

Women Movements' Perspective in E.L. James's Fifty Shade of Trilogy

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Abstract— *Feminism is a popular terms dealing with inequality, gender, sex, education, cultural, unfair, legal, law, economy, empowerment of female against male. The women movements are the action for women to be able to speak for themselves. Many women write literatures to express their thought of feminism to inform and educate readers about the inequality. Then, the focus of this research is to find out the women movements' perspectives on Fifty Shades Trilogy to make reader realize the substantial matters about the author' hidden message. This research is using interpretivist Paradigm that is aimed to understand the subjectivity world of human experiences. The approach is qualitative methodology and using the novels as the primary data. Regarding to the National Women's Liberation Conference in 1978 there were seven demands was finalized. The seven demands are 1) equal pay for equal work, 2) equal education and equal opportunities, 3) free contraception and abortion on demand, 4) free 24-hour nurseries, 5) legal and financial independence for women, 6) an end to discrimination against lesbians, 7) freedom for all women from intimidation by the threat or use of male violence; and end to the laws, assumptions and institutions which perpetuate male dominance and men's aggression towards women. The symbolic interactionism theory by Herbert Blumer collides the meaning, thinking and language from conversation on the story and found the seventh demands that written on the novel.*

Keywords— *Fifty shades of Grey, Feminism, Seven Demands of Women Movements.*

I. INTRODUCTION

It has been century since the women bravely stand and ask for more despite all of the women' natural roles. History showed that it was not easy to achieve and prove that women have the equal rights as men in political status, education, marital status, reproductive rights, equal pays, job opportunity, financial and legal independence, freedom of will and others. It always shown that men have mostly held all the concrete powers; Since the patriarchy times men deemed it is

useful to keep women dependence to them (Beauvoir, 2011). The evolution of women demands grew because of the economical, political, as well as social condition. Back then, the freedom to speak about those concerns was limited. Hence, women have to do other ways to catch people attention. There were moments that all women were hand in hand marching down in the street, doing crazy things to attract the attention of mass people, making petition, collecting autographs, lobbying the legislative, making coalition with men and/or women who had the same interest. Especially, in those early years where women have no choice but to follow the rules, tradition and cultures that had been passing on in the family, environment and place where they belong to.

It all begun when women are opposed to the arguments that they must be sacrifice themselves to take care of the family matters and not given the privileges to own property, heritage and treasure. It is in line as stated in the bibles that women will be the one who responsible to the motherhood process including getting married, pregnancy, giving birth, breastfeeding and responsible for the growth and development of her children. Although, some of them are willing to live as women stereotyping, but some of them are willing to rebel its stereotype. Women need freedom, respects and the opportunity to have career.

The old generations who lived in the past that have no choices have been suffered from the inequality. The life customs had shaped women to be obedience to her husband (Beauvoir, 2011), submissive and dependable to man. Things were going good back then. They were fine with sexist, racist, misogyny, as long as they were in the same circumstances and status. The rich and the poorer, the white and the black, the high class and low class, the educated and non-educated were seems to know their own place. They were the objects of any violence from their own man. They were expected to be perfect but have no voice to express how the feel is. Meanwhile, the men keep on thinking that women were not capable enough to handle men's job. They were always considered themselves to be the tough one because they were able to do rough job. This era caught

perceptions that women were weak, no competence, no education, no power and not strong enough to be involved in man's world. The nineteenth century pioneers the women movements. The preceding journey of women movements took long time and exhausting but it was worth to fight for. Although nowadays women have the privileges to continue life as they proposed but somehow along the way, women still face the old paradigm of discrimination in the society.

In 1978, the British women finalized several issues that proposed during 1970 conference. At the National Women's Liberation Conference the seven women demands that had been addressed were; 1) equal pay for equal work, 2) equal education and equal opportunities, 3) free contraception and abortion on demand, 4) free 24-hour nurseries, 5) legal and financial independence for women, 6) an end to discrimination against lesbians, 7) freedom for all women from intimidation by the threat or use of male violence; and end to the laws, assumptions and institutions which perpetuate male dominance and men's aggression towards women. James as the author of Fifty Shades Trilogy successfully collaborates the love stories, adult fantasy with supporting background of women movements.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Women Movements

2.1.1 The First Women Movements

Abraham Lincoln is the 16th president of the United States of America. His Gettysburg speech was one of the best-known speeches in America. He described ours as a nation "conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal". His speech gave moral symbol that inspires and guides the American life.

Susan B. Anthony and Elisabeth Cody Stanton founded National Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in 1869 on the progressive era in the United States of America. They raised the public awareness for suffragist and had become the pioneer of woman movements' activist who protested about the rights to vote and property right and property. They lobbied the U.S Congress for constitutional amendment.

Woman plays significant roles in their daily life. Although not many women were working back then but they were all busy with the routines. Daily routines as housewife who taking care of husband, children, parents, and errands keep them busy, somehow they manage to find time to do other beneficiary things while waiting for the family come back home. Women involves in many kind activities such as community, church/religious event, school, charity, and so on.

Whether we realize it or not, they have contributed to massive amount of social events, economics, education, and networking. Yet, their contributions were not enough to prove that woman has the same rights to man. Furthermore, married women they have no privilege in owning their property, no legal claim to any money that they had and have no participations in politic. Women were totally expected to focus with the domestic life.

In 1874, Woman Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was established. As the leader, Frances Willard declared "A wider freedom is coming to the women of America. Too long has it been held that woman has no right to enter these movements. Politic is the place for Women". She was an educator, activist suffragist and temperance activist. She became the greatest influence in the woman transformation. Through her leadership, she gained a lot of membership. By 1890 the WCTU became the largest female organization in the United States. This organization also proposed several agenda such as women suffrage, women's right, education reform and labor reform. Her reason was because many man were under the influence of alcohol and narcotics. She always thought that if the liquor was sold freely it might affect to the women at home. It would give impact to women because under certain drunk level, men can behave badly toward his family. It also could lead into poverty, dreariest, hopeless and encourage men to steal and abuse. She urged women to be in local and national political because of the intelligence, education, spirit, and experience.

After that, the women movements first wave was starting and with global networking they were hand in hand to stand together to fight for the women's right. They go down to the street and march along the way to the national capital to protest so that their voice could be heard to the entire nation. Finally, the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18th 1920. The Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the rights to vote. Hence, those were the ending of the long-haul journey of women first movement wave.

2.1.2 The Second Women Movements

After the first women wave movement was ratified, the women live in peace. The progressive era enhance the American to have growing economic condition. It leads to new comfortable of living standard thus giving many opportunities for women to have better education, working field and social economic status. Many parents encouraged the children to achieve high education to have better life achievements.

Apparently, the modern culture was not welcome for the old-fashioned American man. The old-fashioned American men still think that they are superior and powerful than women. They think of women physically is not strong enough to do men's job. Functionally than men is the one who should provide for his family. For over generations, it had been women's duty to fulfill the family needs and comfort their wife and family. Men tend to be more ambitious, competitive and have high confidence so the women will be dependable to them. In partnership, the man is the one who need to be satisfied and the women should be the submissive to their needs. Often, they forgot that women desires. The old saying was "boys don't cry" meant that the one you should cry is the women. Regarding to all situations, a man has to be able to control their emotional feeling. A man also has to make rational decision so they are the one who has to make a choice. Some of companies limit job vacancy for women.

Those old-fashioned characters were the barriers for women to step further. The high education that women earned, at that time were not supposed to be a strength for women to find jobs. They limit the job opportunities. When it comes to work achievements, they rarely give appraisal and compliments. Some of the co-workers, superior, boss were taking advantages to disrespect women by doing the sexual harassment.

Although some women still preferred to stay at home, unfortunately many men did not realize their accomplishment in doing the boring and hectic domestic life. They think that women were the baby's machines. They do not know how hard is for women to be pregnant over and over again meanwhile the older one were still babies. Sometimes it created dilemma for working mother to choose between her work and baby.

During that era, the "free sex" in big cities becomes the lifestyle. The irresponsible men often left his girl when he found out that the girl was pregnant. There were many cases where babies were born without the father. Women should be protected from this kind of situation. The job opportunity for women was limited. As well as they still think that women should take care of the house care, dress up for the husband and running errands for the family necessity.

Due to that situation, in the early 1960s the women rally was back. This time the rally is bigger than four decades ago. Women were marching down again to seek justice and protection for themselves. This time they were more creative in increasing awareness to people and governments. They fight for the reproductive rights, marital rape prevention, domestic

violence, sexual harassment, wage gap, women clothing.

These movements had been going on for almost two decades until the third wave movements comes along.

2.1.3 The Third Women Movements

In the mid 1990s, the generation X, who was born in the 1960-1970s redefined women and girls as assertive, powerful and in control of their own sexuality. Generation X was mostly raised by the parents of the second wave movement era. They had seen what their parents had gone through. Some parents had transferred some valuable messages about the second wave ideas. With the help of Internet era, the women movement managed to deliver the message throughout the world to gather the same perspective about the movement's ideas. The girl power slogan created by Bikini kill US Punked band encourages the women's empowerment, independence and confident. Media plays important roles on the success of this movement. Many literatures, movies, songs are using the women as they lead characters or inspirations. Recently, the fourth wave of movement has involved the women in different culture, racial and ethnic background. Many feminists concerned that there are many women out there still afraid, hesitant and did not confidence to tell about their experience of sexual harassment, violence, and other humiliation they had. Through the emerging of technology era, the feminist organization's help to awakening and increasing the awareness of such things by asking to march together to defend the women all over the world who still going through such experiences.

2.1.4 The Women Movements in Indonesia

In Indonesia, there are several national women heroes who willing to sacrifice her life to join in the battlefield during the colonialism of Dutch. The Dutch colonized the Indonesian for three centuries, from Sabang to Merauke. The separatism started when the folk were no longer bear of the torture, injustice, intolerance, harassment, poverty and decease of the family. The fighting spirit to establish the welfare of Indonesian revived and suddenly we all have the nationalism, encourage and bravery to fight the Dutch. People has detested of the Dutch and willing to fight back for the freedom. The men, ladies and children fought until their last breath for the sake of our independence.

To honor the fighting spirit of Indonesian women heroes, the Indonesian government has settled fifteen

Women as the National Heroes. They were not just brave but also admired for the spirit to stand equally with male heroes to take back their homeland. Some of them may not be in heroes as who died in the battlefield, but also intellectual women who thought of education, gender, political and religion were meant for all women. They persistently encourage women to live and achieve beyond their roles.

I highlighted two national heroes' women, RA. Kartini and HR. Rasuna Said, both of them significantly hold important roles to the future of women movements in Indonesia. RA. Kartini was born on April 21st, 1879 in Jepara to nobleman, RM. Sosroningrat and M.A Ngasirah. Her dad was a Regent in Jepara and her mom was the daughter of cleric. Unlike other parents who did not think that education is important, her parents encouraged her to have higher education in Europese Lagere School (ELS) until she was twelve years old. She then continued her self-education and developed her literatures skills by writing letters to her sisters and friends outside nations. Her western thought was influenced by the European literatures, she then evokes the spirit of women emancipation in Indonesia to pursue higher education, social status and remove the discrimination between man and woman. She was famous for her literatures called *Dood Duisternis tot Licht* that published in 1911. She died in the age of 24 after giving birth to a son, Soesalit Djojodhiningrat.

Carole Patemen, on her book the sexual contract (1988), specifically wrote about the participation of women in defending the nations. Although women did not physically engaged to the war, however women as a mother nature reproducing the next generation of soldier through her maternal situation. Women sacrifice her time to nurture, educate and taking care of the children until they are ready to service the public. She differentiate the roles of man and woman as stated below:

That women who died in childbirth were sacrifice their lives to the nation just as much as the men who died in the battle, that women who devoted their lives to bearing and rearing children performing tasks without which no society could survive, that this seemingly private activity was as much a qualification for citizenship as going out to work or defending the nation (Philips 1993, 107, summarizing Patemen 1988).

Hj. Rangkyo Rasuna Said is the women national hero that struggle for women empowerment in political status. All her life, She fought for the gender equality in politic and education. She was educated and raised in

Islamic boarding school. In 1932, she was the first lady who punished by the Dutch government because she dared to confront them. She was an activist then later on becoming the member of house representative represented her province, West Sumatra. Her ultimate political career was she became the Supreme Advisory Council (Dewan Pertimbangan Agung) in 1959. Her political journey leads mark for other women in Indonesia to follow her career.

According to Philips, 1993, "Democracy implies equality but, when it is superimposed on an unequal society, it allows some people to count for more than others". Many political parties sought that the women participations will increase their voting on the Election Day. The opportunity was welcome by the women because it gives mutual benefit. Starting in 1928, there were several women organization established In Indonesia. Most of them facilitate women issues such as, education, marital issues, child trafficking, political, women empowerment, poverty, discrimination and many more. After deserving the Independence Day in 1945, Indonesian once again had to struggle to fight the communist party. Several women organization was involved thus it makes government overprotected and control to any kind of women organization.

2.2 The Overview of Fifty Shades Trilogy

E.L. James who happened to be the generation X wrote the series of Fifty Shades of Grey. The main story of the novel is about fairytales that contain sexual fantasy theme. The writer seems to have influenced by the Victorian literatures because the plot stories are about; hard work, perseverance, love, luck and hero. In addition, James managed to portray and give brief story about the second wave movement idealism to support the whole story. She introduces the BDSM world on this book, which is something new and not common. The book has been phenomenal and becoming best-seller novel category.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research use research paradigm due to the need to understand the individual rather that the universal laws. In addition, it also the belief that knowledge is created by findings, can be value laden and the values need to be made explicit. The knowledge and comprehension on women movements is the fundamental matters to find out explicit message inside the novel.

Regarding to the objectives study, the researcher needs to use qualitative and quantitative methods. The combination of this research is called mixed or multiple

methods. The qualitative research mainly used to describe about the situation, attitude, phenomena and condition inside the story. Further, the researcher believes that qualitative research can explore more details on women social movements reflect in the story. By using both of the system will give the bigger pictures to achieve the accuracy and reliability. The mixed methodologies that will be used in conducting the research paradigm are narrative analysis, oral history, and questionnaire form. Afterward, this research is going to use the document study involving the Fifty Shades trilogy. The researcher believes that the trilogy contain many women movement issues that is not explicitly seen.

This research will be using the narrative analysis that will focus on the conversations between the characters. The three core principles of symbolic interactionism theory by Herbert Blumer will define the meaning, language and thinking of each conversations subjects to women movements.

IV. ANALYSIS & RESULT

Picture 1



The Fifty Shades Trilogy Cover
 Source: (James, 2011)

According to data from Statistica (2012), back to the 2012, the series novel of Fifty Shades has sold 29 million on print copy and 15 million on digital copies. The story is simple and common but the author gives extra spices on the romance and it was never been applied for literature. In addition, this novel is described as a combination of Cinderella story and most of classic novel told about women such as Jane Eyre, Tess D'uberville and so forth. There are three series that compiled into one bundle, the Fifty Shades Trilogy. Each of the stories contains different background about the women movements. The first series is Fifty Shades of Grey. The book introduces each of the characters and how the couple meets as well as the conflict when the couple finally parted.

The discussion on the parts on the novel that had been picked was associated with each of seven demand lists. Ana Steel is the first character in the story. She is also the narrator, thus the analysis and description that will be discussed will be based on her action and thoughts.

The conflict of this story happened when Ana was giving up on the relationship. She could not bear to deal with Christian sadist's side anymore. She felt that she did not deserve his treatment although she knew it would hurt her. She stands up for her then left Christian.

On the first book, the writers also wrote about the education where Ana is an undergraduate student with 4.0 GPA. The rights to get divorced also well explained on Carla character as Ana's mother. The writer also clearly stated that Ana's favorite pants are jeans. As this is also one of the issues on the gender equality on clothing. The story took place in Seattle that is known for the home of Boeing Company, the birth of Amazon, American favorite sports professional, tourism and technology industrial. The first wave of woman movement result happened in Seattle, where Bertha Knight Landes became the first elected female mayor in America in 1926 (City of Seattle, (2013).

Story 1

Equal education and equal opportunities

"I'll call him", I muter evasively. If I tell Kate about Jose, she'll have him for breakfast. I collect the letters from the dining table and open them.

"Hey, I have interviews! A week after next, in Seattle, for intern placements!"

"For which publication house?"

"For both of them!"

"I told you your GPA would open doors, Ana."

Kate of course, already has an internship set up at *The Seattle Times*. Her father knows someone who knows someone.

This conversation happened at Kate and Ana apartement. Ana just got home, Kate told her that she had message from his friends and also received letters.

Table.1: The analysis of symbolic interactions story 1

Element	Description
Meaning	"I told you your GPA would open doors, Ana" sentence means that with her intellectual Ana easily accept to intern at the publishing companies she wishes. This is what supposedly to happen

	in the real world, everyone who had the potential should get the opportunity to work in field and company they dream of.
Language	The stimulus was when Kate is telling Ana that she received a letter. The letter came from the publishing house where Ana apply her internship. Kate believes that she got accepted because of her 4.0 GPA. It shows that her achievement will lead to something good.
Thinking	Ana has a low self-esteem in term of her ability, beauty, self-confidence and many other things. She always thinks that she would never be as lucky as Kate would. On the contrary, Kate as her best friend for 4 years always believes in her that someday she will be successes. And now, Ana believes that.

One of many demands on women movements is for a dream that girl to have higher education and being respected for their achievements. According to Friedan (1963), "Thanks to the women's suffrage movements of the early twentieth century, women in 1920s and 1930s earned university degrees and joined the workforce in droves." Through her literature, the femine mystique, she encourages women to go back to school or use their educational background to apply job. Anastasia with her intellectual had been accepted into publishing house where she desired. This is the women perspective that caught the attention of the researcher. This story emphasize on the education background at the first story.

Afterward, the second book, Fifty Shades of Darker written about working environment, sexual harassment points are expressed on this season and women empowerment. For example, Jack Hyde as Ana's boss tried to seduce his assistants in order to get career promotion. Christian also reveals about his mother who happened to be the victim of rape because of her cocaine addiction. Christian was the symbol of children's rape victims. Beside the kinky stuff, the writer try to make Ana as the symbol of strong, stubborn and brave to encounter Christian psycho ex-submissive that tries to harm her. The criticism of poverty, social gap, equal pay for equal work, man haphazard was written on these books, as well as

philanthropy and charity moments. The women empowerment is portrayed on Grace-Trevelyan-Grey, Christian adoptive mother. She is a woman who is proud to use both of her surnames and husband surnames. In western culture, when women get married, they oblige to use her husband surnames. Christian fell in love with Ana and proposed her to be his wife. As she said yes, Christian as symbol of modern man still believe in the value of parents blessing. He then asking Ana's adopted father to give his bless. In this book, Anna and Christian are engaged.

The table below shows the women perspective' through equal pay for equal work. This is what supposedly man react when his employee do things beyond his expectation.

Story 2

Equal pay for equal works

So... the media know that *the* Christian Grey has been found safe and well?" Kate Says.
 "Yes, Andrea and my PR people will deal with the media. Ros called her after we dropped her home."
 "Yes. Andrea called me to let me know you were still alive". Carrick grins.
 "***I must give that women a raise.*** Sure is late," Says Christian.

Source: James, 2011

This conversation happened when Christian and his father chatted during the drama when he back in one piece at his apartment. On this script on chapter nineteen page 918, Christian Grey mutters to raise his PA wage or vocation in order to value her work.

The analysis of three core principles of symbolic interactionism theory about the equal pay for equal work is shown below.

Table 2: The analysis of symbolic interactionism story 2

Element	Description
Meaning	" <i>I must give this woman a raise</i> " sentence means that Grey is going to either raise Andrea wage or vocation in his company.
Language	The stimulus was when his father, Carrick told him that Andrea had been keeping update with the situation. Andrea is his personal assistant and always do at his best

	interest. He knows about her job and he satisfied and now she has done more that he asked her to do.
Thinking	He suddenly thinks that Andrea is worthy and he would raise his wage as the compensation of her hard works, loyalty and dedications.

Christian Grey and Ros Bailey went Portland by using Helicopter C 135. On their way home to Seattle the engine was having a failure system and they had to have emergency landing in the forest. They survived from helicopter crashed landed and managed to get away from mount St. Helen and coming to Seattle. Meanwhile, back at home everyone is waiting for the news. He had been missing for almost 6 hours with no news at all. When he arrived home, Christian never thought that he would be welcomed with all of his family. He always thinks that no one cares for him. His father told him that they knew that he survived because Andrea, his Personal Assistant kept updating the situation without being asked. Andrea has been working for Grey for over two years. She’s been so loyal, smart and knows how to put herself at his best interest. He never complained about her work nor does he care about his her personal life. She deals with office work as well as his personal matters. As the personal assistant, Christian never thought of giving her any complimentary because that what a personal supposed to do. But this time, he realizes she is too dedicated to him and she deserves to get more.

Grey appreciates what Andrea has done to him in his company and personal matters. On the first demand, “equal pay for equal work” seems to be portrayed in this sentence. He does not hesitate to give more to dedicated women who had worked for him. Every work will give benefits to company, and women obviously give contribution not any less than men. There is a study show that business tends to make higher profits with women in leadership and that better decisions are made when there are diverse decision makers (Finkbeiner, 2018). A nineteen year study of all fortune 500 companies by Pepperdine University found a direct correlation between high levels of women in leadership and higher profit—and that promoting women meant outperforming the competition (Finkbeiner, 2018). The 1970s women’s liberation movements fought hard for the equal pay for equal work. According Friedan (2010), “The very blitheness with which feminism’s agenda is often viewed as fully achieved masks a host

of stubborn realities: women are still paid less on average than men, often for the same work. Women remain underrepresented in management positions.

The third book is fifty shades of freed. This is the last series of Fifty shades that giving the bigger picture of capitalism symbols, such as owning private jet, Luxurious Car and Yacht. Ana proved to everyone that she is not the gold digger as other people thought through her heroism stunt. Gold Digger is the stereotypes of modest girl who married the mogul. Finally, Ana and Christian have their happy ending like other fairy tales story. Once again, the writer is trying to tell that even though women are married, but they have right to choose whether she wants to be a career woman or housewife or both. At first, Christian as her husband reluctantly support her decision but later he is proud because Ana managed to take care of the family as well as running her publishing company successfully.

Story 3

“I enjoyed last night,” he says. “We should do that more often.”

“Me, too.”

“And we could, **if you stopped working...**”

I roll my eyes and he tightens his arms around me and grins into my neck.

“Are you rolling your eyes at me, Mrs. Grey?”

His threat is implicit but sensual, making me squirm, but as we’re in the middle of the meadow with kids nearby, I ignore his invitation.

“Grey publishing has an author on the New York Times bestseller list – Boyce Fox’s sales are phenomenal, the e-book side of our business has exploded, and I finally have the team I want around me.

“And you’re making money in these difficult times,” Christian adds, **his voice reflecting his pride**. “But... I like you barefoot and pregnant and in my kitchen.”

I lean back so I can see his face. He gazes down at me, eyes bright.

“I like that, too,” I murmur, and he kisses me, his hands still spread across my bump.

This conversation happened at Ana and Chris home in Seattle. Both of them are enjoying the view of Theodore and having a casual conversation. Christian give appraisal to Ana because her publishing house is success and giving good profit in economic crisis in US. The married couple seems to happy and they are expecting baby number two. It is through motherhood that women fully achieves her physiological destiny,

that is her "natural" vocation, since her whole organism is directed towards the perpetuation of the species. But we have already shown that human society is never left to nature (Beauvoir, 2011). Women also has the right to have self-development for her personal, behavior, career and others through human society. They need to have acknowledgement for their pride and happiness.

Table.3: The analysis of symbolic interactionism story 3

Element	Description
Meaning	"...his voice reflecting his pride" Christian is one lucky man and he is always be proud of his wife. As much as he wanted his wife to stop working and just become the house wive, he cannot let his ego to prevent her wife to do what she wants to do.
Language	The stimulus was when Christian is talking with Ana. Although he was a rich man but that does not make him to be the dominant in their marriage life. He still has to ask her wife permission if he wants his wife to stay at home. He surreptitiously pride with his wife achievements toward her business empire.
Thinking	To think that Ana has capability and achievements toward her career, Christian is proud and he hesitate to ask her to stop working, even though he just want her to stay at home.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion about women movements in the past, present and future, it is obvious why women movements marching still continue. There are many obstacles that prevent women get the whole equalities in every aspect of life. The researcher suggests that it is necessary to educate, inform as well as sharing about the urgency on studying women movements to avoid the misconception of feminism.

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