

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Despite the fact that a great deal of progress has been made in the quest for gender equality, discrimination based on gender persists in every aspect of society. Gender discrimination encompasses a variety of forms of inequality and injustice based on gender (Grey, 2023: 126). Various forms of inequality exist in society, surrounding educational disparities, employment opportunities, and gender-based violence. The fundamental cause of gender discrimination against women is the influence of patriarchal ideology on society's attitudes and behaviors.

The term patriarchy refers to a social system characterized by male dominance, wherein men hold a position of superiority over women. It corresponds to Sylvia Walby's definition of patriarchy, "a system of social structures and practices in which men exercise dominance, oppression, and exploitation over women" (Walby, 1989: 214). In this system, women are frequently placed in inferior and unequal positions compared to men. This has a significant effect on women's lives, restricting their ability to develop and grow into the individuals they aspire to be.

Feminism emerges in response to gender discrimination. This movement consists of numerous branches that have the same objective, which is to fight discrimination based on gender and promote women's rights. One of the branches of feminism movement is liberal feminism. According to liberal feminists, gender

discrimination is unjust and women should have as much opportunity to succeed in the public sphere as men do (Tong & Botts, 2018: 2). In essence, liberal feminism advocates women's rights to participate actively in society and obtain equal opportunities in the workplace, politics, and media.

The case of women's struggle against gender discrimination can be found in *In a World...*, a 2013 American film directed and written by Lake Bell. It follows the story of Carol Solomon, a young female voice coach who battles discrimination in a male-dominated industry. This film is interesting to discuss because it can raise awareness about gender equality and promote an understanding of equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of gender. Therefore, this study analyzes and attempts to uncover Carol's obstacles in her struggle against gender discrimination in *In a World...*

1.2. Research Problems

The problems of this research are:

- 1.2.1 How is the portrayal of gender discrimination faced by Carol in *In a World...*?
- 1.2.2 How does Carol struggle against gender discrimination in *In a World...*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems, the objectives of the study are:

- 1.3.1 To analyze the portrayal of gender discrimination faced by Carol in *In a World....*

1.3.2 To show the forms of Carol's struggle against gender discrimination in *In a World...*

1.4. Previous Studies

There are some previous studies related to this study. The first research is conducted by Dhea Fylla Ifadha (2021) entitled "The Dominance of Masculinity in the Workplace (Discourse Analysis of the Films *Purl* and *In a World...*)." It describes the form of masculinity's dominance in the workplace and its development in the films *Purl* and *In a World...* using discourse analysis by Sara Mills.

The second is "Women on Top? Challenging the "Mancession" Narrative in the 2010s Chick Flick", a journal article by Beatriz Oria (2022) that analyzes several chick flicks from the 2010s, including *In a World...* (2013). This journal article examines how chick flicks of the 2010s oppose traditional gender norms and shift their focus to women's professional struggles through the use of the "mancession" narrative.

In addition, the writer also finds some articles about movie reviews on the internet. Some reviews are found on some websites, such as timeout.com, imdb.com, rogerebert.com, mubi.com, and rottentomatoes.com. The reviews are mainly about the character and plot of the story in general.

Based on the previous research, the author cannot find any studies specifically addressing the struggles of Carol, the main female character in *In a World...* (2013) against gender discrimination. Therefore, this thesis is distinct

from prior research, focusing on the portrayal of the gender discrimination experienced by Carol and the forms of her efforts to struggle against it.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is to discuss the intrinsic and extrinsic elements reflected in Lake Bell's *In a World...* (2013). The analysis of intrinsic elements is limited to character and conflict. Specifically, the study aims to reveal the protagonist's experiences with gender discrimination and her efforts to struggle against gender discrimination. The extrinsic elements will be analyzed using the lens of patriarchy and the feminist approach to understanding the protagonist's struggle to end discrimination by challenging patriarchy. Carol fights gender discrimination by following the principles of liberal feminism. She seeks to challenge patriarchal structures by emphasizing the rights and freedoms of every individual and demonstrating that men and women have equal opportunities.

1.6. Writing Organization

This research is arranged into chapters and sub-chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six sub-chapters: background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter contains the theories and methods that support the research study. The theories deal with the explanation of intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements

consist of character and conflict, while extrinsic elements consist of the theory of gender discrimination, patriarchy, and liberal feminism. The methods contain sub-chapters dealing with research methods, such as data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

**CHAPTER III CAROL'S STRUGGLE AGAINST GENDER
DISCRIMINATION IN LAKE BELL'S IN A
WORLD... (2013)**

It contains the analysis and explanation about the object of this study, which is In a World.... Both intrinsic and extrinsic elements are discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter concludes the analysis in the previous chapter.

REFERENCES