

FEMALE MASCULINITY OF FA MULAN AND ITS IMPACT TOWARDS HER RELATIONSHIP WITH MALE CHARACTERS IN DISNEY MOVIE *MULAN*

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Abstract

This study aims at revealing the female masculinity or masculine character reflected in the character of Fa Mulan as depicted in Disney Movie *Mulan* and how the masculinity of her influences her idea in the relationship with the opposite gender. This literary study employs the concept of masculinity and female masculinity, the concept of gender role and those theories are used to analyze Fa Mulan's masculinity and its impact on her relationship with male characters. The main data of this study is taken from Disney Movie *Mulan* in the form of captured scenes that represent the problems of the study. Based on the analysis, this study reveals that: Fa Mulan has more masculine character than feminine. She almost has the entire masculine characteristic in gender stereotypes. Her masculinity also gives impact towards her idea of relationship with her opposite gender.

Keywords: *gender stereotype, masculinity, femininity, female masculinity, the concept of masculinity*

Abstrak

Tujuan ditulisnya skripsi ini adalah untuk membongkar apakah Fa Mulan yang notabeneanya seorang gadis, memiliki karakteristik seorang pria dan dia memiliki sikap dan sifat yang kepria-prian. Sangat diketahui bahwa yang memiliki kemaskulinan ialah mereka yang berjender pria dan mereka yang memiliki kefeminitasan ialah mereka yang berjender wanita. Tujuan kedua ialah untuk mengungkapkan bahwa kemaskulinan yang ia miliki juga memiliki andil besar terhadap perkembangan perasaan dan pandangannya terhadap hubungan yang melibatkan asmara terhadap lawan jenisnya. Beberapa teori dan konsep telah disajikan untuk membantu dan mempermudah analisa terhadap karakter Mulan, seperti konsep maskulinitas oleh Peter Lehman dan wanita maskulin oleh Judith Halberstam, selain itu pandangan tentang *stereotype* terhadap jender juga dihadirkan untuk mempermudah analisa. Sedangkan data data di peroleh dari film animasi garapan Disney dalam bentuk tangkapan per *scene* dalam film. Dari hasil analisa didapatkan hasil bahwa Mulan memiliki karakteristik seorang pria dalam dirinya lebih banyak daripada kewanitaannya. Dia hampir memiliki semua karakteristik pria yang disebutkan dalam stereotype jender. Dan, diketahui pula bahwa kemaskulinannya memberikan dampak terhadap perkembangan perasaan dan pandangannya terhadap hubungan berbau asmara dengan lawan jenisnya.

Kata Kunci: *jender, maskulin, feminism, wanita masculine, konsep kemaskulinan.*

INTRODUCTION

When the word 'masculine' is mentioned, the first thing that will be popping out of everyone's thought is a characteristic of man with a handsome face, strong body, brave and macho. Similarly, when the word 'feminine' is mentioned, the characteristic of a beautiful and charming woman will be popped out in thought. It is stressed in Pretince and Carranza (Pretince and Carranza) work that quoted criteria which is yielded the 20 feminine and masculine characteristics that appear on the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI). Masculine characteristics are: acts as a leader, aggressive, ambitious, analytical, assertive, athletic, competitive, defends own beliefs, dominant, forceful, has leadership abilities, independent, individualistic, makes decision easily, masculine, self-reliant, self-sufficient, strong personality, willing to take a

stand, and willing to take a risks. Feminine characteristics are: affectionate, cheerful, childlike, compassionate, does not use harsh language, eager to soothe hurt feelings, feminine, flatter able, gentle, gullible, loves children, loyal, sensitive to the needs of others, shy, soft spoken, sympathetic, tender, understanding, warm and yielding.

In fact, feminine is not always identically with woman and masculine is not always identically with man. In *Female Masculinity*, Halberstam stated that:

"It is crucial that masculinity does not belong to men, has not produced only by men and does not properly expressed male heterosexuality... what we call 'masculinity' has also been produced by masculine women, gender deviants, and often lesbians." (7-24)

Based on the theory above we can see that masculine characteristic is not only owned by a man but also by a

woman. Essentially, masculinity and femininity are images which are constructed by society not based on sex.

Gender is socially constructed definition of woman and man; it is not the same as sex – biological characteristic of women and men. Women are born feminine and men are born masculine, these gender categories are constructed by society (Tyson). Each individual should have two qualities, feminine or masculine, only later, which attitude is more dominant of those individual that will shape the identity. Somehow, woman also needs masculinity in their life, so she can have the spirit of leadership and independency.

There are some of the literary works that contain the issue of female masculinity such as; Chinese Ballad Mulan which also well-known after Disney adopted it into the cinema. The literary work begins with a young lady – teenager that sacrifices herself to save her beloved ones. Fa Mulan is a young lady, not a feminine one, she has a trouble in finding a future husband because of it, and the one that makes them similar is their bravery to sacrifice their selves in fighting arenas. Mulan pretends to act like a man, dressed like a man, and come to a real war as a soldier to save her father. She became a heroine not just for her father but also her kingdom. Mulan also gifted by the god to have the qualities that usually given to boys. Mulan is the obvious examples of the fictional character that represent the female masculinity as well depicted in two literary works they are in.

According to the background study above, the goal of this literary analysis is to analyze Mulan's female masculinity and its impact towards her relationship with male characters in the story. There are some theories that are used in this literary analysis is such as; genders studies, the concept of masculinity by Peter Lehman and Female Masculinity by Judith Halberstam and other additional theories to support the main theories.

METHOD

Regarding the organization of this study, this study falls under the umbrella of literacy criticism. Therefore, textual analysis a literary work is used for this study and is elaborated as follows:

The source of the data mainly from Chinese Ballad Ode Mulan which is adapted into Disney Movie Mulan. From the source of the data, the writer gains the data in form captured scenes from the movie. Those data used as the main data to run the research.

Secondary data which can take from many kinds of books, journals, and previous study about the topic. The references are support the theoretical foundation of analysis. The discourse of female masculinity is added to comprehend Chinese Ballad Ode Mulan which is adapted into Disney Movie Mulan.

The writer methods for this literary analysis were to first read and analyzed the issues that deal with Chinese Ballad Ode Mulan which is adapted into Disney Movie Mulan. After determining the character's description, female masculinity will be analyzed at the major through the way the major characters occupy her roles in the family and in the society. The analysis on the phase is employed the theories of related literature, that are female masculinity in the society and masculinity stain paradigm in order to give a vivid portrait of the major character's problem on her masculinity. Moreover, the female character will be analyzed in a detailed way by using gender study approach.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

In accordance with statement of the problems, several theories are arranged to support the analysis. The theories presented here are; theories of masculinity, concept of female masculinity by Peter Lehman, and also gender role and gender stereotype.

The study will review definition and types of characters. This study is going to facilitating mainly gender theories related to the conventional concept of masculinity. The theories of masculinity will be used to analyze Fa Mulan as the major character.

Meanwhile, the concept of female masculinity and gender role and gender stereotype will consist of the definitions, the qualifications, and how gender constructs masculinity will be discussed in this chapter. The theories will be used to analyze Fa Mulan's masculinity.

The Concept of Masculinity and Female Masculinity

According to Little John as quoted in Mediana Anggarwati's thesis Jo March's Masculinity and Its Impact on Her idea of Marriage as Depicted in Lousia May Alcott's Good Wives (15) gender and sex are two different things, gender is constructed by society – means it is not only about the physical appearance, but it is actually undergone for every human, including language, job, role in the family and so on, while sex is the biological or genetic component if you are born man so you are man and if you are born woman so you are woman. According to Tyson gender and sex are different; sex refers to biological constitution as a female or a male, while gender refers to the cultural programming as feminine or masculine (Tyson 85). In other word we can conclude that not all sexes reflect their gender, it means that not all women born feminine or not all men born masculine. Gender is constructed by society but sexes are biological component of human.

Moreover, according to a book entitled A New Psychological of Women (Lips 19) defines gender as

cultural expectations for women and men. It means that gender is a concept used in identifying the differences between women and men through lens of socio culture.

Femininity and masculinity refers to the way society's perspective in how a man be a man and how woman be a woman. Society will decide in how someone can be called as a man or woman. Males will generally see themselves as masculine figure while females see themselves as feminine figure. But it is also possible for one to be female and choose herself as masculine or to be male and choose himself as feminine (Burke and Stats 100).

According to Katz, at the beginning of the person's birth, stemming from ongoing interaction with significant others such as parents and family, a person may label her selves or labeled by others as female, but instead of seeing herself in female manner such as being communicative, wholehearted, and passive, she may view herself in somewhat masculine fashion such as being rational and dominant (Burke and Stats 197)

Furthermore, according to Judith Halberstam in her book entitled: *Female Masculinity*, stated that:

"It is crucial that masculinity does not belong to men, has not produced only by men and does not properly expressed male heterosexuality... what we call 'masculinity' has also been produced by masculine women, gender deviants, and often lesbians" (241).

Masculinity does not always belong to a man, because female also can have them in their self. As the explanation about gender above that masculinity or femininity are constructed by society and supported by environment, culture, family and experiences. A woman can have the masculine character in their selves because of certain things. A female can have attitude like a man, she can have eight characteristics of masculine man.

In western culture, men is defined as creatures that are aggressive, competitive and instrumentally oriented while women is defined as creatures that are passive, cooperative and expressive. In another context, measures of femininity or masculinity often used as a media to diagnose feminine males or masculine females (Terman and Miles 133)

Characteristic of masculine can be described as a strong individual figure, firm, and brave. Individual that identified as masculine creature have an independent nature, steadfast, strong spirit of curiosity, self-confidence and also the courage to take a risk (Berry, 1999) as quoted in Fidyanni (14). There are more details characteristic of masculine which is stated by Raven and Rubin, masculine creature are aggressive, independent, dominant, objective, unemotional, active, competitive, ambitious, rational, curious, and also impulsive. Beside it, individual that identified as masculine creature usually unable to express

warmth and relaxed feeling, and also difficult to response the things that are associated with emotions and feelings.

Peter Lehman's Masculinity Concept

Masculinity comprises culturally of traits assigned to the male in various contexts. The words masculine can refer to the property of being biologically male, more precisely expressed in biology as "sex" or in other words, masculinity is a traditional gender roles associated with sexually male humans. Masculinity is the major feature that makes someone considered as a man. In the society, masculinity is worthy and important thing since masculinity is a means to differ male and female. Masculinity is a shifting concept time by time. Peter Lehman states in his book, *Masculinity: Bodies, Movies, and Culture*. This thing happens because masculinity, as well as femininity is so much related to time and culture. However, Lehman reveals that traditional masculinity concept in the society also has some universal feature which is being identify building elements. The elements are courage, heroism, sagacity and leadership. All these are the most criteria to judge whether one is becoming a real man or not. Society insists every man has masculinity standards so that he will achieve a prestige called as 'a real man'.

Peter Lehman in his book, *Masculinity: Bodies, Movies, and Culture*(7-24), defines masculinity concepts stand on some important aspects, there are:

a) Power: in masculinity, power always is a major aspect in all cultures, becoming masculine is always related to have power to other people, other sex, other race, and other different things.

b) Courage: courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk or danger, uncertainty, and intimidation. It can be seen as physical bravery if it is in the face of physical pain, hardship, or treat of death and it can be well portrayed in morality whenever the person acts rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement. Courage is one of the important construction elements behind masculinity. Bravery or courage can be defined as ability to control fear from danger, illness, and other uncomforted circumstances and feelings.

c) Heroism: this element of masculinity may have similarity with the previous masculinity element, courage, since a hero should show his courage that other people may not dare to do as he does. Nevertheless, the difference between bravery and heroism is how the braveness is transformed. Society presents a hero label for someone who has worthy meritorious service for him or her. Therefore, becoming a hero should have some qualities, courage and helpful, especially for those who really need help for the sake of good goal. Strictly speaking, a hero should avoid his selfishness.

d) Leadership: leadership is the ability to affect human behavior so as to accomplish a mission and influencing a group of people to move towards its goal setting or goal achievement. Leadership is described as an ability to lead, influence, and organize people so they can reach the same purpose as the leader command. This sort of leadership contains the richness of friendship, belief, respect, and warmth relation between the leader and the subordinate.

It can be concluded that as masculine figure, someone need to have power, courage, heroism and leadership. Every female and male can have those qualities, it depends on how those qualities develop in their lives. All those characteristic can be related and identified as the aspect of masculinity construction in society.

Gender Role and Gender Stereotype

Gender roles are “socially and culturally defined prescriptions and beliefs about the behavior and emotions of men and women” (Anselmi and Law) as stated in Anggarwati(19). Gender role consist of different frequencies of activities that women and men are engage in (Williams and Best 28). Therefore, the male gender role or female gender role is like a rule that should be obeyed by men and women to fulfill their parts in acting masculine or feminine (Brannon 168).

There are some activities that are related only to one gender, such as repairing cars associated only to a man, meanwhile sewing associated only to a woman. These gender related behaviors thus become part of system that accepted as masculine and feminine, not because of any innate born reason for these difference but because they are associated with women and men (Brannon 168). Brannon also stated that gender roles are defined by behavior, but gender stereotypes are beliefs and attitudes about masculinity and femininity. Gender stereotype itself consists of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics as well as the activities appropriate to women or men.

As stated in Anggarwati (19) Stereotypes are beliefs that been generalized about people based on their membership in one of many social categories (Anselmi and Law). Gender stereotypes vary on four dimensions: trait, role behavior, physical characteristics, and occupations (Deaux and Lewis). As a result of the gender construction by society, there is a norm called as traditional gender role, this norm cast or force a men supposed to be masculine and women supposed to be feminine. Gender is divided into two main characters which are feminine and masculine, so here are the characteristic of feminine and masculine that is constructed by society:

Traditional Gender Characteristic

Feminine:	Masculine:
Submissive	Dominant
Dependent	Independent
Emotional	Rational
Receptive	Assertive
Intuitive	Analytical
Timid	Brave
Passive	Active
Sensitive	Insensitive

Gender stereotype are highly prescriptive. The qualities they ascribe to women and men tend also to be ones that are required of women and men. For example, the stereotypes of women are warm and caring is matched by a societal prescription that they should be warm and caring. Similarly, the stereotypic belief that men are strong and agentic is matched by societal perscription that they should be strong and agentic. It is stressed in Pretince and Carranza work, that quoted criteria which is yielded the some feminine and masculine characteristics that appear on the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI). Masculine characteristics are: acts as a leader, forceful, striving, logical, confident, sporty, competitive, defends own beliefs, dominant, influential, has leadership abilities, liberated, individualistic, makes decision easily, masculine, strong personality, willing to take a stand, and willing to take a risks. Feminine characteristics are: caring, joyful, naïve, kindhearted, does not use harsh language, eager to soothe hurt feelings, feminine, flatter able, gentle, innocent, loves children, loyal, sensitive to the needs of others, shy, soft spoken, sympathetic, tender, understanding, warm and yielding (19).

As we know that femininity and masculinity are not innate but are based upon social and cultural condition, according to Berry (1999) as stated in Fidyanni (14) the characterization of masculine gender role can be described as strong individual figure, firm brave and similarity. Individual who has masculine gender not only has an independent nature, self-confidence but also the courage to take a risk.

Characteristic of existing properties on masculine gender roles that stressed by Sahrah (1996) in Fidyanni (15) are is the following: 1) leader capability, 2) the nature of masculinity, 3) rationality. Leadership skills are reflected into active, strong-willed, consistent, the ability to lead, optimistic, courageous and fair. The nature of masculinity is translated in protective, independent, mature and confident. Rationally component consists of a thought to look for new experiences, and calm when facing a problem. In conclusion, masculinity characteristics are dominant, independent, rational, assertive, analytical, brave, active, and insensitive.

Gender role are, unlike sex, mutable, means that they can change. Gender is not as a simple as choosing a role to play, but it also influenced by parents, experiences, peers, culture and society. According to Terman and Miles, in western culture, stereotypically, men are active, competent, rational, independent, and adventurous; while women are passive, less competent, irrational, dependent, and unadventurous. In this older context, measures of femininity or masculinity were often used to diagnose what were understood as problems of basic gender identification, for example feminine-males or masculine-females (Burke and Stats 100).

ANALYSIS

This chapter presents broad analysis as the answer of two problem statements as reflected in the first chapter. This chapter will analyze female masculinity of Fa Mulan in Disney Movie *Mulan*. This chapter is divided into two sections in accordance with two problems that have been stated in the statement of the problems. The first section would try to find out how major female character in literary work act in masculinity stereotype that portrays in the literary work. And the second section discusses how the female major character's masculinity influenced her relationship with the male character in their masculinity.

Female Masculinity of Fa Mulan

Mulan is one of many princesses in Disney. What makes her different from other princesses is her courageous as a young lady. The story is adapted from the old Chinese Ballad entitled Ode Mulan. Mulan is the only daughter of the Fa family. In the very first scene of the movie, Mulan is illustrated as a girl that failed in fulfilling her responsibility to her family. As a young girl in China that day, she should have to be ready for being a wife, but unfortunately, her masculinity drives her into a failure and disgraces her family.

The story is taken place in China under the Han Dynasty emperor, at that time according to the movie, there was tradition about the subordinate of women, and woman is placed in a very low position. When a woman is a daughter she should have to serve her father and her brother, when she is a wife she should have to serve her husband, and when she is a mother she should have to serve her husband and her son – if she has a son. As a daughter, Mulan not only serves her father, she has a responsibility to prepare herself to be an acceptable bride. She will bring honor to her family if she can attract a man to choose her as a bride.

Unfortunately, Mulan is not a feminine girl. She got disinterested in how women are supposed to act. She is careless girl, she cannot be feminine as a girl should have to act. The first scene of the movie shows how Mulan cannot perform herself as a good woman. In China, good

woman is a woman who can act “quiet and demure, graceful, polite, delicate, refined, poised, and punctual” (Disney Movie *Mulan*, (00:03:08 – 00:03:21)). But Mulan is not a girl like that, she is not only cannot act like that but she also cannot remember those things.



The scene above shows that Mulan is trying to memorize how is to be a good woman, it proves that actually she does not used to act feminine. It is also proving Spence's thought that stated by Burke and Stats that societal members might decide what being male and being female means, and males will generally respond by defining themselves as masculine while females will generally define themselves as feminine, but it still possible for one to be female and see herself as masculine or male and see himself as feminine (997).

Mulan as a daughter has responsibility to fulfill her duty and give honor for her family by preparing herself as a good wife. In Chinese tradition, a daughter who is successful in satisfy the matchmaker and getting a man as his husband as soon as possible will bring honor to her family.

“A girl can bring her family
Great honor in one way
By striking a good match
And this could be that day
Men want girls with good taste
Calm, obedient, who work fast paced
With good breeding and a tiny waist
You'll bring honor to us all” (Honor to Us lyric,
Disney Movie *Mulan*)

The song lyric above is sung in the movie to give understanding to the audience about how traditional Chinese people stereotypically define how girls can gives honor to her family. To serve the Emperor people in China should have to do something, men by bearing their arms and women by bearing sons.



(00:06:11–00:07:49)

So it is the reason why should Mulan finds a man to be her husband as soon as possible because it her responsibility to marry and bear a son for the Emperor. But actually Mulan is not prepared yet to be a wife. When she was brought to the matchmaker by her mother, she messed up her preparation.



The picture above shows how Mulan is not ready to be a bride. Mulan is a girl with no quality of feminine woman. In the movie she is messed up with the matchmaker, she is unqualified.

“Men want girls with good taste
Calm, obedient, who work fast paced
With good breeding and a tiny waist
You'll bring honor to us all” (Honor to Us Lyric)

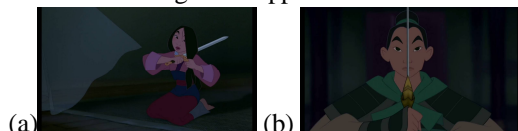
Mulan cannot act calm, obedient, and work fast paced. Mulan is careless girl, she might be look like a bride but she cannot bring honor to her family.

She is not only far from what is called feminine, but Mulan also got some qualities that should have been given to a man. Mulan is a brave young girl. When her father forced to be a soldier and fight in the war, Mulan wants to volunteer herself to replace her father place. Bravery is always associated to a man, women might be having it in their selves, but it is only few of them that have it.



The first picture shows how a son braces his self to replace her father place in army to fight in the war, it is common thing that will be doing by a man to keep her family save, because it is his responsibility as a son. But for woman, like Mulan, it is not common thing to do, it needs big bravery to volunteer herself. In the second picture, Mulan proves herself that she has a big courageous to replace her father's place in the army. Even she knows that it is forbidden for her to do that. She will get punishment or warning for only speaks her thought loudly in a man presence, but with her bravery she comes and wants to replace her father.

She proves that she got bravery in herself not only when she committed to prevent her father to go to the war, but also when she commit to go to the war for her father. She not only goes to the war, but she also alters herself to be a man. She changes her appearance to a man.



The first picture shows when she cut her hair and the second picture shows when she is already changing her appearance to a man. She knows that what she did will kill her if someone knows her identity. But for her

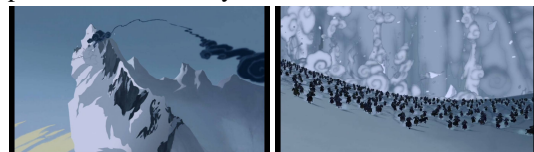
family's safety, to save her father's life, she braces herself to replace her father's place.

She is not only brave, her bravery develops into something heroic. She saves her father and family, it means that she got kindness in herself. As stated by Peter Lehman that heroism is different with courageous or bravery, someone might be brave but it does not mean that she is or him can be a hero. A villain is also need bravery, everyone can be brave but to have a good heart and have a good goals it is only have by a hero (7 - 24).

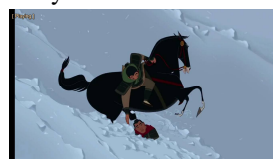
Other heroic acts by Mulan also can be seen in some scenes in the movie, when she is already in the army and in a war, Mulan who is known as Ping – Ping is her name when she becomes a man, has big contribution in protecting the Emperor. Mulan with her bravery and her good strategy is successful in defeating their enemies.



Even though she is only a girl, and she is in the war only for replacing her father place, Mulan proves that she is a real warrior, she carry out her responsibility as a part of the army and conscript every breathe of her to save the Emperor and the country.



Mulan also has a skill to think like a man, her velocity to think and organize the right strategy proves that she got quality of a man. Mulan is successful in saving the country by shooting the last cannon to the top of the mountain that gives impact to the snow and their enemies killed by the snow slide.



Her bravery leads her into another heroic action, she saves her captain. She knows if she does it, she might be killed, she will be in dangerous, but she still help him. A hero is someone who can avoid her or his selfishness for the sake of other's need.

When her real identity is revealed and when everybody does not want to trust her anymore, she is still trying to save the country and the Emperor. The leader of their enemies is still alive, he and his friend are arranging a revenge for their loss. Mulan knows it, she has a plan to inform it to Shang – the captain of the army.

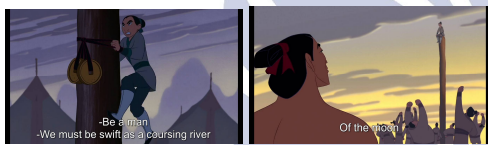


She understands that she might be ignored by Shang, not only because she was lying about her identity, but also because she is a girl, nobody will listen to her, but it does not stop her. It proves that she is brave, responsible and she has a kind heart to become a hero for her country.

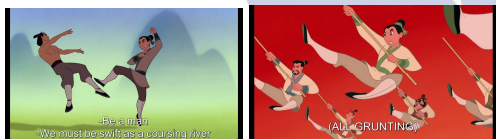
Her bravery, her responsibility and her heroic action can be considered as man characteristic. She proves that a female can have the qualities of man and see herself as masculine figure. Mulan also proves it by having another quality of man. She is strong girl and she is also a girl who will never give up easily.



For being called as a man, a man should have two qualities – the first is discipline and strength, and Mulan proves that she can have it,



by practicing a lot and never give up. She proves that even though she is a woman she also can have the strength and defeat the man itself.



Those scenes above prove that a woman or a female can have the qualities of a man. Mulan successful in performing as a man, she is gaining the ability to fight and fit in with the other man. Like what is already stated by Halberstam, masculinity is also can be produced by masculine women (241).

Female Characters' Relationship with Man Characters in a Term of Female Masculinity

As a girl in her age, actually it is the time for her to have a feeling towards her opposite gender. The major character in literary work is having relationship with men; she lives around men. But the things that makes her different with the other girl is her masculinity that influence the developing of her feeling towards her opposite gender.

Almost the same with Katniss, Mulan also develops herself in male environment in masculine figure. But what make them different are their appearances when they are with male characters. If Katniss being close with the men

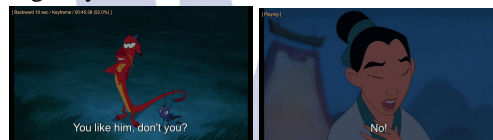
characters in female appearance but she got masculinity in herself, Mulan develops herself in a form of man figure and got masculinity in herself.

Mulan sacrifices herself and replaces her father's place in the army, and that's why she changes her appearance into a man figure. So her relationship with men characters in literary works can be seen as a friendship.



Mulan is a man in her friends' perspective that is why her friends do not involve any romantic feeling in their friendship.

Even though Mulan is also hide her feelings, not only because her masculinity but it is also forbidden for her to show her feeling. Her appearance forced her to keep her feeling only for herself.



So when she asked by Mushu about her feeling towards her captain she tell him that she does not have any feeling for him. Mulan is forced to not have and keep her feeling because of her appearance, her appearance makes her and her male friend cannot have a special romantic relationship, her friend sees her as a man.

CONCLUSION

Masculinity is a common thing that given to a man, there are some characteristic of masculine man. But it does not mean that woman cannot have masculine qualities of a man in herself. It is proved by Mulan, she is a girl but she is not traditionally feminine. She is failed in performing her roles as traditional Chinese girl.

Mulan approves herself that she got qualities of a man, after she sacrifice herself to replace her father pace in the army and change her appearance into a man, she proves that she is better in performing herself as a man figure. She is strong, brave, heroic, independence, rational, and responsible. Not only that, she also approves herself that she can mastering man's stuff like arrows, bow and sword.

But, her masculinity gives an impact towards her feeling development towards man and it also influences her relationship with male characters. After she changes herself into a man figure, the male characters around her see her as a 'man'. So it is forbidden for her to show her feeling especially romantic feeling.

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