

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works, such as novels, plays, poems, and short stories, are intertwined with societal issues. Film, a popular literary form, is a moving image that conveys a storyline through scenes. Films can convey messages, express writer's ideas, entertain, and provide knowledge to audiences. They can be related to various aspects of life, such as social, cultural, religious, and philosophical aspects (Kaul, 2014). For instance, many films focus on women's emancipation.

Problems often arise in relation to women. Women are often positioned as the weaker and socially marginalized sex compared to men in a patriarchal society. Simply put, patriarchy is defined as the global oppression of men against women (Walby, 1990:20). Here, women are considered inferior while men are superior. This creates a new stereotype in society that women are the second sex and are controlled by a system that gives them fewer opportunities than men. Women don't have a lot of space to grow. In a patriarchal society, women are often discriminated against because of gender inequality. Thus was born the feminist movement.

The feminist movement is a movement for women's emancipation that arises from consciousness of gender discrimination in society. Its main goal is gender equality in every social aspect. According to Jo Freeman (1975:439), the idea of gender equality is behind gender differences, men and women have the same rights. In the US, feminism was born as a form of rebellion against gender

inequality. Feminism has gone through many waves. According to Humm (1995:90), the former took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, rooted in urban industrialism and liberal socialist politics. The aim is to open up opportunities for women with an emphasis on suffrage. Women are free to express women's freedom and gender equality through this movement. Over time, the feminist movement has been divided into several categories according to major social issues. One of them is radical feminism.

Similar to other forms of feminism, namely fighting for equal rights for women, radical feminism focuses on the oppression of women on the basis of sexism, which can cause problems with long-term effects on victims, especially women (Tong, 1998:46-47). According to this, women must move towards sexism which traps and limits them. Radical feminism is also divided into two categories, namely libertarian radical feminism and cultural radical feminism.

According to Millet (in Rosemary Tong, 1998:48), radical libertarian feminists, they believe that everyone has both masculinity and femininity. This means that they put more emphasis on the concept of androgyny, where there is no idea of a real woman and womanhood in a person. This also thinks that the reproductive system can be a curse because it can cause oppression of women. Therefore, this believes that the fewer women involved in the reproductive process, the more time and energy can be used to be involved in productive processes in the public space. Meanwhile, cultural radical feminists glorify the feminine side and the ability of a woman's uterus to produce life as a special

characteristic. In another sense, this considers that natural reproduction is a source of women's liberation which lies in their wombs to bring new life.

Many films have discussed these two topics. In this research, the writer used a film object entitled "*The Worst Person in the World*" by Joachim Trier. Released in 2021 and a nominee at the Oscars, this film is the third film in the Oslo trilogy. Renate Reinsve plays as the main character in this film named Julie. She is young woman who is living life in search of identity and true love. She tries to face all the problems that come her way in order to maintain her love relationship which is experiencing many problems and to fight for her career as a young worker.

Julie's character prefers to focus on her career and achieve all her dreams rather than getting married and having children. She is not ready if her husband and children will arrange her life later. She had no interest in that. On the other hand, the trauma caused by her father made Julie decide to childfree. In the world of love, Julie often changes partners. She really enjoyed her youth with the promiscuity that was carried out. Therefore, Julie has not been able to determine which one could be her true love.

In this thesis, the writer is interested in discussing the libertarian radical feminism represented by the character Julie. The writer chose this film because the character Julie has several attitudes and thoughts the she is a feminist who wants to be free at her age and that can be used as the data sources in this research.

## 1.2 Research Problems

Based on the explanation above, two questions can be drawn, including:

1. What is the conflict experienced by Julie in the film "*The Worst Person in the World*" (2021)?
2. How is the representation of radical libertarian feminism in the film "*The Worst Person in the World*" (2021)?

## 1.3 Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the conflicts that occurs in *The Worst Person in the World* (2021).
2. To explain overview related to libertarian radical feminism through attitudes and thoughts in main character Julie in *The Worst Person in the World* (2021).

## 1.4 Previous Studies

Many researches on feminism have been carried out because there are many types of feminism that can be studied in literature, one of which is radical libertarian feminism. In researching this topic, the writers used five previous studies as benchmarks and comparisons in conducting research.

The first research from Sofranita (2015) entitled "*Thoughts and Actions of Helen in Charlotte Rochie's Feuchtgebiete*". This study uses a descriptive analytical method by identifying the autonomy of the characters represented in certain quotes which are then analyzed using the perspective of radical libertarian

feminism. What distinguishes this research from the research conducted by the writer lies in the method of data analysis. In this research, the writer uses descriptive analysis method with semiotic analysis according to Roland Barthes.

The second research is "*Radical-Libertarian Feminism of the Main Character in Kate Chopin's The Awakening*" from Jeremiah (2018). This study uses the close reading method and the feminist approach theory of Bressler and Djajanegara. In analyzing the novel, the researcher uses Rosemary Thong's theory. The difference between this research and the research that the writer will conduct lies in the research methods. The research method that the writer will do is descriptive analytical method with semiotic analysis according to Roland Barthes to analyze the data.

The third research from Purwosasmito (2010) entitled "*The Libertarian Radical Feminist Characteristics of Bibi Chen in the Novel Saving Fish from Drowning*". This research analyzes the character of Bibi Chen in the novel Saving Fish from Drowning from the point of view of radical libertarian feminism. This research uses literature study and descriptive qualitative method in collecting data. On the other hand, the fourth research from Lestari (2016) entitled "*The Ideas of Radical Libertarian Feminism as Reflected in the Main Characters of Anais Nin's Ladders To Fire*". This research analyzes the characteristics of Lillian and Djuna using radical libertarian feminist ideas and using the literature study method in analyzing data obtained from books and the web. The third and fourth research similarities in the research method, namely both use literature in analyzing the data obtained, because these two studies use novel literature as their object.

Meanwhile, the difference between these two studies and the research that the writer will conduct lies in the research method. The writer will use an analytical descriptive method with semiotic analysis according to Roland Barthes to analyze the data.

The latest research from Prasasty & Natsir (2020) entitled “*The Radical Feminism of Imperator Furiosa's Character in Mad Max Fury Road Film (2015)*”. This research uses a qualitative research design and uses the theory of radical feminism by Rosemarie. P. Tong (2009). The differences this research from the research that the writer will conduct lies in the theory used. This study uses the theory of radical feminism in general which produces the final result of representing two types of radical feminism, namely libertarian radical feminism and cultural radical feminism. Meanwhile, in the research that will be conducted, the writers only focus on and use the theory of libertarian radical feminism.

The difference with previous research, the writer uses a film *The Worst Person in the World* (2021) as the research object. The writer focuses on the conflict that occurred and the representation of radical libertarian feminism through the main character Julie in this film. Besides that, there are no researchers who have researched this film and topic. Apart from that, the writer also uses the theory of Libertarian Radical Feminism put forward by Rosemary Tong and supported by semiotic techniques according to Roland Barthes to make it easier to analyze the signs in this film.

## **1.5 Method of the Study**

There are three research methods were used in this study, the data is collected and analyzed using study methodologies. First are data and source of data, second is method of collection and last is method of approach.

### **1.5.1 Data and the Source of Data**

Regarding data and source of data, the writer use primary data and secondary data. The film *The Worst Person in the World* (2021) by Joachim Trier serves as the main source of information in this research. While secondary data was collected from various sources such as articles, journals, and the internet, all of which were relevant to this study's data collection.

### **1.5.2 Method of Collecting Data**

In this study, the writer uses literature techniques obtained from scientific books, previous studies, encyclopedias and other sources, both printed and electronic. According to Sarwono (2010:34-35) literature technique is a data collection technique carried out by researchers by examining theories, various opinions and main ideas contained in print media, especially books that support and are relevant to the topics discussed in the study. In this study, the writer uses several steps to collect data these are: First, the writer read previous study that discussed the same topic as this research. Then, the writer started watching the film *The Worst Person in the World* (2021). After that, the writer identified scenes, dialogue and signs in the film to be analyzed through the main character Julie. And lastly, the writer makes a list and classifies the data to make research easier.

### **1.5.3 Method of Approach**

After the data is collected from the results of the selection, then the data will be analyzed by means of semiotic analysis according to Ronald Barthes (in Kurniawan, 2001:49) and analytical descriptive techniques (Sugiono, 2009:29). The purpose of the analytical descriptive technique is to explain the data clearly, systematically, in detail and answer the research problem under study. Semiotic analysis is used by the writer through the three elements he puts forward, namely denotative meaning (true meaning), connotation (reinterpretation of denotative meaning that has an intrinsic message) and myth (connotative meaning related to culture).

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

Limitations in a discussion are needed as limitations on what problems will be discussed. The writer will analyze two aspects, intrinsic and extrinsic in the film *The Worst Person in the World* (2021). In analyzing the intrinsic aspects, the writer only focuses on the conflict, background and characteristics of the main character Julie. While the extrinsic aspect is focused on the habits, perspective and attitudes of the main character Julie in representing the ideas of libertarian radical feminism.

### **1.7 Writing Organization**

The organization of this writing consists of several chapters, including:



**CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of seven sub-chapters. They are the background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, method of the study, scope of the study and organization of writing.

**CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In this chapter, the writer will mention and explain both the intrinsic and extrinsic theories that will be used in the research.

**CHAPTER III ANALYSIS**

It is the main chapter of the thesis. Both intrinsic and extrinsic elements are discussed in this chapter.

**CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

In this chapter, is the result and summary of the previous chapters.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**