

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

According to Judith Butler, gender is and will be continually constructed and reinforced through repeated performances, which can be subverted or destabilized through acts of resistance (Butler, 1999:9). Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, boys and girls that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behavior and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. This social construct creates differences in roles, opportunities, influence, status, and relative power. These differences create unfair treatment between different groups of society and in the long run, this unfair treatment becomes gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is the differential treatment based on an individual's sex categories (Rogers, 1980:35). In other words, gender discrimination is society's unfair treatment toward a specific gender. Women are considered to be the ones affected by gender discrimination, but in reality, gender discrimination affects men too.

This movie shows the theme of feminism from the full title itself, *Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)*. “fantabulous emancipation of one Harley Quinn”. *Birds of Prey (2020)* is a movie directed by a female director Cathy Yan, this movie is about the main female characters trying to save Cassandra

Cain and fight Roman Sionis in Gotham City. In the movie, the main female characters face discrimination based on their gender, and in the final conflict, the main female characters try to save Cassandra from Roman Sionis.

The writer would like to analyze the gender discrimination in the *Birds of Prey* movie and also wanted to find out how the movie depicts the discriminations and struggles faced by the female characters. This study tries to explore the effects of gender discrimination on the main female characters in the movie.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

1. What kind of gender discrimination is faced by the main female characters in *The Birds of Prey*?
2. How does the movie depict the conditions and struggles faced by the main female characters?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. This study identify what kind of gender discrimination is faced by the main female characters in *Birds of Prey* movie
2. This study will explain the struggles of discrimination that the main female characters face in the *Birds of Prey* movie

#### 1.4 Previous Study

*Birds of Prey* is a newly released movie. It was released in February 2020. As far as the writer is concerned on the paper, there are only a few research studies that have been conducted regarding this movie. The first previous study is “Language Features: Analysis of Women and Men Language in *Birds of Prey* by Cathy Yan” (2024) written by T Amelliya Kharisma Putri, this study analyzes the language used by the female and male characters in the movie.

The second previous study is “*An Analysis of Female Gaze Through Character Development in Birds of Prey Movie*” (2024) written by Salsabiela Almanda. This thesis analyzes the female gaze through character development.

The third previous study entitled “An Analysis of *Birds of Prey* Movie Viewed from its Cultural Values and its Contribution to Cross Cultural Understanding” (2023) written by Suprihati Ningsih. This thesis analyzes the contribution of cultural values to cross-cultural understanding from the movie.

The fourth previous study “The Use of Compliments with Profanities in *Birds of Prey* Movie” (2023) written by Faradila Nur Susandi this thesis analyzes the use of profanities with compliments in the movie.

The fifth previous study is “Subtitling Strategies and Readability of Verbal Humor in *Birds of Prey: And The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn*” written by Nadhifah Putri Cihandha (2022) is focusing on analysing the types of verbal

humor, subtitling strategies and the readability aspect of the subtitle of verbal humor in *Birds of Prey*.

The sixth previous study was conducted by Raynanda Islami Putra entitled “The impact of social problems on the characterization of *Birds of Prey* women's groups in *Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)* (2020)” (2022). The researcher analyzes what social problems are contained in the movie, and the form of emancipation contained in this action and drama genre movie.

The seventh previous study is “Women’s Emancipation in Movie: A Feminism Analysis in *Birds of Prey* by Cathy Yan” written by Anitiya Indah Fitrotun Ni’mah (2022). This research’s objective of the study is to analyze the Emancipation presented in the movie through the view of feminism theory.

The eight previous studies were conducted by Khairunnisya Lubis, Namiratusshofa Siregar, and Siti Rahma Matondang (2022) and entitled “The Effect of Gender Equality Reflected in *Birds of Prey* Movie”. The author of this study focuses on women's emancipation in the movie and the effects of gender equality as depicted in the movie.

The ninth previous study is a journal entitled “Psychological Analysis of Harley Quinn’s Persinality in *Birds of Prey*” (2021) written by I Putu Andy Wirawan. This research focuses on the psychological analysis of Harley’s personality.

The last previous study is a journal entitled “Redefining Femininity: Revealing Harley’s Struggle to Exercise Agency in Movie *Birds of Prey*”, written by Haya Latul Qodarin U.R (2021). This research focuses on the struggle of gaining agency that Harley experienced in the movie.

From the previous study mentioned above, the writer sees a gap in that none of these studies analyze the gender discrimination in the *Birds of Prey* movie. The similarity of this thesis and the previous study mentioned above is the object of the study, *Birds of Prey* movie. This thesis will analyze the portrayal of gender discrimination that the female character experience throughout the movie.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on analyzing the gender discrimination experienced by the female characters in Cathy Yan’s *Birds of Prey* movie. The writer would like to focus on the analysis of gender discrimination in *Birds of Prey* movie.

### **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 characters, characterization, setting, and conflict while extrinsic elements consist of the theory of gender discrimination. 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

### **DISCUSSION**

It contains the analysis and explanation of the object of this study, which is Birds of Prey. Both intrinsic and extrinsic elements are discussed in this chapter.

## CHAPTER IV

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter concludes the analysis in the previous chapter.

## REFERENCES