THE REPRESENTATION OF SEXISM IN *POOR THINGS* MOVIE (2023)

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ABSTRACT

The study examines how sexism is depicted through the experiences of the main character, Bella Baxter, as shaped by other characters. It adopts a qualitative descriptive method by examining dialogues, characters, and narrative aspects that reflect sexism through textual analysis. Cudd and Jones's (2003) levels of sexism theory and Glick and Fiske's (2018) ambivalent sexism theory are applied to examine the movie's portrayal of sexism. These theories complement each other, with Cudd and Jones (2003) focusing on the societal and institutional components of sexism, while Glick and Fiske (2018) emphasize how sexism appears in both benevolent and hostile ways within interpersonal interactions. The findings show that Bella confronts both hostile and benevolent sexism, such as paternalistic control, objectification, and intimidation. Furthermore, the movie depicts various levels of sexism, as Bella faces interpersonal, institutional, and unconscious sexism. These sexist interactions initially restrict her autonomy, reinforcing gender-based power imbalances. However, Bella escapes these limitations, restoring her agency. The movie critically investigates the widespread impact of sexism and how it influences women's social positioning and self-perception. Future researchers are expected to explore this topic on a wider scope.

INTRODUCTION

Society continues to presume that most things are better for men than women. Stereotypes and gender roles have reinforced the belief that one sex or gender is inherently superior to another, a phenomenon known as sexism. According to Mills (2008), sexism occurs when an individual's gender is emphasized in situations where it is irrelevant or should not be a determining factor. Emphasized by Holmes and Wilson (2022), being sexist means acting in a way that keeps women and men at social disadvantages. Meanwhile, Lewis and Tabacco (2022) explained that two interconnected components make up sexism: a system of structural dominance and an associated ideological view that uses gender as an excuse to justify the oppression of women. Sexism can affect both men and women, but it primarily targets women. This notion of sexism posits that women must remain submissive to their spouses, as all roles are still held by men, despite their academic or career achievements. This is supported by a study in

2021 by the Young Women's Trust, which conducted a survey of HR decision-makers. The results indicated that 37% of women believe that "sexist behavior in my organization still exists," while 22% of men do. Sexist attitudes frequently manifest in daily life. People in society sometimes act and say things that are sexist without even realizing it. In 2023, Utama et al. carried out a research on Semarang State University students (women) about the occurrence of catcalling as sexist humor. As a result, 36 respondents admitted that they had experienced catcalling on campus. This behavior makes female victims feel uncomfortable and humiliated.

Gender is inextricably connected to sexism. Differences in functions and roles between men and women are not solely determined by biology or nature. Instead, societal norms play a crucial role in shaping these distinctions. Consequently, gender becomes a social label that includes characteristics attributed by culture to each sex, which individuals then internalize and assign to themselves (Brannon, 2017). As time passes, gender differences have become deeply ingrained in all dimensions of human life, making it seem as though they cannot be changed. For example, a study of representation in an Indonesian government-endorsed English textbook conducted by Irwansyah and Ardini (2023), found that this English textbook also illustrated how women were still stereotyped according to their roles and choice of work. The patriarchal cultural system, still ingrained in society, perpetuates stereotypes that portray women as weak, gentle, passive, more emotional, and possessing a motherly nature. In contrast, men are often depicted as strong and dominant, reinforcing discriminatory norms that position women as subordinate.

Another circumstance that occurred during the Victorian era involved numerous concerns regarding women, which arose because they were perceived as inferior to men in various spheres, including education, economics, and sexual activity. They were severely restricted in their classes and at work. Women were primarily assigned to domestic roles, which required them to maintain their homes, cook meals, and care for their families. Years after the Victorian era ended, these issues continue to be widely discussed across different platforms, including novels, poetry, and cinema. The condition of women in the Victorian era is also depicted in the 2023 movie Poor Things. Poor Things is a movie directed by Yorgos Lanthimos and written by Tony McNamara, based on the 1992 novel by Alasdair Gray. The movie falls into multiple genres, including science fiction, drama, and black comedy. Poor Things is set in a fictional Victorian-era London and depicts a woman named Bella Baxter as the main character. Bella Baxter, a childlike young woman, is the subject of experiments by an eccentric surgeon named Godwin Baxter. Previously, pregnant Bella attempted suicide by leaping off a bridge, and her body was then found by Godwin. Godwin then swapped Bella's brain with that of her fetus, giving her an infant's mind. Bella's intelligence developed rapidly, and from that moment on, she began her journey of curiosity. Her journey reflects a woman's self-discovery that challenges conventional gender norms.

Bella Baxter is portrayed as a woman who learns many things, like a child learning to eat, walk, and behave childishly. Then she reaches adolescence and

begins to question the things she had just discovered. Her life is surrounded by several men who become part of her journey. She must confront the roles of several men who believe they are superior and have power over her. She gathers the courage to seize her freedom and shatter the prejudice that women must live under male authority. This movie portrays the intolerance that considers Bella a weak and easily exploited woman, and can be considered as sexist. The story states that movies portray everyday events and real-life phenomena. The scriptwriter's wild imagination often combines reality and fiction. A movie has two important elements: intrinsic and extrinsic. People usually focus on the intrinsic element because it is seen clearly without further interpretation, but there is little concern that the extrinsic element also needs to be a focus. Extrinsic elements are built from the outside, including moral values, the author's background, and stereotypes. Those are the elements of the movie that are widely researched in certain fields, including literature, and movies themselves are part of literary works. Literature is known as a medium that conveys expression.

Jago et al. (2011) defined literature as a work that is compensated for the time, concentration, and creativity invested in its reading, rereading, exploration, analysis, discussion, and interpretation. Literature and movies have been viewed primarily as modes of expression, sites, and manifestations of an ability to shape ideas, feelings, and personal orientations, as a place where an individual's perceptions are combined with the person's necessity to offer an image of themselves and their own world (Casetti, 2004). Additionally, Nelmes et al. (2012) outlined that a movie is a visual representation rather than reality itself, and it consists of a series of shots with performers portraying characters. These visuals are focused, symbolic, and emotionally charged and they have a super powerful message.

Although there have been many movies that depict the exploration of gender and power, a gap still exists in academic research analyzing how movies portray sexism. This study fills that gap by examining how sexism is portrayed through Bella Baxter's experiences, providing insights into the ways the movie reflects and critiques gender dynamics. The movie highlighted the phenomenon of sexism that manifested itself against women and its impact on Bella's daily life. The movie was set during the Victorian era, a time when sexism was prevalent, as many viewed men as superior and women as subordinate, profoundly shaping the societal mindset. Previous research has examined sexism in movies, but there is a lack of studies that investigate how sexism is depicted in historical settings through contemporary cinema. Poor Things is particularly significant since it reimagines the Victorian era while incorporating modern feminist issues, making it a compelling case for analysis.

There are several related studies on sexism that have been assessed by previous writers. This was analyzed by Muhammad (2022) in the study titled "The Portrayal of Sexism Experienced by the Main Character Beth Harmon in The Queen's Gambit (2020)". Through this research, Muhammad (2022) demonstrated that sexism and discrimination against women exist in chess competitions, where both men and women should be authorized to compete irrespective of gender. In Muhammad's study, it focused exclusively on Glick and Fiske's (2018)

ambivalent sexism theory. However, this approach primarily addresses interpersonal interactions and does not fully capture the structural and unconscious components of sexism. To address this gap, this study incorporates Cudd and Jones' (2003) levels of sexism theory, which examines sexism at the institutional and systemic levels. By combining both theories, this study presents a more comprehensive analysis of how sexism operates within both individual relationships and larger societal structures in the Poor Things movie. This study also contributes to the discussion by examining how historical gender norms continue to shape contemporary portrayals of sexism in movies.

Levels of Sexism

This study presented theory of levels of sexism adapted from Cudd and Jones (2003) as an American feminist philosopher and social theorist. This theory followed by a discussion of the extent of sexist attitudes, behaviors, or practices that are present in a given situation, context, or society.

Institutional Sexism

Institutional sexism is the term used to describe the sexual inequalities present in the explicit rules and implicit norms that regulate and structure social institutions (Cudd & Jones, 2003). An example from Oswald (2023) provided an illustration of how women in the United States were prohibited from voting until the ratification of the nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Women did not start to attain significant social and economic parity until the 1960s and 1970s.

Interpersonal Sexism

Cudd and Jones (2003) stated that sexism referring to behaviors and other manifestations between individuals that establish, maintain, advance, and/or take advantage of severe sexual disparities is called interpersonal sexism. Based on Newman (2019), women are more vulnerable to the negative meanings and consequences of implicit, nonverbal cues in social contact, such as body language, posture, facial expressions, and mannerisms.

Unconscious Sexism

According to Cudd and Jones (2003), the sexism that refers to the psychological processes, faith, emotions, and attitudes that create, constitute, promote, sustain, and/or exploit invidious sexual inequalities is called unconscious sexism. International Labour Organization (2017) provided an example in the workplace, such as performance evaluation processes and programs that reflect stereotypically masculine criteria placing women in a worse position.

Ambivalent Sexism Theory

The Ambivalent Sexism Theory, as compared to Cudd and Jones (2003), and Glick and Fiske (2018), identifies a form of sexism characterized by a profound sense of ambivalence in societal attitudes toward women.

Hostile Sexism

According to Glick and Fiske (2018), hostile sexism is the overtly negative perception and manner in which women are viewed as incompetent and unsuitable for positions in economic, legal, and political areas. An example of hostile sexism

is provided by Brown and Prinstein (2011), where some people mock women who pursue careers in fields such as science or athletics, which are often associated with men.

Benevolent Sexism

Benevolent sexism refers to a sexist belief about women that involves attributing positive and subtle traits to them based on stereotypes. Unlike the previous type, benevolent sexism is more widely tolerated in society as it presents women as innocent, pure, caring, and in need of protection (Glick & Fiske, 2018). For instance, a male coworker's remark about how "cute" a woman looks could make her feel unappreciated for her professional contributions. Salmen and Dhont (2021) found that people who believed in humanity's supremacy over nature and perceived women as having a stronger connection to nature than men were more likely to practice benevolent sexism.

Causes of Sexism

From the perspective of Glick and Fiske (2018), hostile and benevolent sexism are characterized by three common components. Each component either justifies or explains the underlying social and biological conditions that characterize relationships between the sexes.

Paternalism

Sexism is regarded as an example of ambivalence because it includes both dominance (dominative paternalism) and protection (protective paternalism). Paternalism literally means "relating to others." Dominative paternalism is accepted as a norm that women are not fully competent adults, hence justifying the necessity for a superior male figure. Meanwhile, protective paternalism is manifested in the conventional male gender role of provider and protector of the home, with women relying on their husband to maintain her economic and social standing.

Gender Differentiation

People tend to categorize others based on their gender rather than their race, age, or role. Competitive gender differentiation, like dominant paternalism, provides a social justification for men's structural power, stating that only men are believed to possess the characteristics required to rule significant social institutions.

Heterosexuality

Heterosexuality is one of the most powerful parameters contributing to men's ambivalence toward women. Men's dyadic dependence on women creates an unusual situation in which members of a stronger group rely on members of a weaker group. When they are in an intimate connection, they experience intense desire and euphoria.

RESEARCH METHOD
Design of Research

This study focused on analyzing sexism in the Poor Things movie, which was conducted using a qualitative research approach. As affirmed by Salim and Syahrum (2012), qualitative methodologies enable researchers to gain insight into

other people's personalities and understand how they interpret their surroundings. Furthermore, Creswell (2014) emphasized that qualitative approaches involve open-ended data collection, purposeful sampling, text or image analysis, information representation in figures and tables, and individual interpretation of the results. This method would collect data to describe, identify, and explain phenomena.

Data Sources

The primary data for this research were obtained from the Poor Things movie, which lasted for 2 hours and 21 minutes. This investigation required the inclusion of the entire scene, conversation, and narrative. Secondary data were employed in this study to support the primary data and generate an appropriate analysis outcome, sourced from several relevant sources.

Procedure of the Research

Preparation

At this stage, a topic and an object were selected. The topic related to sexism, specifically as depicted in the movie Poor Things. Relevant theories were searched for to synchronize with the research findings. Next, a basic framework was established, and the material to be analyzed in this study was arranged.

Implementation

The next step after preparation is implementation. This study implemented the theories of sexism, which are the levels of sexism by theory from Cudd and Jones (2003) and the ambivalent sexism theory by Glick and Fiske (2018), according to the findings of the research. The other supported sources are also based on books, journals, articles, theses, and other sources that provided the ideas. The object of the Poor Things movie was analyzed. The data findings were then classified according to the theories applied and presented in a narrative description based on the context and results of the data findings.

Finishing

This step brought the process to an end, also involving discussion and correction of any errors for optimal outcomes. Before reporting the results and completing the study, the data findings were compiled into a sequential paragraph that could be easily understood by the reader. Finally, a conclusion and suggestion were written as the closing.

Technique of the Data Collection & Analysis

Scene Selection Criteria

Scenes were chosen based on explicit displays of sexism, which were categorized into three main types. The first category included verbal sexism, such as sexist language. The second category focused on behavioral sexism, encompassing power imbalances and gender discrimination. The third category involved stereotypical depictions, such as traditional gender roles and objectification. In order to maintain the study's focus, only scenes that directly related to Bella Baxter's experiences of sexism were analyzed.

Data Collection Process

Creswell (2014) simplified the data collection process, which included setting the boundaries for the research, collecting information through unstructured or semi-structured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, and establishing the protocol for recording information. To ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness, the movie was watched multiple times. Throughout the viewing process, sexist elements were carefully identified, categorized, and transcribed for further analysis. Both conversations and behavior scenes were gathered and interpreted using Cudd and Jones's (2003) levels of sexism and Glick and Fiske's (2018) ambivalent sexism theory.

Validity and Reliability

Data were compared to existing literature on sexism and gender representation to ensure consistency in explanation. Detailed descriptions of scenes, dialogues, and behaviors were provided to enhance transparency and allow readers to evaluate the validity of the findings. Additionally, the research framework and interpretations were reviewed by academic supervisors or field experts to verify alignment with established theories. In this study, the movie was analyzed multiple times to ensure accuracy in scene selection and interpretation.

Data Analysis

The analysis of data in qualitative research was conducted in connection with the other components of qualitative research development, namely, the data collection and the write-up of findings (Creswell, 2014). After the data was collected, it was categorized according to Cudd and Jones's (2003) levels of sexism and Glick and Fiske's (2018) ambivalent sexism theory. To mark significant instances of gender-based discrimination in the movie, a timeline of sexist incidents was created. An analytical approach was conducted to identify recurring themes related to sexism, ensuring a structured and in-depth examination. Finally, the findings were compiled into a detailed discussion, supported by theoretical frameworks and secondary data sources to strengthen the overall analysis.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION
Finding
Interpersonal and Benevolent & Hostile in the explanation of Bella's background scene (21:38 – 23:15)

Godwin clarified to the curious Max that he had discovered the body of a pregnant woman who had previously attempted suicide by jumping off a bridge. Her body was discovered by Godwin, who utilized it for his eccentric experiments. He transferred the infant's brain to the adult woman's brain and reanimated it. Godwin's decision to take the woman's body was the beginning of his dominion control over a woman's body and freedom. He believed his decision was right and beneficial for the woman. Then the woman was named Bella Baxter. Bella encountered numerous instances of sexist attitudes in the upcoming moments. This was the beginning of her exploration of her life, bodily autonomy, and the resistance to social constraints that confronted her.

This scene is illustrated as **interpersonal sexism**. This is proven by Godwin's decision and intention to use Bella's body for his own purpose. Therefore, this scene showed sexism that occurred between individuals, which was between Godwin's interests and Bella's body. It also indicates that this scene can be interpreted as **hostile sexism**. Godwin explicitly stated that he really used Bella's body for his experiments only, objectifying her without her consent and referred to her as destiny. He did this from his own initiative and intention for his own personal need. He treated her only as an object of his research. However, the scene can also be interpreted as **benevolent sexism**, as Godwin's statement that he had a responsibility to save Bella by not letting her live because of her misery and poor condition illustrated a paternalistic nature. He positioned himself as her savior, reinforcing the belief that he knew what was best for her. This action would deprive her of the autonomy to direct every aspect of her life as an adult woman. She was 'trapped' in an adult human body and transformed into an object that needed continuous observation.

Interpersonal and Benevolent in the working relationship between Bella and Madam Swiney scene (01:45:25 – 01:46:42)

Madam Swiney provided Bella with hot chocolate and a pastry and called Bella her favorite. Bella immediately responded sarcastically, recognizing the manipulation. Madam Swiney told her that she nurtured them with love. Bella replied with emotional numbness. Then Madam Swiney delivered some motivation and enlightenment.

This scene analyzed as **interpersonal sexism**, as it occurred between individuals and was equivalent to denigrating other women for personal needs. What Madam Swiney did could be seen as an act of kindness but was manipulative. The sexist attitude towards Bella could be implemented by manipulating her to ensure that she continued to feel comfortable working in Madam Swiney's brothel. She said, "once on the other side, you will be grateful for this moment, but you must keep going," which meant Bella must be grateful for the situation she was currently experiencing in this brothel. This is in line with the principle of **benevolent sexism**. Madam Swiney intended to perpetually exploit Bella's body for the benefits she got. The objective was for Bella to remain at the brothel and continue to believe in the organization, thereby ensuring that Madam Swiney continued to receive compensation for Bella's labor.

Interpersonal and Hostile in the heterosexual relationship between Bella and Duncan scene (43:21 – 44:20)

Bella and Duncan engaged in this conversation following their sexual intercourse. Duncan advised Bella to refrain from and anticipate any further actions from him, not to mention falling in love with him, as his actions towards her were merely to invite her to a new world and embark on an adventure with him.

This scene represented **interpersonal sexism**, where the relationship between women and men can be sexist because one gender feels superior and has more rights to control than the other gender, in this case, in terms of sexuality. **Hostile sexism** was exemplified in this scene, which is also prevalent in society and heterosexual relationships. He used the excuse of inviting Bella to get out of

prison and go on an adventure, despite the fact that his sole objective was to obtain Bella's body. Men who assume the role of controlling women's bodies believe that they have the authority to dictate what women's bodies should be. Clearly, this would have a negative impact on Bella, where she felt objectified and considered inferior in this relationship.

Unconscious and Benevolent in Godwin's protective efforts towards Bella scene (11:13 – 12:31)

During this scene, Godwin engaged in a conversation with Bella in an effort to soothe her before she went to sleep. Godwin disclosed to Bella the presence of her biological parents as Bella questioned about it. Then, Godwin made up a story to keep Bella calm by saying that Bella's parents were brave explorers who died in a landslide in South America.

This action can be categorized as **unconscious sexism**, where Godwin unconsciously positioned himself as a protector and controller, making this one of the scenes that can be analyzed as sexist. This scene appeared to depict **benevolent sexism**, with Godwin acting as Bella's "father," who was assigned to replace Bella's biological parents to take care of her. The paternalistic nature is still shown in this scene, and it was true that Godwin took care of Bella. However, this implied that Bella was unknowingly susceptible to being manipulated and struggled to discover what she really was. Bella's words to Godwin, "Poor Bella. But love God," provided evidence for this assertion.

Unconscious and Hostile in Duncan's prejudice and unconscious anger scene (01:11:09 – 01:12:07)

In this scene, Bella was sitting outside the ship, reading a book with Martha and Harry, having a casual conversation. Then Duncan approached Bella and tried to get her attention by inviting her to their cabin, but she was preoccupied with a discussion and reading. Duncan was displeased with Bella's habit of "always reading now" and believed that she was slowly losing her attractive way of speaking. Duncan was enraged when Bella continued to read and threw her book overboard twice in frustration.

Duncan's **unconscious sexism** in this scene as he suppressed his fury. Duncan's actions and comments reflected a disregard for Bella's autonomy and intellectual pursuits, which are often rooted in gender stereotypes and expectations about women's roles and behavior. Then, Duncan's behavior showed **hostile sexism** towards Bella, as he suddenly interrupted and threw away the book from Bella's hand. This indicated that Duncan did not like Bella's intellectual development. He implicitly assumed that this would further distance him from the opportunity to have and control Bella completely. If this continued to happen, then Bella would feel disadvantaged by Duncan because she would be hindered from developing intellectually and would have to always follow Duncan's desires. She would be limited in communicating with other people and seeking new knowledge. This was in line with the patriarchal culture that prevails in society, which restricts women who want to develop intellectually by learning new things.

Institutional and Hostile in Bella's experience working at Madam Swiney's brothel scene (01:25:28 – 01:26:36)

The scene is set at Madam Swiney's brothel. Bella and Duncan were thrown off a ship for lack of money, and they stranded in Paris. Bella intended to look for the nearest hotel in Paris, with the expectation of temporarily staying there. Then, she approached a woman standing in front of the door. The woman, known as Madam Swiney, smiled at her. Instead of offering a hotel room to rent, the woman offered Bella a job as a commercial sex worker to gain money. Bella, who was confused by her statement, made sure whether she could get money by doing that job. The woman tried to convince Bella.

This represented **institutional sexism** in real life, normalizing the idea that women must turn to sex work for survival. It perpetuated a societal structure where women's bodies are commodified. It could be seen that almost everyone behaved sexist towards Bella. Not only men, but even women could do this to Bella. Madam Swiney, the owner of a brothel in Paris, offered Bella a job and reflected the occurrences of **hostile sexism.** By stating, "let him cock you a bit and make some nice francs," she was treating Bella as a mere instrument for sex and profit, reducing her to an object for sexual gratification and financial gain. Bella's experience implied that the fastest and last choice for a woman to make money is to work as a commercial sex worker. As a result, there would be objectification by society about women.

Discussion

The aim of this study is to explore and provide answers to the research questions. This study examines two research questions: the first is, "How is sexism depicted in the character Bella Baxter in the movie 'Poor Things'?", and the second is, "How does sexism impact Bella Baxter in the movie 'Poor Things'?" These two research questions are interrelated, as they explore both the representation of sexism in the movie and its effects on the main character, Bella Baxter. This study demonstrates that sexism can occur in various aspects of life, including movies, where it is depicted through characters and scenes. The analysis of sexism in this movie was conducted by examining all scenes, identifying forms of sexism present in each scene, and analyzing them based on dialogue, narrative, behavior, and other aspects of the movie that convey sexist tendencies.

This study discovered 38 sexist scenes, supported by the theories of Cudd and Jones (2003) and Glick and Fiske (2001). The most frequently observed type was the interpersonal level, occurring in 66% of the data, followed by the unconscious level, occurring in 24% of the data, and the institutional level, occurring in 10% of the data. It indicates that sexism often emerges through direct interactions rather than institutionalized systems and is strongly embedded in everyday social interactions, including in this movie. Additionally, hostile sexism, occurring in 69% of the data, was more prevalent than benevolent sexism, which appeared in 31% of the data, suggesting that Bella faced more overt discrimination and antagonism than paternalistic attitudes.

The sexism described in this movie clearly has a detrimental impact on Bella. These impacts encompassed the objectification and exploitation of Bella,

resulting in her body being treated as if it were solely intended for experimentation or sexual gratification. Second, the impact of control and manipulation carried out by people around Bella in order to achieve their personal interests. The naive Bella complied without her knowledge. Furthermore, the limitations of Bella's voice and the potential for development can be elucidated as additional consequences. Finally, the heterosexual relationship between Bella and Duncan, as well as Bella and Alfie, had an impact on toxic relationships that are damaging to women due to the perception that women are considered submissive and inferior.

Besides the movie itself, the portrayal of sexism in Poor Things has significant impact on viewers and society. The movie not only emphasizes the existence of sexism, but also criticizes the patriarchal mechanisms that perpetuate it. Poor Things investigates how hostile and benevolent sexism manifest in personal relationships and institutional institutions. Bella Baxter's search for self-discovery is more than just a story of resistance; it purposefully deconstructs the passive female protagonist paradigm, challenging conventional representations of women in the media. This reframe of female agency is consistent with broader gender discourses on autonomy and self-determination, positioning Poor Things in the history of movies that challenge entrenched gender hierarchies. By depicting both the repressive processes of sexism and the possibility of defiance, the movie contributes to an ongoing cultural conversation about power, agency, and the portrayal of women in media.

Furthermore, the movie's representation of sexism at various levels, including unconscious, interpersonal, and institutional, not only underscores its prevalence but also how deeply rooted it is in real-world structures. Bella's experiences are an example of gender inequities, highlighting systemic issues like workplace discrimination, gender-based violence, and societal control over women's autonomy. The movie's frequent overlap between interpersonal and hostile sexism is especially significant, emphasizing that sexism is not merely an abstract societal issue but one that is continuously reinforced through personal interactions. By revealing these patterns, the movie demonstrates how sexism functions using both overt and subtle ways, from blatant acts of control and aggression to unconscious biases that limit women's autonomy. Moreover, its primary focus on interpersonal sexism implies that eradicating sexism requires more than just structural change. It necessitates a fundamental adjustment in the social conditioning and belief systems that underpin these power disparities. In this approach, Poor Things contributes to a larger conversation on gender justice by encouraging viewers to critically evaluate how sexism is rooted in social relationships and to oppose the mechanisms that perpetuate gendered power disparities.

The findings of this study align with earlier research on sexism and gender representation in the media. Fandari (2021) investigated sexist language in the Pitch Perfect movie series, discovering examples of both overt and subtle sexism using Mills' (2008) classification. Her research found nearly all forms of overt sexism, illustrating how language can reinforce gender biases. While her research concentrated on language representations of sexism, this study broadens the focus

by examining sexism in Poor Things through behavioral interactions and narrative frameworks. Similarly, Purwantika (2022) examined sexism in Legally Blonde (2001) using Cudd and Jones' (2003) framework. She highlighted examples of institutional and interpersonal sexism affecting the protagonist, Elle Woods, as well as investigating how the movie's intrinsic aspects contribute to its portrayal of gender bias. Unlike Purwantika, who investigated resistance through the concept of "Girl Power," this study focuses on analyzing how various types of sexism operate and interact within Poor Things. However, both studies highlight the prevalence of sexism in media narratives and its impact on female characters.

Additionally, Muhammad (2022) investigated sexism in The Queen's Gambit (2020) using Glick and Fiske's (2001) ambivalent sexism theory. His research emphasized how the protagonist, Beth Harmon, faced both hostile and benevolent sexism in the male-dominated world of chess. While Muhammad's research relied solely on Glick and Fiske's theory, this study combines Glick and Fiske (2001) and Cudd and Jones (2003) to present a more comprehensive explanation of sexism in Poor Things. This combination enables an intersectional understanding of how sexism occurs at various levels and attitudes.

By identifying similarities with these research studies, this study contributes to a broader discussion of how movies depict sexism, maintaining or questioning accepted norms and social expectations. The integration of multiple theoretical perspectives leads to a better understanding of how sexism is depicted in diverse narratives, emphasizing the media's role in shaping popular perceptions of gender and power.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study examined sexism in the movie "Poor Things" (2023), with two foundational theories: the theory of levels of sexism from Cudd and Jones (2003) and the ambivalent sexism theory from Glick and Fiske (2018). According to the study, sexism operates across institutional, interpersonal, and unconscious levels, manifesting in both hostile and benevolent forms. Bella Baxter's experiences highlight the impact of sexism, including paternalistic control, objectification, and intimidation. However, by showing Bella's struggle for self-empowerment and her resistance to male authority, the movie provides a critique of these power dynamics.

This study contributes to the understanding of gender representation in media by illustrating how the movie "Poor Things" critiques sexism through its story and characters. Future research could expand on this analysis by exploring other characters, different cinematic techniques, or comparative studies with similar movies. Furthermore, further study on "Poor Things" could provide deeper insights into how gender dynamics and feminist themes are portrayed in the movie.

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