

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nowadays, there are many kinds of film in our society. Dick in his book *Anatomy of Film* states that film has a perfectly acceptable term, that is, movie. He argues that “it [movie] suggests popular culture rather than art” (2011, p.3). , Eicar – The International Film and Television School in Paris points out that “film is a cultural artifacts created by specific cultures, which reflect those cultures, and, in turn, affect them” (n.d., *Definition Film*, ¶.2).

Film certainly has its purposes. In answer.com, it is mentioned that films are basically produced to entertain and inform the viewers (*Purpose of Movies*). It actually strengthens Nachbar and Lause’s statement in their book *Popular Culture: an Introductory Text*. They argue that “television program is a popular culture which can inform and entertain people who watch it” (1992, p.2).

Because of its purposes, many directors compete to make a good movie to be watched. They make both fiction and non-fiction movies to fulfill the viewers’ needs and desires. They challenge themselves to make people who watch their movies gain something good.

Films are divided into some genres; some of them are action, adventure, comedy, drama, horror, etc. Drama film itself has its sub-genres, and one of them is docu-dramas. “A docudrama is a film or television show which combines the fields of documentary and drama. Docudrama is a non-fiction drama focusing on real events and real people presented in a dramatized way” (*What is a Docudrama*, ¶.1).

Talking about docudrama, *The Iron Lady* movie is one of the best examples of it. It is produced by Damian Jones and directed by Phyllida Lloyd. It is adapted from the real life of Margaret Thatcher.

This movie is a biopic film which covers some phases of Margaret Thatcher’s life. It tells the story of her daily life since she was young as a grocer’s daughter until she became a wife, a mother, and a politician at the same time.

Since the movie represents the society’s beliefs, values, and norms, people who watch this movie can recognize well the occurrences happened in Britain during that period. In this movie, the viewers can notice that there were a lot of turmoil in politic, economy, and social fields of the British government and the people at that time. In addition, the viewers can also see some significant occurrences because of Thatcher’s role in leading the country, such as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Falklands Islands’ ownership. This implies the motivation behind the making of this film. It intends to inform people about the history of an event or a certain subject.

In this study, the writer analyzed a character named Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady* movie. The reason why the writer chose this movie was because this movie gave both information and values the government had to apply in political field. While, Margaret Thatcher was chosen as the subject or focus of the study because the writer wanted to disclose Thatcher as a woman who was able to endure the political oppression she was dealing with. Even though the society did not give her a chance to show her ability to lead the country, and even underestimated and brought her down, Thatcher performed her ability to carry out the British government well.

Besides, she is an inspiring leader for the writer since she exemplifies how a woman leader ought to behave. Moreover, she had her own values, beliefs, and idealism she maintained during her life.

To give the readers a better insight about Thatcher, the writer provided some basic information related to her. Margaret Thatcher was born on October 13, 1925, in Grantham, England. She is the daughter of a local businessman who was introduced to conservative politics by her father, a member of the town's council.

When she was in university, she served as a president of the Conservative Association. Two years after graduating from college, she was accepted to work for public office. She ran for a Dart Ford parliamentary seat as the conservative candidate in the 1950 elections and was elected to be a leader of the Conservative Party in 1975.

She showed her valor when she accepted the mandate to become the first female Prime Minister in England. She served as the Prime Minister of England from 1979 to 1990. At that time she had to encounter oppositions from both the male-dominated government apparatus and society.

Though she faced many difficulties during her regime, she was not hesitant to make decisions in order to give a better life for the society. For instance, she battled the country's recession by initially raising interest rates to control inflation. Once again, she proved that she was able to be a leader of a country since she ran the country quite well with some progressions she made at that time (1996, *Margaret Thatcher Biography*).

Moreover, she was successful to record her name in the history as the first female Prime Minister of England for more than one decade (n.d., *Review: The Iron Lady (2011)*, ¶.1). As the first female politician, she had strong influence in the world. According to one of the UK's site, she contributed to the fall of the Berlin Wall which started a major transformation of central and eastern European economies from relying mostly on central planning to being governed by markets (April 16, 2013, *Margaret Thatcher: Her Impact and Legacy in Global Development*, ¶.11).

The writer intended to discuss this figure, primarily the struggle she made, in relation to women stereotype and oppression she was dealing with analyzed from theory of feminism. Having considered the above

facts, therefore the writer proposed a study entitled A Study of Margaret Thatcher's Struggle against Women Stereotype and Oppression as seen in Phyllida Lloyd (2012) *The Iron Lady*.

1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

This study belongs to both Literature and Film Studies.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The writer put limitations as follows:

- The writer analyzed the feminism side of a character in *The Iron Lady* movie, Margaret Thatcher, using theory of feminism.
- The writer analyzed the cinematographic visualization in the film which confirms women stereotype and oppression Thatcher passed through and her struggle against them.

1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION

This research aims to answer the following questions:

- How does Thatcher struggle against women stereotype and oppression happened in Britain during 20th century?
- How are the women stereotype, oppression, and Thatcher's struggle against them represented cinematographically?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research is conducted to achieve this objective:

- To reveal the narrative in Llyod (2012) *The Iron Lady* which shows that there were women stereotype and oppression in Britain during 20th century.
- To show the cinematographic visualization in Llyod (2012) *The Iron Lady* which confirms women stereotype, oppression, and Thatcher's struggle against them.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on a movie entitled *The Iron Lady* and on the theory of feminism in accordance to women stereotype and oppression Thatcher faced and her struggle against them. By watching *The Iron Lady* movie, the viewers are informed about what was going on in the past toward women in Britain, who were stereotyped and oppressed by men. Besides, the viewers can recognize that such a docudrama movie can be analyzed by means of feminism theory. The writer also expects that this study can encourage and empower women where the writer lives.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

To prevent misunderstandings towards this study, the writer gave some definition of terms which are related to this study.

1. Film

- “Film means “movie” – a perfectly acceptable term. It suggests popular culture rather than art” (*Anatomy of Film*, Dick, 1978, p.2).
- “Films are cultural artifacts created by specific cultures, which reflect those cultures, and, in turn, affect them” (*Definition Film*, anonymous, n.d., ¶.2).

2. Feminism

- “Feminism is a belief that women and men are inherently of equal worth. Because most societies privilege men as a group, social movements are necessary to achieve equality between women and men, with the understanding that gender always intersects with other social hierarchies” (*No Turning Back, The History of Feminism and The Future of Women*, Freedman, 2002, p.22).
- “Feminism is the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes” (*What is Feminism?*, Chancey, 2011, ¶.2).

3. Stereotype

- “Stereotype is fixed ideas about individuals, groups or objects” (*The Dictionary of Feminist Theory*, Humm, 1995, p.277).

- “Stereotypes are characteristics ascribed to groups of people involving gender, race, national origin and other factors. These characteristics tend to be oversimplifications of the groups involved, however” (*What is a Stereotype*, Nittle, 2012, ¶.1).

4. Oppression

- “The experience of oppressed people is that the living of one’s life is confined and shaped by forces and barriers which are not accidental or occasional and hence avoidable” (*Oppression*, Frye, n.d., ¶.7).
- “Oppression is a type of injustice. It is the inequitable use of authority, law, or physical force to prevent others from being free or equal” (*Oppression – Feminism Definition*, Napikoski, 2012, ¶.1).

5. Struggle

- “Struggle is to use your strength to fight against someone or something; to try very hard to defeat someone or to stop them having power over you” (*Struggle – Definition*, anonymous, 2013, ¶.2).
- “A forceful or violent effort to get free of restraint or resist attack” (*Definition of Struggle in English*, anonymous, 2013, ¶.2).

6. Cinematographic visualization

- “The essential techniques, methods, and elements people use to tell the story” (*Cinematography Theory and Practice: Image Making for Cinematographers and Director*, Brown, 2011, p.3).

