

## Pengaruh Konsep Feminisme Liberal Eudoria Terhadap Enola dalam Film Enola Holmes

*The Influence of Eudoria's Liberal Feminism Concepts Toward Enola in Enola Holmes Movies*

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### Abstrak

Banyak kajian sastra feminis yang menempatkan tokoh utama sebagai pusat pembahasannya. Namun beberapa penelitian mengabaikan peran karakter minor. Faktanya, tokoh utama tidak bisa berdiri sendiri tanpa tokoh minor. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana tokoh minor bernama Eudoria Holmes mempengaruhi putrinya, Enola Holmes untuk mewujudkan prinsip dan nilai feminisme liberal berdasarkan teori Marilley dalam film *Enola Holmes* (2020) dan *Enola Holmes 2* (2022). Para peneliti menggunakan konsep feminisme untuk mengidentifikasi bagaimana feminisme liberal ditampilkan dalam film. Data pendukung diperoleh dari berbagai sumber, seperti buku, artikel, dan jurnal terkait diskriminasi gender, stereotip terhadap perempuan, dan feminisme. Dalam pengumpulan data digunakan teknik analisis dokumen. Analisis data dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan feminis. Para peneliti menemukan ada tiga jenis feminisme liberal. Yang pertama adalah feminisme persamaan hak; Eudoria mempengaruhi Enola untuk memiliki sekelompok orang yang berbicara satu suara agar dapat didengar. Yang kedua adalah feminisme ketakutan; Eudoria yang pertama kali mengalami ketakutan dan ketidakamanan di masyarakat membuat Enola terjerumus ke dalam situasi tidak aman dan tidak nyaman karena tidak mengikuti standar masyarakat. Yang terakhir adalah feminisme pengembangan pribadi; Eudoria mengajak Enola berpikir kritis dari berbagai sudut pandang. Singkatnya, kajian ini memperkaya pembahasan feminisme melalui kacamata karakter minor yang jarang dieksplorasi.

**Kata Kunci:** Eudoria, Holmes, pengaruh, feminisme liberal.

### Abstract

Many studies of feminist literature put a main character as their central discussion. However, several studies ignore the role of minor characters. In fact, the main character cannot stand alone without minor characters. This research aims to find out how the minor character named Eudoria Holmes influences her daughter, Enola Holmes to embody the principles and values of liberal feminism based on Marilley's theory in *Enola Holmes* (2020) and *Enola Holmes 2* (2022) movies. The writers used the concept of feminism to identify how liberal feminism is displayed in the movies. Supporting data were obtained from various sources, such as books, articles, and journals related to gender discrimination, stereotypes of women, and feminism. In collecting the data, document analysis techniques were used. Data analysis was conducted using a feminist approach. The writers found that there are three types of liberal feminism. The first is the feminism of equal rights; Eudoria influenced Enola to have a group of people who speak one voice in order to be heard. The second is the feminism of fear; Eudoria who first experiences fear and insecurity in society influences Enola to get into the unsafe and uncomfortable situation since she does not follow the standards of society. The last is the feminism of personal development; Eudoria invites Enola to think critically from various point of views. In short, this study enriches the discussion of feminism through the lens of a minor character which is seldom to be explored.

**Keywords:** Eudoria, Holmes, influence, liberal feminism.

## INTRODUCTION

Many studies of feminist criticism in literature which involve analyzing and interpreting literary works by considering gender perspectives and issues related to the role of women in society have been conducted (Deepwell, 2023; Mohammed & Lateef, 2023). Not only this highlights gender inequality, patriarchal power structures, and discrimination and oppression against women, this approach also seeks to examine the portrayal and representation of women in literary work (Neimneh et al., 2020; Neuman, 2006; Prajnandhari, 2021; Rakow, 2022). Feminist criticism includes examining female characters, their role in the plot, and how the narrative treats and gives voice to women.

As one of the principles of feminism: liberal feminism which emphasizes individual freedom has a goal that is to achieve gender equality through changes in law, public policy, and social transformation that eliminate gender-based discrimination. Various ways have been done to campaign feminism, one of which is through movies. Not only for entertaining audience, movie

is also able to influence its viewers by presenting histories and facts. As proposed by (Azizah & Fitri, 2019), movie is considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment, and a powerful medium for educating or indoctrinating citizens. One of the movies that relates closely to feminism is "Enola Holmes" which has a background in England in the 19th century. The movie is adapted from the novel "Enola Holmes (2006)" written by Nancy Springer, which is part of a book series that tells the adventures of Enola Holmes.

The movies "Enola Holmes", which was in 2020, and "Enola Holmes 2", which was in 2022, have a strong connection to the topic of feminism. As the film industry grows and time passes, the image of the female character is transformed from one of a powerless, sometimes oppressed creature to one of great intelligence, bravery, independence, and power comparable to that of men (Srijayanti, 2023). One of the main themes in the movie is female empowerment and the fight against gender stereotypes in the Victorian era. Enola Holmes, played by Millie Bobby Brown, is portrayed as a smart, brave, and independent girl. These traits have been instilled by her mother, Eudoria Vernet Holmes, played by Helena Bonham Carter. After Enola's 16th birthday, her mother suddenly disappeared. Enola Holmes finally decides to find out where her mother is and why her mother taught her differently.

Previous studies of feminism in Enola Holmes put Enola as the main character under the spotlight (Mugiarti et al., 2021; Nafis, 2021; Pamungkas & Nugroho, 2023; Sakinah et al., 2022; Saputri & Neisya, 2021). A study entitled "Characterization of Enola Holmes in The Case of The Missing Marquess: A Study of Liberal Feminism" by Halimatus, et al. (2022) as a related study to be compared. The writers analyzed the characterization of the main character, Enola Holmes based on liberal feminism. The purpose of their research is to find how the main character is characterized differently from most other teenage girls at that time and to find the spirit of feminism illustrated in the novel by the main character, Enola Holmes. The writers found similarities and differences between this study and Halimatus' study. For the similarities, the writers found that both of the studies focused on the liberal feminism that shows in the character. The writers also found a difference between the writers' study and the previous study. The writers took the minor character's perspective, Eudoria Holmes. Meanwhile, Halimatus's study only focused on Enola Holmes as the main character in the story. Instead of choosing the main character, the writers analyzed more about the minor character who has a close connection with the main character. The assistance along with guidance provided by people closest has an important role in helping children develop good character qualities (Sari et al., 2022). The writers believe that the most result of Enola Holmes's character and mindset comes from her mother, Eudoria Holmes. Children's behavior will imitate what they see and hear (Fauziah & Waryanti, 2021). As a daughter, Enola followed what Eudoria taught and showed to her.

On the contrary, this article has a different point of view which underlines that the main character is also influenced by the minor character(s). Eudoria Vernet Holmes becomes an interesting character who influences Enola. She is a character who has extraordinary freedom and rejects traditional rules that limit women at that time. She is a liberal feminist who is active and instrumental in the struggle for women's rights.

In this day and age, feminism is still being fought for although the world has developed tremendously and slowly women have gotten their rights. Through this study, the writers underline the role of minor character especially Eudoria Vernet Holmes in educating her daughter to be an extraordinary person who fought for women's rights at that time. Although Eudoria's parenting style is different from other parents, it doesn't mean that Eudoria's acts are bad. Eudoria does

everything for Enola's greatest good and safety. With the right parenting style, children will lead their lives to become better individuals. Parents always want success for their children, so that success can be beneficial for themselves and for others (Febriyanti et al., 2022). Parents should provide a good example for their children by teaching equality and justice if they want their children to grow up to be good individuals (Maharani & Rosiandani, 2016). The writers consider that Eudoria does not appear in many scenes since the character suddenly disappears and only leaves traces that will be solved by her daughter. The goal of this study is to find how Eudoria Holmes educates Enola Holmes about the principles and values of liberal feminism in "Enola Holmes I and II" Movies" based on Marilley's theory.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study is a qualitative one as qualitative research is one way of examining social reality by exploring, describing, and explaining social phenomena. This type of approach intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject (perception, behavior, action, etc.). According to (Fraenkel et al., 2012), qualitative research investigates the qualities that exist in relationships, activities, situations, or materials. Besides that, qualitative approaches do not use statistical analysis procedures or other quantification methods (Meleong, 1989).

The descriptive research is applied in this study. It has the intention to provide an overview of a certain social phenomenon that is the focus of attention to be explained. This type of descriptive research aims to make a systematic description of the facts and phenomena of the object under study (Sugiyono, 2011). This research is a description and forms of Eudoria Holmes in applying the principles and values of liberal feminism in the film "Enola Holmes I and II".

The emergence of feminism as a social and political movement began in the 19th century in Europe and North America. At that time, there was a movement against slavery and a struggle for civil rights. Feminism comprises a range of social and political movements, as well as belief systems, that strive for equality in various aspects of life (Mulatsih, 2020), including the economy, politics, personal relationships, and society as a whole. Contrary to positioning men as inherently superior to women, these movements aim to empower women by advocating for their rights and acknowledging their capabilities in all areas. Feminism has played a pivotal role in driving significant social transformations, particularly in the Western world. It has received widespread recognition for its achievements in securing women's suffrage, promoting gender-neutral language, and advocating for reproductive rights (Henry & Lanier, 2018).

There are six major types of feminism namely liberal, radical, marxist, psychoanalytic, and postmodern. This study focuses on liberal feminism where the liberal movement began in the 19th century and is still growing today, the movement managed to go through a long history and was able to adapt to the problems that arose in this era.

Several steps were done for gathering the data. First, the writers watched "Enola Holmes and Enola Holmes 2" movies. After that, the writers noted down every word or every scene in relation to the plot, which illustrates the principles and values of liberal feminism in the movie. The next step was to categorize and express findings that are considered important, interesting and included in Marilley's theory of liberal feminism (feminism of equal rights, feminism of fear, and feminism of personal development).

According to (Marilley, 1996), woman's rights reformers and woman suffragists developed three types of liberal arguments, namely feminism of equal rights, fear and personal development.

Feminism of equal rights emerged as the dominant ideology during the Jacksonian era and continued through the Reconstruction period. Its core principle was the pursuit of freedom through equality. This inclusive egalitarianism developed within the anti-slavery movement led by Garrisonians, where prominent women such as Maria Stewart, the Grimké sisters, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton entered the public sphere as abolitionists and later transformed into feminists. They advocated for radical changes in marriage, the political system, and society as a whole. While suffrage was not the central focus of this ideology, equal rights took precedence. However, the feminism of equal rights struggled to gain widespread support beyond the Garrisonian movement. Even within the temperance movement, women rejected the more radical ideas associated with this brand of feminism. The only notable political victories during this phase were related to married women's property rights, but even these achievements did not fully encompass feminist victories.

During the mid-1870s, Frances Willard became a temperance leader who developed the themes of liberal feminism, known as the "feminism of fear". Willard focused less on political equality for women than on creating conditions of safety and freedom for women. To achieve this, she encouraged spontaneously organized mobs of women in the early 1870s to protest against men's drinking habits. Willard particularly focused on the threat of physical violence that women faced from men, especially from drunken husbands. Willard made women's suffrage central to alcohol prohibition reform: she argued that women who had the vote could guarantee physical security for themselves and their children only if they could win the vote and implement "home protection" as their primary goal. She capitalized on women's fear of violence and used religious symbolism to give traditional women a personal reason to seek voting rights and the moral authority to do so.

The movement of personal development feminism gained momentum in the 1840s when educated middle-class women began to fight for property ownership rights for married women. They wanted to have control over their inheritance and income to make their own investment decisions. However, by the 1890s, a more educated, urban-dwelling generation of women began to highlight these issues more clearly. Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw, for example, emphasized the personal disadvantages experienced by every disenfranchised woman and focused on the fundamental injustices in women's politics. Catt, who became a key architect of the national strategy to secure women's voting rights in the twentieth century, was initially involved with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) but later switched to the suffrage movement due to her disagreement with their views on alcohol prohibition. In the late 1880s and 1890s, Catt adopted the arguments of nativist feminism espoused by Stanton. She decried the political treatment of eligible women while ineligible men could vote, seeing it as an injustice experienced primarily by educated, moral and responsible American women.

In the process of checking the results, the writers applied the theory and validated the analysis results.

The types of data in the research are divided into two types, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data in this research are "Enola Holmes I and II" movies. While secondary data in this study are books, encyclopedias, and others related academic articles.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings are presented in three sections based on theory of liberal feminism, namely feminism of equal rights, personal development, and fear. Every section is supported with a selected movie script.

### Feminism of Equal Rights

Equal rights feminism refers to the actions taken by women to be independent and have the same rights as men also have. Since the main objective of this article is to find out the influences of Eudoria toward her daughter, this section presents a description of the influences of Eudoria Holmes on her daughter, Enola Holmes in the feminism of equal rights. Women have the right to be independent and not easily dependent on others, especially men. It means that women's natural rights are recognized as no less important than men's natural rights.

One moment that shows Eudoria's influence toward Enola in relation to feminism of equal rights happens after Eudoria and Edith, other of her organization's coworkers, successfully avoid the police's pursuit to rescue Enola from jail. Eudoria and Enola met again during this rescue as shown in the dialogue:

Eudoria: So, um, how's that useless boy of yours?  
Eudoria: I hear he's doing good work.  
Enola: He is.  
Eudoria: Well then, perhaps not so useless after all.  
Enola: I wouldn't say he's "my boy."  
Eudoria: You know, I sometimes think I brought you up to be too independent.  
Enola: Mother!  
Eudoria: I did it with all of you.  
Eudoria: Your purpose must be to find who you are.  
Eudoria: You, Sherlock, Mycroft.  
Eudoria: Strong, formidable, individual children, but, well, perhaps a little lonely.  
Enola Holmes 2 (2022) – (1:18:22)

The dialogue above contains a conversation between Eudoria and Enola. They discussed their family members: Sherlock, Mycroft, and Enola. Enola has the same or equal rights as other male family members. When Eudoria said that Enola appears to be taught to be too independent so that she does not require the presence of men in her life, the context of feminism of equal rights is established. Eudoria also influences Enola for finding who Enola is. Enola can also be strong, formidable and individual person just like Sherlock and Mycroft. Eudoria taught Enola that women also have the same rights. Women are not frequently perceived as being dependent on men and as having limited freedom.

In different scene, Eudoria also reminds Enola to do her actions on her own. Besides influencing Enola to be independent, Eudoria also creates an impact on Enola's character to work with others to speak up her voice as shown in Eudoria's statements below:

Eudoria: You will do very well  
on your own, Enola.  
Eudoria: But with others, you could be magnificent.  
Eudoria: Who do you think organized all of this after all? Hm?  
Eudoria: Me?  
Eudoria: No, you find your allies.

Eudoria: Work with them, and you will become more of who you are.  
Eudoria: You speak with one voice, and you will make more noise than you could ever have imagined.  
Enola Holmes 2 (2022) – (1:19:16)

Eudoria underlines the importance of having one voice together so that they will be heard. The voice refers to women movement to have equal rights in the job opportunity. Eudoria influences Enola to act for women equal right by provoking Enola to have some friends who have the same voice. At the end of the story, Enola, Sarah Chapman, and Bessie go back to the match factory to persuade the female employees to leave the place where the phosphorous in the matches they produced was killing people. The three of them do not have compelling proof, so the female employees hesitate and are afraid to speak up for fear of being sacked from their jobs. Enola became aware of what Eudoria had stated about "one voice" after hearing Bessi's abrupt stomping. To prevent the male factory employees from stopping them, all the women in the workplace finally joined forces to cease working there.

In a nut shell, the purpose of feminism of equal rights is that everyone should have the same rights whether males or females. Everyone should have the right to choose what they want and what is good for their own sake. The dialogue shows that the women workers finally dare to choose what is good for them, dare to choose the job they want, and it also shows that women also have the right to quit their jobs for their own good.

### **Feminism of Fear**

It's common to say that fear is a weakness. From a different point of view, fear could be an encouragement or strength for someone. Fear could create the kind of conditions that push someone to take an action. When it is combined with anger and emotional attempts to reduce its intensity, fear is an effective driving force for action (Blais, 2023). Women often have their own fear in their family or society. The fear is reflected through this conversation below:

Eudoria: I'm sorry.  
Eudoria: I wanted to tell you where. I was going, but it wasn't safe.  
Enola: Are you safe now?  
Eudoria: I didn't leave you because I didn't love you.  
Eudoria: I left for you... because I couldn't bear to have this world be your future.  
Eudoria: So, I had to fight.  
Eudoria: You have to make some noise if you want to be heard.  
Eudoria: Oh, it's funny. I thought I was the one that was going to change the world.  
Eudoria: The reform bill, is it true what you did?  
Eudoria: What a woman you've become.  
Enola Holmes (2020) – (1:53:18)

Eudoria finally meets again with Enola after her long journey. Eudoria explains that what she did was an effort to protect Enola. Her actions were very dangerous. That was why she never told Enola about the movement. Eudoria realizes that her daughter has grown into a young woman who is capable of addressing some of the political issues of their time, such as the reform bill.

In the feminism of fear, it is evident that women experience fear and insecurity in society. However, in the face of fear, women often find strength and the ability to stand up for themselves. Eudoria is a mother who had the courage to challenge the social injustices of the time, as reflected in the dialogue. She did everything she could for the safety of her daughter and for women who

were also fighting to make their voices heard by society. Her action has influenced Enola to be brave to fight against patriarchal system as one of women's fear.

Enola herself also faces her own fear. This happens when Enola had just opened her own detective firm suddenly after she remembered the message given by her mother. Some people start to come and want to use her services but Enola doesn't get any clients because they don't believe that a young woman could handle their cases. Everyone underestimated Enola and compared her to her brother, Sherlock Holmes who was a very famous detective at the time.

Eudoria: Too many people make it their sole purpose in life to fit into the world around them.  
Eudoria: This is a mistake. It's your path, Enola.  
Eudoria: Sometimes, you'll stumble. Sometimes, you'll fall.  
Eudoria: But no matter how lost you feel, if you stay true to yourself, the path will always find you again.  
Enola Holmes 2 (2022) - (04:28)

The incident shows the discomfort and discrimination that women experience in society in general. Eudoria reminds Enola not to follow the will of others and the standards of society. This message may lead Enola into an unsafe and uncomfortable situation but in the end, Enola would not regret what she has chosen. Eudoria has influenced Enola to experience the fear and face it by performing the voice of liberal feminism.

### **Feminism of Personal Development**

Women must bring out their potential to be 'visible' among men (Atul Izzati et al., 2023). One of the ways women can fight for gender equality is by developing themselves. The personal development of feminism can be experienced in different ways. In the movies, Eudoria influences Enola's way of thinking to be more critical by having various point of views. This conversation below is the beginning of the event:

Eudoria: We know about these factories.  
Edith: Come on! Come on!  
Eudoria: Girls like Sarah Chapman, they're expendable.  
Eudoria: They go missing, too often they die, no one cares.  
Eudoria: But this girl, they care about. And greatly.  
Eudoria: So, what does she know?  
Enola: She stole something. Some papers.  
Eudoria: Aha! So, what's she gonna do with them?  
Eudoria: What's her plan?  
Eudoria: She's not a thief.  
Eudoria: She's not a blackmailer. She is a troublemaker.  
Eudoria: She knows something, and  
that is infinitely more dangerous.  
Enola Holmes 2 (2022) - (1: 14:06)

After Eudoria and Edith manage to save Enola from prison, Enola briefly tells Eudoria about the case she is facing. Enola who initially only wanted to help a little girl named Bessie to find her older sister, Sarah Chapman who suddenly disappeared. After investigating, it turns out that Sarah Chapman is not missing but is on a secret mission. The investigation actually dragged Enola into accusations of murder.

In this incident, Eudoria invites Enola to think critically and provokes Enola to think from various points of view. Looking for reasons why Sarah Chapman who made matches could be wanted by the police. Feminism of personal development emphasizes the importance of empowering women through personal development. Eudoria helps Enola develop herself so that Enola can utilize her potential as much as possible.

## CONCLUSION

Feminism is about women symbolizing strong personality, freedom, equal rights, and suffrage. In the movies, Eudoria Vernet Holmes embodies her daughter's principles and values of liberal feminism. Using Marilley's three types of liberal feminism: equal rights feminism, fear feminism, and self-development feminism, Eudoria raises and influences her daughter to be an independent, courageous, and intelligent woman. Eudoria chose to give Enola different knowledge and a different way of learning from society. The writers chose Eudoria Holmes as the minor character of the movie to be the focus of this study, but this also limits the research due to the limited parts and background of the character itself. Eudoria Holmes as Enola's mother provides many lessons that have not been discussed in this research. These shortcomings can be used as further research for those who are interested in this issue and story.

Through conducting this study, the writers believe that the movement of feminism cannot be done alone. It involves other party. In this case, the study of feminism should not only focus more on the main character. Future studies in relation to minor characters' influences needs to be conducted to underline the connection between main character and minor characters to fight for women rights together.

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