

THE HARMONY OF FAMILISM AND FEMINISM IN BIOPIC *ON THE BASIS OF SEX*

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ABSTRACT

The family is the smallest domain in which patriarchal practices occur, and women become the subjugated object. On the other hand, the biopic film *On the Basis of Sex*, set in the 1950s, depicts a married couple who mutually support one another. This familism principle, in contrast to the patriarchal principle of the early twentieth century, distinguishes the Ginsburgs as a unique family. The research discussion progresses to how familism is maintained, which resulted in Ruth, the wife's, success in achieving her education and career with the support of her husband. In order to answer the research questions, familism and feminism theories are used. The findings show that the couple prioritizes family over self-interest because they value family interconnectedness; they believe family as source of emotional support; they want to maintain family honor; they want to obtain family benefit; and they want to fulfil family obligations. The idealism leads them to the practice of feminism, which takes place both in the domestic and public spheres. As a result, it was found that strong family bonds can be used to break the patriarchal tradition by implementing feminist practices.

Keywords: *Familism, Feminist Practice, Patriarchal Culture*

ABSTRAK

*Keluarga adalah domain terkecil di mana praktik patriarki terjadi dan perempuan menjadi objek yang dikekang. Namun, film biopik *On the Basis of Sex* yang berlatar tahun 1950-an menghadirkan pasangan suami dan istri yang mendukung satu sama lain. Prinsip kekeluargaan ini, dibandingkan dengan prinsip patriarki pada awal abad ke-20, membuat Ginsburg menjadi keluarga yang berbeda. Penelitian ini selanjutnya membahas bagaimana kekeluargaan dipertahankan sehingga membuat Ruth, sang istri, berhasil dalam menempuh pendidikan dan karir dengan dukungan suaminya. Teori familisme dan feminisme digunakan untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian. Temuan hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pasangan tersebut menempatkan keluarga mereka di atas kepentingan pribadi karena mereka menghargai nilai-nilai hubungan dalam keluarga; mereka percaya keluarga sebagai sumber dukungan emosional; mereka ingin menjaga kehormatan keluarga; mereka ingin memperoleh manfaat untuk keluarga; serta, mereka ingin memenuhi kewajiban dalam keluarga. Idealisme kekeluargaan tersebut membawa mereka pada praktik feminisme yang terjadi baik di ranah domestik maupun publik. Akibatnya, ditemukan bahwa ikatan keluarga yang kuat dapat mematahkan tradisi patriarki dengan menerapkan praktik feminisme.*

A. INTRODUCTION

The patriarchal principle is followed in the majority of countries around the world. Despite the fact that it is no longer strictly enforced, the rules remain deeply ingrained. According to Ruthven, Patriarchy is a system that allows men to dominate women in all social relationships (2009:12). The patriarchal system that exists in society creates gender gaps and injustices that affect many aspects of human life. The role of men is that they have power as the primary control in society, whereas women have very little influence in general areas of society, such as the economic, social, and political. Women are shackled and treated unfairly as a result of patriarchal culture's limited role for women. One of the structural barriers that prevent individuals in society from having equal access in life is the disparity in gender roles.

This patriarchal culture that divides men's and women's roles is the foundation for the emergence of gender stereotypes or gender roles, which reflect impressions and beliefs about what behaviors are appropriate for men and women. Gender roles can take the form of what each gender should do in everyday life based on an assessment of the surrounding community, which the patriarchal system in a patriarchal society built and strengthened. Men, for example, are thought to be dominant, aggressive, rational, strong, and objective. Women, on the other hand, are perceived as intuitive, non-aggressive, emotionally expressive, soft, and subjective. This patriarchal culture's gender roles place women in a subordinate or inferior position. The patriarchal system is also applied to society's smallest social circle, the family. This family system regulates the concept of domestic task division, or task division within the household, and tends to use gender roles, with men as breadwinners and women as homemakers. The existence of disparities in task and function division reflects differences in human degrees, with males having greater values. (Ratna, 2005). In the biopic *On the Basis of Sex*, these conditions are felt and experienced by male characters as the axis of patriarchal activities, as well as female characters who are subservient to patriarchy.

On the Basis of Sex is a biopic about portraying Ruth Brader Ginsburg's attempts to fight for equal rights in the face of gender discrimination in America. This film also depicts how men demonstrate their superiority valiantly through their attitudes and actions. Gender discrimination in America exemplifies the patriarchal culture that is prevalent in the country. This discrimination, in turn, gives rise to feminism. The patriarchal culture that existed in America at the time is depicted in the film, both in the public and private spheres. However, the Ginsburg family demonstrates that the duties of men and women at home are not rigorously divided by culture. Not only is feminism highlighted, but it is also discovered that the Ginsburg family contains various familism elements. A social pattern emerges in which each family member must prioritize family interests over personal ones.

Ginsburg's family is an example of a rebellious family that is opposed to patriarchal culture which is strongly preserved. This cultural opposition is not motivated by the protagonists' desire to attain gender equality in society. Instead, this opposition is the outcome of a process that the Ginsburgs must go through in order to achieve their goals, which are determined inside the family. In a patriarchal culture, the way to treat families well is to fulfil their particular gender responsibilities, but this is not the case for the Ginsburgs. The Ginsburg family appeared to be an anomaly in the patriarchal culture of the day; this family defies gender roles in America for the sake of the family. The Ginsburgs' deeds of familism lead to feminist practice, implying that this family harmonizes familism and feminism. Their family bond causes them to encounter

various obstacles, particularly when they must contend with patriarchal culture. The way feminism is depicted in the behavior of familism, how they prioritize their family regardless of patriarchal culture, makes it a phenomena worth studying. Based on the concerns highlighted above, the formulation of the problem in the study is to explore the harmony of feminism and familism, to demonstrate that strong family bonds can promote feminist practice, thereby shattering the patriarchal tradition.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Feminism

Feminism is defined as a movement against sexism, and sexual oppression (Bell Hooks, 2000). Feminism is not about the resistance of women against men in terms of biological differences, but the awareness of the equal opportunities and freedoms possessed by men and women, both in the family, politics, and education. Feminism is not a movement against men, but an effort to fight against social norms such as household norms and women's efforts to deny their nature (Fakih, 2008), but rather an effort to end the oppression and exploitation of women (Fakih, 2008).

2. Familism

According to the article entitled Familism and Psychological Health: The Intervening Role of Closeness and Social Support, Familism is a family-related construct that values prioritizing family over individual interests (e.g., Campos et al., 2008; Freeberg & Stein, 1996; Keefe, Padilla, & Carlos, 1979; Knouse, 1991; Steidel & Contreras, 2003; Marin, 1993; Sabogal, Marin, Otero-Sabogal, VanOss Marin, & Perez-Stable, 1987). Familism consists of social norms, personal attitudes, and behaviors (Keefe et al., 1979; Sabogal et al., 1987), that kind of prioritizing is like: family obligations, considering the family in making decisions, family as a source of emotional support, respecting the bonds between family members, , maintaining family honor, and willingness to abandon individual interests for the family. (Steidel & Contreras, 2003; Sabogal et al., 1987).

3. Gender Role

Gender roles are the division of roles between the two sexes, male and female, which are socially formulated based on the sexual stereotypes which are masculinity and femininity. Umar (1999) stated that gender is generally used to define the differences between men and women from a socio-cultural point of view, so that gender concentrates more on social, cultural, psychological, and other non-biological aspects. The natural difference between the two genders (male and female), society began to divide what social roles were deemed appropriate for the two genders.

C. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

The method used to analyse this movie is qualitative descriptive because the data found in the movie are described in paragraphs. Nawawi (2007) said that descriptive qualitative research is research that illustrates the object of study based on facts that appear or as they are. This research focuses on the representation of the harmony of familism and feminism in which the data source is *On the Basis of Sex* film. There are a number of steps that are used in collecting the data, which are: watching the

movie, identifying the data which relate to the research problems, and classifying the data according to the category of the research problem. After the data were collected, they are analysed using relevant theories. Familism is used to analyse the relationship within the Ginsburg family. Then, their attitude and behaviour which hint about their disagreement over patriarchal customs is analysed using feminism.

D. DISCUSSION

This research is divided into two interconnected parts. The first is about the Ginsburgs family bond which includes several aspects. The second part talks about the Ginsburg action which promotes feminist practices. Those practices include domestic sphere where the Ginsburg live as a family, and public sphere which is limitedly related to the field of education (university) and social-politic field (work field).

1. The Ginsburg Family Bonds

The Ginsburg family relationship is analysed aspect by aspect based on the criteria of familism. Those aspects are: Respecting the bonds between family members, family as source of emotional support, maintaining family honor, willingness to abandon individual interest for the family, and Family Obligation. Each aspect is described in the discussion below.

2. Respecting the Bonds between Family Members

One of the several values that a family should hold is the awareness of their interconnectedness. The Ginsburg have this close family bond and they value their closeness. They cherish one another and aware of what the others feel and need. Sometimes, one member cares to take the others role and responsibility to create a balance family life. They do this especially to help the other family member to achieve their goal. Ruth, for example, takes the hard way to study at Harvard University. Being a woman who dares to express herself in public is not an easy task to do during that era. Regardless, Ruth is able to occupy a position at Harvard Law School.

RUTH: ...My husband Martin is in the second-year class. I'm at Harvard to learn about his work. So I can be a more patient and understanding wife.

When she is asked why she chooses to study in the university, her reason is simply to be a more patient and understanding wife. Things will be easier for a husband to talk to his wife who understands his business. She will not only become an understanding listener, but also a perfect discussion partner. She obviously wants to have a closer connection to her husband.

The one who value family interconnectedness the most is Martin. As the head of the family, he has to make sure that his family is in a perfect relationship. When Ruth has an argument with Jane, their daughter, Martin tries to be the bridge between them. He talks to Jane. He tells her that Ruth is being overprotected because she cares about her. Martin also talks to Ruth that Jane has grown up and needed space to express her thought. Ruth should be considerate about that. When someone value family interconnectedness, they'll be able to understand what their family need and what each member of the family care for.

3. Family as Source of Emotional Support

The conflict of this film revolves around the female lead character, Ruth. She follows her husband studying law at Harvard. However, at that time, women are supposed to be at home doing the household chores. Thus, although she successfully joins the university, sometimes she experiences denial and rejection. When she is upset being treated unfairly, home is her best place to complain about.

MARTIN: You're smarter than everyone here. You'll be better prepared. Just stand up and say what you know. In this place, that's all the matters.

Martin always shows his support to his wife and his daughter. He listens to them whenever they have a bad day. He gives them suggestions when they need it, and he is happy for their achievement. This emotional support will encourage each individual of the family to thrive on their achievements. In this film, Ruth is the one who need the emotional support the most. Her path during her studying at Harvard and her carrier soon after her graduation is a treacherous one to take; especially when she becomes a lawyer and decides to work on a case about taxation. Her intelligent, her professionalism and her bravery are challenged here. She is able to go through those difficulties and achieve her goal because she's got that emotional support from her family.

Emotional support is depicted in this film overwhelmingly through Ruth's devotion to her husband when he is diagnosed of having testicular cancer. Not only does she attend her own classes, but she also attends her husband's classes so Martin won't miss any lesson. She takes care of Martin and their baby. She does all the house chores. She goes to campus to attend classes and does all the homework at home. She does everything and always has an optimistic thought about their future even when Martin almost gives up.

RUTH: We're never giving up. Keep working. Keep studying. Jane will have her father. And you will be a lawyer. I am spending my life with you, Martin Ginsburg.

The Ginsburg shows a warm, close and supportive relationship to each other which represents an idea of familism. In this case, they regard their family as the source of emotion.

4. Maintaining the Family Honor

Maintaining the family honor is the responsibility each member of a family which they should have and carry. Once a member of the family fails to uphold the honor, the rest of the family will experience the turbulence. In familism, honor of the family become vital as it describes the quality of the family itself. The Ginsburg realize the importance of keeping the family honor, consequently, they fight for it one way or another.

Honor is usually perceived from the point of view of the society, because honor is shaped by moral and value a society has set. However, the Ginsburg has their own standard of family honor without taking into account what the society will think. They don't set the standard by the role of gender within the family. Instead, their honor is set based on their success, their happiness and their freedom of becoming who they want to be. They work hard to be successful both at education and carrier. Even in difficulties, they try to pursue their happiness both as an individual and as a family. And finally, their family honor is gain when they have their freedom.

For the sake of the family honor, Ruth helps Martin study during his sickness. Ruth doesn't want Martin to give up hope and abandon his dream of becoming a lawyer. Martin, in return, helps Ruth study about taxation so she can successfully win her case in court.

MARTIN: No. Nothing. I'm just thrilled by your sudden enthusiasm for tax law.

As is shown in the dialogue above, Martin is very pleased when Ruth is eager to learn about tax law. He doesn't even mind to do the house chores when Ruth brings her work to home. For Martin, doing house chores doesn't damage his reputation as a man. Instead, as a man and as the head of the family, he should support his wife in achieving her successful carrier. If his wife is respected, his family will also be respected. In a way, they both are able to maintain the family honor.

5. Willingness to abandon individual interest for the family

For the sake of the family benefit, sacrifice is needed. One should be able to control their ego and put aside their own preferences to go with what the family need. Ruth, Martin and especially Jane are sometimes being stubbornly selfish. However, after some talks and discussion, they come to realize that family should come first before their own desire.

This is shown when Ruth has an argument with Jane and Martin settles things between them. As a teenager, Jane acts a bit of a handful. The Ginsburg family bonds associated with willingness to abandon individual interest for the family in this biopic is portrayed through the way Martin stops Ruth when she wants go to Jane's room because Jane plays music too loud showing her anger to Ruth after arguing each other. Martin knows how to calm Jane that is being angry because of her mother, and also Martin knows that Ruth can't calm Jane because Ruth and Jane both are temperamental. It is proven through his dialogue when he stops Ruth which is walking to Jane's room.

MARTIN: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. I got it, I got it. At least she is not listening to The Monkees.

He wants to calm Jane by his own than letting Ruth goes to Jane's room and they both are angry at each other. He comes to Jane's room to tell her that her mother is not that bad. Martin is able to balance each other because he knows that they both have very different characters. Ruth tends to be emotional while Marty is a warm figure. This also shows that Martin wants to calm their family, he becomes the bridge of Ruth and Jane so their anger isn't getting worse, this kind of thing shows family should come first before their own desire and anger. It's also proven through the Martin's words when he comes to Jane's room:

MARTIN: Grandma Celia died when Mom was about your age. But right up to her dying breath, they would read together, and debate ideas, and she'd make mom question everything. ... Jane, Mom isn't bullying you. She doesn't want you to feel small. She wants to share what her mother taught her. That's how she shows her heart.

Since the focus of the film is on Ruth's first gender discrimination case, *Moritz v. Commissioner*, Ruth denies that Charles Moritz, a man who never married, the right to deduct the cost of caring for his sick mother, was unconstitutional because it was sex-based discrimination against man. Then, she offers herself to be Moritz's lawyer in order to convince the federal courts that all the laws that differentiate on the basis of sex

is unconstitutional. This case in the film *On the Basis of Sex* shows the Ginsburg family bonds associated with willingness to abandon individual interest for the family through Martin Ginsburg at the scene when he risks his job for supporting his wife to handle Moritz's case, even it will risk his career. He emphasizes supportive family relationship and prioritize the family over self by helping his wife reaching her dream which is at the end his wife's dream is for the good of their family. It's proven through Martin's conversation with Tom Miller:

TOM: For God's sake. I've invested a lot of my own reputation building up your career. Now you're wanna dump it down the toilet for some cockamamie case?

6. Family Obligation

On the Basis of Sex presents the Ginsburg family bonds associated with willingness to abandon individual interest for the family through Martin Ginsburg in the scene when Martin and Jane are cooking for the dinner, then Ruth and James come home after teaching as a professor in Rutgers University. Ruth as a career woman, so she doesn't need to cook for the dinner because Ruth comes home after work is later than Martin as a husband, neither of them feels intimidated by each person activities which is kind of respect and support. Martin which comes home earlier from work prepares for the dinner with Jane so Ruth that comes home later will enjoy the dinner directly without she needs to cook the dinner first. Martin is willing to cook for the dinner as the Family Obligation, as quoted by article entitled *Family Obligation Values as a Protective and Vulnerability Factor among Low-Income Adolescent Girls* that states "Family obligation is a sense of obligation to support, provide assistance, and respect for family members" (Stephanie and Sanne, 2015)

The Ginsburg family bonds that is associated with the Family Obligation is portrayed in the middle of Ruth's preparation to defend Moritz's case in the U.S. Supreme Court, but Mel Wulf, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), replaces Ruth's position for as the lawyer in this case because he thinks that Ruth has no experience. Familism is portrayed in the scene when Jane comes to her mother's office in their house and shows her concern of what has happened to her mother.

RUTH: I know that this case... That I disrupted our lives. I'm sorry.

JANE: For what? Doing your job? That's show men WANT us to feel. ... Mom, who was this for, if not me?

From the quotes above between Ruth and Jane, it shows that Ruth's struggle to eliminate sex-based discrimination and the things she has done to topple the laws that differentiate on the basis of sex is for her children which is associated with obligation of the family as a mother, as a parent to take care of her children. Familism is portrayed through the words "I'm sorry" that Ruth said to Jane for being failed to stand up on the US supreme court to fight for the gender equality is portrayed that she feels sorry because she can't do it for her daughter, she can't bring gender equality for Jane, for Jane's life. This sort of thing is also proven in the scene when Ruth Ginsburg as a council for the appellant in the US supreme court for Moritz's case is giving rebuttal.

RUTH: Our sons and daughters are barred by law from opportunities based on assumptions about their abilities. How will they ever disprove these assumptions, if laws like Section 214 are allowed to stand?

The quote above strengthens the previous proof that shows her struggle to eliminate sex-based discrimination and the things she did to topple the system of discrimination is for her children, Jane and James Ginsburg. It shows that Ruth's struggle to topple the laws which differentiate on the basis of sex like section 214 is to resist so the children including her children will not be barred by law from opportunities based on assumptions about their abilities. Familism associated with obligation of the family is presented through the way Ruth put their family in priority for everything she does even there are a lot of obstacles, by putting her family as the reason of her struggles in fighting for gender equality.

Ruth portrayed the obligation of family as a parent by taking her daughter to meet Dorothy Kenyon, a great American lawyer, so Jane will have more knowledge about gender discrimination case that Ruth will discuss with Dorothy Kenyon. It's proven through their dialogue:

JANE: This is stupid. You're the one who said I'm supposed to be in school.

Ruth: If you're going to write about Great American Lawyers, you may as well meet one.

That kind of thing that shows the Family Obligation that is done by Ruth as a parent to give her daughter an example of how Ruth fights the gender discrimination by taking Jane to meet Dorothy Kenyon give the good impacts to Jane, Jane becomes an enthusiast for gender equality just like her mother, it's proven through her dialogue with Ruth.

JANE: Gloria says we need to un-learn the status quo.

RUTH: You're on a first name basis now?

JANE: ...You know what, Mom? You may be satisfied sitting around with your students talking about how shitty it is to be a girl--

The way Jane becomes an enthusiast for gender equality also portrayed in the scene when Ruth and Jane are going back home after Ruth just gets rejected from Dorothy Kenyon for the Charles Moritz's case, and there are some building workers who harass Ruth and Jane.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER: Lookin' good, ladies. We'll warm you up... if you're getting wet.

JANE: Real nice. You kiss your mother with that mouth? Asshole. Mom. You can't just let boys talk to you like that.

In the last part of the film *On the Basis of Sex*, it is mentioned that Jane Ginsburg had graduated from Harvard Law School in 1980, and today she is a professor of law at Columbia University. These proofs show how the things that Ruth do are for their children, her obligation as parent, as family.

7. The Ginsburg Behaviour which Promote Feminist Practices

Several reviews and discussion about *The Basis of Sex* point out the aspect of gender discrimination. "*On the Basis of Sex* quickly indoctrinates its audience to the difficulties and discrimination faced by women attempting to enter the legal profession

in the 1950s (Banner, 2020). It is said to quickly indoctrinates because the film shows the discrimination even from its first scene when Ruth is walking among a sea of men, entering Harvard hall. All are men except Ruth. Not only is the discrimination shown in the dialogue, but also from the actions of the characters and the visual images. “On the Basis of Sex represents a very strong gender discrimination from stories of the visual image” (Sitepu, 2019).

Gender discrimination does occur in many scene of the film. Ruth, as the female lead character, is depicted as a woman who fights against it. However, there is a powerful force behind her and her family which makes them brave enough to combat discrimination and shatter the patriarchal culture. The powerful force is their family that carries the familism principle. This familism creates a genderless role for the family, both at home and at public

a) Domestic

The same as the familism data above, this part will explain how the Ginsburg’s action which promote feminist practices. In the field of domestic, the Ginsburg action which promote feminist is portrayed through Martin Ginsburg in the scene when Martin and Jane are cooking for the dinner, then Ruth and James come home after teaching as a professor in Rutgers University. The way Martin as a husband do his role to cook for the dinner while Ruth works is a kind of action against gender role, it’s proven that the Ginsburg action which promote feminist portrayed through Martin breaking the gender role in America by doing the domestic sector which is cooking where it should be done by women. Martin Ginsburg shows his self as a feminist by applying gender equality to his family, letting his wife goes to work then he cooks the dinner and there’s no limitation of gender role in marriage on the basis of sex.

This kind of “switching role” is also done by Martin and Ruth as a husband and wife when Martin stops Ruth when she wants go to Jane’s room because Jane plays music too loud. Martin stops Ruth because he knows how to calm Jane that is being angry because of her mother, and also Martin knows that Ruth can’t calm Jane the way he does because they both are angry each other. This shows that Martin as a man and also a husband does the opposite thing from gender role in a marriage, this also shows how Martin as a husband switch his label as a breadwinner and master to a homemaker which soft and nurturing, while most husbands in America don’t do that. Gender roles that are created by the society regulate how we’re expected to act, dress, and conduct ourselves based on our sex. It goes to a woman where they should be kind, patient, modest, soft, nurturing and homely where mostly it is not in Ruth.

b) Public

1) Education

The Ginsburg action which promote feminist practices in the field of education in biopic On the Basis of sex based on the data of familism above is portrayed the most through Ruth Brader Ginsburg and Martin Ginsburg. The first is shown through Ruth Brader Ginsburg at the first scene of the film where Ruth attending her first day of college as a student at Harvard Law School in America, and sticking out as one of only a few women in the class. Ruth confronts the casual sexism of a school at the time had only been admitting women for six years. This scene shows how Ruth breaks the gender role in patriarchal society which imprison women to stay at home. The way Ruth takes education in Harvard Law School that could have gone to man, as what the dean of the Harvard Law School says to his students is “Harvard Man”, is the

Ginsburg action which promote feminist that is portrayed in this biopic in the field of education through Ruth Ginsburg by breaking patriarchal tradition that occurs in America at that time in 1956 so she as a woman could take education. Breaking the gender role means applying the gender equality so men and women shouldn't do the things on the basis of sex which is an action of feminism.

Then, the second Ginsburg action is also portrayed through Ruth's husband, Martin Ginsburg. As what is explained in the introduction, basically, the goal of feminism is to equalize women and men, for both sexes. The feminism is portrayed through the way he supports his wife in taking education in Harvard Law School that could have gone to man where the society applies the gender role which keep wives to stay at home and do the domestic sectors. Ruth takes education so she could apply for job after it, by supporting Ruth to take education means Martin supports Ruth to become a career woman. The way Martin supports his wife to take education is a feminist behaviour, feminism is portrayed through his action supporting Ruth to break the gender role in patriarchal society, and applying gender equality to the family.

The next proof is portrayed through Ruth in the scene where Martin Ginsburg is diagnosed with testicular cancer and the survival rate is only 5% and this becomes a base for Ruth to do her actions presented feminism inside her. The quote "...you keep studying" by Ruth to her husband is not only words, Ruth proofs all of her words through her real action for her husband by representing her husband in his class, in the second-year class in Harvard Law School, so her husband will not get left behind in his college. The way Ruth attends Martin's class for her husband is an action of feminism, she ignores the gender role in patriarchal culture which places women in domestic sector. It also can't be forgotten that the way Martin Ginsburg let his wife to do that sort of thing is also an action of feminism by letting his wife to free from gender role in patriarchal society that confines her in domestic sector.

Ruth's words "...keep studying.." is also proven in another real action. In the scene where Ruth reads the notes that she has taken in Martin's Class in her house. Then, Ruth tries to do Martin's assignment by typing it with typewriter while Martin is lying on the sofa dictating the material to Ruth. This scene shows feminism through the Ginsburg by breaking the gender role. The way Ruth does her husband's work, and also the way Martin lets Ruth to do that is feminist practice, because it's against the gender role where people expected to act based upon the sex. The Ginsburg breaks the gender role where places a wife and mother fully in carrying out functions in the domestic sector. This kind of thing shows how the Ginsburg action which promotes feminist practices appears in the field of education in the biopic On the Basis of Sex.

c) Social-Politic

As the title of the film, the main conflict of the film On the Basis of Sex is about sex-based discrimination, and Ruth Brader Ginsburg who fight for gender equality until it leads her to U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice. As this film's focus is on Ruth's first gender discrimination case, *Moritz v. Commissioner*, Ruth offers herself to be Moritz's lawyer in order to convince the federal courts that all the laws that differentiate on the basis of sex is unconstitutional. It's proven by Ruth's words:

RUTH: If a federal court ruled that this law is unconstitutional, it would become the precedent others refer to and build on. Men and women both. It could topple the whole damn system of discrimination.

The way Ruth is enthusiastic to handle this case to topple the system discrimination in America is a proof of an action of feminism in the field of politic in this biopic. Ruth wants to handle this case which is a sex-based discrimination against a man to right the wrong in US constitutional about gender discrimination, both men and women. The Ginsburg action which promotes feminist practices in the field of social-politics appears by the way Ruth takes Moritz's case for breaking the gender stereotype, for gender equality in America. As what is analyzed in the article entitled *Oppression to Empowerment: Syrian Refugee Women in Warga's Other Words for Home*, it is said that "Because women's oppression basically starts from imposed values or inherent stereotypes, these women find their self-awareness very important, because being self-aware by maintaining their self-esteem helps them fight wrong assumptions, and a way of survival" (Retno Yuliati, 2021). The way Ruth dares to become the lawyer of this case also shows self-definition by knowing her worth which is an action of feminist practice to help her resist the false controlled images about women, and a way of survival to fight gender discrimination, becoming a lawyer shows an action of feminism because at that time women are confined by the gender role to stay at home as a homemaker. Initially, Ruth handles this case because her husband, Martin as an American lawyer who specialized in tax law, tells Ruth about this case.

MARTIN: Read this one. The IRS wouldn't allow a tax deduction for the Petitioner to hire a nurse to take care of an invalid mother.

Martin tells Ruth about Moritz's case because it's not totally about a tax case, but the case also includes the sex-based discrimination against man. Martin knows that by winning this case, there will be gender equality, no more gender-based discrimination in America. The way Martin tells Ruth about this case means Martin supports to topple the system of gender-based discrimination in America. This kind of thing is also emphasized by the way Martin supports Ruth to handle this case and topple the system of gender-based discrimination by risking his job in the scene when Martin is asking for Tom Miller's permit to help Ruth for Charles Moritz's case. The way Martin asks permission to Tom Miller for helping Ruth to handle the Moritz's case and topple the system of gender-based discrimination even he has to risk his career is an action of feminism that shows he supports Ruth to handle the case and he support that gender-based discrimination in America must be toppled. It's portrayed how Martin Ginsburg gives Ruth freedom that will not confines her as a wife at home while American wives apply the gender role. This scene also contains feminism by the way Martin Ginsburg supports Ruth to handle Moritz's case because the sex-based discrimination against man, it means that Martin supports that gender equality must be toppled.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of research data, the family bonds in the biopic On the Basis of Sex is portrayed by the Ginsburg including several aspects of familism: (a) Respecting the bonds between family members, (b) family as source of emotional support, (c) maintaining family honor, (d) willingness to abandon individual interest for the family, and (e) Family Obligation. This research also found out that the data analyzed portrayed feminism, which is the action of the family member of the Ginsburg represent the practice of feminism. The feminist practices portrayed in the

biopic harmonizes with familism which is associated into several parts: (a) domestic, (b) public, containing education (university) and social-politic (work field). The final conclusion of this research shows that the biopic *On the Basis of Sex* portrayed the harmony of familism and feminism proving that the strong family bonds can promote feminist practice which result in breaking the patriarchal tradition.

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