

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Renne Wellek (1948) states that “literature can create its own world as a product of unlimited imagination...” In Literature, we will be dealing with something called literary work. Olsen (1982) states that “literary work is a verbal expression, a verbal construct or an utterance.” There are many types of literary work such as novel, poetry, prose, movie, and so on. From a variety of literary works, the one that writer decided to analyze is movie. Kindem (2000) states that movie is “both art and commerce, creative expressions of national or cultural interests and preoccupations, and part of a global entertainment market.”

The movie that writer wants to analyze is “Mulan”. The movie was famous back in 1998. It was produced in June 1998. And, it was released in Indonesia on October 23rd 1998. The movie is taken from real story. So, Mulan is a legend. Li (1994) states that the movie is about:

Hua, the earliest legendary woman warrior in Chinese culture and was recently verified by various scholars as a real woman living during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- A.D. 220). She is recorded in a name book compiled at the end of Jin Dynasty around the year A.D. 419 (Huang 1991). Hua's deed inspired the largest number of literary and artistic works about Chinese heroines. (1994, p. 2)

The movie is about a female warrior who does an uprising to fight for women rights without thinking of the risks she is going to bear herself. Mulan's efforts to fight to prove that she is capable of being a good soldier and to help her colleagues to

defeat the *Huns* is interesting to see from the feminist point of view. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze *Mulan* using feminist theory. Jacobs (2015) states that “a feminist analysis concentrates on the portrayals of women in a film –are they strong, weak, stereotypes, protagonists, etc.” The writer wants to find out and analyze Mulan’s efforts to get the same rights as men using feminist point of view and forms of discrimination of women in “Mulan” experience.

The title of my thesis is “An Analysis of *Mulan*, The Disney Movie, Using Feminist Theory”. The writer decided to pick this title, because the process the writer did the thesis was by watching the movie first, then find related theory. The one that is analyzed was the feminist elements in the movie. The reasons the writer decided to analyze the topic are it is touching to see Mulan cares and fights for women rights and it is interesting to see the way people in ancient China fighting, even though there was no education about feminist theory before.

The writer wants to address that before this analysis, there are some previous researchers who analyze the movie, *Mulan*, but with different topics and research methods, such as Steve Burnett research, Molefi Kete Asante et al., and Sonja Blum. Burnett research title is “Studying Feminism in The Movie, *Mulan*” Burnett discusses on his background that:

Therefore, the details in this movie will be analyzed by using textual analysis in order to find the contradiction between the big moral lesson and the details. The purpose of this paper is also want to see how the masculinity construction actually has a powerful authority over the woman in a society. (2015, p. 1)

Thus, even though, Burnett did the analysis of feminist elements like the writer too what makes our thesis different are Burnett’s method of analysis is textual

analysis and the objective is to find the contradiction in *Mulan*. Therefore, by looking for previous analysis of *Mulan*, the writer wanted to find out is there any same analysis (if there is, then the writer topic cannot be analyzed) and learn new things about feminism with different topics and discussion.

Asante et al. do analysis of Disney's *Mulan* to find accuracy and honesty of man's speech and moral development. Blum's title is "The Representation of Gender in Walt Disney's *Mulan*". Her analysis object is movie structure. The reason she is interested in analyzing the movie is because it gives influence to children to be feminist, yet it is something decent to be watched. The theory she uses is Judith Butler theory on gender as performance. Lind does the textual analysis of *Mulan* discussing gender and patriarchy. Lind (2004) states "with this image in mind, I want to explain *Mulan* from the angle of the fairy tale. I'll use two concepts from feminist theory, gender and patriarchy..."

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Literature. The subject is Gender Studies.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is feminism in *Mulan* as a female warrior and main character.

1.4 Problem Formulations

To help analyzing *Mulan*, the writer formulates some questions:

1. What forms of discrimination do women in *Mulan* experience?
2. What are *Mulan*'s efforts to get the same rights as men or to fight sexism?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem formulation, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find out forms of discrimination women in *Mulan* experience.
2. To find out Mulan's efforts to get the same rights as men or to fight sexism.

1.6 Significance of the Study

By doing this thesis, the writer hopes that it will be useful for the students of Faculty of Language and Arts in understanding feminist theory. Additionally, the writer wants to show that women also have rights to have the same social status in society, to be treated the same, and last but not least to do the same things with men.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. Classical liberal

Tong (1998) states classical liberals are “the ideal states protect civil liberties (for example, property rights, voting rights, freedom of speech...”

2. Equality

Crudden and Prechal (2009) state that “equality is where the principle of non-discrimination is a self standing principle of general application ...”

3. Feminism

Freedman (2001) states that “feminism is used to refer to the late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century feminist movements...”

4. Feminist

Freedman (2006) states that “feminist: pertaining to feminism or to women.”

5. Feminist analysis

Jacobs (2015) states that “a feminist analysis concentrates on the portrayals of women in a film –are they strong, weak, stereotypes, protagonists, etc.”

6. Gender Stereotype

Mahtab (2016) states that “a gendered stereotype consists of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of, as well as the activities appropriate to men or women.”

7. Social Status

Dubois and Ordabayeva (2016) state “social status is a central construct in social sciences...”

8. Stereotype

Cook and Cusack (2010) state “a stereotype is a generalized view or preconception of attributes or characteristics...”

