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Female Superiority Of Stereotypical Barbie In Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* **Movie Script**

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Abstract

This study aims to understanding the concept of female superiority in Barbie movie script written by Greta Gerwig. The movie was published in 2023. The movie reflects female superiority on the main character Stereotypical Barbie. The researchers use qualitative approach, focusing on the context and some subjective interpretations in detail. The analysis reveals that Stereotypical Barbie as the main character being superiority to around her and belong to Ken as the male character. The superiority is going on among womanness of the Stereotypical Barbie that is reflected in herself as an Alpha Female. In conclusion, female superiority in Barbie movie is such proof that women could be anything beyond any dictation from male beings.

Keywords: Barbie, Female Superiority, Greta Gerwig, Superiority

INTRODUCTION

Superiority is the belief that skills or achievements are much better than those of others (Annasai, et al., 2023; Bhandari, 2024). People with this complex might act condescending, arrogant, or unkind towards those who disagree with them. Superiority was first described by Alfred Adler, an early psychologist, in his theory of individual psychology (Bhandari, 2024; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). He explained that these complexes arise as a response to strong feelings of inferiority. Adler's theory suggests that everyone tries to overcome a sense of inferiority in some way (Annasai, et al., 2023; Bhandari, 2024). Some people do this by working hard to develop skills and achieve goals. However, those with very intense feelings of inferiority often struggle to believe they have accomplished enough.

To make up for this, Adler believes these individuals exaggerate their achievements and opinions to feel better about themselves (Bhandari, 2024). It is also argued that not all people with superiority complexes are consciously masking low self-esteem. Instead, these individuals might truly believe they are more successful than others, even without evidence to support their belief (Bhandari, 2024; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). This differs from confidence because it is not based on actual past successes.

Female superiority is the belief or concept that women are inherently superior to men in certain aspects, such as emotional intelligence, empathy, communication skills, moral judgment, or leadership abilities (Pasopati, et al., 2024; Sumra, 2019). This idea suggests that women may be better suited for certain roles or responsibilities in society due to these perceived strengths. The concept of female superiority can be found in various cultural, social, and ideological contexts (Ibrahim, et al., 2024; Sumra, 2019). Some people embrace it as a way to challenge traditional gender roles and the dominance of men in many aspects of life, particularly in societies where women have historically been marginalized or oppressed (Pasopati, et al., 2024; Sumra, 2019).

Female superiority emerged as a response to a long history of gender inequality in many societies (Narasati, 2019; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). For centuries, women have often been considered inferior to men and given more limited roles in family, work, and politics. However, as awareness about the importance of gender equality grows, the view also emerges that women have certain advantages that make them superior in several ways (Narasati, 2019; Pasopati, et al., 2024). Some of the reasoning behind this idea is the belief that women have higher levels of empathy and emotional intelligence, which allows them to be more thoughtful and sensitive leaders (Narasati, 2019). Additionally, women are often thought to be better at communication, collaboration, and building relationships, all of which are important skills in leadership and management (Narasati, 2019; Pasopati, et al., 2024).

Several women have tried to make changes to the patriarchal and dominating system. Some of them have realized how important it is to be an independent woman and towards their opponents of the opposite gender, then it makes them as Alpha Females. An example of an Alpha Female is Margaret Thatcher, one prominent former Britain's Prime Minister. As known, Thatcher serves as the Prime Minister and named as The Iron Lady due to her rigidity in underlining various policies (Mc Gregor, 2013). People can see that she dominates others as a woman towards men or other gender. What Margaret Thatcher does reflect as an Alpha Female behavior (Mc Gregor, 2013).

Talking about movie, there are many kinds of movies that feature various genres such as comedy, drama, romance, action, and so on. The movie that the researchers take is Barbie. This movie is fantasy comedy directed by Greta Gerwig in 2023 (Gerwig, 2023). Gerwig also writes the movie script of this film. In this study, the researchers

would like to discuss about Stereotypical Barbie character that shows female superiority in the roles of Alpha Female characteristics in the movie.

The researchers choose Barbie movie because this movie is not solely the same as Barbie's values in her doll figurine, which Barbie is often considered a standard representation of women. There are dialogues between Barbie and the real world character which enrich the meaning of Barbie herself (Gerwig, 2023). Alpha Female is also rarely discussed in literary analysis, especially in matter of feminism. It is since any femininity idea tends to speak about equality rather than dominance shown by Alpha Female.

This movie is not just about Barbie who is fun, girly, colorful, and feminine like Barbie cartoons and dolls in general. This particular movie carries a feminism theme which underlines the roles of women in society (Gerwig, 2023). Besides, this movie is describing Stereotypical Barbie, who is confused about who she is, has a special meeting with the figure of Ruth Handler, who made Barbie. Ruth tells Stereotypical Barbie that she can be anything she wants and does not have to follow one set path. She shows Stereotypical Barbie visions about being a mother to inspire her.

Touched by this previous situation, Stereotypical Barbie decides to become a real human named Barbara Handler and is supported by her friends, Gloria and Sasha (Gerwig, 2023). They go on a journey for an important appointment, and Stereotypical Barbie confidently says she is there to see her gynecologist, marking a big change in her life as she explores the real world to discover herself. In this film, Barbie is shown as the dominant one, from her own world to the real one. Barbie is not the one that could easily be tamed. She is the one that always rebels (Gerwig, 2023). She may face various doubts, but she has a brave heart, and supportive surroundings. This is how an Alpha Female is indicated in Barbie.

METHOD

The researchers use a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. This approach describes and explains the data in detail. The focus of the research is the movie script of Barbie, and the main data are the elements of the story within the script. The researchers look closely at the dialogues and other parts of the script that show themes of female superiority and feminism. To gather the necessary information, the research involves two steps: using the Barbie movie script by Greta Gerwig as the primary source, and collecting additional information from other sources to support the research goals. Through explorative approach, content analysis is used as the main technique of data analysis alongside close reading as its data collection technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Stereotypical Barbie's Superiority in Greta Gerwig's Barbie Movie Script

Barbie movie script was published in 2023 by Greta Gerwig tells about the Barbie doll's societal impact, followed by scenes in Barbie Land where Barbies hold all the power, and Kens are mostly insignificant. When Stereotypical Barbie experiences an existential crisis, she and Beach Ken journey to the real world, where Ken discovers patriarchy and takes over Barbie Land, making the Barbies submissive. Barbie, feeling lost, finds support from Gloria, Sasha, and others to restore Barbie Land's original order (Gerwig, 2023). Ken eventually realizes he needs to find his own identity, and Barbie, inspired by her creator Ruth Handler, chooses to live as a human in the real world, embracing her new life as Barbara Handler.

"She might have started out as just a lady in a bathing suit, but she became so much more." (Page 3)

The narrator points out that even though Barbie begins as a lady in a bathing suit, she has evolved into much more than just a pretty image. This statement highlights the transformation of Barbie from a stereotypical representation of beauty to a symbol of women's independence and empowerment

Data 2

"She has her own money, her own house, her own car, her own career." (Page 3)

Barbie represents an independent woman who earns her own money, has her own house, her own car, and a career. This reflects that Barbie is financially stable and has achieved goals in different parts of her life (Gerwig, 2023). She is not dependent on anyone, showing that women, just like Barbie, can be strong and successful on their own. The idea is to highlight Barbie as a symbol of independence and accomplishment, breaking traditional stereotypes and portraying women as capable and self-sufficient in various aspects of their lives.

Data 3

"Because Barbie can be anything, women can be anything." (Page 3)

That statement above emphasizes a powerful message. Traditionally, Barbie is often seen as fitting certain stereotypes; obedient, beautiful, tall, white, and slim. However, the new perspective on Barbie challenges these limitations by suggesting that she can be anything she wants (Gerwig, 2023). This sends a broader message that women should not be confined to specific roles or careers.

Data 4

"Girls can grow into women, who can achieve everything and anything they set their mind to." (Page 4)

The narrator conveys a message through Barbie's representation that girls have the potential to grow into women who can achieve anything they set their minds to (Gerwig, 2023). The idea is that women are not limited anymore, just like Barbie, who can be a doctor, lawyer, writer, and many more. The statement encourages girls to believe in themselves and understand that they can pursue their dreams.

Data 5

"Barbie has a great day every day, but Ken only has a great day if Barbie looks at him."

Barbie's days always go well every day with a perfect life. However, unlike what happens to Ken, Ken can have a beautiful day only if Barbie looks at him (Gerwig, 2023). Ken only looks cool when Barbie sees him and only when Barbie knows his presence. This situation makes Ken always try to attract Barbie's attention, because when Barbie sees him, Ken will feel cool and extraordinary for this achievement in his life.

Data 6

"And so is yesterday, and so is tomorrow, and so is the day after tomorrow and even Wednesdays and every day from now until forever." (Page 22)

The statement above suggests that in Barbie Land, every day is same day like usual, filled with good times (Gerwig, 2023). The idea is that the joy and fun experienced during girl's night extend to every day, including yesterday, tomorrow, and even ordinary Wednesdays.

Data 7

"You can go now." (Page 23)

When Stereotypical Barbie tells those words to Ken, it signs the end of the party and the beginning of girls' night in Barbie Land. In Barbie Land, every night is a girls' night, and Stereotypical Barbie wants some time with her friends without any interruption, not even from Ken (Gerwig, 2023). This statement reflects the idea that in Barbie Land, the focus is on the enjoyment, emphasizing the significance of their friendship and celebrations over romantic relationships (Gerwig, 2023).

Data 8

"Oh, but I don't want you here." (Page 24)

Stereotypical Barbie straightforwardly tells Ken that she denies Ken's existence (Gerwig, 2023). She makes it clear that Ken is not welcomed in her house, and he must be leave. Stereotypical Barbie does not want Ken around because the party is over, and it is now time for girls' night. In her perspective, Ken does not have any reason to be there, so Stereotypical Barbie insists that he must go.

Data 9

"And this is my Dreamhouse. It's Barbie's Dreamhouse."

"It's not Ken's Dreamhouse. Right?" (Page 24)

Barbie emphasizes to Ken that the house they are in is her Dreamhouse, not Ken's. She asserts that it belongs to Barbie, not Ken, and implies that he should leave. This statement showcases Stereotypical Barbie's sense of ownership and control over the situation, asserting her authority in her own Dreamhouse (Gerwig, 2023). It implies that Ken should respect Barbie's space and, if Barbie decides, he must go elsewhere.

Data 10

"Every night is girls' night.

"Mmm-hmm."

"Every night. Forever." (Page 24)

Ken expresses disappointment because every night is girls' night, leaving him with limited time to spend with Stereotypical Barbie. In response, Stereotypical Barbie agrees, stating that every night and forever will be girls' night, emphasizing that she cannot be bothered with anything else (Gerwig, 2023). This suggests that Stereotypical Barbie has set a daily routine centers around girls' night, prioritizing time with her female friends over Ken (Gerwig, 2023; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017).

Data 11

"Go for a walk or something." (Page 51)

Stereotypical Barbie is thinking deeply and wanting some time alone. She asks Ken to do something else so she could be alone with her thoughts (Gerwig, 2023). Barbie nicely tells Ken to take a walk or do anything else he likes,

as long as he does not disturb her (Gerwig, 2023). Ken, being a good friend, agrees with a nod and goes off to do his own thing.

Data 12

"Don't go far" (Page 51)

As Stereotypical Barbie is thinking about the girl who is used to play with her, she tells Ken not to go too far from where they are. She wants Ken to stay close while she is lost in thought (Gerwig, 2023). So, Ken makes sure to stay nearby by being careful not to go too far.

Data 13

"Okay, just don't get in trouble." (Page 64)

Ken decides to go to the library to find some books, and Stereotypical Barbie agrees with his plan. However, she reminds him to be careful and not to get into any trouble while he is out (Gerwig, 2023). Barbie wants Ken to have a good time at the library, but she also wants him to stay safe and make good choices (Gerwig, 2023). So, with a nod, Ken heads to the library, keeping Barbie's advice in mind as he looks for interesting books.

Data 14

"Women hold all major positions of power, control all the money." (Page 93)

Stereotypical Barbie shares with Sasha and her mom that in Barbie Land, women are in charge of everything (Gerwig, 2023). Stereotypical Barbie explains that women hold all the big jobs, have the top positions, and control all the money. This suggests that in Barbie Land, it is the women who have the most power and influence (Gerwig, 2023). Stereotypical Barbie is emphasizing the idea that in her imaginative world, women dominate and take on important roles, showcasing a unique perspective on leadership and control in the Barbie Land (Gerwig, 2023).

Data 15

"So does each Barbie, like, have their own house?

"Mmm-hmm."

"That's cool." (Page 97)

Sasha asks "does each Barbie has her own house?" and Stereotypical Barbie answers with showing gratitude feeling (Gerwig, 2023). Sasha is excited to know that every Barbie has her own house. This is so different from real world in which people live together in a house. It is also such confirmation that all Barbies belong to their own houses, as shown in their conditions of being dolls.

Conceptualization of Female Superiority

According to A. P. Kahn and M. Ronald, the word of superiority comes from superiority complex that refers to a situation where someone believes they are much better than others (Annasai, et al., 2023; Narasati, 2019). People with this complex tend to think they are better than anyone else. Behaviors linked to the superiority complex include thinking very highly of oneself, having big goals, and expectations for themselves and others, and dominating to whom they are considerers as weaker or less important.

Superiority is usually indicated by someone who acts arrogant because of their appearance, unique dressing, excessive pride, bossy behavior, and the habit of easily finding and pointing out mistakes and fault in others (Annasai, et al., 2023; Narasati, 2019). These feelings often come from not having good social interactions or from mistakes made by any surroundings people. Superiority can either come from a desire to be in a higher position than others or it might seem that way because of someone's natural traits. Those who want to be superior often judge others based on their appearance, social status, job, or even their gender. The superior people usually do not show respect and may underestimate those they consider inferior (Annasai, et al., 2023; Narasati, 2019).

Somehow, being superior is also related to acts of showing dominance from one to another. It must not be so negative since dominance could also be such signs of a prospective leader. Someone who leads automatically asserts higher positions than other people to bring them forward to a better purpose or to reach such goals (Annasai, et al., 2023; Smarandreetha, et al., 2023). This also includes giving exemplary deeds so that the followers could maintain the values or at least imitate what the leader does.

Female superiority emerged as a response to a long history of gender inequality in many societies (Narasati, 2019; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). For centuries, women have often been considered inferior to men and given more limited roles in family, work, and politics (Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024; Narasati, 2019). However, as awareness about the importance of gender equality grows, the view also emerges that women have certain advantages that make them superior in several ways.

Some of the reasoning behind this idea of superiority is the belief that women have higher levels of empathy and emotional intelligence, which allows them to be more thoughtful and sensitive leaders (Narasati, 2019; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). Additionally, women are often thought to be better at communication, collaboration, and building relationships, all of which are important skills in leadership and management (Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024; Narasati, 2019; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017).

Based on the definitions above, it can generally be said that superiority comes from a desire to be above others or may naturally occur (Cloke, 2021). People or groups who want to be superior often judge others by their appearance, social status, position, or even gender. Those who see themselves as superior usually lack respect for, or look down on, those they consider inferior (Cloke, 2021; Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024).

Female Superiority in Stereotypical Barbie Character

In data 1, Barbie's transformation represents a shift from the previous perception of women that only emphasizes elegance and beauty, towards the representation of independent and empowered women. Barbie has a power that goes beyond the usual identity linked to women. It is known that women are always getting stereotypes under her gender in society. Now, Barbie shows that she breaks free the chains of stereotypes and become a leader, even dominating others (Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024; Narasati, 2019). In this way, Barbie not only becomes a symbol of liberation from traditional expectations of women, but also creates new things about a woman's strength and leadership. This indicates that Barbie is superior to people and other things on her surroundings.

In data 2, the quotation explains Barbie has ownership of everything in Barbie Land like car, house, and higher job position by her own efforts. Her power is showing that she is more superior without having to depend on a man, underlining that strength and success do not depend on gender. It also makes Barbie more superior than Ken in Barbie Land as the reflection of Alpha Female. So that, Barbie becomes a symbol of female independence who not only achieves financial success, but also depicts excellence without dependence on traditional gender norms (Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024; Narasati, 2019). That situation emphasizes that superiority does not have to depend on gender.

In data 3, the statement also shows that Stereotypical Barbie's superiority encourages the idea that women can pursue their ambitions and be whatever they desire (Ibrahim & Pasopati, 2024; Janelli, 2024). Barbie's diversity reflects a change in the understanding of female excellence that is not only limited to physical appearance, but also includes leadership and broader potential realizations. So that, women could break free from restrictive stereotypes and showcasing the diversity of possibilities for women in the real world. The evolution of Barbie reflects a positive shift towards encouraging women to embrace their individual aspirations and potentials. Therefore, Barbie's evolution not only breaks down beauty stereotypes, but also builds the concept that women have the capacity to lead and pursue various goals without being limited by conventional norms.

In data 4, the quotations explains Barbie shows that for now women have the ability to become whatever they want, breaking free from traditional constraints, nothing can restrict them (Janelli, 2024; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). It is a positive message for all the women promoting empowerment, emphasizing that with determination and ambition women can turn their dreams into reality they are set in mind and achieve success in various fields. Women empowerment means boosting their confidence, letting them make their own decisions, and supporting their role in bringing about positive changes in society for themselves and others (Pujimahanani, et al., 2017; Worldvision, 2024). By her superiority, Alpha Female could promote more feminine aspects in wider society.

In data 5, it shows how the statement proves that Barbie is showing her superiority to Ken, so it makes Ken always tries to attract Barbie's attention. Barbie successfully overcomes feelings of inferiority and consequent dependence on others (Pujimahanani, et al., 2017; Zarkasy, 2020). When Barbie pays attention to Ken, it makes Ken's world perfect. Barbie is everything for Ken. It makes Barbie superior to Ken because Ken needs Barbie in his life. This inferior feeling can happen because there is a superior one who controls the inferior one's existence (Annasai, et al., 2023; Narasati, 2019).

In data 6, Stereotypical Barbie shows her happiness in Barbie Land where every day is always filled with fun things like parties and girls' nights. The phrase "from now until forever" emphasizes that these positive moments are timeless and will continue indefinitely in Barbie Land. It conveys a sense of perpetual happiness and togetherness, creating a vivid image of ongoing celebrations and friendship in Barbie Land. Because fun things always happen between the Barbies, they never think about Ken's presence in the Barbies' lives. It emphasizes that Barbie is doing fine without any existence of Ken. It indicates if Stereotypical Barbie is superior towards Ken because she never thinks about Ken's presence in her life. Superior people usually do not show respect and look down on people they consider inferior (Narasati, 2019; Smarandreetha, et al., 2023). Indeed, Barbie is the superior one.

In data 7, it explains that after party ends, Stereotypical Barbie asks Ken to go. It sets the tone for a carefree and fun time for the Barbies without any distractions from the external factor, even from Ken. She does not ever think about having a small talk with Ken beside in party. So, after party is over, she just tells Ken to leave because Stereotypical Barbie feels Ken's businesses is over and done (Gerwig, 2023; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017). She does not need Ken for anything else in her house. Once again, Barbie is fine without Ken. He will never disturb her because he is nothing for her. It indicates that what Stereotypical Barbie does is being superior towards Ken. Stereotypical Barbie as the superior one shows no respect to Ken as the inferior one (Narasati, 2019; Smarandreetha, et al., 2023).

In data 8, the quotation shows that Stereotypical Barbie reflects her determination to have a fun time with her Barbie friends without any interruptions from Ken. It is emphasizing the importance of girls' night in Barbie Land and her ignorance to Ken. It shows that, according to the Stereotypical Barbie, Ken is considered as nothing, so his presence is unneeded and even unimportant, so that Barbie asks him to leave. Stereotypical Barbie demonstrates her superiority over Ken because she does not want him to be there. So, she kicks him out and also looks down on him, thinking that

Ken would only be a bother for her. The superior people usually do not show respect and underestimate those they consider inferior (Narasati, 2019; Smarandreetha, et al., 2023).

In data 9, the quotation shows that Stereotypical Barbie emphasizes to Ken that the Dreamhouse is her house, so Ken must not be there when the party and other things are over. Stereotypical Barbie wants Ken to understand that she wants some space of her own to hang out with the other Barbies for girls' night at her Dreamhouse. Stereotypical Barbie's statement regarding her Dreamhouse conveys a superiority trait, where she administers ownership and control of it (Gerwig, 2023). Barbie feels that she has higher right and authority over her choices in life than Ken.

The statement of this situation reflects Barbie's dominance in decisions regarding the Dreamhouse, underscoring her self-confidence and power within the Barbie Land situations and conditions. Stereotypical Barbie is in control and implies that the Dreamhouse is her realm of decision and authority. People with a superiority trait often believe that they have control and power to others (Smarandreetha, et al., 2023; Zarkasy, 2020). This can be seen in their high self-esteem, ambitious goals, and expectations for themselves and those around them. They also tend to dominate or belittle those they see as weaker or less important.

In data 10, the statement above reflects a humorous tone, with Ken's disappointment contrasting with Stereotypical Barbie's unwavering commitment to her girls' night tradition, portraying a strange dynamic in Barbie Land. According to Stereotypical Barbie, there is nothing more important than girls' night in her life every night, even Ken's presence is considering unimportant by her. It underlines Stereotypical Barbie's superiority towards men in her world of Barbie Land because she considers Ken's presence unimportant and girls' nights are more crucial in her life. People who think they are better often do not show respect and might look down on those they see as less important (Narasati, 2019; Pujimahanani, et al., 2017; Smarandreetha, et al., 2023).

In data 11, Ken leaves Stereotypical Barbie alone to have some space so that she could think and have clue to find what she needs. By asking Ken to go, it shows that Stereotypical Barbie wants to be superior, not only towards Ken, but also for her own self. It is because she needs to focus on her motivation goals, so that she makes her doing hard work for herself. Superiority comes from a desire to be in a higher position than others or appear that way because of natural traits (Narasati, 2019; Wardhana, et al., 2024). Stereotypical Barbie does not want anyone interrupt her thinking. She wants to be superior by her own self. This is herself being feminine as her main identity.

In data 12, Stereotypical Barbie asks Ken to go but she also does not want Ken to get any trouble so she asks him to stay nearby from her. It seems that she cares for Ken. However, she says that to prevent Ken from not making another problem. This is Barbie being superior to Ken. She does not hate Ken. She only thinks that no one should restrict her purpose to find the girl. People with this superiority tend to think they are better than anyone else, so she does not want other persons bothering them (Narasati, 2019; Wardhana, et al., 2024). She does not want Ken to interrupt either.

In data 13, this statement reflects the superiority traits from Stereotypical Barbie on a nurturing and protective role. An Alpha Female is a strong and self-assured leader who treats everyone fairly, prefers logic over emotions, and supports gender equality. She is outgoing, keeping her emotions in check, and treating both men and women equally (Ward et al., 2010). She ensures if Ken will be safe while he is far from her. It highlights Stereotypical Barbie's ability to care for others, provide guidance, and maintain a sense of authority in considerate and supportive aspects.

In data 14, the quotation shows how Stereotypical Barbie tells that women are in charge of everything. She describes women holding all the major positions, make important decisions, and control all the money. This implies that women have the most power and influence in Barbie Land. It is a change from traditional roles, where women are now the main leaders and decision makers. This shows superiority of Stereotypical Barbie where women take strong roles, challenge usual expectations, and highlight their ability to lead and control. Being alpha is to have higher position than any other individual (Pujimahanani, et al., 2017; Sumra, 2019; Wardhana, et al., 2024).

In data 15, the statement above shows superiority of Barbie that emphasizes individuality and independence of women towards men in Barbie Land. It highlights dominance of women in Barbie Land. Superior women even think that they can live by themselves without any help from any man. They somehow even show no respect and underestimate those they consider inferior (Narasati, 2019; Pasopati, et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

The analysis in Greta Gerwig's Barbie movie script shows the superiority of Stereotypical Barbie. Superiority involves the feeling that oneself is superior to others. The example is when Stereotypical asks Ken to go because the Dreamhouse is hers, and Stereotypical Barbie does not want Ken to be in the. It proves that Stereotypical Barbie has superior qualities to other people because she does not want anyone bothering her. This is because Stereotypical Barbie already lives in superiority condition in Barbie Land.

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