

Independent Woman in The Korean Drama The World of The Married: Feminism Theory

Nisrina Nur Lathifah ¹

Nurhidayat ²

^{1 2} Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia

¹nisrina.nur.lathifah@gmail.com

²nh144@ums.ac.id

Abstract

This research raises the topic of independent women who are considered to have a respected attitude or are not easily looked down upon by society. In the Korean drama entitled The World Of The Married, the main character Ji Sun Woo displays an independent female character who is very strong, independent, successful in her career, and lives happily in the drama. This research explores the independent female character in Ji Sun Woo's character but also finds out the director's reasons for remaking the drama The World Of The Married from the Doctor Foster series, as well as knowing the impact of an affair. The method in this study uses descriptive qualitative research methods, as well as data collection through secondary data. The results of this study indicate that women are not easily underestimated and must be respected, as well as when a woman is cheated on or divorced she can become an independent woman without having to depend on men.

Keywords: Independent Women, Feminism, Korean Drama, Character.

Introduction

Until now women are still used as option number 2 and men must always be in front or lead. There are also not a few who still adhere to a patriarchal culture where women must yield and obey men. Talking about women always leads to feminism, but feminism is not always about women. Feminism is a social movement and idea that has the same goal, namely fighting for, defining, building, and achieving gender equality in the political, economic, personal, and social realms. Basically, women and men will always live in pairs until the end of their lives, but sometimes in household or marriage relationships, there will definitely be obstacles both from internal and external factors. One of the factors of division or divorce in a marriage is infidelity. Women will still be cared for by men on the grounds that men are the head of the family and have a higher position as holders of authority than women. However, this does not apply to women who are victims of infidelity or divorce, because if a woman feels hurt, she will completely change and will not discriminate against others to compete and make herself an independent woman.

Independent women sometimes have a negative meaning because women are labeled as weak and always dependent on something, for example, men. But in general, it is defined as an independent woman who tends to be able to do everything she wants herself, is able to express her identity, does not depend on other people, and has an independent, disciplined, hardworking, assertive attitude, and so on. An Independent woman is usually labeled as a woman who works and has a fixed financial status, where she no longer needs the help of other people. This nickname can also be aimed at people who can respect each other and motivate other women.

Every country can certainly find independent women, one of which is South Korea. center of entertainment and dreams from other countries, especially Indonesia. Apart from its K-pop music, Korea is also famous for its Korean dramas, which are no longer something special when you watch them. At first glance, if you look at it from the screen, most Korean dramas are the dream of all people, especially to marry a Korean. it's not meant to scare Koreans into marriage, but apart from cultural differences, things that are often seen as limited to the television screen are not the real thing because that's all the settings. South Korea is one of the countries whose occupation is known as an independent population, especially women. As for several reasons Koreans decide not to want to get married, they are because of the high cost of living, a very competitive education system for children, and public figures, Most of them don't choose to get married because they are bound by a strict work contract and have a special agreement regarding love life, and they don't want to lose fans. Those are some of the reasons that impress many Korean women as independent women.

This research examines one of the Korean dramas about infidelity with the title The World of the Married which is remade from the English series Doctor Foster. where the main character, Ji Sun Woo, is described as an independent woman because she became a victim of an affair and divorce from her husband. The purpose of this study is to describe the independent female character in Ji Sun Woo's character, to find out the director's reasons for remaking this drama and the impact of an affair on the family.

Research Question :

1. How is ji sun woo's character as an independent woman in the Korean drama The World of The Married?
2. What did the director remake Korean drama The World of The Married from Doctor Foster Series?
3. How an impact of affairs?

Method

This research uses a type of descriptive qualitative research in which the qualitative method does not use several important variables that must be examined in detail. By using descriptive analysis techniques, this study analyzes Ji Sun Woo as the main female character, an independent woman in a Korean drama entitled The World Of The Married. The main data source in this study is the scene of the Korean drama The World of the Married starting from the images, text, or dialogue and the second-ary data comes from several references to previous research, journals, articles, and websites related to independent women.

Results

The Korean drama The World of the Married tells about Ji Sun Woo as the female lead who works as a doctor as well as a young director of the hospital where she works. This drama made it hot because, in the first episode, it was immediately re-vealed that Ji Sun Woo's husband, Lee Tae Oh, had an affair, The parents of her husband's mistress were Lee Tae Oh's boss and Ji Sun Woo's business partner. After knowing about her husband's affair, Ji Sun Woo was also shocked to find out that the close friends she trusted also betrayed her and sided with his husband. The results of this study examine independent women after becoming victims of infidelity or di-vorce in the Korean drama The World of the Married, namely:

Independent Woman in The World of The Married Strong

Told in the first episode of the drama The World of the Married, it was told that Ji Sun Woo already knew about her husband Lee Tae Oh's affair with Yeo Da Kyung (Fig 1). When she found out about this, she still hoped that her husband would confess the mistakes he had made and that her family would return to the whole they were before. Likewise during the scene where she realized that the friends around her who she trusted were also betraye to hide her husband's affair (Fig 2) and instead sided with her guilty husband (Fig.3).



Fig. 1. When Ji Sun Woo first met her husband's mistress (Yeo Da Kyung).



Fig. 2. Ji Sun Woo found another phone belonging to her husband.



Fig. 3. Her close friends founs out that Ji Sun Woo already knew about her husband's affair.

Not give up easily and be persistent

Ji Sun Woo's character does not give up easily when he looks for evidence about her husband's affair with Yeo Da Kyung. Through her unhurried attitude to catch her husband's affair or immediately confront the mistress, but she finds out when her husband's mistress becomes a patient at the hospital where he works(Fig 4).



Fig. 4. Yeo Da Kyung as Ji Sun Woo's patient.

Professional

Professionalism is emphasized in Ji Sun Woo's character in the drama *The World Of The Married*, who is played as a doctor and the director of his hospital (Fig 5). She still has to work and be authoritative even though she is sad and disappointed, she is also still a good mother to her son, Joon Young (Fig 6).



Fig. 5. Ji Sun Woo continues to work even though she is disappointed.



Fig. 6. Ji Sun Woo tries to be a good mother.

Be confident

The self-confidence shown by Ji Sun Woo's character is very strong, one of which is when she dares to come to the house of her husband's mistress (Fig 7), Yeo Da Kyung, to tell her parents about her daughter's affair, where her husband's mistress parents are Ji Sun Woo business partners (Fig 8).



Fig. 7. Dinner at Yeo Da Kyung house.



Fig. 8. Ji Sun Woo told about her husband's affair.

Reason The World of The married remade from Doctor Foster

The drama The World Of The Married is not the first drama about affairs, but this drama is an adaptation of the British drama series Doctor Foster whose season 1 in 2015 and season 2 in 2017, with 5 episodes each season. The drama The World Of The Married will air with 16 episodes and 2 special episodes in 2020.

The reason the director, Mo Wan Il, and writer Joo Hyun, remade this drama is because they want to illustrate that life in South Korea that can be seen on the screen, especially marriage to a husband and wife with a professional, is not the main factor for happiness. Unlike Doctor Foster, which focuses on the main character, this R-rated drama not only tells the story of the main character's life but also explores some of the backgrounds of the second and third actors. This drama shows scenes that are very realistic and sensational so that it looks even more tense

Impact of Affairs and Divorce

Affairs or divorce is one of the negatives in which the subject knows no gender and dislikes society and even religion, but not a few people do it. The Korean drama The World Of The Married, which tells of an affair marriage, which usually ends in divorce, certainly has an impact on those around, especially children and families.

Either a woman or a man who has an affair will certainly experience the distance of relationships with partners and family, lose the positive side within themselves, become the subject of conversation everywhere, and find it difficult to forget, which will result in distrust if it doesn't end in divorce for both women and men. As the closest family member, children will also run into self-change from their parents' infidelity or divorce, such as a lack of self-confidence, changes in attitudes that are more introverted, feeling anxiety, disturbed mental health, and tend to have difficulty believing in the future, especially regarding partners. (Fig 9 & Fig 10)

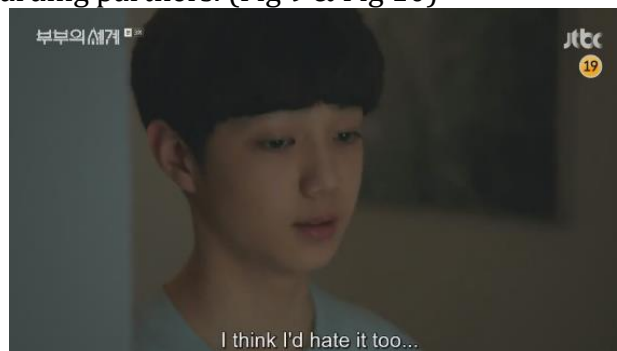


Fig. 9. Joon Young expressed his heart.

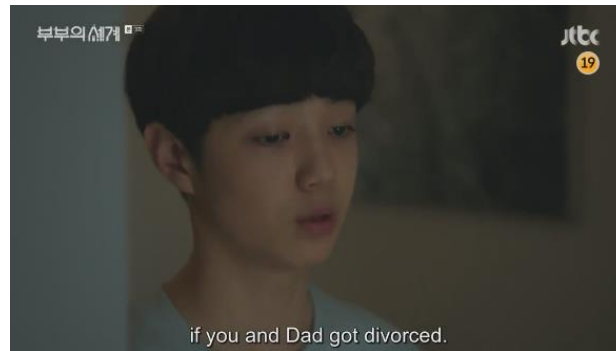


Fig. 10. Joon Young expressed his heart.

Conclusion

The meaning of Feminism is not only for women, but independent women who are included in feminism still sound uncommon among society and even women themselves. The purpose of this study is to independent women, which can be concluded that women can stand alone without depending on men or other people. Sometimes women are labeled by society that it is impossible to do everything alone, but this was broken by the main character of the Korean drama *The World Of The Married*, Ji Sun Woo. Ji Sun Woo's character is told as a doctor as well as the director of the hos-pital where he works. Ji Sun Woo's family looked almost perfect but was destroyed because her husband Lee Tae Oh had an affair with the child of his co-worker, Yeo Da Kyung.

The director remade this drama from the *Doctor Foster* series because he wanted to show that not all South Korea seen on the screen is always happy, where affairs usually result in divorce which can have a significant impact on children. This drama shows the behavior of life that is so real and sensational.

On the other hand, infidelity has a significant impact, especially on children. Children who experience infidelity tend to experience changes in behavior both internally and externally, have mental health problems and will become a big problem in the future.

Acknowledgment

This article was presented as a thesis proposal seminar. The author would like to thank Mr. Nurhidayat as the supervisor who has helped in writing this article.

References

- Adventiana, M. Y.: *Maya Angelou's Struggle to Be An Independent Woman As Seen In Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Marry Like Christmas : A Feminist Study*. repository USD (2017).
- Ariani, A. I.: *Dampak Perceraian Orang Tua Dalam Kehidupan Sosial Anak*. Phinisi Integration Review (2019).
- Claire Perkins, Michele Schreiber.: *Independent women: from film to television*. Tandfonline (2019).
- Desalegn Tesfa, Melkalem mamuye Azanaw, alemayehu Digssie Gebremariam.: *Women's independent decision-making power and determinants on not to use contraceptives among currently married women in Ethiopia using demographic and Health Survey data: Multilevel Analysis*. BMC Women's Health (2022).

- Destria Verani, Prudensius Maring.: Resepsi Khalayak Wanita atas Karakter Ji Sun Woo dalam Drama Korea *The World of the Married*. WARTA (2019).
- Eryca Septiya Ningrum, Ineza Vedy Prishanti, Anjani Syafitri Ditasyah dan Ifda Faidah .: Analisis Resepsi Terhadap Feminisme Dalam Film *Birds Of Prey*. Jurnal Syntax Transformation (2021)
- Fajar, D.: The Mind Structure Of An Independent Womanas Reflected In Charlotte Bronte's Novel *Jane*. Journal Unnes (2014).
- Gangsar Ali, Abdul Salim, Sunardi.: Impact Of Parent's Divorce On Children's Education For Disability Kids. Indonesia Journal of Disalbity Studies (2018).
- Ghaisani, M. P.: WONDER WOMAN (2017): An Ambiguous Symbol Of Feminism. Rubikon : Journal of Transnational American Studies (2019).
- Indriani, B. K.: Independent Woman Patrayed In Jo March In Little Women Movie. Eprints UMS (2021).
- Josephine Elvira, Dwi Setyo, Irma Rasita, Ira Resmayasari.: Women Self-Image On Ji Sun Woo's Character In Korean Drama "*The World Of The Married*". Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Kebudayaan (2022).
- Liu, Q.: Elizabeth Jane—An Independent Woman. Researchgate (2017).
- Melia Yustiana, Ahmad Junaedi.: Representasi Feminisme dalam Film *Marlina si Pembunuh dalam Empak Babak* (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barther). Research Gate (2019).
- Moody, M.: A rhetorical analysis of the meaning of the "independent woman" in the lyrics and videos of male and female rappers. American Communication Journal (2011).
- Ni Putu Rhadani, Ni Letut Alit.: Female Main Character in *Princess Mononoke* Film: A Study of Ecological Feminism. Journal of Arts and Humanities (2021).
- Palupi, D.: Fictitious Story Of Independent Women: Analysis Of Main Characters' Roles In New Disney Princess Movies. Etnolingual (2019).
- Saida Tashmuradovna, Bakhtigul Ibodullayevna, Barno Khushbokovna.: The Image Of An Independent Woman (In The Example Of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* And Rashod Nuri's *Choli Kushi*). Master Journal (2021).
- Salsabila Astri, Ahmad Junaidi.: Representasi Feminisme Pada Film Disney Live-Action *Mulan*. Research Gate (2021).
- Syamimi Waznah, Fitriani Bintang. Feminism against Beauty Standards in South Korea: Force Creates Resistance. Journals of Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (2021).