

## THE INEQUALITY ISSUES OF MALE SUPREMACY TOWARDS ROSE CHARACTER IN *TITANIC* MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

This study discussed about the inequality issues experienced by a woman character in *Titanic* movie, Rose character who lived in a male supremacy society. This study used Beauvoir's feminist criticism on the ideas of male supremacy and independent woman to find out the types of inequality issues experienced by Rose character and her efforts in overcoming those inequalities. This study also used Mahon's supporting explanation on Beauvoir's two ideas to get a thorough understanding of the theory itself. This study was a qualitative research with content analysis as its approach. Words (narrations and dialogues) related to the objectives in this study were taken from *Titanic* movie script. This study found that Rose character experienced two types of inequality issues and chose to be an independent woman to overcome the two inequalities she experienced in *Titanic* movie. The two inequalities experienced by Rose character were the burden of marriage and set up expectations. However, these two inequalities were successfully overcome by Rose character when she chose to be an independent woman through two stages: defensive and aggressive. Thus, the conclusions of this study viewed Rose character, regardless coming from the royal class in society, was inevitable to experience the inequality issues due to the fact that her society was a male supremacy one and the way to get one self freed from the inequalities was by becoming an independent woman.

**Keywords:** feminist criticism, male supremacy, inequality issues, independent woman

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas soal isu-isu ketidaksetaraan yang dialami oleh karakter perempuan dalam film *Titanic* yaitu Rose sebagai seorang yang tinggal dalam lingkungan masyarakat yang berorientasi pada supremasi laki-laki. Penelitian ini menggunakan kritik feminis Beauvoir mengenai supremasi laki-laki dan perempuan mandiri untuk mengetahui tipe-tipe isu ketidaksetaraan yang dialami oleh karakter Rose dan usaha-usaha yang ia lakukan dalam menghadapi bentuk-bentuk ketidaksetaraan tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan penjelasan tambahan dari Mahon mengenai pemahaman supremasi laki-laki dan perempuan mandiri yang dikemukakan oleh Beauvoir. Penelitian ini berbentuk penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan analisa konten sebagai pendekatannya. Kata-kata (dalam bentuk narasi dan dialog) yang berhubungan dengan kedua objektif dalam penelitian ini merupakan data yang dipakai dan diambil dari skrip film *Titanic*. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa karakter Rose mengalami dua tipe isu ketidaksetaraan dan memutuskan untuk menjadi seorang perempuan mandiri dalam menghadapi kedua tipe ketidaksetaraan tersebut difilm *Titanic*. Kedua tipe ketidaksetaraan yang dialami oleh karakter Rose yaitu kewajiban menikah dan ekspektasi-ekspektasi terhadap seorang perempuan dalam masyarakat.

*Namun, kedua tipe ketidaksetaraan ini dapat dihadapi dengan baik oleh karakter Rose saat ia memutuskan untuk menjadi seorang perempuan mandiri setelah melalui dua tahapan: defensif dan agresif. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa karakter Rose, terlepas dari fakta bahwa ia berasal dari golongan kelas atas, tetap tidak bisa terhindar dari isu-isu ketidaksetaraan yang menimpa kaum perempuan dikarenakan sistem supremasi laki-laki yang digunakan dalam masyarakat yang Rose tinggali dan cara untuk terlepas dari isu-isu ketidaksetaraan tersebut yaitu dengan menjadi perempuan mandiri.*

**Kata kunci:** *kritik feminis, supremasi laki-laki, isu-isu ketidaksetaraan, perempuan mandiri*

## A. INTRODUCTION

It is a general truth that our society, despite the fact that women's movement has already acknowledged by the world, still has its root deep on the male supremacy values. It means that every aspect of life including beliefs, values, norms, policies, etc. are based on what men have approved with. Due to this fact, it points out men as the subject of the society that have the authority to take control of every single thing at which this situation sets women as the men's object. By seeing that one's party as the subject while the other as the object, eventually this will cause the inequality for one's party.

Actually, the inequality issues towards women existed in one of the most outstanding movies of all times, *Titanic*. *Titanic* movie began with the 84 years old woman named Rose DeWitt Bukater who told about *Titanic's* tragic story on its first and last voyage April 1912. Rose DeWitt Bukater was regardless of her status as the upper class, also a woman who experienced the inequality issues. Rose as a woman had to be obedient towards the male supremacy society she lived in. The way she acted, her appearance, and even her thoughts should be based on men's approval in her class. Considering this case, the researcher took the inequality issues towards Rose DeWitt Bukater as a woman character to be the focus on this study. Two ideas of Beauvoir's feminist criticism were used to analyse the inequality issues experienced by Rose DeWitt Bukater: the origins of male supremacy and the independent woman.

## B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### 1. The Origins of Male Supremacy

Beauvoir explains that historically, male supremacy happens because of three reasons in our society: first, the fact that the whole women history has always been man-made (105). Everything that women have done are the result of the things approved and or compelled by men. Women are limited by this fact which restricts their movements in inventing themselves to explore things they are capable of besides their biological purposes of menstruation, reproduction, and raising children. Second, in particular cases where women have achieved the "pre-eminence" privilege, they are not being considered as women in general. It is because of the power in social institutions that excluding the matter of sexual differentiation like in the case of Queen Elizabeth or Catherine the Great (Beauvoir in Mahon 125). By seeing this fact, it is obvious that not all women in the world are capable of achieving the "pre-eminence" position. Third, while in the case such as Queen Elizabeth or Catherine the Great that are considered as genderless, Beauvoir says that most of women legendary figures are counted as oddities (qtd. in Mahon 126). Those women like Joan of Arc and Flora Tristan, their greatness of actions are taken as merely exemplary figures rather than as historical agents (126) where their actions are the passive ones in history: the history does not see their actions as the changing-history part rather as

the oddities of women's kind. They are the oddities because they do not share the similar interests as general women.

The three reasons above of male supremacy existence in our society give an issue of inequalities between women and men. It is because the fact that women are taken and seen as an object rather than the subject. Treating women based on men's point of views and values obviously will set several things undone for women themselves. The inequality issues that happen towards women are the burdens of marriage, the inequities of wages paid between women and men, and set up expectations of society about how women should live their life (Beauvoir 105).

**a. Burden of Marriage**

Women are being heavily burdened to get married as soon as possible rather than men (Beauvoir in Mahon 127). This happens due to the biological features in women's maternity that it is better for women to carry children when they are still in the productive ages than in unproductive ages.

**b. Unfair Wages Paid**

In this case, even though women are given the opportunity to have jobs and work like men, yet there is the inequality towards them. Women are being paid less likely than men even if the women have the same position as the men workers (Beauvoir 166). Women are considered as the newcomers in the working world so that it makes the company pay them less than it should be, that the probability for them to be successful as men are low.

**c. Set Up Expectations**

Set up expectations by the society about how women should live their life is the most obvious case of the male supremacy's control towards women. As following to Beauvoir's statement that the whole women history are men-made (105), this clearly happens within the society. Women are allowed to do or achieve things in their life according to the men's approvements that disguise themselves as "the society's values and norms" (107).

**2. Independent Woman**

Beauvoir defines the independent woman as a woman who is capable of achieving her economic and social autonomy needs without being dependent on men (qtd. in Mahon 149). This kind of woman, says Beauvoir, is able to define herself as herself. She does not confine herself based on the stereotypes of woman figures in the society which she realises herself, that merely destroying her existence as a human being (Beauvoir 813). By being the independent woman, it means that she invents herself as a woman and all of the features both physically and psychologically within her to be as excellent as in men are. There are two stages to get through in order to become an independent woman: defensive and aggressive stages.

**a. Defensive Stage**

Woman tries to destroy the inferior status imposed on her by the male supremacy (Beauvoir 817). She contradicts the men values, truths, and beliefs in order to defend her existence as a woman. She denies the society systems that favouring men instead of giving both sexes the equality.

**b. Aggressive Stage**

Woman starts to act more boldly and actively than when she is in the defensive stage before. She realises and acknowledges her worth and therefore chooses to leave her

immanence condition to the transcendence position (Beauvoir 123). By entering her transcendence position, she invents herself as a woman to become the subject as a human being and is capable of achieving the equality between women and men.

### 3. Previous Studies

The first study entitled *The Representation of Class Struggle in the Movie Titanic* by Saputra Hadi which focused on the Marxism ideology in the *Titanic* movie. The object of his study were the intrinsic (narrative and cinematography aspects) and extrinsic elements of the movie. The issue concerned of Hadi's study was about the conflict between the bourgeois and proletariat people represented by the first class and third class passengers on the *Titanic* cruise. His study showed that in *Titanic* movie, the bourgeois people had the tendency of money-oriented, while the proletariat people had no such tendency.

The second study entitled *A Discourse Analysis On Coherence Found in "TITANIC" Movie* written by Afifah Al Rosyidah which focused on the linguistics aspect of Rose and Jack's conversation. Rosyidah identified about the way Rose and Jack reached coherence within their conversation in the movie by using Brown and Yule's theory (1983) about ways of reaching coherence. The result of her study showed there were four ways of reaching coherence found within the conversation of Rose and Jack in *Titanic* movie: the principle of analogy, principle of local interpretation, inference, and nine features of context.

The third previous study entitled *The Feminist Superheroine: A Critical Evaluation of Patty Jenkins' Wonder Woman* by Katherine G. Freeman concerned on examining to what extent *Wonder Woman* movie directed by Patty Jenkins worked as a feminist text and its main character, Diana Prince to be considered as a feminist superhero within the constraints of hollywood values. Freeman used Mulvey's feminist film theory to examine *Wonder Woman* movie as a feminist text in popular culture, while the Bechdel and the Mako mori film tests were used to examine Diana Prince character as the female superhero in the eyes of hollywood. The results showed that *Wonder Woman* movie could be considered as a feminist film based on these: advocating women's movement and empowerment in general and seeing the fact (the box office record) that nowadays culture started to accept the existence of woman (Diana Prince) as the protagonist.

The fourth study entitled *Gender Inequality in Saudi Arabia: Myth and Reality* by Shakir Ahmed Alsaleh discussed about the myth and reality that revolved around the issue of gender inequality towards women in Saudi Arabia that mostly were brought by falsely by the Western media. As the objects of the study, Alsaleh used female participants (70 female students and 330 female employees who were studying and working in King AbdulAziz Medical City). There were two different approaches used in analysing the data of his study, surveys and cross-tabulation analysis. The results showed that: (1) most of the participants stated that they were indeed familiar with the issue of gender inequality and actually experienced the issue in the rights to drive, custody, and to divorce. While the issue of gender inequality did not pester in the access to education, clothing requirements, and citizenship; (2) most of the participants stated that there were adequate programs to educate people in Saudi Arabia about the issue of gender inequality; (3) most of the participants stated that there was a strong leadership in the country to alleviate gender inequality; and (4) most of the participants (excluded four participants) strongly disagreed that Islamic principles were to be blamed on the issue of gender inequality.

### C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used qualitative research as its research design. As following to Patton and Cochran, qualitative research concerns on people's experience in their social life and its

method is by generating words as the study's data to be analysed (2-3). This study focused on Rose DeWitt Bukater as a woman character in *Titanic* movie who experienced the inequality issues of male supremacy. While for the approach used in this study to analyse the data was content analysis. The instrument of this study was the researcher herself. The data of this study were words from narrations, sentences, and dialogues of *Titanic* movie script related to the research questions: the inequality issues happened towards the main woman character, Rose DeWitt Bukater and her efforts as a woman in overcoming those inequality issues.

There were several steps the researcher did in collecting the data of this study: watched *Titanic* movie and read its script thoroughly in order to understand the story, took notes of the narrations, sentences, and dialogues related to inequality issues towards Rose DeWitt Bukater character, and used the data collected to answer the research questions in this study. The data analysis in this study worked accordingly to each question. The first question about the types of inequality issues experienced by Rose as a woman character in *Titanic* movie. In this question, the researcher analysed and answered it by using Beauvoir's feminist criticism on the ideas of male supremacy. Meanwhile, for the second question about Rose's efforts in overcoming the inequality issues she had experienced in *Titanic* movie as a woman, the researcher used Beauvoir's ideas of the independent woman by finding out her efforts as an independent woman within Beauvoir's term.

#### D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

##### 1. Two Types of Inequality Issues Experienced by Rose Character

Rose DeWitt Bukater was a main woman character in *Titanic* movie who came from bourgeois class. Despite the fact that she was an elite person, Rose also experienced the inequality issues as a woman. Of the three types of inequality issues, Rose character experienced the two of them: burden of marriage and set up expectations.

###### a. Burden of Marriage

At the time when Rose showed her engagement ring to Jack, she told him her true feelings. The desperation she felt in her life and it got worse when she was forced to marry someone she did not love.

Data 8 (BOM, min. 48:27)

Jack : God! Look at that thing. You would have gone straight to the bottom.

Rose : Five hundred invitations have gone out. All of Philadelphia society will be there and **all the while I feel I'm... standing in the middle of a crowded room screaming at the top of my lungs and no one even looks up.**

She explained her feelings to Jack, the desperation of being powerless over her own life. The desperation Rose felt shown in her statement above was as the result of burden of marriage on her. Rose had no power to resist that inequality no matter how much suffering and pain she got through. The burden of marriage was indeed one of the inequalities she experienced in *Titanic* movie. If otherwise, Rose would not need to feel such desperation for marriage was supposed to be a gift for each human in the world.

Another data that showed burden of marriage as one of the inequality issues experienced by Rose in *Titanic* movie was when her mother, Ruth DeWitt Bukater clearly told her that being forced to marry someone she did not love was rather normal to happen regarding the fact that Rose was a woman. It was normal because they were women.

Data 12 (BOM, min. 1:13:32)

Rose : It's so unfair.

Ruth : **Of course it's unfair. We're women. Our choices are never easy.**

By the statement of Rose 'it's so unfair', it referred to the system in her society where men got to choose whom they wanted to marry. While women like her got so little choice and massive luck to marry someone they truly wanted. This happened because the view of taking women as merely an object rather than subject made the society thought there was no need to give women a right to choose or getting involved actively in marriage. At the end of the day, they (women) need only to function their main purpose as to deliver children.

#### b. Set Up Expectations

At the time when there was a tea party with some of the royal class people, Rose experienced another one as the result of showing what she was capable of: as a smart woman.

Data 4 (SUE, min. 34:49)

Mrs. Brown : She's a pistol, Cal. Hope you can handle her.

Caledon : Well, **I may have to start minding what she reads from now on**, won't I, Mrs. Brown?

The reason Mrs. Brown described Rose as a pistol for Caledon, because Rose had the capability to backfire at him. Rose spoke out her opinion when they were having a conversation about men and their view on women and size. The way Rose stated out her thinking at some point, crossed the line that most of women were told not to. This obviously was the way of society of male supremacy created to control women's life as the object. It showed clearly on the statement of Caledon above that he should start to control what kind of books his fiancée, Rose would read. For it would be bad if Rose became too critical. Caledon used his authority as a man and Rose's fiancée to control her life, even towards the books or knowledge she might read or obtain. This showed the inequality issues experienced by Rose that even the matter such as reading books, needed the improvement of a man.

At the night when Rose attempted to commit suicide, she was saved by Jack. Unfortunately, Jack was accused of assaulting her and about to get into trouble. Therefore, in order to clear the misunderstanding, Rose lied to Caledon by telling him that she was actually being saved from falling over the rail due to her curiosity of wanting to see the propellers.

Data 5 (SUE, min. 43:41)

Caledon : She wanted to see the propellers.

Caledon's friend (a man) : Like I said, **women and machinery do not mix.**

When Rose told that she was saved by Jack when falling over the rail, right at that moment, she was underestimated by Cal's friend. He said that when women and machinery met, something bad would happen as shown by the accident of Rose. Otherwise, the

curiosity would harm them. By the statement of Caledon's friend above, he somehow implied that if women did not follow the set up expectations as the way they live their life, then the consequence would be pain.

## 2. Rose Character as an Independent Woman

Beauvoir states in order to overcome the inequalities caused by male supremacy in society, there are two stages can be performed in which resulting someone to be an independent woman. The two stages are defensive and aggressive.

### a. Defensive Stage

The first effort of Rose in overcoming the inequality issues of burden of marriage was shown when she courageously defended herself after being scolded by her fiancée. Caledon was so enraged to find out that Rose had a sneaky party with Jack and his third class people in which beyond his approval.

Data 11 (DFS, min. 1:10:50)

Caledon : You will never behave like that again, Rose. Do you understand?

Rose : **I'm not a foreman in one of your mills that you can command. I'm your fiancée.**

The fact that the marriage between Rose and Caledon was a forced one, ignoring Rose's agreement, it had become a burden on its own. Rose attempted to do her best to put up with it due to her responsibility in obeying her mother's words, but the more she tried to do her best about the marriage the more burden she felt from it. Put aside the marriage itself, the way Caledon treated Rose as his object making it worse, that marriage had become the inequality towards Rose rather than something that should bring happiness towards both parties. Caledon with his status as a man from the first class thought that marrying Rose meant he was free to treat her as he wished. While in fact, the way Caledon treated Rose as the same as his foreman showed the way male supremacy brought inequality towards women. It implied that men had all the authority in treating the women they married to according to their own wish, even though ignoring their rights as human beings.

One afternoon Rose joined a tea party with the designers of Titanic, Mr. Ismay and Mr. Andrews. They were talking about Titanic and its representation as a woman.

Data 3 (DFS, min. 33:19)

Mr. Ismay : She's the largest moving object ever made by the hand of man in all history.

Mrs. Brown : Hey, uh, who thought of the name "Titanic"? Was it you, Bruce?

Mr. Ismay : Well, yes, actually. **I wanted to convey sheer size and size means stability, luxury, and above all, strength.**

Rose : **Do you know of Dr. Freud, Mr. Ismay? His ideas about the male preoccupation with size might be of particular interest to you.**

When Mr. Ismay explained his reason of naming the ship as Titanic and referred it as 'she' representing a woman, it actually showed the way men treated women as merely an object. By referring a ship as 'she', it implied that he valued woman as equal as an object in which according to him posed worth by its size. That woman in his eyes was only the visual

pleasure to be looked at and therefore size was the standard of a woman's worth. Hearing the explanation of Mr. Ismay seemed to tick Rose off. She then contradicted that view of Mr. Ismay by asking if he ever heard the notion of Sigmund Freud about the preoccupation of male with size.

When men were being too preoccupied with size of something: the bigger size of something the more that thing contained value like Mr. Ismay had mentioned (stability, luxury, and strength), it was actually their way of compensating for their lackness in size of phallus (Freud in Lehman and Hunt 102). That wanting to possess things in bigger size meant that men attempted to cover for their lack of confidence in important part of their bodies. By the act of Rose asking and suggesting at the same time to Mr. Ismay about Freud's notion, showed that she as a woman also capable of seeing man based on their size. If men saw women based on their size: stability, luxury, and strength, then what women saw from men who looked for comfortability in size was they compensated from lack of something within their own bodies.

#### b. Aggressive Stage

The way Rose overcame the burden of marriage in the aggressive stage was when she decided to leave that forced marriage between her and Caledon Hockley.

Data 13 (AGS, min. 1:20:11)

Rose : Hello, Jack. **I changed my mind.**

Before Rose speaking up her disagreement towards the forced marriage, she went to Jack first to state about the altering of her mind. Here, Rose realised that if she did not have the courage to take a bolder action, then her life would remain the same: under the shadow of the male supremacy society. Rose left her immanence condition of being forced to marry someone she did not love and stepped her feet into the transcendence condition where she was ready to accept any consequence of her action.

As the final effort of Rose in overcoming the inequality of set up expectations, she courageously left behind her royal's last name 'DeWitt Bukater' and changed it into 'Dawson' as shown in the last scene of the movie. This act of Rose remarked her altering into an independent woman by casting aside her life as a royal people.

Data 15 (AGS, min. 3:01:09)

Officer : Can I take your name please, love?

Rose : Dawson. **Rose Dawson.**

When an officer asked Rose's full name to be identified as the survivor of Titanic, Rose answered it by giving him Jack's last name, not her real name. This obviously showed that Rose had already set her mind to leave her previous life under the control of male supremacy society. She realised her worth as a woman and chose to leave her immanence condition of being controlled by male supremacy in living life into the transcendence condition where she knew exactly what kind of life she wanted to have. Therefore, she was not afraid nor hesitated when saying her name as an independent woman, Rose Dawson.

### 3. Discussion

The current study appeared to have several similarities and differences with the four previous studies. Hadi's study entitled *The Representation of Class Struggle in the Movie Titanic* seemed to have one similarity and two differences with the current study. The similarity



laid on the fact that both studies used *Titanic* movie as the object of the study. The differences were on the issues discussed and theory used. Hadi discussed about the conflict between two classes of the bourgeois and proletariat people represented in the movie by using marxism theory. The result of his study showed that the conflict happened between the bourgeois and proletariat people was due to the money issues.

While, the current study discussed about the inequality issues as the conflict happened towards Rose as a woman character in *Titanic* movie. Two notions of Beauvoir, the origins of male supremacy and the independent woman were used as the theory. As the result, there were two kinds of inequality issues experienced by Rose as a woman character: the burden of marriage and set up expectations by society and Rose chose to be an independent woman through two stages: defensive and aggressive in order to overcome the two inequalities.

The existence of similarities and differences also appeared between Rosyidah's study entitled *A Discourse Analysis On Coherence Found in "TITANIC" Movie* as the second previous study with the current study. The usage of *Titanic* movie as the object of the study set the similarity between her (Rosyidah's study) and the current study. The difference was on the fact that Rosyidah's was a linguistic research, while the current study was a literature one. Rosyidah focused on identifying the way two main characters of the movie, Rose and Jack reached coherence in their conversations. She used Brown and Yule's theory about ways of reaching coherence and the result of her study showed there were four ways of reaching coherence used by Rose and Jack: principle of analogy, principle of local interpretation, inference, and nine features of context: addressor and addressee, topic, setting, channel, code, message-form, event, key, and purpose.

On the other hand, as a literature research, the current study focused on identifying the types of inequality issues experienced by Rose DeWitt Bukater as a woman and the way she overcame those inequalities. The current study used Beauvoir's theory about male supremacy and an independent woman. As the result, Rose character experienced two kinds of inequality issues in the forms of burden of marriage and set up expectations by society and in order to overcome the two inequalities, she got through the stages of defensive and aggressive to become an independent woman.

As the third previous study entitled *The Feminist Superheroine: A Critical Evaluation of Patty Jenkins' Wonder Woman* by Freeman posed similarities with the current study on the object and scope of the study. Freeman focused the analysis on a *Wonder Woman* movie and its female protagonists, Diana Prince character in the eyes of feminist criticism. The current study also concerned its analysis on a movie entitled *Titanic* particularly on its female character, Rose DeWitt Bukater and conducted an analysis based on feminist criticism as well. Meanwhile, the differences were on the focus and theory used of the study. Freeman's study discussed about the extent of *Wonder Woman* movie to be considered as a feminist text by using three different theories: Mulvey's feminist film theory, the Bechdel, and the Mako Mori film tests. The results of Freeman's study showed that *Wonder Woman* was considered as the feminist text to the extent of its portrayal of women's movement and empowerment through the female protagonist, Diana Prince character despite the fact that she (Diana Prince) was still hypersexualised within the hollywood values.

The current study focused on finding out the types of inequality issues experienced by Rose DeWitt Bukater character in *Titanic* movie and the way she overcame those issues as a woman. Beauvoir's two notions of male supremacy and independent woman were used to find the answers of the objectives with the results that: (1) Rose experienced two types of inequality issues in the form of burden of marriage and set up expectations by her male supremacy society; and (2) by becoming an independent woman defensively and

aggressively, Rose DeWitt Bukater was able to overcome the two inequalities she experienced in the movie.

Last, the comparison between the fourth previous study entitled *Gender Inequality in Saudi Arabia: Myth and Reality* by Alsaleh also had two similarities on the focus and object matter with the current study. Alsaleh concerned on the issues of gender inequality (its myth and reality) towards Saudi women by conducting surveys on 400 female students and employees in King AbdulAziz Medical City as his study's participants. The current study also concerning its focus of the study on the inequality issues between women and men that happened in one of woman characters in *Titanic* movie, Rose DeWitt Bukater. Here, it appeared obviously that both studies used women as its object of the study.

The differences laid on two facts between Alsaleh's and the current study: the object and theory used. Alsaleh's study used real women in life as his object of the study that put difference compared with the current study's focus on a fictional woman character. Moreover, Alsaleh used two different theories in fulfilling the objectives of his study: surveys and cross-tabulation analysis. The results of his study showed that most of the participants: (1) were familiar with the issue of gender inequality and experienced it in the three forms: the rights to drive, custody, and to divorce. While the stereotypes of gender inequality that Saudi women were perceived to experience by Western media like the access to education, clothing requirements, and citizenship in fact were not; (2) there were adequate programs to educate people in Saudi regarding the issue of gender inequality; (3) there was a strong leadership in Saudi to alleviate the issues of gender inequality; and (4) Islamic principles were not in any way to be blamed as the cause of gender inequality.

The current study used two notions of Beauvoir's feminist criticism in order to answer the objectives of study: inequality issues and independent woman. Beauvoir claims three types of inequality issue that women are usually facing: burden of marriage, inequities of wages paid between women and men, and set up expectations towards women (qtd. in Mahon 127). The fact that these inequalities existed, it had been proved by the results of this study which showing that Rose DeWitt Bukater as a woman character in *Titanic* movie experienced two types of the three inequality issues that had been explained by Beauvoir. The two inequalities were burden of marriage and set up expectations. Rose experienced the burden of marriage as she was imposed to marry a man she did not love for the sake of other's business (to save her family from bankruptcy). Furthermore, Rose was also set to live following to the way her society required a woman should, be it the appearance, behaviour, and even the way of thinking.

Besides explaining about the types of inequality issues towards women, Beauvoir also talks about the way to overcome those inequalities which is known as becoming an independent woman through behaving defensively and aggressively (813). This notion of independent woman was also performed by Rose character as her efforts of living her life as a true woman. In defensive stage, Rose denied every word and attitude of underestimating her existence as a woman given by men and/or women of her male supremacy society. In aggressive stage, Rose gave up her family's name in order to be freed from all the inequalities she had experienced and became an independent woman as Rose Dawson. Based on the results above, this study acknowledged with the proven existence of inequality issues towards women that Beauvoir has concerned herself with since long ago that this issue was real.

## E. CONCLUSIONS

This study concerned on the inequality issues experienced by Rose DeWitt Bukater in *Titanic* movie and her efforts in overcoming those inequalities as a woman. There were

two types of inequality issues experienced by Rose DeWitt Bukater in *Titanic* movie: burden of marriage and set up expectations by society of male supremacy. In overcoming the two inequalities, Rose became an independent woman by behaving defensively and aggressively against the two inequalities.

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