy in school in the film. Male students in Rockport High School objectified female students. For instance, the culture which existed every new semester that the male students released a 'list' to social media which comprised female student's name and their label.

Never Been Touched - Kathleen Duntley

Best Ass - Kiera Pascal

Best Rack - Kaitlynn Price

Most Bangable - Emma Cunningham

Hot Sisters - Tonisha & Tonya Lee Belle

Designated Drunk - Fatima Peltz

Fuck, Marry, & Kill - Krichelle Bishop

The 'list' is certainly demonstrating women as an 'object of sex'. According to Nussbaum (1995), object of sex is seeing and treating a person as an 'object' (Rosida & Rejeki, 2017, p. 132). In *Moxie* (2021), the 'list' represents that the boys in Vivian's school are treating women as an object. Object which can be ranked, object which can be assessed, object which can be given a nickname. Also, the 'list' is the evidence that society use female's body to represent them as a person, in which objectification occurs.

Furthermore, female objectification was also found after the list was released, Kiera Pascal who is labeled as the 'best ass', got smacked in her *butt* by one of the male students in a school football match. Kiera is one female student in Rockport High School who is also the captain of soccer team. She has a long curly hair, dark skin, tall body, and has a thick *butt* since she did a lot of exercise in a daily basis, like a push up, squat, etc.

Yet, she received sexual harassment, which included as a form of sexual objectification. The name of male student who smacked Kiera's *butt* is unknown, but the squad number in his jersey is 13. His action was identified as a female objectification because he looked Kiera from her body part and touching it without her permission, which meant that he harassed Kiera in public.

The female objectification was illustrated by how Mitchell Wilson, the captain of the football team, had a debate in the middle of English class with the new student, Lucy, on her first day of school. She is the type of girl who is brave to speak up her opinion and confront unacceptable things happened in school. After the incident, Mitchell began to annoy and harass her, especially in the scene where Lucy tried to buy her own soda in the vending machine.

He touched her without consent and spit on her drink, then giving it back to her. By doing that, he thought that he is superior and Lucy is inferior so that he had the right to control her, and harass her if she goes against his opinion. Violence towards women not only happens when women are assaulted physically, but also happens when women are

assaulted psychologically (Fakih, qtd in Rosida & Rejeki, 2017, p. 132).

Lastly, the mentioned incidents were not the worst objectification which had been done by Mitchell Wilson. Emma Cunningham surprisingly asked for help as an anonym to 'Moxie', because last year she was raped by one of the male students. Emma confessed in front of all students that she was the one who wrote the note and revealed that Mitchell Wilson was the doer.

Emma : Last year after prom... Mitchell Wilson raped me. He was my boyfriend... and he raped me in my own bedroom. And then, I got voted Most Bangable. What does that even mean? Sorry, I don't know what to say. I don't know what.. I feel. I guess I'm just angry. I'm angry, and I want to scream (01:39:21 - 01:40:54).

Rape against women is categorized as a physical attack towards women and is violence towards women (Rosida & Rejeki, 2017, p. 132). Thus, Emma, as Mitchell's girlfriend back then, was only treated as an object to fulfill male's desire, so that Mitchell raped her. When women are objectified, they are treated as bodies. Specifically, as bodies which can be used for pleasure by others (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997, p. 175).

Accordingly, the mentioned treatments which were received by the female students in Rockport High School indicated that there was a patriarchal society which dominated their life. The patriarchy in school in this film existed as female objectification, which was done by male students, they are: making list of female students' label, sexual harassment, and violence against women.

Repressive School Regulation Against Female

School regulation of Rockport High School somehow repressed female students. In this research, the writers found out that it appeared in the form of school dress codes. The principal of Rockport High School, Mrs. Shelly, sent Kaitlynn home because she wore tank top in school. This kind of patriarchal practice which accusing women dressing for distracting men is usually done by men. However, Principal Shelly, a middle-aged woman with semi-long brown hair and wears glasses, also did this to female students even though she is a female too. She suddenly entered the class and asked Kaitlynn whether she brought a jacket or anything to cover up her body.

Kaitlynn was being ask to cover her tank top up with jacket or sweater because her body is 'different', that was her *breast* is 'bigger' than the other female students, because there was another female student who wore tank top in the school and the principal did nothing with it. Mrs. Shelly's action showed her concern about the probability of Kaitlynn being harassed or being raped by a male because her open dress. However, this was the proof that our society consider women's dressing as one factor that inviting harassment and rape.

School dress code is often associated with female sexualization in which they were treated as a 'sex object'. This regulation conveyed the message that women's clothing is provocative, dangerous, and inviting rape, sexual harassment, and poor behavior from men. As stated by Harbach (2015) in his finding that in Evanston, leggings were forbidden to wear in school because they were too distracting, and in New Jersey, strapless dresses were prohibited to wear in prom night by school because they were too distracting too. Again, those regulations were made because our society believe that "provocative clothing will distract their male classmates or make male teacher uncomfortable" (p. 1039, 1044).

Thus, patriarchal society surrounded female students in this school by the existence of school regulation which repressed female students. The dress code rules that were enforced in this school proved that women were being sexualized and controlled in patriarchal society, because only female students who were forced to obey particular 'dressing

rules' while men were free from such rules.

Patriarchal School Curriculum

The lessons taught in school is one of the most essential things which shapes student mindset and behavior in life. The writers found out that one of the lessons which taught in Rockport High School contained a patriarchal tendency which could build patriarchal belief in students' mind. The students were told by their English teacher to read *The Great Gatsby* novel as a 'summer reading' or an assignment while they were on summer vacation, and this was a mandatory book which has to be read each year.

The Great Gatsby itself is a 1925 novel written by an American writer named F. Scott Fitzgerald. Various researches have revealed that this novel contained and represented patriarchal beliefs which might influence its reader's point of view with patriarchy. The major characters who played an important role in conveying implicit patriarchal oppression and domination were Daisy Buchanan, Myrtle Wilson, and Tom Buchanan. Women in this novel were portrayed as the inferior creature who are restricted by the patriarchal system (Affroni, 2013, p. 5-7).

The novel is truly possible to shape the students' mindset and behavior about women and men position in our society. Mitchell Wilson and Emma Cunningham's relationship was one evidence of how the students imitated the portrayal of women and men in *The Great Gatsby*. After they broke up, Emma finally confessed she was raped by Mitchell in her own bedroom after the prom night. By doing this, Mitchell believed that he had a power over Emma, particularly because he was her boyfriend, so that he thought that Emma should obey and let he did everything he wanted over her body.

Emma's response towards Mitchell's committed rape was also evidence of how female was told and taught by our society that her voice was not important, and male had the dominance and power over all of us. *The Great Gatsby*, thus, had indirectly being a 'role model' and impacted behavior which was related to gender position in our society. Since it was a mandatory assignment, every student in the school probably considered that it is a natural essence of women to be the inferior, and men to be the superior. Thus, *Moxie* also represented patriarchy through the school reading material, which was applied to all the students to be read annually.

Male's Achievement Glorification

The writer founds out that in *Moxie*, the sport club which comprised male athletes, football team, was more appreciated by the school system and the principal, while the club of female athletes, soccer team, was less seen and appreciated in the film.

Moxie represented patriarchy in school through the glorification of male achievement. First, the male athletes' images were showed off on the wall of fame in school, while the females were not. The school displayed a couple of male athlete posters with a phrase "Rockport Pride" within it. That phrase was a solid proof for the glorification of male. Furthermore, we could prove it because the football team and soccer team were equal. It was never shown in the movie that both of them ever winning. Thus, the school should treat them equally by showing the soccer team on the wall of fame too.

Second, *Moxie* portrayed a pep rally which usually held in high school circumstance before the sporting event begins. Its purpose was to boost the enthusiasm of the students and to encourage the team to win the game. However, only the football team's appearance that was welcomed and celebrated by the principal in pep rally, while the soccer team was ignored and seats on the audiences' tribune. This evidence was strengthened by Amaya, one of the soccer member's statements, "If pep rallies were for teams who actually won games, they'd be doing soccer cheers" (00:21:59 - 00:22:05).

The statement implies that the welcoming celebration given to the particular team in pep rally was not fair, because the soccer team should receive that, too. Aside from the

fact that a pep rally was usually held for football, discrimination still appeared in another form. For instance, before the match began, the principal announced the information about the Athlete School Scholarship. Mitchel Wilson was the only nominee who got the candidacy for the scholarship. Meanwhile, there was female student who was as talented as Mitchel in the sport field but got ignored by the principal, she is Kiera Pascal, the leader of Rockport soccer team. She is often described as having a strong competency in sport. She ran 90 meters/day, and depicted to win the sport battle with male student.

The neglect of female competency and achievement in sport was highly associated with the stereotype given to women that sport is not their area. As stated by Carty (2005) that sport has been a field of society which conventionally oppressed women the most by restricting their freedom to engage and participate. The act of throwing, jumping, running, and catching is extremely linked and considered as a male domain (p. 132). Therefore, the women or women sport club is less seen and appreciated in our society, because of the long-time belief that sport exists to be explored and engaged by men.

The school system and its principal's actions to not showed off the poster of soccer team member in the wall of fame and not included them in pep rally opening celebration were the small examples of discrimination received by female students in the sport area. The film never portrayed that football team is greater than the soccer team in term of sport winning, but this film always portrayed how Mitchell and his football mates were glorified by school while Kiera and her soccer mates were less seen and appreciated. Thus, *Moxie* film tried to represent the underappreciated treatment of female athletes and female sport club in school as patriarchy.

Supporting Attitude towards Patriarchal Practices

Expressing patriarchal society was not enough by only showing what men had done to women through oppression and discrimination. It should also be observed through how people within their society reacted towards those patriarchal practices. The writers found out that in *Moxie*, people in Rockport High School expressed supporting attitude towards the practices of patriarchy, includes ignoring a sexual harassment behavior and the posted 'list' about female students' label. Ironically, most people who supported those bad attitudes in this film were also female.

First, when Lucy got harassed by Mitchell when she tried to buy soda, she reported towards the principal, Mrs. Shelly, about what Mitchell had done to her. However, Mrs. Shelly warned her to not use the word 'harassing' because she thought that it was just the 'boys' thingy' which tend to bother girls in school. She argued that if Lucy used the word 'harassing' she had to do a lot of stuff, so she told Lucy to use the word 'bothering'.

- Mrs. Shelly : He's bothering you.
Lucy : He's harassing me.
Mrs. Shelly : Oh. There's that word! If you use that word, that means I have to do a bunch of stuff, but if he's bothering you, and that's what it sounds like to me, then we can actually have a conversation.
Mrs. Shelly : Lucy, I am aware that outside these walls the world is experiencing a tornado, and that, in response, young people, especially girls, are expressing their discontent about everything in every direction. But we have to be clear about things before we move forward.
Mrs. Shelly : This feels like something that we can solve together. It's your first week of school, in a new school, that can be emotional, Mhm (00:14:44 - 00:15:51).

She stated that it was just Lucy who was being emotional and girls who were expressed their dissatisfaction with everything. It supported the patriarchal belief that women were too emotional and irrational, so that their voices were considered not important. By responding Lucy in such a way, this scene indirectly implies that Mrs. Shelly adhered

patriarchal ideology and defended patriarchal practice in her school.

The other supporting attitude towards patriarchal practices was also depicted in the scene where 'the list' was posted in the middle of a pep rally before football match began. 'The list' was definitely a clear illustration of patriarchal practice, yet all students in the bleachers looked enthusiastic while reading the name in 'the list'. Some of them, either male or female, were laughing, covering mouth with palm because of shock, showing their phone screen with excitement to their friend, etc.

Even Vivian's best friend, Claudia, was saying things which somehow approved and justified the categories in 'the list'. She said "*Obviously, Emma got Most Bangable. Boring*" (00:24:15). Also, while smiling and reading the list, Claudia said "*Oh, man. I called it. Kiera got Best Ass again. Did we bet on that?*" (00:24:23). Even though Vivian repeatedly wondered why they all accepted this culture because it really messed up, Claudia kept reread the categories and the labeled female students on the list.

By reacting and saying such things when 'the list' which obviously objectified female was posted, most of the students who sat in the bleachers were supporting patriarchal practice. Instead of being angry, or trying to confront it, they accepted it and excited when talking about it. Even though the practice of patriarchy was done by one or two people, if the society confronted and resisted it, then the patriarchal society would be never exist.

In short, the female characters in Rockport High School were undergoing various disadvantages from different form of patriarchal practices in their school circumstance, such as female objectification, dress codes rules, glorification on male's achievement. Thus, when Vivian initiated to build feminist club in school, different reactions from the female students occurred based on their understanding and experiences. The next discussion uncovered the existence of feminist movements in the form of 'Moxie', which existed as a resistance towards the mentioned patriarchy in Rockport High School. It is carried out differently by the characters, such as speak up in public, being a lesbian, initiate visual protest symbolism, act of solidarity, social media activism, and vandalism.

Representation of Feminist Movement in *Moxie*

This section discussed about feminist movements which were done by 'Moxie' members. It had been explained in the previous discussion that each of 'Moxie' member had a different background and experience regarding patriarchal practice and feminism. Those differences gave different characteristic to each of them in representing feminist movement in the film. Even though there were pretty much differences in representing feminist movement, what they had done in resisting patriarchy in school reflected and represented feminist spirit from various era.

Among the female students at Rockport High School, Vivian was the one who held the most intense and the strongest reaction against patriarchal practices. Even though she only witnessed it and did not experience it by herself, she was inspired by her mother's rebellious past and her brave new friend, Lucy. She then built a feminist movement by writing a handmade magazine and anonymously spreading it in the school toilet, which comprised information that call out patriarchy and made all the students aware that patriarchy is not right and should be confronted.

Its mysterious presence triggered various reactions and supports from the other female students, such as Lucy who started feminist movement through social media activism, Kaitlynn who spoke up for feminism in public, Vivian who committed feminism-related vandalism in school, Lucy & Amaya who were being a lesbian, and also almost all students who held visual symbolism protest and act of solidarity. Most of those feminist movements were executed after the existence of Moxie magazine, but there were also some of them which were carried out by female student before Moxie's existence, most likely before they were aware that what they did is a feminist movement. The details explanation of each movement will be provided below.

Anonymous Feminist Magazine Publication

Moxie represented feminist movement through Vivian's attempt to influence her friends' point of view as her point of view as a feminist. This action undoubtedly created a major change in the term of students' awareness regarding patriarchy and feminism. For instance, when Kaitlynn was sent home by the principal because she wore a tank top in school, Vivian immediately made another magazine and wrote "Hey moxie girls, have you had enough of these ridiculous, sexist dress code checks? they're arbitrary and focus overwhelmingly on girls over boys. Operating on the idea that girls handle boy's behavior" (00:44:56). Vivian's writing was focus on the unfair rules and treatment that received by female students, and persuaded others to be aware of this as a part of feminism. This can be seen in Screenshot 1 and 2.



Screenshot 1 (00:26:46)



Screenshot 2 (00:44:56)

If we closely examine, such sentences did not originally come out from the mind of a teenager who has not been exposed to feminist education. The possibility was that Vivian could express such ideas because she had a feminist mother. Besides, she had read her mother's past collection of magazines about feminism. Therefore, Vivian's family background gave her the ability to convey the feminist concept through *Moxie* magazine.

Secondly, when the school principal, Mrs. Shelly, was giving Mitchell an opportunity to speak in school announcement to do a campaign while 'Moxie' members, Kiera, was not, Vivian wrote the next edition of *Moxie* magazine right at the night after. In this version, she included Mrs. Shelly's photos and wrote "Principle Shelly has made it clear that she has no interest in supporting the female population of this school and unfairly gave Mitchell Wilson the morning announcement for his..." and let the school know who you think is an asshole" (01:21:17).

The same evidence was proved by the way Vivian reacted to Mrs. Shelly's attitude. Her brilliant sentences in magazine and her awareness regarding an inappropriate attitude Mrs. Shelly had done towards female students showed that Vivian had the basic knowledge about gender inequality and feminism. Again, her mother's experience was the main factor of the feminist movement, which was represented by Vivian.

By spreading anonymous magazine about feminism awareness, Vivian character clearly reflected the spirit of liberal feminism which focused on unequal treatment towards women in educational institutions or any other public sphere. She is concerned with the sexual harassment, sexism rules, and other inequality towards female students in her school. However, rather than only voicing women's struggle and fighting for gender equality, she also included her anger and revenge towards particular people in her school through *Moxie* magazine, which indirectly gave them disadvantages from what Vivian wrote and spread all over the students in Rockport High School.

Females Speak Up for Feminism in Public

Speaking up is often associated as a part of 'voice' activity. Voice is originally characterized as an effort to make or start changes in any society/institution (Burriss, 2012, p. 852). It includes the activity of 'speaking up' with the intention to change, reshape, correct, and undermine the existing and commonly accepted systems, ethic, tradition, and

rules that construct the current situation of an organization (Burris, 2012, p. 852). In *Moxie* film, a couple of female students spoke up their concerns regarding patriarchal practice in front of their friends, teacher, and family, both before and after joining feminist club 'Moxie'. They did this because they had the intention to change the accepted tradition or rules that manifest patriarchal ideology. Their speaking up action was also related to well-being of female students in Rockport High School as the goal of 'Moxie' itself.

First, Lucy, a new student who inspired Vivian to be brave and be feminist, had spoken up her concern since her first day of school. When the English teacher asked the students to discuss the mandatory reading, *The Great Gatsby*, she asked Mr. Davies about why they were still reading that book, because that was written by a rich white guy about a rich white guy. Then, Lucy suggested them to read about immigrants, or working class, or Black mothers.

Lucy : Well, I think the real question is, why are we still reading this book (*Great Gatsby*)? It's written by some rich white guy about some rich white guy, and I guess we're supposed to feel bad for him, because he's obsessed with the only girl he can't have? If the point is to learn about the American dream, we should be reading about immigrants, or the working class, or Black mothers, or at least someone who doesn't have a mansion (00:08:09 - 00:09:02).

Lucy's suggestion implied that she concerned with the double oppression which were experienced by immigrants, black, or poor women. She might have experienced the disadvantages of patriarchy not only in school but also in the circumstance where she had been living for a long time as a black woman. It depicts the ideology of black feminism and multicultural feminism. It argues that in United States, women's movement always focused on the oppression of white, middle-class, and heterosexual women, while the oppression experienced by women of color, under educated, lesbians, and poor women have been ignored in the US and all over the world (Tyson, 2015, p. 100).

Beside Lucy, there were Kaitlynn who spoke up about the dress code rules because of her experience being sent home by the principal, Emma who spoke up in the middle of broadcast, and Vivian who spoke up in family circumstance since she does not want to experience a patriarchal society one more time. In short, a couple of 'Moxie' members in this film represented their feminist movement by speaking up for feminism in public. They conveyed their concerns and protests regarding patriarchal practices in front of their teacher, friend, class mates, and family.

Lesbianism as Feminist Movement

Moxie film represented how two female students in that school had a love relationship, they were Lucy and Amaya, the members of 'Moxie' club. It was portrayed by the way Lucy surprisingly approached Amaya and kissed her in the crowd, while Amaya looked shock for a second, but then she smiled and kissed Lucy back (Screenshot 3).



Screenshot 3 (01:10:42)

Lucy's decision to kiss Amaya at that party can be seen as an expression of feminist movement. This is because during a time when feminist awareness was not widespread at

her school, Lucy, like other heterosexual girls, was initially attracted to a male student. However, with the emergence of the feminist club 'Moxie' and her strong resistance to patriarchal culture, she made the conscious choice to identify as a lesbian. It could be seen when Vivian and Lucy were dazzled by Seth's charm and Lucy said, "That's hot":

The explanation for this could be she was a lesbian because Lucy had often been treated badly by men. Her experience of being harassed by men physically and verbally might cause her lesbianism, so that she hated men because they always hurt her. Lucy's background as an African-American female student in school, which was dominated by patriarchal society, must influence her reaction in resisting upcoming patriarchal practices as a feminist. It represented radical feminist who viewed sex as a danger in which women were controlled by men only for their sexual pleasure. Therefore, in order to be free, they believed women should not be heterosexual and should be lesbian, single, or autoerotic (Tong & Botts, 2018, p. 12). Faderman also stated that many women who became lesbians through the radical feminist movement have a conception that "heterosexuality was detrimental to women's freedom" (Chapman & Brannock, 1987, p. 70). Thus, we could conclude that Lucy and Amaya's kissing scene was employed to represent radical feminism in the *Moxie* film.

Visual Protest Symbolism & Act of Solidarity

Moxie represented how the member of 'Moxie' club did symbolic protest in school. Liao (2010) stated that symbolism is an influential tool in achieving social mobilization or social demonstration, since it can unite people with the same purpose together and support them to self-define themselves (p. 37). Vivian started this by writing an instruction in *Moxie* magazine for whoever that supported feminism in this school should draw hearts and start on their hands by tomorrow. By doing this, she could actually know whether there were people who had the same concerns as her or not, and this symbol could show the entire students and teachers that there were many students who really confront the patriarchal practices in this school. It turned out that a couple of students actually drew hearts and starts in their hands as shown in Screenshot 4.



Screenshot 4 (00:34:42)

In many cases, there are various symbolism which can be employed in social movement, some of them are flags, effigies, slogans, costumes, and emblems (Liao, 2010, p. 37). Thus, hearts and stars sign in *Moxie* was categorized as *emblem*. The probability of why Vivian initiated visual protest symbolism as a feminist movement was because of her experience as a female student who knew that the people and school system showed the supporting attitudes towards patriarchy. Therefore, Vivian realized about the risk of initiating an open protest and choose a symbolic protest, since it was expected to be safer. As stated by Hill (1979) that people employ symbolic protest because sometimes there are goals or justices that are difficult to achieve for several reasons. For instance, the wrongdoer is untouchable, the protest may be too risky and dangerous for some people, and the long-range effect of the protest may be too harm for particular parties (p. 83).

Moreover, Vivian initiated another protest by instructing the students to use a costume which was tank top. The objectives were to show confrontation towards these traditional

dress code rules and to show solidarity with the victim. Female students who wore tank tops could be seen everywhere in the school corridor, even one male student called Seth also wears his tank top.

The solidarity of feminist club 'Moxie' not only shown in 'heart and stars sign' and 'tank top' movement, but it also occurred one more time when 'Moxie' members showed support towards Emma Cunningham, the rape victim. Through 'Moxie' Instagram account, she wrote, "*Tired of what goes on at school? A student wrote a note and said she was raped. Walk Out at the attendance bell and show your support. Show her she's not alone.*" (01:35:34).

What 'Moxie' members did in managing visual protest symbolism & act of solidarity were clearly reflecting the spirit of liberal feminism and the first-wave until the second-wave of feminism, where feminist movements were often done by doing demonstration and feminist protest in the street, government building, institution, etc. This film represented how that kind of movement was also done by teenage students in educational institution circumstance.

Feminist Movement in Social Media Activism

Currently, it is believed that the internet development has shifted 'third-wave' feminism into 'fourth-wave' feminism or contemporary feminism, where the feminist movement is usually held in digital platform or media as an online campaign (Matich et al., 2019, p. 337; Munro, 2013, p. 23). Categorized as a recent film which was released in 2021, *Moxie* definitely provided a portrayal of how some feminists employed social media in performing their move throughout the fourth-wave of feminism nowadays. It showed how a feminist club in school conveyed their messages towards all students in the school and also triggered their motivation and awareness towards the resistance of patriarchy in school.

First, it represented by the way Lucy started the hashtag #MoxieGirlsFightBack as an online campaign to show resistance towards the practice of labeling female students' name in the released 'list'. It turned out that many other female students who posted their picture of hearts and stars signs on hand, with the hashtag #MoxieGirlsFightBack.

Lucy : Yo. I took this picture, and I started the hashtag #MoxieGirlsFightBack. There are more of us than you think (00:35:00 - 00:35:07).

Then, Lucy also made the Instagram account of 'Moxie', @moxiegrrrls, in order to post various activism which will be executed by 'Moxie' members. For instance, posting Moxie magazine which will be released, the preparation to do 'tank top' symbolic protest, and the invitation to all the students to show solidarity towards rape victim by walking out at the attendance bell tomorrow. Other students also used *live streaming* feature in order to spread feminism spirit to broader range of people.

In this case, all the 'Moxie' members resisted patriarchy in school by employing social media because they are the latest generation who lived in the middle of technological sophistication. Therefore, they employed social media as a tool in expressing their ideas and thoughts as a feminist. Thus, *Moxie* represented feminist movement through social media activism, such as posting other feminist movements on Instagram, using hashtag #MoxieGirlsFightBack, and employing *live streaming* feature. These actions clearly represented the spirit of fourth-wave feminism era in which *Moxie* film was released. Patriarchy and misogyny were called out in online platform, feminist activists expressed their thoughts on their personal account, and any social/feminist movement was being aired on social media.

Feminist Movement in Vandalism

Vandalism refers to action that harming or damaging environmental object. Particularly, the term vandalism is used to all kind of behaviors that bringing up the destruction or a damage on private or public objects (Moser, 1992, p. 51). The writers found that one of

the 'Moxie' members represented their feminist movement in school vandalism. It was shown through Vivian's action in defacing school property by sticking the sticker says 'You're an Asshole! Xoxo, Moxie' to a couple of male students' locker, bag, and body.

This movement was done by Vivian because probably she had experienced a lot of failure in fighting for gender equality in school. Various strategies and movements had been done by 'Moxie', but patriarchal power kept existing and difficult to be destroyed. Therefore, she decided to express feminist movement in a harsher way. "You're an Asshole" sticker was made as a symbol in expressing her frustration and hate towards male students in Rockport High School. It was proved by the way Vivian and other 'Moxie' members stuck it at the male student's locker, especially male students who often harassed and degraded female students.

Another vandalism which was committed by Vivian was her action in writing a big painting says 'Rapeport' in the school terrace by using red paint. She did this to support a rape victim which confessed it to 'Moxie' through an anonymous letter. After a lot of efforts in spreading feminism awareness and a lot of trying to destroy patriarchal system in her school, she seemed furious because what 'Moxie' had done so far did not bring up any result. Male domination, glorification, superior, and power over female still existed and difficult to be ruined.



Screenshot 5 (01:35:21)

'Rapeport' word symbolized Vivian's intention to reveal a rape that happened in Rockport High School (Screenshot 5). She painted it on the school terrace because it was mainly the place where all the people in school were passing through it. Since the principal and school system seemed to always ignored patriarchal practice in school, she painted it big and used red paint in order to make all the ignorant people in school became aware of what actually happened in Rockport High School.

Vivian's actions in committed feminist movement in vandalism were motivated by her background experiences that always been ignored when fighting for gender equality through feminism. She was frustrated and angry about how men were always defended and her struggles to reach equality always failed. It also showed her concerns regarding female liberation, subordination, and discrimination in a school circumstance. Her actions represented the concern and focus of liberal feminism, but she executed it by her own ways. 'Moxie' had done everything to reach gender equality in her school, from the smallest movement to a bigger movement, which involved almost all the students in Rockport High School. However, there was no significant change in their school patriarchal system and patriarchal people.

Thus, Moxie film represented feminist movement through vandalism which were committed by Vivian and other 'Moxie' members. It included defacing school property by sticking 'You're an asshole' sticker' on male students' locker and vandalizing school terrace by a red paint said 'Rapeport'.

CONCLUSION

Moxie raises an awareness that patriarchy could exist in any part of society despite the

considerable advancements in global gender equality awareness. It is necessary to be investigated since this film portrays feminist movements which are done by female teenagers, while most of the other films portray feminist movement which is done by adult females who have received feminism education before. Since the female teenager in Moxie mainly has received no education about feminism, what they did in resisting patriarchal practices must differ from what other feminism films have portrayed.

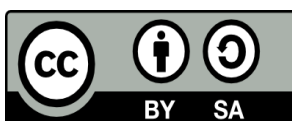
The present research found out that Moxie film represented patriarchal society in Rockport High School by the way female students experienced female objectification, repressive school regulation against female, patriarchal school curriculum, glorification of male's achievement, and supporting attitude towards patriarchal practices. Because the female students came from different background and had different experiences, they represented feminist movement as a resistance towards patriarchal practice in different ways depends on their personal experiences regarding patriarchy and feminism.

This leads to the conclusion that the diverse methods employed by 'Moxie' members, such as publishing an anonymous feminist magazine, vocalizing their support for feminism in public, embracing lesbian identities, initiating visual protest symbols, demonstrating acts of solidarity, engaging in social media activism, and resorting to school vandalism, appear to symbolize a range of concepts and ideals within the feminist movement throughout different eras. They aimed to embody the spirit of various feminist ideologies, including liberal feminism, radical feminism, black feminism, and multicultural feminism, spanning from the first wave to the fourth wave of feminism.

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