

## **FEMINISM OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOK “ENGLISH ON SKY 2 FOR GRADE VIII”**

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### **Abstract**

*This study aims to finding out the roles of women represented in pictures in the English textbook. Since the demand for gender equality or women's emancipation or feminism has developed women can do some things and jobs that are usually done by men. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method and uses Peterson's 2004 theory to show the role of women in pictures. the results found are 29 images that represent the role of women. The results found were from 4 types of Peterson's theory which said the concept of the role of women in the new era, namely 1). women's freedom , based on this type, the role of women represented in the book English on sky 2 totals 4 pictures, with a percentage of 14% 2). A woman's obligation to herself, amount found 5 pictures, with a percentage of 17%. 3). A woman's obligation to her family, amount found 18 pictures with a percentage of 62% and 4). Education and seclusion, the amount found are 2 pictures with a percentage of 7%. It is hoped this research will be useful for readers who want to learn about the role of women*

**Keywords:** *Feminism, Women's Role, English Textbook*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Humans are born with two different genders. The two types are male and the other is female. The word gender is not only about the X chromosome and the Y chromosome, but simply "gender" can be defined as the difference between the roles of men and women in community. And this is supported by an opinion that says Gender roles are defined about the differences between the sexes according to society's beliefs (Blackstone, 2013) . This difference is also the difference between man and women characteristics. Women are considered weak while men are strong. So the terms male and female appear. (Zafraa and Retamero, 2012 ) explained that women are seen as occupying communal/feminine jobs, in contrast to men who are seen as occupying agency/masculine jobs .

Because of this feminine conception, women are often underrepresented in society, and women are submissive only to men, and more and more often take the role of housewives who take care of children and husbands. This is usually called traditional or domestic role. This is in accordance with the opinion that women are often portrayed in traditional roles as social beings such as housewives /mothers or general caregivers, clerks or receptionists, sexual and ornamental objects, while men are portrayed as an authority figure, the breadwinner of the family, the ultimate power-holder, the ability to think logically, etc. ( Vela. et al. 2007).

Because of this assumption, women began to feel marginalized and came to be known as the women's liberation movement or feminism. Feminism itself aims for women to have equal roles with men or known as "gender equality". Feminism is fighting for a new world for women, a world in which women have full human status ( Thompson, 2010). And Thompson argues that men's monopoly over "people" is still unrecognized because it is still obscured by hegemonic meanings and values that justify men and demean women. He explained that the creation of a human position for women is necessary for women to seek approval. Women engage with women and know each other in ways that are beyond the control or definition of men. Increasingly into the modern era, it turns out that the role of women who only follow traditional roles is decreasing. One of the proofs is there are many pictures of women who are not only represented as housewives but also as teachers, musicians and others and this can be seen in the pictures contained in textbook.

Education in Indonesia is closely related to textbooks. Textbook itself becomes a guide for Teachers and Students in every learning meeting. Almost all lessons have their own textbooks, such as Math Books, Bahasa Indonesia and English subject's Book. And in the habit of each material to be studied in Accordance with the information and material in the Textbook. So textbook has many benefits especially for Teachers and Students. With a Textbook, the Teacher does not need to make a lot of practice questions and Students can

learn the material from home. In Textbooks, it is not only listed material in written form, but more than that, it includes many Images / pictures.

Our civilization is becoming more and more visual, with images, colors, and other non-verbal means are no longer primarily used for entertainment and illustration, but to communicate and create meaning. Moreover, the proliferation of visual imagery in computer interfaces, children's picture books, graphic novels, textbooks, magazines, and advertising has made it possible for readers to interact with written text, visual images, and design elements. must be used together to create meaning ( Liu , 2013 ) . Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded the phenomenon of women and their roles is very interesting to study because a few years ago women were only known for their domestic roles. where women are tasked with looking after children cleaning the house, cooking and taking care of their husbands. However, nowadays it can be seen that women are no longer just taking care of the house, but women can work in fields previously only done by men, such as teachers, lecturers, doctors and even becoming politicians. and these are all represented in the textbooks. textbooks are very familiar in all circles, be it adults, teenagers, especially children and students. and the various roles of women can be seen in the book.

Previously, it should be noted that Indonesia has several curricula that have been used, some of which are KTSP which began in 2006, then K 13 which began in 2013 and the independent curriculum (Kurikulum merdeka) which was just implemented in 2022. So In this Research , the book used in this study is a book that implements curriculum 13 (K 13) because this book still exists and is widely used today, and this Book is also the latest edition of the Book that has been revised and published in 2018. Based on the explanations and considerations above, the title of this research is "Feminism of women's Role In English Textbook “English On Sky 2 for grade VIII”

Several studies on the role of women have been carried out, one of which is research conducted by Karen K. List (2019) entitled Magazine Portrayals of Women's Role in the New Republic. This article examines information related to women's roles in society found in three New Republic magazines at the turn of the century. The difference between Karen K. List's research and the author's study are here Karen examines the portrayal of the role of women in 3 new republics magazines, while the research focuses on women's role in English textbook .

There are three problems in this study namely : 1. What are the role of women described in the English textbook “English On Sky 2 for grade VIII”?, 2. How are the role of women represented in the English textbook “English On Sky 2 for grade VIII”?, And Why are the role of women represented in the English textbook “English On Sky 2 for grade VIII”?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Textbook**

The word textbook is very familiar in life, especially for students and in the world of education. Textbook is a book that is used as a teaching and learning guide which includes material and questions used by students and teachers in a subject area to be studied. according to (Crawford) in Chiponda and Wassermann, 2015: 210 ) Because textbooks are a "... reflection of political, cultural, economic, and political conflicts and compromises," they are highly complicated and contentious. Then according to (Izzuddin, Dalimunthe, & Susilo, 2021:3 ) said Textbooks are a central element of the educational process. Therefore, the incorporation of knowledge, norms and ideologies into textbooks is appropriately applied to both teachers and students as curricular careers. Incorporating values into textbooks enables teachers and students to learn and double their teaching and learning activities from a social perspective as well. In accordance with the statement above, it is known that in general the use of textbooks is indeed carried out as a material guide for students and teachers when learning in the classroom takes place, but the use of books outside the classroom is of course also allowed and produces output. For example, textbooks are used by students for tutoring at home. Textbooks are produced to meet the needs of students and educators to more easily master a field. this textbook is very useful.

As for the analysis of textbooks, it can be done in each part of the book, such as the overall contents of the book (book content), the writings in the book, materials, or even the pictures listed on the book. In Woyshner & Schocker (2015: 443-444) As Zagumny and Pulsipher explain in their 2008 study of the depiction of women in nineteenth-century textbooks, textbooks are a vehicle, but certainly not the only means, for transmitting cultural knowledge to future generations. The content of the book and the materials it contains follow the curriculum .

### **2.2 English Textbook**

The term "language learning resources/material" refers to anything that can be used to aid in language learning, including text books, videos, step-by-step readers, flashcards, games, websites, mobile phone interactions, etc..but inevitably much of the literature focuses on printed materials ( Tomlinson,2012 : 143). To learn a lesson , commonly that lesson has a material book. this book is called a textbook. In Education world the use of textbook is very common ,because each subject has its own textbook,such as economics book,mathematics books ,biology books, and language books. "Materials can be informative (telling the learner about the target language), instructional (guiding the learner in practicing the language), experiential (giving the learner experience of the

language in use), eliciting (encouraging the learner to use the language), and exploratory (helping the learner make discoveries about the language)” ( Tomlinson,2012 : 143). So its mean English textbooks are textbooks in the field of English lessons in which there is material to learn the language. English text book is a guide for students and teachers in English lessons so that the topics studied are according to the level of students. English textbooks are the same as textbooks in general and follow the existing curriculum. one of the English books entitled English On Sky 2 for grade VIII.

### **2.2.1 English On Sky 2 For Grade VIII**

The book with the title “English on sky 2 (EOS) for grade VIII ” is an English textbook edition 2 for grade 2 junior high school published by Erlangga in 2018. This book is a revision of the previous book with the same title. This book uses the 2013 curriculum written by Mukarto, Widya Kiswara, Sujatmiko & Josephine S.M. Ogbu (1992) argues, It is important to consider the type of curriculum presented to students of color in textbooks and other materials. at the beginning of each chapter there are learning outcomes to be achieved and in the book there are also varied assignments and pictures are included to support the material making this book very interesting.

### **2. 3. Feminisim**

The word feminism means the emancipation of women (Hannam, 2007 :4). Feminism is a thought that arises because they feel there is injustice between men and women, this makes women demand justice. so there is a theory of feminism to create an attractive gender. There are 3 definitions of feminism characteristics :

1. Acceptance of the fact that women play a more subservient role to men due to the gender power gap.
2. The idea that societal constructions of women's conditions can be altered
3. Focus on the autonomy of women ( Hannam, 2007:4)

According to sociologists, there are 3 feminist waves or periods ( Mangan, 2019). The first wave of feminists began with the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft in her work entitled “A Vindication of the right of the women. The first wave of feminism includes several streams, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, anarchist feminism, Marxist feminism and socialist feminism. while the second wave of feminists was the publication of a book by Betty Friedan entitled *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963. The second wave of feminism includes 2 streams of feminism, namely existential feminism and gynocentrism feminism. And the third wave of feminism or better known as postfeminism. This flow is still going on today. In this third wave, feminism also has several streams, namely

postmodern feminism, multicultural feminism, global feminism and eco feminism. There are 3 waves of feminism and 8 types of feminism, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, care-focused feminism, multicultural, global and postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism and last postmodern feminism ( Tong, 2009).

According to Ferguson (2017:270) Feminist theory spreads wide webs across disciplines, weaving together strengths and resistance, being critical of existing conditions, and imaginative about the collective possibilities for freedom, justice, and joy. It thrives through academic practices seeking alliances. The development of this theory of feminism has one common goal, namely to achieve gender equality. where women hope they are not isolated and deserve the same education, jobs and freedoms as men. According to Peterson (2004) the concept of new possibilities for women in a new society there are four, namely:

1. Women's freedom
2. A women's obligation to herself
3. A women's obligation to her family
4. Education and seclusion

#### **2.4 Women's Roles**

The existence of different roles between men and women is influenced by the existence of gender stereotypes. Because of the gender division of labor and social roles, men and women are often stereotyped according to characteristics assigned based on their biological makeup (Lindsey, 2010 cited in Hussain .et al , 2015)). and The most important of these is the family, which plays an important role in the development of gender stereotypes. Also, women's roles are often stereotyped for physical and social intimacy, socialization, nurturing, and care (Lindsey, 2010 cited in Hussain . et al, 2015). In addition, women used to be considered to follow traditional roles, where this role was a role related to the house, such as cleaning the house, cooking, giving birth and taking care of children. but now women are no longer just following that statement, women are now also able to work like men. Based on these stereotypes, man is categorized as masculine, while female or women is categorized as feminine. this makes the roles they carry are also different. women used to be considered weak so they only played traditional roles where these roles were roles related to the house, such as cleaning the house, cooking, giving birth and taking care of children. but now women are no longer just following this statement, women are now also able to work like men. According to Peterson (2004) the concept of a new possibility of women in a new society there are four where it is

formulated that women have four roles

a. Women's freedom

Freedom here means freedom of thought, desire, and action, as long as this happens it does not exceed legal limits and maintains the moral standards of society.

b. A women's obligation to herself

A woman has the authority to work whatever she deems necessary to earn a living. but this does not mean that every woman has to take all the work of men

c. A women's obligation to her family

Women are responsible for taking care of and educating children and are responsible for the home.

d. Education and seclusion

The act of exile violates human freedom, and it also means that women are prisoners who make it difficult for women to get a proper education. women should not be ostracized and have the right to education.

## 2. 5. Dual Women Roles

Several years ago in textbooks women were only represented as housewives, taking care of children, husbands and families.. But since the existence of the feminist movement, women have begun to plunge into all fields that were previously only carried out by men. In traditional societies, women are expected to do household chores and men to do business (Tyagi.et al. 2021). This makes human awareness about women's roles finally represents these roles in textbooks as well. This is done to prove that there is gender equality between women and men. But even so, women cannot be separated from their initial role, namely the domestic /traditional roles . This makes women assume a dual role. According to Umar 2019 women have 2 kinds of roles and there are :

a. Domestic roles (roles in the private sphere)

The domestic role played by those who specialize in households that only take care of household chores and do not generate income or income.

b. Public Role (Role in the Public Domain)

On the other hand public roles are activities that take place outside the home and are aimed at generating money or income.

## METHODOLOGY

The method use in this research is a qualitative descriptive approach. Qualitative and descriptive research methods are very popular methods of conducting research in

many fields, such as education, psychology, and social sciences (Nassaji,2015). Through this research method “Descriptive Qualitative approach” can show the interpretation contained in the Picture. So the researchers can conduct research by analyzing the picture of women in particular to see the image of the woman showing what role she plays.

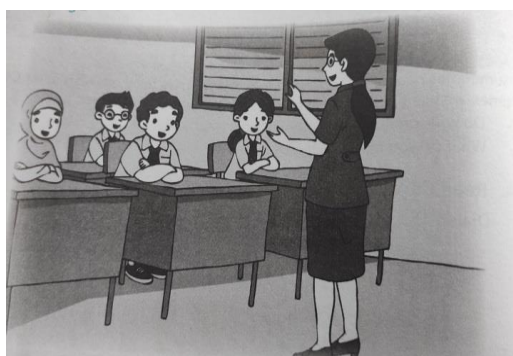
## DATA ANALYSIS

After going through several stages of data analysis the results found are There are 29 pictures of women in the book English on Sky 2 which represent the roles of women based on Peterson's (2004) opinion. The results found were from 4 types of Peterson's theory which said the concept of the role of women in the new era, namely :



**Figure 4. 1 A Girl Playing Guitar**  
(Source: English on sky 2 for grade VIII)

In the picture can be seen a young girl playing the guitar. This image belongs to the first kind of feminism "women's freedom". The reason this picture is categorized into that type is because women have the right to do whatever they want as long as they don't break the law and maintain society's moral standards. The reason this picture is represented is because this image shows that there are multiple roles being played by women, namely the domestic role, and this image is included in the type of domestic role because these women do not make money playing the guitar.



**Figure 4. 2 A teacher With Her students**  
(Source: English on sky 2 for grade VIII)



This picture was taken on page 70. This picture shows a teacher teaching several students in the classroom, in that room there are tables and chairs and also 3 windows can be seen on the left side. This picture belongs to the second type of feminism "women's obligation to her self. This type has the understanding that a woman has the right to work whatever she needs. The reason this picture is categorized into type number 2 is because working as a teacher may be considered necessary by some people because people feel the need to share knowledge and then also become a teacher to help these women add to the economy for their needs. The reason women are represented like that picture is because women have multiple roles. So this picture is categorized into the public role because they can make money by teaching.



**Figure 4. 3 A Mother With Her Daughter**  
(Source: English on sky 2 for grade VIII)

This picture was taken on page 7. In the picture can be seen a mother sitting on the sofa and talking to her daughter, beside the mother there are a jar and a plant while in front of them there are books placed on the table. This image belongs to the category of the third type of feminism "Women's obligation to her family". This picture is categorized into the third type because women have a duty to teach their children at home. Therefore the reason this image is represented in the book is to show that there are multiple roles being played by women, namely the domestic role. This pictures is also categorized into the type of domestic role because housewives do not get salaries from the duties.



**Figure 4. 4 3 Girls in The Library**  
(Source: English on sky 2 for grade VIII)

This picture was taken on page 41. In the picture can be seen two young women sitting using earpieces while reading a book, next to them there is a teenage boy using an erapiece while reading a book. And behind them there is a teenage boy and a young girl standing while reading a book, in the room there are shelves lined with books. From the picture it can be understood that the teenagers are reading books in the library. Therefore this picture is categorized into the fourth type of feminism "Education and seclusion". The picture is categorized into the fourth type because women have the same right to education as men. The reason this picture is represented is because this picture shows that there are multiple roles being played by women, namely the domestic role, this picture is included in the type of domestic role because the woman does not make money while she is studying.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) women's freedom, based on this type, the role of women represented in the book English on sky 2 totals 4 pictures, with a percentage of 14%.
- 2) A woman's obligation to herself, and the role of women represented in the book English on sky 2 for grade VIII based on this type are 5 pictures, with a percentage of 17%.
- 3) A woman's obligation to her family, based on this type, there are 18 pictures of women represented with a percentage 62%.and
- 4) Education and seclusion, the role of women represented based on the last types are 2 pictures with a percentage of 7%.

## **DISCUSIION**

The data above shows that Peterson's (2004) theory about the role of women is represented in the pictures in the English textbook "English on sky 2 for grade VIII". In the 4 types of women roles described by Peterson, 29 images of women roles were found. There are 4 pictures of women that represent the role of women based on the first type, namely women's freedom. 5 pictures can be categorized into the second type, namely women's obligation to her family. The 18 pictures can be categorized into the third type, namely women's obligation to her self. and 2 pictures can be categorized into the last type, namely education and selection. The above explanation provides an understanding that the most common type of women's role found in the English book is the third type, namely women's obligation to her family.

To answer the third question in this study using Umar (2019) theory. The third question is why women are represented with these images, because women have multiple roles so that women's images can be represented with many images, looking at Umar (2019) said women have two roles, namely the public role and the domestic role. So the results found there are 24 pictures categorized into public roles there are 5 pictures categorized into public roles.

The explanation above has shown the difference between this research and previous research, namely by research from Ummu Salamah . Ummu salamah studied gender in English textbooks for grade 10 and the data she found was a) The number of visible table images is 24 for women and 38 for men; b) The number of major pictures and texts in textbooks is 23 for women and 55 for men; c) The number of games or sports is 5 for women, 21 males; the number of Firstness Form dialogues is 4 females and 11 males; family roles are 14 females and 5 males; the role models in text and pictures are 14 females and 37 males.

While this study is also different from Chang yuliang research because Cang yuliang researched female image but the data was taken from Chinese women magazines. and the data described above certainly shows the difference between this research and Subir Sengupta and Karen K List because both of them did research on women's roles but the data was taken from magazine advertisements and new republic magazines. The data written above also show this study is different from of Ellen Boneparth research . Even though the two studies are very similar, but should be noted Ellen Boeparth used the government textbook as a source of research data.

So based on the explanation above, it can be seen that there are significant differences in this study and previous studies. Namely on the method, source of data and of course the results. And it can also be understood that analysis in textbooks can also be carried out, either in any book depending on research needs. the analysis carried out in textbooks has also been frequently carried out by many researchers, such as in English books and even in government books.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

After analyzing the data , the conclusion that can be drawn are Pictures can be analyzed and produce meaning . The method used to analyze the picture is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative research which aims to describe the pictures that represent the feminist role of women in the English textbook “English on Sky 2 for grade VIII. The data were obtained by analyzing the pictures of women contained in the English textbook. And the theory used to analyze the pictures is Peterson's 2004 theory, about the new concept of women in the new era. Based on the results of the study it can be concluded

that various types of women's roles are represented in the book.

Women are not only represented by domestic roles, but in this book women are also represented by their public roles. All roles can be classified into types of feminism based on Peterson's 2004 theory. With the amount of the data found in each type as much as 1). Women's freedom, 4 pictures, 2). A woman's obligation to herself, 5 pictures, 3). A woman's obligation to her family 18 pictures and 4). Education and seclusion, 2 pictures. The amount of data shows that the third point, namely women's obligation to her family, is the most commonly found, while the fourth point, namely "Education and Seclusion", is the least found data.

Based on the results of the research that has been written above, the researcher would like to convey some suggestions to researchers who will conduct research on feminism about the role of women in textbooks:

1. It is highly recommended for future researchers to research feminism in textbooks and compare them to old textbooks. This is to see the difference about how many women are represented then and now.
2. And it is highly recommended for book authors or textbook publishers to balance between images of women and men, in various professions that are in accordance with teaching materials this is intended so that students who are taught understand that women and men have roles that can be the same.

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