



GENDER INEQUALITY ISSUES AS DEPICTED IN MIMI  
LEDER'S *ON THE BASIS OF SEX*

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Bachelor Degree Majoring in American Studies in  
English Department Faculty of Humanities  
Diponegoro University

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2020

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The study entitled “Gender Inequality Issues as Depicted in Mimi Leder's *On the Basis of Sex*” is composed by the writer and adopting no result from other researchers in any degree of any university. There is no quoted material from other publications apart from the references cited.

Semarang, June 2020

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**Juniar Chassy Ferrara**

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

"Keep moving forward."

—*Walt Disney*

"Only justice will bring peace."

—*Avatar Kyoshi*

*To dear family and friends; and those  
who believe all human beings are  
equal.*

**APPROVAL**

**GENDER INEQUALITY ISSUES AS DEPICTED IN MIMI LEDER'S**

***ON THE BASIS OF SEX***

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

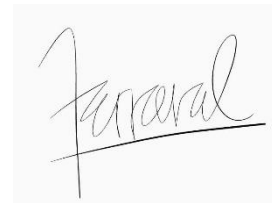
Praise to Allah, for the gift and permission, the author is able to finish the thesis on *Gender Inequality Issues as Depicted in Mimi Leder's On the Basis of Sex*. The sincerest gratitude also for Drs. Siswo Harsono, M.Hum as the supervisor of the author in the thesis work, for his guidance, advice, support to his patience in writing this thesis to completion. It is an honor to be one of his students because the writer learned many things during the guidance process.

The author also wishes to thank Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum, as the dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Diponegoro University, Dr. Agus Subiyanto M.A as the head of the English Department of Diponegoro University and the lecturers in the English Department of Diponegoro University, particularly in the American Studies section, who have given a lot of knowledge in relation to American studies, advice, and encouragement also an inspiration to students to be better in their work.

To the writer's family, Kastubi, Siti Andani, Ariel Chassy Arsenna, and Chassy Syauqi Fazza, a great team that always supports the writer in many ways and encourages her. The author is very grateful to be surrounded by supportive and caring family members. To my American studies friends, the writer thanks for the togetherness in studying American studies and exploring social issues in America, especially Ellisa Nailizzulfa and Savira Sasqia Karamina, for the discussion of cinema and gender studies, and social issues in American society. Likewise, to Yulia Lestari, Ainil Faroh, Ardia Garini, Feriska Natasya Safira, Soviethea Kirana Putri, Nabilah Nisrina, Ekgoan Susanti, Yuni Adhita Silavati and Lailatul Mubarakah, the writer's friends during her education at the university, which always

accompanied the ups and downs of the writer's journey; friends of English Department class of 2016; Irvani Hidayani, Diyah Ayu Rusmawati, Amiroh Putri Jayanti and Laras Prastitiningasih, friends who always support and care so far; Siti Nur Riwayati, Kaninda Bela Nagari, Mimma Ramadhani, Novisa Anastasia for being partners to share ideas and values; Eka Restu Wijayanti, Siti Annisa, Rosalina Yualina Ayen, Esti Putri, as the dearest and the most supportive boarding house mates; friends in student organizations namely EDSA, KOMPAS Undip, BEM FIB Undip, DVG FIB Undip, Young On Top Semarang; dearest Everlasting Friends, Siti Noor Chotimah, Suci Ramadiani, Eka Resty Gunawati, Nabilla Excelin Irvi Aziz, Dwi Astu, Iqlima Putrianti, and Lisa Hutabarat, for the shared happiness, fondness and support; and other friends who always supported the writer's journey in completing thesis work and the college life journey.

Semarang, June 2020

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Juniar Chassy Ferrara

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## ABSTRACT

*On the Basis of Sex* is a biographical movie based on true story which tells about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a woman who wants to participate in the realm of law and experiences discrimination in many spheres. Focalizing on analyzing gender inequality, the writer uses liberal feminism approach in the main character of *On the Basis of Sex* movie by Mimi Leder. To analyze the movie, library research is used in collecting the data to support the discussion of the study. Intrinsic and extrinsic aspects are also analyzed to show gender inequality and liberal feminism in the movie. The intrinsic aspects comprise narrative elements such as character, setting and conflict, and cinematography aspects. As for the extrinsic aspects, Lorber's concept of Gender Inequality and Mill's concept of Liberal Feminism are used to analyze the movie. This study resulting that the main character of the movie portrays liberal feminism value in fighting gender inequality.

**Keywords:** Gender Inequality, Liberal Feminism, Law, Woman, Discrimination

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The cinema of the United States has been a pioneer and dominated the world's film industry for years. It influences the world's cinema cultures and has also produced different kinds of movies released in many countries in the world. American movies have quite an impact on social life in the United States where American films contain ideas and social critics in American society. Many American films comprise social issues into their story, for example, poverty, social class, politics, economy, war, religion, law, discrimination, culture, environment, health, and gender inequality.

The issue of gender inequality has existed in many American movies, one of which is *On the Basis of Sex*. Taking a background in the life of the United States in 1956, a year the Civil Rights Movement happened which led to Women's Right Movement, *On The Basis of Sex* tells a story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg who currently works as one of Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. The storyline begins when Ruth follows her husband, Martin Ginsburg, to become a law student at Harvard Law School and accepted to the Harvard Law with other eight women applicant. At that time, women's position was still underestimated in many spheres in society, not least in the legal sector. Gender inequality is experienced by Ruth from the beginning she sets foot in Harvard Law School until she graduates and enters the society.

This movie generally tells the struggles of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become a lawyer and fights the inequality based on gender in the legal field. Gender inequality issue is shown through the dialogues and acts of the characters. This issue is clearly shown by the discriminations against Ruth in Harvard Law School until she applies for work, one of which is at Ruth's welcoming dinner as a new student, when the Dean of Harvard Law asks nine women who are accepted on why they take a place in Harvard that could be for men. Furthermore, Ruth tries to break the society's construction that a woman, a wife, and a mother must stay at home to care for a husband and raise moral children while still trying to be a female lawyer who fights for gender justice as well as to be a wife for her husband and mother for her two children. Gender inequality experienced by Ruth raises particular intention to the ranks and laws in the United States—that have been considered unfairly due to being built on gender differences— and initiative to change the rules.

Rules that discriminate against gender led to the Women's Rights Movement in the 1960s until the 1980s. According to Elinor Burkett, the movement is often categorized as the Second Wave of Feminism and a continuation of what had been fought for previously in the Civil's Right Movement around the 1950s and 1960s which was originally purposed to achieve social and political equality of African Americans, but this movement spread to other communities and had a big impact for them, including women. American women recognize that women deserve equality and justice, and oppression against women is unacceptable. Several things are produced from the Civil's Rights Movement and affect women, namely the Equal Pay Act for equal pay at work and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act which

prohibits sex discrimination in employment. Women's Right Movement focus to fight for women's legal rights in many ways, including family, the legal rights for work, participation in education and politics, and sexuality.

Apart from movements that fought for gender equality and women's rights during the 1950s to 1980s, gender inequality and discrimination still exists in society. The society still believes in gender-related stereotypes, where social roles and works in the family and economy are distinguished according to gender, specifically the men's strength and size, and women's reproductive activities and caring for children. Judith Lorber (2001) state that in order to fight gender inequality, the biological differences should be ignored. Mill also stated that women need privilege as much as men to do many things which leads to gender justice. Therefore, the author chooses *On the Basis of Sex* movie because it pertains the fight to equalize men and women in society.

## **1.2 Scope of the Study**

Research and approach methods are used in analyzing the movie. For the research method, the writer uses library research in collecting the data. Furthermore, for the approach method, the writer concentrates on the gender inequality concept by Judith Lorber and the theory of liberal feminism by John Stuart Mill.

### **1.3 Study Purposes**

The aims of this study are:

1. To analyze the main character Ruth Bader Ginsburg through the intrinsic elements which comprise of character, settings, and cinematography of the movie.
2. To explain the struggle against gender inequality and the thought of liberal feminism expressed by the main character Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

### **1.4 Methods of Study**

#### **1.4.1 Method of Research**

In this study, library research is used to collect the data from books, journals, Blu-ray Disc, and internet sources.

#### **1.4.2 Method of Approach**

In analyzing the movie, the writer uses an objective approach. M.H Abrams defines objective approach as what happens within a literary work such as characters, setting, and conflict in the movie. The writer also analyzes the cinematographic elements by using the distance of the camera. In analyzing the extrinsic elements, the writer uses the theory of Gender Inequality by Judith Lorber and Liberal Feminism by John Stuart Mill.

### **1.5 Previous Study**

This thesis is in relation to three previous studies as the topic is similar to this thesis. The first thesis is “Gender Inequality in Fatima Mernissi’s Novel *Dreams of Trespass* (1994): A Socialist Feminist Approach” by Elisabeth Ria Handayani. This



thesis explains the gender inequality theory by using the socialist feminist approach. The second one is “The Women’s Resistance is Result by Gender Inequality on *Entrok* Novel, written by Okky Madasari” submitted by Putri Ayuni Gamas explains the struggle against gender inequality. Unlike the first and second thesis that use novels, this thesis uses film as the object of analysis. The first previous thesis uses a socialist feminist perspective to analyze the object and the second one focalize on the radical feminist perspective. Contrarily, the liberal feminist perspective is used in analyzing the struggle of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in this thesis. The last previous study is “Liberal Feminism as Reflected in the Main Character of *Joy* Movie” written by Raqhuel Villy. There are certain differences on this thesis and the last previous thesis, namely the object is different, and even the last previous study also uses the liberal feminism perspective, but the content of this thesis focalizes on the challenges in gender inequality and the value of liberal feminism in the main character, yet the previous one focalizes on liberal feminism value only.

## **1.6 Thesis Organization**

Five separate sections including introduction, literary review, theoretical framework, discussion, and conclusion presenting the topic of the study.

### Chapter 1 Introduction

This chapter comprises the background of the study, the scope of the study, aims of the study, previous studies, and organization of the thesis.

## Chapter 2 Literary Review

This chapter involves the summary of *On the Basis of Sex* movie and the biography of Mimi Leder as the director of the movie.

## Chapter 3 Theoretical Framework

This chapter composed by the theories that are used in Chapter 4.

## Chapter 4 Discussion

This is the main chapter of the thesis which comprises the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie.

## Chapter 5 Conclusion

This chapter is the whole of summary and analysis of the previous chapters.

## Reference

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Synopsis**

At a time when women still experience a lot of gender-related discrimination, Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Felicity Jones) aspires to be a lawyer. This is still unnatural in the society because law is not the province of women. She starts to follow her husband, Martin Ginsburg (Armie Hammer) studying at Harvard Law School, being one of the only nine female students in her class among many men. In the beginning of her study, she and the other female students are invited by Dean of Harvard Law School, Erwin Griswold, who asks the reason why the female students are there at Harvard, taking places that could belong to men. Ruth answers she enters Harvard Law as her husband is in the second-year class and she wants to know and understand him more. Ruth experiences many discriminations on her gender during her time in Harvard, where at that time the women still become the minority of the students.

One day, Martin gets cancer. This leads Ruth to help him by attending all of his classes besides attending her own classes. She also does her husband's course works and helps him completing his class. When Martin graduates from Harvard, he accepts a job as a tax attorney in New York and this leads Ruth to meet Dean Griswold and asks him if he would allow Ruth an opportunity like Harvard always gives to male students to finish her last year outside Harvard but still gets a Harvard degree as she would move to New York to accompany her husband and her child. Unfortunately, Griswold refuses her request, but Ruth decides to leave and move to

New York, transferring her course to Columbia University and graduates from it without any Harvard degree.

After she graduates, there is no law firm would hire her with the fact that she is a woman. Ruth faces discrimination and finally gives up, then becomes a lecturer at Rutgers Law School. After a period of time, Martin finds a tax case of Charles Moritz (Chris Mulkey), an unmarried male caregiver, that gives Ruth the opportunity to fight for a change in relation to gender inequality in the United States. The expenses deduction is not allowed by the tax law for an unmarried male caregiver, the law is just for the female ones. Ruth sees this as gender inequality and discrimination for men. She thinks this case could be the first step to fight gender inequality in the US through law. During working for this case, Ruth and Martin are facing Dean Griswold, which later is being a part of the US Department of Justice. The case is successful due to the Ginsburg's arguments to the judge related gender inequality in the US society. This case leads to the new era of gender equality movement in the United States in the realm of law.

## **2.2 A Short Biography of Mimi Leder**

According to IMDB, Mimi Leder was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1952 in New York City. She grew up in Los Angeles, California. She attended Los Angeles City College and was the first woman in cinematography class at the American Film Institute. She was raised in a Jewish family. Her mother comes from Brussels as a survivor and her father is a film director. Leder started her career as a script supervisor on several films, including *Dummy* (1979) and *A Long Way Home* (1980), and then moved to the television series *Hill Street Blues* (1981). Leder made

the transition from cinematographer to director after six years working as a script supervisor. She is a producer and director, known for *On the Basis of Sex* (2018), *The Leftovers* (2014) and *Deep Impact* (1998).

## CHAPTER III

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Intrinsic and extrinsic aspects are contained in literary works. The intrinsic aspect is branched into two elements, which are narrative elements and cinematography elements. While the extrinsic aspect consists of the social background of the society and the values contained in the film, in this study are gender inequality and liberal feminism.

#### 3.1 Intrinsic Aspects

It concerns the factors within, for example, the narrative elements and the cinematography elements.

##### 3.1.1 Narrative Elements

All the parts of the story that construct the entire story are called as narrative elements. Several narrative elements are shown in *On the Basis of Sex* movie.

##### 3.1.1.1 Character

According to Abrams, a character is a person represented in a narrative work. (1999:32). There are two types of characters, which are the major and minor characters. A major character is the main character of the story. While a minor character is the supporting character and rarely appears in the story. It is also a short description of persons within the story.

##### 3.1.1.2 Setting

Setting has a major function in the story. M.H Abrams states that:

The overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place. (1999:284)

#### **3.1.1.2.1 Setting of place**

Setting of place is concerning the place of the story. As Barnet remarks that “Sometimes the setting is lightly sketched, presented only because the story has to take place somewhere.” (2008:152)

#### **3.1.1.2.2 Setting of time**

Setting of time concerns the time of the story. “The setting of a story— not only the physical locale but also the time of day, the year, or the century.” (Barnet, 2008:152)

#### **3.1.1.2.3 Setting of social background**

The situation around the characters in the story is called a setting of social background. “The general environment of the characters, e.g., religious, mental, moral, social, and emotional conditions through which the people in the narrative move.” (Holman, 1985:413)

#### **3.1.1.3 Conflict**

Conflict is one of the main elements in a story. Holman states that:

The struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot. It is conflict which provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of action, whether it be drama or novel, short story, or film at least one of the opposing forces is usually a person, or,

if an animal or an inanimate object, is treated as though it were a person.  
(1999:284)

#### **3.1.1.3.1 Internal conflict**

A struggle happens in the mind of the character is called a conflict.

According to Mayer, “conflict may also be internal; in such a case some moral or psychological issue must be resolved within protagonist.”

(1990:46)

#### **3.1.1.3.2 External conflict**

External conflict is the struggle in the story between the character and everything outside. “External conflict places the major character in contradictory situation between him and other characters, society, nature, or all of those.” (1990:46)

### **3.1.2 Cinematography Elements**

Cinematography is one of the main elements in a movie. “Cinematography is the process of capturing moving images on film or a digital storage device” (Barsam & Monahan, 2010:208).

There are certain aspects of cinematography, yet the writer focalizes on the distance of the camera only.



### 3.1.2.1 The Distance of the Camera

#### Framing of shots

These are the six types of shots most commonly used in TV, Film and Photography.



*Picture 3.1 The Distance of the Camera*

Source: Scalar. University of Southern California. Retrieved May 3, 2020,

from <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/cogr-280-media--social-movements/media/shot%20size.jpg>

#### **3.1.2.1.1 Extreme Long Shot**

Extreme long shot (ELS) takes far objects which are so small from the camera. “Typically photographed at a great distance from the subject.”

(Barsam & Monahan, 2010:232)

#### **3.1.2.1.2 Long Shot**

Long shot (LS) takes objects that are more visible than the ELS but still shows several of the background. “The character’s full body (almost filling the frame but with some area above and below also visible) and some of the surroundings.” (Barsam & Monahan, 2010:233)

#### **3.1.2.1.3 Medium Long Shot**

“Medium long shot is neither a long shot nor a medium shot, but one in between. It is used to photograph one or more characters, usually from the knees up, as well as some of the background.” (Barsam & Monahan, 2010:233)

#### **3.1.2.1.4 Medium Shot**

According to Barsam and Monahan, medium shot (MS) is a shot which taken closer than the medium long shot but not so close as the close-up.

#### **3.1.2.1.5 Close-up**

“Close-up is produced when the camera is shooting from very near to the subject.” (Barsam & Monahan, 2010:234)

#### **3.1.2.1.6 Extreme Close-up**

“A variation on the close-up is the extreme close-up (XCU or ECU), which is a very close shot of some detail.” (Barsam & Monahan, 2010:234)

## **3.2 Extrinsic Aspects**

The movie analysis also comprises extrinsic aspects. The extrinsic aspect is something that is relatable with the movie, including theories that related to the movie. The writer uses the theory of gender that focuses on the concept of gender inequality in a feminist approach.

### **3.2.1 Gender Inequality Thought**

According to Lorber, the term gender inequality concerns a situation where there is inequality in the social organization and the economic structure of a society based on gender. It is usually women who get a less good situation than men, resulting in average men having a better position in many spheres. For example, women often receive lower pay than men, even for the same type of work, and women often do not have the opportunity for advancement to top positions (2001: 05).

This inequality is obvious when the gender role gap in work does exist, but women still have to do domestic work and child care at the same time (2001: 06). In fact, social and cultural institutions tend to support gender inequality through religion, social arrangements, and law (2001: 07). The main point of gender inequality is that this is not an individual problem but a system in a society's structure. Gender inequality exists in many spheres, including our families, works, economy, social, cultural, law and even our spoken language (2001: 07).

### **3.2.1.1 Feminist Thought**

Feminism is close to gender inequality. The feminism-is able to be divided into some categories as ways of solving gender inequality, one of which is gender reform feminisms. Gender reform feminisms fight in equalizing social orders, a movement in making men and women more equal (2001: 09).

Gender reform feminism focus on the works of women within the family and economy as the source of gender inequality, comprises of Marxist and Socialist, Liberal, and Post-colonial. The 1960s and 1970s became a critical moment for the gender movement to fight gender inequality. At that time beliefs about men and women tended to emphasize the differences between them, women were disdained compared to men, who were seen as stronger, smarter, and generally more capable than women—except for caring for children. Being a mother is valued as a woman's responsibility, and therefore women are seen as mothers before they become another (2001: 10). Liberal feminism thought perspective is chosen because the main characters in this movie represent liberal feminism values to fight gender inequality.

### **3.2.2 Liberal Feminism**

John Stuart Mill stated that rights and liberty must be equal for each individual.

In *The Subjection of Women*, he stated:

"That the principle which regulates the existing social relations between the two sexes — the legal subordination of one sex to the other — is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief's hindrances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality, admitting no power or privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other. " (1984:261)

Mill criticized the inequality experienced by women in public and civil life, politics to decision making, he also conveyed his belief that women are also entitled to the same freedoms and rights under the law. There are many liberal feminist values, but the writer focuses on the law of equal liberty and women's rights and gender justice which are in relation to this thesis.

### **3.2.2.1 Law of Equal Liberty**

In the concept of law of equal liberty, each individual has the same freedom to do what they want, including women. Mill completely believes that revoking freedom of women is a violation and inequality in the principle of freedom. The exclusion of women in many spheres, particularly in the public sphere is men's motivation to "maintain their subordination in domestic life because the general nature of the male sex has not been able to tolerate the idea of life equally" (1984: 299).

Mill argues that women have as much freedom as men in politics, law, and economics. Women should be given the same opportunities as men in many provinces and they are able to choose everything they want as long as it harms no one. Furthermore, Mill also believes that women should also be able to freely act as partners, not servants of their husbands (1984: 126). This means that women are able to express themselves for doing everything as a partner for their husbands. Women and their husbands are works as a team for their family.

### **3.2.2.2 Women's Rights and Gender Justice**

Mill argues that women often are not known to be able to do many things because men limit women from taking initiatives on many things. Society is still much bound by rigid gender roles where women must play more roles in the domestic sphere, as wives and mothers only.

The anxiety of mankind to interfere in behalf of nature, for fear lest nature should not succeed in effecting its purpose, is an altogether unnecessary solicitude. What women by nature cannot do, it is quite superfluous to forbid them from doing. (1984:280)

Mill states that men know that women are capable to do the activity, but men do not want them to do it, even tend to prohibit them. Women need equal rights and justice as men in carrying out their activities in the private, domestic, and public sphere, and avoiding oppressive gender roles, that is the goal of liberal feminism.

## CHAPTER IV

### GENDER INEQUALITY ISSUES AS DEPICTED IN MIMI LEDER'S *ON THE BASIS OF SEX*

#### 4.1 Intrinsic Aspects

The author will explain the intrinsic aspects namely character, setting, and conflict in *On the Basis of Sex* movie. In addition, aspects of cinematography will also be used to support the analysis of cinematic aspects in this film.

##### 4.1.1 Narrative Elements

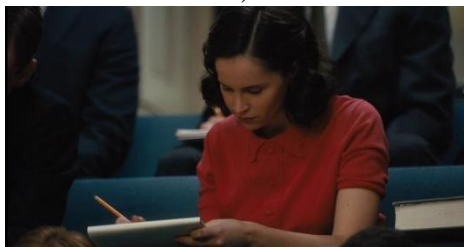
###### 4.1.1.1 Character



*Picture 4. 1*  
*Ruth first entering Harvard  
Law School*  
(On the Basis of Sex:  
00:02:50)



*Picture 4. 2*  
*Ruth as the only woman  
stands among men*  
(On the Basis of Sex:  
00:03:18)



*Picture 4. 3*  
*Ruth looks focus studying in  
Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex:  
00:20:09)



*Picture 4. 4*  
*Ruth seriously works for her  
case*  
(On the Basis of Sex:  
01:12:39)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the main character of this movie. She has shoulder-length black hair and fair skin with brown eyes. Ruth is thin and not too tall, but she is quite agile. Ruth has a strict character and a strong opinion. Since childhood, she lives independently and not depend on others. Ruth is a smart and ambitious woman. It can be seen from Picture 4.1 which uses a close-up shot where Ruth passionately enters her new life at Harvard. She looks around with enthusiasm to enter a new phase which she will take in the legal sector. Picture 4.2 with a medium-long shot shows Ruth entering the Harvard Law building. She realizes that she is walking among many men and the fact that she is the only woman who walks there does not discourage Ruth from achieving her dream of studying law. Women's representation in the legal sector is still very rare and women's involvement in the legal sector is still considered to be unnatural because people's thoughts are still influenced by traditional gender roles where women should not take a role in the public sphere, but Ruth continues to believe herself even though she knows she becomes a minority based on her gender.

Ruth's passion and ambitious character shown in Picture 4.3 taken by medium-shot, shows Ruth focusing on studying law at Harvard to achieve her dream of working at a law firm. Despite experiencing gender discrimination since she enters Harvard, Ruth remains enthusiastic and focuses on her studies, as well as Picture 4.4, using medium-long shot, showing Ruth seriously works on her case with her colleagues. Ruth's character leads her to



fight for gender justice in the field of American law until she is finally trusted to be part of the Supreme Court.



*Picture 4. 5*  
*Ruth attending her husband*  
*classes*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:19:40)



*Picture 4. 6*  
*Ruth helps her husband doing*  
*his works*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:20:15)

Ruth is also a responsible person. She is responsible for her role as a Harvard student, as a teacher, as a wife for her husband, and as a mother for her child. She lives everything with full responsibility. For example, when Ruth's husband has to be treated for cancer, Ruth replaces her husband's role by attending all of her husband's classes at Harvard and doing all his college works without leaving her own responsibilities as shown by Picture 4.5 with a long shot and Picture 4.6 taken in a medium-long shot.

What is done by Ruth in the 1950s is still relatively rare. In that era, women usually only take care of domestic things, yet Ruth performs many roles as an independent woman with her activities as a Harvard law student, a wife for her ailing husband, and a mother with a toddler daughter. All that she does with responsibility and tirelessly, even though she has to sleep only two hours per day.

Ruth is also a woman who never gives up. She aspires to be actively involved in the legal sector in the US, even though it will be difficult to achieve because of her status as a woman. When Ruth graduates from college, no law firm would accept her only because she is a woman and underestimated to do lawyer jobs which is considered as the province of men. She is rejected by dozens of law firms as it is shown in this dialogue.

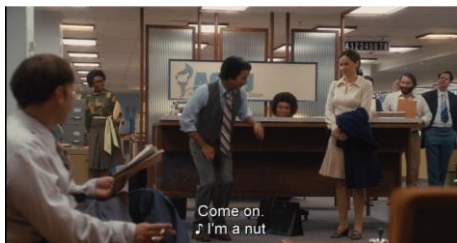
Lawyer Greene : They all turned you down right? How many? Ten?  
Ruth : Twelve.  
Lawyer Greene : A woman. A mother. A Jew, to boot. I'm  
impressed that many let you through the door.  
(00.27.09)

Ruth is also a woman who never gives up. She aspires to be actively involved in the US law as a lawyer, even though it will be difficult to achieve due to her status as a woman. When Ruth graduates from college, no law firm would accept her just because she is a woman. Ruth is forced to end up working as a law teacher at Rutgers Law School, which focuses on sex discrimination and law. Using medium-long shot in Picture 4.7, she teaches her students to fight discrimination and inequality. However, her dream of being able to work at a law firm does not disappear until the opportunity came to her to help with the legal case of a caretaker related to gender.

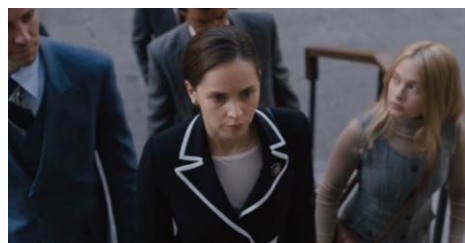


*Picture 4. 7*  
*Ruth teaching discrimination and law*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:33:14)

Ruth has a simple appearance style. Her hair is often left loose or tied simply. She often wears a simple knee-length dress. She also often wears a formal shirt with a blazer and skirt. Almost all styles of her clothing are one theme, with collared tops and skirt bottoms. Ruth also rarely uses clothing accessories, unlike other women around her. Her only accessory for her outfit is a simple pin that she wears only for a special occasion. This pin has been worn by her since her college days until she works as a lawyer. Ruth's appearance is influenced by Ruth's activities which are dense enough that she does not have much time to think about her appearance.



*Picture 4. 8*  
*Ruth loves to wear simple skirt*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:43:27)



*Picture 4. 9*  
*Ruth often wears simple outfit with blazer*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:33:35)

## 4.1.1.2 Setting

### 4.1.1.2.1 Setting of Place



*Picture 4. 10*  
*Bedroom*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:08:32)



*Picture 4.11*  
*Home*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:04:53)



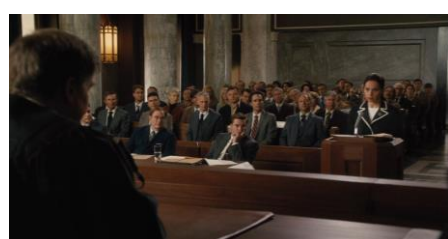
*Picture 4. 12*  
*Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:03:22)



*Picture 4. 13*  
*Ruth's class at Rutgers*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:33:04)



*Picture 4. 14*  
*American Civil Liberties Union*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:43:25)

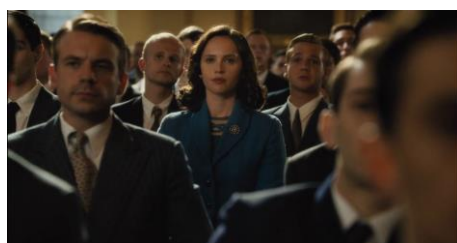


*Picture 4. 15*  
*The Lecture Hall*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:38:17)

*On the Basis of Sex* takes several places as the setting of places. Each place has its role in describing the situation that occurs in the film. The setting of place is divided into three parts: private, domestic, and public sphere. In the private sphere, it focuses on scenes that present the situation

experienced by Ruth and her husband, Martin, in their room. They usually enjoy time alone together as husband and wife and also to discuss their life together. As shown in Picture 4.10 using a long shot, shows Ruth who is chatting with Martin in their room before Ruth goes to a welcoming dinner. In the domestic sphere shown by a medium-long shot in Picture 4.11, where Ruth and Martin are enjoying their meals at home with their daughter, Jane. Certain scenes in this film show the situation of their home, which involves Ruth, Martin, Jane, and James. The public sphere is shown by scenes performed in public spaces in films. As shown in Picture 4.12, taken by an extreme long shot, which shows the Harvard Law School situation. By using an extreme long shot, Picture 4.13 shows the situation in Ruth's classroom at Rutgers Law School. Picture 4.14 with a medium shot shows the situation of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a place often visited by Ruth to meet Mel Wulf, and Picture 4.15, taken by an extreme long shot, shows the situation in The Lecture Hall used for the *Moritz v. Commissioner* trial.

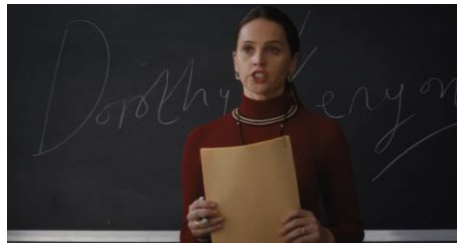
#### **4.1.1.2.2 Setting of Time**



*Picture 4. 16*  
*Ruth first time entering*  
*Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:03:18)



*Picture 4. 17*  
*Ruth studying law at Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:20:11)



*Picture 4. 18*  
*Ruth teaches at Rutgers College*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:35:01)



*Picture 4. 19*  
*Ruth as a lawyer*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:40:49)



*Picture 4. 20*  
*Showing day situation*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:10:20)



*Picture 4. 21*  
*Showing night situation*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:56:37)

The setting of time occurs in two time periods. The first period is Ruth's period in college by the 1950s, and the second one is when Ruth begins to enter the workforce and fight for gender justice in the legal sector. Several happenings in the film show the film's time setting *On the Basis of Sex*. Picture 4.16, taken by medium-long shot, shows Ruth in the crowd when she enters Harvard Law as a new student. This scene shows the beginning of the first period, Ruth's life around the 1950s during studying in law school, which was only a few years before the women's rights movement happened in the United States. A medium shot in Picture 4.17 showing Ruth studying in Harvard law class. Both scenes feature Ruth becomes a minority among men who are Harvard Law students. This indicates that at that time, the role of women in the public sphere — in Ruth's case is higher

education — is still very low as housewives and mothers often give up on being active and contributing outside the home.

Picture 4.18, taken by medium shot, shows Ruth teaching in a law class at Rutgers Law School after she was rejected by many law firms when applying for a job as a woman. In this second period, Ruth has entered the workforce. There are similarities in the two time periods in this film where the role of women in the United States is still relatively minimal in public space. Ruth begins teaching at Rutgers in the same time women in the United States begin to move in Second-Wave Feminism to fight for their rights in the public sphere. Picture 4.19 with a medium-long shot showing Ruth in the courtroom, representing as a lawyer in the *Moritz v. Commissioner* to fight for gender justice. The case arises due to the injustice experienced by Charles Moritz who is discriminated against by his gender. Ruth, apart from busy teaching at Rutgers Law School, begin representing in a court as a legal professional.

The time setting in this film also displays the day and night situation, showing in more detail when the scene takes place. As shown in Figure 4.20, taken by an extra-long shot, which shows the day situation. The scene shows Erwin Griswold with Jim Bozarth and Professor Brown walking in front of the Capitol Building area on a cold day. Picture 4.21, taken by a long shot, shows the night situation. Several scenes are taken in a room with a window that is not covered by curtains to show the weather outside the house.

#### 4.1.1.2.3 Setting of Social Background



*Picture 4. 22*  
*Discrimination by Griswold*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:56:37)



*Picture 4. 23*  
*Ruth teaches discrimination*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:56:37)



*Picture 4. 24*  
*Ruth meets Moritz*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:56:37)



*Picture 4. 25*  
*Ruth fights for equality*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:39:41)

Ruth is surrounded by an environment fixated on traditional gender roles, where only men can be accepted to play a role in the public sphere. Therefore, when Ruth tries to become a lawyer, she must accept many difficulties based on her gender. Direct discrimination against women is shown when Ruth attends a welcoming dinner organized by Dean Griswold, where female students are asked why they are occupying a place at Harvard Law that could belong to men, as it is shown by Picture 4.22, taken by a medium long shot.

Picture 4.23 using a medium-long shot explains the social situation in the United States (US) that often discriminates against women. Ruth discusses this with her students at Rutgers that in the US there are laws



that restrict women's movements in the public sphere. This gender inequality is also shown by Picture 4.24 with a medium shot when Ruth handled the case of Charles Moritz, a caregiver who is discriminated against by his gender. This shows that gender discrimination in the US does not only attack women, but also men. By representing Moritz, Ruth begins to fight gender discrimination and fight for gender justice through the law as it is shown by Picture 4.25 with a medium shot.

### 4.1.1.3 Conflict

#### 4.1.1.3.1 Internal Conflicts



*Picture 4.26*  
*Ruth's confession about her dream*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:33:14)

Internal conflict is closely related to personal problems experienced by the main character. Ruth experiences many personal conflicts within herself when she is treated unfairly only based on her gender. The discrimination she receives from when she studies at Harvard until she applies for a job after college is a motivation for her to fight for gender justice. Ruth often holds back frustration from the discrimination she acquires, but finally, Ruth expresses all her disappointment sarcastically about gender discrimination which has deprived her dream of becoming a lawyer, that

she has to teach in a college instead of fight for gender justice as a lawyer as shown when Ruth and Martin return from a party in Picture 4.26, taken by a close-up shot.

#### **4.1.1.3.2 External Conflicts**

Conflict does not only occur within Ruth as the main character, but also Ruth's conflict with other characters. Throughout the film, Ruth experiences many conflicts with Erwin Griswold, dean of Harvard Law, and Solicitor General who involves in the *Moritz v. Commissioner* gender discrimination case which Ruth handles. During his time as dean, Griswold has begun to show the impression of disliking Ruth since the welcoming dinner. Griswold also refuses to allow Ruth to receive the Harvard Law degree when she applies for a transfer to Columbia, even though previously Harvard students are permitted to do the same. The conflict continues when Ruth represents the *Moritz v. Commissioners* case where Griswold is the party against her. He even uses any means to win the case, such as going to the Department of Defense to list the laws that treat men and women differently.



*Picture 4.27*

*Ruth is rejected when applying for lawyer job  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:27:34)*

In addition to the conflict with Griswold, Ruth also experiences conflict when she applies for work as it is shown by Picture 4.27 taken by a medium shot. Ruth is rejected for many reasons which led to her status as a woman. The rejection of the job application experienced by Ruth forces her to sincerely become a lecturer at Rutgers Law.



*Picture 4.28*  
*Jane debates Ruth concerning Atticus Finch*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:53:32)

Ruth also has a conflict with her daughter, Jane, who considers her mother as a bully. Their relationship fluctuates due to differences in perspectives, as an example their opinion of Atticus Finch as it is shown in Picture 4.28 taken by a medium shot which results in debating and shouting in the kitchen.

Jane is often stubborn and thinks her opinion is right, judging her mother who is too smart but is not able to understand her daughter. On the other hand, Ruth seems to find it difficult to show her care for Jane. She is often rigid and not as soft as Martin when dealing with their children.

## **4.2 Extrinsic Aspects**

The writer will analyze the extrinsic aspects that implicitly describe the main character in the film *On the Basis of Sex*. The core of this analysis are gender inequality and liberal feminism. This analysis will prove that Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a liberal feminist who fights gender inequality and fights for women's rights and gender justice in the United States.

### **4.2.1 Ruth's Challenge in the Fight for Women's Rights and Gender**

#### **Justice**

Inequality between men and women in this movie can be seen from the main character of this film, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who often experiences gender discrimination, especially in public spaces. She suffers from discrimination when she enters Harvard Law until she enters the workplace. These aspects make her commits to fight for women's rights and gender justice.

#### **4.2.1.1 Discrimination Towards Women at Harvard Law**

Ruth chooses Harvard Law School as her next higher education after graduating from Cornell University. She is determined to become a successful lawyer by bringing Harvard law degrees later. However, even though it is known as a well-known university in the legal sector, Harvard Law School still does a lot of gender discrimination, especially against women. The existence of a gender gap in the number of students and male preference in many ways are the evidences of this discrimination.

#### 4.2.1.1.1 Gender Gap at Harvard Law School



*Picture 4.29*  
*Men at Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:01:44)



*Picture 4.30*  
*Ruth walks among men*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:02:06)



*Picture 4.31*  
*Men being majority at Harvard*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:03:30)



*Picture 4.32*  
*Griswold talks about Harvard men*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:04:09)

Although categorized as the best school in the United States, Harvard still has a gender gap in the number of its students. The film opens with the audio song *Ten Thousand Men of Harvard*, a fight song for Harvard students, and the scene shows many men looked masculine wearing gray and black suits, marching through the building, which turns out they are Harvard Law students as it is shown by Picture 4.29 with an extreme long shot. Among the many students, suddenly appeared the only woman who wears a blue dress, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As seen in Picture 4.30 with an extreme long shot, Ruth is seen as the only woman walking among a crowd of men who are about to enter the Harvard building.

By using an extreme long shot, Picture 4.31 shows the number of men at Harvard far more than women. Even the year when Ruth enters Harvard, only nine women are accepted into Harvard Law from a total of five hundred students. The number of differences is very far between men and women. Not much different from the students, the instructors at Harvard Law in this scene are shown to be all-male, led by Erwin Griswold as dean. Almost the entire Austin Hall room is filled with men in formal attire. The small representation of women at Harvard Law shows even a large gender gap in respected schools. A situation where men are the majority at Harvard Law, Harvard Law students are often referred to as "men" or "he" as Dean Griswold says in his speech in Picture 4.32 with a medium shot.

In fact, according to Kaufman, at United States universities, women tend to be taught in the "soft" curriculum, for example, literature, language, and home economics (1984). Areas such as engineering, economics, and law tend to be filled by men. The lack of women representation at Harvard Law School is one example. Harvard Law did not even accept female students until 1950, six years before Ruth Bader Ginsburg attends Harvard. A very long gap since it was first opened in 1817. In one scene, Erwin Griswold comments on Ruth's way of fighting for women's rights in the legal sector, he considers Ruth, as a female student at Harvard who is not grateful after being given the opportunity to study at Harvard Law.

Griswold thinks that women should have had enough after being given the opportunity to study at Harvard Law.

#### 4.2.1.1.2 Men Priority at Harvard Law School



*Picture 4.33*  
*List of students*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:31)



*Picture 4.34*  
*Male student gives opinion*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:44)



*Picture 4.35*  
*Brown chooses a male student*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:59)



*Picture 4.36*  
*Griswold rejects Ruth*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:24:38)

In addition to the gender gap, Harvard Law also prioritizes men over women. Men get priority to enter classes at school and more are expected to become a successful lawyer. Picture 4.33 with an extreme long shot shows a Harvard Law School lecturer looks at the list of students in class in advance to determine who will give an opinion. In this scene, he ignores female students and tends to see photos and names of male students. Picture 4.34, taken by an extreme long shot shows male student gives an opinion in the class, the results of the appointment of lecturer on Picture 4.33. Harvard's tendency to prioritize men is clearly seen by a large number of male students compared

to female and the proportion of male students who are more involved than female ones. Men are given the opportunity to oppose and argue in each class, while women are less given the opportunity to do so. Picture 4.35 with a medium shot shows when Ruth tries to express her opinion in Professor Brown's class. She raises her hand high and hopes Professor Brown would give her a chance to argue, but Professor Brown chooses a male student, Mr. Fitzpatrick instead of her. Ruth must be disappointed that she is not chosen at all, and realize that only men get the opportunity to speak in class.

By using a long shot, Picture 4.36 shows when Ruth is rejected to apply for a university transfer program. Ruth submits a proposal so that she could be transferred to Columbia Law School to be able to live with her husband who has gotten a job in New York. Ruth argues that she has to accompany her husband in New York given the health condition of her husband who has just recovered from cancer. Ruth proposes a transfer program in order to continue her law studies until graduating from Columbia University but still obtains a degree from Harvard Law School. Unfortunately, the transfer request is not approved by the dean of Harvard Law, Erwin Griswold, although Ruth insists she can transfer because the program had been done several times before by students at Harvard Law, all of which Ruth mentions are male students. Griswold seems to find ways that had been legal but becomes illegal for female students, while also indirectly not allowing Ruth to graduate with a degree from Harvard.



As explained by Lorber, women get less favorable situations than men in many ways, which results in men getting more favorable situations and positions. In Ruth's case at Harvard Law, she finds an unfavorable situation due to her gender. She is discriminated in expressing opinions, the opportunity to be active in campus activities, to join the programs provided by the campus. Ruth does not get opportunities as good as men while studying at Harvard, which in the end results her not getting a degree from Harvard.

#### 4.2.1.2 Gender Inequality at Workplace



*Picture 4.37*  
*Greene rejects Ruth*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:28:45)



*Picture 4.38*  
*Ruth stares at law firm building*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:31)



*Picture 4.39*  
*Ruth tells about her rejection*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:31)



*Picture 4.40*  
*Ruth with her fake smile*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:10:31)

After graduating from Columbia Law School, Ruth tries to apply for a job as a lawyer. Unfortunately, no law firm accepts her. All of them refuse by giving different reasons, from how women are too emotional to be lawyers, women cannot be good partners, women will be very busy with their children, so

women can make the wives of male workers jealous as said by lawyer Greene in Picture 4.37 with a medium shot. As Greene says, “A woman and a mother and a Jew to boot!” (00.27.09). These reasons are basically only because Ruth is a woman.

Although carrying a resume with experience studying at Cornell, Harvard, and Columbia, does not make Ruth easily accepted into law firms. Using a medium shot, Picture 4.38 shows Ruth looking at the law firm's building with disappointment. Many times she is rejected as a lawyer, a dream that she has long wanted and fought for.

Ruth finally gives up and accepts the offer of a job position as a teacher at Rutgers Law School. She tells Martin, her husband, about the refusal she has received to apply for a job as a lawyer shown by Picture 4.39 with a medium shot. Martin tries to encourage Ruth not to give up applying for a job at other law firms, but Ruth says that he should be happy with the fact his wife getting a job. Ruth tries to look tough as it is shown by Picture 4.40 with a medium shot, even in fact she is disappointed with the injustice she receives just because of her gender.

#### **4.2.2 Liberal Feminism Values**

Liberal feminism is one branch of feminist thought. This branch focuses on the equality and justice of individual rights in each sector. This concept is in relation to women's struggle to achieve the same rights and freedoms as men. In this subsection will focus on the values of liberal feminism that is depicted by Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

### 4.2.2.1 Law of Equal Liberty

The concept of law of equal liberty prioritizes the freedom of each individual to do what they want, including women. According to Mill, women also have the same freedom, power, and opportunities as men. Discrimination against women includes inequality and violation of the concept of law of equal liberty.

#### 4.2.2.1.1 Freedom in Education



*Picture 4.41*

*Ruth is annoyed*

(On the Basis of Sex: 00:08:32)



*Picture 4.42*

*Ruth stands out*

(On the Basis of Sex: 00:11:52)

In achieving her dream of becoming a lawyer, Ruth tries hard by studying law at Harvard. This is a rare opportunity for women to study up to graduate school in one of the best law schools in the United States. However, despite being known as the best school, Harvard still discriminates against its students on the basis of sex. Gender gap and male as priorities at Harvard prove this.

Ruth begins her studies at Harvard Law when it has just started accepting female students. At first, Harvard did not accept female students at all because the law is considered not the province of women. Nonetheless, Ruth continues to work hard to be part of the best law school

in the United States even though it means she has to be a minority in her class. At the beginning of her time at Harvard Law, Ruth and the rest of the female students are even asked by Dean Griswold about why women are feasible in Harvard Law that should be intended for men. The question clearly asks the representation of women at Harvard Law. Ruth is initially annoyed at Griswold's question and responds with a sarcastic statement. Ruth thinks that people come to Harvard to become lawyers and that should not be asked, even to female students. It is shown by Picture 4.41, taken by a long shot when Ruth tells Martin what has happened with Dean Griswold. This moment becomes Ruth's passion to prove that although she is a woman, she is able to survive at Harvard and do her best.

Given a chance to enter the best law school does not mean that female students at Harvard Law have the freedom to actively participate in educational activities. Ruth has gender discrimination when professors at Harvard Law are more concerned with male students than the female ones. When Ruth tries to actively participate in class, she is ignored by her lecturer. As happened in Professor Brown's class in Picture 4.42 with an extreme long shot, where Ruth repeatedly raises her hand to answer questions and gives opinions but receives no response. But Ruth does not give up, she still raises her hand and is optimistic that she would get a response. Until finally Ruth is noticed by the professor and actively participates in class. The fact that she and other female students are often underestimated by the lecturer, it does not make her give up. Ruth actually

wants to prove that women can also be like men. She believes that women also have the same freedom as men, including in education.

Education is the basis for each individual to have a role in society. It shapes students how they think and act on themselves and others. Therefore, it is important for everyone to get access to education from basic education to higher education. Discrimination received by Ruth while at Harvard shows that the freedom and the right of women to achieve education is still a luxury thing, whereas according to the concept of law of equal liberty that every individual should have the right to have the freedom to do whatever they want including freedom in education and that's what Ruth does by passionately studies at Harvard and believes she has the same rights and freedoms as men to get an education.

#### **4.2.2.1.2 Equal Employment Opportunity**

Ruth's dream is to become a lawyer, to be the one stands before the court. After graduating from college, she tries to apply for a job at many law firms. Unfortunately, no law firm accepts her based on her sex. They reject Ruth for many reasons, in essence, she is rejected simply because she is a woman and the notion that law is not considered as the province of women. Ruth still does not give up trying to apply for a job at a law firm with the belief that she is capable and also entitled to the same opportunity to become a lawyer. However, Ruth is still rejected. This discrimination shows the inequality of employment opportunities on the basis of sex.

Ruth forcefully accepts a job as a law lecturer at Rutgers Law and has stopped applying as a lawyer until she helps her husband handling the Charles Moritz case related to gender inequality. Ruth begins enthusiastic to 'stand before the court' again by handling the case and fighting gender inequality through the law. Her enthusiasm in handling the Moritz case shows the belief that she still believes that women have the freedom to do what they want, including her, a woman who wants to be a lawyer and fight for justice through the law. Ruth believes that every individual has the same opportunity in getting a job regardless of their gender.

#### 4.2.2.1.3 Women Freely Act as Partners for Their Husbands



*Picture 4.43*  
*Ruth supports Martin*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:18:56)



*Picture 4.44*  
*Ruth takes care Jane*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:21:32)



*Picture 4.45*  
*Martin cooks for the family*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:35:43)



*Picture 4.46*  
*Martin takes care children*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:35:52)

Ruth's relationship with her husband, Martin, is quite different from the relationship between husband and wife in their society. When a wife tends

to act only to serve her husband, Ruth acts as a partner who helps and supports her husband, as does Martin who helps and supports Ruth. Aside from the fact they have the same interests in the legal sector, Ruth and Martin support each other's dreams of becoming lawyers and starting a new life as husband and wife who both study at Harvard Law. As a husband and life partner, Martin encourages Ruth on her first day at Harvard, saying she can do it because she is smart. He listens carefully to Ruth's story on her first day and gives her support and advice. When Martin gets cancer, as shown in Picture 4.43 with a close-up shot, Ruth faithfully accompanies her husband. She still accompanies and supports it. During Martin's illness, Ruth also plays a dual role in doing all her activities and doing her husband's work. Ruth is willing to attend her husband's class in Harvard's second year, doing her husband's work at Harvard while she continues to attend her own Harvard class, does domestic work and takes care of Jane, her baby child as in Picture 4.44 with a medium shot.

When Martin graduates from Harvard Law and is accepted into one of the law firms in New York, Ruth supports him as it is her husband's dream for being a lawyer, therefore; she proposes to Dean Griswold to transfer her to Columbia Law School located in New York to follow her husband. She insists on her application since she is worried about letting her husband who has just recovered from cancer to be alone in New York.

Although in the end the proposal was rejected by Dean Griswold, Ruth still decides to accompany her husband and move to Columbia Law.

This mutual support as a partner is also shown when Ruth is rejected by many law firms in New York. Martin continues to support his wife to achieve her dream as a lawyer, even when Ruth is already a law lecturer at Rutgers, Martin offers Ruth a case in relation to gender inequality and allows her to be involved in it. Unlike other men in their society, Martin supports and allows his wife to develop and achieve her dreams.

Mill's concept of women as partners and not as servants of the husband is shown by the household life of Ruth and Martin Ginsburg. As a wife, Ruth acts more as a partner who supports and helps her husband, while Martin does not act as a husband who only wants to be served, but also supports and helps his wife. As shown by Picture 4.45 with a medium long shot, Martin helps with domestic work by cooking for the family while Ruth is busy working, Martin also takes care of the children while Ruth is teaching her class, as it is shown by Picture 4.46 with a medium long shot.

In contrast to most husband and wife in the United States society at that time, where a wife is more active in domestic affairs and serves her husband, Ruth and Martin show the opposite. Both act as a team that supports and helps each other in building their family life.



#### 4.2.2.2 Women's Rights and Struggle towards Gender Justice



*Picture 4.47*  
*Ruth states her opinion*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:58:13)



*Picture 4.48*  
*Kenyon argues her opinion*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 00:59:12)



*Picture 4.49*  
*Ruth and one of team members*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:02:45)



*Picture 4.50*  
*Griswold's statement*  
(On the Basis of Sex: 01:10:39)

In Picture 4.47 taken by medium shot, Ruth states her opinion to Dorothy Kenyon, that to achieve gender justice in a country, aside from taking action on the streets, the country's legal system must be changed. People need to change their mindset related to gender justice and women's rights, but gender inequality will still exist if the country's legal system has not changed. That is what Ruth does, by fighting women's rights and gender justice through legal rights. Ruth believes that it needs civil movement and changes in the system simultaneously in achieving gender justice.

When Ruth tries to get involved in the Moritz case, the legal system in the United States still distinguishes many people's rights based on gender.

There are large inequalities between men and women that are governed by the country's legal system. Kenyon said that the country is not ready to change the system in relation to gender justice and giving equal rights for any gender, as it is shown by Picture 4.48 with close-up shot, showing Kenyon's pessimism about changes in achieving gender justice in the United States.

By using medium shot, Picture 4.49 shows Ruth, still optimistic, assisted by a team of students at Rutgers, looks for gender inequality issues contained in the US Code to be fought in court in the Moritz case. Even so, Ruth has to fight a group of people who do not want the system to be changed, like Dean Griswold. In Picture 4.50, taken by medium shot Griswold even says he wants to eliminate the idea of gender discrimination once and for all, which shows the difficulty of changing the legal system in the United States which is still gender-stereotyped. Ruth, on the other hand, believes that she is able to participate in changing the law step by step in order to fight for women's rights and gender justice and stop gender inequality.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

*On the Basis of Sex* is a film that represents gender inequality issues in the United States. Ruth Bader Ginsburg experiences gender discrimination in many spheres and the struggles she faces in fighting for women's rights and gender justice. Gender discrimination leads her to fight gender inequality and fight for women's rights and gender justice.

Gender inequality generally disadvantages and discriminates women in many sectors including giving opinions in the public sphere, access to education and economic resources, and decision-making. This point is shown by the gender gap in the education sector, where Ruth is a minority of the large number of male students who dominate Harvard Law, and the gender gap in the workplace where the number of men in law firms is far more than women. This gender gap makes it clear that there is a tendency to prioritize men over women. Gender reform feminism, a movement to make women and men more equal is able to be a solution in facing gender inequality. It comprises of three movements, one of them is liberal feminism. Ruth Bader Ginsburg shows liberal feminism value, where she believes that rights and freedoms belong to all individuals, including women. What Ruth has experienced and fought for shows the values of liberal feminism, such as the law of equal liberty, and women's rights and gender justice.

The concept of law of equal liberty states that each individual has the freedom to do what they want, and the existence of gender inequality is a violation in the principle of freedom. This point is divided into freedom in education, equal

employment opportunity, and women are free to act as partners for their husbands. We are able to see freedom in education when Ruth has the opportunity to study at Harvard Law, a rare opportunity for women, and how she tries to be involved as active as men in education. Equal employment opportunity is shown when Ruth tries to find work in a law firm, even though she is a woman. Meanwhile, women freely act as partners for their husbands can be seen in how Ruth, not only acts as a wife who serves her husband, but as an active partner who supports and helps each other.

The final point is women's rights and gender justice. This concept states that women are able to do many things, but do not have as many opportunities as men. Women's rights tend to be limited by society. This is what Ruth experienced, limitation women's rights, gender discrimination, and injustice. Ruth fights against gender inequality and believes that women are able to do what men can do by fighting for women's rights and gender justice through the law.

In inference, *On the Basis of Sex* movie shows how women fight gender inequality and fight for women's rights and gender justice. What is experienced and fought by Ruth can inspire women to get the same opportunities and rights in all spheres of life.

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