

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter explains the conclusions of the study and implications in theoretical, practical, and social levels. The conclusion will provide answers that will explain the power of women represented through linguistic and visual symbols in the film *Mulan* (2020). The benefits of this study in theoretical, practical, and social fields will be explained in theoretical implications.

5.1 CONCLUSION

Mulan (2020) communicates *Mulan*'s character as a representation of a woman from China who is in power from a Western perspective. This depiction is not in accordance with the perspective of cultural radical feminism. The positions played by *Mulan* as a daughter, soldier or warrior, and lover affect her traits and how she acts. The film also shows the depiction of female characters who have a masculine style of interaction. Based on visual analysis, the film tries to depict the character of a female warrior with attributes like male warriors in general. The camera does not objectify women's bodies as much as in some films with female main characters, the visualization of the *Mulan* (2020) is still depicted with the culture of its country of origin even though it was produced in Hollywood. Although *Mulan* (2020) is a film that features a female lead in the masculine female genre, the film still depicts a female character who has not been free from patriarchal institutions. By looking at the values of radical cultural feminism, it can be concluded that the power of women in *Mulan* (2020) is not very strong.

The representation of women's power and character development in the film *Mulan* (2020) uses Sara Mills' feminist analysis through four elements, namely character construction, depiction of body parts or fragmentation, differences in stylistic styles or focalization, and how the dominant ideology in the film or schemata. The analysis then draws four conclusions. The first is that the film *Mulan* (2020) shows that

differences in the identities of the characters affect their actions in solving their problems. Mulan's position as Zhou's daughter influences Mulan with her obedient nature and willingness to sacrifice anything including being willing to bear the shame of her family for what she did to protect them and even protect the country. In terms of appearance, the costume worn by Mulan is a soldier's costume in general. Mulan does not get special treatment as a woman in her clothes, she still wears a man's armor without showing the curves of a woman's body. Mulan's character formation promotes masculine traits with an appearance that does not invite sensuality so that it is balanced in attracting the interest of male and female audiences.

The depiction of the female body in the film *Mulan* (2020) shows that although not many body parts are reduced to close-up shots (extreme close-up), elements of sexuality are still found. Fragmentation on the legs, back, and shoulders. On the face, the fragmentation analysis shows the feminine side that is full of warmth and understanding in the figure of Mulan. However, in the character of Hua Jun, the fierce, tough, and serious expression is shown more dominantly. The depiction of Hua Jun's legs and hands shows resistance and physical strength, thus giving an active impression. The image of women that they want to depict is women who not only have fit and sexy bodies, but these bodies can also provide physical resistance. So this represents women in men's fantasies as women who can do both; beautiful and dangerous.

The main female character is narrated through Zhou's perspective as the narrator in the film. In dialogue, Mulan or Hua Jun tend to use a competitive approach when interacting with the same or opposite sex. Mulan's subjectivity also appears in the narrative as a social agent that refers to her own level of will, memory, and desire. The analysis of focalization in the film *Mulan* (2020) provides a depiction of female subjectivity that tends to be masculine and heroic. Mulan shows the character's dominance over other characters. The competitive nature that Mulan uses during interactions gives her power over herself and other characters. This is what makes the narrative of the film *Mulan* (2020) trapped in male dominance.

The influence of standpoint on the development of powerful female characters can be proven in the film. Subjectivity is depicted as a masculine and heroic woman in the narrative, which can be seen from the difference in Mulan's competitive stylistic style when becoming a warrior or soldier. Based on the theory of orientalism, female characters who have an Asian race are depicted by Hollywood-based film studios, which means Disney depicts Chinese culture and customs to satisfy audiences based on Western cultural understanding. The depiction of scenes that take references to Chinese customs and beliefs is based on Disney's efforts to depict the power of Mulan's character, which became a problem that later caused the film to be protested by the Chinese government, because it was considered to have caused cultural appropriation and contained elements of political deviation depicted in the Kingdom scene.

Mulan (2020) communicates to the audience to adopt masculine values based on Chinese elements and culture in order to be empowered. Radical Cultural Feminism posits that it is preferable for women to embrace femininity rather than masculinity. The element of orientalism in the female character which then resulted in cultural appropriation made this film accepted by the community other than in China which actually boycotted it because it experienced cultural appropriation. This film is proof that by providing a female lead in the history of China film genre which is closely associated with men does not necessarily make the film a media that offers women's empowerment. By examining the larger discourse, it can be found that Mulan (2020) still cannot be free from patriarchal construction and male dominance.

5.2 IMPLICATION

Based on the research, the researcher explain some useful implications in theoretical, practical, and social fields.

5.2.1 Theoretical Implication

Theoretically, this research contributes to enriching the field of representation studies, particularly regarding the portrayal of female characters. This study highlights

how the limited depiction of feminine power in Mulan's character plays a role in her character development, while also being a significant element in the kind of cinema pursued by feminist filmmakers and audiences within Hollywood. Through Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis of 'Mulan' (2020), this research offers insight into representation theory by applying discourse analysis, which views text not as a neutral reflection of reality, but as a medium through which meaning is constructed.

Character Analysis helps explain how the audience is encouraged to relate to Mulan as a more ideal, complete, and empowered character. Fragmentation Analysis offers insight into how the camera's perspective creates narcissistic visual pleasure by allowing identification with the narrative figure, subject, and imagery, which also communicates gender-related messages tied to Chinese cultural values. Focalization Analysis highlights how the film's power and enjoyment stem from the development of its female characters. Schemata Analysis provides a deeper understanding of how the portrayal of female power emerges as a dominant narrative truth, closely linked to historical contexts that influence social status, culture, social conditions, and gender roles.

5.2.2 Practical Implication

This research can provide a reference for women as active audiences to identify objective or subjective visions in the film. This research shows that filmmaker provide a distinction between the two sides of power and the representation of women's subjectivity. The director makes Mulan's character the subject of the story and narrative in the film so that women can identify with the heroine who has a feminine side that is much more encouraging of character development behind the masculine side that looks more dominant and becomes the characteristic of Mulan's character that is known to the public about the film.

5.3.3 Social Implication

This study can provide some answers to the problems of gender and culture in society and the Hollywood industry. This study shows that the film *Mulan* (2020) tries to provide an understanding that orientalism and gender conception are cultural constructions. While the issue of gender itself is a cultural meaning in which "gender traits" or "natural gender" are produced and constructed as prediscursive in character. This study can be a guide for the public to be more careful and critical in understanding the messages contained in the film, so that the message can function as learning and self-reflection for the community.

5.3 SUGGESTION

Based on the research, the researcher explains several suggestions. Among them are suggestions from theoretical, practical, and social fields

5.2.1 Theoretical Suggestion

This research can be used to enrich the study of standpoint in the context of power and development of female characters depicted by films with female main characters. This research study can then be used by academics as a comparison in examining the representation of women in texts. This is important to know the real discourse behind the film which can then create a new system or discourse on women's empowerment and orientalism in the Hollywood film industry. For further research in understanding the representation of women's power, the researcher suggests also examining the impact of text consumption on the audience and how women's power is viewed by the audience, especially women.

5.2.2 Practice Suggestion

For future audiences and filmmakers, this research can enhance the understanding of feminism in films, particularly those featuring female lead characters. It offers a framework for recognizing the viewpoints and subjectivity present in these

films. Grasping the perspectives and representation of women is crucial for comprehending feminist discourse in cinema and preventing the misrepresentation of women in filmmaking.

5.2.3 Social Suggestion

Researchers suggest that the public need to be more critical not only in understanding the messages of feminism in the film, but also how to identify themselves with the concept of character development contained in the film. This study can offer answers to questions about whether women must become more like men to be equal and powerful. Recognizing that gender is a contextual and fluid concept that can also create divisions among women reveals that power structures based on specific genders are merely cultural constructs. The public can use this study as a guide to be more careful and critical in understanding the messages in the film, so that this understanding can function as learning and self-reflection for the community.