

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Disney films often present beautiful films, interesting stories, and iconic characters. However, behind all that, Disney films often imply a certain ideology. These ideologies can be seen through various aspects of the film, such as, themes, moral values, cultural representations, characters and stories. However, feminist ideology appears more frequently in Disney animated characters (Pravitha et al., 2023). Unconsciously, movies often portray relationships that are gender-prejudiced and put women in a worse position. Women are more often employed as secretaries, receptionists, girls advocates, and women are oppressed by ostensibly being harassed by men or being sex objects. Women are often portrayed by directors as humble and humble (Gamble, 2010, p. 117).

In the aspect of feminism, an ideology that focuses on women, they are often treated unfairly by society. Some of them don't realize that they are under patriarchal control. Women are often restricted to performing limited tasks, such as staying at home, acting as housewives and caregivers, depending on men, not being allowed to make important decisions, engaging only in a limited number of professions, as sexual objects/sex symbols and fetish objects, and more (Go, 2013).

Women are categorized as belonging to lower social classes, as if the capitalist system is designed to place men in labor roles. This forces women back home and strengthens their status in social interactions. This thought is known as the term marxist feminism which combines feminist theory with the views of Karl

Marx. Marxist feminism is closely linked to the patriarchal system, which favors men and restricts women, particularly in the gender-based division of labor, resulting in oppression and limited future rights for women. These are becoming the capitalism that oppressed women as in the perspective of Marxist feminism (Tong, 2009: 102).

Mulan 2020, this film depicts the gender oppression that women experience in patriarchal societies. Mulan is forced to hide her identity and abilities in order to meet social expectations. He had to train hard and fight like a man to gain recognition and respect. However, Mulan challenges these norms through her courage and determination. She showed that women are just as capable and strong as men, even in battle. Her success in saving the emperor and her country proved that women had tremendous potential and deserved the same opportunities as men. The film also shows the class exploitation that commoners endured under the Marxist and socialist system. The peasants were forced to fight and sacrifice their lives for the benefit of the emperor and aristocracy. Mulan, as part of the common people, feels this injustice firsthand and is motivated to fight for change.

The writer is interested in discussing the women's issues experienced by Mulan in upholding the rights of women as whole people who are able to determine their own way of life. The author chose this film because it contains many elements of feminism that can be used as a case study in this study. The writer uses Marxist feminism to discuss this film.

Previous research has mainly focused on the liberal aspects of feminism that appear in this film. While previous research has investigated the topic of Marxist

feminism in film, it mainly proves the existence of female role capitalism on different objects of how capitalism became a phenomenon in the perspective of Marxist feminism. Instead, current research seeks to reveal how Marxist Feminism is portrayed, with particular emphasis on capitalism as a factor in the oppression of women's roles in the context of *Mulan 2020*. In short, this study focuses on the analysis of women issues and Marxist feminism depicted in the 2020 film *Mulan*. The analysis proves the oppression of Marxist feminism in women's social classes depicted through *Mulan's* struggle about how Marxist feminism oppresses women in the film.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions that arise based on the background of this research are:

1. How are the intrinsic elements depicted in *Mulan (2020)* film?
2. How are women's issues portrayed by the character *Mulan* in *Mulan (2020)* film?
3. How can women's issues portrayed by the character *Mulan* represent the struggle of Marxist feminism in *Mulan (2020)* film?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

1. To identify the intrinsic elements depicted in *Mulan (2020)* film
2. To reveal women's issues that shown by the character *Mulan* in *Mulan (2020)* film

3. To reveal how women's issues portrayed by the character Mulan represent the struggle of Marxist feminism in *Mulan* (2020) film

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study will discuss three topics, which are the intrinsic aspect of the film entitled *Mulan* 2020, the women's issues and the representation of Marxist feminism portrayed by the struggle of Mulan in *Mulan* (2020). To analyze the representation, the writer will focus on Mulan, the women representation of the struggle of Marxist feminism in this film.

1.5 Previous Studies

Previous studies are used as comparisons and differences between this study and previous studies. To analyze this discussion further, the writer needs to conduct a search for studies which have similar topics. The first previous studies were derived from the students of Diponegoro University entitled *The Reflection of Marxist feminism in Suzanne Collins's Mockingjay* (2016) by Nailah. This paper examines Marxist feminism, domination, alienation, class struggle, and revolution present in the novel *Mockingjay*, specifically focusing on Katniss Everdeen as the protagonist. This character is worthy of analysis due to their embodiment of Marxist feminist beliefs. The primary goal of this thesis is to delve deeper into Marxist feminism in *Mockingjay*. This thesis employs a sociological perspective. Marxist feminism is the theory utilized in this research. The outcome of this research involves examining both the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of prose. This thesis covers innate components like character, setting, conflict, and allegory.

Furthermore, the external factor involves examining Katniss Everdeen in the book *Mockingjay* as the protagonist, embodying Marxist feminist ideals. It gives an explanation of power, separation, social conflict, and feminist theory based on Marxism. To sum up, this thesis examines Marxist feminism and its application, focusing on Katniss Everdeen as the central figure.

Nathaniel Davin Pratama's thesis on *An Analysis of Marxist-feminism in Oppressed Women as Reproductive Apparatus in the Novel The Handmaid's Tale* (2018). This study discusses the theory of Marxist feminism which reveals the reason behind the oppression toward the women depicted in the novel. A library research method is utilized to gather supported information and theories for this study. The goal of this research is to demonstrate that the subjugation of women, particularly *The Handmaid*, is a result of the interpellation employed by The Republic of Gilead. Following extensive examination, the study reveals that *The Handmaid's Tale* novel is, at its core, a dystopian novel with its own unique structure, featuring groups of women divided into different social classes. The writer discovers that in terms of external factors, the social classes of women in the society are in competition with each other, with these classes being established and upheld through Gileadean manipulation, which includes the manipulation of religion to control the Handmaids.

The third study entitled *Analysis of Marxist Feminism on the Imperial Cake of Lyon* (2020) by Grace Aprilia Agustina Manimbaga from Diponegoro University. This thesis reveals the values of Marxist feminism in the character of Lyon in the *Imperial cake* series. Cookie Lyon is depicted as a crucial figure in both

her family and the business as one of the main characters. Marxist-feminism is employed to develop Cookie Lyon's character. This paper's sole purpose is to empower women globally. Cookie demonstrated what a woman can achieve. Both of the mentioned theses differ in their focus on the research topic, which is the film. The focus of this study is on the movie Mulan 2020.

The studies above cover the discussion of Marxist feminist studies in several kinds of films and novels that are relevant to support the writer's research. However, they did not use Mulan as an object of research. The writer uses Marxist feminism to reveal capitalism and patriarchy phenomena in Mulan, with the support of some theorists.

1.6 Methods of the Study

The methods of the study are used as a system that elaborates the objectives of the study. This study uses the method of data collection which shows the way of collecting the data, the method of approach which helps the theory of analyzing the data.

1.6.1 Method of Data Collection

In gathering the data, the writer watches, taking notes and transcribing the dialogue of the film entitled Mulan 2020. This data is used as primary data. For the secondary data, the writer uses library research to gather data from online and offline sources. The method of data collection used to collect data in this study, which is Library research. Library research involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/ expert opinion on a research

question; a necessary component of every other research method at some point (George, 2008:6).

1.6.2 Method of Approach

To analyze the data, the writer uses a feminism approach. The feminism approach uses Tong, *Feminist thought - a more comprehensive introduction* about Marxist feminism to analyze the film entitled *Mulan* (2020). In Abrams & Harpham *A Glossary of Literary terms*, mimetic approach which views the literary work as an imitation, reflection, or representation of the world and human life is used to analyze the intrinsic elements which consist of theme, characters and settings. The cinematography such as camera angle and camera shots, and also the extrinsic elements for instance, the women's issue and the representation of Marxist feminism reflected by the struggle of character Mulan in *Mulan* (2020).

1.7 Organization of the Thesis

The Organization of the thesis consists of five chapters.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This part consists of background of the study, research problems, objective of the study, scope of the study, previous studies, method of the study, and organizations of writing.

CHAPTER 2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

This part consists of intrinsic elements, cinematography, and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements consist of theme, characters and setting. While cinematography for instance,

camera distance. On the other hand, the Marxist Feminism approach used to analyze the extrinsic aspects.

CHAPTER 3 DISCUSSION

This part analyzes the intrinsic elements, cinematography and extrinsic elements of Mulan 2020, according to the theories in the previous chapter.

CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION

This part explains the result of the study and the summary of chapter three.

REFERENCE