



# Reflection of Women Struggle Through the Main Character in Olivia Newman's *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*

Thasyalina Amarthalia<sup>1</sup>, Yoga Sudarisman<sup>2</sup>, Bunyamin Faisal Syarifudin<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Sastr Inggris, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung

Email: [Tasyalinaamarthalia@gmail.com](mailto:Tasyalinaamarthalia@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [yogasударisman@uinsgd.ac.id](mailto:yogasударisman@uinsgd.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>  
[bunyaminfaisal@uinsgd.ac.id](mailto:bunyaminfaisal@uinsgd.ac.id)<sup>3</sup>

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## Abstract

This study aims to analyze how Kya's character reflects the struggle of women in the context of feminism in *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*. This is done to find out whether there are elements of feminism in Kya Clark's character in *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*. The method used is qualitative research. In this study, researchers used feminist analysis to examine the characters in the movie and also examined transcripts integrated with Simone de Beauvoir's feminism. The main data source in this study is the character development of Kya from the main character in the movie *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*. The data collection technique used is documentation in the movie *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)* which highlights Kya's character that contains elements of feminism, interpreting the results of data collection and conclusions. The data analysis technique of this research uses feminist analysis by observing, identifying characters, and concluding. The results of this study state that Kya's character reflects the struggle of women in the context of feminism in the film *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)* has five stages of how Kya reflects the struggle of women which include such as independence, freedom, social stigma, discrimination, harassment and oppression.

**Keywords:** *Feminis, Main Character, Reflection, Women Struggle, Where the Crawdad Sing (2022).*

## **Introduction**

The emergence of the phenomenon of feminism in recent decades has resulted in significant changes in the way society views the rights and roles of women. The focus of contemporary feminism is not only on gender equality, but also on women's equal rights in various aspects of life, education, work, and social roles.

In this context, social issues, economic hardship, and gender-based violence are the most important topics in many feminist narratives. Women around the world are increasingly encouraged to fight against patriarchal structures that have long limited their potential and freedom. The social phenomenon known as #MeToo began in 2017 and continues to grow today in the United States. The movement raised the issue of sexual harassment, especially in the workplace, by encouraging women to share their experiences. While this phenomenon is relatively far removed from feminism, it is related to gender stereotypes and the fight for women's rights (Amini naisa & Muryantini, 2023)

In Indonesia, the #MeToo movement began in 2018. The movement aims to reveal cases of sexual violence experienced by women through social media. This has influenced the handling of sexual harassment cases in various countries. The international movement also entered Indonesia in the same year. There are also other opinions about the #MeToo movement in Indonesia, according to Dinnar Dizza Mulya Aryani and Alilla Pramiyanti there are various reasons for the increase in these cases such as the patriarchal system that is too inherent in Indonesian society, laws that are less favorable to Indonesian women, to the lack of education and awareness of Indonesian society on sexual violence and harassment. This is what triggered the emergence of feminist movements in Indonesia such as the #MeToo Movement which aims to eliminate sexual violence and harassment and protect survivors of sexual violence and harassment.

According to her, the #MeToo Movement has an impact on society even on a small and large scale such as survivor counseling services, providing opportunities for survivors to share their experiences, and encouraging the establishment of women's organizations that aim to eliminate violence and harassment against women and protect survivors of violence and sexual harassment in Indonesia. As well as being a driving force for the government to pass Law No. 12 of 2022. (Dizza et al., 2023).

Feminism is a social and political movement that emphasizes the equality of women and men and the need to overcome discrimination, violence, and sexual harassment experienced by women in various areas of life. This phenomenon began and was influenced by various historical conditions, including the nation's struggle, national development programs, and globalization. Until now, many Indonesians still believe that rich men will help their family's economy, so that women do not need to get higher education or work. (Elindawati, 2021). Until now, many Indonesian people still believe that rich men will help their family's

economy, so women do not need to get higher education or work.

Feminism continues to evolve by expanding multiple perspectives to address various social, political and cultural aspects involving gender equality. In this context, research increasingly emphasizes the importance of intersectional analysis that links gender with race, social class, sexual orientation and other identity factors. Therefore, this research aims to contribute to exploring and addressing the challenges and opportunities for a more inclusive and adaptive contemporary feminism.

Likewise, many movies depict women who are attractive, whiny, spoiled, chatty, stubborn, emotional, lazy, unintelligent, and always make fun of men. This image of women is often shown in movies, both Indonesian and foreign films. But not all movies depict this, many also depict how a woman works hard and succeeds, the resilience of a woman, and the independence of a woman. For example, *Negra's* work explores the phenomenon of post feminism, which refers to a state in which feminist values are considered to have been achieved, yet representations of women in the media often present conservative and regressive images.

*Negra* analyzes how modern films often repackage feminist narratives to reinforce patriarchal and capitalist ideologies (Diane, 2008). In addition, women in cinema is one of the themes that is always interesting to be brought to the big screen (Wibowo Ganjar et al, 2019). After going through several phenomena above, finally, the author will examine several aspects of the film, themes, and characters. This phenomenon is reflected in many works of art and popular culture, including films. One of the films that is relevant in depicting women's struggles in a feminist context is *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022). This film tells the story of Kya Clark, a young woman who grew up in isolation in the middle of a swamp and was able to survive after being abandoned by her family and ostracized by the surrounding community.

In analyzing *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) from a feminist perspective, there are correlations between this current research and empirical and theoretical perspectives that can be further explored. In the empirical research, there is the influence of nature as a feminist context: Kya has a very close relationship with nature, which is considered a space of protection and freedom for her. Nature is not just a beautiful setting, but also an important characteristic that enhances women's empowerment. However, empirical research linking feminism with ecofeminism theory to historical adaptation films such as *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) is still rare. In the theoretical gap, there is an intersectional analysis in the context of Kya: Kya is not just an isolated woman, but a member of a marginalized social group, with a poor family background and raised in a stigmatized environment. One of the most thorough analyzes focuses on gender equality without addressing how social

class factors influence Kya's experience of deprivation. This indicates a gap in the use of intersectional theory in feminist studies of film adaptations with poor female characters like Kya.

In the context of *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022), Kya is in a very difficult situation, but not in the form of explicit resistance to patriarchy. Instead of confronting power, Kya finds her strength in mental and emotional resilience, which focuses more on the individual and less on direct resistance to society. There is very little research linking post-structuralist feminism to women's narratives that do not involve this explicit resistance. The theoretical gap here is the lack of application of feminist theory that examines non-confrontational forms of empowerment as displayed in Kya's story.

This is the reason why the researcher decided to use the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) by Delia Owens as the object of analysis in this study. The first reason why researchers chose this film is because *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) is a film that marks the debut of Delia Owens. As a film adaptation, which managed to attract the attention of many people from all over the world since 2022. This novel, written by a popular American writer, is a popular literary work read by millions of readers throughout the world (Ehrlich, 2022). In addition, the feedback was also more positive, and the film was a box office success, grossing \$132 million worldwide with a profit margin of \$24 million.

In addition, my interest in Kya's character is because *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) depicts the life of Kya Clark, a young girl growing up isolated in the swamps of North Carolina. Kya, also known as "Marsh Girl", experiences neglect and violence in her family, beginning with the flight of her mother, who leaves home in response to her father's violence, followed by the departure of her siblings. Ultimately, Kya is left alone by her father, who also leaves after acting violently. In this isolation, Kya learns to live alone in the wild, cultivating a deep love for her surroundings and prominent drawing skills.

In addition to depicting a survival story, the film also shows Kya's struggle to deal with social stigma. When a young foreigner named Chase Andrews is found dead at the edge of a swamp, Kya becomes the prime suspect due to the rumors and prejudices that surround her. The court proceedings she faces reflect the gender stereotypes and discrimination that women often face in a patriarchal society. Kya struggles to prove her innocence while reflecting on her past of grief and abandonment.

The film explores themes of love, loss, and the search for identity through a narrative that alternates between the past and the present. As a result of Kya's relationship with Tate Walker, her childhood friend who taught her to read and write, shows hope and true love. However, when Kya gets caught up in a dangerous relationship with Chase, the film shows how women are often caught in a difficult choice between love and safety.

This study aims to analyze how feminism is depicted in these films, focusing on how the development of the characteristics of the main characters, especially women, is depicted in the film's narrative, which reflects the social realities faced by women in society. Using the feminist theory of Simone de Beauvoir, this study entitled *Kya as a Symbol of Women's Struggle: A Feminism Analysis in Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) aims to analyze the struggle of female characters in the context of Delia Owens' film feminism.

In the description above, the author sees that there are problems that will be discussed regarding the characterization of Kya which reflects the struggle of women in the context of feminism. To answer the question, the author will answer the question using Simone De Beauvoir's theory. As explained by Simone de Beauvoir in her famous book, which describes the feminist principle that a person is not born, but becomes, a woman (SimonedeBeauvoir 1956). This quote explains that the concept of femininity is not something biological or natural, but rather a social construct formed by the roles and expectations of society. According to Beauvoir, women are not fixed entities that exist since birth, but rather individuals who continue to develop who are shaped by social interactions and their life experiences.

In the *Second Sex*, De Beauvoir also explains that. The situation of women is not destiny, but choice. It is a matter of living with freedom, transcending their conditions, and declaring themselves as subjects. (SimonedeBeauvoir 1956) This quote further supports Beauvoir's theory that women should be given the opportunity to choose their own path in life and overcome the limitations imposed by a patriarchal society. According to Beauvoir, women can change their circumstances through action and choice, but not simply accept their circumstances as fate. Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting a feminist analysis of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) which we will discuss. The film, directed by Olivia Newman, is adapted from a novel by Delia Owens, an American writer, zoologist, and conservationist. Owens was born and raised in Georgia, one of the places where she spent most of her life in the wild. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Georgia, and a Doctorate in animal behavior from the University of California, Davis.

In Yogie Pranowo's work, he discusses Transcendence in Simone De Beauvoir's *Thought*. According to Simone de Beauvoir, transcendence, as defined in the context of feminism, refers to women's strategies to get out of the culture of patriarchal society. Simone de Beauvoir provides three points that women must work, participate in intellectual activities, and be willing to become actors of action to carry out social transformation. Simone de Beauvoir explains that by implementing these three strategies, women will be able to benefit and be able to

get out of the oppression of the patriarchal culture that has been shackling them (Pranowo et al., 2016).

Previous research relevant to this study includes an analysis of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022), conducted by Wahyuni Khotimah from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung with the title *Three-Dimensional Aspect of Main Character Catherine Danielle Clark in Delia Owens's Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022). This study discusses two research problems, namely the three-dimensional aspects and the development of the main character in the novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022). The purpose of this study is to analyze the three-dimensional aspects of the main character by using Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory and to analyze the personality development of the main character by using Ludwig Klages' three-dimensional theory.

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative method with a narrative approach to collect data and analyze it using inductive and deductive techniques. The final result of this research found that there are three-dimensional aspects of the character Catherine Danielle Clark. Overall, she is beautiful with long black hair and a proportional body with tanned skin. They have a better and cleaner appearance than the average person. They are American and descended from a group of people from the lower class of society. Her parents abandoned her so from childhood she sold seafood and in her 20s, she had a job as a writer and poet (Wahyuni Khotimah, 2022)

The following research is entitled *Representation of Women Journalists In The Film "Boston Strangler"* by Rita Maulina. This research focuses on analyzing the representation of female journalists in the film *Boston Strangler*, which is based on the true story of Loretta McLaughlin and Jean Cole, two female journalists who investigated the Boston serial killer incident that occurred in 1962-1964. They faced sexism and gender discrimination while trying to uncover the truth behind the serial murders known as "The Boston Strangler." By using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, to understand how the story of female journalists is portrayed in the film *Boston Strangler* by using three stages of meaning analysis, namely denotation, kinotation, and myth (Maulina Rita, 2024).

Qualitative research method using Roland Barthes semiotic analysis. The results of this study show that there are sixteen scenes in the film *Boston Strangler* depicting female journalists. This research found that each scene accurately depicts female journalists who experience gender injustice, such as sexism, discrimination, and threats of violence for covering murder cases that are usually handled by men. At that time, women in the journalism profession were still often considered incapable of handling big cases, as shown in this film.

The next research is entitled "Analysis of Semiotics Representation of Feminism in *Mulan 2020* film", written by July Susanti Br Sinuraya. This research aims to find out how the semiotic representation of feminism in the film *Mulan 2020*. The theory used to support this research is semiotic theory. The object of this

research is the film *Mulan* 2020, which is based on the story of the American period war drama by Niki Caro. This live-action film is a continuation of the 1998 animated film produced by Disney.

The film is 1 hour 55 minutes long and was released in Indonesia on December 4, 2020. The method used in this research is a qualitative approach using Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis technique. The results of this study show that there are several scenes that illustrate how feminism is represented in the 2020 film *Mulan* which is analyzed using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory. The representation of feminism can be seen in the signs and meanings that have been analyzed by Roland Barthes' semiotic theory (Susanti July, 2020.) With the title *Representasi Feminisme Dalam Film Little Women* (Charles S. Pierce Semiotics Analysis), by Arthanty Priscilia C.P.

This research focuses on how feminism is represented in the film *Little Women*. To reveal this problem thoroughly and comprehensively, researchers used the Media Text Analysis method with a qualitative descriptive approach, and this research was then analyzed using the Charles Sanders Pierce Semiotics Model. The results of this study show that *Little Women* represents several feminist issues, including gender equality, women's rights against women, gender discrimination, and the ideal woman (Priscilia Arthanty et al 2021)

Based on the introduction above, the researcher chose the title *Kya as a Symbol of Women's Struggle: An Analysis of Feminism in the Film Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) because there has been no previous research that specifically examines the elements of reflection of the Women's Struggle experienced by female characters. This theme aligns with contemporary feminist movements that advocate unity and empowerment, reinforcing the idea that women can accomplish more together than separately. (Pidada et al., 2021). It is hoped that this research can make a new and significant contribution. In this case, it helps researchers to develop inspiration and theoretical information that can be used as a source of research data. To be more precise, the researcher found a problem formulation, namely: How does the character Kya in *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) reflect women's struggles in the context of feminism?

## Methods

In order for scientific activities to be more directed and rational, a method is needed that is in accordance with the object to be studied, because the function of the method is as a way of doing something to be able to produce a satisfying result. The method also refers to a way to ensure that the researcher runs in a directed manner and achieves the best results.

Therefore, qualitative methods were used in this study. Qualitative research methods are research used to examine natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument (Sugiyono, 2012). This research uses feminis approach based on Beauvoir's theory to find out how women's characteristics are depicted in the movie. It is an approach that combines qualitative data collection and analysis techniques with a feminist perspective, to understand women's experiences, views, and social realities in the context of gender, power, and inequality.

This approach focuses on exploring social dimensions that are often overlooked in traditional research, by placing women as the main subjects who have valuable and unique perspectives. As stated by Robson, C. also that he approaches adopted for the study will depend on the nature of the research questions and the context in which the study is conducted (Robsonc, 2011). Robson emphasizes that research approaches must be flexible and tailored to the specific conditions in which the research is conducted and the types of questions being asked.

In research, qualitative methods can produce data in the form of text or images. This research also helps researchers understand how characters, especially women, are portrayed in a movie. Not only evaluating character representation, but also analyzing the implied messages about gender roles in an isolated environment and analyzing how gender roles are reflected in the relationship between the main female character and the surrounding community. The movie *Where the Crawdad Sing* (2022) was chosen by the researcher as the object of this study.

In choosing this film, the researcher saw several feminist elements. Among them, at the introduction of the film, there were around 1 to 2 scenes that contained feminist elements, and at the (climax) or middle of the film I saw 2 scenes that contained feminism and at the end or (resolutions) I saw 1 scene that depicted feminist elements in the film.

In this study, researchers will conduct data collection with a primary focus on documentation to obtain data. Documentation is a record of events that have passed. Documents can take the form of writings, pictures, or monumental works of a person. Documents can take the form of writings, pictures, or monumental works of a person, including in the form of texts, images, and official texts, which can provide contextual evidence about the phenomenon under study and allow researchers to examine the track record of a particular event or phenomenon (Marshall & Rossman 2016). In this study, researchers collected a number of documents related to the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022), To complete the data needed in the research process, there are several data collection techniques as follows:



- a. Search and find movies that are available online through streaming platforms or websites that provide legal movie screening services.
- b. Watch the movie live over the internet using a network-connected device, be it a computer, laptop, or mobile device, according to the source you have found.
- c. Take screenshots of key moments or events in the film that are relevant to the research or topic being analyzed, ensuring that the images are clear and show the information needed.
- d. Attach evidence of the screenshot to the research report or document, including a caption explaining the context and relevance of the image to the discussion.

According to (Miles and Huberman, 1994) there are three methods for qualitative data analysis: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. This process takes place continuously throughout the research, perhaps even before all the data is collected. Data analysis will be conducted by the researcher through the following steps:

- a. Watch of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)* in 2023 online on HP to ensure suitability as a research object.
- b. Identifying the characteristics of the main character in the film by analyzing the recorded events and taking screenshot documentation of relevant scenes.
- c. Attaching screenshot evidence and interpreting text or dialog, it is necessary to analyze using De Beauvoir's feminist analysis technique which includes "The Second Sex".
- d. Draw objective conclusions as answers to the formulation of research problems, supported by data that has been analyzed theoretically.

## Results

Based on the description above, it can be understood that there is a feminist context, namely the main character who reflects the struggle of women in *Where The Crawdads Sing (2022)*, including five things, discrimination impact of trauma in Kya Clark's life, overcoming alienation: women's liberation through the power of self, the development of women's identity in Kya Clark's isolation as a subject, harassment and oppression of women, social stigma and rejection of Kya gender traditions against stereotypes. The reflection of women's struggles that always appear in Kya Clark's speech is strength and resilience. This is because strength is an individual's ability to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and achieve goals despite various difficulties.

## Discussions

### ***Kya's character in *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) reflects the struggles of women in the context of feminism***

Kya's character in *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) reflects the struggles of women in the context of feminism, namely independence, freedom, gender equality, social stigma, discrimination, harassment and oppression. Here is the explanation.

#### ***a. Discrimination Impact of Trauma in Kya Clark's Life***



Picture 1

Niffler at 13.04

Dad: Get in the house! Are you stupid?!  
Come here! Now you've done it.  
You gotta learn respect. You hear me?  
Tate: Stop it! You're hurting her!  
Kya: Hey, you leave my pa alone!  
Dad: Come back on my land, I'll shoot you! You her me?!



Picture 2

Niffler at 21.55

This scene contains Feminist elements where this feminist element occurs because of the violent conflict that occurs from other characters. Therefore, this scene becomes feminist because of the presence of other characters. This is marked

when Kya is tortured by her father but she can still try to fight her cruel father. This is in line with the perspective of Simone de Beauvoir's theory, especially related to the concept of "the other" and the influence of patriarchal injustice on women. Through this scene, we can see how Kya's experience illustrates power, control, and oppression in the family and its impact on the development of her identity as a woman, this reflects the reflection of women's struggles how women, especially in patriarchal family structures, are often positioned as objects who have no control over their own lives.

Kya, in this case, is not only "the other" in a broader sense (for example, she is an isolated woman), but also "the other" in the context of her own family. She is not given space to become an independent subject, but she is in a subordinate position, treated like her father's property that can be controlled and tortured. Her father acts as a patriarchal figure who controls and destroys Kya's autonomy, which is also in line with de Beauvoir's views on how women are often subordinated in family and social relationships.

***b. Overcoming Alienation: Women's Liberation through the Power of Self***



Picture 3

Niffler at 42:04

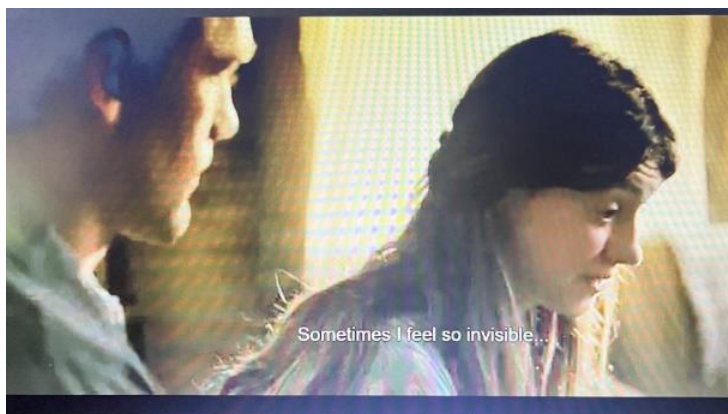
- Tate: Social Services are looking for me again.  
Kya: They're gonna pull me in, put me in some group home.  
Tate: It's polite to greet people when you see them.  
Tate: You know, a group home might not be the worst thing.  
What? No, no. You'd have someone cooking your warm meals.  
Real bed.  
Kya: I got a real bed.  
'Sides, I'd never leave the marsh to go live with a bunch stranger.  
It's "besides," not "'sides."

Tate: And you can't live alone in the marsh forever.

Although Kya is alone, she shows extraordinary resilience in overcoming the difficulties of life left behind by her departure and shows that women can live independently without relying on men. Kya shows that she does not need to depend on others, even men, to learn and develop. Nature acts as her mentor, providing knowledge about resilience and freedom. Even since she was little, she was abandoned by her family who could not stand her father's behavior, because he was always rude to his family and to Kya.

This is in line with de Beauvoir's view, women are often limited by social norms that require them to depend on men or family. This is a form of rebellion against traditional roles that require women to depend on men or family structures. In this scene, it is also a sign that Kya is a reflection of women's struggle. By surviving alone, Kya asserts her freedom as an individual who is not bound by patriarchal norms that generally limit women from living independently. However, through Kya's journey, we can see how she opposes the roles limited by society and creates her own freedom, while fighting for her identity and autonomy. This is a form of rebellion against traditional roles that require women to depend on men or family structures. By surviving alone, Kya asserts her freedom as an individual who is not bound by patriarchal norms that generally limit women from living independently.

***c. The Development of Women's Identity in Kya Clark's Isolation as a Subject***



Picture 4

Niffler at 38:56

Kya: I miss them.  
I had, um...  
I had forgot how much.  
I feel them not here.  
But...  
I feel them not here right now.

I mean... Sometimes I feel so invisible... I wonder if I'm here at all.

Tate:     You are.

This shows that Kya's character can be shaped by other characters such as Tate who helps Kya find her identity. Through the search for identity and understanding, Kya realizes from here that even though Kya is ostracized by both the surrounding community and ostracized because of her marginalized residence around the swamp, she still has the ability to develop her own identity and strength, this is what supports Kya as a reflection of women's struggle. Kya became isolated because since childhood she often experienced violence by her father and she was not allowed to be friends with anyone by her father, since then she has always been gloomy, plus she became isolated because of a murder case that happened to her and made her the main suspect in the case, which made the surrounding community even more ostracized. This is in line with Simone de Beauvoir's thinking, women are often shaped by their relationships with men in patriarchal societies. Kya, who lives in isolation, finally learns to know and understand the world through the help of men (Tate). This shows the complex relationship between dependence and liberation in the construction of women's identity.

This scene is also in line with Joseph Boggs' theory, where Boggs explains that characters are often revealed not only through the actions or words of the characters themselves, but also through the way they interact with other characters. The relationships between characters allow the audience to understand each character's nature by observing how they respond to others, and how others respond to them (Boggs, 2008). This illustrates how external factors, in this case Tate's help, change and shape Kya's character, who was previously isolated, into someone who is more connected to the social and cultural world. For Boggs, characters like Kya can develop through interactions with other characters who serve as 'turning points' in their journey. In this case, Tate is the external element that allows Kya to form a more complete identity, moving from an isolated woman to a more independent and confident individual.

**d. Harassment and Oppression of Women**



Picture 5  
Niffler at 1.34.32

- Chase: But you're the one I really want.  
You know any other man would have tried to change you?  
To fix you?
- Kya: I never did.
- Chase: No, no. Please, please, wait. I need you. I really need you.  
Don't leave me all alone in that place.  
You know, nobody else knows me.
- Kya: You know I feel sorry for you.  
But I want nothing to do with any that.  
Wilder than ever.
- Chase: I know you want this too.  
Stop!  
I know you want this too.  
[high-pitched ringing]  
You're mine, Kya. You belong to me. I'm not letting you go this time.
- Kya: Leave me alone, you bastard!  
You bother me again and I'll kill you!

This scene contains feminist elements marked when Kya was slapped by her lover Chase Andrews who had betrayed her, and Kya felt disappointed in Chase Andrews and began to fight back until finally Kya was forced to have sex with Chase Andrews. However, here Kya tried to turn around and attack Chase Andrews, until finally Kya managed to escape from Chase Andrews' sight. As a result, the scene became feminist because of Chase Andrews' interaction that committed violence against Kya. Here Kya fights against Chase Andrews where it can be said that Kya is indeed a reflection of women's struggle.



In this scene, Chase's physical violence against Kya can be seen as a manifestation of male dominance who feels entitled to women, both physically and psychologically. Chase slapped Kya in response to her rejection and desire to control her, reflecting an unequal relationship where men feel they have the right to control women through violence. In Simone de Beauvoir's view, in a patriarchal society, women are often forced to live in independence, and violence is one way to maintain that dominance. In this case, Turning Chase is his way of showing his superiority and trying to control Kya, who refuses his consent. This reflects how violence against women is often used to maintain unequal power relationships.

***e. Social Stigma and Rejection of Kya Gender Traditions Against Stereotypes***



Picture 6

Niffler at 1:36:07

Man: She shouted it real loud, sir.  
I heard a commotion, and I come closer, see if anybody was in trouble, and there she was.

Judge: And do you recognize the woman?  
Is she in the courtroom today?

Man: Yes, that one there. The defendant.  
[crowd clamoring]  
The one folks call Marsh Girl.  
[gavel banging]

In this scene, Kya is being tried for the murder of Chase Andrews. Kya here is the main suspect in the murder, because she previously had a relationship with Chase Andrews. And there is evidence and witnesses that refer to her. And in this scene, the witness is explaining how she saw Kya and Chase Andrews fighting. And here Kya's character becomes stronger in fighting the social stigma that judges her

as an inferior figure just because she is a woman and lives independently. Facts that the witness does not yet know. This shows that Kya deserves to be called a reflection of women's struggle. This is an attempt to fight the division of traditional roles that degrade women, showing how she fights traditional views that place her in a subordinate position just because of her gender identity and social status.

This social oppression reflects de Beauvoir's view of how women in patriarchal societies are often seen as inferior and more vulnerable to discrimination. Society that views Kya as "the other" considers her as a figure who must be punished just because she chooses to live outside social norms, even though she has no evidence to support the accusations against her.

In "The Second Sex", Simone de Beauvoir explains that. Resilience refers to a person's ability to face, overcome, and bounce back from various challenges, difficulties, and stress faced in life. Resilience is not just about surviving, but also about growing and developing despite adversity. A woman's situation is not one of fate, but one of choice. It is a matter of living with freedom, transcending her condition, and asserting herself as a subject (Simone-de-Beauvoir, 1956.). This quote further supports Simone de Beauvoir's theory that women should be given the opportunity to choose their own path in life and overcome the limitations imposed by a patriarchal society.

## **Conclusion**

This study explains about the main character Kya reflecting women's struggles in the context of feminism in the film *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*. Kya's development as the main character of feminism influences how the story develops. The development of the story will refer to how Kya reflects women's struggles. Kya's character in reflecting women's struggles in the context of feminism is important for social movement efforts that fight for gender equality, women's rights, and women's dignity. The categories of feminism in this study are independence, freedom, gender equality, social stigma, discrimination, harassment, and oppression. This study uses a qualitative method.

In this study, researchers used film analysis tools and also analyzed transcripts combined with Simone de Beauvoir. From the data analysis, researchers found that there were main characters who reflected women's struggles in the context of feminism. Kya reflects women's struggles which include five such as discrimination impact of trauma in kya clark's life, overcoming alienation: women's liberation through the power of self, the development of women's identity in kya clark's isolation as a subject, harassment and oppression of women, social stigma and rejection of kya gender traditions against stereotypes. So, the most common category is independence in the film, which then refers to Kya's character who reflects women's struggles in the context of feminism. Women are expected to be freer in determining their fate without being limited by traditional roles set by the community, including freedom in career, education, family roles, and rights over



themselves. It is also expected to promote gender equality that involves equal rights between women and men. Not only that, social justice is also very important for women, be it economic, racial and social equality. And one of the core values in feminism is that women must be able to oppose all forms of violence, be it physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological violence.

Future researchers are recommended to examine the formula, setting, or examine gender and the role of women using other theories, the theme of social isolation and character psychology, and finally examine the use of nature and the environment as metaphors.

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