



## The portrayal of patriarchal culture through mother and daughter characters in a silent film *The Impossible Dream* (1983)

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### ABSTRACT

Patriarchal culture is a social practice that places men as superior and women as inferior. In practice, patriarchal culture oppresses and exploits women. *The Impossible Dream* (1983) is a silent film that explores the issue of patriarchal culture, which is considered a woman's voice against the patriarchal system in society. This research aims to analyze the portrayal of patriarchal culture in the film, specifically through mother and daughter characters and to analyze the portrayal of children characters who imitate their parent's behavior based on gender using the theory of patriarchy by Walby (1990). The qualitative descriptive method with textual and visual analysis was employed to gain the data. The results of this research show three structures of patriarchal, namely the production of household, paid work, and culture that are portrayed in the film. This research also shows the behavior of daughter and son tends to be different because they imitate the behavior of parents based on their gender. Apart from women being oppressed and exploited, this research proves that patriarchal culture creates a double burden that is accepted by women. In addition, the patriarchal culture has an impact on children's behavior, thus children are implanted with the mindset of a patriarchal society from childhood. This research will contribute to the study of patriarchy in society. By conducting this research, the author hopes it would shed a new understanding in the topic of patriarchy.

**Keywords:** mother and daughter characters; patriarchal culture; *the impossible dream* film.

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### INTRODUCTION

Film can be considered the most popular media. However, a film contains elements of entertainment and meaning. Most people think that films are motion-pictures that have dialogue to explain the contents of the story to the reader. However, films do not always have dialogue to convey the content of the story. Some films even only present visuals and sound effects without any dialogue, they are known as silent films. The silent film era lasted from the mid-1890s to the 1920s, during which silent films became quite popular, such as *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) by D.W. Griffith, *Metropolis* (1927) by Fritz Lang, and *The Gold Rush* (1925) by Charlie Chaplin were popular. The popularity of silent films began to fade in the early 1930s, due to the emergence of sound technology which

made films visual and audio media. Even though not many people realize it, silent films are quite popular, especially in animated films nowadays. For example, *Tom and Jerry* (1940-present), *Shaun the Sheep* (2007-2021), *Mr. Bean* (2002-2019), *Chaplin & Co* (2011-2012), and *Bernard Bear* (2006-2012).

One of the silent films is *The Impossible Dream*, which is an animated silent film produced by the United Nations (UN) in 1983 with Dagmar Doubkova from Kratky Films, Czechoslovakia. In duration of eight minutes and twelve seconds, the film portrays the characters of father, mother, daughter, son, and baby in a family that appears harmonious and free of violence. However, if it is viewed carefully, this film shows gender inequality, gender roles, and gender stereotypes. These

phenomena reveal the structure of the operation of the patriarchal system cultivated by society. The film shows that a woman has a double burden, in which the mother character is a breadwinner and a housewife.

Patriarchy is a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women in the public and private spheres, (Walby, 1990). In other words, patriarchy is a multilayer oppression of women. Research related to patriarchal culture are plenty, such as Fenika and Azeharie (2023) and Barli et al. (2017). Those studies of patriarchy focusing on unfair social behavior based on gender differences and adult women's resistance to stereotypical gender stigma held by society. The results shown are the feminist movement where women try to fight patriarchal culture to gain gender equality. In addition, there are several studies regarding the representation of patriarchy in literary works. Dewi (2019), in her research, to find how patriarchal values were reflected in Indonesian children's folk tales from Sumatra Island. The results show that patriarchal values are represented in the way women are associated with housework, and women are considered subordinate and inferior. Women demonstrating their dependence on men. Another research is conducted by Fitri and Suparti (2016) to analyze the portrayal of patriarchal symbols in the society of Pagford Town in J.K.Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy* and the patriarchal system abuse or oppression towards the female in *The Casual Vacancy* novel. Furthermore, Khaerati and Iskandar in their research using Sylvia Walby's (1990) theory to analyze the types of patriarchal structures in the *Moxie* film. The researcher also used Simone de Beauvoir's (2010) theory to analyze the struggle of female characters against the patriarchy system in the film. Apart from this research being taken from a silent film without dialogue which makes it different from other research, the patriarchal culture shown in the film is worth analyzing since it portrays the situation of some women everywhere.

Through female characters in the silent film *The Impossible Dream* (1983), patriarchal culture is seen in the oppression of mother and daughter characters who have a double burden, where the mother is an additional breadwinner and housewife, also

the daughter is a student and housewife's assistant. To the researcher's findings, there are few academic articles or research regarding the film *The Impossible Dream* (1983) have been found. However, there are several bloggers who discuss social issues that appear in the film: Malodata website (2016) and Ulifah (2019). These discussions focus on gender inequality and the views of society, especially women, on the gender roles shown in the film.

Fitri and Suparti (2016) in their research to find depictions of patriarchal symbols in society through a novel literary work. The results of their research show that there are six symbols of patriarchy in the novel which are categorized into the public sphere and the private sphere. Patriarchy in the public sphere is women as sex objects, men as criminals in public patriarchy, and women as damsels in distress in public patriarchy. Meanwhile, in the private sphere; women are depicted as the wrongdoers in private patriarchy, women as mothers or angels at home in private patriarchy, and men as criminals in private patriarchy. Fenika and Azeharie (2023) in their research on a film Yuni (2021) show that there is a description of the forms of patriarchal hegemonic culture. The patriarchal culture in various aspects of society's social life as shown in the film creates gender inequality which makes women subordinate compared to men. Patriarchy is a social construction in society that places women only as reproductive tools. On the other hand, Barli et al. (2017) found there is unfair social behavior based on gender differences and adult women's resistance to stereotypical gender stigma held by society. The results shown are the feminist movement where women try to fight patriarchal culture to gain gender equality.

Dewi (2019) on her research of several children's folk tales, shows that patriarchal values are represented in the way women are associated with housework, and women are considered subordinate and inferior. The researcher divides the representation of patriarchy into three categories of representation; women as domestic workers, women' subordination, and women's dependence on men. The first sign of patriarchy is women as domestic workers. It is represented in some parts of the story that women tend to stay at home doing domestic

chores or housework. They prepare food, clean the house, take care of children, and serve their husbands. The second sign is women's subordination. The writer mentions that men are associated with work because they have more power than women. This places women in subordinate positions and men in a superior position. This can be seen from the behavior of a husband or man who tends to rule his wife. The third one is women's dependence on men, which means men, as the breadwinners, make women (wives) who do not work dependent on their husbands' existence and income. Women are often physically dependent on men, but men sometimes do not hesitate to take advantage of them. Another research is conducted by Khaerati and Iskandar (2023) using Sylvia Walby's (1990) theory to analyze the types of patriarchal structures in the *Moxie* film. The researcher also used Simone de Beauvoir's (2010) theory to analyze the struggle of female characters against the patriarchy system in the film. Li (2020) stated in her research that in Confucian China, a woman has no legitimate power or position. On the other hand, women are also forced to depend on men, such as fathers, husbands and sons. However, researchers found that *Mulan's* character as a female warrior became an allegory and provided an alternative for women to break Confucian gender norms and allow access to the public sphere.

Therefore, this present research aims to show the portrayal of patriarchal culture through the female characters in the film, the mother and the daughter, as characters who have a double burden that are portrayed in the film and show how children imitate their parents' behavior according to gender. This research uses patriarchy theory by Sylvia Walby (1990). The present research is significant because it discusses the issue of the social patriarchal practices. It causes women to be oppressed and exploited in the private and public spheres, which results in a double burden being borne by women. Since patriarchal culture is still embedded in society today, this research increases public awareness regarding this issue so that women achieve equality in society. On the other hand, this research also increases awareness among parents regarding the importance of being good role models

because children will imitate their parents' behavior.

Patriarchy in society has existed for a long time. Since ancient times, men have been considered fully responsible leaders. Patriarchal culture is considered as the main reason for gender inequality, and patriarchy is born from cultural construction, Khaerati and Iskandar (2023). Hooks (2004) explains that patriarchy is a political system that states that men dominate because men are superior to anything else. They have the right to dominate and control the weak, especially women. In addition, men also maintain this dominance through various forms of terror and psychological violence. On the other hand, Walby (1990) defines patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women. Of the several patriarchal theories mentioned, the writer chose to use Walby's (1990) patriarchal theory.

According to Walby (1990), there are six structures of patriarchy that each of these structures impact upon one another, such as: first, production relations in the household, which means a woman must work for free in the home under the expectations of her husband. Second, paid work. It means that in the world of work, women suffer wage discrimination, unfair treatment and often find themselves in less demanding roles than their male colleagues. Third, the patriarchal state. Walby argues that the state remains patriarchal, racist and capitalist and that little effort has been made to improve the position of women in the public sphere and equal opportunities legislation is rarely enforced. Fourth is male violence, Walby saw violence against women as a form of male control over women, which remains a problem for many women today. The next one is sexuality, where different rules apply to both genders in terms of social norms and expectations regarding sexual behavior. The last one is culture. Walby believes that many aspects of society, specifically media, religion and education, create and perpetuate patriarchal representations of women. These perspectives then contribute to women's understanding of femininity. On the other hand, Walby argues that there are two characteristics of patriarchy that exist in the social world: the first one is private patriarchy that can be found in the household. The

second one is public patriarchy that operates in the public world, especially in the working world.

## METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to analyze the portrayal of patriarchal culture in a silent film *The Impossible Dream* (1983). Descriptive qualitative is a research method that focuses on understanding a phenomenon by examining its characteristics and qualities. According to Creswell (2018), qualitative research is a research process of exploring and understanding the meaning that individuals or groups attach to social or human issues. This design is suitable for this research because it aims to portray and discuss the patriarchal system in society through the female characters in the silent film. In so doing, the researcher describes the scenes in the film related to patriarchal elements to provide the appropriate interpretation in this silent film research.

In this research, there are two sources of data, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data source of this present research is *The Impossible Dream*, which was published in 1983 and produced by the United Nations (UN) in 1983 with Dagmar Doubkova from Kratky Films, Czechoslovakia. The data were presented in the form of pictures that are related to the patriarchal culture through the female characters in the film. The secondary source of this present research data were taken from some related previous research, theories, journals, and also articles from internet sources that discuss patriarchal and some insights of *The Impossible Dream* story.

The procedure for collecting data in this research was that the researcher watched *The Impossible Dream* film on YouTube platforms. The researcher tried to know and understand the contents of the film, specifically the patriarchal issues conveyed in the film. During the film, the researcher took some notes of the screenshots of scenes containing patriarchal issues, especially on the female characters, which could be analyzed later. After that, the researcher read, collected, and analyzed the data related to the topic and also recorded the previous research, as well as used to support the data analysis of this

research. At the end, the researcher reported the conclusions in this research.

This research discusses the image of the patriarchal system in society as depicted through the female characters in the silent film entitled *The Impossible Dream* (1983). To analyze the film, there were several steps in analyzing the data: identifying each scene that showed the characteristics of patriarchal issues, classifying the characteristics of the patriarchal system taken from each scene using Walby's theory (1990), and sorting the data that represented the patriarchal system in society. The data of the film were analyzed further using the theory explained in the related literature review. In the last step, the researcher discussed and drew conclusions based on the findings and supporting analysis.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

The findings answer the portrayal of patriarchal culture through female characters, specifically mother and daughter characters in *The Impossible Dream* (1983), a film produced by the United Nations. The researcher divides two subsections to answer the research questions in this research regarding the portrayal of patriarchal culture through mother and daughter characters and the portrayal of the children who imitate their parents' behavior based on gender. Referring to Walby's theory (1990), the patriarchal system is divided into two categories: public and private sphere. Walby (1990) also argues that patriarchy operates in six structures: production relations in the household, paid work, the patriarchal state, male violence, sexuality, and culture. However, only three structures, namely the production of household, paid work, and culture were found in this research. According to the analysis based on *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film, the household production and culture are structures of patriarchal systems that exist in the private sphere. Meanwhile, paid work is a patriarchal system that exists in the public sphere. Moreover, the researcher found that children's behavior imitates their parents' behavior based on gender. Daughter character imitates all the behaviors, actions, and responsibilities' mother character. Likewise, the son character imitates the

behavior and actions' father character. The following are the findings and discussions that answer the research question in this research:

### **Household Production, Paid Work, Culture**

As mentioned earlier, the film *The Impossible Dream* (1983) presents three patriarchal structures through the characters of mother and daughter: household production, paid work, and culture. From several scenes in the film *The Impossible Dream* (1983), it is portrayed that patriarchy occurs in the private sphere. Based on Walby's (1990) proposition, women working for free in the home is a patriarchal system that operates in production in the household. *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film portrays the inequality in a family structure at home, where female characters have more household work than male characters. Mother character wakes up earlier than her husband because she has to prepare herself first and then take care of her family's needs. The mother character starts her morning activities by cooking breakfast and is helped by the daughter character who prepares cutlery at the table. Meanwhile, the father and son characters sit and relax while waiting for meals. It can be seen in figure 1 below.

**Figure 1**  
*Breakfast time (Doubková, 1983. 00:01:31)*



There are two different situations in the screenshot above between female characters and male characters. This scene shows the situation of the family who are about to start their breakfast time before doing activities outside the house. The mother character focuses on her activities in the kitchen area, she prepares ingredients and cooks dishes for breakfast with her family. Like cooks in general, the mother character is also seen tasting the dish before serving it on the table. Meanwhile, the daughter character is busy

helping her mother by taking cutlery such as plates, spoons, and forks. She also arranges it on the table neatly. On the other hand, the father character is sitting holding the baby on his lap with the boy character sitting beside him. The three male characters are seen relaxing while chatting lightly, waiting for the meals to be served on the table. Apart from preparing breakfast, the mother character is also the one who tidies up the table after breakfast. Mother character as a wife also prepares the things her husband needs for work. Then, the responsibility of entrusting her youngest son to a middle-aged woman before leaving for work is also the duty of the mother character in this film. Other household matters such as shopping, washing dirty clothes and dishes, ironing, cleaning the house are also the responsibility of the mother character. This finding shows that every household work is the woman's responsibility. This woman's responsibility at home can be seen in the two screenshots, figure 1 and figure 2.

Through the mother and daughter characters in the film *The Impossible Dream* (1983), women have an inequality in production roles in the household. They are fully responsible for everything related to household work, while men have no responsibility for it. As depicted in the film, father and son characters do not show their cooperation regarding household matters. Instead, they wait for themselves to be served by female members of the house. For example, male characters in the film just wait for their breakfast to be served at the dining table while female characters are busy preparing it. Another example is when the son character does not wear shoes by himself, but he waits for the daughter character to put them on (see figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
*The daughter character serves her two brothers. (Doubková, 1983. 00:01:19)*



The screenshot above has a morning background in the children's room. The morning time should be a busy time to prepare oneself before activities outside the home such as school or work. However, the second figure above shows the female character preparing herself first and then serving two male characters, namely the baby and the son characters. The boy character is seen sitting quietly on the bed, allowing himself to be served. Meanwhile, the daughter character bows her body to put a pair of shoes on the son character's feet. At the same time, the baby character is crying loudly on the other side of the bed. He waited his turn to be served by the daughter character.

Those illustrate that men are dominant in the patriarchal society thus they are superior, especially, then women. They will be considered having higher roles and positions as well as higher privileges than women do. This condition also illustrates the embeddedness of patriarchal culture in a family. It is even possible that most women everywhere experience this condition because society adheres to a patriarchal culture. *The Impossible Dream* (1983) also portrays that women have a double burden, which is a situation where one gender receives more workload than the other gender, such as the mother character who acts as a housewife as well as a female breadwinner and the character of daughter who is a student and also a housewife's assistant. The double burden conditions that women receive triggers efforts to transfer work to other women at home, for example daughters. Therefore, *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film shows that the domestic role of the mother character is often assisted or replaced by the daughter character. In addition, the male characters only have one role, such as father is a breadwinner, son is a student, and the baby who still needs adult help. This finding proves that patriarchal practices oppress and exploit women while men have power and dominate.

The researcher also found several scenes related to patriarchal issues in the public sphere, especially at work. Some of the scenes in *The Impossible Dream* film show the existence of a gender pay gap, men having higher positions, and oppression of women by men, who have superior strength. Based

on Walby (1990), this is a patriarchal structure in paid work. The finding proves that the patriarchal system is also present in the world of work. Therefore, women experience unfair payment for their work and are oppressed because of their lower position. It can be described that there are differences in position and treatment between women and men. Moreover, there is an inequality in payment for work results between women and men. Male dominance at work has led to various types of oppression on women. Meanwhile, women are exploited at work. Women work under pressure and discomfort because they are treated worse than men. Men and women work the same amount of time but receive unequal pay, which is evidence of a gender pay gap. Referring to Walby's (1990) patriarchal structure that women suffer from discriminatory pay and unfair treatment in the working world, it is clear that the finding in this analysis described the patriarchal structure of paid work where the mother character earns twice less than the father character. Furthermore, women are not often promoted to senior positions. It means more senior positions are played by men than women, this is also an injustice for women. In *The Impossible Dream* film, there is a scene that shows that the mother's boss at work is a man. Walby (1990) also argues that women often find themselves in less demanding roles than men. The statement explains that women's roles are not really needed, women are rarely asked for advice or important decisions in the workplace. Basically, it is rare or more difficult for women to get promotions to senior positions because women are not given the opportunity to express their opinions and their existence is not considered. It is proof that the condition of women in society is not important. Furthermore, Walby (1990) argues that men are also oppressing women. Women in the world of work are often under pressure to work harder, and often experience verbal violence such as being criticized, scolded, and insulted in public spaces. An example of this situation can be seen in figure 3 below.



**Figure 3**

*Men have the power to oppress women.*  
(Doubková, 1983. 00:03:16)



Based on the scene above, the mother character works as a seamstress. The boss, who is a man, is seen to have the power to put work pressure on his workers. The boss character who approaches the mother character shows an angry expression, such as bulging eyes, hand gestures showing his emotions, and his mouth opening wider indicating that he is screaming. He speaks in a high-pitched voice and shouts at the mother character. At the same moment, the mother character stops her work for a moment to pay attention to her boss who is speaking. With a tired, but calm expression, the mother character is seen remaining silent and listening carefully, then sewing or working faster than before. The mother character is depicted as not having the courage or right to defend herself. In a patriarchal society, men have the power to oppress women and society normalizes it. Meanwhile, women who are considered inferior are unable to express their thoughts and opinions, also women do not even have the power to defend themselves. Therefore, women can only be silent and listen, then carry out every man's orders as shown by the mother's character in *The Impossible Dream* film.

Figure 4. *Mother character entrusts her youngest child to a woman.* (Doubková, 1983. 00:02:51)

In terms of culture, there is a scene in *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film which shows the character of a mother entrusting her baby to a female nanny before she goes to work (see figure 4). After leaving her house, the mother character leaves by a bus with her two school-going children and a baby, then they separate at a bus stop. When the son and daughter characters go to school, the mother character stops by a house in the same

direction as the office. A nanny who is a middle-aged woman appears from behind the door. The mother character entrusts her baby to a female nanny who lives in the house. After that, the mother character walks hurriedly to her workplace.

Walby (1990) argues that different norms and values between men and women create a patriarchal culture. Referring to the statement, it can be described that gender stereotypes are strengthened in patriarchal culture, for example there are still social norms regarding men being the head of the household and women being made for family life. The findings above can illustrate that the culture of taking care of children is a woman's full responsibility even though the woman also plays the role of breadwinner, thus women who bear the double burden usually entrust their children to a nanny, which is also a woman because patriarchal culture believes that taking care of children is the woman's responsibility. As previously discussed in the production of the household subsection, daughter characters often help or replace the role of mother characters, this is also an example of patriarchal culture.

#### ***Children Behavior Imitate The Parents based on Gender***

As previously discussed, patriarchal practices in household production illustrate the gap in roles between women and men. While watching *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film, the researcher also found that parents influence children's roles in household production based on their gender. This also clarifies the previous statement regarding women who receive a double burden tend to shift some of their work to other women. The researcher took two scenes as findings that illustrate that children imitate their parents' roles according to gender.

**Figure 5**

*The daughter character imitates the mother character* (Doubková, 1983. 00:02:11)



In figure 5, the daughter character imitates her mother's behavior or role as a woman. As can be seen in the screenshot of the scene above, the mother character walks quickly towards a green door to enter the room while holding her crying baby. At the same moment, the daughter character takes the initiative to follow her mother from behind when she hears the baby crying loudly, even the steps the daughter takes are the same as her mother's. She also entered the room to help her mother change the baby's diaper. Besides, the daughter character also imitates her mother's fashion style. She wears a red dress and brown shoes like her mother. In terms of hairstyle, both of them tie their hair neatly, the mother character wears a bun, while the daughter character wears two ponytails.

**Figure 6**

*The son character imitates the father character. (Doubková, 1983. 00:04:36)*



In figure 6, the son character imitates his father's behavior as a man. The screenshot above portrays the situation of two male characters in *The Impossible Dream* film after activities outside the home, where the father character has come home from work and the son character has come home from school. The father character is sitting while holding a bottle of beer and a glass. Besides, he is also watching television in front of him. In addition, the son character imitates his father's behaviors by sitting next to him and also watching a program on television. Both of them are smiling. It illustrates that they are happy to enjoy their relaxing time.

Several scenes in *The Impossible Dream* film also portray several other things related to children imitating their parents' behavior based on their gender, such as when the father character puts his bag and clothes anywhere, the son character also imitates this behavior by throwing his school bag anywhere. Another example is when the

mother character eats while holding the baby character, the daughter character also does the same thing at other times. From those findings, it can be described that the family environment has an important influence on children's growth and thinking. According to Rymanowicz (2015), children learn and imitate behavior by watching or listening to others or also known as observational learning, where children learn something just by observing other people as models. Children learn from the models around them, such as television, society, at school and at home. In this finding, the children characters in *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film learn by observation in the home environment where they watch the behavior of their parents who act as models, then apply and imitate those behaviors. However, the patriarchal ideology that has been perpetuated and implanted makes the child characters in the film imitate the behavior of their parents according to their respective genders. This illustrates that patriarchal practices grow into culture and tradition in the family, so that children will think that daughter's roles are the same as their mother's, while sons have the same role as their father. Daughters learn the role of women in society and the household through their mothers, so they naturally imitate and take on responsibilities related to household production, such as contributing to taking care of men or other family members at home and helping with housework. While sons naturally imitate the behavior of their fathers as men have more power and privilege than women, men thus grow up to play a dominating role. Therefore, men think that they have the right to be served for everything, for example the son character feels entitled to have his shoes put on by the daughter character in the film. It is the same as the father character having drinking water poured out by the mother character. These two male characters in the film illustrate that men have the right to be served well by women. Referring to Walby (1990), differences in norms and values between men and women include patriarchal culture. The statement explains that the depiction of children imitating the behavior of their parents based on their respective genders is a norm, value and tradition that will continue to be passed down in families or societies that adhere to a patriarchal culture.



## DISCUSSION

From the findings of this research, it is revealed that *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film succeeded in proving to the readers that patriarchal culture oppresses and exploits women in its practices. It creates gender inequality, where men are considered superior while women are considered inferior. Men dominate, have power, and have privileges compared to women who were created to obey men. The film also illustrates that patriarchal culture has been in practice since the 1980s, women do not have the power to participate in important matters so they cannot reach senior positions in the office and do not even have the power and courage to stand up for themselves. Patriarchal culture also creates a double burden for women, where women bear more burdens and responsibilities as career women and household women. Furthermore, the findings in this study have a correlation with previous studies.

This research's findings have similarities with other research. First, it is similar to the findings of a research conducted by Khaerati and Iskandar (2023). Their research analyzes the representation of patriarchy in *Moxie* (2021) film. Using the same theory, namely Walby (1990), the research found that the film represented three structures of patriarchal. There is culture, sexuality, and violence. Likewise, this research also found three patriarchal structures portrayed in *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film, namely household production, paid work, and culture. However, previous research has taken the patriarchal representation of several characters in the film. Meanwhile, this present research focuses on the portrayals of patriarchal experiences by the mother and daughter characters in the film. This research's finding also has similarities with research conducted by Barli et al. (2017) which analyzed the portrayal of patriarchal society through female characters in the film *Beowulf* (2007). The difference is, the research found male privileges in a patriarchal system. Meanwhile, this present research found women's suffering in patriarchal practices. Likewise, research by Barli et al. (2017) found that female characters in the film have the courage to break the patriarchal system. Meanwhile, the female characters in the film *The Impossible*

*Dream* (1983), specifically the mother character, do not have the courage to challenge the patriarchal practices that apply in public and private spheres. In Fitri and Suparti's (2016) research, the researchers also proved the existence of a patriarchal system in the novel *The Casual Vacancy* which exists in the public and private domains through several symbols. Furthermore, this research found that the patriarchal system creates harassment and oppression of women. Apart from oppression of women, the researcher in *The Impossible Dream* research found that patriarchal practices create a gender gap between men and women who have big differences regarding the roles and responsibilities they bear. From several previous studies, the findings were taken from dialogue in the films or the novel. Meanwhile, the findings of this research were taken from screenshots of several scenes because *The Impossible Dream* is a silent film, which does not have dialogue.

Patriarchal practices are the main aspect shown in *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film. Considering that the film was released in the twentieth century, it can be considered that the patriarchal system has been practiced for a long time. In the current era of the twenty-first century, patriarchy is still practiced and developing in society. This means that patriarchal practices have become a prevalent ideology despite changes in women emancipation in the last few decades. *The Impossible Dream* (1983) describes the patriarchal culture that exists among society, especially women. The statement that household work is women's responsibility is still adhered to by societies that adhere to a patriarchal culture nowadays. Likewise, the statement that men are the heads of the household demands that women as wives cannot make decisions independently and must obey their husband's orders. Daughters are also still given the responsibility to help or replace the role of wives or mothers in a family. This still happens because of the assumption that women must be capable in everything, thus when women get married they can serve their husbands well. However, patriarchal society does not think about the suffering and injustice received by women. This research has many patriarchal perspectives to analyze and contributes to increasing awareness regarding the problems

of patriarchal practices, gender disparities, and the importance of parental behavior as a good model for children.

## CONCLUSION

This research derives several conclusions from the analysis of the text. By using Walby's (1990) theory, it thoroughly examines the portrayal of patriarchal culture in the film of *The Impossible Dream* (1983), more specifically, the patriarchal principles and practices in society through the characters of mother and daughter. This research has tried to prove the existence of a patriarchal culture which is portrayed in the silent film produced by the United Nations, *The Impossible Dream* (1983). From the findings, it was revealed that *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film shows three structures of patriarchal systems through the characters of mother and daughter, namely production of household, paid work, and culture. Through the characters of mother and daughter, it can be seen that women have more pressure and responsibility in a patriarchal culture, such as the mother character who is responsible for all housework, taking care of family members, and working as a breadwinner. On the other hand, the daughter character who is a student also plays a role in helping and replacing some of the work or roles of the mother's character. In addition, the film shows the impact of patriarchal practices on the behavior of children who imitate their parents' behavior based on their gender. Usually, parents will be considered as models by their children because parents are the first place of learning for every child, thus children often imitate the behavior that their parents do naturally. From the findings in this research, the daughter character naturally imitates her mother's behavior, while the son character grows up by imitating his father's behavior. Considering that the family in *The Impossible Dream* (1983) film adheres to patriarchal culture, therefore the children characters grow up and behave according to the rules and roles created by patriarchal culture.

The results of the findings answer that patriarchal culture oppresses and exploits women in its practices, both in private and public spaces. Women cannot act according to their wishes, cannot defend themselves,

and are considered inferior. Furthermore, it also creates a double burden for women. Thus, women who experience a double burden usually delegate some of their responsibilities to other women in their family. Meanwhile, men in a patriarchal culture have privileges, power, and dominate important roles, such as senior positions in the office or boss positions, which are usually played by men. On the other hand, patriarchal practices influence the behavior of children who use their parents as models at home and imitate these behaviors which are patriarchal practices. It also creates a gap in roles between men and women. These findings, which answer the first and second research questions, are related to each other in cultivating patriarchal practices in society.

Based on the findings of this research, silent films are just as interesting as sound films for research. Therefore, it will be interesting if future researchers take up silent films for their research. Through *The Impossible Dream* film that clearly voices patriarchal culture in the 1980s. It is hoped that future researchers can raise patriarchal issues that occur today through other literary works using Walby's theory. On the other hand, it would also be interesting if future researchers could examine patriarchal issues in *The Impossible Dream* film using other theories. In addition, it is important to undertake more research on the impact of patriarchal culture on women to raise people's awareness of the injustices and double burdens that women receive.

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