# GRACIE LOU'S STRUGGLE AGAINST WOMEN STEREOTYPES IN DONALD PETRIE'S MISS CONGENIALITY

## AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS FACULTY OF LETTERS UNIVERSITAS SANATA DHARMA YOGYAKARTA 2023

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A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

# GRACIE LOU'S STRUGGLE AGAINST WOMEN STEREOTYPES IN DONALD PETRIE'S MISS CONGENIALITY

By

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Hasbun Allahu wani'mal wakeel; Ni'mal maula wani'man naseer.

"Allah is Sufficient for us, and He is the Best Guardian; What an excellent Protector and what an excellent Helper"

(Q.S Ali 'Imran: 173)

La ilaha illa anta subhanaka inni kuntu min alzaalimeen.

"None has the right to be worshipped except You: Glory be unto You. Indeed, I have been from the wrongdoers"

(Q.S Al Anbiya: 87)

For

My Beloved Parents....

My Lovely Sister....

My Lecturers....

My Best Friends....

Also, to Myself....



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#### **ABSTRACT**

SEDAYU, YUDISTIRA AGUNG. (2023). **Gracie Lou's Struggle against Women Stereotypes in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Gender stereotypes continue to be a problem in society. Despite being a common stereotype, women continue to struggle to overcome stereotypes about women that oppress them and limit their role in society. Women are still concerned about gender stereotypes when it comes to achieving gender equality. The research looks at how Gracie, as a protagonist in *Miss Congeniality*, combats gender stereotypes. Gracie encounters stereotypes about women and deconstructs them to represent women's efforts to refuse to accept societal stereotypes about women.

There are three goals to this study. The first goal is to find Gracie's traits in the movie script. The second goal is to find about Gracie's experiences with stereotypes. The third goal is to examine how Gracie fights stereotypes of women in a film script.

Researchers used library research to collect data and sources. Researchers used Lois Tyson's feminist criticism to examine the data from a feminist standpoint. Here are the steps for data analysis: After carefully reading the script, the first researcher. The problem formulation was devised by the second researcher. Third, while developing this study, the researchers discovered an appropriate theory to carry out the analysis, and fourth, the researcher reached the conclusion to complete the analysis.

The study discovered several Gracie characteristics that help her fight the women's stereotype. In this script, Gracie was described as a responsible, brave, beautiful, polite, intelligent, and independent woman. This study also discovered that she encounters women stereotypes as the Other, being viewed as a powerless woman, a sexual object, and an inferior woman. Furthermore, the researchers discover that Gracie used evidence to combat gender stereotypes by refusing to deconstruct her strength, capability, and beauty standards. Gracie has demonstrated her strength. She is a strong, unstoppable woman who can be the leader who makes a difference in this universe.

**Keywords:** Gender Stereotypes, feminism, Miss Congeniality, the Other

#### **ABSTRAK**

SEDAYU, YUDISTIRA AGUNG. (2023). **Gracie Lou's Struggle against Women Stereotypes in Donald Petrie's** *Miss Congeniality*. Yogyakarta: Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Stereotip gender terus menjadi masalah di masyarakat. Meskipun merupakan stereotip umum, perempuan terus berjuang untuk mengatasi stereotip tentang perempuan yang menindas mereka dan membatasi peran mereka dalam masyarakat. Perempuan masih peduli dengan stereotip gender dalam hal mencapai kesetaraan gender. Penelitian ini melihat bagaimana Gracie, sebagai protagonis dalam *Miss Congeniality*, memerangi stereotip gender. Gracie menemukan stereotip tentang perempuan dan mendekonstruksinya untuk mewakili upaya perempuan untuk menolak menerima stereotip masyarakat tentang perempuan.

Ada tiga tujuan penelitian ini. Tujuan pertama adalah menemukan karakteristik Gracie dalam naskah film. Tujuan kedua adalah untuk menemukan tentang pengalaman Gracie dengan stereotip sebagai perempuan. Tujuan ketiga adalah untuk memeriksa bagaimana Gracie melawan stereotip perempuan dalam naskah film.

Peneliti menggunakan penelitian kepustaka<mark>an untuk mengum</mark>pulkan data dan sumber. Peneliti menggunakan kritik feminis Lois Tyson untuk memeriksa data dari sudut pandang feminis. Berikut adalah langkah-langkah untuk analisis data: Setelah membaca naskah dengan cermat, peneliti pertama. Perumusan masalah dirancang oleh peneliti kedua. Ketiga, saat mengembangkan penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan teori yang tepat untuk melakukan analisis, dan keempat, peneliti mencapai kesimpulan untuk menyelesaikan analisis.

Studi ini menemukan beberapa karakteristik Gracie yang membantunya melawan stereotip wanita. Dalam naskah ini, Gracie digambarkan sebagai wanita yang bertanggung jawab, berani, cantik, sopan, cerdas, dan mandiri. Studi ini juga menemukan bahwa ia menemukan stereotip wanita sebagai *the Other*, dipandang sebagai wanita yang tidak berdaya, objek seksual, dan wanita yang lebih rendah. Selanjutnya, para peneliti menemukan bahwa Gracie menggunakan bukti untuk memerangi stereotip gender dengan menolak untuk mendekonstruksi kekuatan, kemampuan, dan standar kecantikannya. Gracie telah menunjukkan kekuatannya. Dia adalah wanita yang kuat dan tak terbendung yang bisa menjadi pemimpin yang membuat perbedaan di alam semesta ini.

**Kata Kunci:** Gender Stereotypes, feminism, Miss Congeniality, the Other

#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Literature is a work of imaginative or creative writings (Bressler, 1994, p. 7). In literature, it also learns about various things, like how to create thoughts about a person's point of view of objects. Literature also can be said to be creative, an art, what an author has produced (Wellek and Warren, 1977, p.3).

Movie, similar to other forms of literary work, conveys the true meaning of social value, culture, and life. A movie is also classified as a form of entertainment. Every movie also has its uniqueness, ranging from various genres such as romance, comedy, drama and horror certainly has some facts in the process of making their respective things. Not only that, according to Boggs and Petrie, the ideas of a film are delivered through its elements such as script, plot, characters, and dramatic and cinematic work, so this film also has its uniqueness in each storyline, which makes the audience interested in seeing the entire storyline of the film (2008, p. 41).

Watching a movie is one of the fun activities, because a movie is not only seen but can also be listened to. In a movie, several genres are the primary choices when watching a movie. The most popular film genres to watch are romance films, horror films, comedy genre films, thriller films, action films, animation films, and educational films. Romance films are popular among teenagers. Horror films contain feelings of curiosity, fear, and anxiety. Comedy films are entertaining and hilarious, thriller films have a more thoughtful story plot, action films are popular with men, and animation films are used for educational purposes.

In this modern era, like today, film will continue to progress every year and every time, with more exciting storylines and stories to watch. Film will continue to shoot with new things and a new story to make the movie more interesting to watch by movie lovers worldwide.

Miss Congeniality movie script is used as the object of study in this study by the researcher. In this study, the researcher examines the stereotypes of women in this film script. Stereotype is the general view or preconception about the attributes or characteristics that should be possessed by something, or members of a particular social group (OHCHR, 2014, p.1). Gender is socially constructed, meaning it is learned and negotiated for people's identities in their daily lives. Gender stereotyping is a continuous social process in which some instruments or agents are used to perpetuate this idea. A woman is one of the most frequently stereotyped items when it comes to the gender stereotypes that are explored in this research. Women are consistently stereotyped as "the Other," according to Beauvoir. The stereotype of "the Other" paints women as weak, beneath males, reliant, cowardly, and many other traits. In a patriarchal culture, the man establishes those prejudices (1989, pp. 139–140).

In this movie script, Gracie experiences being stereotyped by society. She wants to show that she is acceptable to her environment. Gracie is a woman who works in a male-dominated organization and is often perceived as weak and unimportant. She is assigned to investigate a bombing at a beauty pageant and discovers the main villain, Ms. Morningside, and her son Frank. Gracie has vital intelligence and ability, and her instincts are correct to catch the main villain and solve the problem. Her success in challenging

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gender stereotypes may symbolize women's battles to uphold women's dignity and advance gender equality.

In this research, feminism is reflected through the experiences of Gracie to fight women's stereotypes. According to Beauvoir in *The Second Sex* women must seize their liberation through enlightenment and be recognized in the public sphere as human beings distinct from men but equal to them (1949, p.732). Because *Miss Congeniality* depicts how gender stereotypes affect the main character's life, the researcher looks at feminism in this movie script to see how it relates to the study's objective.

The issue of stereotypes of women in the script of *Miss Congeniality* remains important to discuss because women in society are still stereotyped. Executing women stereotypes is harmful to women. Some treatments, such as discrimination, stigma, and restrictions on women, even Gracie struggles with stereotypes. Her efforts to dismantle stereotypes of women as other people can inspire women to fight against stereotypes of women to achieve gender equality.

### B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background, the researcher formulates three research questions:

- 1. What are Gracie Lou's characteristics described in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality?
- 2. What are women stereotypes experienced by Gracie Lou in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality?
- 3. How does Gracie Lou struggle to fight against women stereotypes in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality?

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## C. Objectives of the Study

Considering the research mentioned above question, this research has three objectives. The first one is to reveal the characteristics of Gracie Lou in *Miss Congeniality*. The second objective is to identify the kinds of women stereotypes experienced by Gracie Lou in the film *Miss Congeniality*. The third objective is to examine how Gracie Lou struggle to against the women stereotypes in *Miss Congeniality's* movie script.

## **D. Definition of Terms**

There are several key terms used in this research. Keywords included in this research such as woman, gender, gender stereotype, and woman stereotype. According to Butler (1990b, p.273), to be female is according to that distinction, a facticity that has no meaning, but to be a **woman** is to have to become woman, to compel the body, to conform a historical idea of "woman".

According to Steele and Aronson (1995, p.13), stereotype threat can be defined as a disruptive psychological state that people experience when they feel at risk for confirming a negative stereotype associated with their social identity, their race, gender, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, and so on. The stereotype is generally a view or commonly called a perspective in seeing or categorizing something; if talking about stereotypes primarily based on gender, it can be taken as an example if a man is obliged to work for a living while a woman is a housewife.

Gender stereotypes are included in the stereotype category. Gender discrimination results from gender preconceptions, which makes achieving gender equality challenging

(Commission, 2018, p.1). Characteristic differences constrain the roles each gender can play without any apparent justification. Gender discrimination results from gender preconceptions, which makes achieving gender equality challenging. Its characteristics constrain the roles that each gender can play. The patriarchal system for women is maintained through gender stereotypes.

Talking about **women stereotypes**, according to (Commission O., 2014, p. 6), as part of gender stereotypes, women's stereotypes have an adverse influence on them. Numerous aspects of women's rights are infringed upon due to prejudice against them. The woman stereotype, in particular, is also a view that a woman must do what is already a woman's obligation; they must be feministic like a woman.

## **CHAPTER II**

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter is structured into three sections. The first section is a review of related studies, the second of related theories, and the third of the theoretical framework.

#### A. Review of Related Studies

There are undergraduate thesis from Universitas Islam Negeri Gunung Djati Bandung entitled Woman Representation in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality and McG's Charlie's Angels by Refagita Friskova Miranda (2018), A journal by Alice H. Eagly and Antonio Mladinic (2011) entitled "Are People Prejudiced Against Women? Some answers from research on Attitudes, Gender Stereotypes, Judgements of Competence" A journal from Universitas Pakuan Bogor entitled The Relationship of Women Stereotype and Masculinity Through The Study of The Main Character in The Novel Moana By Suzanna Frances by Yunita et al., published (2020), A journal from Universitas Muhammadiyah Lamongan entitled Gender Stereotype in Joyce Lebra's "The Scent of Sake" by Arifatin, Wahidatul Fais (2019).

The first study reviewed is an undergraduate thesis of Refagita Friskova Mairanda, published in 2018, entitled *Woman Representation in Donald Petrie's Miss Congeniality and McG's Charlie's Angels*. English Studies Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Universitas Islam Negri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This research explores how women are portrayed in the screenplays *Charlie's Angels and Miss Congeniality*, both written by Donald Petrie.

This study focuses on the characteristics of the women who appear as the female representation in the two films and the differences in the features of the women who appear as the female representation in the two films.

The qualitative method used in this study is a comparative literature analysis. It is intended to be a literary critique. This study reveals that four types of female characters are typically seen in both movies attractive, beautiful, strong, brave, social achievement, and equal to men. Additionally, two distinct traits may be seen in the representation of women in those films, namely Feminine Characters and Masculine Characters.

The first study aims to investigate how women are depicted in Donald Petrie's scripts for *Charlie's Angels and Miss Congeniality*. This study focuses on two issues: the characteristics of women represented as women in the two films and the differences in the characteristics of women represented as women in the two films. This research shows four types of female characters typically seen as female in both films, including charm, beauty, strength and courage, social achievement, and equality with men.

The findings demonstrate that the depiction of women varies depending on the creativity of the playwrights, with the power and bravery traits comprising the majority of the data. The narrations and intercharacter interaction in movies can both have this lady depiction. The researcher's research is similar in the chosen object, namely using the same movie script for their research, namely *Miss Congeniality* and it also contains elements of feminism making it easier for researchers to develop several aspects of feminism. At the same time, the difference can be seen in how this research researcher compares two films with similar topics in same author, but the title is different that is *Charlie's Angels and Miss Congeniality*.

The second is journal research by Alice H. Eagly and Antonio Mladinic, published in 2011, entitled "Are People Prejudiced Against Women? Some answers from research on Attitudes, Gender Stereotypes, Judgements of Competence" Journal European Review of Social Phycology. This journal is about the results of Goldberg-paradigm experiments on assessments of women's and men's competence, which are frequently believed to reflect people's attitudes and stereotypes, are compared with the research findings on attitudes and stereotypes. The prejudice against women in masculine domains (such as male-dominated jobs and male-stereotypical behavior) has been demonstrated in the research on competence judgments, despite the fact that it has not consistently shown a tendency to undervalue women's work. This specific type of prejudice is consistent with the findings from studies on attitudes and stereotypes that women are generally rated more favourably than men. This is because people attribute to women nice, nurturing social traits that th<mark>ey believe make</mark> them suitable for domestic work and low-status, low-paying jobs that are dominated by women. The difference of the journal research to this current study is on the topic. The topic of the journal research is about the results of Goldbergparadigm experiments on assessments of women's and men's competence, on the other hand this topic of the study is women stereotypes in *Miss Congeniality* movie script.

Another review of the related studies by Yunita et al., published in 2020, entitled The Relationship of Women Stereotype and Masculinity Through the Study of The Main Character in The Novel Moana by Suzanna Frances. *Journal Albion: Journal of English literature, language, and culture, Pakuan University*. The relationship between preconceptions and women's masculinity is the major focus of this study, and it is presented based on an analysis of the protagonist of Suzanna Francis' novel *Moana*. The

research methodology uses both intrinsic and extrinsic variables, including gender, masculinity, and femininity; stereotypes; symbolic violence; as well as characters, settings, conflicts, ironies, and symbols. This study's literary analysis techniques and descriptive-analytical methodologies produce stereotyped conclusions that lend the main character's characters a male bent.

The first step is to formulate and define the problem. The literature review is a source of information to serve as the foundation for research efforts. The main character experienced gender injustice due to sexist norms and symbolic violence, as evidenced by her father's refusal to allow her to leave the reef after reaching an agreement, which persuaded the main character to leave the reef by completing the mission of community residents being recovered and saved.

This review concludes that the approach utilized in this research is library research employing data to examine the main character instead of descriptive analysis methods where data can be acquired, analysed, and compared. Furthermore, this study examines the relationship between women's stereotypes and masculinity in the film.

The difference between the journal study and this study is the topic. The journal's research subject is Susanna Francis' use of her *The Novel Moana*. Investigate stereotypes of women and masculinity. On the other hand, the theme of this research is woman stereotypes in *Miss Congeniality* scripts.

Another review of related studies entitled Gender Stereotype in Joyce Lebra's "The Scent of Sake" by Arifatin, Wahidatul Fais. published in 2019. *Journal Notion; Journal of linguistics, literature, and culture*. English Program, Universitas Muhammadiyah Lamongan, Indonesia. The author attempts to show that Joyce Lebra's

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novel The Scent of Sake depicts gender stereotypes in Japanese family culture, particularly in managing the sake business, which Rie represents as the main character. Gender stereotypes are negative beliefs a specific group shares due to generalization and oversimplification. Gender stereotypes are negative beliefs about women that are based on their sexual or gender identity rather than their personal qualities and individual competence, according to this study. The author attempts to show that Joyce Lebra's novel The Scent of Sake depicts gender stereotypes in Japanese family culture, particularly in managing the sake business, which Rie represents as the main character.

As a result, this research aims to answer the question, "What are gender stereotypes experienced by Rie in Joyce Lebra's The Scent of Sake, and how does Rie struggle against gender stereotypes in the novel?" Literary criticism is the writer's research design; it is liberal feminism, specifically Mary Wollstonecraft's theory. According to the study's findings, women, as represented by Rie, are stereotyped in the family's sake business through a variety of negative stigmas. Such stereotypes have harmed Rie in terms of management marginalization, educational access, and women's lack of decision-making power in marriage. Rie combats gender stereotypes by acting out the stereotypes to mitigate their effects. Rie has demonstrated, through significant struggle, that women are not inferior to men. Rie has worked hard to become an active family's sake production company member.

The difference of the undergraduate thesis and this study is on the object of the study and the topic discussed. The undergraduate thesis discusses gender roles in Joyce Lebra's *The Scent of Sake*. Although, this study discusses women's stereotypes.

## **B.** Review of Related Theories

In developing this research, the researchers used several relevant theories. Some theories that lend support to this study are presented in this chapter. This chapter includes some of the topic's theories from various sources.

## 1. Theory of Characterization

Character is the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by readers as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person says and from what they do (Abrams, 2009, p. 32). Characterization is the depicting of clear images of a person. It is in the initial stage where the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence and then following the introduction of the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then as the story progresses, the thought process of the character (Jones, 1968, p. 84).

According to Boggs and Petrie (2018) in *The Art of Watching Films*, these are character development through appearance, character development through dialogue, character development through external action, character development through internal action, character development through other characters' reactions, character development through contrast: dramatic foils, character development through caricature and leitmotif, and character development through name choice (pp. 50-55).

## a. Characterization through Appearance

When most performers are described as being on screen, most people may assume certain things about them based on their outward appearance, such as their facial characteristics, attire, physique, mannerisms, and how they move. That is how the character appears overall in the movie. Each character is intended to leave an impact because they each have unique traits and functions. Accordingly, depending on how

frequently they appear, the impressions that aid in developing the movie and the characters are significant (Boggs and Petrie, 2018, p. 50).

## b. Characterization through Dialogue

How a character speaks and what they say can reveal much about them. Their speech patterns, including word choice, emphasis, pitch, also variation, can disclose their genuine views, thoughts, and feelings. The way they use syntax, sentence structure, vocabulary, and dialect can also reveal their identity and social background (Boggs and Petrie, 2018, p. 51).

## c. Characterization through Other Characters' Reactions

Other characters' perspectives can be used as a further tool for character analysis. Characterizing a character well often involves how other characters see them. It may provide much character information before the characters come on screen. (Boggs and Petrie, 2018, p. 53).

## d. Characterization through Internal Action

Internal actions are those that take place inside the character's head and heart. It comprises hidden feelings, unsaid thoughts, imaginations, worries, and daydreams. Knowing more about a character's hopes, dreams, aspirations, anxieties, and insecurities will help you understand them better (Boggs and Petrie, 2018, p. 53).

## e. Characterization through External Action

The character's behavior is frequently the best indicator of who they are. Characters' presumptions are more than just a story device; they also have a function and must be carried out for reasons compatible with their personality. In this manner, the characters' relationships and deeds will be apparent. Every action the characters take will

reflect their personalities since the actions must also naturally arise from the characters' personalities (Boggs and Petrie, 2018, pp. 52-53).

## f. Characterization through Contrast: Dramatic Foils

The characterization of characters can also be shown by contrasting the primary character with other characters who act, think, live, look, and act differently from them. Comparing the antagonist and the protagonist's characters using this technique is akin to how Griffith and Knotts from The Old Andy Griffith Show contrast their personalities and physical attributes. While Knotts is short, slender, nervous, and insecure, Griffith is tall, heavy, laid-back, and confident. Based on the provided example, we may apply this technique to compare the various character characterizations in the movie (Boggs & Petrie, 2018, p. 62).

## g. Characterization through Caricature and Leitmotif

A caricature is utilized to give the performer some dominant physical characteristics or psychological traits to make them more appealing and memorable. Movement, accent, and fixation are some dominant characteristics and personality traits. A character's leitmotif, their unique way of expressing an idea, action, or phrase, is their trademark. It resembles a caricature (Boggs & Petrie, 2018, p. 65).

## h. Characterization through Choices of Name

The character's characteristics depend on the name that is chosen. The name you choose has sonic, semantic, and connotational aspects. The screenwriter must carefully consider the character's name to choose a unique name with significant meaning and sound. (Boggs & Petrie, 2018, p. 66).

## 2. Theory of Gender Stereotype

Gender is a temporary trait that can be changed for one another. Because it is just the result of society's "perception" of what it does. The culture and norms that apply to the community. Also, gender changes over time, even that can change because the culture that constructs gender changes, too, changed. Gender stereotype is character

generalization of a woman and a man.

Gender stereotypes were defined broadly as structured sets of beliefs, about the personal characteristics of men and women, with these beliefs, assumed to include pictorial, behavioral, and affective components (William B, Swann et al., 1999, p.76).

It can be concluded that gender stereotypes are a belief about a gender's characteristics that influence the gender's attitude, appearance, and action in doing something. It gets challenging when the word "gender" is used in society. A person's identity is determined by gender. Unfortunately, how people identify themselves in society based on gender might influence their treatment.

The researcher suggests applying the gender stereotypes theory of Simone De Beauvoir. She claims that women are the other women in the patriarchal society. Women are perceived as helpless because, like others, men want to subjugate women's power to preserve their control position.

Furthermore, all of the feminine behaviours force women to be ideal-typical of women from men's point of view. As "the Other", the woman is depicted as inferior, object, powerless, and dependent (Beauvoir, 1989, p. 262)

As inferior beings, women are portrayed as men's servants. A woman must always depend on a man to be a true woman. This situation breaks the status of women as independent individuals. Also, a woman must be an object to be a true woman. Successful independent women should also be covered. Seen as a contradiction of femininity.

## 3. Theory of Feminism

Feminism is defined from many perspectives. Nothing is absolute. Every view and every person have their definition of feminism. According to Thompson & Clement, feminism is an advocate for women's right in achieving gender quality. (Thompson & Clement, 2018, pp.77-78). Moreover, according to Humm, feminism is categorized as a social force because politics, social life, culture, and economics are differed by sex differentiation (Humm, 1992, p.1). Furthermore, according to Ritzer explains feminism is kind of critical social theory which included in social context, political, economic and the history of the injustice people face (Ritzer, 2004, p.448).

Based on these scholars' definitions of feminism, feminism is women's struggle for equality, freedom, and pride patriarchal society. Women are changing social systems through feminism, culture, economy, politics, and life under the sign of gender status. Feminism changes social systems that make life miserable for women in patriarchal societies. Women are discriminated against, oppressed, stereotyped, and patriarchal societies shape gender-specific objectification. Women are working to end sexism, oppression, stereotypes, and objectification in patriarchal societies. Women now can claim their human rights and freedoms without fear of intimidation or restriction. That is something that can give women hope for a better life in the community. In this study, the researchers used Simone's theory of feminism. De Beauvoir exposes misconceptions about women's stereotypes. Others by deconstructing the women myth.

#### C. Theoretical Framework

The study analyzes how Gracie breaks woman stereotypes in *Miss Congeniality* script. The thesis uses three theories to examine Gracie Lou's struggle to fight the stereotypes about women. Due to the formulation of the first problem, the first theory is

the character and characterization theory by Boggs and Petrie. This theory examines a character's characterization through appearance, internal action, exterior action, a leitmotif, and other characters' reactions. This work answers the second problem, using Simone de Beauvoir's notion of women stereotypes as the other. This idea describes four characteristics of women as 'the other': powerlessness, objectification, dependence, and inferiority. The researcher applies feminist theory to answer his third question. Simone de Beauvoir developed applied feminist theory, which was used to discover inaccurate assumptions about women shown in Gracie's experience with women stereotypes.



## **CHAPTER III**

#### **METHODOLOGY**

## A. Object of the Study

The object of this research is a movie script with the title *Miss Congeniality* written by Marc Lawrence. Castle Rock Entertainment, Village Roadshow Pictures, NPV Entertainment, and Fortis Films also produce this comedy genre. This film was made in the 2000s by collaborating with several famous artists, Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt, and William Shatner. This film is a comedy genre. The film was ranked as the seventh highest-selling film in North America during the screening weekend of that era; the film managed to captivate the hearts of audiences because the cast in the film managed to portray it well so that the film received many awards such as being nominated in several awards, including two in the Golden Globes, Sandra Bullock, who was widely praised for her performance in playing the character Gracie Lou, and Bosson's "One in a Million" were nominated in the category of Best Original Song in a Motion Picture.

This film also contains an element of feminism, which is still a hot topic today. It can be seen from the appearance, behaviors and the dialogue of the main character, that is Gracie Lou's, in the summary of this movie, Gracie is an FBI agent in her city who has been stereotyped as "the Other" by society. She is assigned to go undercover to identify who is responsible for a bombing at a Miss United States beauty pageant, but her instincts are correct to catch the main villain. Her success in challenging gender stereotypes may symbolize women's battles to uphold women's dignity and advance gender equality. Gracie's experiences with women's stereotypes occur at the workplace, where she works

as an FBI agent, and when she competed in a beauty contest that described her as a helpless woman and sexual object. Her thoughts and ideas were even carried out at her place of work.

## B. Approach of the Study

This study applies feminist criticism to investigate the issue from a feminist perspective. Feminist critique, according to Louis Tyson in *Critical Theory of Today*, explores how literature multiplies women's economic, political, social, and psychological oppression. Feminist criticism takes numerous forms in literary criticism. Tyson adds that female critics' perspectives vary depending on their study disciplines (2006, p. 83). This feminist critique is relevant to this study because it can help the researcher comprehend the gender preconceptions that Gracie has faced. Tyson's feminist critique also targets gender roles in a patriarchal society. The issue relates to gender stereotypes that place women in a lower social standing than men (2006, p. 85). It is also appropriate to look at Gracie's fights with women's stereotypes.

## C. Method of the Study

A library research method was employed to collect data and sources for this investigation. A library research method is a methodology for obtaining and locating information from printed sources such as books, articles, journals, and other sources. The researcher used this technique to collect data and sources from a movie script, journals, articles, and books.

The researcher used two sorts of sources in this investigation. Primary and secondary sources are the two categories of sources. *Miss Congeniality* movie script was employed as the primary source in this study. The researcher employs journals, articles, and books as secondary sources. *The Art of Watching Film* by Joe Boggs and Dennis

Petrie, *The Second Sex* by Simone Beauvoir, and *Critical Theory of Today* by Lois Tyson are the primary texts studied in this research.

First, the researcher reviewed the primary materials closely to gain an understanding of the movie and women's stereotype issues in *Miss Congeniality*. The researcher then prepared the study questions. Third, the researcher found appropriate theories to help address the problem formulation. To answer the first problem formulation, the researcher used characterization theory in a film that characterized characters in five ways, as explained in the review of related theory. This theory helps the researcher discover and classify Gracie's characteristics. The researcher used Simone De Beauvoir's concept of women stereotypes as the Other to solve the second and third questions. This theory explains Gracie's interactions with gender stereotypes and her fights to overcome them. The last step was to write the conclusion. The conclusion was made in purpose to give a brief description of the content of the research in this undergraduate thesis.

**CHAPTER IV** 

**ANALYSIS** 

The discussion in this chapter is divided into three parts. The first problem reveals

Gracie's characteristics in the film script. The second problem identifies the women

stereotypes experienced by Gracie. The third section examines how Gracie breaks the

women stereotypes. Based on the explanation above, the researcher intends to answer

the research questions stated in the problem formulation in this chapter.

A. The Characteristics of Gracie Lou

The researcher employs M. Boggs and Dennis W. Petrie's characterization in film

theory in analyzing the main character, Gracie. According to the review of related

theories, Boggs and Petrie explained eight methods for analyzing a character in a film.

In this study, the researcher employs five characterization methods in the movie. These

five methods are appearance, internal action, external action, leitmotif, and other

characters' reactions.

1. Strong

Gracie was born to be a strong woman who never gave up. Gracie had some

impressive self-defense moves when she was younger. She punched people, defeated

the bullies, and restored safety to the playground. Gracie has a brave personality, and

she always stands up for the truth. Her character is seen when she works as an FBI agent

and helps solve various criminal problems. Male workers generally dominate her job,

but she can do her job well.

GRACIE: "Oh, boy."

ALAN: "Don't! Wait! Not my homework!"

GRACIE: "Problem, gentlemen?"

ALAN: "Hey, dork-brain!"

GRACIE: "If you weren't a girl, I'd beat your face off'

ALAN: "You're calling me a girl?" GRACIE: "You called me one!"

ALAN: "You asked for it."

GRACIE: "Now get out of here! Forget those guys."

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.1)

In conversation, Gracie proves to be a strong woman. She can fight anyone she believes is wrong. Gracie can defend herself, especially when it comes to her fights. She doesn't mind fighting against her friends who treat her disrespectfully. She carried her character until she grew up to become a strong and brave woman.

Gracie's strong character causes her to develop into a girl who is never tireless; she always perseveres in the face of challenges posed by her colleagues and her boss, Mr. McDonald, in the FBI agency; she is always brave in making decisions and is aware of the consequences, so Gracie works hard even though she sometimes receives reprimands from her boss because she is considered harmful at work, as we know from her boss's point of view, Gracie had a poor performance, but in the end, it was proven that Gracie's performance had to be appreciated because she was competent in working as an FBI agent.

#### 2. Responsible

Gracie is a responsible woman; she has always been herself and a strong woman. Gracie does not mind having a boyfriend, dresses comfortably rather than fashionably, doesn't want to appear attractive to others, and has the most manners. And she lives for her work as a head powerful special agent, she has a strong sense of what is right and wrong. Gracie's character always felt that if she was to be changed into a more feminine person because, contrary to her tomboyish character, she did not want to be

treated as such, as when she was asked to be a contestant in the beauty pageant and she

had to use costumes and bikinis or swimsuits as one of the judging conditions in the

contest, she felt it was not her habit and she was uncomfortable wearing that swimsuit.

She tried to refuse the offer because it was not her habit, but she was willing to accept it.

She did so as a form of devotion and responsibility as an FBI agent at the behest of her

boss, McDonald's.

MATTHEW: "What do you say?"

GRACIE: "No freaking way"

MATTHEW: "Why not?"

GRACIE:" I won't parade around in a swimsuit like some bimbo...named Gracie

Lou and all she wants is world peace."

MATTHEW:" It wouldn't be like that...you'd be on the undercover team."

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.4)

In the story, Gracie, who is known for her tomboyish and masculine attitude, did

not want to be forced to wear a bathing suit or a bikini in the Miss United States beauty

pageant, where the swimsuit competition was held. One of the most important forms of

events. Gracie was uncomfortable because it was so different from her everyday clothes,

even though she had never worn a bikini. It was her first time wearing a bikini in front of

a crowd.

Gracie's taste in clothing is known to be very simple, i.e., wearing shirt and

knickers like a man. seemed indifferent. Her behavior is very inconspicuous, even for a

graceful lady, and she doesn't seem to care about herself. Gracie has a good sense of

responsibility, even though she doesn't actually want to wear clothes that don't match

her character. But Gracie is still professional in carrying out her duties at her work, so

she is known as a responsible woman. Although she sometimes complains, but Gracie

does everything responsibly, and she also does not protest to her boss, even to her own

friend, Matthew. She knows this is an opportunity for her to serve and assume duties as

one of the FBI agents.

MATTHEW: "That was good work, right back at you, so, how does it feel?

Throwing the rule book, out of the window?"

GRACIE: "Pretty good, actually"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.28)

Matthew, Gracie's friend, appreciates Gracie's attitude, which is very

responsible with her mission. Matthew realizes that if this is challenging work, even if he

does it, it may not be as good as what Gracie did. Gracie is a woman who is competent

and responsible with her duties and does them well.

3. Courageous

Gracie is portrayed as a courageous person. As shown at the beginning of the film,

Gracie is a woman who has stood up for herself and others from an early age. Gracie

realized that girls who can physically stand up are strange and rare. Based on her visual

habits that were indicated by her appearance, the reactions of other characters, and her

external behavior. Gracie is also described as a character who likes challenging things

such as rock climbing, extreme sports, mountaineering, and even fighting. It usually has

a character many men have; some women can see it. It's the character she's been wearing

since she was a kid that's attached to Gracie. With her bold character, Gracie is passionate

about being a woman and challenging herself to do what she loves to fight, and she loves

the sport of boxing. As this is an extreme sport, it is widely practiced by men; she has a

place in her home to pursue her hobbies. Such activities are usually done by men to

exercise. Gracie usually does these activities in her spare time.

ALAN: "I don't like you."

"Now everybody thinks I need a girl to fight for me."

"You are a dork brain."

"My nose!"

GRACIE: "wimp!"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.1)

Not only that, as a woman, her brave character is seen in the way she dares to fight

against untruths in a problem. She is brave in revealing that it is wrong if it is done; even

Gracie does not hesitate to fight her boss because she knows what her boss has in mind,

namely, that Mr. McDonald is wrong. Although Gracie finally gets a reprimand for her

behaviour, this shows that she is a woman who dares to say something right.

4. Graceful

Gracie was born to be a graceful woman. Her appearance suggests as much. It

looks from her appearance. Even though she has no desire to look attractive to others,

has almost no manners, competes in the "male domination", but she was showed that

she is confidently beautiful with her heart. At first, Gracie refused to dress up like a girly

woman, wear a dress, wear heels, and even wear makeup, but as a form of her

responsibility and professionalism, Gracie is now transformed into a very beautiful

woman, now that Gracie has a different appearance, now she has to get used to speaking

politely, wearing high heels, wearing dresses, and making herself look beautiful. This

was revealed by his friend, Eric Matthew.

MATTHEW: "Hart, is that you?"

GRACIE: "I'm in a dress, I have gel in my hair, I haven't slept..."

"...I'm starved and I'm armed. Don't mess with me."

"I'm fine. I'm cool. I'm good"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.9)

Gracie's beauty has indeed been seen since childhood; although her appearance

looks masculine, the beauty that Gracie has is a natural beauty that radiates from her

face and heart. Not only that, in this scene, when all the contestants rest in their

respective hotel rooms, Gracie trains to wear an evening dress with her coach, Victor

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Melling, on stage accompanied by her friend, Eric Matthew. After several practices walking in evening gowns, Matthew honored Gracie and her trainer. Beauty pageant coach Victor Melling is portrayed as the quintessentially stylish, feminine gay, teaching Gracie Hart how to dress, walk, and behave like a contestant. Victor Melling, for making Gracie look elegant and charming with her current look.

MATTHEW: "You said, you couldn't make her pretty in two days, but she's gorgeous".

VICTOR MELLING: "My duties are stated in contract and I have fulfilled them".

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.13)

It is not obvious how beautiful a woman is based on her ability to use makeup, but beautiful is indeed relative, and beautiful can come from the heart to radiate it sincerely; Gracie has turned into a very beautiful woman. She drew everyone's attention to herself. She turned into a graceful and charming woman. Even her friend was captivated by Gracie's beauty. Usually, if the woman has dressed up, she will look more charming and beautiful. In this context, Gracie showed very significant changes, especially in her appearance, which looks more beautiful and elegant when she is dressed like a woman wearing dresses, heels, and elegant makeup.

### 5. Polite

Gracie is very unpretentious, even though she was required to be a woman who always wore a dress, wore makeup and walked like a beauty queen. This is in contrast to her daily appearance which is always simple and relaxed, but with her doubts, Gracie began to dare to try to get out of her comfort zone she began to try to train to become a woman who looks beautiful, elegant has a charming aura and charisma. Gracie tries to keep up with her gender role as a woman even though it's hard for her but she proves capable of doing so and she looks very gentle and charming. She is very smart in carrying herself; her attitude is very kind and polite, she is very friendly to anyone, including her close friend, Miss Rhode Island Cheryl Fraiser. She invites Cheryl to enter her room to relax and chat with her.

CHERYL: "I made some of my famous hot chocolate" GRACIE: "My roommate's asleep....
or she's starting to meld, but do you want to come?
CHERYL: "I asked some of the other girls,
"They didn't give me a chance to say "non-fat,
Well, here's to...world peace."
GRACIE: "World peace.
(Scripts.com, 2018, p.11)

Gracie maintains a polite demeanor when she is surrounded by many friends, they even feel comfortable when they are with her. Gracie is a woman who always brings joy to everyone, including her friends at the FBI and beauty pageants. With her character, Gracie easily makes many friends and she turns into a woman who is graceful and charming. She always helps the contestants in the event and her hospitality makes her easily to the liking of many people around her. That is the great thing about Gracie Lou, who can carry herself wherever and whenever she is. If Gracie has a polite personality and is kind to everyone around her, she never chooses to make friends, all she wants is to be her friend.

### 6. Intelligent

Gracie was not only beautiful, brave and strong, but she was also born an intelligent who could solve a variety of problems. Because of her actions, one of her squads gets shot. She is put on a desk job. The bureau receives a threat, which the intelligent Gracie soon figures out is against the 75th annual Miss United States beauty pageant in San Antonio, Texas, from notorious domestic terrorism" Citizen."

Her cleverness can be seen in how Gracie thinks critically enough to continue to persist in investigating the beauty pageant until she manages to find the perpetrator of the crime. Her intelligence is also tested at the time of the finale, Gracie was able to answer the questions given by the jury when she was in the top 5 for the question-and-answer session. She was able to provide satisfactory answer also balanced by her good public speaking skills.

MC: "New Jersey, As you may know, there are many who consider, The Miss United States page and to be outdated and antifeminist. What would you say to them?"

GRACIE: "Oh, my God, I would have to say, I used to be one of them and then I came here and I realized that these women are smart, terrific people who are just trying to make a difference in the world. We've become really good friends"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.26)

Not only during the finale scene, but Gracie's wit was recognized by her fellow contestants, as when Cheryl went to Gracie's room and handed out a glass of hot chocolate that was famous from her place for Gracie and talked to her, she expressed her admiration for Gracie, who was very kind and smart. Cheryl knew Gracie's personality, who always put her mind forward before doing things.

CHERYL: "You are so nice, you are so smart and so sensitive, you are definitely going to win". (Scripts, 2018, p.12)

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pageants she participated in supporting the antifeminist movement, and Gracie replied

smartly and wisely, and the entire audience applauded when Gracie responded. Not only

that, Gracie is also smart in managing everything, such as time management, where she

is very organized and meticulous in doing everything, it also shows that Gracie is not only

smart in thinking but also smart in managing her time.

7. Independent

Gracie is a woman who can develop independently with the abilities that exist in

her. She has managed to become an independent person in her career, it's because she's

worked hard for this all, she's managed to change her thinking from being doubtful about

herself when she was about to disguise herself as one of the Miss United States

contestants. Gracie can survive strongly and independently in solving all affairs. Gracie

is a woman who is full of passion in carrying out everything they do without thinking

about the help of others, and it proves that she can complete her great mission of finding

and catching the perpetrators of the bombing in the Miss United States pageant

responsibly, even though she did it alone at the time.

GRACIE: "For me, this experience has one of the most rewarding and

liberating experiences of my life, My God, I did it"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p. 27)

GRACIE: "For the first time in my life I feel like I'm in the right place at the

right time..."

(Scripts.com, 2018)

She is also getting success when Gracie won the title as 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up and won

the title as Miss Congeniality. Her achievement is not an easy thing for her, although she

is certain to be in the top 5 best in the finals to make it easier to investigate but the journey

and process that Gracie goes through is very long, she has to go through various kinds of

inner struggles and great sacrifices to be able to achieve her success now, Gracie now holds the title of Miss Congeniality which is not a predicate that but it was an appreciation from her friend fellow Miss United States finalist for Gracie for helping a lot to against the bombing plan, especially to Cheryl Fraiser who was the winner of Miss United States at that time.

CHERYL FRAISER: "You always be Gracie Lou Freebush, the nicest, sweetest and coolest girl at the pageant...and this year's Miss Congeniality! GRACIE: "I never thought anything like this would happen to me...I kind of hoped it wouldn't. But now it has...I just want to say...I'm very honoured...and moved...and truly touched...and I really do want world peace...."

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.29)

The script quote shows that Gracie has tried to be who she is now, her previous thinking has turned into a successful self, she tried to fight her insecurities and in the and she managed to achieve her success. Now that her life has become more colorful with the experiences she has gained, she has more connections with the people around her and new experiences that are certainly valuable to him. She learned a lot from his previous mistakes that at first felt hesitant to try, but in the and she managed to achieve her success now. Her decision to become more feminine, has now paid off well for her career. Gracie now continues to look for the potential that exists in her to be able to help others more, both for her happiness and her work.

# B. The Women Stereotypes Experienced by Gracie Lou in *Miss Congeniality* Movie

In this section of the discussion, the researcher discusses the women's stereotypes that Gracie has encountered. The researcher applies Simone De Beauvoir's theory of the Other to women. According to Beauvoir, women experienced the Other as a stereotype.

Women are portrayed as powerless, objects, and inferior as the Other in patriarchal society.

Beauvoir said in a patriarchal society; men set women's stereotypes. They have maintained women's dependence on their authority. The study analyzes the use of Simone De Beauvoir's (Beauvoir, 1949) in *The Second Sex*; women perceived the stereotype of women as the Other. The patriarchal society labels women as being inferior, helpless, and objects. Women's stereotypes are used by the patriarchal culture to degrade women in comparison to males. Men can restrict women's roles in society by using misconceptions about women. They defend women's attributes, including being helpless, objectified, inferior, and dependent. Due to their discriminatory laws and the fact that they are fundamentally different from men, women are regarded as the other. Many believe that women should have proportionate bodies be beautiful and tall, have a high nose, have long hair, have a slim body, and behave gracefully, while men should be firm, strong, dashing, and brave. Some individuals believe that the typical image of a woman is. So, these are the woman stereotypes experienced by Gracie Lou in *Miss Congeniality* movie:

### 1. Classed as Powerless

The idea that women are weaker than men because they are helpless beings is fostered by a patriarchal society. This idea causes men to undervalue women. Men can easily limit what women can do because of their weaker physical attributes. In some scenes, it can be seen that Gracie is always perceived as weak by male co-workers and even by her boss. Gracie is considered to be disrupting the investigation due to her behavior, which is not appropriate for participating in investigations.

Gracie does look very masculine, she has a strong and brave character, but on the other hand, she is a woman who also has a high sensitivity and sensitivity to the surrounding environment; sometimes, she also feels instincts like other women. Sometimes in every few scenes, Gracie can be seen touching sad, anxious and overthinking what is on her; as hard as she can to cover up her fear, she still feels insecure in her.

GRACIE: "Sir, I would like to talk about what happened last night, I didn't exactly follow order"

MCDONALD: "Exactly" follow order? There's no such thing, you follow order or you don't"

GRACIE: "No arguments, Sir, none whatever".

MCDONALD: "Until the hearing, you're out of the field"

GRACIE: "The hearing is totally warranted; wouldn't I be better on the citizen care?" I have background in profiling and decoding, I could contribute"

MCDONALD: "Like you contributed last night? By putting yourself and 5 against in Jeopardy, I'll save the rest for the review board under a mountain of paperwork"

GRACIE: "Sir...."

MCDONALD: "Discussion is over!"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.2)

Not only in the conversation but the experience that made Gracie even more urged was when her boss, McDonald, came to the contest election site and reported that he had got the person who made the bombing plan. He told all the men, including Gracie. Still, Gracie thought that if the person was not the right person, Gracie indicated that the person behind the bombing plan was the contest's owner, the Miss United States, Mrs. Morningside, so Gracie tried to convince her boss, McDonald, and her FBI agent friends. Still, her efforts were denied by McDonald; she thought that if Gracie was making it up, McDonald had already found the culprit, so she did not believe Gracie, nor did her friend, Matthew, who also excommunicated Gracie at the time.

MCDONALD: "Alright, it's confirmed, he was holing up in a shack in Nevada

Place had enough C4, to make a new Grand Canyon, let's pack up and get out of here"

GRACIE: "Sir, I need to talk to you, one second of your time, hear me out a second, I feel the situation bears further scruity and our continued presence"

MCDONALD: "Do you have paint in your ears? We caught the guy"

GRACIE: "I respect what you're saying, I'd say the same to me, but what if we were wrong? What if the citizen didn't send it? What if it was a copycat? The letter didn't follow, the normal pattern, the linguistic and the DNA said it was a woman"

MCDONALD: "Maybe he got his girlfriend to lick the envelope"

GRACIE: "Sir, I think we have a reason to monitor Morningside"

MCDONALD: "Why you don't jump on her? Dressed like a Bavarian fruitcake? You're the reason I had drag myself down here and I don't want to hear anymore!!!!

GRACIE: "You're absolutely right sir, not another damn word"

MCDONALD: "Thank You"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.20)

That made the matter even more chaotic, so McDonald became furious, but Gracie still wanted to keep her investigation into the event until she got who the actual perpetrator was; Gracie always thought that the culprit was Mrs. Morningside, so she asked to stay until the end of the contest selection event and asked McDonald for permission to give her a little team to help herself handle the case, but McDonald rejected Gracie's request because he did not believe what Gracie said, so at that very moment, Gracie was fired as one of the FBI agents, but because of his persistence, Gracie persisted in solving the case.

MATTHEW: "Would you shut up?"

GRACIE: "You're shutting up enough for both of us"

MCDONALD: "Is there any reason to suspect Morningside?"

MATTHEW: "No, sir"

MCDONALD: "There"

GRACIE: "I request permission to stay with a small contingent sir,"

MCDONALD: "Denied!"

GRACIE: "Then I request to stay alone sir,"

MCDONALD: "I don't care what you do, do you want to stay, stay but as a

private citizen, turn in your badge and your gun!"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.21)

It is illustrated in the scene that Gracie feels tremendous misconduct in what she

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did while investigating with her friends and superiors. Gracie tried to do what she

thought was correct and sound during the investigation, but it was so lacking in her

boss's eyes that her leaders were angry with Gracie for her treatment that did not reflect

FBI members and appeared not to follow the rules. Gracie felt that if she was

unsuccessful in conducting an investigation, she felt that she was weak and did not have

the ability like her friends, so the next day she was scolded by her superiors and got

words that offended her, which is where she felt that she had no ability whatsoever to

contribute to her duties as a good and responsible FBI agent.

2. Classed as Sexual Object

Gracie experiences a woman's stereotypes as the other that stereotype her as a

sexual object. As Beauvoir outlined in the last chapter, women are expected to live up

to the beauty standard, which calls for their bodies to be muscular, supple, powerful,

and free of excess fat. That provides men pleasure; women's bodies are objectified

(Beauvoir, 1989, p. 262). In her experience when participating in the Miss United States

beauty pageant, Gracie had several occasions that made her have to strive to become a

more feminine woman, and this was indeed proven When she transformed into a

beautiful woman so that her friend, Matthew, that felt attracted to see her beauty it's

something like naturally a man's instinct When seeing a beautiful woman, the desire to

make love is there even to her workmates though.

MATTHEW: "I was thinking, when we get back after we write up our reports and

you get all ugly again! Maybe we could have dinner.

GRACIE: "What? You asking me out a date?

MATTHEW: "No just casual dinner if we happen to have sex afterwards....so be

it.

GRACIE: "You think I'm gorgeous?

(Scripts.com, 2018, p. 28)

Not only that scene, the incident was experienced by Gracie not only once, but her

friend Matthew also continued to tease Gracie because of Gracie's different appearance;

Gracie did look sexier and more beautiful when she was wearing a dress with an open

model, and at that time it happened to be on the edge of the pool, which at that time

Matthew had fun swimming. Gracie approached him to ask about work problems, but

instead, Matthew pulled Gracie's legs so that he was plunged into the pool and wet with

her dress; this made Matthew see the part of Gracie's body that was already wet because

her dress formed the curve of her body. Matthew also teased Gracie with remarks that

harassed her.

GRACIE: "Oh Victor is going to kill you, you in big trouble.

MATTHEW: "Why? You fell, you look good wet!

GRACIE: "Shut up!

(Scripts.com, 2018, p. 17)

As explained by Beauvoir in the previous chapter, as a sexual object, women are

expected to fulfil the beauty standard that requires women's bodies to be slender and not

loaded with fat, muscular, supple and strong. The objectification of women's bodies

aims to satisfy men's pleasure (Beauvoir, 1989, p. 262). In this context, Gracie is seen

being teased by her friend, and in her conversation, there is a word about Sexual desire

from Matthew to Gracie, who at that time looked very sexy in her dress. As we know,

Gracie is seen as a woman who wants to be used as a sexual outlet for her friend; just

because Gracie looks sexy in her dress, this is one example of a woman will be used as

prey to meet the sexual needs of interested men when seeing the woman dressed sexy

and inviting desire and later the woman will be considered weak so that she will quickly

be forced to fulfil the sexual desire of a man. And it makes it a stigma that a woman is

a sexual object for unscrupulous men.

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## 3. Classed as Inferior

Prejudices against women are created by patriarchal culture to portray them as less than equal. Women were regarded as having a lesser social status than men. Men's dominance in society is a result of women's inferiority. It denigrates and unfairly treats women. In her experience as an FBI agent, Gracie is also sometimes met with several issues related to her self-esteem in the eyes of the public as a woman. Not least, she felt several times the problems that offended her self-esteem; Gracie once felt what it was like to be demeaned by her superiors, even by her officemates.

GRACIE: "I got grant shot; I shouldn't have moved".

MATTHEW: "Come on you made a choice, it was wrong but that's it, it's over,

By the way, you look like a hell".

GRACIE: "(Sad expression)"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.1)

Seen in the conversation, Gracie's friend cornered Gracie, who at that time did look very messy and listless, her hair was not in order, and her friend, in a mocking tone, said that Gracie's appearance was filthy and rough, so at that moment, Gracie was downcast and felt sad. In this conversation and the following discussion, it is also seen that Gracie was demeaned by her friend because Gracie was considered unkind when working as an FBI agent.

GRACIE: "What's going on? Where's Mr. McDonald?"

MATTHEW: "Could we put on an APB on my Frappuccino".

GRACIE: "It's in the bag, did he say anything about last night?"

MATTHEW: "Relax don't annoy him, don't say anything, don't argue".

GRACIE: "I don't argue, I never argue. When do I argue. I might have a heated discussion with somebody".

MATTHEW: "Is this you not arguing, because you suck at it".

(Scripts, 2018, p.1)

In the conversation, Gracie's friend felt that Gracie did not obey orders while doing his job as one of the FBI agents, so Gracie received unfavorable treatment from his friends and directors. Gracie felt that if she didn't manage to do her job well, Gracie felt

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sadness at that time; she was said to have messed up the plans of the FBI team agent.

Then Gracie also got a bad experience when she participated in the Miss United States

beauty pageant, where she was accused by friends, as a finalist, of making out with one

of the judges at the pageant.

CHERYL: "Gracie you look so tired".

MARY: "Oh she had a busy night.... I saw that gentlemen stop by the room".

KAREN: "No men in the room...it's different on the mainland".

LESLIE: "Hold on ladies let's hear her side of the story, you sleeping with a

judge?"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p. 13)

From some of the scenes and conversations above, there is a view of women as demeaned, have no status in the eyes of the public and are judged to have no ability in any case, as in the patriarchal system, which states that the patriarchal society creates women's stereotypes to portray women as less than equal. Women are sometimes always synonymous with the so-called if paradigm that women are weak and have no aspirations and inspirations. Sometimes, women are always considered to have an insignificant position in the political, social and any fields, so it can be said that women do not have an essential role in life; all of them are always men considered to be able to carry out their duties well. Therefore, women were given a lower status in society than men. Women's inferiority strengthens men's dominance in society. It denigrates and discriminates against women. That's where the experience of women who have always been considered to have nothing significant is that women get discriminated against because of their low status than a man; a man is deemed to have more power than a woman.

# C. Gracie Lou's Struggle against the Women Stereotypes in *Miss Congeniality* Movie

This section of the analysis focuses on her struggle to overcome the stereotypes that limit her as a woman. Her strong trademarks of bravery, intelligence, and courage successfully reflect the idea of feminism's values of equality, which are then manifested in her speech and actions. As a result, the feminist theory is used when writing the analysis.

Gracie is one of the FBI agents who has worked and served to maintain security where she lives. Also, she is female workers are consistently relied on, and the only women who work as FBI agents, which men dominate is indeed a woman who can be said to be one of the women who is not only physically strong but also firm with her very rational and precise thinking patterns, she always thinks clearly and has an accurate way of dealing with problems, One of them is to have a solid stance to stay in her place disguised as one of the contestants of that beauty pageant, even though her friends leave her, it is based on a sense of responsibility which she thinks is an obligation because she is assigned by her place of work to eradicate who is the perpetrator of the criminal act immediately.

In this context, it tells how Gracie dealt with her problems in her efforts to show that she had the same abilities as her friends and the FBI chief, who at the time harassed and ignored her views and opinions about who the perpetrators of the criminal act were. She is considered to have disrupted the identification process in the significant case that became her FBI agent project, making her feel useless in her place of work as an FBI agent. It wouldn't be Grace if she continued to drag on in grief. She continues to strive to be able to prove that she is not a weak and helpless woman, even if it can be seen from her tomboyish physique, but still, she is a woman who has sensitive feelings. She kept

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trying to show that what her friends and the FBI chief had been thinking was not valid.

With all her abilities and ingenuity, Gracie continues identifying what happened and who

committed the criminal act at the beauty pageant. So, she continues to try to show her

ability to identify the criminal act and prove that her thinking is correct. She revealed that

even though she is a woman, she can make a significant change for her environment with

all her abilities and strengths so that she can be accepted in society.

1. Performing Higher Intelligence and Capability

Gracie's experiences with women's stereotypes as the Other portray her as a

powerless, objectified, and inferior woman. She works hard against this stereotype by

demonstrating her strength and capability at the time. Gracie stated that her pattern of

thought and her views on who the perpetrator of the crime is are the best way to find the

culprit as soon as possible because she believes that what she saw and investigated at the

event for several weeks, even until the event's end, is the answer if she has found the true

perpetrator in the criminal case. She showed her strength by overcoming her fears during

the investigation, which required her to change her look from masculine to feminine. She

also showed that her strategies and ways of thinking were good and helped the

investigation go well, which made her friends trusting and more respectful of her.

GRACIE: "What are you doing there?"

MATTHEW: "I think you might have been right; Frank is Morningside's son"

GRACIE: "Disgusting, perverted Frank?"

MATTHEW: "He cleared under another name, I ran new CCH, DUI, assault, even

a weapon charge"

GRACIE: "Are we doing full deployment?"

MATTHEW: "McDonald didn't want to hear about it, it's just us"

(Script.com, 2018, p.24)

One day before the final night, the FBI agent left the venue to follow the direction of the FBI chief, McDonald, who he thought had gotten the perpetrator of the crime that he thought was right, and he was sure that it had been proven that he had caught the perpetrator. But Matthew secretly felt that it needed to be corrected if it was in McDonald's opinion. Hence, Matthew returned to the venue to assist Gracie in revealing who the real culprit was. Matthew thought that he suspected the culprit was Mrs Morningside and her son Frank, so Matthew returned to see Gracie at the beauty pageant finals and attempted to help and support Gracie in resolving the problem because he recognized Gracie's rational and precise thinking.

When the finale took place, Gracie, who had been confirmed at the time, was included in the top 5 round to make it easier to investigate until the end of the event, more specifically in the question and answer where Gracie also demonstrated her strength and capability to eradicate anyone who would harm her friends, that is, the contestants who criminals indeed targeted, that is, Mrs Morningside and Frank.

GRACIE: "And if anyone tries to hurt one of my new friends, I would take them out, I would make them suffer so much, they'd wish they were never born, and if they ran, I would hunt them down, thank you Kathy" (Scripts.com, 2018, p.27)

According to the script, Gracie does not hesitate to show her strength by unleashing her ability to fight against anyone who dares to justify a mistake, especially anyone who dares to harm her friend. Gracie is brave and genuinely fighting for the truth; she will do anything to defend justice. Gracie was seen on the scene responding affirmatively to Mrs Morningside's question about who committed the crime while staring at her. Gracie is a typical person who is always deft in dealing with any problem; indeed, she has had a masculine and courageous nature from a young age. She does it to defend her truth

and rights as a woman so that she is not oppressed and to prove that she is a strong

woman.

Not only that, but when the winner was Gracie's close friend, Cheryl Fraiser, Gracie

immediately whispered to Cheryl not to wear her crown because Gracie knew there was

a bomb in the crown that had been activated, so Gracie also tried to protect Cheryl, who

was already wearing the crown with difficulty because her behaviour was interpreted as

refusing to accept her defeat as the 1st Runner Up, but that's not Gracie's style.

GRACIE: "Don't take the crown"

CHERYL: "I can't hear you, what?"

GRACIE: "Don't take the crown, trust me"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.27)

Gracie, who at the time was seen going on a rampage and hitting a man who tried

to block her in the process of dealing with the crime, Gracie kept trying to fight the man.

She let go of her strength and continued to rebel. Several men were trying to hold her

back because of her rebellious behaviour but amazingly managed to beat the man with

one punch until the man fell. But it was the right choice because she already knew of a

crime that could hurt many people, so Gracie swiftly tried to put up a fight.

CREW 1: "Jersey going to berserk!"

CREW 2: "Get her off the stage!"

GRACIE: "No no no"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.28)

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crime that could hurt many people, so Gracie swiftly tried to put up a fight.

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Gracie finally managed to take the crown after much effort. Her friend, Matthew,

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also attempted to fight Frank, who was ready to press the remote control to activate the

bomb while Cheryl was using it. Still, Matthew caught Frank and immediately threw

away the remote control, but Mrs. Morningside took the remote control and immediately

pressed the button, causing the bomb to explode; fortunately, at that time, Gracie had

managed to take the crown.

Gracie finally arrested Mrs. Morningside and took her to the police station for

safekeeping to account for her actions after a lengthy process. Gracie also demonstrated

that if she successfully apprehended the perpetrator of the crime, which became a major

project for her FBI agent, her friend, Matthew, would be astounded by Gracie's bravery

and ability to solve the problem.

GRACIE: "Get in the car"

MORNINGSIDE: "You think you saved something?

All you did was to destroy the dream

Of all young women over the country"

GRACIE: "Their dream is to get blown up?"

You got a good shot, at that insanity plea"

MORNINGSIDE: "I earned it"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.28)

With her abilities, Gracie tried to manage Mrs. Morningside, who at that time

continued to defend herself if she was innocent of the incident; Mrs. Morningside was

always evasive about what she had done; she felt innocent, and she kept saying that

what she did was right. However, although Gracie continued to refute everything Mrs.

Morningside said, what Mrs. Morningside had done had already been investigated by

Gracie, and Mrs. Morningside could no longer avoid it. Her hard work paid off, and

Gracie earned praise from her FBI agent, Matthew. Matthew expressed his admiration

for Gracie's strength and her ability to eradicate this crime.

MATTHEW: "That's good work, right back at you"

GRACIE: "So does it feel? Throwing the role book, out of the window?"

MATTHEW: "Pretty good, actually"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.28)

Gracie felt grateful to be able to help with the investigation process in the contest,

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and she proved to her FBI agent friends and those around her that she had the ability to

be appreciated after such a long process.

Not only that, as an FBI agent, Gracie is the only woman who works and always

obtains a job in the movie. Despite being a woman, Gracie consistently stands out from

her male FBI agent buddies. The only other woman present was busily engaged in office

work in the distance. That also addresses the issue of applying different standards to men

and women at work. Gracie exhibits masculinity to prove her toughness and ability to

perform her work. That emphasizes that women frequently lose in workplace situations

while still completing their mission. Gracie receives a space more significant than her

mostly male FBI agent friends in every meeting where she works. In addition, on one

occasion, she was reportedly the employee that McDonald liked the best among his

subordinates. Her performances are consistently excellent, although occasionally, she

faces criticism for some of her errors, such as the first investigation, where she

successfully identified a few criminals. Gracie is persistent. The survey was completed

successfully as a result.

MATTHEW: "Don't be sorry. You did a great job! nice work. See you back

there. Come on, Hart. The van's waiting"

GRACIE: "I got grant shot, I shouldn't have moved

MATTHEW: "Come on, you made a choice, it was wrong, but that's it, it's

over"

(Scripts, 2018, p.1)

FBI AGENT OFFICER: "Gracie Hart?"

GRACIE: "Yes, sir. ET A, 20 minutes. No problem. Breakdown? Yes, sir.

Negative. Do not need assistance"

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(Scripts, 2018, p.1)

Moreover, when information appeared about the bombing of a Miss United States beauty pageant, Gracie led a team discussion that had been chosen by several agents by Matthew; in the discussion, it was seen that Gracie gave her point of view and thoughts to help the investigation process in the matter and other agent friends seemed to agree and follow the directions expressed by Gracie.

GRACIE: "You might want to call the network and pageant people. Set up a

meeting". Because you will probably need their cooperation"

MATTHEW: "Yeah, I can do that. Let's do that"

AGENT HARRIS: "What about jurisdiction?"

GRACIE: "The Citizen has been ours, from the start, you might want to call San Antonio. Grease some wheels so they like us, when we need manpower and

tech"

MATTHEW: "While I' m at it, let's do that"

AGENT CLONSKY: "Good idea"

(Scripts, 2018, p. 3)

Gracie's role in conducting every investigation proves that Gracie is not an ordinary woman. Still, with her ability, she proves that she is an extraordinary woman who can be an inspiration and deserves to be called a strong woman, so she needs to get appreciation. Gracie can reflect on herself as a strong woman, make decisions, and solve problems. It is proven that Gracie is the only woman who survives, is responsible for carrying out her mission, and never gives up before she succeeds.

#### 2. Refusing Beauty Standard

Gracie's experiences with the stereotypical views of women as objects of sexual desire force her to live up to the expectations of beauty that were in place at the time. The beauty standard was created to satiate men's desire for women's bodies. She is limited in how she can dress, look, and even use makeup because of these stereotypes. Additionally, as was discussed in the previous section of the analysis, Gracie also

experiences seduction. The actions that Gracie takes to challenge the stereotype include maintaining her appearance or manner of dressing to demonstrate her identity as an FBI agent or a masculine woman. She resists the seduction by showcasing her intellect as well. Gracie's actions dispel the myths about women as mere sexual objects. Gracie's resistance to her seduction demonstrates her effort to challenge the ideal of beauty. She criticizes men in this scene for treating women as objects of admiration just for their physical attractiveness. Men enjoy the pleasure that women's beauty provides for them. Through this film, Gracie demonstrates the need for men to respect women's intelligence. Because intelligence demonstrates women's capacity to advance their degrees, intelligence is more valuable than beauty. Gracie demonstrates that she has greater strength and capability.

Gracie's encounter with woman stereotypes, particularly in light of her knowledge, was apparent when attractive women were portrayed in the movie when they were competing in beauty pageants. In these parts, they are described as contenders who are goofy airheads who are on a diet to achieve the ideal female appearance; these restrictions on what they can eat and how they look oppress them in many ways. Because this conveys the message that internal qualities rather than external ones define us as people, Gracie wants to demonstrate that she can reject the beauty standards in our culture. Women are sometimes used as sexual objects, demeaned and considered to have no abilities equal to men, a story from Gracie Lou, an undercover FBI agent, does not appear to have any characteristics of femininity. She is generally a bright and competent agent, but she gets into trouble at work when she makes a mistake in a case that almost leads to disaster.

Gracie, who at that time was assigned to participate in a beauty pageant which was

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in stark contrast to her tomboyish character and even she never wore clothes such as

dresses, heels and even makeup, but Gracie showed that she managed to be herself and

was successful in overcoming the big problems that occurred with her tomboyish

character but still looked feminine, she tries to keep proving that even if she seems

tomboyish in beauty pageants, she can still carry out her duties as a competent and

responsible FBI agent. Even though we know that in all beauty pageants, they must

always be identic with a slim body, long hair, a high nose, and a beautiful face, Gracie

proves that she has her tomboyish style but is still elegant. This stereotype restricts her

freedom to dress. Additionally, as discussed in the preceding section of the analysis,

Gracie experiences seduction. Gracie deconstructs the stereotype by dressing in a way

that reveals her identity as an FBI agent, which is why she does what she does.

MATTHEW: "A part of you going to miss this"

GRACIE: "I'm going to miss the heels, the dress, they do something to my posture but

I'm proud of my breast"

MATTHEW: "Funny"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.29)

During their conversation, Gracie admitted that she would later miss all of the things

that were similar to women, such as dresses, heels, and other similar items. However,

Gracie was unlikely to reuse the items because she was an FBI agent who worked with

time and believed that they could have been more effective for her in performing her

duties as an FBI agent. Gracie demonstrates that being ourselves is what makes us

beautiful.

CHERYL: "This year Miss Congeniality"

GRACIE: "I don't know what to say but I can't wear this at work"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.29)

She dislikes women's clothing that she used in that beauty pageant, such as heels and

dresses, because it is rigid and uncomfortable. Because it is governed and determined by

the beauty standard built by the patriarchal system, women choose to dress in a way that

is unremarkable for other women, which restricts their movement and hides their identity.

She wears the dress because it is more comfortable, even though it hides her beauty. But

she is confidently beautiful with her heart.

Her tomboyish attitude made her never think of owning things, not even makeup

tools, which are mandatory for a woman. Even Gracie can't wear makeup tools because

she is very unfamiliar with these beauty tools. Gracie wears a regular t-shirt and jeans;

she doesn't wear heels, she just wears regular shoes, and he has boxing equipment as a

hobby at home.

GRACIE: "I don't even own dress"

I don't even brush"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.5)

Gracie was actually uncomfortable in the scene that aired when Gracie

transformed into a beautiful woman in a dress and heels. However, being responsible and

professional, Gracie followed directions to get the job done.

GRACIE: "I'm in a dress, I have gel in my hair, I haven't slept..."

"...I'm starved and I'm armed. Don't mess with me."

"I'm fine. I'm cool. I'm good"

(Scripts.com, 2018, p.9)

In the scene, Gracie was uncomfortable with her appearance being required to

wear dresses, heels and makeup, because Gracie felt that she was not being herself

therefore Gracie felt that she actually has her own freedom, even though she is a woman

but Gracie has an open mind, if a woman also has rights and freedoms both in terms of

dressing, speaking and even looking. Gracie thinks if a woman can also choose what she

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wants, nothing can stop a woman in any way. Women don't have to be housewives, women don't have to wear dresses, women don't have to have long hair and so on. Today she proves that appearance cannot be a reference for a woman to achieve her rights and dreams. Women can be anything they want, without any restrictions.



#### **CHAPTER V**

#### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter completes the analysis of this research. The investigation led the researcher to the conclusion that the patriarchal system effectively leverages gender stereotypes to widen gender inequality. Gender stereotypes make women's social status equal to men's, making them more likely to be mistreated and limiting their rights. Women's stereotypes, as part of gender stereotypes, lead to oppression, determining their roles and placing them in a lower position than men. The main focus of this study is on women's stereotype issues as experienced by Gracie, the main character in the *Miss Congeniality* movie script.

This movie describes Gracie as a strong woman who was born never to give up. She has always been faithful to herself and a strong woman. Gracie demonstrates her bravery. She is willing to fight anyone who she believes is wrong. Gracie can defend herself, especially in her fights; she doesn't mind fighting her friends who are disrespectful to her. Gracie is also characterized as a responsible woman; Gracie is a responsible woman with a strong sense of right and wrong. Gracie, in character, always felt that if she was going to be changed into a more feminine person because contrary to her masculine nature, even if she doesn't want to wear clothes that don't suit her personality, she is still professional in carrying out her duties at work, so she is known as a responsible woman.

Moreover, she is courageous; as her appearance suggests, Gracie is passionate about being a woman and pushing herself to do what she loves to fight. Gracie is a character who enjoys doing complex challenges. Gracie is also characterized as a

beautiful woman; she demonstrated some significant changes, particularly in her appearance, which is gorgeous and elegant when she wears dresses, heels, and sophisticated makeup. Not only that but Gracie is also characterized as a polite woman; Gracie develops into a woman with grace and charm as she quickly makes a lot of friends. She always assists contestants at the event, and the fact that she is so welcoming makes her easy to like by many people around her is one of the best things about Gracie, who can go anywhere and at any time. At this point, it is evident that a woman's polite behaviour. Next, she has intelligent characteristics, Gracie was a brilliant woman, and she was adept at overcoming a variety of challenges., However, Gracie's fellow contestants have acknowledged her intelligence. Gracie is also highly organized and meticulous in everything she does, demonstrating that she is adept at time management.

Last but not least, Gracie is recognized as an independent woman; she has worked hard to become independent in her career. Gracie has managed to change. She made many mistakes in the past, and although she was hesitant to take the challenge at first, she eventually succeeded, and now she does. Her career has significantly benefited from her decision to become more feminine.

As one of the main characters, Gracie is subjected to gender stereotypes that portray her as a powerless woman, a sexual object, and an inferior woman. In the film, Gracie's members of the FBI agents, primarily men, believe that if Gracie fails to assist in every task of investigating several problems, she is weak and does not have good investigative abilities. Even her boss criticizes and does not hesitate to scold Gracie, who is thought ineffective at her job, causing the investigation to fail. So, they thought that Gracie was inappropriate to work for an FBI agent because she was considered weak at handling some cases. In addition, Gracie, in her work, also experienced sexual harassment

or could be called a sexual object by her male friends; in some scenes, Gracie is seen being teased by her friend because of Gracie's appearance. She does look sexy and beautiful when she wears a dress and makeup, so her friend teases her and says something that falls into the category of a sexual object. Although Gracie is a tomboy, she is a woman who is indeed beautiful when wearing a sexy dress; it indeed invites her friend to fulfil her desires. Then in some scenes, it is depicted that Gracie received less unpleasant treatment for herself where she was considered inferior by her male friend. However, it looked like a joke; every word uttered by her male friends was like mocking and despising Gracie. She was considered a less agile and dexterous woman at work; Gracie was considered unsuccessful at working as an FBI agent, and, in some events, she was mentioned as a cheap woman. The Patriarchal Society forbids women as being inferior to men so that men deserve more.

From some of her experiences, Gracie wants to prove that she can fight the stereotypes and stigma. A woman can be strong, challenging, and dignified in front of people, especially men. Gracie shows her ability and strength with her cleverness and intelligence in strategizing to prove who exactly is the villain behind the problems that occur. It is proven that if Gracie's strategy and mindset succeed in showing who the villain is, she can even defeat her boss and friends who have considered her poorly and leave her when the investigation takes place. Gracie also proves that she is an FBI agent, the woman who works and always obtains a job in the movie. Despite being a woman, Gracie consistently stands out from her male FBI agent buddies. The only other woman present was busily engaged in office work in the distance. That also addresses the issue of applying different standards to men and women at work. Not only that, Gracie also refused the standard of beauty that has always been the cornerstone of a perfect woman.

In the eyes of men, Gracie pointed out that a masculine woman like herself could be successful. Finally, the study shows that stereotypes about women are still a big problem in society. Women still experience women stereotypes. Even Gracie, a masculine woman who works as an FBI agent, encounters stereotypes about women. Women's fight against stereotypes should never stop. Through this research, Gracie proves that women can be strong, independent, unstoppable, and subject to portrayals of women as superior beings. To dismantle stereotypes, women need to believe in their strengths and abilities. A woman can be who she wants to be, and nothing can stop her dream of being successful throughout the universe.



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