

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a reflection of human life in a society that we can understand, study, enjoy, and also use as a guide in social life. (Desmawati, 2018) states that Literature is a verbal and written creation that conveys the author's intentions and is regarded as having aesthetic value. According to Pickering and Hooper (1981: 01:307) literature is a uniquely human activity that emerges from man's unaltered need to understand, express, and ultimately share experiences. Literature reflects society's real life and is linked to things like social life, traditions, mythology, and the author's personal experience, imagination, and observation (Diansari Artawan et al., 2020). Literature can be one of the media that is widely used to express the feelings that are being experienced. There are many forms of literature, one of which is the movie.

The art of simulating experience to communicate ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, beauty, or atmosphere through the use of recorded or programmed moving images and other sensory stimulation is known as movies. The movie is a modern art form that provides and stimulates human expression (Yastanti et al., 2022). According to Akbar & Handoko in (Aninda, Nadia, & Dewi, 2019) movies are a medium that may be supplied out of complete research on history, politics, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, art, literature, and culture to increase knowledge and technology. In addition to being a medium for increase knowledge

and technology, movies are also one of the most widely used media by writers to discuss social issues that are currently developing in society. One of the most frequently discussed social issue in a movie is feminism.

The feminist movement first emerged in the 18th century and eventually grew very rapidly throughout the 20th century, starting with the promotion of equal political rights for women. Feminism was originally used as a term for a social movement that promoted women's rights in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848 by Elizabeth Cady and her colleague Susan B. Anthony. Etymologically, the word “feminism” comes from the Latin word “femmina” which means woman. The word “femmina” was then finally adopted and used in various languages around the world. Feminism is a social movement that advocates for women's rights, fairness, and equality (Wilany, 2017). Feminism is a cultural as well as a political movement. It alters how women feel, thinks, and act, as well as how men and women live their lives and perceive one another, leading to fierce conflicts that persist today (Cholijah Zamil, Tati Mardewi, 2018). Rosemarie Tong in her book entitled *Feminist Thought, A More Comprehensive Introduction* states that there are eight types of feminism, one of which is liberal feminism.

According to Tong, 2009; Thornham, 2006; Suwastini, 2013 in (Suwastini et al., 2020) one of the many feminism subcultures that emphasizes women's autonomy in order to be on an equal footing with men is liberal feminism. Ratna in (Laswaniyah, 2021) states that liberal feminism is a feminist concept that emphasizes equal opportunities in terms of education and employment. Liberal

feminism advocates for women to be able to do anything men can do, as well as for women to be able to do whatever they want.

Nowadays, liberal feminism is frequently depicted in movies. Movies often raise issues about gender discrimination that often occurs in society. In this case, women are always depicted as gentle creatures who are always oppressed. As time goes by and the movie industry develops, the female figure is no longer depicted as a weak creature who is often oppressed but is depicted as a creature who has high intellectuality, intelligent, brave and independent, and has the same strength as men. One of the movies that raise the issue of liberal feminism in its storyline is *Raya and the Last Dragon*.

Raya and the Last Dragon is an animated movie that tells about Raya's adventure in finding the last dragon and collecting dragon gem shards to save the people of Kumandra. In her adventure, Raya very much represent the liberal feminist movement in her effort to collect gem shards and save the people of Kumandra.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background state above, the problem under concern in this study can be formulated into the following question:

1. How are the characteristic of female characters described in the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon*?
2. How does the characteristic of female characters portrayed liberal feminism in the movie *Raya and The Last Dragon*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In reference to the analysis issues expose above, the objectives of the study enclosed:

1. To analyze the characteristic of female characters describe in the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon*
2. To analyze How does the characteristic of female characters portrayed liberal feminism in the movie *Raya and The Last Dragon*

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the intrinsic aspect of female characters and the extrinsic aspects of feminism by analyzing the represent of feminism by the female characters within the story. There are two specific areas that need to be discussed:

1. The characteristic of female characters describe in the movie *Raya and The Last Dragon*
2. The portrayed of liberal feminism by the female characters in the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon*

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is intended to be useful, the significances of the study are divided into two, there are theoretical significance and practical significance. As defined with inside the following section.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The author hopes that this paper can contribute to the process of developing literary science in general, and the theory of feminism in particular as reflected in the film *Raya and the Last Dragon* by Qui Nguyen and Adele Lim. Moreover, this research is also expected to be able to broaden the knowledge of readers about aspects of feminism in society and human life.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This research was conducted as a requirement to complete studies at the English Study Program of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University. Furthermore, this research can also be used as a reference, or source of information for further researchers in conducting research so that they can add to a better understanding of feminism. This research is also expected to be an encouragement to public awareness to identify films that are worthy of being used as a spectacle and can provide more detailed information about feminism that occurs in the community so that it can reduce public misunderstandings about feminist studies.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPT, AND THEORIES

2.1 Review of Related Literature

This chapter discusses the review of the related literature, the concepts behind this study, as well as the theories used to analyze the data. The researcher uses two undergraduate theses and three journal that are relevant to the topic as comparisons to analyze the feminism in the movie.

The first thesis, entitled *The Ideas of Feminism Revealed in Woman Character in Haggard's "She a History of Adventure"* written by Caesaria (2021). Her research goals are to identify Ayesha's characteristics as the main female character and to reveal feminist ideas through Ayesha as the main female character. Her research data came from the novel *"She a History of Adventure"* by Haggard. The author used Murphy's (1947) characterization theory as well as two feminist theories: female leadership and gender equality in education. The data in this study were analyzed using the library research method. This study discovered that Ayesha, the novel's main character, is described as a woman with a consistent, brave, and wise personality. Furthermore, this study discovered two feminist ideas revealed through Ayesha, which are female leadership and gender equality in education.

There were similarities in the way they both analyzed the feminism aspects of the characters, as mentioned in the first review of the study above. The differences between these studies are about the data source and the theory used by

the writer. The studies above used the novel *She a History of Adventure* as a data source, as well as a characterization theory by Murphy (1947), and two feminism theories: woman leadership and gender equality in education. While this study used the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* as a data source, as well as Murphy (1974) theory characterization, Tong's (2009) feminism theory, and theory of sex-trait stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

The second thesis, entitled *The Representation of Liberal Feminism in Elmer Boyd Smith's The Story of Pocahontas and Captain Smith* written by Ramadani, (2020). This study aims to examine Pocahontas, the story's female lead character, who exhibits traits associated with liberal feminism. As a result, this thesis uses two different types of theories. They are the theory of liberal feminism as the supporting theory, which is used to provide information about the characteristics of liberal feminism, and Stuart Hall's theory of representation, which is used to locate the discourse of liberal feminism within the story. This study used qualitative research as its methodology. As a consequence of the study, liberal feminism ideology can be seen as a reaction to how women were portrayed in the late 19th century, marking the beginning of liberal feminism ideas. The equality of men and women is emphasized by liberal feminism. The patriarchy system that predominates in society is what causes the inequality. Law, work, family, education, and the media are a few examples of significant institutions that can change in order to promote equality. Liberal feminism seeks to support women who believe these truths to be self-evident in order to address the issue. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are self-evident.

There were similarities in the way they both analyzed the feminism aspects of the characters, as mentioned in the second review of the study above. The data source and the author's chosen theory are what make these studies different from one another. The studies mentioned above used the novel entitled *The Story of Pocahontas and Captain Smith* as a data source along with two theories which are theory about liberal feminism and Hall's theory of representation. While this study used the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* as a data source, as well as Murphy (1974) theory about characterization, Tong's (2009) feminism theory, and theory of sex-trait stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

The third study in an article entitled *Exploring Characterization of the Main Character in Raya and the Last Dragon Movie* written by Divyani et al., (2023). The purpose of this study is to determine the characterization of the primary character. The characterization theory proposed by Warren and Wellek (1962) was used in this investigation. The research data was gathered by watching the main character's language and action in the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon*. This study also employed the qualitative-descriptive approach. This movie included three different types of characterization. Raya was described mentally as an intelligent, determined, careful, sensitive, and flexible individual. She was also referred to as Heart Land's Princess, Chief Benja's Daughter, and Dragon Gem's Guardian. Finally, she was shown physically to have black hair with braids and a ponytail, big black eyes, black brows, brown skin, a flat nose, and a little nose.

There were similarities in the way they both used movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* as the data source. The author's chosen theory is what make these studies

different from one another. The studies mentioned above used theory of characterization proposed by Warren and Wallek (1962) while this study used the theory of characterization proposed by Murphy (1972), theory of feminism proposed by Tong (2009) as well as theory of sex-trait stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

The fourth study entitled *Nurbaya's Masculinity in Resolving Conflicts in Nurbaya Drama Musical* written by Juniarta et al., (2022). The purpose of this study is to determine and evaluate how Nurbaya's masculinity helped her and the other characters in the Nurbaya Drama Musical to resolve their conflict. The Bem's Sex Role Inventory (1974) theory of source is used in the data analysis technique. The finding demonstrates that Nurbaya uses the masculinity implied by her characterization to resolve the conflict that arises between her and other characters. Her masculinity is demonstrated through her speech, word choice, body language, and voice tone.

Concerning the previous review of study, there were similarities in how both raised female characters in support of the feminist movement. The differences between these studies are the data sources and the theory used by the writers. The studies above used the serial movie entitled *Nurbaya Drama Musical* as the data source and also the theory of source of Bem's Sex Role Inventory (1974). While this study used the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* as a data source, as well as Murphy (1974) theory about characterization, Tong's (2009) feminism theory, and theory of sex-trait stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

The last study is an article entitled *An Analysis of Liberal Feminism in the Novel Mulan's Secret Plan* By Tessa Roehl written by (Kadek et al., 2021). The purpose of this study is to pinpoint the liberal feminism present in Tessa Roehl's book *Mulan's Secret Plan*. The theory of liberal feminism put forth by (Tong, 2008) was used in this study to better understand how the elements of liberal feminism could be found in the book. The data for this study were gathered through observation, and they were analyzed using a qualitative methodology. According to the study's findings, Mulan's liberal feminism was characterized by her support for equal rights to education and freedom.

There were similarities in the way they both analyzed the feminism aspects of the characters, as mentioned in the third review of the study above. The data source and the author's chosen theory are what make these studies different from one another. The studies mentioned above used a novel entitled *Mulan's Secret Plan* as a data source along with theory of feminism proposed by Tong (2008). While this study used the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* as a data source, as well as Murphy (1974) theory about characterization, Tong's (2009) feminism theory, and theory of sex-trait stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

2.2 Concepts

Concept is a very important part that must exist in a scientific research. The concept is a general description of the problem that we will discuss. Concepts can help writers to more easily understand the subject being discussed and also concepts can be used as a basis for writing scientific research when analyzing data. The following are some concepts that have a clear relationship with the research that

need to be explained so that they can be applied relevantly in this research. There are four concepts used to support this research, namely the concept of liberal feminism, female characters, movie, and *Raya and the Last Dragon*.

2.2.1 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism highlights the freedom and rights that women can obtain. In this situation, women have the same rights as men in terms of freedom of action and social expression. Women are free to pursue any endeavor. Women are equal to men, so they are free to express themselves however they please (Tong, 2009). One of the most influential sociological theories of today, liberal feminist theory, examines the roles of men and women in society with the aim of applying that knowledge to enhance the lives of women (Meinawati, 2017). According to Setiawan in (Miskiyah & Sofyan, 2023) Liberal feminism is a sort of individualistic feminism that places a strong emphasis on women's capacity to demonstrate and uphold their equality through their own choices and actions. This movement seeks to advance social-cultural, political, legal, and educational equality.

2.2.2 Female Character

According to Özdemir (1970) female characters are those who are indeed the ones who carry out the portrayal of women's roles in movie stories. The stories told by female characters appear to be a source of inspiration for women all over the world to pursue their dreams of a successful career. A woman who is recognized for her greatness, bravery, or excellent traits is said to represent a female character (Ramadhani, 2021).

2.2.3 Movie

According to Hornby (2006:950) a movie is a collection of moving pictures with sound that tell a story and are shown in a cinema. A movie is a form of entertainment that creates the illusion of continuous motion by using sound and a series of images (Nur'Aini et al., 2021). According to Sapp in (Samad, 2019) movie is a motion picture that is regarded as either an artistic medium or a form of entertainment.

2.2.4 Raya and the Last Dragon

Raya and the Last Dragon is an animated movie by Walt Disney written by Qui Nguyen and Adele Lim. This movie tells the story of Raya's struggle to find the last dragon to save the land of Kumandra (Disney Movies, 2021).

2.3 Theories

This study relied on two main theory, the first main theory is theory about characterization proposed by Murphy (1972) and for the second theory is theory of feminism proposed by Tong (2009). In addition, one supporting theory is also used, namely theory of Sex-Trait Stereotypes proposed by Williams and Best (1982).

2.3.1 Characterization

Characterization is a crucial component of literature like plays, novels, and short stories. Characterizations can aid the reader in comprehending and empathizing with the events or occurrences in the story by providing details about

how the characters behave. According to Murphy (1972) there are several ways to analyze characterization.

2.3.1.1 Personal Description

A character's personality contains a thorough description that can be used to analyze the character. Clothing, skin tone, facial description, and eyes are specifics of the character's appearance that are crucial for character analysis.

(Murphy, 1972:161)

2.3.1.2 Character as Seen by Another

The point of view expressed by other characters in the story can assist the reader to comprehend as well as form an impression of a particular character.

(Murphy, 1972:162)

2.3.1.3 Speech

From what the character says, the author can offer hints and understanding of the character. Once a time a character converses between another character or expresses an opinion, the author gives instructions from that conversation.

(Murphy, 1972:164)

2.3.1.4 Past Life

When the reader learns something that happened in the character's past life as described by the author in the story, they can get hints. The character's thoughts,

conversations, and the media other characters provide can also provide hints about the character's past lives.

(Murphy, 1972:166)

2.3.1.5 Conversation to Other

The fact that the character converses with other characters frequently may also offer hints about how they are portrayed.

(Murphy, 1972:167)

2.3.1.6 Reaction

The character's response to a particular event or circumstance can give the author hints.

(Murphy, 1972:168)

2.3.1.7 Direct Comment

The author can directly comment on a character's personality or provide a character description from his perspective.

(Murphy, 1972:170)

2.3.1.8 Thought

The idea behind this is that the author can give his readers a direct perspective of understanding about something that a character in the story is thinking, experiencing, or considering at that particular moment.

(Murphy, (1972:171)

2.3.1.9 Mannerism

In order to describe a person's behavior, the author describes the character's habits or behavior in the story.

(Murphy, 1972:172)

2.3.2 Feminism

Feminism theory encompasses all aspects of human life in society, particularly the lives of women. When we discuss feminism, we will specifically address the equality of rights between men and women. According to Tong (2009) there are eight branches of feminism. The following is an explanation of the eight theories:

2.3.2.1 Liberal Feminism

The feminist movement began to emerge in the 18th century and developed rapidly in the 20th century. Liberal feminism in the 18th century was more focused on the field of education, where in the 18th century, women had the same education as men. In the 19th century, Liberal feminism focuses more on the right of women

to have the same freedom as men. In addition, in the nineteenth century, women also had the right to use their voices in political elections. Women need the right to vote to be equal to men. People can change system, structures, and attitudes that support their oppression and/or the oppression of others through voting, in addition, to express their political views. Then, in the 20th century, liberal feminism focused more on women's rights to treatment, economic opportunities, and sexual freedom. The goal of liberal feminism is to achieve women's suffrage, meaning that women should have individual freedom and have the same access as men in terms of work and education. Liberal feminism is about women being able to do whatever men can do, but also about women being able to do whatever they want. Tong (2009) claims that Liberal Feminism places a strong emphasis on gender justice to increase women's capacity to uphold their equality through their own decisions and action. Everyone has the freedom to do anything they choose and to make their own independent decisions free from outside influence. However, as each person is an independent being with their own rights, respect for others' decisions is also required. Without compromising the rights of others, they are free to do whatever suits them in the long run. The fundamental right to receive an equal chance to take advantage of one's rights is therefore guaranteed to everyone.

(Tong, 2009:11 - 45)

2.3.2.2 Radical Feminism

Radical feminism is more concerned with issues of sex, reproduction, and pornography where women are always seen as objects to commit acts of

pornography and seem to be dehumanized. The ability of women to give birth and breastfeed is regarded as the beginning of women's oppression and power in radical feminism theory. The goal of radical feminism is to combat sexual violence and the pornography industry, both of which women are frequently victims.

(Tong, 2009: 48 – 90)

2.3.2.3 Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Marxist and socialist feminism, as well as patriarchal analysis, describe the low level of women in the capitalist system's economic, social, and political structures. Marxist and socialist feminism is a theory that focuses more on discussing how women should get equal rights based on class in society compared to men. Where women are often oppressed by the capitalist system and private property.

(Tong, 2009: 96 – 126)

2.3.2.4 Psychoanalytic Feminism

Psychoanalytic feminism is a feminist theory that focuses on analyzing psychological aspects of women's psychology. Gender inequality, according to psychoanalytic feminism, stems from childhood experiences that lead men to believe that they must grow up to be masculine figures and women to grow up to be feminine figures.

(Tong, 2009: 128 – 160)

2.3.2.5 Care-Focused Feminism

Care-Focused feminism is more concerned with how women are viewed as the primary caregivers for people all over the world, including their children, families, and parents. Women are always associated with dependency, community, and relationships, whereas men are associated with dependability, independence, and autonomy according to care-focused feminism. Society's thinkers have always assumed that there is a significant distinction between “feminist” and “masculine”.

(Tong, 2009: 163 – 175)

2.3.2.6 Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial Feminism

Multicultural feminism theories emphasize the idea that not all women in a country are born with the same rights. Gender, general identity, religion, level of education, occupation or profession, marital status and a variety of other factors all contribute to it. Multicultural feminism promotes mutual care as well as mutual respect for differences in races, ethnicities, and skin tones.

Because of national policies that lead to oppression in the third world (developed/have less), global feminism focuses more on the oppression of women in the first world (developed/have). Global feminism places a greater emphasis on women who must be able to understand the thoughts of other women and believe that other women can understand theirs.

Postcolonial feminism is a type of feminism that arose in response to feminism's apparent overemphasis on the experiences of women in Western culture.

(Tong, 2009: 200 – 233)

2.3.2.7 Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism is a feminist theory that examines women's relationships with nature. While women have long been associated with nature, ecofeminism contends that there is a conceptual, symbolic, and linguistic link between feminism and environmental issues.

(Tong, 2009: 237 – 243)

2.3.2.8 Postmodern and Third-Wave Feminism

Postmodern feminism focuses on the feminist movement, in which women are seen as having achieved their feminist goals in order to have rights without the tension that envelops them.

(Tong, 2009: 270 – 290)

2.3.3 Sex-Trait Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are widespread beliefs about personality qualities that frequently coincide with a person's gender, such as utility for men and openness for women. Decades of research reveal that gender stereotypes give traits associated with independence, desire, and dominance to males and characteristics associated with caring, compassion, and concern for others to females. J.E. Williams and Best

and their collaborators undertook the most exhaustive analysis of the content of gender stereotypes across cultures in 1982 when they analyzed gender stereotypes in 25 countries throughout the world (in North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia). They employed a list of 300 personality traits created by prior personality researchers. Participants scored each attribute on the Descriptive Check List above, stating if the trait is “more frequently linked with women than with men” or “not significantly linked with the two sexes”.

Table 2.1 Focused-Sex Stereotype: Adjective Associated with Men and Adjective Associated with Women by at least Three-Quarters of Subject of Both Sexes

Adjective Associated with Men	Adjective Associated with Women
Adventurous	
Aggressive	Affected
Ambitious	Affectionate
Assertive	Appreciate
Autocratic	Attractive
Boastful	Charming
Coarse	Complaining
Confident	Dependent
Courageous	Dreamy
Cruel	Emotional
Daring	Excitable
Disorderly	Feminine
Dominant	Fickle
Enterprising	Flirtatious
Forceful	Frivolous
Handsome	Fussy
Heroic	Gentle
Independent	High-Strung
Jolly	Meek High-strung
Logical	Mild Meek
Loud	Nagging Mild
Masculine	Prudish
Rational	Rattlebrained
Realistic	Sensitive
Robust	Sentimental
Self-confident	Softhearted
Severe	Sophisticated
Stable	Submissive
Steady	Talkative
Stern	Weak e
Strong	Whiny
Tough	

Unemotional	
Unexcitable	

(Williams & Best, 1982: 21 – 22)



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