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LIBERAL FEMINISM IN BRITNEY SPEARS'S SELECTED SONGS: STRONGER AND MY PREROGATIVE

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Abstract
Literary work is part of human thought expressed in written form or spoken. A heartfelt Literary work is one that is honest, true to experience and human nature, and therefore can tell the truth about the human experience. All written materials are included in the definition of literature. It includes a wide range of general categories such as novels, dramas, and poems, and the song is also included in poem form. Many approaches can be used to analyze a literary work, one of which is a feminist approach. Feminism can be used to critique literary works. Literature can be analyzed from the perspective of women using a feminist approach. There are many types of feminism that have been present in today's era, one of which is liberal feminism. Liberal feminism is freedom as personal autonomy and political autonomy. The purpose of this study is to analyze the liberal feminism values contained in the chosen song of the singer Britney Spears by using the theory of Baehr and Amy (2021). The method used in this research is a qualitative method. The results of this study indicate that the values of liberal feminism found are being free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws (3 data), and having access to options (2 data). Also, in this research, the researcher found the most dominant liberal feminism value in Britney Spears's selected songs is which has to be free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws 3 data.

Keywords— Britney Spears, Feminism, Liberal Feminism, Literature, Song Lyric.

Introduction

In Sudjiman's view (1986, p. 68), "Literature in the form of oral or written works has various advantages such as originality, artistry, the beauty of content, and expression". According to (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) "Literature is written in prose or verse, especially with the excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest". So, literature is a term commonly used to represent art that uses language as a medium to express certain thoughts in writing or speech. In literary works, there are also elements of art such as song lyrics, short stories, drama, poetry, texts, and so on.

In analyzing a literary work, many approaches can be used, one of which is a feminist approach. Feminist literary criticism offers a strategy for researchers to analyze a text by emphasizing issues related to gender sexuality in the works of men and women; this is particularly the case with women's writing (Benstock, S., Ferriss, S., & Woods, S, 2002). Feminism refers to a theory that is closely related to equality between men and women, this is an attempt to get the same rights and positions as men and to break the idea that women can only depend on men. Every human being should have the same role in society and have the same right to freedom over himself, but it is very unfortunate that many people still think that men are superior to women, which means that men have the right to control women.

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However, this has attracted poets or songwriters to take feminist theory as the theme of their songs because many of them have the same perspective and want to defend the rights that should be given equally. People can criticize everything through the songs they make. It cannot be denied that a song is a form of expression about something someone hears, experiences, sees, or feels. (Wellek, R., & Warren, A., 1989), argue that this ambiguous expression causes a literary language to have a very high tendency to influence, persuade, and ultimately change the behavior and mindset of its readers. It is known only through the lyrics of a song that is written or sung by someone, it can function to create an atmosphere and imagination for the listeners, but this can also create a variety of meanings that will be captured and felt by listeners based on the situation and background.

Britney Spears whose full name is Britney Jean Spears is a very beautiful and talented artist. She is an American citizen who was born in McCombie on December 2, 1989. Spears Early debuted at her kindergarten graduation ceremony by singing the song "What Child Is This?". Throughout her career, Spears received many awards. There were 32 wins and 65 nominations (IMDb, 2021). One example at the 2008 Bambi Awards she won the Pop - International award. Spears has also released many songs. One of the song lyrics that the researcher uses in this research is Stronger and My Prerogative. The lyrics of the song Stronger at a glance can be concluded as telling about a woman who is finally free from her partner and she feels that she can live alone without the help or existence of her partner again. The stronger song was also nominated for the 2001 Teen Choice Award for Music nomination for Choice Single For the song. Then the second lyric is My Prerogative, this song tells of a woman who highly upholds the rights of freedom over herself and doesn't need advice, permission, or what other people say.

In this study, the author focuses on the expression of liberal feminism values in the song lyrics of Britney Spears entitled Stronger and My Prerogative and the most dominant liberal feminism value. Related to this study, researchers formulated the problem is what values of liberal feminism are contained in the lyrics of Britney Spears' songs? And then the purpose of this study is to identify the values of liberal feminism contained in the lyrics of the song chosen by Britney Spears.

Literature Review

There are eight types of feminism adhered to by feminists, namely Liberal Feminists, Radical Feminists, Marxist and Socialist Feminists, Psychoanalytic Feminists, Care-Focused Feminists, Multicultural / Global / Postcolonial Feminists, Ecology-feminists, Postmodern Feminists or Third Wave (Tong, 2009). This research only focuses on liberal feminism because it can be assumed that the main problem of gender inequality is the domination of men in various aspects, such as education, economy, employment, and various other privileges. Liberal feminism is a view that aims to position women in full individual freedom. Women must have equal power and opportunity in terms of education, income, and work freely without depending on men. Tong (2009) said liberal feminism is an equal opportunity, which is undoubtedly what is needed and leads to both. This statement means that both men and women have equal opportunities and the same rights. So, is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything that they want. Liberal feminism emphasizes the freedom that women can get. It means that women have the same freedom as men; they can do everything that men want to do, and they can express themselves without any limit in society. Women can express themselves by doing anything that they want to do, since women are equal to men, women do not have limits to doing something; they are free to express themselves by their choices. Liberal feminism is an equal opportunity, which is undoubtedly what is needed and leads to both. This statement means that both men and women have equal opportunities and the same rights. The statement is strengthened by the opinion of (Beasley, 1999) that Liberal Feminism is where the position of women in society is seen in terms of equal rights or artificial barriers to women's participation in the public, legal, political, and institutional spheres fighting for individual rights to be resolved in front general.

According to Baehr and Amy (2021), liberal feminism understands freedom as personal

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autonomy and political autonomy. The meaning of personal autonomy itself also has several procedural accounts, there are Being Free of Violence and the Threat of Violence which means the violence and the threat of violence violate women's dignity; they make women do what others want or reduce women's role in activity to avoid harm. In some cases, violence fractures the self and takes from women their sense of self-respect. The feminist literature on violence against women documents the particular role that violence and the threat of violence play in unfair disempowering and limiting women. The second Being Free of the Limits Set by Patriarchal Paternalistic and Moralistic Laws mean laws restrict women's options on the grounds that such limits are in women's interest. Think for example of laws that limit women's employment options on the grounds and take certain jobs where they underestimate the capability of women. Patriarchal moralistic laws restrict women's options on the grounds that certain options should not be available to women because morality forbids women's choosing them. Think for example of laws that prohibit or restrict prostitution or abortion, or laws that favor certain kinds of sexual expression or family forms. Together, patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws steer women into socially preferred ways of life. These are unfair restrictions on women's choices, from the liberal feminist view, because women's choices should be guided by their sense of their self-interest. And the last having access to options it is mean women are entitled to have access to options. Women's access to options is frequently and unfairly restricted. Other sources of unfairly reduced options for women are stereotyping and sex discrimination in education and employment. Stereotyping and discrimination affect some racial, ethnic, and cultural groups in, particularly pernicious ways. Although liberal feminism has a broad meaning, the point liberal feminists have the same goal, namely to make women aware of their rights and freedoms and also that women must recover from all forms of oppression so that they can get the same rights as men.

Several previous researchers became the author's reference for compiling this research; one of the three previous researchers is Damayanti Sumamburat (2017) from Diponegoro University who has written a thesis on third-world feminism which is conveyed in the form of song lyrics with the research title "Third Wave Feminism in Beyoncé Knowles's" Run the World (Girls) ". In this study, the writer used song lyrics as the object of his research. The author has the aim of this research to understand the struggle of women in society and provide information about the theory of third world feminism by using the theory of Third Wave Feminism from Rosemarie Putnam Tong. In his research, he used the content analysis method. So, the author's research found that most of the words used in songs are an encouragement to women in taking action to rule the world. The ability of women to rule the world in the form of self-confidence and the ability to dominate the emotional strength of men.

The next previous research was from Rini Martiwi, Eulin Karlina, and Dedi Suharyadi (2017) who have written research on aspects of liberal feminism in a song. Their research entitled "Liberal Feminism's Aspect in Katy Perry's Songs". The author in his research aims to analyze the basic aspects of liberal feminism and explain the representation of liberal feminism ideology in the lyrics of Katy Perry's songs. The Data of the research are taken from six songs, there are "One of the boys", "Pearl", "Part of me", and "Dark Horse". "Roar" and "International Smile". This writing uses a qualitative descriptive method to collect data and required information. Therefore, from the results of this analysis, they conclude that (1) there are 14 data containing liberal feminist ideology which is based on the value of personal autonomy of freedom. The basic values of freedom seen in personal autonomy that is mostly found are being free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic (6 data). (2) The lyrics of Katy Perry's songs are a criticism of women who should be free from all forms of threats of violence, have a facility in various fields, and should not always be subservient to men and social law. (3) Katy Perry wants to tell the women, that they have power; the form of power is physical and psychological strength.

This latest previous research is from Catur Oktia Wulandari (2017) from the University of Muhammadiyah Surabaya. The title of the research is "An Analysis of Figure of Speech to Reveal the Meanings in Two Rihanna's Songs:" Umbrella "And" Unfaithful "As Seen from Feminism". In this research researcher focuses on investigating the figure of speech, figuring out possible meaning, and identifying the feminism in the lyrics. This research applies the

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qualitative method in analyzing the data. In the results of this study, the researcher finds many types of figures of speech such as simile, personification, metaphor, hyperbole, anaphora, assonance, alliteration, oxymoron, repetition, symbol, and prolepsis. The possible meaning of the song is “Umbrella” which tells about a girl who loves a boy, and she ensures the boy that he is so special to her. She says to the boy that they will never be apart because she will be with him forever and give him protection, it is suitable for the title of this song is "umbrella". “Unfaithful,” tells about an unfaithful girl, and there is one of the boys that make her realize because she sees him in so much pain as she does to him. Hence, she does not want to hurt him anymore. Both of the lyrics show girl power So from the three previous studies that have been described above.

Research Method

The method used in this research is a qualitative research method with a feminist approach. The data source comes from the song lyrics. In the view of Moleong (2006, p. 4) Qualitative methods are often used as procedures for a study that produces descriptive data that contains verbal words, writing, and human behavior that can be examined. This method intends to describe everything related to the value of liberal feminism in Britney Spears’s Selected Song. Sources of data in this study were taken from Britney Spears' Selected Song entitled Stronger and My Prerogative. Stronger was released on 13 November 2000 and recorded at a Swedish studio called Cheiron Studios Stockholm. This song was written by Max Martin and Rami. Then the second song entitled My Prerogative was released on November 9, 2004, and was recorded in various music studios, one of which was Battery Studio, New York City. This song was written by Bobby Brown.

The data of this research are in the form of verses in the song lyrics that show the value of liberal feminism. This study uses documentation techniques for collecting data. Documentation technique is a way of collecting data in the form of; recording events, writings, pictures, literary works, etc. This technique uses work procedures of identification, classification, and categorization to obtain research data. The procedures of collecting the data are using the following steps. The first read the song lyrics of Stronger and My Prerogative repeatedly. The second identifies the value of liberal feminism which is contained in the song lyrics of Stronger and My Prerogative. And the third Categorize the data based on song lyrics of Stronger and My Prerogative. While the steps of analyzing the data are: first classify the data found into the value of liberal feminism in the song lyrics of Stronger and My Prerogative. The second analyzes the data found using the feminism approach according to liberal feminism theory. And the third concludes. From the analysis, the researcher got the conclusion there are several values of liberal feminism value and the most dominant liberal feminism value is found in the song lyrics of Stronger and My Prerogative.

Results and Discussion

In this chapter, the researcher presents the result and discussion of the research about the liberal feminism value that can be found in the song lyrics Stronger and My Prerogative by Britney Spears. The researcher uses the theory of liberal feminism by (Baehr & Amy, 2021) who says, “liberal feminism conceives of freedom as personal autonomy and political autonomy"

Being Free of the Limits Set by Patriarchal Paternalistic and Moralistic Laws

As mentioned by (Baehr & Amy, 2021) about Patriarchal Paternalistic, laws restrict women's options on the grounds that such limits are in women's interest. Think for example of laws that limit women's employment options on the grounds and take certain jobs where they underestimate the capability of women. Patriarchal moralistic laws restrict women's options on the grounds that certain options should not be available to women because morality forbids women's choosing them. Think for example of laws that prohibit or restrict prostitution or abortion, or laws that favor certain kinds of sexual expression or family forms. Together, patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws steer women into socially preferred ways of life.

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These are unfair restrictions on women's choices, from the liberal feminist view, because women's choices should be guided by their sense of their self-interest. One of some examples of liberal feminism value category being free of the limits set by patriarchal, paternalistic, and moral laws is as follows:

Data 1
I'm stronger, then I ever thought that I could be, baby (Taken from "Stronger")

As it is known that the word "strong" is a male character, this can be seen in the definition of man in the Oxford dictionary, namely "a person who is strong and brave or has other qualities that some people think are particularly male". Although in general, the term is for men but in the lyrics, the term "the strongest" is owned by a woman. The depiction of women in the lyrics depicts patriarchy, and paternalistic freedom because usually, men dominate women in daily life, but the lyrics are inversely proportional to the perception of society, which generally women are always associated with tenderness and beauty, according to Nauly (2003) which is believed and shaped by the culture as ideal for women are such as motherhood, gentle, compassionate, etc. However, in the lyrics of this song, a woman is described as a great warrior and owner of the most powerful positions.

Data 2
I don't need nobody, better off alone. (Taken from "Stronger")

The lyrics above describe freedom from the restrictions imposed by society. This sentence means that women are brave enough to break through what is wrong and perceive something that is not true, in the section "I don't need nobody, better off alone", in the past it was rare for women to make life decisions on their own without any desire to marry and live without men, because as Aristotle described that women's life is functional. She is a man's wife who is only used to having children, and like a slave, she takes part to provide for the necessities of life, patriarchal law states to everyone that women are present in this world as beings bound by men, and only have duties as serving men. However, these lyrics tell them that they can live alone and they are better off living alone and they realize that they were not born to be slaves to men.

Data 3
Hush, just stop. There's nothing you can do or say, baby. You might think that I won't make it on my own, but now I'm stronger than yesterday (Taken from "Stronger")

As can be seen here, part of the song's lyrics describes the complete freedom that every woman can have. This section contains the value of liberal feminism that women can be free from all boundaries determined by patriarchy. It was clear that women were strong and free, they could do whatever they wanted. The sentence "just stop, there's nothing you can do or say" explains that women no longer want to be regulated by men, men can no longer do or say anything to arrange women according to what he wants. As stated by Erich Fromm (2002), the patriarchal system, where men are destined to rule women, prevails throughout the world.

Having access to options

According to Baehr and Amy (2021) on the liberal feminist view, women are entitled to have access to options. Women's access to options is frequently and unfairly restricted. Other sources of unfairly reduced options for women are stereotyping and sex discrimination in education and employment. Stereotyping and discrimination affect some racial, ethnic, and cultural groups in particularly pernicious ways. According to Tong (2009, p. 18), liberal feminism is not about women who can do anything that men can do, but it is more about some women who can do anything that they want. Liberal feminism emphasizes the freedom that women can get. It means that women have the same freedom as men; they can do everything that men want to do, and they can express themselves without any limit in society. Women can

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express themselves by doing anything that they want to do, since women are equal to men, women do not have limits to doing something; they are free to express themselves by their choices. The following is the first example of a lyric that contains the "having access to option" value:

Data 1
It's the way that I want to (It's my prerogative), you can't tell me what to do. (Taken from "My Prerogative")

As a known statement by Erich Fromm (2002) said that the patriarchal system, in which men are destined to rule women, applies strongly throughout the world. but this part of the song says many values that women have access to choices that are not just nodding or obeying what someone says, every woman has her right to freedom, and more. The words "you can't tell me what to do", can be interpreted that a woman can be confident, can go through any condition in her life in her way, without someone's advice, and that's only for her own sake. Women don't need anyone to make them feel confident or have that power, and neither will anyone be able to drag them down because they don't depend on anyone to make them feel so confident about overcoming so much of their life.

Data 2
I've had enough, I'm not your property as from today, baby (Taken from "Stronger")

According to Engels' view, this French philosopher admitted that women began to be eliminated with the emergence of private ownership. With this position of women which is private property, in this case, the father, as a leader in the patriarchal line, can decide whatever he wants with his daughter. Likewise, in a marriage bond, a married woman will be bought and belong to her husband's group so that she is completely uprooted from the roots of the group. In this marriage, women were bought like cattle or slaves because, in this marriage bond, women are not worth anything. However, this part of the lyrics says that "I'm had enough, I'm not your property as from today", meaning that women do have the right to make choices, women have a choice over everything, which means stay away from things that don't make her happy, and they can decide what they want. Women have the right to live freely without any ownership.

So, the discussion about the most dominant value of liberal feminism found in the song chosen by Britney Spears based on the theory of Baehr and Amy (2021) is Being Free of the Limits Set by Patriarchal Paternalistic and Moralistic Laws 3 data, which is about unfair restrictions in society. From a liberal feminist view, women can guide their sense of self-interest and their values. In these songs this value is mostly found, meaning that women want to be Free of the Limits Set by Patriarchal Paternalistic and Moralistic Laws, they no longer want to be creatures that are always ruled by men and they also have rights over themselves. And the lyrics of this song tell all women that the inherent rule of patriarchy is very detrimental.

Conclusion

From the explanation above, the researcher can conclude that 5 data are containing the value of liberal feminism which is based on the aspect of personal autonomy freedom by Baehr and Amy (2021), the political autonomy is not found in this research. Personal autonomy that has been found in this research are: being free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws (3 data), and having access to options (2 data). Also, in this research, the researcher found the most dominant liberal feminism value in Britney Spears's selected songs is which has to be free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws 3 data.

After doing research and concluding. This research discusses the value of liberal feminism that is found in Britney Spears's selected songs: Stronger and My Prerogative. Researchers hope that this research will be useful for further research and can provide more

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information about the value of liberal feminism. Therefore, future researchers can find innovations in their research by studying and reading this research as a guideline in writing studies on the same discussion topic.

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