

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Feminism has changed the dynamics of society throughout history as a social movement that fights for gender equality. According to Jenainati & Groves in *Introducing Feminism* (2017) the term ‘feminism’ first appeared around 1890s, but long before that, women’s struggle to oppose oppression and discrimination is already exist. Feminism is a movement that fights for equality between men and women in social, economic, and political fields. In its development, feminism includes a series of shifts in values, social norms, and perceptions of women’s roles in various aspects of life. In addition, feminism is also related to issues such as gender-based violence, reproductive rights, access to education, equal pay, and the elimination of gender stereotypes. Feminism is often connected to other social movements such as the anti-racism and human rights movements, which also fight for social justice in a wider scope. Today, feminist movements have emerged around the world in different cultural contexts. This shows that the fight for gender equality is a universal issue.

Some media where feminism are explored is literature and popular culture, where films, literature, and other literary works become a means to reflect, celebrate, or even criticize gender roles. Since its inception, feminism has been discussed in literature and film. Research on feminist themes creates a foundation for understanding changes in social norms and looking at the impact of feminist movements across different historical and cultural contexts. Films and other literary

works serve as an effective medium to convey the message of feminism into society. Representations of women in literature and film often reflect changes in gender power dynamics, evolving social norms, and the evolution of public awareness of feminist issues. By addressing feminist issues, films and literary works do not only entertain, but also educate their audiences about gender equality and women's rights.

Nowadays, there are many literary works and films that raise the issue of feminism. One of them is a movie from the United States entitled *20th Century Women*. This movie was premiered in 2016. The movie, directed by Mike Mills, is set in 1979 in Santa Barbara, California. This movie raises the issue of feminism by describing the experiences of three women of different generations and how they reflect values and spirits of feminism in 1970s. The movie also shows how women dynamics affect the growth of a teenage boy who is searching for his identity.

20th Century Women is a movie about three women trying to raise a teenage boy, Jamie. Dorothea is a single mother trying to raise her son, Jamie, without the help of an adult male. But in raising her son, she often gets confused. Dorothea asks for help from Abbie and Julie to raise Jamie. Abbie is a woman who rents a room in Dorothea's house, and Julie is a teenage girl and Jamie's close friend. Jamie's interactions with the three women have left him confused in his search for his identity.

This research aims to find out the feminist value reflected by women, the mother's struggle in her relationship with her son, and how the interactions of the three female characters affect Jamie's identity. Therefore, this research uses

feminism to examine the women dynamics found in the *20th Century Women* movie.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the feminist values reflected by Dorothea, Abbie, and Julie in *20th Century Women* movie?
2. What is the Dorothea's struggle in her relationships with Jamie as a mother and son in *20th Century Women* movie?
3. How do the women's dynamics influence Jamie's identity in *20th Century Women* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the research questions, this research aims to reveal what are the feminist values reflected by Dorothea, Abbie, and Julie in *20th Century Women* movie. This research also discusses Dorothea's struggle in her relationship with Jamie, Dorothea's son, in *20th Century Women* movie. Furthermore, this research discusses how Dorothea, Abbie, and Julie's influence Jamie's identity from their interactions in *20th Century Women* movie.

1.4 Scope of the Study

To focus the research, the study employs feminism theory to identify the feminist values and spirits reflected by Dorothea, Abbie, and Julie and how its influence Jamie's identity in *20th Century Women* movie.

1.5 Previous Studies

Desmawati (2018) in *Analysis of Feminism in the Novel of Little Women by Louisa May Alcott* analyzes feminism in the novel *Little Women*. The purpose of the study is to elaborate on types of feminism and their reflection on feminism in the novel *Little Women*. Using qualitative descriptive methods, this research found that there are four types of feminism in the novel. Feminism in novel *Little Women* is reflected by the struggle of the characters in survival, in placing these lives in the world of men (patriarchy), in being comfortable with themselves to do what they feel comfortable for her, as well as their protest form to no longer be the object of violence for men.

Another research by Dewi & Medina (2020) in *The Feminism Portrayed in Greta Gerwig's Movie Little Women; Analysis In Modern Era* finds five types of feminism in the *Little Women* movie. Using descriptive qualitative methods, the study analyzes how feminism is described through the main character and searches for the types of feminism the main character refers to Tong and Botts's theory. The study also describes feminism's impact on the characters among women and conveys the views and values in women's personal life connected to the relationship of family matters as well.

Sidharta & Setyabudi (2023) in *The Struggle of Black Womans to Fight Discrimination in the Hidden Figure Movie: A Feminism Approach* analyze the indicators of gender inequality struggles in the workplace experienced by African-American women as depicted in the film *Hidden Figures* using feminist approach theory and observation methods to collect the data. The result of this study suggests

that the main character of the film exemplifies black feminism. On the other hand, Andrianto et al (2022) analyze what black feminism and liberal feminism represent in *Hidden Figures*. This research found that the black community faces particularly pertinent today, such as workplace discernment and the involvement of getting their accomplishments unnoticed in the indulgence of their white counterparts.

Putri (2011) in *The Spirit of Feminism Reflected in the Main Character of Mona Lisa Smile Movie: A Study of Feminism in a Patriarchal Society* examines the feminist views of Katherine Watson, the main character in *Mona Lisa Smile*, and her efforts to change the patriarchal views of Wellesley society that overly positioned men as “the ones with the will” and viewed women as predestined to fill a role as wives and mothers in their lives. The study used a library research method to support the analysis study. The results show despite many slurs and criticisms Katherine Watson experienced at Wellesley, it did not stop her to change the patriarchal views of Wellesley society.

Indriyanti (2022) in *The Depiction Of Liberal Feminism On Ruth Bader Ginsburg In Mimi Leder's On The Basis Of Sex Movie* examines the portrayal of the *On the Basis of Sex* main character, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and explores the depiction of liberal feminism through her character. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, extracting data such as dialogue, monologue, and narration from the movie script. The research yields two main findings. Firstly, it identifies specific traits in Ruth Bader Ginsburg's character using established characterization theories. Secondly, it highlights the manifestation and portrayal of liberal feminist goals through Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the central character.

Setiyowati (2019) in *Power Reflection in The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger (2003): A Feminist Approach* examines feminism found in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada*. This research purposed to analyze the struggle of the main character in *The Devil Wears Prada* through the feminist movement. The results of her research show that women are more visible and can work with men in the world of work, and everyone has their own characteristics.

Syarifa *et al* (2023) in *Deciphering Cassandra as a Radical Feminist in Promising Young Woman (2020)* examine the radical feminist behavior displayed by Cassandra, the main character in the film *Promising Young Woman*. The radical feminism appears in an effort to take revenge and convey a message about women's rights to get justice. This research shows that Cassandra can be categorized as a radical feminist because some of her characteristics are in accordance with radical feminism, including opposing sexual objectification of women, sexism, toxic masculinity, and patriarchy.

Natasya (2022) in *Analysis of Feminism in the 'Moxie' Movie* examines the values of feminism seen in the main character of the movie *Moxie*. This research aims to find out the types of feminism found in the movie *Moxie* and to find out the factors that cause the emergence of feminism in this film. The results show that there are three types of feminism that dominate *Moxie's* film, namely psychoanalytic and gender feminism, ecofeminism, and liberal feminism. Feminism in *Moxie* emerges due to the main character's efforts to end domestic violence and abuse as well as ecological protection.

Fatmasari & Kanafillah (2021) in *Resistance in Lady Bird, a Movie by Greta Gerwig* examine the resistance carried out by the main female character in the movie *Lady Bird*. This study aims to determine the resistance of the main character in the movie *Lady Bird*. This research shows that there are 2 types of resistance in *Lady Bird*, resistance to family and resistance to the wider community.

1.6 Research Method

This subchapter will describe the method of research and method of approach used in this study.

1.6.1 Method of Research

In this study, the writer used the qualitative method. The qualitative method was used to explore data in depth to find out the phenomena that occur in the movie. The study used library research to collect the data. This method used to gather information from various sources and search for relevant keywords. The primary data of this study is *20th Century Women* movie. The secondary data of this study are articles, journal, books, and internet.

1.6.2 Method of Approach

To get in-depth analysis, this study uses two theories. This study uses Abrams' objective approach to analyze the intrinsic elements. The extrinsic elements were analyzed using feminism approach, especially liberal feminism.

1.7 Writing Organization

This study consists of 5 chapters and every chapter consists of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION: This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, scope of the study, previous studies, method of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER 2 INTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS: This chapter presents the intrinsic theory and cinematography theory.

CHAPTER 3 EXTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS: This chapter presents the theory of feminism and psychology development theory.

CHAPTER 4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION: This chapter presents the data analysis result and the discussion.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION: This chapter presents the conclusion based on the finding in chapter 4.

