

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Oppression has been an ongoing issue for centuries, shaping how people live and experience society. Women have often been the primary targets of oppression, facing discrimination in every aspect of life. They are frequently perceived as weak and vulnerable creatures to systemic inequality and injustice. According to Young, oppression is the act of dehumanizing another person and them less than fully human in both mind and body (2011:40). Women are considered the other of the patriarchy because the existence of men is often considered more superior than women. This happens because of the social and cultural norms of society (De Beauvoir, 2011:11). The deeply rooted patriarchal culture results in widespread of women's oppression, often ignoring their rights and limiting their opportunities. Over time, this system deepens granting men to have greater privileges while limiting women's opportunities and autonomy.

This oppression received by women can take any form and can happen anywhere. In many cases in United States society, the most common form of oppression experienced by women is sexual oppression in the workplace. Unfortunately, many women cannot report this behavior because the law does not always protect them, and speaking up often means risking their jobs. The lack of workplace rights and the dominance of men in leadership roles make it even harder for women to stand up for themselves. As a result, women's oppression continues

to be a major obstacle to women's progress in the workforce. Historically, women in the United States have fought for their bodily rights and autonomy within society.

A movie that indirectly illustrates how oppression toward women, particularly sexual oppression of women in the workplace is *She Said* (2022). *She Said* is an American movie based on a novel inspired by a true story. *She Said* movie tells the story of the courage of two female journalists from The New York Times, Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor, who set out to investigate a case of sexual harassment committed by a famous Miramax Company producer, Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein frequently sexually abused his artists and employees by pushing them to conform to Weinstein's sexual desires. All of his victims do not dare to say what happens because they are afraid that their careers will be ruined. This case revitalized and renewed the #MeToo movement, which was popular on social media in 2017.

This research thesis is conducted because there has been no specific research examining the *She Said* (2022) movie with a focus on women's oppression. Although the feminist movement has made significant progress, women still experience various forms of sexual oppression. It happens because lack of awareness, both among women themselves and within society, which unconsciously perpetuates patriarchal norms. The oppression of women is often normalized by a system of those defending men, making it challenging for women to resist or speak out against the injustices they experience. This research thesis helps to understand how the existence of women's oppression continues from the past to the present, with a focus on the dynamics in the workplace as depicted in the movie *She Said* (2022). As such, this research thesis is expected to provide new

insights into how male dominance remains a key factor in women's oppression and raise an awareness that sexual oppression of women should not be normalized. Related to this research thesis, the writer will analyze the causes, the types, the struggle, and the social impact of women's oppression on Laura Madden in *She Said* movie (2022).

1.2 Research Question

1. What are the causes of women's oppression experienced by Laura Madden in *She Said* movie (2022)?
2. What are the types of women's oppression that Laura Madden faces in *She Said* movie (2022)?
3. What is the struggle that Laura Madden faces against women's oppression in *She Said* movie (2022)?
4. What is the social impact of women's oppression in *She Said* movie (2022)?

1.3 Research Aims

1. To analyze the causes of women's oppression experienced by Laura Madden in *She Said* movie (2022).
2. To analyze the types of women's oppression faces by Laura Madden in *She Said* movie (2022)
3. To analyze how Laura Madden's struggle from women's oppression in *She Said* movie (2022)
4. To analyze the social impact of women's oppression in *She Said* movie (2022).

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research thesis focuses on analyzing the portrayal of women's oppression in the *She Said* (2022) movie through its intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements discussed are Laura Madden's character and characterizations, conflict, and setting. Extrinsic elements will discuss the causes, types, struggle, and social impacts of women oppression towards Laura Madden as the victim in movie *She Said* (2022).

1.5 Previous Studies

The writer discovered five previous studies with a similar topic, which is, women's oppression. The first previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled "Offred Resistance Against Oppression in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*" written by Skolastika Artauli Maha SS (2019). According to her conclusion, the oppression of women is carried out by restricting their freedom and exploiting their bodies. It puts women turned into objects of oppression.

The second previous studies is also an undergraduate thesis entitled "Women's Struggle Against Patriarchal Practice as Portrayed in Miriam Toews Women Talking" written by Linusia Marsih (2023). According to Linusia, women are treated as second-class citizens, deprived of security and their voices, as they are silenced and considered less valuable. This highlights the patriarchal culture that continues to dehumanize women in society.

The third previous studies is an undergraduate thesis about women's oppression discussed by Rafidah Azzah Fathinah entitled "Oppressions Towards

Women as Depicted in *Moxie* (2021) Movie” (2024). She discovered that women take collective action to resist oppression by men that becomes women main strength in fighting for the rights they should have.

The fourth previous studies is also an undergraduate thesis entitled “Women’s Oppression as Reflected in Jordan Belfort’s *The Wolf of Wall Street*” written by Bayu Satrya Yudha (2016). He exposes that women are often oppressed through exploitation, sexual violence, and powerlessness. They are considered weak and dependent on men, so in a society with patriarchal culture, women are easy to suppress and control.

The last previous studies a national journal article entitled “Woman’s Struggle against Oppression in *Colette* Movie” written by Citra Junia Nur, Setya Ariani, and Ririn Setyowati (2024). They found that oppression of women occurs because of male dominance that places them as inferior workers. Women need to move out of oppression and realize that they have a higher value and self-worth.

Of the five previous studies mentioned above, this research thesis is very different from any other previous research. This research thesis has three differences. First, the object of research in this thesis is a movie based on a true story. Second, in the intrinsic elements, this research exclusively focuses on one of the minor characters who are the victim of women's oppression. Third, the research approach used is also different. In this research thesis, the writer uses a feminist approach, with Rosemarie Tong’s radical feminism theory to reveal the struggle towards minor character in the work environment in the film industry.

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1 Research Approach

Based on the background of the study that recalls the phenomenon of women's oppression in the movie *She Said* (2022), the writer uses a feminist approach. The feminist approach is a critical and conscious way of thinking about injustice in society that aims to fight the social system that causes oppression (Kiguwa, 2019:226). The writer uses Rosemarie Tong's theory of feminism by focusing on radical feminism. This radical feminist theory highlights how patriarchal systems contribute to oppression and the objectification of women's bodies.

1.6.2 Method of Collecting Data

In writing this research thesis, the writer uses library research. Library research is a process that involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal or even expert opinion on a research question (George, 2008:6). The writer uses primary data and secondary data in this research thesis. Primary data is data collected directly from firsthand experiences and sources (Kabir, 2016: 204). To get the primary data, the writer watches this movie from Netflix. After that, the writer takes important notes and shoots the screen that is needed for the research thesis data.

Meanwhile, the secondary data is information that has been published in some form and used for research purposes (Kabir, 2016:205). The secondary data of this

research thesis is obtained indirectly from books, journals, and other relevant sources that align with the research topic and the object of this research thesis.

1.7 Organization of the Writing

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, scope of the study, aims of the study, previous studies, methods of the study, and the organization of writing.

CHAPTER 2 INTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter explains about intrinsic theoretical framework that supports this research thesis consist of characters and characterizations, conflict, and setting.

CHAPTER 3 EXTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter explains about extrinsic theoretical framework used for this research thesis. The theoretical framework consists of the theory used to analyze the research question.

CHAPTER 4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the results of the discussion and addresses the research questions. It analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic elements using relevant theories appropriate to the topic. The analysis focuses on identifying the causes, types, struggle, and social impact related to the research subject.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

The last chapter presents the conclusion and a summary of the discussion results.

REFERENCES