

## **Feminist Movement in 1884<sup>th</sup> in British Empire in Harry Bradbeer's *Enola Holmes* (2020)**

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### **Abstract**

*This study is aimed to analyze: (1) the social condition of women in Victorian era in Harry Bradbeer's "Enola Holmes". (2) The feminist movements reflected in Harry Bradbeer's "Enola Holmes". The study uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the film entitle "Enola Holmes" directed by Harry Bradbeer as the objective of the research. The method of collecting data includes watching and reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The method of analyzing the data are displaying, explaining, and interpreting. The data analyzed by using Abnormal psychology and Sigmund Freud Psychoanalysis. The result of the study: (1) the social condition of women in Victorian era reflected in Harry Bradbeer's Enola Holmes such as women are classified by social class, women are meant to be subordinate to men, women uneducated, women must be follow beauty standard in that era, women did not have a voting rights; (2) the feminist movement in Victorian era in form of movement in education, movement in politic life, and movement in liberty.*

**Keywords:** *Social Condition of Women in Victorian Era, Liberal Feminism, Feminism*

### **Introduction**

According to Marry Wollstonecraft, the lack of education is the most fundamental reason for the creation of a partial behavior civilization based on her observations. Wollstonecraft in her book believes that based on the role of women, expanding women educational opportunities will improve moral and integrity in social life. Wollstonecraft also believes that one of the reason why women accept conventional roles early on is probably the role of certain male writers regards women as a weak, artificial and vulnerable in society. Politics, men, and the social order system must be educated where give opportunities for women's rights to avoid being corrupted by society (Wollstonecraft, 1792: 11).

In the end of the nineteenth century, the movement began to appear called feminist movements. The feminist movement has been divided into three waves. The first wave in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries pushed

for political equality. The second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s, pushed for legal and professional equality and the third wave, in the past couple of decades, has pushed for social equality.

A branch of the feminist movements is liberal feminism. Liberal feminism is a feminist movement that focuses on the freedom of an individual. In liberal feminism, the freedom for women focuses on the equality between men and women. From a liberal feminist perspective, men and women should have the same opportunities, such as the same opportunities in education, so it is not only men who can get education, but also women. As Wendell states:

Liberal feminism's clearest political commitments: to the promotion of women's greater recognition and self-value as individuals, to equality of opportunity, to the promotion of equal education for girls and boy, to ending sex prejudice and *de facto* discrimination, to equality of legal rights, and to the use of education as a major tool of social reform (Wendell, 1987: 66)

## **Literary Review**

### **Feminism in Literature**

According to Julia T. Wood (2008: 3) the word of feminism from France in the late 1800s which is combination of French "femme" with the suffix of "ism" which means political position. Thus, feminism means political position in women (McCann & Kim, 2003 in wood, 2008:3). Feminist theoretically refers to the equality of men and women and also the beginning of the movement of women to obtain their rights. Many people associate feminism with hatred of men and protest that are radical. Ironically, although many women do not consider themselves feminist, they have the idea that women's movement has improved the conditions and opportunities available for women. When feminism is defined as a movement for social, political and economic equality for women, 71% of women and 61% of men agree with the movement (Baumgardner & Richards, 2000 in Wood, 2008:3).

Feminism was originally a women's movement that was thought for their rights as human beings, as well as men. Feminism is a reaction from gender injustice which is binding on women culture with a patriarchal system.

## **The Social Condition of Women in 1884<sup>th</sup> in British Empire**

Women in Victorian Era had been believed to be inferior to men, they had been subjected to their (men's) authority in lot of ways.

### **1. Social Class**

Karl Marx in Social Class Theory rests on the premise that "the history of all societies which existed until now is the history of class struggle" (1977: 48-50). According to this view, since human society emerged from a primitive and relatively differentiated state, it remains essentially divided between classes that clash in pursuit of class interests. The division of social class is classified as, upper class (the rich, businessmen, and industrialists, plus top executives); the middle class (which includes mostly white-collar workers and professionals); and the working class (those with blue collars or manual labor).

### **2. Married and domestic life**

Women's responsibility in the household was to help instill ethical values in their children, as well as helping maintain the moral integrity of everyone else in the household. In Victorian era, marriage and motherhood were the most important profession for Victorian women and the determining factor for achievement as women.

### **3. Women Education**

According to Tong (2009:14-15) education is the best way for women in order to equalize their position in society so that women are no longer underestimated and oppressed. Education is also a way to equalize the thinking ability of women and men by teaching things rational thing, so that women can be independent and not dependent on men.

### **4. Women morality**

Victorian morality demonstrated zero tolerance for promiscuity and lawlessness. Despite the differences in lifestyles between rich and poor individuals of this period, upper class men and women also led completely different lives. Victorian men attend the best schools and are groomed for various professions, Victorian women are not. In contrast, women are taught in their home. In addition, marriage and serving as a support system for potential husbands are deeply ingrained in women and men.

## 5. Women and vote

Talking about politics is never ending. Politics keep to flow and move. Not only men, but women also have their rights in the political field. The struggle for women's emancipation has led women to create equal rights between women and men. Emancipation is a form of the struggle for equality of women's rights from injustice and oppression (Umar Khan, 2015: 23).

### **Feminist Movement**

Women's issues formulated by feminist theories become three major parts of the theory, namely the first wave, second wave and third wave of feminism. Categorization of the three great waves of feminism was first carried out by Rosemarie Tong, a feminist who has produced books on feminism theory, among others his famous book is *Feminist Thought* (1990).

### **Feminism Theory**

Rosemarie Putnam Tong in her book entitled *Feminist Thought* states that feminism theory is divided into several types, including liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic and gender feminism, existentialist feminism, postmodern feminism, multicultural/global/postcolonial feminism, and ecofeminism feminism.

#### **1. Liberal Feminism**

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 (Tong, 2009: 18).

#### **2. Radical Feminism**

Radical feminist consider the patriarchy system to be formed by power, domination, hierarchy, and competition. But it cannot be reformed and even thinking must be changed. Radical feminist focuses on sex, gender, and reproduction as a place to develop their feminist thinking (Tong, 2009:2).

#### **3. Marxist and Socialist Feminism**

Feminist Marxist and socialist stated that it was impossible for anyone, especially women to achieve freedom that was in the future of the community that adhered to a class based system, where wealth was produced by people who had no power. They were controlled by few people who have strength. (Tong, 2009:4)

#### **4. Psychoanalysis and Gender Feminism**

According to Tong, psychoanalysis and gender include the search for basic explanations for the way women act which is rooted in the psyche, especially the way of thinking which a process of accumulation of childhood experiences is. Psychoanalytic feminism focused on the works of Sigmund Freud to be better understand the role of sex in cases of oppression of women (Tong, 2009:5).

#### **5. Existentialist Feminism**

Existentialist feminism emphasizes concepts such as freedom, interpersonal relationship, and the experience of living as a human body. This existentialist feminism is a female struggle through individual movements in domestic life and tends to differ from the flow of other feminism that conducts the struggle in the public domain. Understanding this feminism discusses things why women are associated with dependence, community, and relationship, while men are associated with dependence, independence, and autonomy. This movement assumes that in the community there are differences in reality between “feminism” and “masculine”. (Tong, 2009:7).

#### **6. Multicultural/global/postcolonial feminism**

Tong conducts categorized for feminism that analyzes culture, race and other particular specificity in the category of multicultural feminism, while global feminism that focuses on women’s analysis in the world based on the condition of political economy, namely as the effect of colonist and imperialism. In some cut points there are similarities with the categorization of post colonialism feminism that focuses on the analysis of the effects caused by colonialism both culture, social, economic, politics, literature and so on of condition women. (<https://muhammadzul.lecture.ub.ac.id/2017/01/feminisme-suatu-pengantar-singkat/>).

#### **7. Eco feminists feminism**

Ecofeminism is a variant of feminism that focuses on the analysis and focuses on the issue of nature (environment, ecosystems and so on). Ecofeminism emphasizes at the point that are not only connected to fellow humans, but to other creatures such as animals or even plants. (Tong, 2009:8)

## **8. Postmodern feminism**

Postmodern feminism is feminist movement that sees women have gained the feminist goal to have equality and rights without any pressure surround them. According to Tong, “as a result of this policy of exclusion, the human community has been impoverished. It seems, then that men as well as women have much to gain by joining a variety of postmodern feminism” (Tong, 2009: 290).

## **Research Methodology**

This study is a descriptive qualitative method. The descriptive study is chosen because it is appropriate to help the analysis, as Bogdan and Biklen (1982:21-22) states: “Qualitative research is one procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of speech or writing and the attitudes of the people observed”.

The object of the research is film entitle *Enola Holmes (2020)* directed by Harry Bradbeer that published in 2020. The researcher focuses on word and sentences of subtitle in the movie. The types of data that is used are main data which is collected from the dialogues and scene film. And the supporting data which is collected from books, internet and journal that can support the research.

The method of collecting data in this research is by doing observation. The procedures are watching and reading the scripts, identifying the data from the scripts and subtitle, classifying the data and selecting the data. After the data are collected, the next step is analyzing data by following displaying data, explaining data, and interpreting data.

## **Finding and Discussion**

The research analyzes the issue in this chapter. The issue is about the condition of women in society in Victorian era and the feminist movement in 1884<sup>th</sup> the British Empire in Harry Bradbeer’s *Enola Holmes (2020)*.

### **1. The social condition of women in Enola Holmes**

#### **Women are classified by social class**

##### **a. Upper Class**

The people who live in this class describe the hedonistic lifestyle. Their lifestyle is oriented towards pleasure, which is just the pursuit of pleasure and

happiness. They are nobles, church people, and government people. It can be proven in the description about Tewkesbury's family.

“Bashilwether Hall, ancestral seat and home of: Lord of Tewkesbury (The Marquess of Bashilwether, Sir Whimbrel Tewkesbury (his uncle), Lady Tewkesbury (his mother), the dowager (his grandmother), and their servants.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:55:40)

The quotation above taken from the description about Tewkesbury family. The explanation showed when Enola was visiting Tewkesbury's home called Bashilwether Hall which is inhabited by the Tewkesbury family and its servants.

From the explanation above it can be known that the characteristics of the upper-class English people who lived in the Victorian Era with a background of luxury, a very large house and a lot of servants. So do women, the more she has a high social class they will live in respected by many people.

#### b. Middle Class

The middle class usually lives more freely. They are described as a simple family and live out what they are. That fact can be proven through Enola's dialogue.

Enola : “She was not an ordinary mother. She didn't teach me to string seashells or practice my embroidery. We did different things. Reading, science, sports, all sorts of exercise, both physical and mental. Mother said we were free to do anything at Ferndell and be anyone.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:01:38)

Quotation above is taken from the dialogue Enola. Enola spend her life at Ferndell Hall. She was taught by her mother's reading, science, sports, and all that leads to physical and mental. She also allowed doing everything by his mother, such as being himself. In the dialogue "*She didn't teach me to string seashells or practice my embroidery*" it clearly states that Enola is a middle-class social community. She also looks relaxed by doing relaxed activities in her life.

From the explanation above we can know that in Victorian Era the activities such as reading, embroidery, music, and traditional handicrafts are relaxing activities that can only be done by the middle class. For high class women, they get a piece donating handicrafts to a charity bazaar that makes it

possible to show off or sell the craft in public. Not only that, middle-class women have a little more freedom, but mothers and careers generally encourage them to learn proper ethics.

c. Low Class

The lower class category were describes an independent lifestyle. They are able to live without rely solely on something or someone else. It can be proven in the dialogue between Woman and her child.

Girl : “I’m hungry, Mother.”

Woman : “I know, dear.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:46:52)

Quotation above is between Woman and her child in Lime house Line. Lime house line itself is a railway station area that to be used by the lower class at the time. They are always short of food, starving them. It can prove in dialogue “*I’m hungry, mother*”

From the explanation above we can know that in the Victorian era, the lower class is described as living in a rundown housing complex and always starving because of the lack of money to buy food. They are described with stability and hunger.

**Women are meant to be subordinate to men**

The description of women in marriage life always associated with home life affairs who taking care of her children and husband also keeping all about home.

We can see the illustrations in the dialogue that Mrs. Harrison said.

Mrs. Harrison : “girls, you are here for one reason and one reason only. You are here to be made into young ladies. How do we laugh? We laugh politely. You all have the potential, but you are untapped, untested and most of all, untrained. Walk as we show you to. Eyes up! Up, up, up! Speak as we tell you to. Act, think, be as we tell you, and you’ll become acceptable wives and responsible mothers. Follow the path of so many girls who once stood where you do now. And just as we molded them. So shall we you.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 1:19:37)

The quote shown above is the dialogue of Mrs. Harrison while teaching his students at the female personality school to become a classy woman. She emphasized that her students should act, think, and act according to her teachings in order to be proper wives and responsible mothers for their children. This is



evident in the words of Mrs. Harrison in the sentence “*Act, think, be as we tell you, and you'll become acceptable wives and responsible mothers*”

The facts above show that women in the Victorian era were required to be given education in women's schools. But the education that taught is not about science like we are learning now. But education is in the form of embroidery to polite ethics. All of that did not escape only for one reason, namely to become a classy woman in order to be able to make her husband happy. Women are considered not yet good potential, uneducated, untested, and even untrained if they don't know how to laugh politely, how to walk and look up properly, and how to talk politely and good manners.

### **Women un-education**

Education has been the stumbling block maintaining women from attaining equal status in society, setting apart them from their male counterparts. Many scenes in *Enola Holmes* experiencing women education can be proven in many quotations. It can prove through Sherlock, Mycroft, and Enola's dialogue.

Mycroft : “my god, look at you. You're in such a mess. Where's your hat and your gloves?”  
Enola : “well, i have a hat. It just makes my head itch. And i have no gloves.”  
Mycroft : “she has no gloves?”  
Sherlock : “plainly not, Mycroft”  
(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:05:53)

The quotation above shows a dialogue between Sherlock, Mycroft, and Enola at the train station. When Enola picked up her two older brothers, Mycroft and Sherlock seemingly unfamiliar with Enola, both of them passed Enola because Enola's dress did not reflect that of the upper middle class women of the time. So Mycroft ask about where Enola's hat and gloves were. He thought that Enola looked messy without wearing the hat and gloves. It was corroborated in the dialogue that Mycroft said “*You're in such a mess. Where's your hat and your gloves?*”

The facts above show that Enola was described as quite 'resist' to the prevailing social norms of that time. Enola is uncomfortable wearing gloves and hat like the women of her day wore, but instead she prefers to wear a casual dress and more like Sherlock's detective-style clothes as a child. At that time women

were required to behave in accordance with existing regulations, such as wearing hats and t-shirts for the upper middle class. Clothes are seen as an expression of women's place in society. Although the clothes were uncomfortable, the type of fabric and layers were numerous, but such clothes greatly showed the higher social and symbol of a woman's wealth in those days.

### **Women must be follow beauty standard in that era**

The stereotype about women being feminine exists in the Victorian era. And the ideal Victorian women described were pure, chaste, refined, and modest. This ideal was supported by etiquette and manners. The incident that women must be following beauty standard in that era can be seen in the Enola and Mrs. Harrison's dialogue.

Enola : "hips are simply a function of legs, aren't they? What need have they of amplification?"

Mrs. Harrison : "aren't you the clever little tongue?"

Enola : "I'll enjoy that. I won't enjoy being imprisoned in those preposterous clothes"

Mrs. Harrison : "they will be free. They will allow you to fit into society, to take part in its numerous pleasures. To catch an eye, to attract."

*(Enola Holmes, 2020, 00:13:06)*

The quotation above happened when Enola and Mrs. Harrison in Enola's room when Enola is measured to dress. When Mrs. Harrison commented about Enola's hips which so broad, Enola is very conflicted until make Mrs. Harrison comments that Enola talks too much about her situation. It can prove in the dialogue "*aren't you the clever little tongue?*"

From the explanation above, we can deduce how the social construction of society in the Victorian era towards women. Women should be shaped according to certain social views: adhere to strict etiquette such as have a short hip, little body, appropriate weight, wearing a corset, speaking politely, and living the boring stages of life (being a wife, mother, and then dying).

### **Women do not have voting rights**

Women did not need the vote because their interests were the same as that of their fathers or husbands, who did have to vote. And there were an argument that politics was none of women's business. They knew nothing, and indeed should

know nothing about it. The topic of reform can be proven in the dialogue between Mycroft and Sherlock.

Mycroft : “reform, god helps us. If there’s one thing this country doesn’t need, it’s more uneducated voters. England is going to pot.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:38:04)

The quote above can be found in Mycroft and Sherlock's dialogue when Mycroft was reading a newspaper entitled “*The lord face crucial vote*” in a restaurant when they discussed the disappearance of Enola. The change of the marquees who would approve a vote for uneducated citizens was called ridiculous by Mycroft and could have destroyed their country, England.

From the explanation above, we can see that uneducated citizens do not have the right to vote because they are considered unable to make rational decisions. The so called uneducated are women who carry out the feminist movements that demand the rights vote. Not only that, in the era women also needed in the votes, even though actually men and women also have the same opportunity.

### **Feminist Movement in Victorian Era**

The feminist movement was already in the Victorian era. The movement was traced to feminist ideas when discriminatory laws were repealed, women’s rights were limited, and women had to live with hardship and losses. There was still a lot about women's discrimination at the time, thus making the feminist movement appear in that era. We can see in Enola scene in London.

Enola : “Meet me Royal Academy five tonight Mother.” Well, that's unexpected. There are three thoughts that immediately occur. One is that Mother wouldn't have signed "Mother," but "Chrysanthemum." And two, the Royal Academy is an institution that has consistently neglected to include women. Mother wouldn't have suggested it as a meeting place. And my final thought is that I may have revealed my hand *in front of my brother when checking the newspaper*. This is Sherlock Holmes's doing.”

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 1:48:47)

The quote above was Enola’s dialogue with the audience when she found an answer in the form of a barcode from his mother in the newspaper column to meet him at the Royal Academy. But with Enola's ingenuity, he instantly finds out that he has been duped by Sherlock who pretends to be Eudoria because his mother is

unlikely to invite her to meet at the Royal Academy. Because the Royal Academy is an institution that consistently neglects to include women. It can be proven in *"the Royal Academy is an institution that has consistently neglected to include women"*

From the explanation above we can know in that era women are still numbered so. The evidence is that many places are only allowed to visit men. This evidence shows that there is women discrimination in that era.

The feminist movement divided into three movements. That is:

### **Movement in Education**

The things that concern feminist movements in the education field can be seen from some of the dialogue and scenes that take place in the film. It can be proven in Enola's dialogue.

Enola : "She was not an ordinary mother. She didn't teach me to string seashells or practice my embroidery. We did different things. Reading, science, sports, all sorts of exercise, both physical and mental. Mother said we were free to do anything at Ferndell and be anyone."

*(Enola Holmes, 2020, 00:01:38)*

The quotation above is taken from the dialogue spoken by Enola. Enola spend her life at Ferndell Hall. She was taught by her mother's reading, science, sports, and all that leads to physical and mental. She was also allowed to do everything by her mother, such as being herself. In this case, we can tell that Eudoria had taught feminism early to Enola. Even the books that Enola read were also unusually to read in those days. It can be corroborated by readings from the books Enola read, namely Joan of Arc, Shakespeares, and the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. We can see that fact in the dialogue *"She was not an ordinary mother."*

From the explanation above, we can know that since childhood, woman in the Victorian era must be given an education that leads to life. Such as education about the importance of being a good wife, how to act politely, until the affairs of clothing. But they never realized that it did not escape social inequality. Such an education system will dominate the men or can be considered controlled by men while women are intended to only be allowed to pamper husbands and children at home. Whereas Enola was taught by her mother since childhood with many book

of knowledge. This evidence show that movement in education was already in Victorian era, especially in 1884<sup>th</sup> indeed formerly.

### **Movement in Politic Life**

Some political movements have aimed to change government policy, to establish or broaden the rights of subordinate groups such as the women's suffrage. The incident can be proven in the dialogue of a man in London.

Man : "Lord Debate reform bill! Case of the missing marquees! without this reform, this country isn't ours, it's theirs. We must petition of the lords. And we've not only got to do it for ourselves, but for our children! Vote for my change. This is our chance, demand the vote. Vote for all men! Vote for all men!"

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 00:35:40)

Quotation above is between a man and London citizenry. The scene shown there is a man carrying a paper petition in which he voiced his opinion with the people of the lower classes, he demanded the reform movement with the election of marquees who were able to change the reform law at that time. It can prove in "*without this reform, this country isn't ours, it's theirs. We must petition of the lords.*"

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that in that era, the right to vote was only allowed for the nobility and the educated. Even women lose the right to vote in politics. But in 1884 at that time England was being hit by changes with the election of a marquees who could make social, political, and economic changes.

### **Movement in Liberty**

The right to liberty is one of the most fundamental human right of all persons to freedom of their person, freedom of movement and freedom from arbitrary detention by others.

Enola : "So, how to conclude? My name is Enola, which, backwards, spells "alone." To be a Holmes, you must find your own path. My brothers have, my mother has, and I must too. But I now see that being alone doesn't mean I have to be lonely. Mother never wanted that. She wanted me to find my freedom, my, my purpose. I am a detective, I am a decipherer, and I am a finder of lost souls. My life is my own. And the future is up to us."

(*Enola Holmes*, 2020, 1:55:39)

The quote above is a dialogue that Enola utters to the audience while she is cycling in the London city. She explained that her mother named her Enola which when the name was reversed to be a word of “alone”. The purpose her mother named Enola was intended to be able to motivate her to live independently and carry out her own adventure. It can be proven in the dialogue “*My life is my own. And the future is up to us.*” describes that every human being has a right to his own future.

From the explanation above we can know that human are entitled to the life that they wants. The name of “Enola” is the opposite of the word “alone”. This was because Eudoria instilled progressive values in Enola. Women must live independently and follow their heart so as not to depend on men and not dictate to the social environment. That's not to say that the Victorian era gave the rules to live up to the norms. One of them is a man become the highest dominance in people’s lives.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the result of previous chapter, the researcher concludes that liberal feminism is reflected in *Enola Holmes (2020)*. The researcher concludes two focus on the discussion. The first issue is about the social condition of women in Victorian era reflected on the film. That is: women are classified by social class, women are meant to be subordinate to men, women uneducated, women must be follow beauty standard in that era, and women did not have a voting rights. The second issue is about the feminist movements which from liberal feminism. The feminism condition in this film is about feminism analyzed by using Rosemarie Tong’s liberal feminism. The main character (Enola) and her mother started feel unfair when discriminatory laws were repealed, women’s rights were limited, and women had to live with hardship and losses. Then they began to develop a feminist movement such as movement in education, movement in politic life, and movement in liberty. The acts of main character were rejected by upper class and supported by low class showing moral values and suggestion from the people around the main character.

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