Chapter IV

Conclusion and Recommendation

A. Conclusion

This research aims to describe how the movie *Moms’ Night Out* represents the feminine mystique and how the movie tries to revive the issue of women’s femininity role in 21st century in the American society. From the analysis, we can see that the movie does represent the feminine mystique through the main character of the stay-at-home mother. From the movie’s elements analyzed in this research, it is found out that there are certain plots or story line, characters, dialogues, settings, and scenes which represent the feminine mystique that Betty Friedan has discussed in her 1963’s book of the same name. There are several issues that the movie tries to imply including “the problem that has no name”, domesticity, public sphere and feminism. The representation can play a role as a criticism toward issues that occur in American society and therefore, on the bigger frame, the movie’s elements is built based on factual condition happen in America.

*Moms Night Out* addresses the Feminine Mystique as the main theme of the story line. In the first glance, it seems like the movie acknowledges the problem suffered by the stay-at-home mothers who fail to find happiness at home. Watching this movie, the immediate reaction is to recognize what Betty Friedan describe as the “the problem that has no name”, a problem that is suffered by American women in 1960s. Therefore we will agree that the movie truly represents the real condition of
American women at certain period of time. Since the movie is released in 2014, it only makes sense to make an assumption the problem continues onto this day, six decades after the Feminine Mystique is identified.

However, some things are still the subject to contradiction and exaggeration in order to sell the movie. Hence, the representation in the movie do not truly describe the reinforcement of the feminine mystique in 21st century America. Implicit things plays the bigger role delivering the real message of the movie. The movie recognizes Allyson’s problem of isolation and pressures to be a perfect wife and a perfect mother that lead her into the trap of the Feminine Mystique. However, if we look further, the movie tries to give solutions to the “problem that has no name” which leads to the discussion of women’s sphere. The discussion able to create arguments surround public and domestic sphere, whether women suitable to be in one or another.

As an attempt to eliminate the Feminine Mystique, the movie utilizes the freedom of choice promoted by the women’s movement in which the movement defends women’s freedom to choose the life they want to live without being discriminated or criticized by other members of society. Allyson chooses to return to the home, but she is no longer feel burdened nor unhappy with her choice. In this case, the movie eliminates the Feminine Mystique and makes it as no longer relevant to the main character. In eliminating the Feminine Mystique, the movie uses the depiction of internet-based technology, blogs, as a device for women where they can expand their creativity, exercise their ideas and expressed their opinions—without necessarily being
in the public sphere, physically—activities which are restricted for women in the old days.

The feminine feature of caring is also highlighted in this movie through Allyson’s role as a mother and a mommy blogger. As a mother, she continues as a caring housewife and a loving mother for her children. As a mommy blogger, she gives advice and encouragement for other mothers on her blog so that her readers will not experience what she has experienced. In this case, feminine ethics of care is used as a power, strength and pride for the main character. Hence, based on the analysis obtained after observing the elements of the movie, I conclude that the Feminine Mystique is eliminated but femininity is preserved and being utilized as the source of women’s strength.

**B. Recommendation**

This research examines how the movie Moms Night Out introduces and represents the issue of feminine mystique in American society. It is interesting for a 2014’s movie takes up the issue of the feminine mystique considering that the issue is originally identified in 1960s American culture. In the first glance, the movie seems to criticizing the issue of feminine mystique and supports the search for solutions on the isolation of the stay-at-home mother, but when it is observed deeper, we will find that the criticism is a mask to cover up the real message. In the end, the movie tends to stand in an ambiguity between criticizing as well as justifying the issue of feminine mystique, leaving many possibilities for observers to look at the issue from multiple perspectives.
Thus, it is recommended for other American Studies researchers, especially those who are interested in gender issues, to give criticisms and suggestions for this research in order to enrich and open up other scopes of discussions. There are many other Hollywood movies that bring up similar issues on gender, and there must be certain hidden message that those movies try to convey. It is expected that other researchers to be able to find some other popular culture products and bring them into question, criticize and find out the movie’s intended message.
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