

Analysis of Signification and Representation of Sex and Relationship in Dialogues from “Sex and the City”

การวิเคราะห์การสื่อความหมายและภาพตัวแทนของเรื่องเพศและความสัมพันธ์ในบทพูดจากละครชุดเซ็กซ์ แอนด์ เดอะ ซิตี้

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บทคัดย่อ

บทความนี้เป็นการวิเคราะห์เชิงพรรณนาเพื่อแสดงการสื่อความหมายและภาพตัวแทนของเรื่องเพศดังที่มีการนำเสนอในละครชุด เซ็กซ์ แอนด์ เดอะ ซิตี้ (Sex and the City) ซึ่งเป็นละครชุดทางโทรทัศน์ที่ประสบความสำเร็จ เรื่องเพศประเด็นหนึ่งที่เพื่อนหญิงทั้งสี่คนจะถกกันเมื่อมีโอกาสได้รวมตัวกัน บทพูดของตัวละครนี้เองเป็นช่องเปิดให้เห็นทัศนคติเกี่ยวกับเรื่องเรื่องเพศและความสัมพันธ์กับสามีหรือเพื่อนชายของเธอเหล่านั้น บทความนี้วิเคราะห์ทัศนคติของตัวละครหลักทั้งสี่คนของเซ็กซ์ แอนด์ เดอะ ซิตี้ ได้แก่ แครี่ แบริดชอว์ (Carrie Bradshaw) มิแรนดา ฮอบบส์ (Miranda Hobbes) ชาร์ลอตต์ ยอร์ก (Charlotte York) และซาแมนต้า โจนส์ (Samantha Jones) การวิเคราะห์ใช้บทสนทนาเกี่ยวกับเรื่องเพศและความสัมพันธ์กับสามีหรือเพื่อนชาย ในฐานะที่เป็นองค์ประกอบหนึ่งของงานวรรณกรรม บทสนทนาของตัวละครเป็นช่องทางให้ผู้อ่านได้เรียนรู้ บุคลิกของตัวละคร ในมุมมองของความคิดทางสตรีนิยมการบอกเล่าประสบการณ์ส่วนตัวของผู้หญิงเป็นเครื่องมือในการนำเอาชีวิตส่วนตัวออกมาสู่สาธารณะ ซึ่งเมื่อผู้หญิงบอกเล่าชีวิตและความรู้สึกส่วนตัวนั้น ข้อมูลจะกลายเป็นความรู้สาธารณะ (public knowledge) ดังนั้นการวิเคราะห์บทพูดของตัวละครหลักนี้จะเปิดเผยประสบการณ์และความคิดเห็นเกี่ยวกับการดำเนินชีวิตของผู้หญิง เรื่องเพศและความสัมพันธ์ชายหญิง พบว่า การมีเพศสัมพันธ์นั้นมีการสื่อความหมาย (signification) ไปถึงคุณภาพของความสัมพันธ์ของคนแต่ละคู่ ว่า การมีเพศ

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สัมพันธ์ที่น่าพอใจจะสื่อให้เห็นถึงความสัมพันธ์ที่มั่นคงยาวนาน ในขณะที่การมีเพศสัมพันธ์ที่ล้มเหลวก็จะสื่อความหมายถึงความสัมพันธ์ที่ล้มเหลวเช่นกัน การสื่อความหมายของภาพเพศสัมพันธ์ที่สื่อถึงความสัมพันธ์ได้สร้างให้เกิดภาพตัวแทน (Representation) ของเพศสัมพันธ์ในฐานะที่เป็นตัวหมาย (signifier) สื่อถึงความสัมพันธ์อีกด้วย

คำสำคัญ: สตรีนิยม บทสนทนา ภาพตัวแทน การสื่อความหมาย เซ็กซ์แอนด์เดอะซิตี

Abstract

The article is a descriptive analysis aimed to demonstrate the signification and representation of sex as presented in the series Sex and the City. Sex and the City was the successful TV series. Sex, of course, was one of the issues that the female friends discussed when they were together. The dialogues of the characters were how their attitudes about sex and relationship with their boyfriend were revealed. The paper analyzed the attitudes of the main four characters of Sex and the City; namely, Carrie Bradshaw, Miranda Hobbes, Charlotte York, and Samantha Jones. The analysis was based on their conversation about sex and relationship with their husbands and boyfriends. As one of the literary elements, a dialogue that the characters said was one of the clues to help readers to learn their personalities from. From the feminism point of view, telling personal experience was a tool of a woman to bring the private life to public. Hence, when a woman spoke of her personal life and feeling, the life and feeling became public. So, the analysis of the dialogues of the main characters in this paper revealed their experiences and opinions toward women's lifestyle, sex, and male-female relationship. It was found that the sexual intercourses presented in the story signified the quality of the relationship of each couple that satisfying sexual intercourses suggested long lasting

relationships while unsatisfying ones gave clues of failure. The signification of sex to relationship had formed a representation of sex as signifier of relationship.

Keywords: feminism, dialogue, representation, signification, Sex and the City

Introduction

An impulse to tell stories was spontaneous in mankind and it was the origin of literature. Nowadays, types of literature were varied, but all were originated from the one foundation, telling a story (Burl, 1976 and Ousby, 1996). However, literature had been transformed to be more than a written text due to development of technology and life style. To illustrate transformation of literature, the TV series *Sex and the City* was a good example. The original version of *Sex and the City* was a book written by Candace Bushnell and later it was transformed to TV series on HBO channel. The series was successful with high rating and many awards. The series gained mass attention for its sex-related content presented in humorous tone. However, Michael Patrick King, the producers, gave an interview in a scoop “Sex and the City: Farewell” at the end of season 6 suggesting the series was mainly about relationship and friendship and in every episode, the show left audiences with messages to think about the new way of thinking about life, relationship, friends, family, and so on (King, 2004).

The famous scene was when the four ladies gathered at a restaurant, having brunch together and talking about their lives with New York City as a background setting. Recounting experiences during a girly talk among friends was the way to release the stress in life of each friend. Considering this in a feminist point of view, a woman speaking out her personal experience was a struggling against the patriarchal society.

When the male dominated tradition provided guidelines of living, a woman expressed how she disagreed and talked to a group of people who were in the same situation.

Sharing Personal Experience: Private to Public

According to Scott (1992), Women's voice has begun to be heard in 1970 due to the political consciousness raising. Hereby, women began to speak out their personal experiences. The personal experience had become the new knowledge that was different from the official knowledge dominated by men's experiences. To illustrate, Behar (1993) brought up the example that when men "worked", they were paid for their labor; in contrast, women were not paid for the housework they did at home. Apparently, this unfavorable definition of "work" defined by patriarchic point of view got women in disadvantage. When over-depressed, women learned to speak to open up secret life kept only in the lady's private space.

In struggling against the force of man that dominated the society, women had their words as means of protesting. Edward & Ribbens (1998) explained that when a woman spoke to disclose her private life to public, she raises her private experience up to be public knowledge for other people to learn from. This was similar to a qualitative research methodology that the data collection was attentive to private life, domestic life and relationship, and personal life experience of the subject during an interview. However, during the journey from private experience to public knowledge, the information was at risk of being misinterpreted due to several factors. Mainly, the female point of view could be distorted or overpowered by the male domination on social perception, especially when social theories, concepts, and models of thought had been greatly driven by men (Anderson & Jack, 1991; Edward & Ribbens, 1998; Behar, 1993).

Due to the fact that the authentic experience can easily be twisted, Anderson & Jack (1991) suggested that to retain the female point of view when women's private lives were brought to public requires a competent and understanding deliverer. In *Sex and the City*, the girly chit-chatting represented intimate friendship and ensured audiences that the story being told among friends and the opinions they shared were true and sincere. Hence, the message that the series sent to its audiences was like a friend to friend talk that the audience did not feel like being forced to accept the message. The series destroyed the wall of privacy and opened its messages to public knowledge. Sometimes, the audience realized that their own experiences were similar to the series characters' experiences. This suggested them to think that the experiences could be similar to other people in real life as well.

Sex and the City: Sex and the Women

Sex and the City was a TV series broadcasted on HBO channel. Not only in America was the series broadcasted, people in many countries had a chance to watch it so that it was popular among audiences around the world. The show was first on air in 1998 and continually gained appreciation from audience until 2004 when episode 94 which was the last one was broadcasted. However, *Sex and the City* returned in movie version in 2008 and then *Sex and the City II* in 2010.

Before it became a hit, the series was the adapted version of the book *Sex and the City* written by Candace Bushnell. The book was adapted to a series telling stories of the four best girl friends living in New York City. The story was narrated through the point of view of **Carrie Bradshaw** who was a columnist for the weekly column named "*Sex and the City*" in the newspaper *New York Star*. The other friends were **Miranda Hobbes**, a lawyer, **Charlotte York**, a gallery curator and an art dealer who later

got married and became a fulltime housewife, and *Samantha Jones*, a successful publicist who ran her own public relation company.

As the name implies, among the many aspects of city women's lifestyle, sex was one of the issues. Even though the show was about friendship and relationship, sex was also involved; however, it was rather on the humorous side of sex. Still, people were looking forward to the scenes when the ladies talked about sex and the funny facts about sex were colorfully discussed. When the four ladies talked about sex, each of them usually shared the similar situation or advised the troubled friends. In such intimate talk among close friends, their personalities and private lives were disclosed as well as their perceptions and attitudes.

Carrie: "The kisses were great. Then in bed there was no sexual chemistry."

The first and the most famous character was *Carrie Bradshaw*. She was the narrator that almost every part of the story was presented through her point of view. She was a columnist for a column named "Sex and the City" which was the analysis of her own experiences about sex and relationship.

During early episodes, Carrie lived her life through trials and errors of sex and relationship. Sarah Jessica Parker, the actress as Carrie, said that Carrie was one of the ordinary women who kept questioning about real relationship and looking for one. Most of the columns were written based on her own experiences. She had been on several dates with several men and most of them were a one-night-stand relationship until she met Aiden, Berger, Aleksandr, and Mr. Big, whose real name was John and who finally was her husband.

As about sex, Carrie believed in a relationship more than sex. She did believe that if the relationship was right, the sex would be good.

The series usually demonstrated images of unhappy sexual intercourses as a sign of failed relationships.

As about the relationship with Berger, Carrie said to her friend that,

Carrie: *What? I don't wanna make a big deal about it. It was just the first time. We're so good everywhere else. We're great in restaurants, it's like... And the kisses are great. And then in bed, there was no sexual chemistry. I don't know what happened. He just.*

Samantha: *Couldn't find you clit?*

Carrie: *He knows what he's doing.*

Samantha: *Then what are we talking about?*

Carrie: *It was.. it was just quiet.*

Charlotte: *I wouldn't worry about it Carrie. If the kisses were great, then the sex will eventually be good.*

Carrie: *I'm not worried.*

Miranda: *How quiet was it?*

Carrie: *It was so quiet that at one point. I heard the M-11 bus. I heard the doors open, I heard people getting off.²*

The first sex they had was disappointing, but they pretended to be happy with it. Later, it was clear that they did not really have chemistry, soon their ideas collided and they broke up because of difference of opinions. As about “*the chemistry*”, Fisher (1992) revealed the scientific fact that when humans were “in love” a chemical called *Phenylethylamine* or *PEA* was produced from their brain. The chemical caused the nervous behavior and optimistic point of view towards life and the world. PEA was like natural amphetamine that roused the in-love person to feel fresh and active to be together and it was crucial factor for “making love”. By “*there was no sexual chemistry*”, it was to imply that the feeling between Carrie

² From Sex and the City: Season 6 Episode 2 “Great Sexpection”.

and Berger may not actually be love as they thought it was. That explained how they finally broke up.

The other man was Aiden. He depressed her that he asked her to quit cigarette as an agreement before they were in a serious relationship. She was very uncomfortable with the deal and she talked to her friends over brunch,

“Smoking is a part of who I am I’ll quit when I want to, not cos a cute guy told me to”

“What is wrong with cigarettes?”³

The lines of Carrie reflected that fact that she was also the one among the many women who were depressed by the ideology of ideal woman influenced by men. In the scene, the other friends admitted that they were not happy with Carrie’s smoking behavior, but they tolerated with the manner because of Carrie’s goodness as a friend. On the contrary, to Aiden, he would never consent to it. The situation of Carrie was complied with the explanation of Piayura (2007) on how feminists required their independence and did not accept men’s judgment on what women should or should not do. Cigarette was reasonably unhealthy, but Carrie would rather stop smoking because of her own will rather than stop because a man told her to, and this demonstrated her independent characteristic. Additionally, Denasi (2008) suggested that cigarette was a symbol of manhood. When Aiden told Carrie to stop smoking, it was to tell her to limit herself to the female territorial which she denied to at first but surrendered later.

When they agreed to be dating and she expected to have sex with him when the appropriate time arrived after they have been on several date together, he turned her down, explaining he was hurt before from the previous relationship, and wanted to make everything slow.

³ From Sex and the City: Season 6 Episode 5 “No Ifs, Ands, or Butts”.

Carrie: *I don't know what's going on. We're spending a lot of time together. He keeps asking me out. But he doesn't wanna sleep with me.*

Samantha: *Gay.*

Carrie: *He's not gay.*

Miranda: *Mother issues?*

Carrie: *I don't think so.*

Samantha: *Maybe his dick curves to the right.*

Carrie: *We'll work it out. I'll go left. The thing is I may never know.*

The situation in the above dialogue was to point that it was always Aiden who took control of what to do or not to do in this relationship. Carrie's feminism spirit was overpowered. At last, everything came to an end in Season 3. In Season 4 they got back together and Aiden proposed to her. It was Carrie who was not sure if she wanted to marry him, so they broke up. This was another scenario to emphasize that Aiden took control of the relationship and when Carrie was not ready to get married with him, he would rather break up with her than listen to her feeling.

From her several dating experiences, Carrie's character represented the fact that if a relationship was good, then there would be no problem with the sex because sex was a part of a relationship. Carrie had been in several relationships and with several sex partners; however, she would always return to Mr. Big, eventually. It was the greatest sex she ever had and she finally married to him in the movie version. They did have an affair while Mr. Big was married to another woman, Natasha. Even though she realized it was wrong to have sex with a married man, they still secretly met until Natasha caught them and divorced Mr. Big. Carrie admitted to Samantha that there was a special feeling she had for him even though she had Aiden with her by the time the affair was going on.

Carrie: *I slept with Big last week.*

Samantha: *You're having an affair?*

Carrie: *No, no affair. Just one night, and it is not happening again.
Please don't tell the others.*

Samantha: *OK.*

Carrie: *I am awful. I have this great boyfriend. I don't know what I
was doing.*

Samantha: *Nothing men haven't been doing for centuries. Was it good?*

Carrie: *It was great, and it's not happening again.*

...

Carrie: *How can it feel so good when it's so bad?*

Samantha: *They design it that way.*

Carrie: *Big and I... we have this thing. It's all about the pheromones.
We're just animals reacting to smells. I have a great boyfriend
with all his hair, waiting for me, who smells great.*

While Carrie was guilty of having an affair with My Big, Samantha consoled her friend by the fact that it was human nature to be attracted. Samantha said, "*Nothing men haven't been doing for centuries,*" as to question why men was able to do everything while women had to feel guilty for their actions, especially sexual affair. Wongyannawa (2013) suggested that sexual intercourse was a stage in a life cycle of a man. The first sexual intercourse of a man was even celebrated as a ceremony in some cultures. While somehow sex addict was blamed, women yet was investigated and controlled more seriously than men on the issue. This was another evidence of patriarchy that feminists were fighting against. While Carrie was blaming herself, Samantha was trying to point out to several reasons why what Carrie had been doing was not so blamable. The scene was the fight between feminism movement and traditional social ideology.

However, deeply both of them accepted Carrie's perception of what she was doing. Patriarchy still won.

To conclude about Carrie, she demonstrated the fact that if the relationship was right, the sex would be fine. If a woman had a relationship with a man who was not her other half, some intolerable mistake would take place during sexual intercourse. Bad relationship resulted in bad sex, and bad sex signified bad relationship. However, good sex did not always mean good relationship because there had also been several dates that she found the sex was nice, but she could not develop a good relationship.

Miranda: "I can't have sex any more. I have a brain."

Miranda Hobbes was a woman who did not believe in romance. She was referred to as "romance intolerant" by Carrie. At the early episodes, as a working woman – a successful lawyer – she was proud of herself that she would have a man just to have fun with, not for a serious relationship. She decided to become a single mother after she realized that she was pregnant with her good boyfriend whom she was in an "on-and-off-relationship" with. Until in season 6, she proposed to the boyfriend Steve Brady and they were married which was a surprise for both her friends and the audience.

As a romance intolerant woman, she denied any romantic factors in a relationship. She did not want to reveal her emotional personality because she was used to acting strong and cynical towards life and men. When she was on a honeymoon with her husband Steve, she was very much uncomfortable with it. Then she made a phone call to Carrie.

Miranda: *I'm having an anxiety attack.*

Carrie: *Brady is fine.*

Miranda: *Good, but that's not why I'm calling. I'm in the woods in my negligee and my cell phone only has two bars left. Help!*

Carrie: *Are you lost?*

Miranda: *Completely. This whole place, this whole trip is screaming, you should be having sex with your husband again. The fire, the tub. We've already done it twice today. It's like sex is the only thing on the itinerary.*

...

Miranda: *Last night, Steve and I held hands for an hour and a half watching the fire.*

He was looking into my eyes, I was looking for the remote. It feels good to be sarcastic. You can't be sarcastic on your honeymoon.

...

Miranda: *Ok, there's something in the bushes and I hope it's wild animal and not Steve coming to have sex with me again. I should be able to do this, Carrie. This should be the most romantic time of my life.⁴*

As a working woman, Miranda was used to taking control on everything in her life and sex was only for fun. She did not think about having a serious relationship at all before Steve changed her mind. Now that she was married she thought that sex was not for fun but a duty. This realization got her nervous. She was at first depressed because she could not control her life to be as she wanted. To have a life partner was at first depressive and it took a long time for her to find balance for her personal, maternal, and married lives.

Miranda used to be wild and free about sex, but she did not believed in a relationship with a man because she used to believe that all men were selfish and took advantage of women. So, she had sex just for

⁴ From Sex and the City: Season 6 Episode 15 "Catch -38".

fun and believed that she could take care of herself better than any man could. On episode 1, Miranda gave her opinion about relationship with men that:

"I have a friend who'd always gone out with extremely sexy guys and just had a good time. One day she woke up, and she was 41. She couldn't get any more dates. She had a complete physical breakdown couldn't hold her job and moved back to Wisconsin to live with her mother. Trust me. This is not a story that makes men feel bad

...

*I have been out with some of those guys... the short, fat, poor ones. It makes absolutely no difference. They are just as self-centered and unappreciative as the good-looking ones."*⁵

...

Miranda: *I mean, they don't want to be in a relationship with you but as soon as you only want them for sex, they don't like it. All of a sudden they can't perform the way they're supposed to.*

Samantha: *That's when you dump them.*

Carrie: *Ladies, are we really that cynical? What about romance?*

Charlotte: *Yeah!*

Samantha: *Who needs it?*

Miranda: *It's like that guy, Jeremiah, the poet. I mean, the sex was incredible. But then he wanted to read me his poetry and go out to dinner and the whole chat bit, and I'm like, "Let's not even go there."*⁶

⁵ From Sex and the City: Season 1 Episode 1 "Sex and the City".

⁶ From Sex and the City: Season 1 Episode 1 "Sex and the City".

What Miranda shared was similar to the case of Carrie and Aiden that men always took control. Miranda believed that men always took advantage of women in a relationship. In fact, she at first denied her feeling for Steve, the father of her child. They agreed to be only parents for their child, but they would not be in love or be a couple.

Miranda: I slept with Steve.

Carrie: That's why you're participating in the charade. You're fleeing.

Miranda: I'm a fucking fugitive...literally.

Carrie: Was it the zsa zsa zsu?

Miranda: No, it was an itch we shouldn't have scratched. Now we're into a grey area. Not having sex was holding us together.

Carrie: You're fleeing to the right wedding. That's the theme.

Miranda: You can't have a kid with someone and get along and have great sex without giving the wrong impression.

Carrie: Being what, that you're happy?⁷

And similar to Carrie and Mr. Big, sex with Steve was the best to Miranda. She felt safe and warm, and she was the one of the friends who permanently left Manhattan to Brookline for better life of her family with Steve. That was the scenario she never thought it would ever happen at all.

Charlotte York: It's the best sex in my life. I think I might really like him.

Charlotte York was a sweet woman who truly believed in love and romance. Soon, she realized that the perfect vision she had about her future was ruined by so many facts of life after the marriage with Trey MacDougal. When she thought she believed more in emotional love than lust,

⁷ From Sex and the City: Season 5 Episode 8 "I love Charade".

it turned out Trey's erectile dysfunction was a big deal. She then got divorced and began the new relationship with Harry Goldenblatt, her divorce lawyer.

With Harry, Charlotte's life was on a turn. He was nothing of her dream. He was a short hairy Jewish with no sophisticated manner, to compare with Trey. At first she was confused about what she really dreamed of and what she was doing with Harry and she talked about this to Anthony her gay best friend.

Charlotte: *It's not good. I don't want to date him. He's not attractive.*

Anthony: *Ugly sex is hot.*

Charlotte: *No. He's sweaty and pushy and no, I could never date him. Maybe just for the sex. How does that work exactly?*

Anthony: *Listen up. You have to be very clear about the rules. It's just sex. You can't act romantic. Talk just sex talk. Fuck me and get out.*

Charlotte: *Isn't that rude?*

Anthony: *No, it's hot.⁸*

The character of Charlotte developed herself so far from the beginning that she used to be very traditional and conservative, but she was more opened to sex when she was with Trey since she had to put so much effort just to had sex with her husband. Then she was with Harry and learned that in a relationship she might have to adjust so much of her attitude and expectation to share a life with someone. The message similar to the case of Carrie and Miranda that was learned from Charlotte's story was the idea that if the relationship and the person were right, sex would not be a problem.

⁸ From Sex and the City: Season 5 Episode 7 "The Big Journey".

Samantha: I'm a try-sexual. I'll try anything once.

"Fuck me badly once, shame on you, fuck me badly twice, shame on me."⁹

"I will not be judged by you or society. I will wear whatever and blow whomever I want as long as I can breathe and kneel."¹⁰

"I love you, but I love me more."¹¹

The above lines vividly portrayed the image of Samantha Jones. Apparently, she was a very sexually active woman according to the frequent sexes and brief affairs she had through the series. She could always be straight forwards when talking about sex. So, when the girls were talking and the topic was sex, Samantha would be the one to step up to advice her friends and give some saucy opinions.

Carrie: Charlotte, is everything OK?

Charlotte: We've been trying to...

Samantha: Fuck?

Charlotte: Whatever. It's just not...

Samantha: Getting big and hard?

Carrie: Is this dirty mad libs?

Charlotte: I love him, and he's trying, but this is so frustrating.

Miranda: Of course it is.

Charlotte: Last night I got so turned on, I...

Samantha: You almost masturbated, he almost got it up - you almost had sex.

Charlotte: Next to him! I feel so ashamed.

⁹ From Sex and the City: Season 6 Episode 2 "Great Sexpectation".

¹⁰ From Sex and the City: Season 5 Episode 4 "Cover Girl".

¹¹ From Sex and the City: Season 5 Episode 3 "Luck be an Old Lady" and Sex and the City: the Movie.

Miranda: *Everybody masturbates.*

Samantha: *I did it this morning.*

Carrie: *That's why I got your voicemail.*

Charlotte: *He masturbates and reads porn. When it comes to me, nothing.*

Samantha: *Madonna whore.*

Charlotte: *You think?*

Samantha: *Absolutely! Trey sees you as his virginal wife, not as sexual plaything. You're not going to get anywhere until you change how he sees you.¹²*

The above conversation was when Charlotte was in trouble with her marriage. She realized that her husband had impotence and she thought it was shameful that the night before she almost masturbated next to her husband. Wongyannawa (2013) also suggested that masturbation was considered the evidence of addiction to sex and was prohibited especially to women. With her Episcopalian background, Charlotte was conservative and was dominated by the traditional value that woman masturbation was shameful no matter how depressed she was from her husband's dysfunction.

Meanwhile, Samantha was trying to comfort her friend with the Madonna-whore complex. Kelly (2006) explained that the Madonna-whore complex was identified by Sigmund Freud. It was developed in a man who saw a woman as either highly respected like a saint or depraved like a prostitute. This man could only have sex with the latter type of woman because the other one was for respect and worship. This was what Samantha believed to explain the marriage of Charlotte that Trey saw Charlotte as a "virginal wife" not a "sexual plaything". Even though Samantha was right and Trey respected his wife as a saint, the one that really suffered was still Charlotte.

¹² From Sex and the City: Season 3 Episode 16 "Frenemy".

The character Samantha has a development. Richard was the first man that she barely but finally admitted that she loved. However, their relationship ended because she caught him having sex with another woman. When there was a deal of relationship, monogamy was her policy. Here, it was apparent that even a woman with a personality like Samantha was also so dominated by patriarchal tradition. While monogamy was the practice according to the religious belief, but, as Wongyannawa (2013) previously suggested, the strictness of the rule was applied on women.

After break up with Richard, she again went back to be free and lived her life as before, especially on sexual aspect. Then she met Jerry Jerod who was 20 years younger than her when he was a waiter in a restaurant. She supported him to enter acting and modeling career. Here, the serious relationship began again and it lasted until they broke up in *Sex and the City, the Movie*. “*I love you, but I love me more*” was the line she said to both of the men then when she broke up with them. And it was right because she did felt sorry, but she really needed to be free again. This was the moment when Samantha was crossing over the line of patriarchy. She realized what she really wanted in life and she finally chose it for her own benefit.

For Samantha – the real feminist, she decided that “in relationship” was not her place to live. Her life was upon freedom according to Carrie.¹³ Because sex was the way Samantha had fun with her life, to be free to have sex as she wanted was the power she gained back to control her life again. In the case of Samantha a good sex did signify a good relationship, too. However, a good relationship was not what she wanted in her life. “*I don't really believe in marriage. Now Botox, on the other hand, that works every time,*” Samantha told Carrie when Carrie told her about the wedding with Mr. Big in “*Sex and the City: the Movie*”.

¹³ From *Sex and the City: the Movie* (2008)

The dialogues from the series represented the personalities, attitudes, and lifestyles of the four women. They all had outstanding personality and attitude about life and sex. However, it was impossible to categorize these women by four types. Each of them, actually each woman in the world, was unique. In certain situation and decision, certain personality played role. There were parts of Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha mixing in each of them and in every woman in the world.

Conclusion

Sex and the City provoked new perception about women from the interesting point of view. Women here were independent who did not wait for chances, but they made their way to chances. However, their making ways to chances was not a competition between men and women. The series was a reflection of post-feminism concept that women did not have to fight for their right anymore because they already had the right with them. The choices belonged to a woman whether she would or would not do anything. The ladies Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha were not fighting against society or anything. They only chose to have a lifestyle they preferred and did not even aware of what the public knowledge would say.

In *Sex and the City*, sex was used as signification to a relationship between two persons. Even though there were various kinds of sex and relationship in the series, the focus was on a man-woman relationship and sex was undeniably a part of the relationship. It demonstrated that such great sex as between Carrie and Mr. Big, Charlotte and Harry, and Miranda and Steve signified a successful and happy relationship that the couples had together. In the same manner, bad sex represented how bad the relationship was and it had to eventually come to and end. In reality; however, only the good sex was not able to hold the relationship to be in good condition.

It is also noticeable that in the scenes where the friends talked about sex, people overhearing the conversation frowned upon what they heard. This sent a message that somehow public was not the place to share this kind of information to. There were always some people who believe that such discussion was appropriate only among friends in privacy. The private life of women would be kept in private and the chance that it would come to public depended on its deliverer. Now that *Sex and the City* was one of the deliverers of women's personal experiences, it was successful in bringing women's experience and feeling to public. Still, there were many unsuccessful deliverers and many of the experiences and feeling were still kept in privacy. While the post feminism believed that women did not have to fight for equality, especially in speaking out, because all men and women were already equal, inequality between genders was not a myth. It does exist still.

According to the producer team of the series, *Sex and the City* was indeed about relationship and friendship rather than sex. It was the funny sides of sex that were presented instead of the lusty and dirty image. If coins had two sides, a person's life had more than hundred sides. Taking a closer and more careful look on a person's life could lighten up for clearer and wider vision and better understanding of the person. Words that women spoke needed an attentive and careful listening from society to enhance better interpretation of what she was speaking. The point was not being a man or a woman. The most important thing was each of us was a person. This could be confirmed by a quote from Carrie:

"Maybe some labels are best left in the closet. Maybe when we label people: brief, groom, husband, wife, married, single, we forgot to look past the label to the person."¹⁴

¹⁴ From *Sex and the City: the Movie* (2008)

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