

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Tilik is a Javanese short film produced by Ravacana Film and directed by Wahyu Agung Prasetyo (CNN Indonesia, 2020). The word *tilik* itself means visiting someone who is sick. This film was officially released in 2018 but was launched in the year 2020 on YouTube for free and it became popular that the younger and older people watched it (CNN Indonesia, 2020).

In the film, a group of Javanese women from a village was in a truck to visit Bu Lurah, the head of the village who was sick and being treated in the hospital in the city. *Tilik* or visiting someone who is sick is a part of the tradition of *gotong royong* which can strengthen the harmony among the society and also as a form of support from society to patients (Akollo, 2016). On the way to the hospital, this group of Javanese women open up a topic for a conversation to create propinquity. The conversation revolves around the village gossip, a conversation or reports about other people's private lives which might be unkind, disapproving or not true. The activity itself is commonly known as *ngrasani* in Javanese language.

In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing a short film *Tilik* (2020) which offers interesting and challenging material for gender studies analysis, especially on the way Javanese women communicate. This short film portrays Javanese women on two different sides. On one side, the women are portrayed positively as the ones who care for others, represented by the act of *tilik*. On the

other side, the women are seen negatively as sources of unjustified rumour that may break the harmony of living together.

In order to comprehend the understanding of Javanese women in gossiping, the writer read a journal titled *'You'll think we're always bitching' : the functions of cooperativity and competition in women's gossip* written by Guendouzi (2015). Guendouzi discusses that there is a genre for gossip, the two main sub-genres are “bitching” (p. 29) and “peer group news-giving” (p. 29). In this term, the definition of “bitching” (p. 34) is associated with comparative competition for social capital, meanwhile “peer group news-giving” (p. 34) is associated to maintain social links by giving information. Other than that, she claims that housewives are associated with gossip.

The writer found this short film is worthy to study further because rather than only focusing on the way Javanese women communicate with each other as shown in the film, it also portrays Javanese local wisdom of social cohesion. The meaning of social cohesion is very diverse but one of the definitions of social cohesion stated by Busari (2018) is the ability to construct a collective identity, a sense of belonging. In this research, the writer hopes to share the communication of Javanese women and Javanese local wisdom shown in *Tilik*.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this research is popular culture which focuses on gender studies.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This research covers only the communication of Javanese women and Javanese local wisdom represented in the short film *Tilik*.

1.4 Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems of the study of this research as follows:

1. How do the Javanese women communicate with each other in *Tilik*?
2. What are the Javanese local wisdom represented by the Javanese women in *Tilik*?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems mentioned, the writer determines to achieve these following objectives:

1. To identify the way Javanese women communicate with each other in *Tilik*.
2. To identify the Javanese local wisdom that are represented by the Javanese women in *Tilik*.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Through the film, the writer hopes that the readers can learn how Javanese women communicate with each other. The writer expects the readers can find information on the kinds of topics Javanese women are talking about and how they deliver the topic. Also, the writer hopes that this research can be one of the references for the Faculty of Language and Arts in Soegijapranata Catholic University, especially for students who are interested in gender studies. This research also contains lessons learned about Javanese women and Javanese local wisdom for those who need it as references. Hopefully, students find this research useful to enrich their knowledge about gender in communication.

1.7 Definition of Term

1. Women's communication

Women are typically the experts in “rapport talk” which refers to the types of communication that build, maintain, and strengthen relationships (Torppa, 2010, p. 1).

2. Javanese women

The word “woman” in Javanese language is called “*wanita*” which is an abbreviation of “*wani ditata*”, meaning “brave to be controlled” (Falah, 1996, p. 18).

3. Tilik

Tilik is a Javanese word meaning visiting someone who is sick in groups (Akollo, 2016, p. 64).

