

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Feminism is an intriguing topic to explore because it addresses gender imbalance between men and women. Women are often perceived as weak individuals. However, they should have the same opportunities as men in professional, social, political, and educational advancement. As Lorber (2001:1) states, "Feminism is a social movement whose goal is to improve women's status." Throughout history, in various times and places, both men and women have acknowledged women's capabilities and attempted to elevate their social position. However, feminism emerged as a formal movement in the 19th century in Europe and America. There are also many branches of feminism, as recognized by scholars and activists, including Marxist feminism, liberal feminism, radical feminism, and several others. Marxist feminism focuses on the ways in which women's oppression is rooted in capitalist economic structures. According to this view, the exploitation of women stems from their role in unpaid domestic labor and their limited access to property and economic resources. Marxist feminists argue that true gender equality can only be achieved through the dismantling of capitalist systems that perpetuate class and gender hierarchies. Meanwhile, liberal feminism emphasizes individual rights and legal reforms as a means to achieve equality. This branch advocates for women's access to education, employment, and political participation under the assumption that men and women are fundamentally equal in their capacity

for reason and autonomy. Liberal feminists work within the existing social and political structures to secure equal opportunities and remove discriminatory laws and practices. Radical feminism, on the other hand, views patriarchy as the most fundamental form of oppression, deeply embedded in all aspects of society, including family, religion, media, and culture. Radical feminists seek to dismantle patriarchal systems and challenge traditional gender roles, aiming for a complete transformation of societal structures rather than gradual reform. Despite their differences in focus and strategy, all these branches of feminism share a common ultimate goal: to achieve equal rights, freedom, and dignity for all women.

Feminism developed over decades in societies where men were portrayed as assertive, dominant, determined, and self-directed, while women were depicted as affectionate, passive, emotional, and friendly. Lorber (2002:10) explains that "women are valued as much as men and free to live their lives according to their human potential." Feminist values emphasize the responsibility of women for their choices and actions, as well as their right to work and participate in social life on equal terms with men. Thus, feminism is fundamentally about equality, leadership, and freedom.

This study focuses on Merida's point of view because her character is a Scottish princess and the daughter of Queen Elinor and King Fergus, who lives in a kingdom steeped in tradition. As the firstborn, Merida is expected to follow royal customs, including an arranged marriage to one of the sons of the allied clan leaders. However, Merida refuses to accept this fate and challenges the ancient tradition by declaring that she will compete for her own hand in marriage. Her defiance leads to

conflict with her mother, Queen Elinor, who embodies the values of order, tradition, and obedience. This situation reflects the limitations placed on women's rights, which contradicts the ideals of liberal feminism. Freedom is a key feature of liberalism, and this story highlights the struggle for personal choice.

This study is particularly interested in analyzing the concept of equality. Equality means that women are created with the same status, power, and rationality as men. Women can be leaders and should not always be under men's control, as they possess the same rights and capabilities. Freedom, in this context, refers to the ability to make independent life choices, including political freedoms. Many literary works, including books, novels, and movies, draw inspiration from feminism as a central theme. Disney, a well-known production company, has traditionally focused on royal princess stories but has recently incorporated feminist themes into its narratives, as seen in films like *Brave*.

The writer chooses *Brave* because Princess Merida is an inspiring character—she fights to change her fate. Some believe that fate is beyond human control, but this movie suggests that destiny lies within us, and we must be brave enough to shape it. *Brave* tells the story of Princess Merida, daughter of Queen Elinor and King Fergus, who disrupts an ancient holy custom followed by the Lords of the Earth. Her actions unintentionally unleash chaos and anger within the kingdom. Seeking a solution, Merida turns to a wise old woman, who grants her a wish with unforeseen consequences.

Liberal feminism emphasizes individual rights, equality, justice, and equal opportunities. Merida embodies strength and courage, fighting for her freedom. She

asserts her right to choose her own path and refuses to marry against her will. Every human being is born with equal rights and should have the same opportunities to shape their future. Therefore, liberal feminism aims to establish equality between men and women, allowing them to be independent, cooperative, and free to make their own decisions. Based on this discussion, this study focuses on analyzing how the values of liberal feminism are reflected in Merida's characterization in the movie *Brave*.

1.2 Problems of the study

Based on the background of the study above, there are two problem statements that can be formulated as follows:

1. What aspects of liberal feminism are represented in the character of Merida in the movie "Brave"?
2. How does the character of Merida in "Brave" reflect the principles of liberal feminism?

1.3 Objectives of the study

Based on the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study of this research are as follows:

1. To identify the aspects of liberal feminism represented in the character of Merida in the movie "Brave".
2. To explain how the character of Merida in "Brave" reflects the principles of liberal feminism.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing liberal feminism in Merida character in “Brave” based on theory of liberal feminism proposed by Tong (2008) and how the aspects of liberal feminism in Merida are characterized based on theory of characterization proposed by Boggs and Petrie (2018).

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this study aims to give contributions at both theoretical and practical levels. This the way how the study has its significance.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the result of this study expects to give contributions to further study which is concern about liberal feminism and characterization. It can also be used as the references for English literature, especially for English Department.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, the writer expects that the result of this study can help the readers to learn more about liberal feminism values and the writer hopes that from this analysis the reader can get more insight to identify injustices in society and fight for equality and same opportunity for all man and woman.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter consists of three subchapters; review of related literature, concepts, and theoretical framework. In the First subchapter the writer put two articles and a thesis to develop the ideas of the analysis. The next subchapter is to describe the concepts used in this study briefly. The last is the theories. The theories used to analyze the data.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first review of literature is an article entitled “O’neil as feminist character in Scott’s G. I. Jane” by Pratiwi (2016). The objective of study in previous research analyzes the feminism spirits of the main character and the conflict faced by the main character in “G.I. Jane” movie. Pratiwi uses theory of intrinsic structure proposed by DiYanni (2000) and theory of feminism proposed by Beauvoir (1949). The data take from subtitled of the movie. Pratiwi documentation method for data collection and for the data analysis she uses qualitative research method. The result of previous study was O’neil is portrayed as a brave, strong, and intelligent woman. All of her problems are solving successfully she shows herself as a real feminist. The similarities of both studies are using movie as the data source and use qualitative method to analyze the data. The differences are Pratiwi used theory of intrinsic structure proposed by DiYanni (2000) and theory of feminism proposed

by Beauvoir (1949) meanwhile in this study will use theory of characterization proposed by Boggs and Petrie (2018) and the theory of liberal feminism proposed by Tong (2008).

The second review literature is an article entitled “Feminism Analysis in the Movie “Eat Pray Love” by Elizabeth Gilbert” by Andriyani (2017). The objectives of this study in previous research analyze the intrinsic element and identified the issues of feminism reflected by Elizabeth Gilbert as the main character. Andriyani uses theory from Kennney (1966) to analyze intrinsic elements and for analysis of feminism issues based on the theory of Langerman and Brantly (in Ritzer and Goodman, 2004). The data take from movie entitled “Eat Pray Love”. Andriyani apply documentation method and qualitative method. The result of previous research is analyzing intrinsic elements such as characters, setting and plot. Elizabeth Gilbert as the main character could face the issues of feminism. The similarities of both studies are analyzing about feminism. The difference is in the objective of the study. In previous study focus on analyzed intrinsic elements (character, plot, and setting) and feminism issues. Meanwhile in this study will focus on the reflection of liberal feminism values in the characterization.

The third review of literature is a thesis entitled “An Analysis of The Main Character Through Feminism Approach in The Novel Lucia” by Anggawasita (2010). The objective of the study in previous research describes the characteristics of Lucia Sartori as main female character. Anggawasita uses theory of feminism proposed by Soenarjati Djajanegar, Sugihastuti and Suharto. The data take from novel written by Andriana Trigiani. Anggawasita apply descriptive qualitative

method to analyze the data and the result of previous study Lucia Sartori is a character who represents feminism values by being an independent, educated, decisive, and obstinate woman. The similarities between both studies are analyzing about feminism. The differences are previous research use novel as the data source meanwhile in this study will use movie as the data source. Anggawasita uses theory of feminism proposed by Soenarjati Djajanegar, Sugihastuti and Suharto. Meanwhile, in this study will use theory of liberal feminism proposed by Tong (2008).

2.2 Concepts

Concept is important for scientific writing. It can help the writer and is also used as the basis of scientific writing when analyzing the data. There are three concepts which need to be explained related to the title of this study and all of the concepts are explained below:

2.2.1 Reflection

Reflection is something as an image or a sign that shows the state your written or spoken thought about a particular subject or topic (Oxford dictionaries, 2021). It means reflection use to describe an object or something. Through the reflection we can see how something reveals and know the meaning of something.

2.2.2 Liberal Feminism Values

Liberalism holds all persons have an interest in leading a life with their own conception. Liberal emphasizes on individual freedoms and threats with equal (Schwartzman,2006). According to Tong (2008), liberal feminism is equal opportunity. it means that women and men have equal opportunities who have the same right. Meanwhile, values mean moral ideas or something that motivates or gets from attitudes or actions of someone in the story such as honesty, kindness, etc. The values of liberal feminism are freedom, and equality. Therefore, the values of liberal feminism signify a vision to put women in full individual freedom as they can do things on their own without depending on others and women also have the same right.

2.2.3 Characterization

Characterization is what gives a movie its characters. The author develops and adds to the character's personality. Characterization is the process of generating and developing a character in a work of fiction. Character development is another term for characterization. "Characterization is a general definition of humans who determine the thoughts, words, and actions that come from human beings through their dialogue and action," according to Robert (1946:43). Characterization in fiction is usually done in two ways: directly and indirectly. Anything that the author tells the reader directly through what the author says about her or him is referred to as direct characterization. On the other hand, Indirect characterization is anything

that the reader learns about a character from another source, such as what he says and thinks, what he does, or what other characters say about him.

2.3 Theories

This part is elaborating theories used to justify how liberal feminism is characterized. Liberal feminism is the movement to put women to have the same right and freedom as a man. The goal of liberal feminism is equality in all possibilities for each individual (men and women) and the freedom to choose what kindness as she or he has done without harming others. Moreover, liberal feminism is an ideology that it uses to shatter patriarchy.

2.3.1 Liberal Feminism

According to Judith Lorber in her book *Gender Inequality* (2001: 34) "Liberal feminism shows how modern society discriminates against women by insisting that women and men should be threatened differently". Liberal feminism tries to make women and men equal, independent and free to decide their own future. Liberal feminism affirms equality between men and women through political and legal reforms. It is an individualistic form of feminism and feminist theory, which has focused on the ability of women to show and maintain their equality through their own actions and choices. Women and men should be treated neutrally, especially in accordance with the law, and should have the same legal rights as men and the same educational and employment opportunities. Liberal feminism is a theory based on freedom and equality of nationalities.

Women are rational beings, the same abilities as men, so they should have the same rights as men. The problem lies in the many policies that have looked at gender differences. For this reason, in the 18th century women are often asked to receive the same education, in the 19th century many efforts to fight for freedom, and in the 20th century it concerns women's rights. According to Rosemarie Tong's book *Feminist Thought* (2008: 1327), certain aspects become the linchpins of women's struggle as equal education, equal liberty and equal right.

2.3.1.1 Equal Education

Equality of education is a thought of the nineteenth century. Education is the development process of the child or the individual. It is a lifelong process. Education seeks to develop the innate potential of the individual in a harmonious manner. Therefore, education is linked to the life and experience of an individual. All human beings deserve an equal chance to develop their rational and moral skills through education. Equal education means that a woman has opportunities like a man to receive an education to contribute at the same level as men. If women cannot this opportunity, social and intellectual progress would stop. Equality of education for women exists because the judgment of whether the different capacities of women and men are smart. One of the pioneers fighting for the education of women is Mary Wollstonecraft. She is the feminist author of the book "A Vindication of Rights for Woman", 1792. She insisted that rationality is the ability to distinguish

humans from animals, so unless females are mere animal, both women and men have this ability.

Through equal education, it can be the way to give women and men equal status in society in order to reduce undervaluation and discrimination. They are not only fun for men, but they can achieve what they dream of through education. They have opportunities in education to encourage their passion and build their self-confidence. Educated women will make an important contribution to the well-being of society. For example, women do not just manage families, especially children and their husbands. But they should also be polite and have rational and moral skills like patience, obedience and flexibility rather than wasting time managing family and children.

2.3.1.2 Equal Liberty

Equal liberty is the 19th / century, however. This teaching is the first introduced by John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor (Mill). Liberty means freedom. Jaggar (1983: 174) states that “individuals have the right to set their own ends and, as long as they do not violate the rights of others, there is in principle no limit to what they may want to believe. that they should do. In principle, therefore, liberals are committed to the belief that individuals are fulfilled every time they do what they have freely chosen to do, no matter how unpleasant, degrading, or bad to someone. others”.

All human beings can decide better for themselves, like themselves or make their own. Women and men have the same freedom to choose or decide what they want. According to Mill and Taylor, (in Yong's 2008 book: 16) "the ordinary way to maximize overall utility happiness is to allow individuals to pursue their desires, provided that individuals do not hinder each other in the "This means that women and men can get what they want for themselves. Nowadays women are being pushed into these jobs as housewives, nurses, scientists, teachers and far from jobs in the business world. This is because men see women as inferior. The work or task that requires more energy, more focus and more logic is usually done by men. This concept is what liberal feminists want to shatter; those women have abilities as well as men. Women can do what she wants and what she likes.

2.3.1.3 Equal Right

Equal right is the nineteenth-century thought. As human beings, women are the same as men. Therefore, women have a right to equal treatment. to be fully liberated, sexual freedom, women need economic opportunities. Dworkin (in Schwartzman book's, 2006:17) states "The most fundamental right of individuals is the right to be treated with the same care and the same respect". Everyone has the right to participate in the government of their country and the equality law assumes that women are already socially equal to men. A specific manifestation that this implies is the right to freedom of expression.

2.3.2 Characterization

According to Robert, (1946:43) as the writer mention in the concepts of characterization. It can be divided into direct and indirect characterization. Direct characterization is anything that the author tells directly to the reader by what the author says about her or him. For instance, Taylor us beautiful young girl because she has golden hair and blue eyes. And indirect characterization is anything shown to the reader from another source such as by what the character himself says and thinks, by what the character does, by what other characters say about him. For instance, Tom cried and cried when my goldfish died. That can describe Tom is an extremely sensitive, and loves animals especially fish.

Although based on Boggs and Patrie's book the art of watching film (2017: 51-55) there are six ways to see the characterization in the movie which is classify into the indirect characterization because it shown to the reader by another source such as characterization through appearance, dialogue, external action, reaction of other character, contrast-dramatic foul, and choice of name.

1. Characterization through Appearance

The first visual impression of character is important for establishing character. Characterization through appearance means the audience can make some assumptions about character based on what the character looks like through what they wear. Characters might be described as pretty, tall, thin, fat, etc. How the character dresses might reveal something about the character. For instance, someone is wearing dirty clothes which mean he is poor people.

2. Characterization through Dialogue

The characterization through dialogue reveals a lot about the character from what they say in the movies. It can be through their attitudes, thoughts and emotions and it also can be revealed through the stress, tone, pauses of their speech and through their choice of words. The character use of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, and particular dialects reveals a lot about the economic and social level of their characters. For instance, one character while talking with another character is loud and always says harsh words. It can describe that character as an emotional person.

3. Characterization through External Action

The characterization through external action is revealed by the best reflection of the person's action. It can be through character purpose and through character reasons compatible with overall personalities.

4. Characterization through Reactions of Other Character

The characterization through reaction of other characters means that you observe how others in the story react /treat the character. Reaction can include verbal response, emotional or physical treatment.

5. Characterization through Contrast-Dramatic Foil

One of the most effective characterization techniques is using foils contrasting characters. The purpose of characterization through contrast is to

compare two things and distinctive characteristics of another character. There are two ways to see the contrast-dramatic foil such as opposite of major characters or similar to the major character.

6. Characterization through Choice of Name

An important method of characterization is the use of names which own suitable characteristics of connotation, meaning and sound. Names can also contain literally or historical allusions that aid in characterization by means association.

From the six ways to see the characterization in the movie, the study only will use four basic of characterization such as through appearance, characterization through dialogue, characterization through external actions, and characterization through reaction of other character. This study will use four of characterization of characterization because that is relevant to solve the analysis and all the basic can see in visually, so it will be easy to determine the characteristic of the character.

