

3. CONCLUSION

Korean society is operating with traditional gender roles where it suggests that man should be the breadwinner and the head of the family, while woman is a subordinate role that is in charge of house duties and continuation of the family. However, traditional gender roles have experienced rapid changes due to modernization and globalization that happened. The rapid changes manifests in how women in South Korea currently contribute to the workforce, instead of just being a homemaker. Even though Korean gender roles of women have changed, the expectations of a woman to do the household duties and childcare remains strong.

The story of *Queen of Tears* takes place in modern times where modernization has happened. The main character, Baek Hyun Woo and Hong Hae In, is a married couple that does not portray the traditional gender roles values on the surface. Hong Hae In is part of a conglomerate family while Baek Hyun Woo comes from a middle class family of a village farmer. In their marriage, Hong Hae In holds a higher position of wealth instead of Baek Hyun Woo and performs non submissive actions. These juxtaposes the traditional gender roles where man should be the breadwinner and head of the family. This raises questions about the influence and relevance of the Korean gender roles in modern society.

Therefore, this study is discussing expectations of gender roles and the response performed by the main characters in the Korean drama, *Queen of Tears*. The reason why I am interested in analyzing the gender roles expectations and the main characters' responses is to delve deeper under the Korean culture that is heavily affected by Gender roles. I use the conceptual framework of gender roles as the main theory to analyze this study. The data source is taken from the dialogues of the characters in *Queen of Tears*.

This study finds how the Korean drama, *Queen of Tears*, portrays the rooted Korean gender roles expectations within the society of Korea and how the main characters are able to respond towards the expectation. The expectation can be seen in how Baek Hyun Woo is expected to be the breadwinner and the head of the family, while Hong Hae In was expected to be a homemaker by being a mother and performing home chores, as well as to play the submissive role. Firstly, the expectation of being a breadwinner is not directly voiced towards him, but something that has been shaped within him in how he was raised. However, as Baek Hyun Woo grew up, the expectation of a man to be more superior in terms of wealth is seen in

how his colleagues gossiped about him when he married Hong Hae In. Secondly, the expectation of being the head of the family is voiced by his father who conforms to the traditional gender roles as the head of the family as well as his siblings who subtly instill the idea that taking a divorce is a sign of irresponsibility as the head of the family. Thirdly, the expectation of being a homemaker is voiced by Hong Hae In's family and the Korean media towards her. She is pressured to produce an heir both for family continuity and to also maintain the social harmony in her family. Furthermore, the subtle portrayal of Hong Hae In to the media where as a woman working in the kitchen further explain that the Korean society expected women to be a homemaker, even when she is a CEO. Lastly, the expectation of having the submissive role is voiced by her competitor, mother, and husband. Her competitor and mother expected her to be married with someone from the upper class in order to have a less superior role, while Baek Hyun Woo performs negotiation suggesting she follow and consider his order.

Moreover, the study also finds that the main characters show conformity and nonconformity towards the expectation. Baek Hyun Woo shows conformity towards the expectation of being the breadwinner and the head of the family. This happened due to his internalization of Baek Du Gwan's actions. In situations where Baek Hyun Woo is not able to fulfill the expected gender roles, Baek Hyun Woo still acts according to the expected roles by showing effort in work, performing protests and negotiation towards Hong Hae In non-submissive actions. Meanwhile, Hong Hae In shows an ambiguity towards the expectation. She mainly shows nonconforming behavior as she carries a dominant presence. Her dominant presence is caused by guilt of his older brother's death thus manifests in the fact that Hong Hae In is involved in the family business which is unusual in her family. Thus, as she is prepared to be the one who continues the family business, she is unable to conform to the expectation where she has to stay at home and submit to her husband. However, Hong Hae In also shows conforming behavior towards the expectation of being a homemaker and having the submissive role only when it brings a benefit for her, and when she is in her in-laws' house.

The study also highlights how the characters' response does not always rigidly show conformity or nonconformity towards the expectation of gender roles. The character who internalizes the previous generation's behavior that conforms to the traditional role is more likely to show conformity. This can be seen in how Baek Hyun Woo shows more conformity towards the expectation rather than Hong Hae In as he internalizes his father's behavior who conforms to the traditional role. However, the response of conformity can also be seen as a

mask to gain social acceptance and other benefits. This suggests that responding to the traditional expectation, one can perform an ambiguity where they show conformity but only on a certain occasion. When there is no benefit gained from the conformity, response of nonconformity arises. This can be seen in how Hong Hae In conforms to the expectation of being a homemaker and a submissive role only to sustain her business, while her usual behavior shows non conformity towards the expected gender roles. Thus, these behavior shows that the response of conformity towards the expectation of gender roles i

To sum up, this study analyzes the gender roles expectations and the responses of the main characters in *Queen of Tears*. The analysis in the dialogues reveals how the main characters are expected according to the traditional gender roles, where male as the breadwinner and the head of the family, and female as a homemaker and a submissive role to the husband. In addition, the study also reveals that Baek Hyun Woo shows full conformity towards gender roles, while Hong Hae In shows ambiguity where she shows both nonconformity and conformity. This suggests that while the expectations of gender roles still exist in the Korean modern society, the responses are not always rigid towards conformity or nonconformity.