

**FEMINISM SPIRIT TOWARD PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY  
MANIFESTATED BY KATE REDDY IN  
*I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT* THE MOVIE**

**SKRIPSI**

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA  
2015**

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**Presented to Universitas Brawijaya  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Sarjana Sastra**

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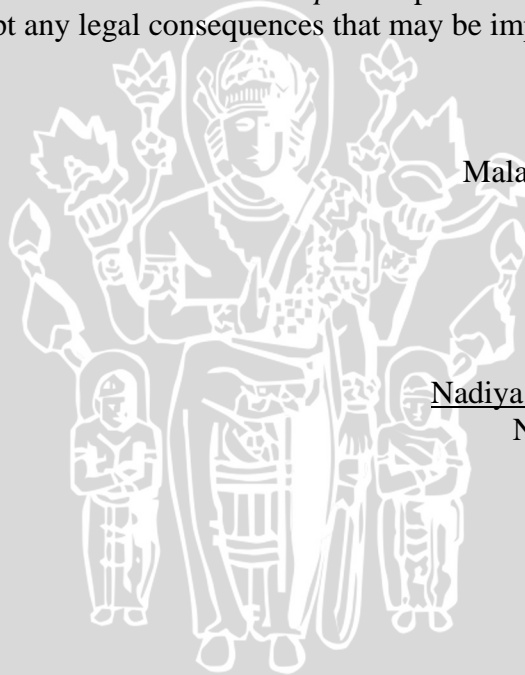
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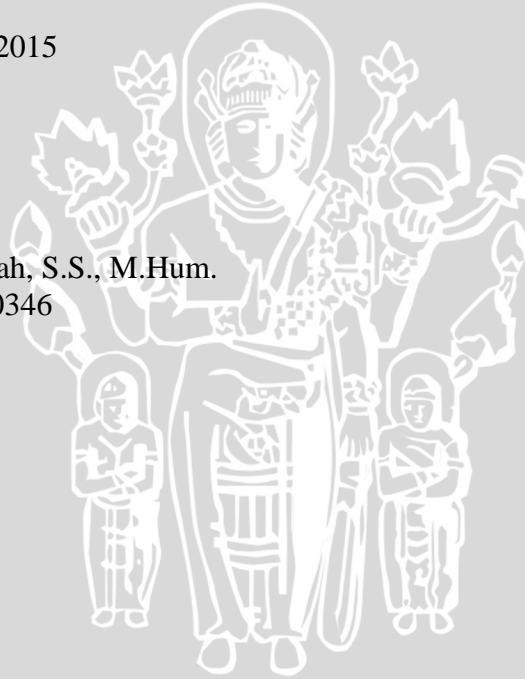
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## ABSTRACT

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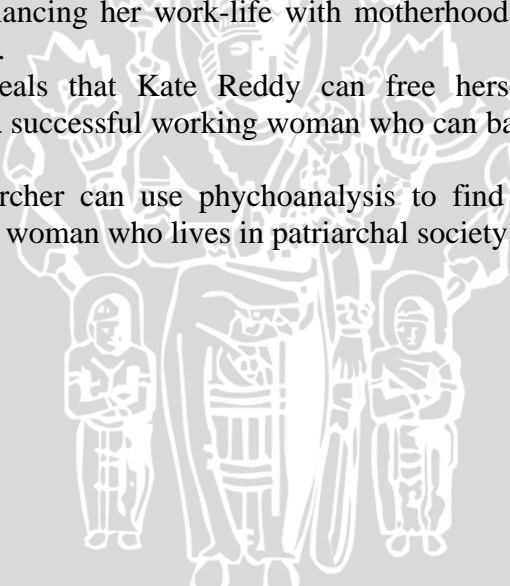
Keywords: Feminism, Patriarchal Society, Working Women

Women subordination has running for a long time ago. Women are trapped by patriarchal society's rule on how they should be. Women never have the opportunities to get a better quality of life, such as education or career. Nowadays, women have more chance to free themselves from that social construction. The movie entitled *I Don't Know How She Does It* reveals working woman's life surrounded by patriarchal society and her effort to prove that woman can live the life she wants to.

Sociological approach is used because this research relates to society and its phenomenon. The objective of the study is to observe Kate Reddy's effort as a working woman in balancing her work-life with motherhood around patriarchal society using feminism.

The result reveals that Kate Reddy can free herself from society's construction by being a successful working woman who can balance her working-life and motherhood.

The next researcher can use phychoanalysis to find out Kate Reddy's psychology as working woman who lives in patriarchal society.



## ABSTRAK

Ramdhani, Nadiya Farisyah. 2015. **The Manifestation of Feminism Spirit Toward Patriarchal Society Presented by Kate Reddy in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sri Herminingrum (II) Nurul Laili Nadhifah

Kata Kunci: Feminisme, Masyarakat Patriarki, Perempuan Karir

Subordinasi terhadap perempuan berjalan dalam rentang waktu yang sangat lama. Perempuan masih terbelenggu dengan aturan masyarakat tentang bagaimana mereka harus bersikap. Perempuan tidak pernah mempunyai kesempatan untuk mendapatkan kualitas kehidupan yang baik, semisal pendidikan dan pekerjaan. Saat ini, perempuan memiliki banyak kesempatan untuk membebaskan diri dari konstruksi sosial tersebut. Film berjudul *I Don't Know How She Does It* ini mengungkap wanita karir yang tinggal di antara masyarakat patriarki dan usahanya untuk membuktikan bahwa perempuan memiliki kesempatan yang sama besar dengan laki-laki dan dapat membangun kehidupan sebagaimana yang mereka impikan.

Pendekatan sosiologi digunakan dalam penelitian ini karena berhubungan dengan masyarakat dan fenomena yang terjadi di masyarakat. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui usaha yang dilakukan Kate Reddy sebagai seorang perempuan karir dalam menyeimbangkan kehidupan pekerjaannya dan keluarganya di lingkungan patriarki dengan menggunakan feminisme.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Kate Reddy mampu membebaskan dirinya dari konstruksi sosial dengan menjadi seorang perempuan karir yang sukses yang mampu menyeimbangkan antara pekerjaan dan rumah tangga.

Peneliti selanjutnya dapat menggunakan psikoanalisis untuk mengetahui kondisi psikologis Kate Reddy sebagai perempuan karir yang hidup di lingkungan patriarki.



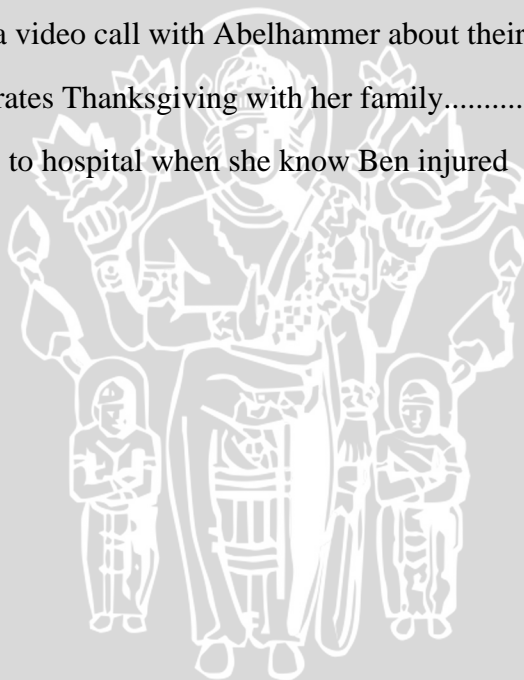
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Film has become one of the most popular media which is function as a social equipment to promote ideology. Many novels and autobiographies have been filmed to give a new way in enjoying literary works. Therefore, film is known as an important art form, a source of popular entertainment and education, and powerful method to extend beliefs and values. According to Nachbar (1992, p.5), “The popularity of given cultural element (object, person, or event) is directly proportional to the degree to which that element is reflective of audience beliefs and values”. Through film, the audiences are given an image about what happens in the society in current time.

Every film contains a message which is related to the belief and value. Value itself is a general concept organized by society. For example, in term of diligence, the society creates an expectation for behaviour related to diligence, such as hard-working and ambitious. Moreover, belief is an acceptance that something is true or something exist. Film director uses film to extend belief and value. The examples of the films which extend belief and value are *The Incredibles* (United States, 2004), *Toy Story 2* (United States, 1999), *A Little Princess* (United States, 1995), and *The Pursuit Of Happyness* (United States, 2006).

All the films above are worthy because they extend values through the characters. Besides, film is the tool to gain audience's attention since it has a lot of interesting points than other media such as newspaper or magazine. Film creates a story which captures the reality in the society with sounds and images. Many films reflect social phenomenon in society such as racial prejudice, segregation, child abusing, oppression, and women subordination. In term of women subordination's issues, most of problems potrayed in a film is concerning about women discrimination and inequities between men and women because there are a lot of cases that involve men as violence subject and women as object. Discrimination to women happens because of the system in society that creates women as passive figures and men as active figures. Thus, men seem to have more opportunity to subordinate women since women do not have any power against men. While men do their responsibility to work and earn money, women do household responsibility. This kind of role's division is called as Traditional Gender Role.

### **1.1.1 Traditional Gender Role**

There are two things that can be explained to distinguish men and women. They are sex and gender. Talking about sex means talking about the distinction between men and women in term of their biological, physical and genetic difference. American Psychological Association (2011, para.1) stated that :

*Sex* refers to a person's biological status and is typically categorized as male, female, or intersex (i.e., atypical combinations of features that usually distinguish male from female). There are a number of indicators of biological sex, including sex chromosomes, gonads, internal reproductive organs, and external genitalia. *Gender* refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given

culture associates with a person's biological sex. Behavior that is compatible with cultural expectations is referred to as gender-normative; behaviors that are viewed as incompatible with these expectations constitute gender non-conformity.

Gender issue has already existed since a long time ago. This system of gender has already been used almost by society all over the world. The difference of gender in the society has created different roles between men and women. Men as the active figures called *masculine* while women as the passive figures called *feminine*. Tyson (2006; p.85) stated that “*traditional gender roles* cast men as rational, strong, protective, and decisive; they cast women as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing, and submissive”. These gender roles have been used successfully to justify inequities which still occur today, such as excluding women from equal access to leadership and decision-making positions. This role, however, makes a big distance between women and men in case of how the society subjected them.

Since they were children, men and women are forced by society to fit with the division of gender roles that have been prescribed by the society itself. This social roles influence the individual psychological in order to response to something. For example, boys are more inclined to believe that they will succeed only if they work hard, while girls are somewhat more inclined to believe that they will succeed if there is a chance or lucky factor (not only because their hard working). Goode (1977, p.346) stated that “cross-cultural studies shows that boys in most societies are given more training to be self-reliant and to achieve, while girls are given more training to be nurturant, responsible, and obedient”. Society also devided on what field men and women should work. Men are told to become

successful husbands by earning money to fulfil his family's needs but women are told to raise children and do household. Furthermore, the society intentionally creates job options for women who insists to work, called 'women's job'. Goode (1977, p.351) stated that "if job options are presented to girls, they are women's job : elementary school teaching, nursing, school librarianship, and secretarial work". Women have no opportunities to develop themselves like men because society gives them barriers to be the independent one.

Therefore, society has an important role to build a system where men are more powerful than women. Since it is formed by society, this system may change by running of the time. Gender with its system refers to the way society nowadays sees the ideas and stereotypes in how men and women are supposed to be. One of the ideas constructed by society is patriarchy. Patriarchal or patriarchy uses the differences between men and women as basic social roles. As stated by Monagan (2010, p.83), "the most commonly accepted definition of patriarchy is social structure of society based on the father having primary responsibility for the welfare of and authority over their family". As a result, most of powerful roles are held by men and women's role has always been cosigned to childrearing and sex.

Nevertheless, women today are capable to do men's job. They can have the same position as the decision maker as men. They do not refuse to do household responsibility, but they need an equality. Women can afford their life without men's help. High education women can reach men's fields and do the same job as men. In patriarchal society, women who are culturally programmed to believe that they are powerless than men, need to limit themselves one step behind

men. This phenomenon becomes a problem since in patriarchal society, women are not allowed to do work-activity because it was men's field. Working women are going to be 'bad-girl' in patriarchal society because they are denying their identity to be 'good girl'. Patriarchal ideology has a standard how women can be 'good girl' by obeying the rules of traditional gender role where men are more superior than women.

The condition of patriarchal society which sees working women as an uncommon thing portrayed in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie. *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie was launched on September 2011. This movie describes how Kate Reddy, as the main character, becomes wife, mother, and also working woman all at once. She tries to fulfil her responsibility as wife and mother without abandoning her career-life. This movie is adapted from novel with the same title by Allison Pearson. Pearson tries to give message to the reader from the novel that women need to pursue the success even though they are mothers.

### **1.1.2 Synopsis : *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie**

*I Don't Know How She Does It* is a movie directed by Douglas McGrath. This movie is based on Allison Pearson's novel on the same title. It tells about Kate Reddy, a successful financial-manager at EMF, a prestigious investment bank in the city who is married to an architect named Richard and has a pair of adorable children. Kate is a very-busy-working-woman while she also tries hard to combine her executive life with motherhood.

The way Kate combines her executive life with motherhood can be seen when Emily's (Kate's first child) kindergarten will hold Kindergarten Bake Sale.



Kate tries hard to make a store-bought-pie looks like home-baked, whereas she just comes home from travel for work. She wants Emily to think that although she is a busy mother, she will do the best for her daughter so that Emily will feel proud of her. Before going bed at night, she does the lists such as choosing theme she will use for her daughter's birthday party, buying things at stores, refilling water fluid, calling her mother-in-law just to say hello, starting year-end fiscal summary, and so on. She also says that she loves being a mother of 2 years old boy, it is like life with no critics for her. She always delivers Emily to the kindergarten eventhough it is too late and she needs to go working quickly. Her best friend, Allison, praises Kate as a great woman, because she still does her household responsibility although she is very busy.

But not all people agree with the idea that mother can be working woman at once, like Wendy Best. She refuses that idea. She says that when she decides to have kids, she wants to be the one who raises them. She seems to tease Kate by saying that woman makes different choices in her life. Then Momo, Kate's assistant, says that Kate is the best financial manager and she works very hard. For Momo and some people, Kate is weird because she always spends her time to checks on her children everyday although she is busy. There is also Chris Bunce, Kate's working partner. He looks so jealous to Kate, since Kate is a woman who has two kids, but she succeeds to balance her work and her motherhood. Bunce thinks that woman should not get what man gets because it is the standard. By Bunce's opinion, it can be inferential that it is a patriarchal system which is still stuck in the society, where woman must get the equality to man. They think that

Kate should be at home, take care of her children and give her work to other male-workers in her office. The society around her seems unhappy to accept married woman who succeeds not only in her work but also in motherhood.

Women subordination happens in all ways the society sees woman because it has been a part of society's culture. People always see woman as weak creature who should not do job beside the household responsibility. But through this movie, Kate Reddy shows how working woman balance her work and her responsibility to raise children and do household.

The research on *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie is worthy to be conducted, since this movie provides rich data about a successful working-woman who already gets married and has two children but the society around subordinates her by saying that woman should not work while she has kids. Therefore, Kate Reddy as the main character, tries hard to give her effort in balancing her motherhood and working-life to proves she is responsible both of her family and her work.

### 1.1.3 Significance of the Study

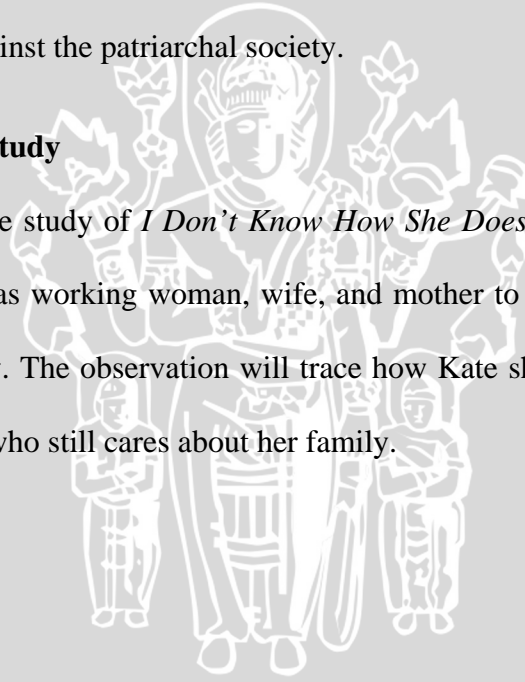
Researching the efforts of working women in patriarchal society also means digging the sociological background about the society itself. To a large extent, it will review about how feminism influences women nowadays in manifesting the break of patriarchal society. As a result, the research on *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie will enrich the knowledge of people about feminism in an easy way.

## 1.2 Problem of the Study

Women subordination has run for a long time ago. It becomes a part of patriarchal society which privileges men by traditional gender role. This role casts men more superior than women and permits men to dominate women. It is not easy to struggle against patriarchal system which strongly holds the rules supported by patriarchal society. However, this patriarchal system still exists until today as depicted in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie. The main character, Kate Reddy, shows her effort for being a working woman who still cares to her family against the patriarchal society.

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

The purpose of the study of *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie is to observe Kate's effort as working woman, wife, and mother to exist in her career and patriarchal society. The observation will trace how Kate shows her effort to be a working woman who still cares about her family.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

Film is also known as movie. Social phenomenon that happens in society can be a theme of film or movie because film or movie itself is a reflection of the society. Every message in film reflects the condition (beliefs and values) of the society at that time. There are so many forms of social phenomenon, such as racial prejudice, segregation, children abuse, marriage violence, robbery, and women subordination. Therefore, to understand more about social phenomenon especially in term of women subordination, values and norms society need to be explored. By knowing that terms, it will be easier to know what exactly the society is. Goode (1977, p.4) said “values are typically supported by specific *norms*, that is, more detailed direction for proper behavior. Norms are the more specific rules or definition of how we are supposed to act in a given situation”. In other words, values can be defined as standards which is the society shared.

This standard is used to judge whether something is good or bad, ugly or beautiful, moral or immoral, right or wrong. By using this standard, society creates a role on how men and women should be. Men and women receive social training which aims to fit them into roles that have been prescribed by the society.

##### 2.1.1 Sociological Approach

The basic concept of sociological approach is the society and its phenomenon. It refers to systematic study of the human social life and groups as

well as societies. According to Goode (1977, p.527), “society is a group of people who engage in any social relation and share a common body of norms and customs”. To know better about society, sociological approach is needed because it emphasizes to relationship between groups or classes of people. There are so many products that have been made by society, such as art, literature, film and language. According to Abrams (1953, p.33) that “...a work of art, was a useful adjunct to the mirror for clarifying the less obvious mimetic quality of an art like poetry, which reflects the invisible world indirectly, by the significance of its words.”

Film is one of society’s products. Usually, many films are based on true stories that happen in society. Many authors also take the material for their works from social phenomenon which happens in society. One of the social phenomenon portrayed in film is the struggle of Kate Reddy in the patriarchal society through *I Don’t Know How She Does It* the movie. Since women are part of society, the most appropriate approach to use is sociological approach.

### **2.1.2 Patriarchal Society**

People are born differently. Each people has a different sex and gender. There are two things that can be used to distinguish men and women. They are sex and gender. According to Tyson (2010, p.86), “sex which refers to our biological constitution as female or male, and the gender which refers to our cultural programming as feminine and masculine”. Hence, not all of women are feminine and not all of the men are masculine. This gender categories are constructed by

society. Society are free to construct a mindset and this gender roles are the example of social construction.

This programming, unconsciously, makes men dominate women in all ways, because men think that it is natural for them to provide family financial while women take care of the household. The society puts men's position higher than women. While men are free to decide something, women need to do things based on men's orders. This kind of society is called as *patriarchal society* in which "the role of the man is to provide financially. He is also responsible for the security and protection of the women and children. Man participates in the public realm through education, business, politics and religious activities. The women's role has always been consigned to childrearing and sex." (Monagan, 2010, p. 161). Patriarchal society gives men greater freedom where they have great control over women. Because of men's priviliges, subordination to women happens in most of aspects of life. Patriarchal society will always sees women in lower position because than men because it is socially constructed like that.

Women's mindset is also socially constructed by society to admit that men are more superior than them. In family used patriarchal system, men will lead and control the whole family as the leader. The family members should obey father's rule of family, wives need to follow their husbands in order to fulfill their duties. Women are unconsciously oppressed to believe patriarchal programming.

The image of patriarchal society and its mindset is depicted in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie. The society in this movie thinks women should

be fulfil their traditional role that have been prescribed by the society. Women are not responsible to earn money because it is men's duty. This movie shows how the society disempower working women. The main character, Kate Reddy, is a mother and a wife, and she is also a succesful working woman. Kate is reputed as a weird woman because she still takes care of her children while working. The society thinks that Kate's position in her office should be owned by men, not a women, because it is the standard.

### 2.1.3 Feminist Theory

Men always do public sector while women do household. This kind of role has already shaped the society and become a standard to divide men to women. By this assumption, many women have desire to struggle againts injustice between men and women.

The social movement sought to alter the traditional ways of acting and believing in the society who casted men more superb than women is called as *Feminist movement* because women became the central issue of it. In United States, the main period of feminist movement was known as 'wave'. There are 3 waves of feminist movement and every wave has a different chance to struggle that women had to be deal with. *First wave* started from the late 18th century and the early 19th century. The very first feminist wave arosed in the context of industrial society and liberal politics. It was dealing with egalitarian and radical issues include equal rights for women, educational and legal reform, abolition of slavery and suffrage.

Second wave feminism emerged in the 1960s to 1970s in postwar Western welfare societies. Second wave feminism refers mostly to the radical feminism of the women's liberation movement. The most famous feminists at that time were Simone de Beauvoir and Betty Friedan. Second-wave feminism dealt with an action to shed on what was now termed as women's oppression. The radical feminist protest at Miss America contest in Atlantic City by throwing instruments of women's oppression such as bras, girdles, false eyelashes, high-heels and makeup into trash can.

The last feminism's wave was the third wave. It began in the early 1990s onward. Third wave feminism was tied up with the effects of globalization and the complex redistribution of power. Women at that time celebrated that they already had a self-reliance, capable, strong and assertive. Baumgardner and Richards (2000, cited in Krolokke 2005, p.15) stated "The third wave is buoyed by the confidence of having more opportunities and less sexism".

Therefore, this research focuses on the second wave of feminist movement because it broadened to wider range of issues, such as sexuality, family, workplace, and reproductive rights. Since the main character in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie is a working woman, so the most appropriate wave to use as a groundwork is the second wave because this wave was focused on dismantling of workplace inequality. Moreover, the effort which are shown by the main character reveal that woman has already gotten her equalities with man. She is a wife, a mother, and also a succesful working-woman. She shows that woman



can be everything she wants without abandoning her responsibility as a wife and mother.

#### **2.1.4 Women in Work : The Rebirth Of Feminism**

There is a reason behind the willingness of women nowadays to work outside the house. The answer is related to the most severe economic contraction in America during the twentieth century, known as The Great Depression. This worldwide economic downturn began in 1929 and lasted until about 1939.

The Great Depression gave bad effect at that time, such as a lot of companies closed, profits and prices dropped, farming and rural areas suffered as crop prices fell by approximately 60%, and human suffered. At that time, standards of living dropped precipitously. As much as on-fourth of the labour force in industrialized countries was lost their saving money because of the bank closed and unable to find work to earn money. According to Romer (2003):

It was the longest and most severe depression ever experienced by the industrialized Western world. Although the Depression originated in the United States, it resulted in drastic declines in output, severe unemployment, and acute deflation in almost every country of the globe.

By Romer's statement, it can be pointed that this depression gave a widespread effect, not only in economic aspect but also in humanity aspect. This depression also became the trigger to the rebirth of feminism, which later on called as second wave feminism. This second wave of feminism had a wider range of issues, such as sexuality, family, workplace, reproductive rights, de facto inequalities, and official legal inequalities.

In 1963, Betty Friedan wrote the bestselling book entitled *The Feminine Mystique* which exploring the unhappiness of middle 20th century women. As stated by Napikoski (2014, para.3) that “*The Feminine Mystique* explains that in post-World War II United States life, women were encouraged to be wives, mothers and housewives- and only wives, mothers and housewives.” That statement can be a proof that at that time, society limits women’s possibilities to show their talent and ability. The only way for women to express themselves is being housewives. Friedan asserted that women are as capable as men for any type of work or any career path against argument to the contrary by the society who always subordinated women.

Friedan book’s changed American women about their roles in society. Through this situation, women gained the new status. They went against the traditional role’s prohibition for married women to work outside home to help family’s financial. They believed that women should be in the same position as men. Women obtained various works easier than their husband, such as working as domestic servant, clerks, and textiles workers. Women should work to be a provider for the family so that they can survive, especially for those who abandoned by their husbands. This employment increased women’s status and power in the home. They became more independent than before.

American women have made enormous progress on some aspects. They attended school and college and even gained a master’s degree. Women realized that if they got a higher level of education, they would get a better job and better payment than them who did not.

Educated women are active to show up their ability to be in the same position as men. As women work, they also help their husbands to increase the family income. Eventhough working women are too busy with their career, but actually they spend their time mostly to do household activities, such as cooking, doing housework, and managing household, while men spend more of their time related to work.

Educated women concern to the health of the family because they have a knowledge which can help them to manage something in the household. Women start to realize that they have the same opportunity like men, they are more active and showing up themselves in so many working fields which are commonly lead by men. They break the rules which said that women's duty is to produce children, so they can not do job outside the house and they are always under men's domination.

The spirit of working women in America is also captured in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie of which the main character is not only a working woman but also a mother and a wife who lives in a patriarchal society. The writer of this research uses Feminist theory to support her research. The theory is used in this study to analyze the patriarchal system which is still very influential on disempower women.

## 2.2 Research Method

In conducting the research, there are two steps taken:

- (1) Deciding the object material

*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie is chosen as the material object of the study because this film potrays about working woman who has children and lives in patriarchal society. The domination of patriarchal system in the society makes women have no opportunity to get their rights and do anything equal as men. Because of that, the influence of feminism in how Kate respons the patriarchal society around her becomes a phenomenon which is seen as formal object.

(2) Analyzing and interpreting the data

In this step, *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie is watched several times to observe the main character, Kate Reddy, so it can be identified how feminism influences Kate Reddy to struggle against patriarchal society. The observation is based on sociological approach to identify the society where Kate lives in. From this analysis, it can be seen that Kate Reddy as the main caharacter in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie faces the patriarchal society which clearly sees her as a weird woman because she is not only a wife and a mother, but also a succesful working woman who is very busy. To make the discussion more detail, there are the theories applied in this research. (1) Theory of patriarchal society is used to know what kind of society in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie and how does this society disempower women, (2) Theory of feminism is applied to know the efforts of Kate in order to break the patriarchal society around her, and the last is (3) the theory of working women is used to analyze how Kate manages her time as a mother, wife, and working woman without neglects one of them.

The discussion in this research shows how feminism influences Kate to respon the patriarchal system around her, especially because she is a working woman. Therefore, to describe more about feminism like Kate's effort to struggle against society there, the sociological approach is used to analyze what is society, patriarchal society and its system, and the relation between patriarchal society and society in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie.

### 2.3 Previous Study

This subchapter is the presentation of previous study which is related to feminist theory used to analyze the research. They are two references. The first is entitled *The Struggle Of A Mother For Social Justice to Against Patriarchal System Reflected in "Changeling" the Movie* by Risa Rindu Ajeng Saputri (2013) from Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. The second is entitled *Women Subordination in British Society in "The Duchess" the Movie* by Aulia Jeny Setiyawati (2012) from Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya.

Saputri applied radical feminist in order to analyze the patriarchal system which is still very influential on the disempower of women. However, this study has different focus from the study above. This study focuses on the effort of the main character as working woman againts patriarchal society around her as depicted in *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie.

In the second previous study, Setiyawati explains more about women subordination and the position of women in the society. She also gives a deep

explanation about sex and gender. Moreover, Setiyawati's research is different with this research, in term of the object. Setiyawati used a movie entitled *The Duchess* and this research used a movie entitled *I Don't Know How She Does It*.



## CHAPTER III

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the film entitled *I Don't Know How She Does It*. It deals with the struggle of working woman in patriarchal society related to spirit of feminism manifested along with the story of a movie itself. *I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie tells about Kate Reddy as main character. Kate is an independent married woman who has two children. She is a working woman who still does her responsibility as a housewife. However, there are many people who see that working outside the house as a weird thing for married woman. They think that women should be at home, cooking, cleaning the house, and raising the children while the husbands are working. Men are more highly regarded than women in society because men have an ability to exert control, violence or threat than women. In other words, men are more powerful than women. As mentioned by Haeberle (1981, p.9) that “the male social role is designed to reward masculine men, while the female social role offers its relative advantages only to feminine women”. It is called traditional gender role created by the society called patriarchal society.

#### **3.1 The subordination to Kate Reddy by Patriarchal Society**

##### **3.1.1 Subordination to Kate Reddy in Neighborhood**

As stated before, film or movie is a part of popular culture. Therefore, the situation in film refers to many conditions which really happen in the society. *I Don't Know How She Does It* portrays social condition where society put men's

position higher than women. This kind of society is called as patriarchal society. According to Monagan (p.84) that “In patriarchal systems, as a collective group, women are systemically unrepresented or underrepresented in the economic, political, military, criminal justice, legislative and educational arenas. Men serve in the highest levels in all areas of the society.”

Men are constructed by society to believe that they are superior than women, and women believe that they do not have power and under men’s domination. Women do not have a choice for themselves except to fulfill the standard of ‘good girls’ in the society. This mindset is also clearly stated by some characters in this movie. The first is Wendy Best. She is a vice president of Parents Association, and a chef in Boobah. The situation can be seen below.



Figure 3.1 Best meets Kate in The kindergarten Bake Sale (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:11:08)

Figure 3.1 was about Best when she meets Kate in Emily’s Kindergarten Bake-Sale. Best and Kate look nice to each other but Best teases Kate’s profession as a working woman by saying, “Well, I am just so jealous of you girls. You get to wear high heels and look nice all day” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute



00:11:08). It is because Kate dresses up like a working woman, not as a mother who comes to her daughter's kindergarten. Best teases Kate by saying such words to emphasize since she is not a working woman, she can not put any make up on her face and wear high heels.

In patriarchal society, women have a responsibility to do household chores. They should dedicate themselves to family. They work at home without the payment and appreciation. Women often seem as an object to provide family's financial, especially for men. Best also gives other comment about her point of view while seeing working woman. Best said, "You know, for me, when I decided to have kids, I wanted to be the one to raise them. But women make different choices in their lives. And, uh, I don't judge. I try not to... judge. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:11:43) The comment Best gives to Kate is very harsh because it is the way patriarchal society programs mindset of women to think that they are the central of family and they hold all of houses' responsibility. So, when married women are working outside the house, it is impossible for them to care of their family. That is why Best said that when she decided to have kids, she wanted to be the one who raised them. It means that she refuses to be working woman and she dedicates herself only to take care of her family. Best's choice is considered as a good deed and it will be praised highly by patriarchal society.

Best is a good example of how patriarchal ideology pervasives women's mind and how this ideology programs women's mind without their knowledge or even their consent. Best tries to be a 'good girl' in the way patriarchal will see her. If she accepts her role, then she will be considered as a good girl.

In patriarchy, women's position is not as important as men. They can be categorized as success women when they can be good wives and good mothers. Women do not have any opportunity to choose their own way of life because every single act of them will be evaluated by the society. Even in marriage-life, women who choose to work first will be judged as bad women and they are not proper to be wives. Woods (2012, p.4) stated:

Women were given one goal, marriage. Most women were unable to support themselves economically and those who were, but chose to remain unmarried were often ridiculed, labelled as 'old maids and spinsters.' Being a wife, a mother and a lady were viewed as the pinnacle of success for a female.

### 3.1.2 Subordination to Kate Reddy in Working place

Subordination to Kate not only happens in the neighborhood, but also in her working place. There is Chris Bunce. He is a Designated Office Assistance (DOA) in Kate's office. Kate once says, "Bunce loves that I have kids. It keeps me from getting an edge on the competition, the one men get when they take clients out for drinks and dinners and golf games. You know what I'm talking about. The *smooth*" (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:14:25). Through Kate's statement, that there is a boundary between male workers and female workers which limits female workers to develop themselves. Women subordination in work place happens because others see them in different perspective from men. Women can not afford themselves and they need men's help in order to survive and it makes an image that women dependent themselves to men.

Kate is actually insulted by the way Bunce subjected her but because Bunce is her partner, she gives him a respect. Just like Best, Bunce subordinates

Kate by saying:

Bunce : I was just saying to Clark, Kate is amazing, isn't she? I mean, I don't know how she does it. All those children.....

Kate : I have two.

Bunce : It's so impressive.

Kate : You have four.

Bunce :Yeah, but two of mine are twins. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:14:48)

The dialogue above proves that Bunce tries to tease Kate by saying 'all those children', it seems that Kate has so many children. Indeed, Kate only has two children. Bunce thinks that mother, whether she has only one or more children, should be at home, doing household and bearing children while her husband is earning money. Bunce uses the word 'impressive' to make Kate feels bad towards her family because she chooses to work eventhough she has two children. He says that men should be in a higher position than women.



Figure 3.2 Bunce teases Kate after office meeting. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:16:29)

The situation that happens in the figure 3.2 above is when Clark announces that Kate's proposal was read by Jack Abelhammer. Jack Abelhammer is a investor

who lives in New York City. As he read Kate's proposal, he feels interested in it and wants to meet the writer of the proposal. It means that Bunce can not win over Kate since the investor choose Kate's.

To express his dissatisfaction, Bunce starts to tease Kate by saying: " If this works out, this could be a big step up. A lot of travel, a lot of one-on-one with Abelhammer. It's gonna be great. Plus, gives your kids a chance to spend all that extra quality time they've been hoping for with your nanny, and your husband will be thrilled. Congratulations." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:16:29).

It can be seen that Bunce feels envy to Kate because Kate will going to New York and meeting investor there. He teases Kate by saying if Kate still goes to New York, it means she will leave her family, especially throwing away her chance to be with her children and give the responsibility to take care of her children to the nanny.

There is another of Bunce's statement that shows his patriarchal way of thinking : "I resent when people say there's a double standard. Men also have a lot to juggle. Take our shoes. Do women's shoes need to be shiny all the time? No. You never see a woman getting her shoes shined. Women's shoes can be flat and dull. Not men's. That's a double standard." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:15:16)

Bunce thinks that men are supposed to be the provider for their family. They are not permitted to fail at anything they do because it will be considered as a failure in one's manhood. Bunce brings the way of patriarchal mindset through his statement, "Women's shoes can be flat and dull. Not men". It means that

men's shoes need to be shiny all the time because they will meet a lot of people everyday in working place and they want people give them a good impression through the shoes. In the contrary, women's shoes do not need to be shiny because they just deal with household.

After Kate gets the news from Clark that her proposal was read by an investor named Jack Abelhammer in New York, she prepares herself to go to New York with Momo, her assistant. Unfortunately, when she reaches Abelhammer's office, an outrageous incident happens. Kate feels that her head is so itchy and it ends up by round up all over her head, even when she does her presentation of her proposal in Abelhammer's office. Kate thinks her itchy-head is because her stress eczema flares up again, but apparently, the reason behind it is because Emily is infected by lice. Probably the whole family is also infected and Paula as the nanny in Kate's house finds it out. Paula sends a message to Kate and tells her about it.

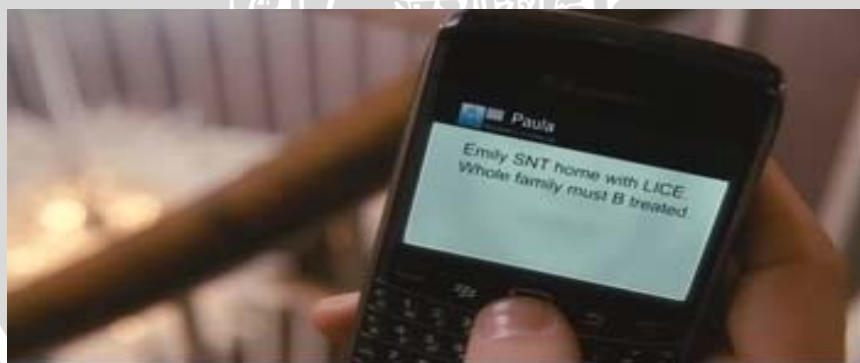


Figure 3.3 Paula sends a message to Kate to inform her that Emily has lice. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:22:13)

That lice incident becomes an opportunity for Bunce to underestimate Kate. He blames her that she pays less attention to her children so that the lice infected Emily.

Bunce : Yes, there were whispers that Kate had lice. And in the world of finance, we know that you don't ignore the whispers. So I had my office fumigated, and then I went to the kitchen and threw away Kate's coffee mug, as well as anything in the refrigerator with Kate's name on it. And moving forward, I will not get in an elevator or a taxi with Kate. (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 00:26:12).

From his statement, it can be seen that Bunce is subjecting Kate as something which will affect him and he needs to throw it away, although the real problem only the lice in Kate's hair.

Actually, there is no relation between having lice and working professionally, but Bunce takes it as a serious matter because he feels Kate is his rival. It is too excessive to do fumigation around the office and even throw away all of Kate's stuff in the office. Nevertheless, Bunce uses it as an excuse to disempower Kate.

Bunce gives his point of view in seeing how men dominate their family. As explained before, Kate should be heading to New York in order to meet up with Jack Abelhammer, it can be seen as a sign that Kate will be busy to come and go between Boston and New York which will take so much time. Then, Bunce gives his point of view about the situation. He says that to take the project, Kate needs to travel to some places. It will take a lot of times which means she will leave her responsibility as mother and wife. Bunce thinks that people who tethered to something, such as family and household like Kate should not take this project. This project need a person who can mobile easily.

Bunce reemphasizes the situation by saying "Look, you have to travel in this job" (*I don't know How She Does It*, minute 00:47:12), which means

everyone who is dealing with this job need to realize that this job will make them spend so much time outside the house and it means they will not have any time besides the job. Bunce uses word 'birds' to give parable to a person who is dealing with this job because birds are animal which can fly everywhere freely, without tethered to anything.

Bunce tries to give an illustration that working woman who has another responsibility besides her job, should not take this project because it will take so much time. Furthermore, although Bunce does not say it clearly, it can be seen that he wants to tell Kate not to take the project. Since Bunce is a man, he does not tether to anything or anyone. Although he is a married man who has four kids, he will not face any trouble if he leaves his family because he is a man and he does not have any responsibility to take care of children. His concern is only to earn money.

### **3.1.3 Subordination to Kate Reddy in the family**

The story continues to the scene when birthday party for Emily is held. During the party, Kate has a chit-chat with her mother in-law, Marla. The situation shows that her mother in-law is a little bit dissapointed to her because Kate's second child, Ben, could not talk yet, not even a single word. It can be seen from Marla's statement, "You know, I was wondering, if you had stayed home with Ben, would he be talking now? He's almost two and not one real word. Doesn't that bother you?" (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:32:58) Marla thinks Kate does not pay any attention to her grandson. She talks to Kate directly in order to emphasize how important a mother in the process of growing

up the children. Marla finishes her statement by saying, “Doesn’t that bother you?” to know whether Kate as a mother will feel bad toward her son who can not talk. Instead of Emily who was reciting the first chapter of *Canterbury Tales* in middle English in her two years old, Ben can not talk even one word. Marla feels that it is Kate’s fault to let it happen. If only she is not working, she will have a lot of time to spend with her family and teach Ben how to talk. According to Tribett (2005, p.6) :

women’s role in the religious and moral standards went beyond simply teaching their children, of gaining rights to education as it became a matter of living out the convictions they themselves had, but only in a manner acceptable to society.

It means that, role’s of mother is an important thing in growth process of the children. Mother are expected to teach children an education and moral value to lead them be a better person who can socialize well with the society by obey the standard manner in the society.

Patriarchal society has the expectation to ‘good girl’, such as doing household and obeying her husband, she also expected to raise her children in the good way so that they will grow up with a good attitude. Marla wants Kate to pay more attention to her family, especially the children because it is the duty of mother. Marla expects Kate to fullfill her role as a mother for her grandson, obey her husbands and devote herself to family because Marla believes if only Kate becomes a housewife, she will be able to give more attention the her family.

Some people argue that leaving children at home with the nanny is not a good idea, since nanny is not a mother and she can not be. Furthermore, for some working women, this idea is really helpful to keep their children safe in such ways.



Nevertheless, sometimes this idea is not running so well, in case if the nanny takes her time to do holiday. It can be seen in the situation where Kate rushly goes home from her office at one night, but she can not find her husband, Richard. She asks Emily where he is, and Emily answers that Richard goes to dinner with his client and left her and Ben with an old nanny to replace Paula at that time.

It ends up by arguing between Kate and Richard. Kate thinks that leaving the children with an unknown person although she is a nanny, is a big mistake. She thinks Richard should wait for her until she comes home. The situation can be seen below.



Figure 3.4 Richard asks Kate about her responsibility as mother. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:46:44)

- Richard : Kate, you weren't here. I left them with a sitter.  
 Kate : Yes, who doesn't know them.  
 Richard : It was OK! Sometimes OK has to be good enough. I mean, the kids are fine. So, in this case, I would say the old lady was the perfect babysitter.  
 Kate : Getting a backup sitter is on my list.  
 Richard : Oh, Jesus, with these lists. Really? I mean, do Pilates, bake lasagna, you might as well put down dock the space station. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:46:44)

They argue about who is right and who is wrong. Richard as the leader of the house thinks the way he chooses is right because there is no other option. He must have dinner outside the home because it relates to his career, so he decides to call Best and ask whether her babysitter could come to his home after the babysitter done with her job in Best's home. Richard says there is no problem since the children are alright and nothing to worry about.

Nevertheless, Kate feels that Richard's decision is very risky because he leaves the children with someone they never knew before. Richard emphasizes his sentence, "Kate, you weren't here. I left them with a sitter." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:46:44) to make Kate realize that if only she was at home, Richard will not call a babysitter, but Kate not satisfies with Richard's and she answers, "Getting a backup sitter is on my list." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:46:44) without realizes that her 'list' is still on her plan, and she still does not make it into reality yet.

Richard's voice tone raises because he holds his anger toward Kate. He is in position where he would not to be irrefutable. Although Kate already makes list about everything relates to household and the children, it is not enough for Richard. He wants Kate to become the one who take care of the children, not the nanny or babysitter, since he can afford the family needs. Richard wants to emphasize that Kate must pay more attention to the children when she worries about them.

Men are controller. By controlling their family, men have a great authority over wives and children to do what they order to do. By this power of

control, men have a greater freedom than others in their family. Adult men are controlling younger men (it can be son or brother) by this reason, too. So that, men's power will be continued and never fade away. As stated by Goode (1977, p. 353):

being in control gives more freedom. Men could go off for longer periods of time, farther, more often, and with less excuse, than women. by contrast, women were always on a shorter time-leash. The tasks of hearth and children can not be neglected for more than a few hours. Men could, as they still can, refuse requests at less personal cost by claiming that urgent matters call them elsewhere.

By this privilege, men are free to do what they want. For example, men can do a job outside the home for a long time without worry about the household, but women are demanded to be at home all the time, do household and take care of the children. That is why, Richard seems angry when Kate blames him. To Richard, taking care of children is Kate's duty, not him, because he is the leader of the family so he does not tethered to everything related to Kate's duty as mother and wife. He wants Kate to obey all his order, no matter how.

The quarrel between Kate and Richard also happens when Ben tripped on the carpet and he fall down. Richard brings him to the hospital and calls Kate several times but she does not pick her phone because she is in New York, to do some presentation to clients with Abelhammers. When they reach home, the quarrel starts again.

Kate : You're right. I failed. I messed up. I wasn't here when Ben needed me.

Richard : What difference does it make? Even when you're here, you're not here, Kate. We never sit down. We never relax, we don't laugh or goof off. I don't want to discuss how often we're not having sex.

Kate : Well, you know what? I honestly... Honestly, I don't understand what you want from me.

Richard : You don't know what I want? I want just a few minutes where we're not in a panic. Where we talk about something other than logistics. Where you pretend to laugh at my old jokes that you've heard before. Where we have five minutes, just five, of calm, quiet conversation. Just five minutes of being together. That's all. (*I don't know How She Does It*, minute 01:10:02)

Richard looks so dissapointed to Kate. He wants his wife to become the real mother. A mother who will be there when he and their children needs her.

Allison tries to give a description about the problem that happens to Kate by saying:

Allison : A man announces he's going to leave the office to be with a child, and he is hailed as a selfless, doting, paternal role model. A woman announces that she's going to leave the office to be with a child on its sick bed, and she is damned as disorganized, irresponsible, and showing insufficient commitment. (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 01:09:29)

Other point of view between men and women in the society is explained more by Allison through her statement, "At work, when you act like one of the boys, they call you abrasive and difficult. So you act like a woman, and they say you're emotional and difficult. So difficult is really just the word for anything that isn't a man." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 01:12:39) By Allison's statement, it can be concluded that there is a gap in how the society subjected women and men. Men who decide to quit their job to raise their children will be praised highly in the society, but women who quit their job to raise their children will be cosidered as mothers who do not have responsibilities to their family. No

matter how hard women's effort to balance their duty as mother and housewives, they will be seen as irresponsible person.

Furthermore, the story continues to scene about Thanksgiving dinner. Finally, Kate has free time to spend with her family because her project with Abelhammer is going good. She suggests Richard to visit his parents and spends Thanksgiving dinner there. Richard is so happy because it is a very rare moment for him and his family can spend holiday together. Everything is going well like what they have planned but unfortunately Abelhammer calls Kate in the middle of Thanksgiving dinner and says that Harcourt, an investor whose Abelhammer and Kate want him to join their project has changed his schedule and he could only hear the draft of the project the next day. It means that Kate should be heading to New York as soon as possible. Kate finally chooses to go to New York since this project is very important for her career and leaves her family. Best, when asks about this situation, blames Kate once again.

Best : Oh, we all heard about Thanksgiving. Leaving right after dinner? Seriously? Who does that? No, I prefer to be with my family. You know, clean up while my husband and his friends watch football and I chase after the kids because they've had eight slices of pecan pie. Then I make 11 sandwiches of leftovers for everybody for the next day. Listen to my mother-in-law yammer on for the 15th time that my stuffing was too dry. Like I've never heard that one before. I just... It's family, and I love it. I love it." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 01:02:00)

From the explanation above, it can be seen that in *I Don't Know How She Does It*, the subordination of women still happens in society. The society makes barrier for women so that they can not develop themselves. As women, they need to obey the rule set by the society to be considered as a good girl.

### 3.2 Kate's Effort in Balancing Motherhood and Working-life

Nowadays, women are more active than before. Women are already aware about what they mean to be and their position in society. There are shifting characters in women today. In old time, women were seen as weak, nurture, submissive, and the icon of failure and dependent. Now women's characters are more fascinating. They are portrayed as strong, brave, smart, and has ability to do what men do. Women today are capable to free their mind from traditional gender role which imprison women as subordination objects. It is related to the second wave of feminism where women start to gain confidence to develop themselves as men. As explained before, in this movie there is a woman who can free herself from traditional gender role. She is Kate Reddy. Through her character, Kate shows her efforts as married working woman who is very busy but never neglects her family.

Kate Reddy is a married woman with two kids who has a job as a financial manager at EMF, a prestigious investment bank. Although she is busy with her work as a manager, moreover with her investment project which will affect her career, she still cares of her children and her household. In short, she manages well between her executive work and motherhood. Femininity or which is somehow called as womanhood, is a set of attributes, behaviour, and roles who generally related to womankind. According to Beauvoir (1980, cited in Butler 2007, p.43) that "the choice to assume a certain kind of body, to live or wear one's body a certain way, implies a world of already established corporeal styles. To choose a gender is to interpret received gender norm in a ways to organize them

anew”. In other words, men and women, are free to choose whether they will act as the feminine one or masculine one. Once they choose to be feminine or masculine, it will affect in how the society subjected them.

Kate breaks the mindset where woman is only seen as a weak creature who only does household and nurturing. Furthermore, Kate shows that woman can free their mind from patriarchal mindset which always subordinate woman in all ways. Women nowadays no longer deal only with household activities, but they can be as men since they have the same opportunities and equalities as men. As depicted in very first scene that Kate’s best friend, Allison, tells about Kate from her point of view.

She says that if only every working woman is spinning 50 plates in the air at once, Kate will be able to spin more than 60 plates. She can finishes her big report for the next day although she need to sew some extra fairy wings for Emily’s recital and she serves her parents in-laws her very best before they show up in her home. She is doing it without complaining. Allison shows that she admires Kate through her statement by saying, “I’m telling you, she’s amazing” (*I Don’t Know How She Does It*, minute 00:00:16). She clearly says that Kate is a superb woman. She is very busy but never neglects her family. She takes her responsibility as a mother, like patriarchal always wants, but also being professional at that time without neglects her works.

By working, women can free themselves from men’s domination to reach economic self-sufficiency so that they have their own salary and can afford their needs without men’s help as usually happen in society. There are so many cases

where men blame women who works because men feel that they lose their identities if they allow women to work because in patriarchal society men are providers for the whole family. Actually, since the living cost in society today are very high and job is hard thing to find, men and women should be able to work together to fulfill family needs. Working women are able to help their husbands to earn money but men as husbands also need to give their wives limits to work, so that the equilibrium of family can be reached.

Nowadays, women gain more rights and equalities in all aspects than before, although they are not completely free themselves from gender discrimination, even in workplace. Women are above society's expectation. They are free, brave, smart, carefull, and responsible. One of the effort of Kate is shown when she is just coming home from business trip, then she gets a reminder from Emily's kindergarten about the bake-sale. She stops in grocery in her way home in order to buy baking supplies to make delicious homemade pie, unfortunately, the grocery has no stock of baking supplies. Kate initiates to buy a pie and will redecorate it to look like homemade pie. It can be seen through her statement about the redecorate pie, "This pie was going to be homemade if it was the last thing I did. Why did I care? Well, first of all, the other mothers are like a tiny army of mini Martha Stewarts. Their contributions would look perfect. Their daughters would feel proud. I just wanted Em to feel the same way." (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:01:26)





Figure 3.5 Kate tries her best to make a pie for Emily. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:01:26)

Kate already made a promise to Emily to make her a delicious homemade pie like the mother of her friend usually do. Kate tries hard to make the pie look like homemade pie because she does not want Emily dissappointed to her. When her husband welcoming her and saying that she does not need to make a pie, just give Emily Chips Ahoy (a kind of snack), Kate argues him. The situation is revealed :

Kate : Well, you know, I just... I just want Emily to feel proud of what she brings to the bake sale. I don't want her to feel different from the other kids because her mother has to travel for work, you know? I just... I want her to know I tried.

Richard : All right, I take it back. Those are nice things to want for her. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:02:51)

Kate chooses to redecorate the pie rather than takes a rest after goes to bussiness trip. At the late night after finishes redecorate the pie, she wakes up to do her responsibility as a housewife. First, she checks on her kids, whether they are sleep or not. She shows her love to her kids by kisses their cheeks. She says that she was like woman in common. She does what other woman does. Then, she

makes a list about what she need to do systematically. It can be explained by Kate's statement below.

Kate : A recent study showed that 64 percent of women with young children don't sleep through the night. Researchers were at a loss to explain why. They could have asked me. At night, I, like women all around the world, do the list: Emily's birthday party theme. Pirates or pop stars? Things to buy: paper towels, toothpaste, pork chops. Buy a present for Jedda 's birthday party. Find out Jedda: boy or girl? Call the guy about the thing. Make a playdate for Emily with that kid that doesn't bite. Refill washer fluid in car. Wait a minute. Refill washer fluid in car. Wait a minute. Shouldn't that be on Richard's list? Who am I kidding? Richard doesn't have a list. Wax something, anything. Call Richard's mother and say hi. Or just email hi. Wash Ben's teddy bear. Renew birth control pills. Twinkies..... Ambien while I'm at it. Finish year-end fiscal summary. Hamster. Oh, no, start year-end fiscal summary... new ways to say no. Kegels? Bagels! (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:05:23)

She is tired but she tries hard to make lists in order to make her remember what is the most important to do first. By doing the list, she tries not to neglects whether it relates to her family or her work. Her statement, "At night, I, like women all around the world, do the list..." can be proof that she never forget her role as a mother. What Kate doing is related with Abrams's (2001, p.2) statement that "...the good and virtuous woman whose life revolved around the domestic sphere of the home and family. She is pious, respectable, and busy – no life of leisure for her...". However, after finishing her responsibility as a mother, she does her other job with full of passion. She is really enjoying her role of being a woman. It means that her career and her family have the same proportion to her.

On the other hand, while women without job is taking care of their children themselves, Kate hires a nanny to take care on her children while she and

Richard in work, named Paula. Kate feels so thankful to Paula because she does her job well. Although for Richard, hires a nanny is redundancy because he thinks if only Kate does not works outside, she will be able to keep the kids by herself and not wasting money but Kate argues him by saying that she needs a nanny just to take care to the children while they are working. This situation shows that Kate breaks the role of submissive that women should bring in patriarchal society. She bravely says her argument to her husband.

Kate always shows her love for her family. Even to Momo. The scene can be seen through figure 3.6 below:



Figure 3.6 Kate tells Momo the joy of being a mother. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00: 44:13)

The scene above describes as when Kate has meeting in her office, then Momo says to her that she will be late for work tomorrow because she needs to go to doctor to check up on her pregnancy. Kate is surprised to hear that Momo is pregnant because she knows that Momo does not want to have a child. Momo says that she will handle her pregnancy which means that she will do abortion.

Then Momo says to Kate, “Don't worry, I'm dealing with it. I'm not having kids, remember?” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:44:13). Momo's decision, however, makes Kate as woman and mother, feels sad. She wants Momo to keep her pregnancy. Kate gives an advice to Momo by saying,

Kate : Wait, wait, wait! Wait, wait. I know you look at me and you see a mess, a hurry, a giant un-tweezed eyebrow, I am walking birth control. I get it. But it's not all that. There is so much joy. And if, for some reason, you wanted to go through the madness of having a baby, I could help you. I've been doing it for a while. I could teach you some useful tricks to help you manage so that neither side gets...(*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:44:13)

Kate tries to persuade Momo that being a mother is a miracle. There are so much joy and happiness for having a child. Not only to Momo, but Kate also shows her love to her family. One day, Kate realizes that Ben's hair is shorter than before, so she asks Paula whether Paula cut it off or not. The situation described below:

Kate : Oh. Oh... he looks... I mean, it's adorable. Thank you. I just... It was... That was his first hair cut. So...  
 Paula : Yeah, I wanted to call. I just didn't want to disturb you at work. I didn't wanna bother you.  
 Kate : Oh, no! Paula, no, it's... No, you're never bothering me. Nothing is more important to me than the kids. I'm always happy to hear about any little or big thing. Honestly. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:18:51)

Kate clearly says that she does not feel that Paula bothering her when Paula calls her to tell something about the children because her children are very important and she needs to know whatever situation happens to them. Other scene which also shows Kate's love to her children can be seen through figure below:



Figure 3.7 Kate buys birthday tools for Emily during her lunch time. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:29:55)

Emily's birthday is about to start soon, Kate manages her time to buy some balloons and birthday cake during her lunch time. After she buys Emily's birthday equipment, she goes back to her office with both of her hands full of goods and makes her difficult to hold the elevator. The condition can be seen through Kate following statement:

Kate : Oh, can you hold that elevator? Can you.....? Oh! Thank You! can you scooch over a little? Sorry, it's my daughter's sixth birthday tomorrow, and I was just afraid the bakery and balloon place would close, so I went at lunch. Great. Can someone push lobby for me? All in? (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 00:29:35)

Eventough she does a lot of things before goes for work, Kate is always able to drove Emily to the kindergarten although it will make her in hurry to reach her office. Sometimes she looks mess up because she does a lot of things at home before going to work. Momo, Kate's assisstant, in some reason, is admiring Kate for the way she is. Momo says, "Kate Reddy? Well, she's the best fund manager we have. She's great at her job, works really, really hard. People think she's weird,

though. She checks on her kids every day. Even during lunch, when she should be working.” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:13:29). Momo continues her statement about Kate in other scene, she says, “You know she's married, right? Well, in her marriage, she has to call her husband every time she has to work late or go across the country or she can't pick up her kids from school. It's like she's on parole.” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:16:48)

Momo's statement, however, becomes the proof that Kate can balance her work with motherhood. In patriarchal society, women are center of the family but not the leader. They become center because they are responsible for everything related to family and household. Patriarchal women are demanded to have frugality as a standard of good deeds in patriarchy. Frugality means that women need to decide which one is more important than others. Kate is a modern woman who has a good career and a happy family where she manages both equally. She tries to do everything as its proportion. She becomes a caring mother while she is at home, and she becomes a professional worker while she deals with her job. Although she becomes very busy since her proposal is accepted by Abelhammer, she never forget to control food she will give to her kids. Just like in Emily's birthday party, when Marla asks soda for kids who come to the party, Kate refuses it. The situation is depicted below:

Marla : Do you have any soda for the kids?  
 Richard : No, no soda, Mom. Too much sugar.  
 Kate : Yeah, and dried fruit is out. It rots their teeth. Last year, the nursery school issued a fatwa on raisins. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:30:43)

In patriarchal society, it can be seen that women need to obey their family, especially their husbands. Furthermore, through this movie, Kate shows that she is able to manage her time to do motherhood and her work-time. The scene which supports that statement is when Abelhammer does a video call with Kate.



Figure 3.8 Kate does a video call with Abelhammer about their project. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:28:33)

He says that he likes her proposal, although it is not a perfect proposal. Abelhammer says that if he and Kate work together, they will be able to fix it and make some money from it. Abelhammer makes a deal with Kate. It is depicted through statement below.

Abelhammer : So I like the proposal. Got a lot of holes in it, but I think we can fix them and maybe make some money here. However, we'd be on a tight deadline. Harcourt's looking at other possibilities and wants to make a decision by the end of the year. This is a massive undertaking. This will mean a lot of travel, long days, late nights, and I just wanna make sure it won't be too much for you, considering what you're up against with the six kids and the lice. So... what do you think, Kate? Can you swing it?" (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 00:28:33)

For some time, Kate's mind is busy to think about all of the possibilities which will happen if she takes this chance. In the other side, she does not want to throw away this chance because it was the best thing which ever happen to her career. She also think if she success with this big project, she will get a big profit so she can make her own project. She also use it to fullfill her family needs since Richard's work does not seem good. She wants to help her husband in matter of economics. Finally she says she will take this job confidently. As stated by Hooks (2000, p.49) that, "Most women know now what some of us knew when the movement began, that work would not necessarily liberate us, but that this fact does not change the reality that economic self-sufficiency is needed if women are to be liberated".

Economic self-sufficiency, however, is needed for women. It is not because they will be able to be richer than men, but it will lead women into liberation from men's domination. There are so many rich women or high-paid professional women who have a relationship with men where men's domination can happen all the time, but by reaching economic self-sufficiency, women are able to liberate themselves so that they can be independent.

The situation can be seen when Kate asks for permission to Richard because she will be very busy in next two month. Although she knows that it is not a perfect time to do a big project because Richard also deals with big project in his office, Kate tries hard to make Richard sure that everything will be under control. The situation can be seen below:

Kate : Richard, Richard, I know. I know it's lousy timing for both of us. To get a big project at work at the same time,



I know that. But we can make it work. I know we can. And I'm gonna do my very best to make sure that nothing falls through the cracks. Look, Richard, you have been working so hard to get a big break at work. Me, too. It's a great problem. We can do this. We just have to do a little juggling.

Richard : I know. But if we're...

Kate : I promise I will make everything work. Don't worry. (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 00:33:18)

Women who work outside their house gain higher self-esteem and positive participation in society. Working women become more confident, brave, and unbeatable. It can be seen by the way Kate makes Richard sure that everything will be okay. Kate will manage everything and she promises never neglects their children. Since nowadays the living cost is high, although a spouse working together, it will hard for them to gain economic self-sufficiency. To live well, men and women need to do job sharing, men should understand the reason why their wives do job and women must remember their position as mothers and wives which means they should manage their time to take care both of family and work. That is why Richard and Kate need to cooperate because their family financial is not in a good phase. The situation which shows that Kate loves both her work and her family can be seen when she has a meeting with Abelhammer and they have a chit-chat during the meeting. It can be seen below:

Kate : I love my job. The market doesn't know what sex I am, it only knows whether I'm right or wrong. I like the fairness of that. Although, sometimes I wish I didn't love my job so much because then...

Abelhammer : Then you could be home with your kids. You're allowed to miss your children.

Kate : Here's the thing. I have two beautiful kids. And I love them. But life changes. There's no question about that. There's no spur of the moment activities, you're not

meeting people for dinner at the last minute, or seeing a movie whenever you want. (*I Don't Know How She Does It* the movie, minute 00:38:10)

From the dialogue above, Kate clearly says that she loves her job and her children. This two matters are important for her. She also explains the reason why she loves her job because people will not blame her as her biological appearance but by her responsibility and performance. It means that patriarchal mindset never fade away to see men and women differently. Abelhammer admires Kate because she can responsible both of her work and her family. Abelhammer once caught Kate singing a lullaby for her kids through phone while she takes a rest from meeting with him.

Although Kate is busy with her big project, she still shows her love to her family by suggesting Richard to visit his family in order to celebrate The Thanksgiving. She will take a rest from her work so they will be able to spend holiday together with Ben and Emily since they never take a holiday together because both her and Richard is busy. “So he's happy. Which means that we can go to your parents' for Thanksgiving. And then we can get the Christmas tree on Friday like we've been talking about. And then I was thinking that maybe...” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:53:04) Kate suggests Richard and Richard agrees with her idea.

The next day, Kate has planning to tell Momo that she will potspone her meeting schedule with Abelhammer until she can spend her time to go to Richard's parent and celebrates Thanksgiving there. Kate says, “And I really wanna spend time with my family.” to emphasize that she really needs time with

her family, but suddenly Momo says that she will keep her baby. Kate feels so happy and hugs her. “Oh, my God, Momo! I'm just so happy for you. There's no way anyone can explain it to you before you have a baby, and once you do, you'll wonder why no one ever told you how it felt.” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:54:14 ) Kate tries to make Momo sure that keep her baby is the best thing woman can do and abortion can not just finished the problem. Kate wants Momo know that being a mother is a gift.

Kate and Richard are ready to leave their home to go to Richard's parent. When she and her family arrive in Marla's house, Kate says to Richard that she will not use her cellphone and places it in somewhere so she will not be able to reach it, even if the cellphone ring. Kate helps Marla to serve Thanksgiving dinner and Marla praises Kate for her Turkey. Richard says that he feels thankful for the time which they have spent together. During the dinner, Kate tells that the next day she and Emily will make a snowman in the lake near the house and Marla agrees with the idea.



Figure 3.9 Kate celebrates Thanksgiving with her family. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 00:58:39)

From the scene where Kate helps Marla to serve Thanksgiving dinner, she shows her role as a daughter in law to Marla. She wants Marla know that although she is busy with her work, she will make sure her family get her very best effort as a mother and wife, so Marla does not need to worry about her household and her children. Indeed, many working women who are already married somehow could spend more time in household activity than men.

Employed married women who do same job as their husbands spend their time mostly to do household activities and take care of family members. They do not have any time to leisure. Furthermore, wives who work and earn money have a contribution to their family income to be more higher.

The love show by Kate is when she is in New York to do some presentation in front of her client, she receives a message that Ben is injured. Kate immediately leaves New York soon as she hears that Ben tripped in carpet and he fell down.



Figure 3.10 Kate goes to hospital when she know Ben injured. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 01:09:08)

In figure 3.10, there is a scene where Kate shows her love to her children. Other scene shows by Kate is when she should leave Thanksgiving dinner which means she can not fulfill her promise to Emily to make snowman. She really sorry to Emily by saying that she really want to stay at that time and fulfill her promise to Emily about making snowman the day after Thanksgiving, but Emily too dissapointed and protests her that she is too busy to work. Then Kate renew her promise to Emily that they will make snowman together in very next time when the day is snowing. Kate really fulfill her promise to Emily. She refuses Abelhammer's offers to having more deep relationship as he interests to Kate. As a woman, she has a great self-confidence and she braves to say no if she does not want to.

In her office, she refuses Clark's order to handle some merger which happened in the branch office in Atlanta. She refuses it because she has made promise to Emily to make snowman at that day since snow is pouring. She makes a deal with Clark, if he still forces Kate to go to Atlanta, then he can fires Kate, but if not, she will go to Atlanta after she makes her promise to Emily.

Kate : Because... I have to make a snowman. Look, I've given everything I have to this job. And I love it. I do. But I can't dump my family at a moment's notice anymore. I won't do it. If what I have to give is not enough for you...then fire me. But I won't quit. I will not... I cannot give up.

Clark : Then get out. You can go on Monday. Now... Leave, before I reconsider. (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 01:16:01)

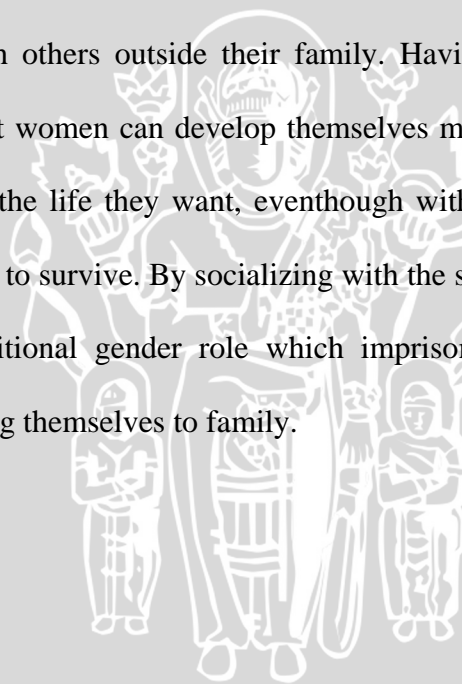
This conversation shows that, Kate tries to make Clark sure that she will do her best to make up things to get better in Atlanta but she need to be with her family at that time. She says to Clark that she has given her best while working at

that office and she will always do her best in future. She emphasizes her statement by saying, “If what I have to give is not enough for you...then fire me. But I won't quit. I will not... I cannot give up.” (*I Don't Know How She Does It*, minute 01:18:24). Kate realizes that she should give more attention to her family so she asks about Clark permission to let her spend that day without job. She confidently asks Clark to fire her if he does not give her permission. She does not afraid lose her job because she is a credible woman who can get other job in other place. Furthermore, since she is the only one staff at that office who does a big project with Abelhammer, she is sure that Clark will not fire her. It can a proof that she had do her best and give her best for the company. Fortunately, Clark gives her permission. It is impossible for him to fire Kate since Kate is the best finacial expert there. It means that Kate has a power in the office, eventhough she is a married woman but she has an ability and credibility which makes people, especially her boss admits her capability as working woman.

After she talks with Clark, Kate rushly goes to Emily Kindergarten to pick her up and fulfil her promise. When she arrives there, Richard and Ben already there to pick up Emily. Kate suddenly hugs Richard and says that she is really sorry for everything happens in their family because both of them are busy.

At the end of the story, Kate finally gets her own fund to make project by herself and she also visit Momo who gave birth in hospital. Momo thanked her for her advice to keep the baby. Momo says it is the best feeling to hold her own baby in her arm, and she thinks being a mother is a miracle, just like what Kate ever said to her.

By this movie, the spirit of feminism manifested strongly through Kate's effort. She proves that women can work at the same place with men and they even can win over men. Kate shows although she is very busy with her career, she can spend her time for her family. It is a proof that she is responsible both in her work and her family. Women are powerful creatures who need to be appreciated and treated equally as men. Kate shows everyone that women not only should do household and raise children, but they also need to work for themselves to gain self-confidence and self-sufficient. Kate also shows that women need to built a good relationship with others outside their family. Having a good relationship with others means that women can develop themselves more and they can direct their own life to live the life they want, eventhough without men, since human being need others help to survive. By socializing with the society, women can free themselves from traditional gender role which imprison them to have social relation beside devoting themselves to family.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The subordination to women is really hard to remove from patriarchal society since it was becoming a mindset. In patriarchal society, women are expected to devote themselves to family. Women have more limitations in doing something than men. Women easily become an object of subordination because the stereotype that has been given by the society to them as a weak creatures.

Kate Reddy is a role model for people around her, especially her friend who really admires her. Kate is portrayed as a successful working woman and has a lovely family. She is attractive, lovable, responsible, careful, and wise. She can balance her time for her family and her work. Through every Kate's action in every scene, it shows that she already free herself from traditional gender role which prescribed by the society. The manifestation that Kate Reddy shows is by being a successful working woman who has a good career. She shows that women are free to do their passion with responsibility. Kate clearly says that women do not have to be men to gain an equality. She breaks the patriarchal rule about how women should do. Kate Reddy successfully shows that she is not patriarchal woman by being a working woman.

#### 4.2 Suggestion

This movie still can be analyzed by using psychoanalysis to find out Kate Reddy's psychology as working woman who lives in patriarchal society. The



second possibility is to compare between Kate Reddy's character as a working woman with the ideal women in patriarchal society. Hopefully, the next researcher will get different conclusion by using similar theory.



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No.	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
1.	06 Desember 2013	Mengajukan Judul & menyerahkan Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing I	
2.	24 Desember 2013	Konsultasi dan mengambil Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing I	
3.	17 Februari 2014	Menyerahkan revisi Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing I	
4.	19 Februari 2014	Mengambil Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing I	
5.	27 Februari 2014	Menyerahkan Revisi Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing I	
6.	03 Maret 2014	ACC Bab I & 2	Pembimbing I	
7.	05 Maret 2014	Menyerahkan draft Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing II	
8.	17 Maret 2014	Mengambil Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing II	
9.	19 Maret 2014	Menyerahkan revisi Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing II	
10.	15 April 2014	Mengambil Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing II	



11.	21 Mei 2014	ACC Bab 1 & 2	Pembimbing II	
12.	26 Mei 2014	Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
13.	26 Mei 2014	Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
14.	01 Juli 2014	Menyerahkan Revisi Bab 1 & 2 Setelah Sempro	Pembimbing I	
15.	03 Juli 2014	Menyerahkan Revisi Bab 1 & 2 Setelah Sempro	Pembimbing II	
16.	16 Juli 2014	Menyerahkan Bab 3 & 4 Konsultasi	Pembimbing I	
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