

**MERIDA’S MASCULINITY ROLES SEEN IN
BRAVE MOVIE**

THESIS



By :

FRANSISKA NUR ARIANI

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ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

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MOTTO

“Instead of looking at the hundreds of reasons to quit, look at the thousands of reasons not to give up”

“Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, however the day after tomorrow will be sunshine”
(Jack Ma)

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With the grace and guidance of Almighty God, this thesis was completed with much struggle and prayer. The researcher presents a thesis entitled "Merida's Masculinity Roles Seen In *Brave* Movie" including:

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Gresik, 20 Juli 2026

The researcher

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Gresik, 20 Juli 2026

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ABSTRACT

Merida's Masculinity Roles Seen In *Brave* Movie

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This research analyzes the masculinity performed by Merida, the main character in *Brave* (2012), an animated film produced by Pixar Animation Studios. The study aims to identify the forms of masculinity portrayed by Merida and to explain the functions of her masculinity in the development of the story. This research employs a qualitative approach with library research as the research design. The primary data source is the movie *Brave*, while supporting data are obtained from books, journal articles, and other relevant references related to masculinity and gender studies. The data consist of visual sequences, dialogues, and narrative structures that represent Merida's masculine traits. The data are collected by watching the movie repeatedly, reading the film script, and documenting relevant scenes and dialogues. The analysis is conducted by reviewing the collected data, interpreting masculine traits and their meanings, classifying the data into categories, and analyzing them using Judith Butler's Gender Performativity Theory and the concept of masculinity as a social construct.

The findings reveal that there are three forms of masculinity performed by Merida: (1) physical prowess and outdoor ability, (2) independence and courage, and (3) resistance to tradition and assertive attitude. These forms are expressed through her skills in archery, her adventurous lifestyle, her refusal of arranged marriage, and her courage to challenge traditional rules. Furthermore, the study finds three main functions of Merida's masculinity: (1) forming personal identity, (2) driving story conflict and solution, and (3) challenging gender norms and creating social change. The findings indicate that masculinity is not exclusively owned by men, but rather a flexible social construct that can be positively expressed by individuals regardless of gender. Therefore, Merida's character offers a broader understanding of gender representation in animated media and contributes to discussions on masculinity and identity in literary and film studies.

Keywords: masculinity, gender performativity, Merida, *Brave* movie, gender representation.

ABSTRAK

Representasi Peran Maskulinitas Merida dalam Film Brave

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Penelitian ini menganalisis maskulinitas yang diperankan oleh Merida sebagai tokoh utama dalam film Brave (2012) yang diproduksi oleh Pixar Animation Studios. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk maskulinitas yang ditampilkan oleh Merida serta menjelaskan fungsi maskulinitas tersebut dalam perkembangan cerita. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan jenis penelitian kepustakaan (library research). Sumber data utama penelitian ini adalah film Brave, sedangkan data pendukung diperoleh dari buku, artikel jurnal, dan berbagai referensi yang relevan mengenai maskulinitas dan kajian gender. Data penelitian berupa adegan visual, dialog, dan struktur naratif yang menunjukkan karakteristik maskulin Merida. Data dikumpulkan melalui kegiatan menonton film secara berulang, membaca naskah film, serta mendokumentasikan adegan dan dialog yang berkaitan dengan fokus penelitian. Analisis data dilakukan dengan menelaah seluruh data yang terkumpul, menginterpretasikan sifat-sifat maskulin beserta maknanya, mengelompokkan data ke dalam kategori tertentu, kemudian menganalisisnya menggunakan Teori Performatif Gender Judith Butler dan konsep maskulinitas sebagai konstruksi sosial.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga bentuk maskulinitas yang diperankan oleh Merida, yaitu: (1) kemampuan fisik dan keterampilan di alam bebas, (2) kemandirian dan keberanian, serta (3) penolakan terhadap tradisi dan sikap asertif. Bentuk-bentuk maskulinitas tersebut ditunjukkan melalui kemampuan memanah, kegemarannya berpetualang, penolakannya terhadap perjodohan, serta keberaniannya menentang aturan tradisional. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menemukan tiga fungsi utama maskulinitas Merida, yaitu: (1) membentuk identitas pribadi, (2) mendorong munculnya konflik sekaligus menjadi solusi dalam cerita, dan (3) menantang norma gender serta menciptakan perubahan sosial. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa maskulinitas bukanlah sifat yang hanya dimiliki oleh laki-laki, melainkan sebuah konstruksi sosial yang fleksibel dan dapat diekspresikan secara positif oleh siapa pun tanpa memandang jenis kelamin. Dengan demikian, karakter Merida memberikan pemahaman yang lebih luas mengenai representasi gender dalam media animasi serta berkontribusi pada kajian maskulinitas dan identitas dalam studi sastra maupun film.

Kata kunci: maskulinitas, performatif gender, Merida, film Brave, representasi gender.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HALAMAN SAMPUL DEPAN.....	i
HALAMAN SAMPUL DALAM.....	ii
PERSETUJUAN DOSEN PEMBIMBING.....	iii
PENGESAHAN TIM PENGUJI.....	iv
PERNYATAAN ORISINILITAS.....	v
PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI SKRIPSI.....	vi
SURAT KETERANGAN CEK PLAGIASI SKRIPSI.....	vii
MOTTO.....	viii
HALAMAN PERSEMBAHAN.....	ix
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	x
ABSTRACT.....	xii
ABSTRAK.....	xiii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	2
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	2
1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	3
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	3
1.6 Definition of Key Terms.....	3
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES.....	4
2.1 The Concept of Masculinity as a Social Construct.....	4
2.1.1 Masculinity Representation in Animated Media.....	4
2.1.2 Gender Perform tivity Theory.....	5
2.1.3 Scottish Cultural Context and Gender Roles	5
2.2 Review of related literature.....	6
BAB III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	8
3.1 Research Design.....	8
3.2 Data Sources.....	8
3.3 Data Collection Technique.....	9
3.4 Data Analysis Technique.....	10
CHAPTER IV RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....	11
4.1 Result.....	11
4.1.1. Merida’s Masculinity in Brave Movie.....	11
4.1.2.Functions of Merida’s Masculinity in Brave Movie.....	15
4.2 Discussion.....	16
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION DAN SUGGESTION.....	18
5.1 Conclusion.....	18
5.2 Suggestion.....	19
REFERENCES.....	21

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3. 3 Data Collection Technique.....	9
Figure 3. 4 Data Analysis Technique.....	10