The Cinematic Representation of Motherhood: An Analysis of the Iron Lady 張綾, B.A.

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In this research, my focus is Margaret Thatcher, the first female prime minister of United Kingdom, who is the most representative figure in modern politics. When she was in 10 Downing Street from late 1970s, she showed strong leadership. In realms of politics or family lives, Mrs. Thatcher proved that a woman is able to manage a nation as well as family. This seems to reverse a traditional image of women that motherhood might limit women's role in achieving career. Mother, as a metaphor, shows that Thatcher is both a mother of her citizens and children when she led the U.K. towards a radical path of political and economic transformation. Playing such multiple and difficult roles, Thatcher is widely discussed and represented in popular culture.

I examine texts of Margaret Thatcher, such as a film and other representations of her motherhood and female politician. Motherhood was a controversial character at the period around 1970s during the second wave feminism, which was also near the time that Mrs.

Thatcher being in office. The texts show that Margaret Thatcher is mistaken as a leading contributor in upgrading rights of women. In fact, what she did during that time invoked mounting critiques of sexism. However, her legacy shows Britain and the world have been largely influenced by such a national mother.

My research aims at examining Mrs. Thatcher by looking into feminism theory. I would

also analyze different textual materials. The research might give some evidence to reposition

roles of mothers and motherhood in modern society.

Keywords: Thatcher, Iron Lady, Motherhood, Feminism, Textual Analysis

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Introduction

In this chapter, I divided the topic into three parts. First, I simply mentioned what feminists mainly appealed to, and why Margaret Thatcher is the choice of the research subject. Next, my research will examine the historical background that shows how her impact is still relevant until now. Then finally indicated my research question regarding what women nowadays lack, therefore it might become a social issue regarding to gender equality.

Background

There is a saying that "While women are vulnerable, the mother is strong". Generally, people might consider mothers as a symbol of mercifulness, kindness and tenderness. In fact, the mother used to be a controversial character for feministss. Feministss were known for fighting for their basic human rights and achieve better gender equality, typically the faction of radical feminists in the second feminism.² Mostly, they think, as a woman getting married, they normally become housekeepers and submissive into motherhood. Those images are not conductive for feminists to defeat inequality. However, there is a well-known politician in Britain who was a woman-rights pioneer in politics and become the leader of the

¹ Herb Galewitz, *Mother: A Book of Quotations*(Canada: Dover Publications, 2002).

² Yan-Ling Gu, *Nuxìng Zhuyì Lilun Yu Liupai* (Taipei City: Fembooks publisher, 1996).

Conservative Party.³ That is Margaret Thatcher, the first female prime minister in Britain.

Margaret Thatcher was known for the theory of Thatcherism⁴ nowadays. Thatcherism was a theory of her advocacy for wider changes in economic, society and policy; it can also describe the style how she worked. Her whole life was all surrounded with politics. In Margaret's early life from 1945 to 1970, politics was still considered as the man's field, so women rarely had any chances to speak out for themselves.⁵ At the time Thatcher entered in Oxford, she did whatever she could to take the chance joining in politics discussion, and promoted the political concept of the Conservative Party. Margaret Thatcher relied on her debate capability, which not only made her an indispensable speaker, but also become one of the Conservative Party members. Her career was rising step by step with her encouraging speech. Although having marriage made Margaret's prospects a bit difficult, it did not affect her keep moving on. Finally, she not only was a mother of her children, even more as mother of Britain ⁶

Over couple years after she retired, lots of people asked about what she did for women. The answer is often considerable. After the Iron Lady was released in cinemas, Hollywood celebrity Meryl Streep brought a private image of Margaret Thatcher on screen. Journalists started to rewrite about her accomplishment at the time she was being in office. It says she

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³ Tom Peck, "Meryl Streep Takes on Her Toughest Role: The Iron Lady," (2010).

⁴ "What Is Thatcherism?," BBC (2013).

⁵ FEI-LONG LEI, *The Government and Politics in Britain*(Tapei City: The Commercial Press, 2010).

⁶ LI-SHU LIN, Tsai Ing-wen, CHEN, JIONG-ZHANG, *Modern Western Civilization History* (Taipei City: Wu-Nan Book, 2002).

was not fighting against patriarchy system as feminists did, but she certainly became a feminist pioneer which relevant to her legendary life in politics.

In The Iron Lady, the film director Phyllida Lloyd tried to tell a story of Margaret that people usually could not see—her private life. Inside of the film, Margaret has warmed her husband Denis Thatcher that she will put much of her focus on politics, but less focus on doing dishes, laundry and any other housework. This scene had firstly told us Margaret was not the stereotype as a traditional mother, and she did not want to be that role either. She once wrote an article said that women shall never be chained by housework, but need to get jobs out of their houses. An occupation could let them exert their own talent, and make contribution for society. In addition to work outside, they must work for their own socioeconomic positions in modern societies. Margaret argued that women should join political discussion,8 and these ideas had been come up with in the wave of "The Second Sex" from French philosopher Simon Beauvoir as well. On the other hand, Margaret Thatcher basically had some concept of feminism, but the difference was that she had essentially reached what feminists always appealed to.

The research aims at examining the film "The Iron Lady" to discuss the representation of Margaret Thatcher as a mother inside and outside of her family. Then collecting the texts about her to analyze how she had done to get approach to gender equality.

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Kira Cochrane, "Phyllida Lloyd: How to Humanise Margaret Thatcher," (2012).

⁸ Margaret Thatcher, *The Path to Power* (Great Britain: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995).

⁹ Simone de Beauvior, *The Second Sex*(French: Gallimard, 1949).

Research Motivation

There are several characters that Margaret Thatcher had acted in all her life. She was named with "iron" which symbolized as strong and cold, and "lady" after. It strengthened the original sex of Margaret Thatcher. I always considered Margaret Thatcher as a strong and persistent woman. After watching The Iron Lady, I argued that the film uncovered the real life behind her, a vulnerable feminine mother on screen. It came up with two questions about Margaret Thatcher that I want to find out answer.

First, Margaret Thatcher had different representation in mother and woman. A politician is always critical no doubt, but as a woman, a mother of Britain, it is hard to tell what is the actually position Margaret Thatcher was defined. At home, she could a mother who take care of children, and breed them. In politics, her speech showed that she was just as strong as a man could be. Later she became the mother of Britain, she break through the image of "External Feminine". ¹⁰ People could not figure out which Margaret was mostly concentrating on.

Next, there is an article said that Margaret Thatcher had also being judged by sexism¹¹ for 22 years, and she finally overcame it.¹² When it comes to sexism, she is a feminists who had been discriminated against patriarchy system in politics. While she escaped the

¹⁰ Gu, Nuxìng Zhuyì Lilun Yu Liupai.

Gina Masequesmay, "Sexism," ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA (2016).

¹² ZHENG BO HUANG, Margaret Thatcher Biography (Taipei city: Mucun Publisher, 1998).

stereotype of mothers, she put lots of pressure on Labor union; it went too far from sense of mother. In 1970s, radical feminism judged motherhood as a character that could not break away from patriarchy. ¹³Aiming at reviewing Margaret's career in politics, I would like discover whether she was breaking away or being wrap up with patriarchy system.

Finally, in the Iron Lady, the film contained a lot of gender issue. Phyllida Lloyd had put a little individualism image in Margaret, which gave her the inner of masculinity on describing how she launched the Falklands War. 14 From the view of Phyllida Lloyd, Margaret Thatcher had rendered the extreme different face outside and inside of her home. It simply seemed to represent the biography of Margaret, but actually was describing the gender issues at that time. In different period, she changed herself as what politics needed. However, she could not completely hide her feminine when facing her husband. In this part of question, I would like to discover the gender issues that Margaret had faced, and what the iron lady bring to us.

Research Purpose

My research purpose is to tell what women need to get rid of the stereo type of being obedient when facing patriarchy system or sexism. To help out women find out the way to reach the state of self-approval and define self-positioning, I would analyze Margaret

¹⁴ "A Short History of the Falklands War," *Imperial War Museums* (2018).

Thatcher in several faces of her and describe them deeply with innate and acquired. By analyzing the texts about Margaret Thatcher to collect the shape of her personality, and the way she dealt with the pressure from sexism when working in men's field.

Research Question

- 1. What is the representation of Margaret Thatcher in the biographical movies?
- 2. What is the image of Margaret Thatcher in motherhood?

Limit

First, my research tools cannot be used to interpret the psychological aspects of research subject, so it is difficult to express emotional reaction in words. Second, gender issues here is not relevant to sexual harassment, but gender discrimination. In addition, the general rule of film analysis does not exist officially, so there will be a little error in accuracy if there is another feminist cinema theory that I did not find out.

Delimit

My research will be specifically applicable to the feminism in the United Kingdom. Due to the difference in theory field, I will not mention the third-world feminism for the time setting, but just involve in the discussion of the opposite of motherhood and feminists particularly in Margaret Thatcher. To the time set, it is from Margaret's childhood to her life time in politics.

Contribution

Nowadays, as a woman get married, some of them might stay at home and put full concentration on it, others might confuse their position. Although mothers work out of their home, actively join in public and get their position, they sometimes cannot acknowledge what they have achievement without men. Beauvoir had once indicated, man is neutral, it symbolically refers to identification and masculinity, but woman refers negative and feminine. When it comes to people, it usually is about a man's story. On the contrary, Margaret Thatcher was the one who assembled most of the traits in both mother and woman, and the one undermine them. She was clearly distinct at work and family. Through my research, I hope it can help women find out their own self-positioning after getting married.

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Project Eve, "The Choice to Work or Opt out—Is It Really a Choice?," WORKING MOTHER (2016).

¹⁶ Beauvior, *The Second Sex*.

Literature Review

First, it is basically about the theoretical review of feminism, motherhood and cinema in this chapter. I focus on the details such as the women's rights progress in politics, film textual analysis method and woman cinema in politics. Next, the film theory is set to tell why it is so considered to be show the reconstruction of Margaret's biography film. Last, I elaborate Margaret's biography films that have been released before so as to collect the history concerning her more completely.

I. Definition of motherhood

Simon Beauvior indicated that being mother is a hard work, the whole society including the children's father mainly consider parenting as the duty of motherhood. Women often quit their jobs for stay at home in taking care of their children. It also has to be mothers who look after children if they get rash. Moreover, if their children become useless in the future, mothers will usually be the ones being blamed on.¹⁷

Mostly people treat the mothers as their housekeepers, nannies or even obedient maids. Mothers are seen as relatively weaker, vulnerable and a symbol of femininity, which is also the reason that the patriarchy system still remains influential and

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¹⁷ Ibid.

dominant.¹⁸ In traditional or modern societies, the mothers are always an object in serving others daily life. Children who lack maternal love often tend to be in deviation. Mothers are a key existence to a growing child, and they will affect to child's mental and physical development most directly.¹⁹

In this research, these understanding of mothers are the research subject that I am going to describe and study.

II. Women in British Politics

British women had relatively low status in society and their rights were rarely recognized by law before the 20th century. In the 17th century, there was no such thing as feminism at that time, but woman already started to appeal to their human rights. For example, there was "Vindication of the Rights of Women"—the first book that showed a rise of struggle for women rights.²⁰

First, there were some changes on marriage laws in Britain. In 1839, the law "Custody of Infants Act" gave divorced mothers a permission visiting their children. Before 1857, women could only get divorced, but that would have been possible only under the condition that they (kids) had been abandoned. Later on, the government had set up divorce court and revised the law of "Matrimonial Causes Act". Women could actively apply divorce in specific

¹⁸ Paul-Laurent Assoun, *Freud Et La Femme*(Taipei City: Yuan-Liou Publisher, 2002).

¹⁹ Gu, Nuxìng Zhuyì Lilun Yu Liupai.

²⁰ LIN. Modern Western Civilization History.

conditions, and get certain properties after divorce. ²¹ British ideas of women rights corresponded with marriage laws. Since government gradually acknowledged women rights of property management, which let women find themselves some sense of autonomy in 1882.

Until 1894, woman was legalized to be candidate parochial council by local government act. After 13 years, as the ideology extension of feminism, the government opened the chance for women to win the election of counties and borough councils. Yet, it seemed there were a lot of open reforms to women, but inside of the house, the member of women were not quite considerable as we thought. Lovenduski indicated that female politicians rarely stand for women rights. In this case, when the amount of women delegates²² is not enough for them to make a noticeable voice, they usually rather than followed their ideology of Party.²³ Though women got election rights, they could not vote, either. Not until 1918, Britain opened the voting rights for women who have been over the age of 31, particularly those who had class, and the rights for house attendance. Finally at 1928, the voting rights of British women were legalized equally at the same standard as men's, no matter in ages or class.

III. The period of Thatcher government

The theory of Thatcherism is a description of the style Margaret Thatcher ruling the country and the world politics. At first, Britain did not get better as we see now. Blair

²³ Ibid.

²¹ LEI, *The Government and Politics in Britain*.

²² Joni Lovenduski, *Feminizing Politics*(Great Britain: Polity press, 2005).

ministry in 2001, for example, had claimed that British's economic problem was already cured,²⁴ but who should be the real hero behind that economic recovery?

As Margaret Thatcher came to office, Britain faced highly inflation and unemployment, low investment which lengthen the economic stagnation in 1979 to 1982. Margaret thought that British decline already showed the drawback of Keynesian economics, which has to be eliminated. Therefore, she determined to follow the Monetarism with a strong faith of conservatism. The most important and the very first thing that she needed to solve is the economic dilemma in the 1970s, which is to control the inflation and stimulate private investment. However, it did not go so well at the beginning, and her status in Conservative Party and government was not quite stable, and her background also became one of the reason that had bothered her to be a prime minister. She still implemented her neoliberal politics in other to get rid of financial problems.

Margaret Thatcher showed masculine stances than other male politician, so she was persistent in strengthening her policy making. Budget cut and tax rise were the plans that she insisted to execute without a need of discussion with whole members of Parliament. So, these are the decisions practically she decided on her own. Just like transition period, Labors required for more salary and started to go on strike continuously. Lots of cities saw conflicts

²⁴ "Full Text: Tony Blair's Speech," *THE GUARDIAN* (2005).

²⁵ Ahmed Saber Mahmud Sarwat Jahan, and Chris Papageorgiou, "What Is Keynesian Economics?," *INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND* 51(2014).

²⁶ Chris Papageorgiou Sarwat Jahan, "What Is Monetarism?," ibid.

and unrest one by one, e.g., London, Liverpool and Manchester. Some researchers indicate that these policy decisions are aggravating situations of the poverty and unemployment. Despite the complaints, Margaret still believed in what she decided. She believed government should not intervene too much to let people survive on the ground of their own economy capability. She later implemented free market and embracing politics of privatization to let citizens create their economy circulations and increase private investments. The figure 1 below is the Growth Domestic Production of Britain insofar as, we can see it was actually growing during the Thatcher government ruling.

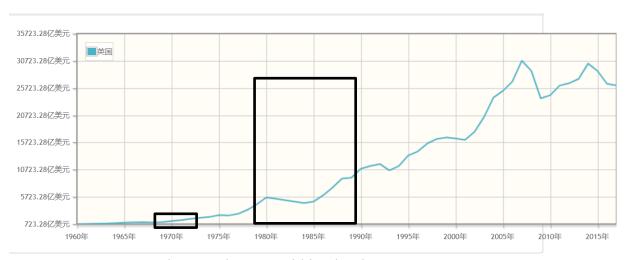


Figure 1 The GDP within Thatcher government

(Sources: 快易理财网)

In Margaret's political position, she always stood for the side of liberalism just as her father did. Although she experienced few Conservative politicians that opposed her ideal, she never gave up on reforming the old liberalism. She treats the election between Conservative Party and Labor Party as a competition between the supports of slavery and liberty.²⁷

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²⁷ HUANG, Margaret Thatcher Biography

In Margaret's speech, she was always following the discipline of Conservative Party, and attacked the economic policy of Labor Party. She did not think it is possible for Labor Party to set up an equality friendly country by keeping the policy of socialism, either with their tax policy and nationalization.²⁸ She once points out that people need to consider the political problems from the viewpoints of housewives, because those are who faced to food shortage, house intense and child welfare in their daily life.²⁹ As less power that government provide, which citizen shall pay less duty. In this case, she indicates that is necessary to cancel the tax payment from government, and let local citizen to pay tax themselves. Nevertheless, women at 70s was passionate to the feminism, Margaret still thinks that if there are double income in a family, the tax shall be doubled as well. Although these motions are blamed by specific group of people, she is still being supported in Conservative members in contrast.

People might wonder what Margaret had done to women, thought she always spread her ideology to encourage women union. While she being prime minister, women are also launching lots of movement to fight for their human rights. In Margaret's autobiography, she rarely mention about the policy for women. She even blame that feminism is damaging the respect and manner that men give to women, which she enjoy. Lots of feminists aim at Margaret to be the model to follow to, while most of feminists cannot realize why she

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²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

contributed nothing to women. According to the "Feminizing Politics", women who join in politic would rather follow the principle of their Party, which is also the reason they cannot obviously stand for feminism.³⁰ It could regularly happen on Margaret while her engaging in politics. Plus, the mostly important figure at that period is the financial crisis domestically, which should be put in the first place to solve. However, as we can see the Table 1, within the ruling period of Thatcher government, women actually started join in other work in society in abundance. It is a great cross from traditional women to walk out their home and devote to another job.

Table 1 the growth of women employed within Thatcher government³¹

Full-time or part-time	1971	1981	1991	1995
The member of full-time	5,467	5,290	5,764	5,645
The member of part-time	2,757	3,818	4,703	4,939
Total member in employed	8,224	9,108	10,467	10,584
Full-time member as a	25.3	24.7	26.5	26.4
percentage of the employed				
population (%)				
Part-time member as a	34.0	42.0	45.0	47.0
percentage of the women				
employee population (%)				
Part-time member as a	13.0	18.0	22.0	23.0
percentage of all employee				
population (%)				

³⁰ Lovenduski, Feminizing Politics.

³¹ LIN, Modern Western Civilization History.

IV. The Shift of British Government

Labor government was always performing as a nanny to British citizen. After World War II, the Labor government claimed that Britain was a welfare state, and annuity became the main institution that government focus on. However, this was a decision that Britain could not afford after had a war, and caused a lot of problems especially the stress on financial pressure for the government outcomes. The time Margaret Thatcher entered the internal government as a Parliamentary Undersecretary of Harold Macmillan, the government was always having the plan on resolving financial loss by implementing the limitation of the budgets.³² It certainly offended the Labors that could not be promoted their annuity, but it also was the turning point that the British government reversed their position to citizen.

In the aspect of financial policy, Conservative Party as a ruling Party was not satisfied with the entire citizen either, especially to Labors. Government used to act as a mother that gave whatever children needed just like the welfare implement of Labor Party, even Britain had nothing more to give. It somehow became the duty of British government to feed their citizen even though they did not have any capability to survive. The purpose of Conservative Party was different from Labor Party, they though citizen should be independent and earned their property by their own. It not only could let them no longer poorer, but also promoted Britain's production and economy. Although the result was not as well as they put effort on.

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³² HUANG, Margaret Thatcher Biography

they failed to join in European Economic Community, either to figure out the inflation.

Despite to the failure of policy, Conservative Party was building up the basic relationships between government and citizen, shifting the old conception of governing. Until Margaret ruling the Britain, it finally turns citizen to the caregiver.

V. Definition of Women Cinema

There is a theory of woman cinema; the purpose is to shape female individuals. Aiming at explore gender equality through images from 1960s, film industry started to put much focus on woman by using symbol and meaning.³³

According to the dissertation in the "The Cinema Book", feminists cinema involve lots of issues in different aspect, which connect with first world to third world by the academic exchange of feminist theory—starting with the gender representation.³⁴ Through the cinema theory researcher Anneke smelik noticed that "Feminism is a social movement that has had an enormous impact on film theory and criticism".³⁵ We can make sure of the relations between feminists and cinema theory that is actually connected. Originally, Laura Mulvey mentioned that patriarchal system was unconsciously decided the cinema production, and leaded to produce the male gaze,³⁶ but since the feminists theory of cinema emerged, the film propose of voyeur and fetish to male was decreasing either.

³³ Ting-Huai Chao, Narrative Cinema and Gender Discourse (Taipei City: Airiti Press, 2010).

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Louis Giannetti, *Understanding Movies*(Taipei City: Yuan-Liou publisher, 2013).

³⁶ Chao, Narrative Cinema and Gender Discourse.

After feminist theory of cinema came out, feminists tried to find out the way of structuring female subject and independent the gender of woman. They emphasize the identification of woman and mainly discuss on the social gender and gender difference.³⁷ Feminist theory of cinema emerged from the Second-wave feminism; it also had some relative connection of politic to some extent. At that period, feministss tried to find out the possibility of gender equality from heterosexual patriarchal system, and radically resist to its knowledge authority. 38 In addition, in the discussion of feminists cinema, researchers' arguments on the nature of constructivism have always been fierce, because not all the feminists support the theory of feminists cinema. On the contrary, a part of feminists cinema researchers indicated that the male researchers of feminists cinema theory tend to be more support to the appeal of feminists cinema of theory. 39 Feminists reasoned that the phenomenon might be caused by the authority of heterosexual patriarchal system where the pressure mainly spread. Both male researcher and feminists cinema researcher considered heterosexual patriarchal system as an enemy, who they must cross over to get release.

VI. The diverse conception of motherhood in feminism theory

As the second wave feminism began in 70s, followed by the rise of radical feminism, the mother role has been heavily debated. 40 Based on time projections, Beauvior Shulamith

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Gu, Nuxìng Zhuyì Lilun Yu Liupai.

³⁹ Susan Hayward, Key Concepts in Cinema Studies (New York: Routledge, 1996).

⁴⁰ Assoun, Freud Et La Femme.

Firestone and Alison M.Jaggar respectively represented the discussion of existential feminism, radical feminism, and post-modernism feminism.⁴¹

In the discourse of existential feminism, Simon Beauvoir first critically pointed out reproduction of women that let them become slaver in family status. Also, it obstructed them participate in the world affairs. Therefore, Beauvoir suggested that women should work outside of their home and make themselves involve in the economy production so that could help out raise women's social status. In 1970s, female differences were no longer considered as the roots of woman pressure. In contrast, feminists treated female differences as a strength origin and the possibility to release, also the opportunity of revolution. Yet, radical feminists argued that the main pressure of mothers was all came from their reproductive function, which became the obstacle for woman to get release from patriarchal system. It has been criticized that radical feminists over emphasize on the biological motherhood, but less concentrate on the how to transit sex into gender. As the time change, radical feminists Rich had advocate a new point to support the motherhood identity.

VII. Analysis of film text

First, textual analysis is a critical method when using it on film version. It does not have uniform approaches in terms of evaluation and standards. It has attention on ideographic

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⁴¹ Claire Wallace Pamela Abbott, *An Introduction to Sociology: Feminist Perspectives*(Taipei City: Ju-Liou publisher, 1995).

function of film itself. Textual analysis always acquires the theoretical results, and its feature does not mention the semiology conception and systemic relations. 42 Film analysist Roger Otine indicated the reasons why people prefer utilize the textual analysis is because it can specifically be used on analysis the film and that encourage researchers to continuously focus on this method.⁴³ In his view point, textual analysis is particularly suitable for narrative film, but excessively neglects the semantic meaning, production and the reflection of spectatorship.⁴⁴ In the process of textual analysis, analysist usually simplified the film into a systematic frame, and may face to the limitation of film development. In addition, it also causes the misunderstood for analysist consider textual analysis as an oversimplified method to take. However, in diverse of literature and art creation, analysists can also use structuralism to study the meaning of their production. Textual analysis was originally derived from Structural analysis, though the evaluation relations between them are not quite stable. Claude Levi Strauss mentioned that the core ideology of structuralism is the concept of "structure"; it aims at find out the meaning inside of the production and explains the structure "profound" with outside form. What he refers to is the structural distinguish system, which is the so-call textual analysis.

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⁴² Dudley Andrew, *The Major Film Theories* (Taipei City: Zh-Hans Publisher, 1983).

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ YING-JIN ZHANG, "The Narrative Subject and Object of Biographical Movies: The Choice of Multi-Level Life Writing," *Zi* 字媒體 (2017).

Methodology

In this research, I mainly draw on textual analysis as an approach to the analysis of biography films and documentaries. Also, I use narrative analysis to review the historical background and literature.

Textual Analysis

I drew on textual analysis, according to Alan McKee's words, textual analysis which is a way of gathering information to observe how our object makes sense of the world (e.g., the films on Thatcher), it also reflect the ideology trend of history. The text we interpret can be films, television programs, advertisements and so on. What I will primarily focus on are films and biography of Margaret Thatcher. When we are operating textual analysis, it is firstly to examine the data we have already collected, and then we assemble them to make our evidence reasonable.⁴⁵ This method should be linked with social value to process interpretation of the text.

Also, I interpret the text of film, documentary and biography in light of feminism theory as my constructional basis. The first thing I will do is to follow the method Alan McKee set of first step, deconstruct all the texts by the dates, incidents, and social structure contemporary. Then I will gather all the information and rearranged by the time order. Third, to tell the intertextuality, it is important to make sure the connection of the social structure and textual structure.⁴⁶ The last part is to separate the data into motherhood representation and woman representation of Margaret

⁴⁵ Alan McKee, *Textual Analysis: A Beginner's Guide*(Great Britain: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2003).

Thatcher in film. In motherhood part, I focus on her policy making and family caring. In the other part, her femininity performance to husband and dressing will be the main point to analyze.

Narrative Analysis

In my research, narrative analysis is a useful way to help me reconsider the subjective viewpoints, and get closer to texts.⁴⁷

I will narrate the condition inside of texts. Then I try to connect the relationship between characters and current condition. For example, after I interpreted the interview documentary concerning Margaret, I found she might have talked about her father with strongly intensive tone in that film. In this case, I will focus on the incident in her description and match the biography she wrote herself to analysis what made her feel this way of her father. While listening to her speaking, I will write it down in order to gather the relevant information as shown below. Table 2 below is the format for data arrangement.

Take one of the sentences in Margaret's biography for example; she says it is her father who inspired her to engage in laws or politics. This is one of the reasons that she has been highly interests in politics. In this case, I may put "join in politics", as the result she influenced by her father.

Table 2 the arrangement of Margaret's cause and effects point in her life

Time point	Who	Causes	Effects
At the age of 8	Margaret's father	Her father that inspired her no matter on laws or politics	Margaret determined to joins in politics

⁴⁷ Ibid.

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Research Tools

The data were collected from varied sourses, e.g., books in the archive and Internet. For example, I brought the biography of Margaret Thatcher "THE PATH TO POWER" in both English and Chinese editions. Besides, most of the films and documentaries can be found on YOUTUBE and Netflix. Others information referred back to GOOGLE BOOK, THE GARDIAN, EBSCOhost and official website of UK.

Research Process

First, I watched the biography film "The Iron Lady" and noted her mother revealing feature of femininity and masculinity. Next, I read her biography "THE PATH TO POWER" that exposed the story about her family and public life. Then, I organized these texts by time setting. That is, I showed the data analysis in term of telling a story, concerning a theory of feminism. To know the basic information and lists by time, I make tables to sort the release date, actors' information, and directors' information.

Table 3 The model of basic information format of film

Text number	03	Released year	2009
Title	Margaret: the final day	'S	
Director	Tim Sullivan		
Category	Biography, documenta	ry	THATCHER
Background	1989		THE FINAL DAYS The inside story of Margaret That they's full from power
Matter	The last period in office	ee	
publisher	BBC		Starring State Sand John West Types Direct and Paul Distance of Paul Dista

(Sources: Amazon)

Research Design

First, I will firstly collecting the data from the texts where can be found on books or online. Next, the research will follow the history, and the main point of film in chapter one. Third, the data will be categorized so as to understand the causes and effects. Finally, I will gather all the information to figure out the conclusion.

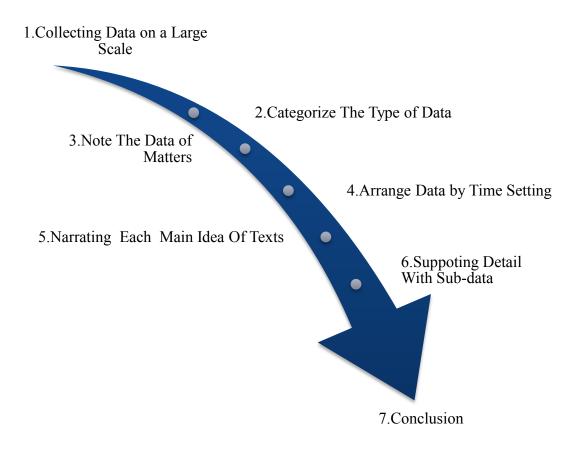


Figure 2 the process of research method

Data Analysis

In this chapter, I divide the research subject into two parts. First I will reveal the meaning and detail of all the texts about Margaret Thatcher personality of being a mother and second is women part, by using the method in last chapter. The main focus are the films "The IRON LADY", "Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley", "Margaret Thatcher: The Final Days"; other information will be use as supporting detail in this chapter.

The law of biographical film

In field of cinema, biographical film is one of the typical films in Hollywood cinema category. It is not like a story such as documentary, which is not true as reality. There must be added some factor inside of the films, to construct the narrative story line. Behind the biographical film, there are variety inspirations for audience to figure out. To construct a history character, director usually use narrate film to let people realize his or hers story, but most of them must comply with the rule of "borrow", "connection" and "true". Directors can refer the story from legendary figure, they might add something new, but they cannot lose the original.

Table 4 Introduction of film Text

NO.	years	Title	Plot	Icon
01	2007	Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley	The story is telling the life before Margaret becomes the member of Parliament, revealing her private life and her struggles by go through her experiment.	Margaret LER The Long Walk to Fred Age According of the Control of
02	2011	The Iron Lady	The film is focus on her nickname iron lady, to show how and when she strong as an iron while is lady itself. Not only focus on the period Margaret served prime minister, but also the time after she retried, and still hold fast her faith.	(Sources: Amazon) WINNER BEST ACTRESS THE RON LADY (Sources: Amazon UK)
03	2009	Margaret: The Final Days	The film is more approach to the reality, it is filmed as sort of documentary. It put all the focus on the last year Margaret been in office. Also, the main character Margaret appeared less than other narrative biographical films.	THATCHER THE FINAL DAYS (Sources: cinemaparadiso. co.uk)

Textual Analysis

Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley

The actress of The Long Walk to Finchley, Riseborough once said that she is totally a liberal socialism. Before acting Margaret, she never liked her. However, after understanding Margaret's position and what is behind her against, she had a new admiration of the former prime minister. Riseborough also thinks that Margaret Thatcher had less connection with human beings, the only achieve that relevant to Margaret is to be an intelligent woman.

There are a lot of critical points in this film. Originally, film crew decides to let Riseborough using "F" words inside of the film. However, it finally be rejected by Carol Thatcher, she do not allow her mother covered by a negative image because of a visual representation.

The Iron Lady

The Iron Lady is directed by female director Phyllida Lloyd with actress Meryl Streep. Phyllida Lloyd had proved the possibility ad the film when filming "Mamma Mia!" before. She is the one who try to create women cinema in modern movie industry. This is the first time Phyllida try to produce biopic and adapt the life of such historical figure. To turn a biopic into a tender drama, she put her focus on Margaret's private

life with her husband, and Margaret's Symptoms of dementia. Letting Meryl Streep play to role of Margaret is not because she is an award-winning actress, though she actually is. However, the main reason is that Streep has been an actress that cross-century and a double-take of a disguise in western world, which is fascinating and infuriating.

The film is not all about policy, to speak accurately; it is about the identity and old age. Margaret was facing oblivion, but how could she let go of her legacy, When Margaret passed away, Streep said "her subject had been a pioneer – "willingly or unwillingly" – for the role of women in politics, allowing females from across the globe to dare to dream of leadership.",48

Table 5 The effeteness factors for Margaret in politics that mentioned in film

texts number	Text no.1	Text no.2	Text no.3
Factors			
Gender	$oldsymbol{ m V}$	\mathbf{V}	
Background(class)	V	\mathbf{V}	
Children	V		
Sexism	V	V	

⁴⁸ Peck, "Meryl Streep Takes on Her Toughest Role: The Iron Lady."

Table 6 The feature of Margaret in biographical film

Feature	Femininity	Masculinity		
Films				
Margaret Thatcher: The	V			
Long Walk to Finchley				
The Iron Lady	V	V		
Margaret: The Final Days		V		

Narrative analysis

In this paragraph, I sort my text in the order in which it takes place in history. I initially arrange my data by simple text analysis, and then use narrative analysis to describe how these films shape the Iron Lady.

1. The first period: the step into Parliament (1945~1959)

In Margaret Thatcher's biography "The Path to Power", she said the most influential person that pushed her into politics was her father. 49 There are less description about her mother, but they all give much support when she candidate for Dartford. When she studied in Oxford, she already paved the way for her political career by joining in others debate and complement relevant knowledge. At that period, fewer women were allowed to attend to such political affairs, so that she could only read by herself or listen clearly from broadcaster. When her father being the mayor of Grantham, she often went to the trial in local court and that also cultivate her interests

⁴⁹ Thatcher. *The Path to Power*.

in laws. Therefore, inspired by her father, she started to get to know lots of politician around, speech for Conservative Party in public and share her politic opinion to women union. The actual term that Margaret could speak in politics was the time she beat other candidates and become Parliamentary in house of common.

Table 7 the basic information of Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley

Text number	01	Released year	2008
Title	Margaret Thatcher:	The Long Walk to	BBC DVD
	Finchley		
Director	Niall MacCormick		
Category	Biography, drama		Margaret THATCHER
Timeline	1949~1959		The Long Walk to Find Yey A surprising portrait of the young Margaret Thatcher
Matter	Life in family, enter p	olitics	
publisher	BBC Four		DO PO

The character introduction

This film is a drama of BBC FOUR, it was describing the political career of young Margaret Thatcher, starting at the period she was still Margaret Roberts. It is starred by Andrea Riseborough as main character Margaret in whole drama.

The movie is beginning with the subtitle **How Maggie Might Have Done It,** and turn to the first scene which tell the topic that Margaret Roberts is a politics lover. Andrea Riseborough in this movie acts as a fascinating and charming Margaret that we cannot imagine it is iron lady nowadays. The director Niall MacCormick was following the words in Mrs. Thatcher's biography, but in a different way of

representation of her young age. Margaret was firstly interviewing in a plastic factory with a politic dream, and she looks energetic and confident when giving the first speech. However, it was not as well as Margaret thought, although she seemed to be acknowledged on the stage. Back of her, in other men's eyes, she was just a beautiful lady with a great tongue, except Denis Thatcher, who became her husband in the following year.

At the middle of film, Margaret faced to the choice between politics and family, she was questioned by constituency during her speech. Marriage made her joy and pleasant, but also distract her political pursuit at the same time. "A mother's place is in the home but not in the house", 50 a woman objected Margaret's speaking in public. It is obviously what mothers should been told to do in that generation, women were able to stay at home after getting married, but that is not what Margaret was seeking for. Afterward, she stopped her political career for a few years staying home, and stopped applying candidate.

At the end, Margaret picked up her enthusiasm in politics, and participated in the election of Parliamentary of the constituency in Finchley. She won the election, and got fully support from her constituents. Though Margaret did not give the answer of what her choice was, but we all know, she would face to another challenge in the

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Olly Grant, "Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley," *The Telegraph* (2008).

house of common.

The representation of Margaret Thatcher as a woman

Gather all the texts shows, it verified the term in my first chapter, "Hile women are vulnerable, and the mother is strong". First in the film, it was shown obscure that even in public occasion, women was not able to get respect. For a woman, politics is surrounded by discrimination and combat.

Margaret was not original strong as what we saw when she served prime minister, she had ambition but with a fragile inner. At the very beginning, Margaret was not actively applying to Parliamentary: she was nominated by her friend in Oxford. It was her first time being interviewed in Selection Committee, and she passed. Dartford was an industrial stronghold where the place Margaret aimed at. The voting numbers of Labor Party always nearly 20,000 more than Conservative Party for sure. However, she took this chance as an adventure for doing something good for Conservative Party.

The place Margaret wanted to break through was hardly avoiding questions. The field was initially men's places no matter how Margaret had done inspirational speech to constituents in Dartford. There always would come up the doubt with her, which rendered how women as a gender imply negation to both women and men. Though in Britain, women already have had the same rights of voting as men have, they rather

believed in men's reliability.

During her campaign, all of the candidates brought their companion beside, so do Margaret. It was her father who companies her when attended speech occasion, then is her husband instead after she got married. In order to strengthen her background, people in Select Committee always told her that she needed her husband by her side to campaign for a seat of Parliamentary. In the film, she could actually do by herself which made her a symbol of feminists in the later years. As the matter of fact, marrying with Denis Thatcher is certainly bringing a higher status for Margaret. No matter in economic or in politics, she is no longer the daughter of the grocery store, but a rich Mrs. Thatcher.

Mother as a Candidate

Marriage is bringing her positive effect on her political career, although it brings up more awkward questions. Margaret loses the Parliamentary election in Dartford, but what come after are more election invitations. Due to her family, she rejects all of it includes Orpington constituency. Her children take most of her energy to focus on so that she it hard to concentrate on politics at the same time. Then until her children grow up and stable, she decides to attend the election of Parliamentary vacancy of Finchley.

In her family structure, Margaret needs nanny with her to take care of her children.

When the members of Select Committee ask about her housework, she tells them truly how she may deal with it, it is just about time management. However, mostly those who oppose her are women in majority. It is the defect in gender education of the past Labor Party, Margaret blames these old conception. On women's side, they think it is her duty to put her life in home, which is the place for women, but Margaret does not agree that idea at all. She believes that it is possible for women to take care of both career and family, and she think women should all follow this concept; mothers shall never be grounded in a home.

2. The Second Period: The Iron Lady (1960~1989)

After Margaret Thatcher becomes the Member of Parliament, she serves for almost 33 years. Within 33 years working for Finchley in MP, she firstly aims at social media, and raises a private member's bill which is widely discussed and successfully causes the attention of news media. This motion has been controversial between and social media for long time, but through Margaret's persuasive speech, it eventually wins the great commends and passed from Parliamentary after reformed. It is no doubt the exceptional beginning of Margaret's political career in Parliamentary, even the members of Labor Party are showing respects to her.

After that, Margaret often attends to the public speech to propagate her advocacy

and opinion of politics; she is the most splendid members of Parliament in the new bloods. During the Conservative Party, she has been nominated to be Parliamentary Undersecretary; this is the first time for her to work internal of government and a unit. The duty of her is to respond the Opposition Party aim at the financial policy of the ruling Party. Margaret defends their policy perfectly and accurate that lack of point can be questioned. However, it does not stop Macmillan government from falling down with economic decline. Harold Macmillan retired due to a series of scandals, and then it comes to Party rotation, but Margaret maintains her constituency supports. She has successively served Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Secretary of State for Education of Ruling Party, then back to the Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of Opposition Party. After all these rotations, Margaret finally stands up to select the leader of Conservative Party against Ted Heath; she is supported by Keith Joseph at that time. She successfully takes Heath down on the election of leader of Opposition Party.

In 1979, Prime Minister James Callaghan was in the 10 Downing Street, there were a series of riots which exploded in Labor Union. In this so-called "Winter of Discontent", Callahan was raised of Motion of Non-Confidence, and that made him choose to hold the general election. As the result, Margaret won the election and eventually became the first female prime minister in Britain.

Table 8 the basic information of The Iron Lady

Text number	02	Released year	2011
Title	The Iron Lady		WINNER BEST ACTRESS TO OSCAR' BAFTA' GOLDEN GLOBE:
Category	Biography, drama		THE IRON LADY
Background	1975~1989		
Matter	Margaret's Dementia, minister	, life of prime	
Box office	1.15 billion		
Publisher	20th Century Fox		

Margaret as the Iron Lady

The iron lady is nicknamed by a reporter of Soviet Union. The whole movie is strengthening the personality of Margaret as persistence, strong and masculine woman just like a symbol of iron. However, in her private life, she often reveals the missing of her husband Denis, it let her become a little woman and vulnerable lady when facing to her family. The film "The Iron Lady" is showing both masculine and feminine side of Margaret, it not only wants to let people know the achievement of the first female prime minister, but also shaping her as a significant symbol of feminists.

It is not firm for Margaret in Party to lead, due to her low status in government. Compare to other members, she is not that senior and also poorer than others, which made her a late bloomer. She is initially facing to more challenges at the time she become prime minister.

The Care of Mark and Carol Thatcher

British disease is a financial crisis in Britain after 60s. The inflation, budget deficit, trade deficit cannot be solved by the previous government, but Margaret Thatcher makes it. To Margaret, British disease is just the similar problem to the sick of her son, Mark Thatcher. Mark has always been sickness since his childhood, which bothered Margaret a lot on her career. As soon as he sick, Margaret will try everything to make him better, just like how she alleviates the British disease.

In the Iron Lady, even though Mark Thatcher does not actually appear in the film, it is obvious that Margaret always thinks about her son. In her old age, family to her become much more important than it used to be when she still devoted herself to politics. Mark Thatcher seemed to be a rebellious, problematic member of Thatcher family, his critical controversy made people questioned about the educational method of Margaret Thatcher. As Simon Beauvior indicated, if their children become useless in the future, mothers will be the one be blamed on. Despite the traditional identity of mother, Margaret still thinks women have their rights to work outside instead of hold fast motherhood.

Though Mark acquired for more maternal love from Margaret, she still knows that she need to take care of both her kids until they grow enough for Margaret to put

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⁵¹ Beauvior *The Second Sex*

all her concentration on her political career. Carol Thatcher once mentioned that her mother is successful in politics, but failure on being a mother. The oversight of her children, Margaret responds that being a wife and a mother is as proud as being prime minister. She cannot regret for the less company when they are teens, but she thinks to women who is running a home should understand it is hard as running a country.

Parenthood

Margaret is definitely value on her family, in her autobiography, she know it is impossible to be in cabinet while raising kids. Her husband, Denis is also a businessman who can hardly spend time with family. Though they are double-paying family, they will try to make it happen to stay with their children. Nevertheless, they still heir the nanny in their daily life.

The occupation of nanny is widely used in western country, typically the type of Thatcher family. Their dependence on nanny is extremely strong, it will cause the gap among family. Kate millet had written book of "Sexual Politics", inside of her book she says, politic is all about sex. The phenomenon in politics and be reflected on the structure of family. To observe the Thatchers, they heir a nanny to look after their children, it actually make them independent though they are not close to each other. We transit this structure to Britain's government. British citizen used to need their government as their parents, but now, after the revolution of Thatcher, they begin to

know how to live independently.

The symbol of blue suits and pearl

There are a lot of saying about Margaret Thatcher's outfits, each of them represent different meaning, especially her blue suits, pearl necklace and her little purse.

The common point of Margaret's biopics are the outfits of Margaret, it will not make a huge different on it, because those are the features of Margaret as well. Margaret always wears the blue suits to her work place, and she sometimes changes the color of her suits such as green, dark red those can show her steady image of the iron lady. She always dresses up with a brooch, a little square bag and typically pearl is the most important accessories on her dressing. Denis Thatcher had gave her a pearl necklace as a present, which she always treat it as a necessity on work or to election. The pearl she wears on also represent her love of her husband, his company and support was considered as treasure for her.

The little red bag, they called it "handbagging" in Britain, a word which was also produce because of the working style and insistent personality of Margaret Thatcher. Margaret had to bring a little handbag with her to anywhere she went to; she once said that the Asprey bag she took was the safest place in whole Downing Street. Her bag was also considered as a weapon when asked back for the funds from European

Economic Union.

3. The last period: The Final Days (1989)

In 1989, the revolution of Thatcher⁵² was getting much more critical than it used to be. The revolution of Thatcher was actually growing the domestic economy, but also increasingly strengthening the gap between rich and poor. This film is describing the last struggle of Margaret with members of Parliament.

As an insistent mother of Britain, it is useless to negotiate with Margaret's talent of debate. Her policy of tax reform enriches the richer, but aggravates the poorer. Half of the members in Parliament wanted to overthrow her regime, unless she was willing to negotiate with Labors. The members of Conservative Party stand against Thatcher and determine to contest the leadership. Few of members in Thatcher's cabinet were still believe in Margaret's decision of objection join in European Monetary Union. Margaret Thatcher believed that the unified of European would make Britain lose their sovereignty.

As the result of Brexit, it verified that the objection of Margaret was a correct decision for Britain. However, in the film, it revealed that in the Parliament, she was still fighting alone thought she owns some loyalty members.

Table 9 the basic information of THATCHER: THE FINAL DAYS

Table 9 the basic information of THATCHER, THE THAL DATE

⁵² Grant, "Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley."

Text number	03	Released year	1991
Title	THATCHER: THE FINAL DAYS		
Director	Tim Sullivan		
Category	Biography, documentary		THATCHER
Background	1989		THE FINAL DAYS
Matter	The last period in office		3 30
publisher	BBC		Starring Style Sync John West Type of Busher in Paul District

The shape of masculinity

The former films were all describing about the transition and the private life of Margaret Thatcher. This film was totally based on the history in the last years of Thatcher government.

It seemed that Margaret was a man who appeared as a lady when debating in Parliament. In this film, it is all about the retreat in Parliament, which is not as inspirational as the common biopic. It put much description on how Margaret's political career be ended by a cabinet crisis. More people were standing against the revolution of Thatcher, such as join in European Economy Union, unify European currency. Although she won the third election, she did not win the whole citizen satisfy. Outside of the Parliament, the rate of unemployment was rising, so was the members inside of Parliament who stand to against her. Margaret alone believed in what was wrong to her. Everyone told her not to go on the second election of the leadership of Conservative Party. Precisely, she would not win this time, in this film,

the difference to previous films is the men surround Margaret no longer support her.

No matter how she disappointed, in the last debate against Labor Party, Margaret was

still tough and indestructible.

Conclusion and Suggestion

There are three main points in my research. First is the critical definition of traditional motherhood in feminism. Second is how Margaret Thatcher preserved and exposed the masculinity and femininity in films. Third, it comes to the topic what is the representation of Margaret as a mother. I will conclude all my data result and my suggestion in this chapter.

From the previous chapter, we can tell that the debate of traditional motherhood and modern motherhood. In fact, until now there are still women face to the struggle, marriage seemed to be the end of being a free woman. However, I conclude my finding as three parts to share the viewpoint after I have done my research.

First, base on motherhood, Margaret Thatcher indicated that politics is all about housework. Mother shall not limit themselves as a housewife and stay at home instead of their occupation. The economy capability will empower the status of a woman at home, which there will not be a classification in a family. Second, when facing to patriarchy, the iron lady shows her fearless and strong attitude, which reverses the image of a traditional woman. In modern society, to be a strong lady does not mean to radically abandon the original biological sex, but to learn from to patriarchy system. That is how Margaret Thatcher does to climb a position as high as man stand. She encounters so many challenges

of sexism at that period, but she overcomes with it. There must still a lot of sexists when women or the mother who have their own child finding a job. However, intelligent people will not be buried by their talent, people learn while people grow. Last but not least, it is questioned that how about parenting if both parents are out to work. Margaret always knows how to makes good use of her time management, although she has less company with her family after becoming Member of Parliament. Parenting used to be a job that categorizes to motherhood, but actually, it is the duty of both parents. Nowadays, it seems a common sense to everybody, but people seldom achieve it. No matter which of parents is not participating in parenting, it will cause the deviation behavior of children.

In conclusion, to approach such gender equality as Margaret Thatcher does seems a difficulty. As feminism wave rising and legalization of women rights, more and more people get the sense of gender equality. Therefore, it will be more chances for women or mother get a reasonable job in their professional field.

Suggestion

The research is based on the film of Margaret Thatcher to figure out the concern of gender issues. To be much realistic, there are several ways to promote the image and knowledge of motherhood in modern society.

First, people shall put much attention on advocating gender equality education. Children are the most easily to change the stereotype and learn how to accept the new open image of

motherhood and to respect them. Second, there are a lot of protests nowadays appeal to equality treatment, not only to government but also to those who always keep prejudice to understand these oppressive mothers. Third, films are widely be used to spread the new knowledge to people as well. Lots of movies are spreading the new image of women and how this society oppress them, we can realize that it is not a "must" to follow the tradition thought but keep refreshing your mind to understand the situation that women are always suffering.

It is hard to let traditional mothers get release from patriarchal ideology in short term, but the notion of people are progressing as long as the gender equality education is proceeding. It is a suggestion for the future researcher who is interested in studying women status and feminism.

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