



**LEBANESE WOMEN IDENTITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST
FROM HOLLYWOOD FILM *CAPERNAUM*: A FILM
ANALYSIS**

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Bernadette, Kezia Sharron. (2024). Lebanese Women Identity in the Middle East From Hollywood Film *Capernaum*: a Film Analysis. S1. Thesis. English Department. Faculty Letters and Language Education. Widya Kartika University. Surabaya. Advisor I: Dr. Nopita Trihastutie, S.S., M.A. Advisor II: Dr. Zulidyana Dwi Rusnalasari, M.Hum.

This study aims to observe the film representation of Lebanese women's identity and its reflection in patriarchal culture in Middle East Asia. This study uses representation theory to understand how media texts present and construct reality. Correspondingly, observe the issue of women's identity in patriarchal culture in *Capernaum*, directed by Nadine Labaki. A qualitative descriptive method is applied to explain the study comprehensively. This study applied tools like cinematic elements and theoretical frameworks like the feminist perspective by Bell Hooks. The results uncover Lebanese women's identities, such as women being required to meet beauty standards, dependency on men, obedience to men, playing traditional gender roles, being inferior to men, etc. Also, reflections from the film in the real world about women in Lebanon prove the impact of forming women's identities in a country that has a patriarchal culture. In conclusion, the film *Capernaum* portrays women's identity through female characters and characterization. The portrayal is supported by the cinematic elements, highlighting feminist perspectives such as sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. It also highlights Lebanese women's struggles with limited opportunities, traditional gender roles, and discrimination, highlighting the pervasive influence of patriarchal culture and the need for social change.

Keywords: Film Analysis, Identity, Patriarchal Culture

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