

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter describes the theoretical framework used to analyze the movie, which is divided into intrinsic and extrinsic elements. This chapter also presents the methods that the writer uses, including data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

This sub-chapter will examine the elaboration of the theoretical framework used for analyzing the movie. This sub-chapter provides an explanation of intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements consist of character and conflict, while extrinsic elements consist of gender discrimination, patriarchy, and liberal feminism.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are specific elements that are inherent in a literary work and are utilized to form the work itself. There are several elements in intrinsic aspects. However, this study only highlights certain aspects for analysis; namely, character and conflict.

2.1.1.1 Character

Character refers to the actors who act out the storyline and bring the story to life. According to Pickering and Hooper, there will be no plot and thus no story if there are no characters (1981: 23). It means that characters play a significant role in any great story as they represent the author's ideas through their actions and dialogues. There are two types of characters based on their roles: protagonists

and antagonists. Abrams stated, "The protagonist is the central character in a plot that attracts our interest. If the plot involves a significant adversary who is pitted against the protagonist, this character is referred to as the antagonist" (2012: 294). The protagonist is typically the heroic figure or the one we admire in the story, while the antagonist is the one who opposes the protagonist and frequently plays the role of villain.

2.1.1.2 Conflict

Conflict is an element of a story that often occurs between the protagonist and the antagonist. Referring to Holman, conflict is "the struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot" (1980: 98). Conflict might appear in many situations. It is not only about "the battle of the protagonist against a person or thing, but it also implies the presence of some motive for the conflict or some goal to be accomplished through it" (Holman, 1980: 98). Therefore, conflict plays an essential function in literary works, influencing the development of characters, the progression of plots, and the delivery of messages or themes.

There are two types of conflict: internal conflicts and external conflicts. Meyer stated that "internal conflict is a conflict between man and himself, usually called inner conflict. Meanwhile, external conflict is when the protagonist is on the opposite side of another individual, nature, or society" (1990: 45). Internal conflict may be a disagreement between an individual's own thoughts and ambitions, whereas external conflict takes the shape of a battle, an argument, or even just old disagreement.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements are elements outside of literature and indirectly influence the structure of literary works. This chapter divides the extrinsic elements into the theory of gender discrimination, patriarchy, and liberal feminism.

2.1.2.1 Gender Discrimination

In patriarchal social structures, gender is the central social identity construction used to create stratification and discrimination. Humm defined gender as “a culturally shaped group of attributes and behaviors assigned to the female or the male” (1995: 106). Gender differences due to social construction are contributing factors to gender discrimination. Gender discrimination itself is a term used to describe unequal treatment which is based on gender.

According to Baden and Reeves, “Gender discrimination is the systematic, unfavorable treatment of individuals based on their gender, which denies them rights, opportunities or resources” (2000: 7). It indicates that gender discrimination is based on gender rather than abilities or potential, even if there are situations in which women are more capable than men. Additionally, gender discrimination also refers to unjust treatment and assumptions made about someone based on his/her gender, which leads to the role he/she should play in society. “Gender discrimination occurs when one individual expresses bias towards another that would not arise if they were the opposing gender” (Salvini, 2014: 2424). This bias is frequently a result of cultural standards and expectations rather than a personal prejudice. Society tends to assign responsibilities to

individuals depending on their gender, which leads to assumptions about what each gender can and cannot do.

A patriarchal society is a foundation for gender inequality and discrimination. The existing commonplace beliefs regarding gender ideology are the cause of inequality and injustice in gender relations. Lazar stated that "social systems of patriarchy consistently favor men as a social group and disadvantage, exclude, and weaken women as a social group" (2007: 145). In her view, forms of gender discrimination against women include "exclusionary gate-keeping social practices, physical violence against women, and sexual harassment and denigration of women" (Lazar, 2007: 148). These forms of discrimination are common in a lot of societies, causing harm to women, perpetuating inequality, and impeding the full realization of women's rights and potential in various aspects of society.

2.1.2.2 Patriarchy

To get a better understanding of gender inequality in society, one must first obtain a better understanding of the idea of patriarchy. One of the pioneers who introduced the notion of patriarchy into feminist discourse is Kate Millet. She posited that patriarchy is a concept that encompasses dual meanings: "male shall dominate female, and elder male shall dominate younger" (Millett, 2000: 25). However, patriarchy generally "refers to male domination, power relations in which men rule over women, and a system in which women are considered subordinate" (Bhasin, as cited in Sultana, 2011: 2). The majority of feminists use the term patriarchy to characterize the imbalance of power between men and

women. Hence, for feminists, patriarchy is more than simply a term. It is also a framework for making sense of the experiences of women's lives.

Referring to Walby, patriarchy is "a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women through societal structures... it clearly implies rejection both of biological determinism and the notion that men always hold a dominant position while women remain subordinate" (1990: 20). The patriarchal system is the primary obstacle to women's empowerment. Patriarchal ideology emphasizes the biological distinctions between the sexes, arguing that males should always play more masculine, dominating, and hence superior roles while women should always play more submissive, feminine roles. Because of this ideology, men can typically acquire the absolute agreement of the women they oppress (Sultana, 2011: 3).

In her book, *Theorizing Patriarchy*, Walby argued that there are six patriarchal structures: patriarchal mode of household production, paid work, the state, male violence, sexuality, and culture. Of these six aspects, only three are used in this study: paid work, male violence, and culture. Therefore, the details of these aspects will be explained as follows:

2.1.2.3.1. Paid work

The first patriarchal structure is paid work. This part explains why women have fewer job opportunities than men. Men always dominate higher-paying jobs because they are perceived to have better abilities than women. Whereas women are considered to have "lesser skills and experience... and less likely to be accepted than male workers" (Walby, 1990: 31-32). Due to circumstances in

which women do not get the qualifications and work experience that men have, women get lower-level jobs than men.

Despite the fact that today's workplaces are far less dangerous and demanding than in the past, women still face discrimination and bias in subtle ways. The discrimination that women encounter can vary depending on "their career stage and field" (Manzoor & Thompson, 2019: 25). As a result, men and women can have different opportunities and work experiences, even within the same organization or industry. This aligns with what Walby revealed that "it is not typical for men and women to work in the same job or industry" (Walby, 1990: 26). According to this statement, there are limited job opportunities for women because men and women are not able to work in the same fields. Concerning this, men are advantaged in accessing better jobs and developing their careers.

2.1.2.3.2. Violence

The second patriarchal structure is violence. Male violence against women is motivated by a desire to dominate. Walby argued that male violence against women encompasses "sexual assault, wife-beating, workplace sexual harassment, and child sexual abuse" (1990: 128). The statements above are examples of male violence that can cause trauma for the victim, in this case women, as well as future difficulty and discomfort for the women. According to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (as cited in Krantz & Garcia-Moreno, 2005: 818), violence against women is defined as "...any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts,

coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". In general, the term violence against women refers to a wide variety of poor treatments perpetrated by men toward women and girls at any point in their lives.

There are three primary categories of violence: physical violence, which involves the use of force to cause harm through actions such as kicking, slapping, beating, and other aggressive behaviors; psychological violence, which causes damage to an individual's mental well-being through behaviors such as humiliation, economic restrictions, threats, and other controlling behaviors; and sexual violence, which encompasses a range of abusive behaviors including forced sexual activity through physical force, threats, or intimidation, as well as coerced participation in degrading sexual acts (Krantz & Garcia-Moreno, 2005: 819).

2.1.2.3.3. Culture

The last patriarchal structure discussed is culture. It highlights the fact that there are still different norms and standards for men and women. According to Walby, cultural institutions are responsible for shaping the representation of women within a patriarchal gaze. This representation contributes to women's understanding of femininity, which is often associated with passivity, gentleness, and emotionality (1990: 90). By portraying women in this way, cultural institutions reinforce patriarchal power structures that position men as dominant and women as subordinate.

There are two ideas; namely, masculinity and femininity, which can be found in all areas of social relations. These ideas show how different men and women are from each other. Referring to Kachel et al., masculinity and femininity are conceptual frameworks and practices that shape the development of traits, interests, and behaviors that are traditionally linked to males and females (2016: 2). Men and women are expected to act in quite different ways because of cultural norms. It is described by Walby as a "mirror opposite" (1990: 91). Generally, men appear more dynamic, energetic, and reliable, while women are seen as more submissive, emotional, and weak.

2.1.2.3 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is a branch of feminism that supports the promotion of women's legal and political rights. It emerged around the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Giddens defines liberal feminism as a "feminist theory that believes gender inequality is created by lowering access for women and girls to civil rights and allocation of social resources such as education and employment" (2006:1022). Liberal feminism recognizes that the basis of gender inequality is a lack of rights and resources for women. Therefore, the main objective of liberal feminism is to advocate for equal access to these rights and resources in order to achieve equality.

In addition, liberal feminism also aims to free women from the restrictions of repressive gender roles. These roles are frequently used to "excuse or justification for giving women a lesser place, or no place at all, in the academy, the forum, and the marketplace" (Tong & Botts, 2018: 34). Liberal feminists seek

to eliminate these unfair systems and gather the way for a society in which women are not restricted by set roles and are free to participate and contribute equally in every aspect of life. This freedom is not just about participation, but also about personal growth and individual autonomy. Liberal feminism emphasizes women's freedom to make decisions that best suit their needs and goals rather than being restricted by traditional tendency (Tong & Botts, 2018: 32). This viewpoint encourages women to pursue their full potential in all aspects of life, whether personal, professional, or public, without regard to gender. Thus, liberal feminism combines the battle against restrictive gender norms with the promotion of individual liberty, resulting in a comprehensive approach to gender equality.

2.2. Research Method

This chapter presents the method of this study. There are some sub-chapters dealing with the research method, such as data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

2.2.1 Data and Data Source

There are two kinds of sources that the writer needs in this thesis, which are primary and secondary data. Primary data is data that the researcher collects for the first time, whereas secondary data is data that has already been collected or produced by others (Hox & Boeije, 2005). Primary data consists of quotations from the scene's dialog taken from Lake Bell's *In a World...* movie script, while secondary data is taken from related articles and books.

2.2.2 Method of Collecting Data

The writer applies library research methods to collect the data and support theories in this thesis. According to Mary W. George, library research is a research method that includes collecting data and information as well as opinions of experts related to the study's subject (2008: 6).

2.2.3 Method of Analyzing Data

Considering that the topic of analysis of this study is about women, the frame of analysis used is feminist criticism. According to Bressler, the focus on patriarchy, the rule of men over society and culture, is central to the diverse aims and methods of feminist criticism (1999: 167). The analysis uses contextual analysis, which is an analysis of a text that helps us to assess that “text within the context of its historical and cultural setting, but also in terms of its textuality – or the qualities that characterize the text as a text” (Behrendt, 2008). This method combines the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the literary work.