

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is an artwork made from the aesthetic mind of the creator (Pope, 2002). Literature describes the beauty and abstract mind of the creator and it tucked a lot of hidden meaning of the abstract mind of the creator (Perumal, 2014). Pope (2002) states that beauty in literature can only be seen if people carefully identify those elements and have a deep interest in the work arts. People can enjoy literature in written form or visual design (Alqadi, 2015). As stated in Steen (1999), the literature presents two interesting kinds of work such as fiction and non-fiction. Fiction is based on the author's imagination and non-fiction is from the real experience of the creator or author (Steen, 1999).

The genres of literature are divided into three main parts namely poetry, drama, and prose fiction (Klarer, 1998). Poetry is an aesthetic artwork in a written form and has elements such as figurative language, rhyme, theme, stanza, imagery word, and so forth (Perrine, 1982). Klarer (1998) defines drama as a combination of verbal and non-verbal performing arts of the actors in the stage. People who enjoy watching drama are often called as the audiences (Klarer, 1998). Things that included in drama are gestures, lighting, scenery, facial expressions, properties, costume, and so on (Klarer, 1998).

Another part of the literature is a film. Film can be described as an artwork with motion pictures and visual design made by the creator (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008). According to Indriani (2019), film is a moving picture with a sound recorded by cameras. In the late 19th century, Films began to be introduced as public entertainment that provided a wider imagination of the viewers because films give a depiction of the characters and it looks more alive (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008). Film has genres such as science, horror, romantic, action,

drama, fantasy, comedy, and so on (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008). In literature, film is the adoption of previous artworks such as poems or script, and people change some parts of the script to make something new in the film (Klarer, 1998). Putting the viewers to have the same expectation on what they have pictured from a film is the reason why people change some parts of the script in the movie.

Films, especially the adaptation one is a part of literary work that contains elements such as characters, visual animation, and scenarios (Keles, 2015). One of the most famous film productions with its animation is Walt Disney Company (Salden, 2019). As stated by Setyarini (2017) in Artini (2019), the standards of best films are contained good values, morals, and educate the viewers. Moran (2016) investigates that the animated films from Disney are suitable for children until adults because Disney produces animated films with some genres such as live-action, animation, musical, comedy, family, romance, horror, and many more. Walt Disney began to enter an era where they changed the concept of the main characters in the movie into more feminist (England, Descartes & Collier-Meek, 2011). Disney changed the concept of a beautiful, gentle daughter who followed patriarchal rules to become more independent, able to control their own destiny, and stronger (England, Descartes & Collier-Meek, 2011).

The development of the feminist movement that was intensively carried out by all women caused many major changes in the 1970s which were the rise of the feminism era (Gudmundsdóttir, 2015). In the second wave of feminism, feminist groups rejected patriarchal rules in society that insisted women should stay in the house with a smaller salary than men (Gudmundsdóttir, 2015). The phenomena of the characterizations changing in Disney's lead female characters and the era of the second wave of feminism have a strong relationship because Disney is influenced by the gender roles issues in society (Gudmundsdóttir, 2015). The movies from Disney that raised the topic about Feminism are *Aladdin* (2019), *Mulan*

(1998), *Moana* (2016), *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), *Tangled* (2010), *Frozen* (2013), and way more (Moran, 2016). Those movies have its own types of feminism that existed in the characters of the movie. Disney shows feminism in their movie because this topic becomes a popular and sensitive issue in society (Hays, 2019). The topic about feminism may help women, especially in an unsupported society to grow up, be strong, and take action to have the same degree as men (Hays, 2019).

Generally, feminism is the women's movement to get their right to have the same degree and freedom in society (Tong, 2009). Feminism gives opportunities for women to have the same equality with men and changing people's perspectives on women who are weak, helpless, and incompetent (Thakor, 2011). Feminism support women to be free and reject all the discrimination that has been experienced by many women in the world (Tong, 2009). Tong (2009) states that feminism support women to grow and improve themselves to show their true colors. Feminism is divided into some parts, namely Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Cultural Feminism, Care-Focused Feminism, Eco-Feminism, Marxist and Socialist Feminism, Psychoanalytic, Ecofeminist, Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial, and Postmodern and Third-Wave Feminism (Tong, 2009). All types of feminism theories agreed to choose the main cause of gender inequality in society is because of patriarchy (Aboudaif, 2012). One feminism that has a strong ideology to break patriarchy in society is Radical Feminism (Tong, 2009). Radical feminists support women to be brave enough to maintain the gender equality, remove the patriarchy stereotypes, eliminating the women's discrimination and the gender issues (Tong, 2009).

As reported by Walby in Stark (2016), patriarchy is a system that places men in the highest position and makes a movement to oppress and exploit women. Walby in Stark (2016) divides the types of patriarchy in modern life into six forms namely patriarchal relations in paid work, male violence, patriarchal relations in cultural institutions, production relations within

the household, patriarchal relations in the state, and patriarchal relations in sexuality. Patriarchy and gender have close ties with each other because the rise of patriarchy is caused by gender inequality that occurs between women and men (Hussain et al, 2015). Patriarchy places women at the lowest position as weak creatures with high emotions, and illogical (Jenainati and Groves in Suwastini, 2013). Patriarchy can be a sturdy system when men and women get their benefit individually from this powerful relationship (Suwastini, 2013).

Gender is defined as a characteristic or pattern of behavior that is socialized in society (Pryzgod and Chrisler, 2000). Gender distinguishes patterns of behavior between masculinity and femininity (Pryzgod and Chrisler, 2000). The use of the words gender and sex is often misinterpreted. According to Pryzgod and Chrisler (2000), the word "gender" is socially or psychologically related and the word "sex" is biologically related.

Gender stereotyping is a major problem when several perceptions form an assumption that caused gender inequality (Hussain et al, 2015). Sexism is a system with judgments in the form of discrimination that causes inequality between women and men (Becker, Zawadzki, and Shields, 2014). The influence of sexism has aroused the women's movement which has the aim of restoring the equality of rights between women and men (Hooks, 2000).

Feminism has a huge influence and able to change the mindset and trends in society (Hays (2019). One biggest influence of feminism is the changing genres of movies produced by Walt Disney company (Hays, 2019). Walt Disney follows the trend of feminism by changing their lead female characters into more feminist (Gutiérrez, 2017). Disney changes their obedient princesses into heroes with a brave, strong, and full of intelligence attitudes (Hays, 2019). Hays (2019) also argues that the wave of feminism in Disney lead female characters is divided into three waves, namely The Classical Period in 1930s-1950s, The Renaissance Period in 1980s-2000s, and The Revival Period in 2012-current day.

Disney princesses show both masculine and feminine traits that reflect a strong woman but still have the gentle nature of women (England, Descartes & Collier-Meek, 2011). Disney wants to give a message to the audience that women are not weak creatures (Ballard, 2016). Disney wants to change the mindset of people through their audiences who underestimate the degree of women and always intimidate women (Ballard, 2016). One of the Disney princesses who show both masculine and feminine traits and has a goal to break the patriarchy in society is Fa Mulan from Disney's *Mulan* (1998). In Disney's *Mulan* (1998), the characteristic of radical feminists is portrayed in Mulan's characterizations. As stated in Tong (2009), radical feminist is a group of women that help the ignored and discriminated women in society especially in the patriarchal system when the rights that belong to women are controlled and dominated by men. Tong (2009) also states that radical feminists revealed that self-respect and self-identity are the most basic things of the pressure faced by women. Society treats women differently than men so radical feminists show up to eliminate the women's oppression (Vukoičić, 2013).

The character of radical feminists is portrayed by Mulan's characterizations as a brave, protective, responsible, persistent, resourceful woman. In the plot development, Mulan strongly enforced feminism in the community who wanted a same position between women and men in the political and social class. The depiction of Mulan here was as a brave woman who loved her family so much and willing to do everything for her family. Mulan did not want her father to participate in the war against the Huns. Fa Zhou's condition was not possible to participate in the war. Mulan dismissed all thoughts about women are weak, cannot fight and built the characteristics of a brave feminist (Wormer & Juby, 2015). The brave Mulan replaced her father to become a soldier and fought in the war. Mulan disguised herself as a man and took her father position as a warrior. In the middle of the plot development, Mulan was being caught as a female warrior and the soldiers were disappointed at her. Mulan showed her strength in

against the Huns alone and finally everyone respected her effort. These scenes depicted the feminist characterizations especially radical feminist that portrayed in Mulan's characterizations in the plot development.

1.2 Problem Identification

Cases of gender discrimination between men and women in the community began to be a hot topic. In literature, movie is one of the literary parts that display animated visual art (Steen, 1999). One of the biggest television companies, Disney is starting to produce movies with the topic of the women's movement in protecting their rights called feminism. Nevertheless, not many researchers conduct a study of a movie. Disney's movies put lots of messages about feminism and how feminism portrayed in the movie. *Mulan* (1998) is one of the movies that have a strong content of feminism, especially radical feminism. Then, the researcher is highly motivated to conduct a study about the characterizations of the main character, Mulan as a radical feminist in a literary work especially Disney's *Mulan* (1998).

1.3 Scope of The Study

The scope of this research is restricted to the analysis of Mulan's characterizations. Based on the background of the study, this research is focused on two important points of the topic which are to describe the characterizations of Mulan and to describe the radical feminist traits portrayed in Mulan's characterizations.

1.4 Research Questions

1.4.1 What are the characterizations of Mulan in Walt Disney's *Mulan* (1998)?

1.4.2 What are the characterizations of Mulan as a Radical Feminist in Walt Disney's *Mulan* (1998)?

1.5 Purpose of The Study

Related to the statement of research questions above, the purpose of the study could be formulated as follows:

1.5.1 To identify the characterizations of Mulan in Walt Disney's *Mulan* (1998)

1.5.2 To categorize the characterizations of Mulan as Radical Feminist in Walt Disney's *Mulan* (1998)

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are various terms used in this research. Each related term is explained in this section

1.6.1 Film

As stated in Bordwell & Thompson (2008), the term *film* is a noun that means "moving pictures with special effects". In this research, the term *movie* is used to mean "the motion pictures with genres in a cinema".

1.6.2 Main Character

According to Bordwell & Thompson (2008), the term *main character* is a noun that means "a person that be a focus in the story". In this research, the term *main character* is used to mean "a person who dominates the story in a movie"

1.6.3 Radical Feminism

In accordance with Tong (2009), the term *Radical Feminism* is used to the mean "the women's perspective who want their rights to be equal with men in the field of education, social and economy". In this research, the term *Radical Feminism* is used to the mean " the women's

movement against the society especially in social, political and economic with a goal to have the same degree as men”.

1.7 Significance of The Study

The significance of this study is aimed at describing the characterization of Mulan in Walt Disney’s *Mulan* (1998) and how this study would contribute theoretically and practically. The significances of this study are divided into two groups, theoretical significance and practical significance.

1.7.1 Theoretical Significance

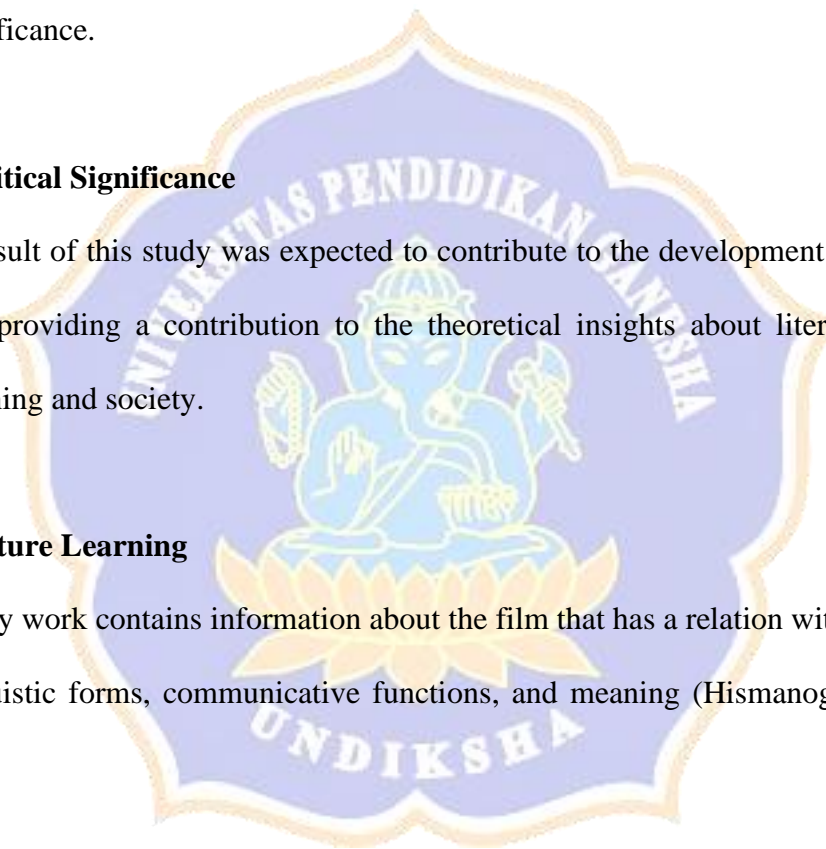
The result of this study was expected to contribute to the development of knowledge, especially in providing a contribution to the theoretical insights about literature learning, language learning and society.

1.7.1.1 Literature Learning

Literary work contains information about the film that has a relation with other culture and also linguistic forms, communicative functions, and meaning (Hismanoglu as cited in Ariani, 2017)

1.7.1.2 Language Learning

Literature can be implemented in teaching language skills and language areas (Hismanoglu as cited in Ariani, 2017). Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are part of language skills in teaching literature (Hismanoglu as cited in Ariani, 2017). The language areas in literature are used to improve students' vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar (Hismanoglu as cited in Ariani, 2017).



1.7.1.3 Society

The result of this study is to introduce radical feminism in society, especially for people in society. Women need to have better treatment and get respect from society.

1.7.2 Practical

The result of this study is expected to give a good contribution to the readers and the researcher itself and it is described as follows;

1.7.2.1 For Students

This study introduces the readers about feminism and explains new information about radical feminism as a hot topic nowadays that exists in a movie especially in Disney. From this study, the readers can really see and learn how the radical feminist character is being represented well by Mulan.

1.7.2.2 For Women

This study describes the understanding of feminism and the nature of what can be categorized as feminism, especially those that focus on the radical feminist character in Disney's *Mulan* (1998). By reading this research and watching Disney's *Mulan* (1998), women are introduced to the women's movement to fight the inequality of rights called feminism. Women begin to understand the characterizations of the feminists who are able to inspire women to be bolder, stronger, and live with high creativity. Disney's *Mulan* (1998) provides a picture of women with the main character, Fa Mulan, who shows the attitude of a feminist who is able to change her life for the better by choosing to show her true identity by fighting off against those who support male supremacy.

1.7.2.3 For Other Researchers

This study provides and adds knowledge about the nature of literature, the theories about film and character extensively and makes the researchers have a deep understanding of feminism and radical feminism in the literature especially in Disney's movies.

