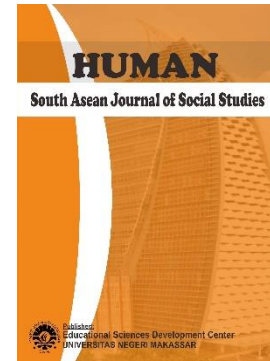


Eleanor's Power in *Crazy Rich Asian*

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Abstract. Women are a part of society, but sometimes their position is unequal. This modern era a person's position in society is generally based on how much its material. A person's wealth greatly influences the environment without exception for women. The purposes of this research are to reveal the effect that happens to society from Eleanor's power and to find out the way of Eleanor deal with her social stratification problem. The theory used in this research is Weberian stratification. Weberian stratification is depicted three class systems which are status, economic and party. The qualitative research methodology is applied to analyze data. Instrument of the data collection is note taking. The results of this research showed that the effect of Eleanor's power as domination made her becoming a leader, the effect of her power as contributed made her becoming independent and the effect of her power as empowerment made her society to feel the impact that she has.

Keywords: Weberian stratification, Eleanor, women's power



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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays women hold many important positions in society, such as in family and in working field. They can have successful careers, married, being mothers, and involved in communities. Women are not only becoming a significant unit of the society but also influencing the course of social changing in society. Women are important element of our society. The modern society has started recognizing the individual identity of women. Women are believed to have their aspirations, abilities and qualities as a man does have and it is also agreed that women should have the opportunities to develop their faculties and to express them according to their own choice.

There are many conditions in part of countries that showing the treatment women faced. In East Asian, cultures are based on a traditional societal hierarchy in which women are the lowest members and must show deference to men. Long time ago, Japanese women under forty years old were not allowed to go out of the house without good reason such as if women need to visit the hospital, and women were required to use a more humble form of language than men. Women cannot upgrade their skill, career or everything women that want for their pleasure. Everything is always based on what men or their husband order.

Wollstonecraft (1992) argued that women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because women lack of education. She suggested that both men and women should be treated as rational beings and imagines a social order founded reason. Wollstonecraft, clearly started that the chance for women is the biggest reason why women always became under men, women were not truly born with the label inferior to men, if women is given a good education women can be as smart as men, had a good positions in society and had power to do what women want, and also influenced the society with their arguments (Wollstonecraft, 1992).

At the beginning of the 19th century, women authors were largely confined to the genres of children's literature and poetry. The emotionalism of poetry, particularly poetry in which depth of feeling and sentiment, morality, and intuition were expressed and celebrated, was considered a "feminine genre," suitable for women authors (Iskandarovna & Kenjabayevna, 2020).

In 2013 a novel is published entitled *Crazy Rich Asia*. The novel was written by Kevin Kwan, who said that he wrote the novel to introduce a contemporary Asia to a North American audience and claimed that the story is closest to his own childhood in Singapore (Winatian, Nafisah, & Novianti, 2019). The novel also showed the female characters are mostly in an important position in society and have a control and power on them. In *Crazy Rich Asian*, there is female character who has kind of power to others characters, namely Eleanor (Nasution, Nasution, & Pohan, 2021).

Eleanor is captured as Nick's mother who is in the novel being as a scary potential mother in law and a mother who did everything in home. In fact, she is just a woman who gets her strength after many struggles whether proving to her own

mother in law that she was good enough for her husband and protecting her family and always put her family first.

Eleanor shows that women also have power in themselves. Meanwhile mostly Asian women have been stereotype as submissive but in the novel she can make glamorous, strong and confident as women's image (Aisah, 2019). She was portrayed herself became women who proudly present herself that she could control her life, control others, and participate in society. Her existences were acknowledged in society. In this novel the Eleanor is showing her domination to become acknowledge in society by using her power, and describing how society perspective and behave to her. As the result that researcher interested about the novel.

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

Since the research requires data from the novel, the method that used during the process of the research is the descriptive qualitative method. This method was chosen because the data used for the analysis are in the form of words and sentences from the novel. Important keywords, events and settings from the novel were crucial in conducting this research. The researcher first read the novel to understand what the story is about. Later on, the researcher writes down the question of the events in the novel.

There are some steps of data analysis, those are: Firstly, the data found will be identified in to the data three kind of power which are contributed, domination and empowerment in Eleanor character and the effects of that powers and the way Eleanor overcome her society. Secondly, the data will be describing based on Weberian stratification that concept of three class system that described in to the data which reflects Eleanor's power. The last, making a conclusion based on the analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Effect of Eleanor's power in society

This part will present analysis the result of the research. This analysis is given based on the research finding power of woman main character which are power as contributed, power as domination and power as empowerment through Weberian stratification theory.

a. Power as contributed

"You are not seeing the big picture. This girl is obviously a cunning, deceitful GOLD DIGGER! You know as well as I do that your son can never marry someone like that. Can you imagine how your family is going to react when he brings this gold digger home?" (Kwan, 2013)(P: 104/ D: 4)

From the word 'GOLD DIGGER', Eleanor draws an image that Rachel a girl who only wants to take all Nick's money or gain benefit from Young. For Eleanor, Rachel is

nothing more than a girl who had been taken all the benefits by dating Nick. Wealth is the based and Rachel does not have it and that is the reason Eleanor could not accept her. Eleanor takes an action to know all information about Rachel such as her family tree. *"She is just not suitable for you, Nicky. She does not come from the right background."*(Kwan, 2013)(P: 436/ D: 5)

It showed that Rachel behaviour is unacceptable by Eleanor. The reason is Rachel cannot to be with Nick because of her background. As one and only grandson of Young family, Nick supposes to be with a woman whose background as good as Young. Rachel is not included in those criteria, because she is just from unknown background family who lives with her mother as a single parent and also poor (Farkhan, Putra, & Anfasa, 2019). Then, Rachel is not suitable with the Eleanor's society. According to Weberian stratification, Rachel is not has wealth, prestige and power . Rachel is not has wealth such as asset, prestige such as respect from people and power over people.

"I've already asked Lorena Lim to use all her Beijing contacts to investigate the girl's family in China. We need to know everything. I don't want to leave a single stone unturned. We need to be prepared for every possibility." (Kwan, 2013)(P: 104/ D: 6)

As a mother, Eleanor needs to fix the problem using her wealth as daughter in law and part of Young, and be prepared for everything. Anything could be done for her without anyone interference because in she has wealth with be able to do anything without men interference. An investigator could be hired for Eleanor to gain information about Rachel and her decision cannot be declined. The quotation shows that Eleanor was on the phone and told her husband that she hires an investigator. *"Eleanor took out a faded manila envelope, the same envelope she had been given by the investigator in Shenzhen."*(Kwan, 2013)(P: 459/ D: 14)

By using her wealth, she hires an investigator to investigate all about Rachel and get all the evidence that she can use to proof Rachel is unworthy for Nick and make them separate. All decision about Nick is based on Eleanor and Eleanor's decision is Rachel is unworthy for Nick. Without Eleanor approval, the relation between Nick and Rachel would not be approved by the Young.

"Aiyah, Nadine, my whole life has been spent protecting him within my husband's family, and positioning him to be the favorite grandson." (Kwan, 2013)(P: 509/ D: 15)

Eleanor contributed to her little family (herself, Phillip and Nick) then she can survive in Young family through Nick. Eleanor is aimed to make Nick becoming *Ah Ma's* favorite as the result that Nick will stand on the top of the Young. After being

Mrs. Young, Eleanor ensuring her position is stronger by being mother of Young's top man.

The main purpose in power as contribute is make woman to contribute in every aspect in social then proof woman is equal to man. Based on three class systems by Weberian Stratification which wealth, prestige and power, Eleanor is woman who has power in her society (Ridwan & Adji, 2019). Wealth in is main role in society give Eleanor way or chance to contribute in society. Eleanor is contributed in her society such as make a decision for her life and people around her. Then, prestige is become a part of Young family Eleanor gain respect from people in her society because the status she has. Last is power, Eleanor definitely has power because of her wealth and status. Wealth, power and prestige helps Eleanor to contributed in her society. Eleanor's power shown in her status, class and party based on wealth, prestige and power (Aisah, 2019).

b. Power as domination

"The place of honor on Carol's Qing dynasty Huanghuali bed was always reserved for Eleanor, for even though this was Carol's house and she was the one who married to the billionaire financier, Carol still deferred to her." (Kwan, 2013)(P: 23-24/D: 1)

The Young's name had been given Eleanor a big change in her life, from nothing to something. It began when she married Phillip Young, son of prestigious Young family. As a daughter in law of Young family, Eleanor becomes the leader of her friends thus also from rich family in Singapore. It can be proven, when she visits her friend house, Carol. Even though it is Carol's house but Eleanor always is treated as main priority in the house.

Start from the place of Carol's Qing dynasty *Huanghuali* bed is always presented as Eleanor place. It should be the place for Carol as the household but Carol knows Eleanor of the Young position is higher than her, and gives that *Huanghuali* bed for Eleanor. Next, Carol shows the effect of Young, the fact that Carol married to the billionaire financier but she still obeys to Eleanor orders because Eleanor had trumped all girls by becoming Mrs. Young. This is of course gave Eleanor privilege to be a "the first lady" in her circle(Vijay, 2019).

In data 2 and 3 explain the example of the Eleanor's effect in society. Eleanor put herself as leader who controls, arranges and orders people in her society. She becomes the one whom deciding the final decision and gives the orders to others (**data 2**). Besides that, Eleanor also has people behind her (**data 3**). Thus happens because Eleanor has money or wealth then people should be aware when they treat Eleanor, because she can do anything with wealth.

The Young name she bear, has made her position becoming equal with other rich family in Singapore, or even more. The effect of Young family on her made her from inferior became superior. It is all because Young family is richer than other rich family,

Also the position of Young Family is high ranking in society, and Eleanor is part of Young Family.

"Mr. Wong, I'll give you thirty thousand yuan in cash if you can take me right now," Eleanor commanded (Kwan, 2013)(P: 274/ D: 12).

Wealth has a vital role in society and show how woman treated and how many things they can do by their wealth (Ridwan & Adji, 2019). Then, Eleanor presents social stratification in real situation, as a part of Young she definitely has more than enough wealth that she can use for everything she want, including anything she needs to support her mission. The quotation shows that she can give as much as give thirty thousand yuan to Mr.Wong which is mean a lot of money just for him to take her to somewhere. By using her wealth or money she can afford what she wants or needs.

"Rachel laughed, her nerves quickly dissipating. Nick's mother was so funny--- why had she been nervous?" (Kwan, 2013)(P: 317/ D: 13).

After visiting some of rich family's event and meeting to people those relate to Eleanor, Rachel was told about Eleanor's characters and be aware around her. To people, Eleanor was depicted as a person who needs to be treated carefully. This thought proofs Eleanor's power as domination is quite powerful.

After being told about Eleanor, it made Rachel feeling nervous to meet her because she needs to be aware. Things that made it even worse is she had already known about Nick's family richness and a bad treatment she has gotten. She even imagines Eleanor as an imperious grande dame with a powdered white face and a tight perm dressed in some Hillary Clinton esque pantsuit.

Then, Eleanor with the wealth, power and prestige is like what weber thinks about Weberian stratification. Married and being a part of prestigious family is a big movement for Eleanor in society. By having the wealth, has given her chance to dominate people. People also obeys her because Eleanor's wealth, power and prestige then Eleanor automatically has a power to dominate people because that (Monica, Widisanti, & Rejeki, 2020).

Weber thinks a person's power can be shown in social through their status, their class (economic) and through their party. Eleanor's power in social can be seen through her status as Young's daughter in law, her class (economic) which is above from people in her society and her party is surrounded by prestigious circles (A'Yun, 2019).

c. Power as Empowerment

"This is a good plan. Let's go shop till we drop in Shenzhen. We'll let Nicky and this girl manage on their own, and then I will return with my valuable information." (Kwan, 2013) (P: 109/ D: 7)

Eleanor uses her wealth to take a flight to Shenzhen. She made a plan with her society. Her plan is going to Shenzhen when Rachel and Nick arrive in Singapore, spending money as much as they want for shopping, meeting the investigator who she asks Lorena to look for and after that she will be going back to Singapore with the information. Later, she can use the information as an ammo to convince *Ah Ma* rejecting Rachel then Eleanor already has a protection from *Ah Ma* that helps her to made Rachel and Nick separate. Eleanor is representative of woman who has responsibility to arrange their agenda and take control on their own live by using the wealth they have.

"To Eleanor, every single person occupied a specific space in the elaborately constructed social universe in her mind. Like most of the woman in her crowd, Eleanor could meet another Asian anywhere in the world---say, over dim sum at Royal China in London, or shopping in the lingerie department of David Jones in Sydney---and within thirty seconds of learning their name and where they lived, she would implement her social algorithm and calculate precisely where they stood in her constellation based on who their family was, who else they were related to, what their approximate net worth might be, how the fortune was derived, and what family scandals might have occurred within the past fifty years." (Kwan, 2013) (P: 58/ D: 8)

Eleanor was described as a woman who has capability to know people just by their name. Eleanor can easily know their background, wealth, fortune even what family scandals might have occurred within the past fifty years. The reason is Eleanor has some kind her own social algorithm, after marrying and being part of a young family for 34 years making Eleanor familiar with things such as knowing someone's origin and how much wealth they have. Eleanor uses his social algorithm to determine which people are worthy to connect with her and her family. Also, with the background as daughter in law of Young Family, Eleanor can easily know people background with Young's relation.

"I was never allowed to set foot in the kitchen at my mother-in-law's house. Now I get to eat in my own kitchen and actually watch the food being cooked!" (Kwan, 2013) (P: 321/ D: 16).

Even though Eleanor is banned to touch kitchen in her mother in law's house, she still has way to get what she want. She is Phillip's wife which mean she has a lot of money, if she cannot touch the kitchen there then she can create her own kitchen and realize her dream. She has no problem with anything, she is Eleanor Young wife of Phillip's Young that means she will get what she want because money is no big deal for her.

"Don't worry, Auntie Elle. I promised you would see to it, and after tonight, Rachel Chu will wish she had never set foot on this island!" (Kwan, 2013)(P: 407/ D: 17)

The empowerment of being part of Young is strong enough to make anybody feel the power too so they can feel save to do anything because there is Young behind them. The previous quotation show Francesca promised to make Rachel leave the Singapore. Francesca feel brave to do that because Eleanor Young. As a Young, Eleanor has the power and when she did what Eleanor wants there is no reason to do not that, she has the power too because it is Eleanor Young orders.

The power of Eleanor's empowerment in that quotation is how you use your power to make other feels the power too and have a power. Eleanor has power from being a part in Young. The kind of power that Eleanor use is prestige, that prestige is consist of status as a Young. After that Eleanor gives an order to Francesca to do something, Francesca does what she had been told with the power from Eleanor.

"Eleanor took a few moments to answer, stirring her decaf cappuccino purposefully. She had been in a state of panic for weeks, but now that she had finally met this Rachel Chu, a supernatural calm had settled over her. She could see what needed to be done, and she knew she had to proceed covertly." (P: 326/ D: 18)

Power as empowerment gives a chance for woman to control their own life such as choose what they want to do, make a decision about their life, or set their own agenda (Ridwan & Adji, 2019). After met Rachel for the first time in real situation, Eleanor realized Rachel is nothing compare to her. The first impression of Rachel is not as strong as what Eleanor thought. Eleanor feels relieve after met Rachel in real because Eleanor knows Rachel is easy to mate. That is because Rachel did not have anything that can beat Eleanor. Rachel did not have power, money and also status that strong enough to made Eleanor feel worry. That wealth proof Eleanor is higher than Rachel in that situation.

The situation in the society where wealth is thing that crucial for people because it is based how people will behave to us (Nasution et al., 2021). Wealth condition is play a vital role around woman and it show how woman treated by the

wealth they have. That is what Eleanor think, she does not need to be worry about Rachel. Eleanor has kinds of wealth so it easy for her to beat Rachel.

Wealth is thing that can support Eleanor's power as empowerment. Power as empowerment is how woman take control their own life even set their own agenda or plan. Eleanor be able to do that all because the wealth. Wealth such as money is support her to make a plan such as flight to Shenzhen with her groups, hired the investigator even spent much money just to pay someone. Power that she has as Young which is a part of prestige, Eleanor knows how powerful it so she use it and make people feels that power and even has the power too.

CONCLUSION

The researcher found out first is the effects of power as domination. The effects are the materials as Mrs. Young made her became the leader whom controls people in her society. Her status is higher than before and also from other rich family because the title as Mrs. Young. Eleanor present how important the materials in women society because it is determine how society behave to women and the chance women can get to participating. Second, Power as contributed is Eleanor has chance to contribute (participant) in society such as maintain her position in Young family and make a decision. Last, power as empowerment is Eleanor use the materials to decide what she want about her own lives and made others feel her power and has the power also.

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