



FEMINISM IN ENOLA HOLMES FILM: A SEMIOTIC LENS

Alfi Syahriyani*¹, Maidhotul Kaifa Novikasandra²

¹UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia
alfi.syahriyani@uinjkt.ac.id

²UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia
maidhotul.kaifa16@mhsuinjkt.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Film is not merely a medium to entertain but also a reflection of society's values and conditions. This research deals with the portrayal of feminism in the film of Enola Holmes in the era of 19th century through its main character 'Enola'. It uses the qualitative method by employing the theory of semiotics of Charles Sanders Peirce, which categorizes signs into three related parts, namely representamen, object, and interpretant. The data was taken by identifying and interpreting the signs through the scenes of the films, including icon, index, and symbol. The findings show that the film represents the feminist values through the character of Enola, such as independence, intellectual, showing freedom of choice, gender equality, and right to privacy. The character challenged the social norms in the 19th century, which still positioned women as inferior social beings and were oppressed by the patriarchal system. The film brings relevant messages as it also indirectly criticizes the present women issues through the historical lens.

Keywords: *Enola Holmes, Feminism, Gender, Representation, Semiotics*

ABSTRAK

Film bukan hanya media hiburan, tetapi juga refleksi atas nilai dan kondisi suatu masyarakat. Penelitian ini membahas gambaran feminisme dalam film Enola Holmes di abad ke 19 melalui pemeran utama film bernama 'Enola'. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori semiotika Charles Sanders Peirce yang mengkategorisasikan tanda ke dalam tiga bagian, yaitu representamen, objek, dan interpretan. Data diambil dengan mengidentifikasi dan menginterpretasikan tanda melalui adegan-adegan di dalam film, di antaranya yaitu tanda berupa ikon, indeks, dan simbol. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa film tersebut merepresentasikan nilai-nilai feminisme melalui karakter Enola, di antaranya independensi, intelektualitas, kebebasan dalam memilih, kesetaraan gender, dan hak privasi. Film ini secara tidak langsung memberikan pesan yang relevan karena mengkritisi isu perempuan masa kini melalui lensa historis.

Kata kunci: *Enola Holmes, Feminisme, Gender, Representasi, Semiotika*

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INTRODUCTION

Film plays an important role to represent social and cultural values. Through the audio-visual elements, film is one of the communication mass media which attract massive viewers. Dialogue, sound, and image are parts of the important elements that enable engagement with the viewers. However, film does not only show the audio-visual elements to tell a story or entertain, but also consists of symbols or signs which reflect the reality and the condition of a society.

In the study of semiotics, sign is anything which communicates or convey meaning. It could be an event, motion, sound, image, pattern, or gesture. In film, images which are combined with text or dialogues could also be considered as signs. Film can convey hidden signs which can create different interpretation for its audience. The meaning is unconsciously gained due to people's cultural knowledge. Human's brain has an ability to produce and understand signs which can "carry out representation to relate, depict, portray, or reproduce something perceived, sensed, imagined, in some physical forms" (Danesi, 2004).

In modern era, film has evolved, not only as a medium of storytelling but also as a means of creating elements to show symbolistic meaning. This could be observed in the film of *Enola Holmes*, a film which represents some signs portraying the feminist values in the 19th-century setting. This film was adopted from a novel titled "An Enola Holmes Mystery" and released in 2020. 'Enola Holmes' is a film reflected the history of women's role in England during the Victorian period (1832-1901). Historically, Victorian era is well-known for its extreme social and gender inequality. It is a period when separate spheres between men and women began (Nsaidzedze, 2017). During that time, public sphere was only for men, while domestic sphere was limited only for women. The historical setting and the behavior of *Enola Holmes* present some symbols, which portray feminism values that challenge the Victorian social norms that the people firmly believed.

Enola Holmes film talks about a girl named Enola who was left by her mother at the age of 16. Her mother only left a birthday gift box containing a flower card and a word puzzle. Enola was confused and asked the help of his two brothers to find her mother. However, one of her older siblings named Mycroft, refused to help her because she intended to enroll Enola in an all-girls' school. Enola refused and ran away from the house to find her mother, who was depicted in that film as a feminist activist. This condition brought her to a complex and dynamic scene that showed her struggle of gender equality. Similarly with the novel, this film actually challenges the social norms which still positioned women as inferior social beings (Gooniyah, et al, 2022; Saputri & Neisya, 2001) The way Enola challenges these norms are depicted through some items, such as dialogue, behavior, costume, setting, and other elements of the film which are considered as 'signs' in the study of semiotics.

Many studies on films portraying feminist values have been conducted. First, Musrifrah (2018) studied the film about women who struggle to have equal education rights, economic rights, and civil rights (Musrifrah, 2018). Using sociological, mimetic, and feminist approaches, she found that the character struggled to get the rights to deliver opinion, choice, and welfare

in life. Sccondly, Nuraisyah Fahmi (2015) examined how female characters portrayed liberal feminists. It was said the character had the right to occupy the same position as men. The female character in the film was able to challenge gender equality by leading a conservative party and becoming the first woman Prime Minister in Asia (Fahmi, 2015). The last is the research by Rahajeng (2020). This study also analyzed the *Enola Holmes* film using a qualitative method with a semiotic analysis from Roland Barthes. Enola Holmes in that film represents gender expressions, such as femininity, masculinity and androgynousness character. Unlike the previous research, this paper explains how women are portrayed through the film's main character by analyzing the signs using Peirce's theory of Semiotics, which consists of icon, index, and symbol.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher examines the *Enola Holmes* film because it shows many signs which are assumed to portray feminism characteristics. This research used the Semiotic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce to convey the meaning of the signs. According to Peirce, semiotics is the study of sign systems, usually defined as a general philosophical theory which discusses signs and their specific meanings. It discusses signs in visual and verbal, a sign or signal that can be accepted by all our senses and can also convey messages in writing in every human activity and behavior (Nöth, 2020).

LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Semiotics Theory

Semiotics is a study of sign as an act of communication. It is a literary model which accounts for all the essential factors and aspects for understanding literary phenomena as a unique means of communication in any society. Signs is a device used in an effort to trying to find a way in this world, in the midst of humans and with humans (Nur & Mudjiyanto, 2013). Semiotics basically studies how humanity interpret things. Semiotic studies systems allow signs to have meaning a different context. One of which is Charles Sanders Pierce's semiotics theory.

Semiotic Peirce is famous for its triadic or trichotomy concept. A sign consists of three elements: group, object, and interpretant. Semiotics according to Peirce is semiosis or a process that includes three elements together, namely signs—the things that are represented, object and interpretant which is a process of thinking when someone sees an image. The definition of semiosis is a process in which a sign serves as a representative of what it is signaling. It can also be said to produce infinite relationships. This process is called Signification.

Interpretant

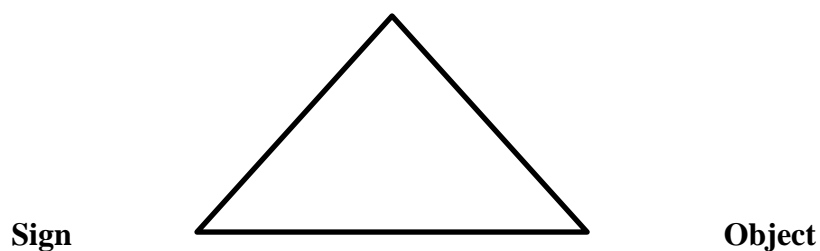


Figure 1: Model of “*triangle meaning semiotics*” Charles Sanders Peirce

According to Peirce, sign consists of three related parts. First, a sign, which is also called representamen as the firstness; second, an object, which is considered as the secondness; and third, an interpretant, which is known as the thirdness.

The object or the secondness is divided into three categories. The first is icon, in which the signifier is perceived as resembling the signified. Icon is a sign which refers to the object that it denotes only by virtue of characters of its own. For example, a portrait, onomatopoeia, a dubbed film soundtrack, imitative gestures. Second is index, in which the signifier is not arbitrary, but directly connected in some ways (physically or causally) to the signified. For example, smoke indicates that there is a fire. The last is symbol, in which the signifier does not resemble the signified, but it is arbitrary or purely conventional, so the relationship should be learnt. It is a sign which refers to the object that it denotes by virtue of a law, usually an association of general ideas, which operates to cause the symbol to be interpreted as referring to that object. Symbol is based on a community's convention or agreement or something mutually agreed upon (Wulandari & Siregar, 2020). For example, language in general (including specific languages, punctuation marks, words, phrases and sentences, alphabetical letters), numbers, traffic lights, etc. Furthermore, object is the component represented by signs. This component can be material that is captured by the senses. It can also be mental or imaginary. The third component is the interpretant. Peirce said that interpretant is meaning. Some of the other terms that Peirce often uses to refer to interpretants are significance, signification, and interpretation (Dawkins, 2020; Nöth, 2020)

Therefore, in Peirce's semiotics, signs are not only called representative but also interpretative. It is not only representing a thing, but having a detailed meaning for an event. Pierce's sign theory shows the meaning of signs as a cognitive process and not a structure which is called semiosis. Pierce uses logic and philosophy in semiotics, which is how a person reasons through logic which is the process of determining the meaning of signs. Signs enable us to think in relation to other people and give meaning to what is in the universe. Humans have wide possibilities in the diversity of signs. These signs allow us to think.

b. Feminism

Feminism is a movement which is not just a matter of words, but also a way of living and struggling against the status quo. It identifies and opposes what it calls sexism, misogyny, or patriarchy. Some feminists have chosen to emphasize feminism as a practical struggle. Hooks defines it as a movement to end sexism and sexist oppression' and as a 'liberation movement (Hooks, 1984).

Some issues are discussed in feminism. First, feminism tries to end the subordination experienced by women by emphasizing gender equality. It believes that women have the same rights as men, including the rights in the family, law or state. The movement exists to equalize gender. Regarding with gender equality, feminism tries to criticize the existence of masculinity. Masculinity is the collection of social norms and cultural representations related to being a man. From the more critical and academic perspective of the social sciences, masculinities are understood as a form of power relation, both among men themselves, or between men and women (Pilcher & Whelehan, 2017; Waling, 2018).

Feminism equally concerns on individualism, rights, and freedoms of liberalism. This can be seen in recent years in political discourses and policies. For example, the individual's right to choose has been an important aspect of British educational policy (Budgeon, 2015; Qiu, 2017; Purnamasari, et al, 2020). Furthermore, feminism no longer focuses on professions that are constantly limited, but on the role of gender from any aspect. Feminists refuse the existence

of differences and injustices that can lead to the oppression of women. Therefore, feminism continues to fight for women rights, especially in the political field.

In addition, feminism respects for privacy. There are also things that are not for public consumption in feminism. The private realm is characterized by activities undertaken with particular others, relatively free from the jurisdiction of the state. It is the realm of the household, home, and personal or family relationships. Within gender studies, interest in the public/private dichotomy arises from its gendered nature, from the association of masculinity with the public, and femininity with the private. The relationship between politics, gender, the public and the private is argued by writers such as Ruddick and Elshtain. They suggest that the masculine values of the public sphere need to be colonized by the feminine (caring, maternal) values of the private sphere (Pilcher, 2016; Richardson, 2014)

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that at least feminist values include gender equality, independence, freedom, and respect for privacy. These values are portrayed in the character of Enola as the main character who lived in Victorian era, when the patriarchal system was embedded in all aspects of life.

METHOD




This study uses qualitative method of research and descriptive analysis technique. The researcher watches the film and observes the elements to understand and identify the data. According to Creswell, qualitative research is a research method to explore and understand social or human problems (Creswell, 2013). The role of the researcher in the qualitative method determines the overall scenario. Several steps of collecting the data including; first, identifying the data by watching Enola Holmes film to understand the plot; second, capturing the dialogues and images which are assumed as signs; third, reducing the data to deeply focus on the data to be analyzed and discard the unnecessary data. After the data is collected, the researcher analyzes the data by classifying it into icon, index, and symbol. Then, the data is interpreted and explained using Peirce's semiotics theory by displaying the semiosis process to get the meaning of the signs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data was taken from the film of Enola Holmes released in 2020. This film talks about the story of Sherlock Holmes' sister who left home on her 16th birthday to find her missing mother who taught her to oppose the stereotype of a woman in the 19th century. After watching the film carefully and repeatedly, the researcher analyzed the dialogues, images, and actions or behaviors of the main character which are relevant to the focus of this research.

There are 11 scenes analyzed, and some examples of signs have been explained to see how feminism is portrayed in that film. The signs include only icon and symbol, while there is no index found in the film. The result of the semiosis process shows that Enola has the characteristics of women who challenged the social norm in the 19th century. The character shows independence, intellectuality, freedom of choice, gender equality, and the right to privacy. Below is the table of the signs which portray that woman is independent and intellectual. Researcher put the signs in the table to clearly show the semiosis process of the signs.

Table 1. Signs which Represent that “Woman is Independent and Intellectual”

Scene	Time	Representamen	Objects	Interpretant
1.	00: 01: 09	 <p>The letter blocks consist of letter A, L, O, N, E, which is spelled backwards as ‘ENOLA’</p>	Symbol	A woman can live independently without men and decide her future.
2.	00:09:47	 <p>Enola as a little girl was reading in a library. She was alone and surrounded by many books</p>	Icon and symbol	A woman can learn independently to be an intellectual without going to a formal institution.
3.	01 :47 :39	 <p>Enola and Tewksbury met in front of the council. Tewksbury kissed Enola’s hand and asked her “<i>And what if it was I that asked you to stay?</i>”. Enola</p>	Symbol	A woman can live independently without men

		answered “A kind offer, but one I must refuse”		
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From the table above, it can be seen that **scene 1** shows the image of the Letters Blocks “Alone”, which is spelt backwards as ‘ENOLA’. The word “Alone” is the representation of the main character of the film, Enola. In that film, it is clear that the letters blocks “Alone” put on the table is the representamen. The word ‘Alone’ is a symbol which is attached to the Enola’s life who lived only with women; her mother and her nanny. Her father passed away, and her two brothers had left her since she was a child, so Enola only spent her life with her mother without men’s role in her family until she turned 16. Besides, she lived in a quiet village because her mother didn’t want others to influence her life. The society in the 19th century required women to behave like a lady, which was very conflicting with her mother as a feminist activist.

In history, Victorian England was an extremely patriarchal society (Yildirim, 2012). Industrialism started in this era, but it was also the time when women were under pressured due to the patriarchal society. It is commonly known that during this time, women and men’s sphere is separated. Men and women had their own specific roles and different privilege. Public sphere was considered only for men, while domestic sphere is for women (Nsaidzedze, 2017).

Interestingly, the sign “ALONE” appeared in the beginning of the film which actually shows the main message of this film. However, “Alone” does not mean that the character is feeling lonely, instead, it shows freedom and independence. Although Enola lived in a patriarchal society which really limits the women’s role, she is contrary depicted as a woman who could determine her future. Enola is portrayed as an independent and decisive woman who can live and determine her future without the existence of men in her life.

Another part which shows the characteristics of independency and intellectuality can be observed in scene 2 in the table above. It shows the image of Enola as a little girl reading in a library to learn many things. She was alone and surrounded by many books. The image is the icon because it resembles the character, which can be interpreted that as a kid. Enola was raised as an independent and intellectual little girl who didn’t need formal education to learn many subjects. Interestingly, this library is located in Enola’s house. When many people in the past considered ‘house’ as a place to only do daily household chores, Enola’s mother built a library inside her house. Library and books are the symbol of Enola’s intellectuality, meaning that Enola is represented as an intellectual and independent girl who doesn’t need formal school to get her education. In other words, it is clearly explained that women can learn independently to be an intellectual without going to a formal institution.



This Enola’s character is in contrast with the belief that the Victorian society strongly value. In 19th century, the Victorians believed that men’s brain was larger than women’s. Therefore, men were considered more intelligent, so that he could go further in education compared to women. If the women tried to cultivate her intellect beyond the particular “accomplishments” (such as dancing or singing”) in order to attract men, she violated religion and the order of nature (Nsaidzedze, 2017). Therefore, reading books of sciences would be considered as violating the norms.


The characteristic of independency can be also seen from scene 3. This representamen shows Tewksbury, a young aristocrat character who fell in love with Enola, kissed Enola’s hand and said “*And what if it was I that asked you to stay?*”, while Enola

answered “A kind offer, but one I must refuse”. In this scene, Enola’s answer is the symbol showing that she still wanted to determine her future and didn’t want to live side by side with a man. Although the plot showed that they both fell in love each other, Enola chose to decide her own life and refused Tewksbury who asked her to live with him. This characteristic of Enola gives an interpretation that woman is decisive and independent.

Besides showing independence and intellectuality, several signs indicate the characteristics of freedom of choice. The signs can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Signs which Represent that “Woman is Free to Choose What She Wants”

Scene	Time	Representamen	Objects	Interpretant
4.	00: 13: 34	 <p>Enola was talking to the Headmistress of All-girls’ school with an upset expression. She said “<i>I don’t want to enter your silly school</i>”.</p>	Symbol	A woman is free to choose her education.
5.	00:13:57	 <p>Enola was speaking to Mycroft, her brother, wearing underclothes in the living room.</p> <p>Then, Mycroft said “<i>if you’re standing in front of me with underclothes, you will not get a husband</i>”. Enola said, “<i>I don’t want a husband!</i>”</p>	Icon and symbol	A woman is free to wear any kind of dress. Woman is free to choose whether she wants to get married or not.

6.		 <p>Enola found a card with the chrysanthemum picture, and said “<i>Our future is up to us</i>”.</p>	Symbol	A woman can determine her future with optimism, love, happiness, and loyalty.

The feminist values reflected in Enola’s characteristic can be clearly seen in several scenes, which presents Enola as a rebellious woman. For example, in scene 4 as shown in the table above, Enola was talking to the Headmistress of all-girls’ school. She was furious and refused to go to the all-girls school because she met the headmistress, her brother’s friend to teach her how to behave like a woman according to the social standard. She said “*I don’t want to enter your silly school*” and the headmistress answered, “*You are here to be made into young ladies. Act, think, be as we tell you and you’ll become acceptable wives*”. These statements are considered as symbols which indicates that Enola is depicted as an outspoken and decisive woman who can choose her education as she said ‘*I don’t want to enter your silly school*’.

Here it can be seen that she rejected the school system which taught women to meet the social standards. This also leads to the interpretation that women can decide the way she gets an education. Meanwhile, the headmistress’ statement “*Act, think, be as we tell you and you’ll become acceptable wives*” shows that in the 18th and 19th centuries, girls had to be ‘marriageable beings, decorative, and modest’. According to history, in Victorian England, the orientation of the all-girls’ school is actually to make the students to be marriageable or have a husband and become the “Angels of the House” (Hughes, 2014). It was a necessary for women to be able to have an artistic-talents, and also have a particular communication skill that would allow them to get a husband. Parents wanted their daughter to enroll in all-girls’ school to be a good wife, thus, they could serve their husband and cared their children.

In addition, scene 5 in above table shows the image of Enola who was speaking to Mycroft, her brother, by wearing underclothes. The Enola’s statement, “*I don’t want a husband*” symbolizes that Enola is the character who doesn’t depend on men. In 19th century, marriage is the object of social enthusiasm. A woman was expected to do her role as a wife and a mother. Having a husband means that women in that era were normal.



Historically, in 1868 government made policy that allowed women to gain university education access. However, people in that era believed if the women study too much, they will refuse to reproduce or have children. Therefore, a lot families did not want to enroll her daughters due to the fear that no men want to marry them. The rejection of Enola in that film shows her effort to challenge the way the women dress, the education system, and also the

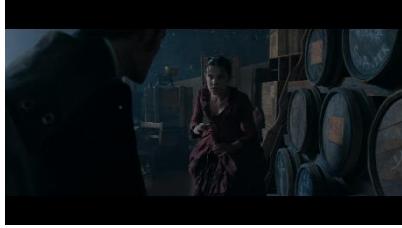
marriage system in that era. It could be interpreted that woman is free to choose her education and to decide whether she wants to get married or not.

The freedom of a woman to choose what she wants is also portrayed in scene 6. It shows that Enola found a card with the chrysanthemum picture. She was surprised that her mother left her with a mysterious card. She thought that her mother gave her a meaningful message to do a journey or to find her identity. The chrysanthemum symbolizes love, happiness, and longevity. It shows a strong relationship between mother and daughter. On the card, below the flower, there is a sentence *“Our future is in our hand”* written by her mother. The symbol can also be interpreted that woman can determine her future with optimism, love, happiness, and loyalty. The words reflect freedom which is one of the significant issues in feminism.

Further, gender equality is also an important issue discussed in the film. A number of signs indicate that Enola is portrayed as a woman who can do anything a man can do. The table shows several signs which can be interpreted that woman is equal to man.

Table 3. Signs which Represent that “Woman is Equal to Man”

Scene	Tine	Representamen	Object	Interpretant
8.	00:14:18	 <p>Enola wore a male outfit in a train station</p>	Icon	A woman is equal to man. She can also wear male-outfit in public sphere.
9.	00:02:15	 <p>Enola and her mother were in front of the mirror with their fake mustache.</p> <p>Enola remembered her mother and said <i>“Mother said, ‘we are free to be anyone’</i>.</p>	Icon and symbol	A woman is equal to man. A woman can do anything a man can do.

10.		 <p>Enola fought with a guy wearing a red gown.</p>	Icon	A woman is equal to man. She can do physical fighting.
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Another scene which also shows gender equality can be seen in **scene 7**. Enola wore a male outfit and went to find her mother alone. This image is an icon because it resembles the character. The film presents Enola who actually pretended to be a man to hide from her brothers. However, the meaning of this sign is more than just pretending. It indicates that Enola is represented as a woman who doesn't differentiate gender role. She was free to wear the clothes regardless of gender, while women generally had to wear an elegant and beautiful dress in those days. It expresses her character of masculinity. Enola positioned herself to wear the female outfit and tried to challenge the gender stereotype of how people dressed. It means that woman is represented as equal to man.

In Victorian era, dressing rule for women was a crucial issue. According to Roberts (1977), sex roles are defined by dress at that time. The way the men wore their clothes shows that they were active and serious people. They used clothes which allowed them to move freely, indicated by the use of dark colors and little ornament. The dress also showed their strength for it emphasized broad chest and shoulders. Meanwhile, women were considered inactive and submissive for they used many ornaments which inhibited movement, such as corset and long dress with several layers of clothing. By mid-nineteenth century, corsets became increasingly a "mandatory" for women. Different from men, women's dress used light pastel colors, ribbon, lace, bows showing that they were frivolous (Roberts, 1977). In this film, Enola tried to challenge this norm by wearing a male outfit which is very contradictory with Victorian social values.



Further, scene 8 shows the sign of Enola and her mother in the mirror with their fake mustaches. Meanwhile, Enola said "*Mother said, 'we are free to be anyone'*". Mustache is part of the men's body, but her mother allowed Enola to apply a fake mustache and looked at the mirror. The use of mustache leads to the interpretation that women are equal to man. In that film, Enola was raised by her mother to express her masculinity to challenge the gender stereotype of women in the 19th century. Putting on a fake mustache can be interpreted that woman is equal to man.

Scene 9 shows the image of Enola with a red gown, who was fighting with a bad guy as a representamen. That film shows that since Enola was a child, her mother taught her to fight or master martial art. In our society, fighting is an activity which is very masculine or identical

to men. However, the film portrays Enola as a strong character who can do physical fighting; even she managed to save Tewksbury’s life, an aristocrat young man who couldn’t fight. She also wore a red gown when she was fighting with the bad guy. The sign can be interpreted that woman is equal to man since she can do physical fighting. Those signs above portray how Enola challenges the social construction of the 19th century society when gender inequality still extremely happened.

Another issue portrayed in the film is the right to privacy. The following is the table showing some signs which represent that woman has the right to privacy.

Table 4. Signs which Represent that “Woman Has the Right to Privacy”

No	Scene	Representamen	Objects	Interpretant
11.	00:08:48	 <p>Enola's position was in front of the door, while her two siblings were in the room looking at the state of Eudoria's room. Enola was with her two brothers in Eudoria’s room. Enola said “Mother will be angry if you went into her room because you violated her privacy”</p>	Symbol	A woman has the right to privacy. She has the right to protect herself.
12.	00:15:35	 <p>Enola was sitting on the tree branch and having a conversation with her brother, Sherlock</p>	Icon and symbol	A woman has the right to privacy. She has the right to have her own space.

		Holmes, who was sitting under the tree. Enola said “ <i>I was hoping for some privacy</i> ”		
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The issue of privacy is central in feminism. Privacy is “the natural aim of a movement of feminists who are keen to resist patriarchal power structures which seek to control and limit women’s autonomy” (Floreani, 2021). In the table above, it can be observed from **scene 10 that Enola was raised by her mother to respect privacy**. The image shows Enola who was with her two brothers in Eudoria’s room which can be considered as an icon because it resembles the character. The statement of Enola “*Mother will be angry if you went into her room because you violated her privacy*” can be seen as symbol. Enola’s brothers visited her after a long-time visit. Her brothers entered their mother’s bedroom to see the house condition after leaving Enola and Eudoria for a long time. Enola in the film was raised as a girl who respects privacy.

Meanwhile, scene 11 shows the image of Enola who was sitting on the tree branch and having a conversation with her brother, Sherlock Holmes. This image is categorized as an icon since it resembles the character. Then, Enola said “*I was hoping for some privacy*” which can be observed as a symbol. In this scene, Enola was visited by Sherlock when she was alone and drawing a caricature of her brother, Mycroft, who forced her to go to all-girl’s school. Enola asked Sherlock to sit under the tree because Enola wanted to create a space for herself. Enola respected privacy as protection, self-control, and having personal space. Privacy is one key concept in feminism. Privacy is believed to be a weapon for women to avoid abusive behavior at home, such as marital rape.

From the explanation of the signs above, Enola was represented as an independent, intellectual, and strong woman who could live and learn independently without men’s role in her house. *Enola Holmes* film also emphasizes the theme of rebellion. The main character fights oppressive societal norms, and at the same time, she tries to construct her identity as an influential woman. This characteristic contrasts with the society’s belief in the 19th century where women were considered weak, passive, and helpless creatures, while men were strong and independent creatures. Men in that era were also dominant in the workplace, playing a role as a breadwinner, while women were a homemaker.

Furthermore, one interesting part is that Enola’s mother had a library and laboratory in her house and taught her daughter inside her house. ‘House’ in Eudoria and Enola’s eyes are not only a place to do kind of domestic works, but also a symbol of independency and intellectuality. The signs also show the relationship between Enola and some men, including Tewksbury and her brothers, who also criticizes the patriarchy dominance which still exists in this present-day.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the signs, it can be concluded that *Enola Holmes* film represents feminist values through the main character of the film, Enola, who supports gender equality. The semiosis process of the signs shows the portrayal of woman who is independent, intellectual, decisive, masculine, and has the right to privacy. These characteristics challenge

the social norms in the 19th century which still positioned women as inferior social beings and were oppressed by the patriarchal system. *Enola Holmes* film also brings relatable or relevant messages as it indirectly criticizes the present women issues through the historical lens. The limitation of this research can be such an opportunity for other researchers to deeply analyze the feminism issues, not only the main character but also other supporting characters, such as Sherlock Holmes, Enola's brother who was deconstructed as having a feminine characteristic. In addition, the social-historical context in the film has not been deeply analyzed, thus, it can be studied further using other approach to make this research more comprehensive.

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