

EXPLORING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH BOURDIEU'S THEORY OF PRACTICE IN *MEN IN BLACK : INTERNATIONAL*

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ABSTRACT

Modernization driven by globalization does not always yield positive changes for women, who often remain trapped in discrimination and the constraints of patriarchy. The film *Men in Black : International* serves as a resistance to this discrimination, showcasing female characters as heroes who challenge the notion that women lack the same freedom of movement as men. This research explores the significance of gender equality and its societal impact within the film's context. Employing a qualitative approach and Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice analysis, data was gathered through scene observations, dialogues, and references from various sources. The findings reveal that the film effectively communicates the importance of gender equality in fostering stronger and equal roles for women compared to men. Additionally, it reflects the social dynamics surrounding gender equality, highlighting the ongoing struggle for women's rights and representation in contemporary society. This film reflects the ever-evolving social dynamics and shows the struggle of women in demanding their rights and fair recognition. The gender equality raised in this film symbolizes the collective effort to create a more inclusive, fair, and empowered society for all, regardless of gender.

Keywords: Equality, Gender, Film, Men in Black, Practice.

INTRODUCTION

In the midst of globalization and rapid progress, the demand for social change is becoming increasingly urgent. Although many women have now succeeded in accessing higher education, contributing significantly to the economy, and becoming active in politics, challenges of discrimination still loom over their journey. Gender equality, although an issue that has always been addressed, is still not fully realized. The imbalance in the division of labor between men and women is one of the most striking problems, where women are often treated as objects and not recognized as professional workers. As stated by Abdullah (2021), women are still not recognized as professional workers. They are often treated as objects when involved in public life, even though women are actually capable of playing a role as subjects in various socio-economic processes. This

kind of discrimination certainly creates inequality, which ultimately results in unfair treatment of women. Women are still seen as only capable of taking care of their families and are considered less capable of success, so their roles are often considered inferior to those of men. This issue of gender equality is not only happening in Indonesia; even the United States, as a superpower, is still striving to achieve gender equality in the public sphere. In fact, if we refer to history, the United States has been advocating gender equality since the 1776 Declaration of Sentiment, which demanded equal rights for women, including the right to vote at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. Aruan (2011) explains that this declaration contained statements regarding men and women being created equal. The declaration included 12 resolutions, namely: the right to vote, equal education, equal employment opportunities, property rights, and the abolition of discrimination against women. This continued to be pursued, leading to the emergence of the feminist movement in the United States. After women were granted the right to vote on August 26, 1920, the feminist movement in the United States grew even stronger. By the 1930s, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and the National Woman's Party (NWP) were formed. One of the most influential figures at that time was Eleanor Roosevelt. Syachrotunnisa (2021) explains that while serving as First Lady during the New Deal, Eleanor Roosevelt used her power to gain publicity for marginalized groups such as women, the unemployed, and black people. In this case, she contributed to social change, particularly women's rights. Eleanor Roosevelt used her influence to gain publicity for marginalized groups such as women, the unemployed, and African Americans. In this regard, she contributed to creating social change, particularly regarding women's rights.

However, this has not been fully achieved to this day. Forms of discrimination against women in the United States still exist in various fields such as the economy, society, education, and politics. The United States, which consists of a multicultural society and a country that upholds freedom, is still striving to implement gender equality in all aspects. Therefore, it is necessary to uphold justice in the form of gender equality for women in society. One way that can be done and have a big impact is through the role of media such as films. Films are a means of mass media and a representation of culture that can spread throughout the world. According to McQuail in Weisarkurnai's journal (2017), mass media is a tool that can reach a wide audience and become a source of control that can be manipulated as a source of power. Where media mostly represents a developing phenomenon that is believed by society. Film is also seen as an effective

medium for spreading messages and influencing the way viewers think and perceive things. One concrete step in promoting women's emancipation is through films that address gender equality, enabling us to understand the importance of gender equality representation in the modern era. As stated by Robin (2024), technology can support feminist movements if designed to make women's lives easier or facilitate women's lives against unwanted consequences. Thus, the presence of modern technology can provide and disseminate positive messages for efforts toward equality. To delve deeper into the representation of gender equality in films, it is important to refer to previous studies that have examined this theme.

There are several relevant previous studies, including an article entitled "*Representasi Kesetaraan Gender Pada Film Live-Action 'Mulan'*" by Marie Rose Jane et al., published in the IKON journal in 2021. This study uses semiotics theory from Roland Barthes' perspective to analyze the representation of gender equality in the film "*Mulan*." The methods used include observation, documentation, literature review, and triangulation of theory and methods. The results of the analysis show that there is gender equality representation in the film, which includes access, participation, control, and benefits. This study shares a similar focus on gender equality representation, although with a different research object, namely the film *Men in Black : International*. Next is a study titled "Implementing Gender Equality Policies in the Spanish Film Industry: Persistent Prejudices and a Feminist Will to 'Exploit the Centre into Concentric Circles'" by Orianna Calderón-Sandoval, published in the International Journal of Cultural Policy in 2022, which discusses the efforts and challenges in implementing gender equality policies in the Spanish film industry. This study examines the existing gender order within the film industry's governance system, which has the potential to reduce patriarchal culture. Although there are efforts to implement gender equality policies, challenges from old prejudices and patriarchal structures still need to be addressed. However, concrete steps toward equality have begun to be taken. In contrast to this study, which will focus on the film *Men in Black : International*, which features women as protagonists with equal power and rights as men, shows the presence of gender equality in the workplace.

The last article is titled "Representation of Gender Equality in *Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap* Films" by Auliya Wahyu Larasati and Wiwid Adiyanto, published in 2023, which discusses signs of gender equality in the film "*Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap*." This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with semiotic analysis from Charles Sanders Pierce. The results show several aspects of gender equality, such as discussions in planning, employment

opportunities, female characters' resistance, the right to express opinions, and success thanks to cooperation between women and men. This study also reflects the film "*Men in Black : International*," which shows women playing an equal role with men in the workplace. This reflects positive changes in the existence of women who were previously constrained by patriarchal culture. Unlike previous studies, an analysis related to gender equality through the lens of Bourdieu's theory of practice in the film *Men in Black : International* has never been conducted, making it important to explore how social and cultural structures influence gender representation in this film.

In response to these issues, the film "*Men in Black : International*" has emerged as a work that not only offers exciting entertainment but also presents relevant and important themes regarding the implementation of gender equality. *Men in Black : International* is an American action comedy film released on June 14, 2019. Although it shares the same backdrop as previous installments, the fourth installment presents a different story with a focus on a woman, Molly, who successfully becomes a secret agent. The story begins when Molly, a young girl, encounters an alien in her room. At that moment, she also witnesses two secret agents interacting with her parents. This experience fuels her obsession to become a secret agent. Because of her intelligence, Molly finally discovers the secret headquarters of the 'Men in Black' organization and accepted as an agent. She is then sent to London, where she meets Agent H, and they become partners in carrying out dangerous missions that ultimately save the Earth. What makes this film worth analyzing is how *Men in Black : International* raises the issue of gender equality by featuring women as main characters who play an equal role to men.

The character Molly in *Men in Black : International* successfully becomes a secret agent and proves that women have the same abilities and courage as men. This conveys a strong message about gender equality and is one of the film's strengths that is worth examining. The film not only provides entertainment but also addresses important themes about the role of women and challenges to gender stereotypes. Through Agent M, the film encourages viewers to recognize the importance of gender equality in life. Using Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice, we can understand how social and cultural structures influence gender representation, as well as how habits, capital, and social spaces shape more equitable gender identities. The purpose of this study is to explore the reasons behind the choice of gender equality as a topic in "*Men in Black : International*." By analyzing the factors that support equal gender representation, this study aims to demonstrate the importance of gender equality and its impact on society in the context of

film. A better understanding of how this film reflects and influences our views on gender is expected to provide broader insights into the role of women in the film industry and everyday life, particularly in the workplace. Therefore, this study is not only focused on the entertainment aspect but also on the film's contribution to promoting positive social change and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality in various fields, especially in the workplace.

METHOD AND THEORY

The study on the exploration of gender equality in the film *Men in Black : International* is a qualitative study using a literature review method. The theory used is Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice. According to Sugiyono in Febriyani (2023), in qualitative research, the position of a researcher is as a critical instrument, and data collection techniques are carried out through triangulation. This study uses the film *Men in Black : International*, directed by F. Gary Gray and released in 2019. This study aims to describe how gender equality is portrayed through the main character, Molly or Agent M, in the film *Men in Black : International* (2019). The researcher watched the film several times, noting important scenes and dialogues, and took screenshots for analysis. Supporting data was also obtained from articles, books, and online sources. The focus of the analysis was on actions, conversations between characters, and comments that reflect gender issues. The research uses Pierre Bourdieu's theories of habitus, capital, and field to explain how power and social control are reflected in the film. This theory helps to understand social practices as the result of interactions between social structures and individual experiences. In the context of the film, the world of *Men in Black : International* reflects how organizational rules, habits, and common goals shape social reality, while highlighting women's struggles to achieve gender equality.

As stated by Haryatmoko in Dewojati (2016), habitus is the result of skills manifested in conscious and unconscious practical actions and is considered a skill that develops within a specific social environment. Retnawati (2018) adds that habitus can be interpreted as habits, self-presentation, or the way someone carries themselves, which is related to the unique conditions of the body. Habitus is the result of skills that become practical actions (not always conscious), which then appear as natural abilities and develop within a specific social environment. Additionally, there is capital, which, according to Listiani (2013), refers to social interactions that only exist and produce results within the arena where they are produced and reproduced. Regarding the concept of field

itself, Retnawati (2018) explains that Bourdieu's concept of field should not be understood as an isolated area but as an area filled with power. In this realm, there is a struggle for resources (capital) and efforts to gain power. Bourdieu divides capital into four types: economic, social, cultural, and symbolic. Bourdieu's approach in practice theory helps explain how the dynamics of power, habitus, and social capital shape the characters and interactions between female and male characters in representing gender equality in social environments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Changes in social habitus in gender representation

In this modern era, gender-specific representations in the media have become increasingly important to reflect the evolving social reality. The film *Men in Black : International* also serves as a reflection of social change and development, especially in terms of gender equality. Changes in social habitus play an important role in the representation of gender equality in *Men in Black : International* by featuring female characters, such as Agent M, as strong and intelligent main characters. The evolving social norms that increasingly value women's roles in leadership and collaboration influence interactions between male and female characters and reduce existing gender stereotypes. Additionally, growing public awareness of gender issues and the impact of the feminist movement has encouraged filmmakers to create more comprehensive narratives. This is clearly illustrated in the following scene:



Figure 1. Molly's recruitment as part of the secret agency.

Agent O: "So, you found us. You proved you're not crazy. You got your 'I'm not crazy' badge. Now what?"

Agent M: 'I want to join.'

Agent O: 'We don't hire, we recruit.'

Agent M: "Then I want to be recruited."

(*Men in Black : International* 14:22)

In the scene at minute (14:22), Molly discovers the secret headquarters of the MIB organization, also known as Men in Black, for the first time. Molly's actions in this case are illegal, as the MIB organization is highly secretive and closed off from the outside world. Molly successfully finds the headquarters on her own without any help, but her actions lead to her being captured and interrogated by the MIB. Through the interrogation, Molly's brave spirit impresses one of the MIB's high-ranking officials, who happens to be a woman named "Agent O." Molly's courage and knowledge led her to be recruited as a secret agent for the United States. During her conversation with Agent O, Molly impressed her with her strong dedication to joining the MIB team. Through her answer, "Then I want to be recruited," Molly leaves a bold impression on Agent O. She remains unfazed and firm in her responses to Agent O's questions, which hint at her being a woman of great courage. Thus, Molly's recruitment into MIB serves as an example of her perseverance, which is proven to be intelligent. Moreover, the recruitment process is completely gender-neutral, regardless of whether the candidate is female or male in the film.

This indicates a shift in mindset, where women can freely play an active role, not just as supporting characters in a story but as the main characters in a superhero film, especially in the *Men in Black : International* series. In fact, if we look at the previous Men in Black films, women were only used as supporting characters in the film. Male characters in the previous series were more dominant as the main characters and heroes in the film. In contrast, female characters in previous films were more often used as supporting characters who were around the main characters and were shown to help enhance the performance of the male characters as the main stars. However, when the fourth installment, titled "*Men in Black : International*," was released, the main character was no longer a man but a woman. This drastic change was quite surprising to the public, especially amid the ongoing efforts to advocate for women's rights in public spaces. The presence of a female lead character can be seen as an indirect form of support from the United States in the fight for women's rights, with one of the key points being gender equality.

Referring to Pierre Bourdieu's concept of habitus, social habitus is a tendency formed through experience and socialization that influences how individuals think and act in a social context. The development of technology and information has opened up people's minds, encouraging a change in views on gender roles. This is reflected in the strong and independent female characters in the film *Men in Black : International*, which shows that women are capable of playing an equal role in a world previously dominated

by men. Gender equality is now increasingly accessible to everyone, allowing individuals to express themselves without being constrained by traditional norms. Both men and women have the freedom to choose their roles—a man can take care of the household, while a woman can pursue a career. In fact, both can share roles equally. This film is a real-life example of gender equality, showcasing cooperation without gender discrimination. This film creates a more inclusive and progressive narrative, as shown in the following image:



Figure 2. Gender-neutral cooperation

Agent H: MIB, don't move!

Agent M: Get down!

(*Men in Black : International* 0:40:24)

At (0:40:24), Agent M and Agent H (Chris Hemsworth) are depicted carrying out a mission to meet a client named Vungus, an alien at a secret party. However, problems arise when Vungus is attacked by two alien enemies. This scene marks the first time Molly, as Agent M, works alongside Agent H as a teammate. From this scene, we see how the two agents work together as equals to fight the evil aliens. They are ambushing two suspicious aliens who deliberately attacked the client they were meeting. Since this could endanger the surrounding area, Agent M and Agent H draw their weapons as a warning to the evil aliens to surrender immediately. Through this scene, Agent M and Agent H are depicted as having equal opportunities to take action. They do not see gender differences. In addition, the mission they are carrying out does not prohibit Agent M from participating as a woman, even for dangerous missions. The film *Men in Black : International* depicts an equal workplace, where agents are selected based on their abilities, not their gender. Agent M is portrayed as intelligent, independent, and determined, challenging traditional gender stereotypes. Meanwhile, Agent H embodies conventional masculinity, but in the

film he is not the primary savior; instead, he is an equal partner to Agent M. The film reflects shifting social values regarding gender equality and demonstrates how the film industry is adapting to global audience expectations.

2. Symbolic capital as a strategy in the film *Men in Black : International*

a. The big-name film franchise *Men in Black*

Symbolic capital is a form of recognition and prestige in a social context, such as reputation, popularity, and awards. *Men in Black : International* utilizes symbolic capital through the well-known *Men in Black* franchise, which has been around since 1997. By introducing Agent M, played by Tessa Thompson, as the female lead, the film attracts audiences and reinforces the role of women in the story. The film also expands the *Men in Black* universe to locations like London, Paris, and Marrakesh while maintaining classic elements like the neuralyzer and black suits. Male characters are positioned as supporting roles, reinforcing the message of gender equality. Overall, the film reflects progress in gender representation in the film industry and encourages support for diversity and equality in society.

b. Using Hollywood stars to attract attention

Furthermore, the series also features international actors such as Tessa Thompson and Chris Hemsworth as the lead actors, with a production cost of \$110 million. Tessa Thompson, who plays Molly or Agent M, is a famous actress with 23 international awards and 46 nominations (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1935086/>). Tessa Thompson's achievements are on par with the various films and roles she has played. Tessa and Chris also starred in big films such as "Avengers: Endgame" and "Thor: Ragnarok." Chris Hemsworth, widely known as "Thor," also has many awards and nominations. He has previously won 19 awards and been nominated for 56 international awards. (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1165110/>). The use of famous actors in the series "*Men in Black : International*" aims to attract audiences and increase the film's appeal. With the solid track records of these two actors, they have great potential to support the film's success. The release of this film in 2019 also aligns with the trend of superhero films that highlight the role of women, as well as important moments for social movements such as #MeToo and #TimesUp, which advocate for equality for women. According to Rara (2019), such social movements aim to promote equality and safety for workers in the entertainment industry. The campaign aims to actively advocate for equality and combat harassment against women. This action was also taken by Tessa Thompson, the lead actress of the film *Men in Black : International*. According to the Essence website

by Coleman (2020), "Actress Tessa Thompson is no stranger to speaking up for Black women. As one of the artists and activists in Hollywood who created the #TimesUp movement in response to sexual assault, equity, and equal pay in the workplace." This means: "Actress Tessa Thompson is no stranger to advocating for the rights of Black women. As one of the artists and activists in Hollywood who created the #TimesUp movement in response to sexual assault, equity, and equal pay in the workplace." Tessa's actions in this regard demonstrate her commitment, as she not only stars in films that showcase women's emancipation but also reflects her actions in the real world.

Symbolic capital in *Men in Black : International* is evident through Tessa Thompson's role as Agent M, who also serves as a public figure for social movements like #TimesUp. As stated by Alicia (2018), symbolic capital refers to any form of capital that receives special recognition from society. By linking her image and popularity to issues of women's empowerment and gender equality, the film draws attention to the importance of strong female representation. Tessa, as an actress actively involved in advocating for women's rights, adds depth to her character, making her a symbol of real social change and reinforcing the message that gender equality is a crucial issue in modern society. The use of symbolic capital not only enriches the film's narrative but also contributes to a broader dialogue about gender equality, demonstrating how the film industry can serve as a platform to address social issues and inspire positive change.

c. Use of advanced technology and visual effects.

The breakthroughs made by the film *Men in Black : International* also include superior technology and visual effects. This can be seen from the quality used in *Men in Black : International*, which is better and looks high quality. Quoted from Zahfira (2019), Gray, who also directed the eighth film in the Fast and Furious series, The Fate of the Furious (2017), adapted MIB: International by combining human and alien interactions depicted through 3D animation and visual effects (CGI). This makes it highly likely that the quality is superior to previous years. With this quality, the film presented will undoubtedly feel more realistic and serve as a unique attraction for audiences. With these capabilities, the film also introduces several additions, such as advanced vehicles and weapons. All of these are tools used by the agents, including Agent M and Agent H, in carrying out their missions.

Gender equality in *Men in Black : International* is symbolically demonstrated through the active role of Agent M as the main character who successfully completes the mission using various sophisticated equipment alongside Agent H. The film retains classic

elements from the previous series, such as the Neuralyzer and advanced vehicles, including the 2020 Lexus RC F that can transform into the QZ 618 Galactic Enforcer jet. The advanced technology and visuals in the film depict women's capabilities as equal to men in the world of secret agents, showing that women can operate modern weapons and vehicles effectively. By featuring a female character as the main protagonist, the film reflects changing social values in the entertainment industry and emphasizes the importance of gender equality. Furthermore, the use of advanced technology and visual effects not only makes the film engaging but also demonstrates how modern films must adapt to the times to capture the audience's attention. This helps the film become more popular and widely accepted. As explained by Ulum (2014), *habitus* equips individuals with desires, motivations, knowledge, skills, routines, and strategies to achieve a higher status. Thus, the use of advanced technology in visual form helps shape *habitus*, as Bourdieu suggests for audiences (society) to accept and appreciate the film because of its high-quality appearance. Therefore, films with attractive visual effects can increase the audience's desire for overall film quality. This also encourages producers and directors to continue innovating and presenting better works in order to compete in an increasingly competitive film industry, such as Hollywood.

1. Hollywood as the key to the global market

The Hollywood film industry has rules and values that continue to change over time. In recent years, there have been significant efforts to create more inclusive and diverse representation, including in terms of gender equality. This shift has been driven by socio-political pressures that have become an important symbolic capital in the mass media. Hollywood has become one of the leading film industries in America, influential in setting global film standards, demonstrating America's enormous power in the film industry compared to other countries. Added by Maisuwong, (2012) "Hollywood movies can influence people around the world, and they have several impacts, both positive and negative. America is the most powerful country in the world, it has impacts on all aspects such as politics, economics, military, or even entertainment. Hollywood is always considered as the fashion leader where the actors and actresses in the movies portray fashionable hairstyles, clothes, makeup, and so on. America is the most powerful country in the world, and it has impacts on all aspects such as politics, economics, military, or even entertainment. Hollywood is always considered a fashion leader, where actors and actresses in movies portray fashionable hairstyles, clothes, makeup, and so on. Therefore, Hollywood, as a product of a superpower, has a broad global influence in

politics, economy, military, and entertainment, which positively and negatively affects the lifestyles of actors and actresses. As a result, its existence and quality are recognized worldwide.

In "*Men in Black : International*," the portrayal of gender equality reflects a response to increasingly critical global audiences' demands for representation. The existence of this film in the Hollywood industry is a social space where actors, producers, and major production houses gather to interact, compete, and negotiate with each other using their symbolic capital to maintain their image and existence in front of the public, who are looking for something they desire. When this film was released in 2019, Hollywood was actively supporting the gender equality movement and various emerging social issues. The theme of gender equality in this film became a strategy to attract the attention of audiences, especially the younger generation who are sensitive to such issues. Considering that 2019 was an important moment for the #MeToo and #TimesUp campaigns, Hollywood sought to show its support for modern values and gender equality. According to Chen (2024), "The Hollywood film network in the United States is the most comprehensive globally. It has many production resources, such as movie stars, directors, and producers. *Second, the mature distribution system of American films has rejected foreign films from entering the U.S. market and has made American films a great success overseas. The global film distribution market is almost controlled by the United States, with its market share exceeding 50%. Therefore, American films can successfully convey culture to audiences around the world.*" Hollywood, in this case, has a very strong film production and distribution network and has successfully dominated the global market. Additionally, its involvement and support through films addressing current issues further solidify its global dominance. As a result, everyone eventually creates films that align with audience expectations, particularly those of the younger generation. The presence of the film *Men in Black : International* is America's attempt to answer this challenge by featuring a woman (Agent M) as the main character to show that women can also be cool heroes in action films.

Based on Bourdieu's theory of practice, the film *Men in Black : International* shows a shift in social habitus in gender representation. This film is not only entertaining, but also a medium for raising awareness of the importance of gender equality. The habitus portrayed reflects changes in social values and norms, where women are now more accepted as strong and equal protagonists. The film utilizes *symbolic capital* such as images of independent and confident women to attract the audience, especially young

people and women who crave inclusive representation. These symbols reinforce the film's appeal while conveying relevant social messages. In addition, the world behind the scenes actors, producers, and production houses compete and negotiate using symbolic capital to maintain their existence in the public eye. In this context, films become social spaces that reflect the dynamics of popular culture. *Men in Black : International* also demonstrates Hollywood's role as a global center for the dissemination of progressive values. By featuring female characters who are active in the main narrative, the film not only expands its market but also contributes to changing society's perspective on gender roles. This makes the film an important example in discussions about media and gender equality.

As the center of the global film industry, Hollywood plays an important role in shaping and disseminating social norms, including gender equality. In the film *Men in Black : International* (2019), the presence of strong female characters such as Agent M reflects the response to global market demands for more inclusive and diverse representation. This film emerged alongside growing awareness and movements for women's empowerment, reflecting broader social changes. By highlighting values such as equality and diversity, Hollywood strives to remain relevant and appealing to international audiences. This film serves as a platform for promoting gender equality values in the global market.

Based on Bourdieu's theory of practice, the application of gender equality in the film *Men in Black : International* can be seen through a shift in habitus, namely the way society views gender roles. This film consciously shapes the audience's awareness of gender equality issues by presenting a strong and independent female lead character, Agent M. In addition, the film utilizes *symbolic capital* to strengthen its appeal, especially for women and younger generations who want more inclusive representation. Through changes in habitus and the use of capital, the film becomes a social space where actors and filmmakers compete to maintain their image in the public eye. As the center of the global film industry, Hollywood plays a major role in shaping cultural values and norms, including gender equality. *Men in Black : International* reflects the industry's response to demands for more diverse representation. By featuring active and empowered female characters, the film not only meets market expectations but also reflects broader social changes while strengthening Hollywood's position in the global market through progressive values.

CONCLUSION

This film successfully demonstrates important changes in gender representation through two main aspects. First, changes in social habits are seen in female characters, such as Agent M, who is portrayed as a strong and intelligent main character. This reflects an increased appreciation for women's roles in leadership and cooperation, as well as a reduction in gender stereotypes. Growing public awareness of gender issues and the influence of the feminist movement have also encouraged filmmakers to create more comprehensive stories. Furthermore, symbolic capital functions as a key strategy in this film. By utilizing the famous "Men in Black" franchise and famous actors such as Tessa Thompson and Chris Hemsworth, the film shows that women are equal to men in terms of abilities and expertise, especially through the use of sophisticated tools by female characters. This proves that women can make significant contributions in the same fields as men. Thus, Hollywood plays an important role in entering the global market and leveraging popularity to influence audiences. This study confirms that "*Men in Black : International*" is not only entertaining, but also serves as a reflection and catalyst for social change in gender equality, in line with Bourdieu's theory of practice.

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