

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sleeping Beauty is a classic fairy tale by Perrault (1697). In Perrault's version, the heroine of sleeping beauty story is a seventeen-year-old beautiful princess, who is cursed to sleep for a hundred years by the wicked fairy and only awakened to the true kiss of a handsome prince. At the end of the story, the curse broke by the prince charming, they got married and live happily ever after with twin children named Aurore (dawn) and Jour(day). However, in the new version of *Sleeping Beauty* film produced by Julia Leigh (2011), the main character turns to be a fair college girl named Lucy, starred by Emily Browning. She is not a princess, yet living under poverty. Her charming prince is a man with illness called Birdmann. This helpless man is unable to release this apricot-hair girl from her curse because he died.

Moreover, a happy ending story is not for Lucy. The ending of this movie is unclear. *Sleeping Beauty* 2013 ends up with Lucy crying out loud and finding her client, an older man, dead in his sleep next to her.

When she became an exclusive sex worker, Lucy does various part-time jobs. She works as a science test subject in a laboratory, a waitress in a cafe, a copy girl at an office and also a sex-worker at a high-end pub. From day to day, in one morning until the next morning, Lucy attending classes and did her series of part-time jobs continuously. She then gets a new job as a silver service waitress through an advertisement in her college's newspaper.

Hired at the silver service waitress, requires her only to wear supplied lingerie. Without any sexual penetration, Lucy and other women serve private VIP events' customers. Then Clara, the boss later introduces Lucy to the next level of her job, where Lucy consciously lets herself be given the drug to sleep. Without any information of whom her customers are, the customers fondle her bare body and use her as a sleeping companion and do whatever they want. Stick to the no penetration-agreement, this job becomes her new focus for its high salary and low effort.

Even though Clara already reminds her not to make this job as a career. Lucy could not help herself to ask more and more jobs to Clara's assistant, Thomas. Lucy does all of these part-time jobs because she needs the money to pay her student's loan, to give money to her mother, to pay her rent, and also to support her own life. Despite the jobs, she does not have time for herself. So that eye covering is her only best friend to help her sleep in the daylight.

Lucy's story brings us to a more in-depth discussion on the idea of sexual freedom choices proposed in post-feminism. Angela Mc Robbie (2009) on her book entitled *The after Math Feminism: Gender, Culture, and Social Change* say that women start to talk about sexual freedom after the feminist era. The book emphasizes that women could have sexual freedom, and they are allowed to pursue sexual pleasure, work-life balance, political equivalent, and many more. Besides, in her book, Mc Robbie states that women in the 20th century have the right to drink, smoke, have fun in the city, and be economically independent or support themselves financially without any help is a form of sexual freedom (p.

12). Sexual orientation, interest, and attraction of human are affected by sexuality. This sexuality could be expressed and perceived through thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviors, practices, roles, and relationships (WHO, 2010).

Prostitution is considered to be contradicted to religion, a violation of the social norms, a crime, and a medium to spread HIV / AIDS. One hundred nine countries proscribe, eleven states that limit, seventy-seven states that legalize, and five states that do not have laws for prostitution (Chartsbin.com, 2000). Even if Indonesia is one of the countries that do not have a specific decree for prostitution, Indonesian's "crimes against decency/morality" is applied to prostitution. ILO (International Labor Office) mentioned that Indonesia was "...based on Islamic Law, specified the number of conditions under which *zinah* (adultery) is illegal and punishable by up to nine months in prison" (Lim, 1998, p. 58). It is affected by the law applied, religious laws and customary regulation in Indonesia. People from around the world have a variety of reasons which form a gigantic negative view against prostitution and blame the prostitute.

Behind that negative image of prostitution, there is a pathetic story of the prostitute itself. Complex war happens inside it, where in the one hand, society assumes that a prostitute is an object and, on the other hand, prostitute considers herself as a valuable human being. Not only prostitute but all women have doubts on their identity as a woman which "... are vulnerable to being shamed about sex" (Vance, 1985, p. 6). This movie is one of the examples of how hard life would be for Lucy, which has a job as a prostitute. Some scenes depict Lucy squandering

money from her efforts with great ease. The compulsive buying behavior is a vicious circle which portrays that she is unhappy with her prostitution career. Filling the hole in her life by spending money on unimportant stuff, instead of saving money to take other chances or try something new in her life is the thing that will make her happy (Garrity, 2012). Besides, the journey of Lucy's life in the movie will be analyzed furthermore through this study.

This study will also critically analyses the expression of sexual freedom. The writer thinks that just like men, it is a woman's right to choose any job and use their body to earn money or even do whatever they want to their body. It is their personal choice and their way to express their sexual freedom which cannot be argued. Moreover, the way feminists see the expression of and define sexuality will be studied further through the character of this film.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of study is literature, especially on film analysis.

1.3 Scope of the Study

In analyzing *The Sleeping Beauty* film, the study is limited to an analysis of the main character's ways of expressing her sexual freedom.

1.4 Problem Formulation

1. To what extent does Lucy as the main character of *Sleeping Beauty* define her sexuality?
2. Why does Lucy decide to define her sexuality by selling her body?

1.5 Objective of the Study

1. To understand the way Lucy defines her sexuality.

2. To know the reasons behind Lucy's Choice to become a prostitute.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will offer some perspectives on sexuality as presented in the *Sleeping Beauty* film. It will provide knowledge of sexual freedom from post-feminism point of view. Further, the readers will understand more about Lucy's choices to express her sexuality and her way to express it.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Sexuality

Human sexuality broadly refers to how people experience and express themselves as sexual beings. (Marshall Cavendish Corporation, p. 384)

Sexual freedom

Sexual freedom combines ratings on scales of sexual expression and sexual no restraint (Schlegel, 1986).

Prostitute

A prostitute is a person who has sex with someone for money (Cambridge University, 2008).

Feminism

Feminism is the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state (Cambridge University, 2008).

Post-Feminist

Post-feminist is coming after the feminism of the 1960s and subsequent decades, in particular moving beyond or rejecting some of the ideas of feminism (Simpson, 1884)

Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a society controlled by men in which they use their power to their advantage (Cambridge University, 2008).

