CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background study, problem identification, scope of the study, the research question, purpose of the study, the key terms, and operational terms. This chapter explains to attend a clear understanding about the facts in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

In Indonesia, there are many cases left about gender inequality. Syukri (2019) was interested in cases that occurred in Indonesia where the government tried to move forward for participatory development in the form of institutionalized governance such as the National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM) in 1998-2014 and based on new initiatives namely Law No. 6/2014 on Villages, there are efforts to escape from the neoliberal influence. Then, the old initiative has been changed into a strong commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment with a gender-based affirmative action strategy in its design. While feminists had very critical of the impact for women, several studies have shown positive impacts on women especially their well-being (Wong, 2002 as cited in Syukri, 2019).

The result of the 2010 Human Development Report (HDR) led by the United Nations Development Program so that Indonesia ranked 108 out of 182 countries, and Human Development Index (HDI) measured by development in the cases that life combines of expectancy, educational attainment, and income (Kementrian Pemberdaya dan Perlindungan Anak, 2011). Indonesia is also one of the countries that have made the

most progress in the last decade, followed by China, Nepal, Laos and Korea. The aim of the Gender Development Index shows gender inequality between men and women in the sector of health, education, and living standards. Issues regarding gender equality in Indonesia are also related to matchmaking. According to Aini and Nuqul (2019) choosing a life partner is the most important thing in someone's life because it involves feeling. There are still many women in the world especially Indonesia, they who feel the injustice in choosing what they want. According to Dewanti (2012) cited in Aini and Nuqul (2019), there are 2 types of marriage, namely marriage with heart and marriage arranged by family or relatives called matchmaking. According to Novitasari (2013) as cited in Aini and Nuqul (2019), Indonesia has a tradition of matchmaking that is still maintained, such as in Java area where matchmaking for the couple will be married from someone who is choosing by both parents for their children. In this case, the understanding of gender equality can be through a literary work, especially a movie. Children learn about gender equality in Disney movies. Children are accompanied by their parents how it is important to learn gender equality when they are going to grow up and determine their own lives. Through the film adapted from Disney, *Aladdin (2019)*, children and especially women learn the importance of their rights in determining their own lives without following the rules by Princess Jasmine.

The Aladdin movie was a movie adapted by Walt Disney in 1992 (IMDb.com, 2019). Disney has 2 versions for the movie. There are cartoon version in *Aladdin* (1992) and the live action in *Aladdin* (2019). The movie is inspired by a Middle Eastern tale which is the Thousand- and One-Nights Legend. Aladdin is a story that attracts the attention of Disney's fans. Aladdin's story is a romantic story about a man named

Aladdin looking for the identity of who he was and he fell in love with a princess from the Palace of Agrabah, namely Princess Jasmine. According to Nope (2014), Aladdin told the story of the street man who lived alone in Agrabah. He had a monkey, namely Abu. Aladdin was a kind-hearted man helping Princess Jasmine when she was coming to the market as an ordinary person and they were avoided by guards. In the market, Princess Jasmine met Aladdin for the first time because he helped Princess Jasmine for the seller. With his intelligence and Aladdin's ability, he was able to fight his enemies and managed to help Princess Jasmine. Although having different castes, Aladdin was still trying to find Princess Jasmine until he met Genie. Aladdin met Genie at a magic lamp. Genie promised to help Aladdin become rich and he could marry Princess Jasmine. The difference of story between *Aladdin* (1992) and *Aladdin* (2019) Princess Jasmine did not struggle to find what she wanted but she always waited Aladdin to help her, but in *Aladdin* (2019) Princess Jasmine struggled to help her own self to get her rights. Princess Jasmine demanded to find a prince. In the rules of Agrabah, she married a prince is that made a prince become the Sultan in Agrabah, but she never wanted to marry a prince because she was able to do without another prince.

The reason about the researcher chose *Aladdin* (2019) movie as research topic is because many jobs occupied by men and women have not been able to bring out the characteristics of leadership (Lantara, 2015). Various kinds of social criticism carried out by women in a way that they feel can replace their social status in society through various innovations and in physical movements in ideology. This is only way how women do social criticism gently and educate by creating literary works. Literary works are created through the feminist movement. According to Suaidi, Rusfandi, Wilujeng (2016), one of

the first movements to emerge in the 18th century was liberal feminism. From another theory, according to Tong (2009), there are 8 types of feminism, namely liberal, radical, Marxist, psychoanalytic, focusing on care, multiculturalism, ecofeminism, and postmodern feminism. Gender inequality is created by society and culture in every regulation. Liberal feminism focuses on the obstacles to attitudes toward the performance and ability of a woman as a leader (Arnot, 2007). Liberal feminism also focuses on gender equality which is differences between women and men. According to Tong (2009), liberal feminism supported women to have the same freedom as men so that women are able to do as men without limitation from society. Therefore, feminists criticized systems that did not give freedom to feminists (Kusuma, 2015). According to Hughes (2002) as cited in Firdaus (2015) concerning the difference implied by liberal feminist, there is no difference between women and men in the rights and choices of each gender. This argument is supported with Puspita (2016), Liberal feminism is a movement that focuses on freedom for each individual.

The importance of Liberal Feminism in society is equal rights and elections for the purpose of life. In eastern culture, it is importance for parents who have a daughter did not to demand the wishes of parents that must be obeyed and did not focus on cultures and follow traditions such as finding an equal family without thinking about girls' feelings. According to Wollstonecraft (2009) as cited in Puspitasari (2016), the liberal feminist movements were formed by women who were not allowed to make their own decisions, they did not have freedom. This study will discuss the point of view to Princess Jasmine as a princess of Agrabah, which required her to find a prince to marry and made the prince become Sultan of Agrabah and this argument supported by

Zulbaidah (2014) when someone does a marriage with men that are not suitable and divorced. Then she did not permit to continue as Sultan of the palace that should be of her right as the princess. In Aladdin's movie discusses the kingdom found in Arabic that the daughter in the royal family had to follow tradition and asked her to marry another prince in which the daughter has been determined. This illustrates that women are passive, whereas men are active and determine that they are the first gender and the second woman. Therefore, liberal feminism is a movement of women who want to have the same freedom, so they could choose in determining their lives.

According to Nope (2014), feminism appeared in America as a female character as a rebellion and independent described by Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin* (1992). Princess Jasmine is described as a strong character, kind, a smart, rational, affectionate, and persistent. Even though she is opposed by her father about her wanted to be a Sultan, Jasmine proved her intelligence and loyalty to Agrabah. Liberal feminism has moral or wise reason. They have the opinion that a just society will exercise their autonomy and fulfill them. They also claim that individual rights must take precedence rather than kindness (Tong, 2009). The rights are an important system of individuals where they determine their own lives without having to eliminate the rights of others. According to Tong (2009), there are two types of liberal feminists, namely classical liberal, and welfare liberal. Freedom of expression plays an important role in the classical liberal. The characteristics of Princess Jasmine, it was showing that she wanted to have freedom in herself to determine her life partner and defend her right to become the next Sultan. Princess Jasmine refused to follow the Sultan's request to marry a prince and getting her right as a princess became Sultan. During this era, every woman must fight for the rights

that must be obtained by a woman. Many literary works are used to share with the public about women's rights in making choices and opposing rules that are detrimental to women. The purpose of this study is teaching the children especially women that women have the right to determine their lives. The character of Jasmine also taught that although she opposed her father regarding the rules that have been done, she still loved her father and she proved with her abilities.

1.2 Problem Identification

Feminist issues have become popular in the 21st century. Every woman has the right to determine themselves without having to follow rules that force women to follow every rule in their family and environment. Many people in the world have voiced women's rights before. In Indonesia, the struggle of national hero, namely Raden Ajeng Kartini is one of the women who play a role in fighting for women's rights in Indonesia to equalize women and men. She tried to fight those women and men shared the right to study. As a result, every woman has the right to education, politics, economics, and social. A period of good changes in women's lives in the last few decades. Feminism continues in its struggle to this day there are still many voices regarding women's rights with several of variations, such as the films adapted by Disney. There are many films presented by feminism and one of them is *Aladdin (2019).*

The purpose of the study of Liberal Feminism is women's rights in determining their lives without following the rules that exist between family and society. Every woman has the right to determine her life and choose her life partner. The woman lead an organization or society, woman has the opportunity to be able to prove that women are also competent of becoming leaders everywhere. A woman has rights like a man in general. For that matter, women also do not have to follow the tradition to marry a

constraint from family or tradition. A woman has the right to choose someone she loves and does not have to follow a tradition that requires a woman to marry a man and she does not like but must fulfill to rules of tradition in family and society. They have the right to determine their desire to be able to achieve their goals in life. The problem is being analyzed, namely through the character playing in *Aladdin (2019)*, and through characterizations of Princess and she wanted to determine her life and fight for her rights as a woman and the successor to the throne.

1.3   Statement of Problem

Based on the statement previous, this study focuses on the problem of how liberal feminism is portrayed in the plot development of *Aladdin (2019)*. For problems to be more specific, the problem can be stated as follows:

1. How is liberal feminism pictured through the characterization of Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin's movie* (2019)?

2. How are reflections of liberal feminism pictured by Princess Jasmine in the setting of *Aladdin's movie* (2019)?

1.4 Scope of the Study

The analysis of the characterization in this study is limited in the explanation of liberal feminism through characterizations of the main character named Princess Jasmine and the background of Princess Jasmine which is supported by the plot of the film. This research uses elements of this film, such as subtitles, facial expressions, and scenes to support the analysis process in this study.

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the liberal feminism portrayed in the plot development of *Aladdin* (2019), which can be stated more specifically as follows:

1. To know how liberal feminism is pictured through the characterization of Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin's movie* (2019)

2. To know how the reflections of liberal feminism pictured by Princess Jasmine in the setting of *Aladdin's movie* (2019)

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify the key terms used several definitions in this study.

1.6.1 Conceptual Definition

1.6.1.1 Characterization

Character has an important role in literary works. The characters also give a purpose in the story, a reason to know what happened in the plot development. People can be attracted by literary works made by writers, but if the characters in them are not able to attract readers, then other things become less important (Reams, 2015). Character is one of the most important aspects of any work of fiction. Therefore, the process used to develop and shape these characters is the most important thing for any fiction writer to master. Characterization is a description about the character in the story. Characterization is about description of the characters who participate in the story through their actions (Latif, 2016). According to Gill (1995), that character is a person having an identity in a literary work where identity is formed from things that occur through

appearance, conversation, action, thought, and name. If that is true it will show that there are special thoughts for writing stories.

1.6.1.2 Liberal Feminism

According to Tong (2009) liberal feminism is the same freedom that women have as men that women can do, and they can do without restrictions from society. According to Tong (2009) also states that everyone has the right to express wishes, without the influence of others. She also states that to be an equal human being and to take moral education must be developed. Then women can increase their rationality by being more conscientious, loving, loyal, and reasonable than emotional and dependent (Tong, 2009).

1.6.2 Operational Definition

1.6.2.1 Characterization

Characterization refers to the character of women in solving the problem that happened in *Aladdin's movie* (2019) especially Princess Jasmine.

1.6.2.2 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism refers to the Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin's movie* (2019)

1.7 Significance of Study

The significance of the study is about describing the contribution of this study theoretically and practically. The significances of this study are divided into two types, namely, theoretical significance and practical significance.

1.7.1 The theoretical significance

This research is expected to enrich the application of literature through film. For children, they can develop vocabularies and pronunciation in English. According to

Sinaga, Manurung, Marpaung (2017), the importance of children to learn English because children are very sensitive to signals to receive language that is often heard. Then they can easily accept accent learning. It has become the goal of learning English from an early age. This research is expected to provide many things about the application of literature through film. This study analyzes Liberal Feminism found in the *Aladdin's movie (2019)*. Liberal feminist theory focusing on Princess Jasmine was able to change world history that she was a woman who could become a Sultan of Agrabah to replace her father's position as Sultan Agrabah. She also tried to find her love for a man without having to follow tradition and required her to marry a prince whom she did not love.

1.7.2 The practical significance

The practical significance is divided into three groups. They are for teachers of English as Foreign Language Learner, the students and women in society.

1. For teacher

This study is expected to be useful for teachers who teach English as a Foreign Language especially for teaching students. Because this study uses children's literature and movie as research objects that have character and plot.

2. For students

According to Collie and Slater (1990, 145) as cited in Viorela (2015) literature gives a language model to hear and read for them. With literary text, students are able to learn new words and they also learn correct sentence patterns, standard story structures. They are able to develop writing skills. According to Viorela (2015), literature is able to develop critical skills because students learn to work

independently and convey their arguments supported by literary texts learned. The discussion of the literature arose the developments regarding cause and effect, character motivation, action, character, and setting.

3. For Women in Society

The result of the study is expected to be useful for women in society who like to watch movies. The results of this study are expected to be useful for women in the community who like to watch films. In this case the researcher wants that women are able to understand the values contained in the film to inform them about the importance of women's rights to be able to fight for them without having to feel shy and afraid. In this study also teaches that a woman is also able to become a leader in any situation and has high enthusiasm to achieve her dreams.